

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 18 – NO. 2

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 31, 2019

Wendell STM Approves Solar Freeze

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Close to 60 Wendell voters came to a special town meeting Wednesday night, and in an hour and fifteen minutes approved the entire warrant, including Article 10, a 14-month moratorium on large and extra large scale solar installations in the town.

Special town meetings seldom bring in that many citizens, and the moratorium was the likely reason for the full house. A recent proposal to build a ten-acre array on a newly wooded corner drew 60 residents to a planning board hearing, not one of whom spoke in favor of the project.

Shannon Leelyn offered an amendment specifying projects would not be allowed until December 30, 2020 “per the town’s temporary moratorium.” The amendment passed with one dissenting vote, and the article passed unanimously.

Full coverage will appear in next week’s *Montague Reporter*.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Millers Falls Sewer Fix Bid \$55,000 Over Projected Cost

By JEFF SINGLETON

A single bid for the project to reduce infiltration of water into the Millers Falls sewer system came in significantly over the projected cost, town administrator Steve Ellis told the Montague selectboard on Monday. Ellis said the cost was projected to be around \$50,000, plus a \$25,000 contingency in case bids came in high.

“The low bid that we received was \$130,430,” said Ellis. “There was only a single bidder, and we were quite disappointed with the result.”

Last winter, water flowing into the Millers Falls system, primarily through infiltration from leaks, inundated the Erving wastewater plant where Millers Falls’s sewage is treated. The inflow nearly exceeded the capacity of the plant, and exceeded the limit set by Montague’s agreement with Erving.

The engineering firm Wright-Pierce conducted a study of the system, designed a remedy, and oversaw the recent bidding process. A special town meeting on October 2 appropriated \$100,000 for the project, which included \$25,000 paid to Wright-Pierce for the design. At this point, the appropriation is nearly \$55,430 short of the bid.

Ellis said he had consulted with Wright-Pierce to “gain a better understanding” of why the bid came in so high. He cited a discrepancy between the large number of leak tests required and the relatively small number of leaks projected to be in need of repair, and speculated the bidder may have overestimated the cost of repair.

Ellis said the town would “re-draw the specifications to make them much clearer,” and put the project back out to bid. If that not does produce a lower bid, the selectboard see **MONTAGUE** page A4

Leverett Coop Board Votes To Dissolve Organization, Pending Membership Vote



ISABEL KOYAMA PHOTO

The board will meet again next week to begin work on a new financial plan, and members will be asked to decide whether it is viable.

By JEFF SINGLETON

After discussing a range of proposals to address its budget deficit of over \$200,000, the board of the Leverett Village Co-op voted unanimously Tuesday night to dissolve the organization “if we don’t come up with an alternative plan.” The decision requires a vote by the membership, which could take place at a voting station in the coop on North Leverett Road over a number of weeks in December. Members may reject the dissolution, particularly if consensus emerges around a new plan to address the co-op’s financial issues.

Board president Susan Lynton, who proposed the dissolution resolution, told the *Reporter* that she considered the vote a “wake-up call” to the membership. “We’ve been trying to talk to people since last December,” she said. “But you need to light a fire. When you reach a tipping point, the losses

just accelerate.”

The board also voted to hold a meeting next Tuesday to focus exclusively on options to address the store’s financial crisis.

The board meeting was attended by over 50 people who crowded into the first-floor dining room of Leverett town hall. Members, who were allowed to speak but not formally vote, addressed the board or responded to one another, often without being called upon by the chair. The meeting room was divided into two sections, and attendees often could not hear or see other speakers addressing the board.

A slide show on the coop’s financial status was frequently interrupted by lengthy debates over its most recent business plan, accusations that the board had failed to listen to members’ concerns, and various ideas for increasing sales at the store. At one point there were two separate motions – see **COOP** page A4

Congress Members Expound on Security, Jobs, Hunger, Impeachment at Town Hall

By JERRI HIGGINS

NORTHAMPTON – A diverse crowd attended a town-hall style meeting last Thursday in the nave of Northampton’s First Church led by US representative Jim McGovern and the visiting representative of California’s 17th District, Rohit “Ro” Khanna.

“Settle in, but don’t you dare settle down,” said co-pastor Sarah Buteux in her welcoming remarks, “because we have work to do.”

The event was sponsored by the Progressive Democrats of America, which has endorsed both McGovern and Khanna for re-election in 2020. State coordinator Russell Freedman thanked them for “coming out to dialogue with us,” and urged the implementation of a “progressive agenda moving forward.”

State representative Lindsey Sabadosa, the first woman to hold the First Hampshire District seat, spoke of Medicare For All legislation

see **CONGRESS** page A7



HIGGINS PHOTO

US representative Ro Khanna of California (left) joined Jim McGovern (right) at last week’s town hall event in Northampton.

The Week in Turners Falls Sports



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Senior Hailey Bogusz sends the ball over the net against Sabis International School during Senior Night at TFHS. Bogusz had five kills, six aces, and four assists against the Bulldogs.

By MATT ROBINSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – Last week, area teams wound down their regular seasons and began to prepare for the Second Season. The Powertown field hockey team earned two consecutive shutouts, and then marched down to Hatfield this week, where they lost a closely fought playoff game to Smith Academy in overtime.

The Turners Falls volleyball team finished their regular season with a record of 13-7. Unfortunately, in their final game they let the Bulldogs back in. The Thunder Ladies are ranked sixth in D3 West, and will begin their post-season at home this Friday against the Southwick Rams.

The Franklin Tech football team lost a defensive battle to Mahar, the Mohawk Co-ops

got in a week’s rest, and the Franklin Tech golf team competed in the Regionals.

Football

Mahar 20 – FCTS 6

While other sports prepare for the playoffs, the MIAA has a different format for football. Even teams who don’t make the playoffs get to play in the Second Season, paired against teams with like records: a team that finished 1-6 would play another one-win team, a team with four wins might play against a team with three, and so on. The seedings don’t come out until Sunday, but at least Franklin Tech and Mohawk will get games in before Turkey Day.

The Mahar Senators came to Turners Falls last Friday in hopes of improving their post-season lot. Mahar needed the see **SPORTS** page A5

Visiting Sheriff Delivers Controversial Lecture

By GEORGE SHAPIRO

GREENFIELD – On the evening of October 24, a crowd gathered at the Jon Zon Senior Center to protest a speech by Sheriff Tom Hodgson of Bristol County, MA. Sheriff Hodgson had come at the invitation of a hitherto little known group, the Greenfield Citizens Association (GCA), led by Greenfield resident and former Human Rights Commissioner Lewis Metaxas.

The talk was advertised as being on the topic of “how immigrants can gain a pathway to citizenship by coming here legally and... to share his experience and first-hand knowledge about the adverse impacts of illegal immigration and designating municipalities as ‘Safe or Sanctuary’ cities and towns.”

On November 5, Greenfield is set to vote on a ballot initiative to become a “Safe City.” The ordinance see **SHERIFF** page A7

Panelists Discuss Juggling Art Careers and Motherhood

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS – I went to the Mother/Artist Summit last Saturday morning in Northampton at the invitation of one of the organizers, Shea Theater program director Emma Ayres. Geared for those who are mothering while working in the performing arts, the stated aim of the summit was to “weave connections, build community, and investigate how motherhood is impacting the working artists in our community and in our industry.”

Ayres told me this was to be an important panel discussion on the impact of motherhood on the personal and artistic lives of a group of female performers, with some from New York City, some from Northern Vermont, and some from

in the Valley. A theater group from New York City, the Anthropologists, would be participating in the summit and then performing a one-hour play that evening at the Shea, *Artemisia’s Intent*.

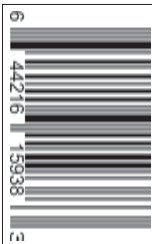
I was prepared to be emotionally devastated in a retrospective way, affected by stories that might cause me to relive the heart-wrenching decisions I faced decades earlier when I set out to explore a creative path while caring for two very young children. As I pulled up to the Northampton Center for the Arts that morning, I worried about not having any Kleenex with me.

But not to worry. Tears were shed by some panelists, but I only felt heartened and uplifted by the personal stories I heard. There was see **MOTHERS** page A6

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The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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August 2002

Getting Out The Vote?

July 17: Greenfield city council approves a “Safe City” ordinance that would bar city officials from inquiring about individuals’ immigration status.

August 12: A citizens’ petition for a referendum is certified.

August 21: City council again affirms the ordinance.

September 1: Disbarred lawyer Lewis Metaxas starts the “Greenfield Citizens Association” Facebook page, pledges to “focus on local issues rather than national and international political issues.”

September 3: Mayor Martin attempts to veto the ordinance.

September 5: Metaxas writes: “an attempt to override the Safe City veto by the Council will energize the more moderate to conservative residents. Which represent Brackett’s natural political base.”

September 10: Greenfield holds a primary election for mayor. Roxann Wedegartner receives 1,236 votes and Sheila Gilmour receives 1,011 votes. Brackett Allis receives 957 votes and is eliminated.

September 11: Metaxas alleges “irregularities in the 9/10 preliminary election,” and calls for a write-in candidate “who not only would be viable against The Machine and the progressives but also able to win in a three way with them. Split the vote of the left.”

September 13: Allis announces a write-in campaign.

October 1: The mayor’s veto is struck down. City council sends the ordinance to the November 5 ballot.

October 14: Metaxas contacts the mayor’s office to book the John Zon Center for a mayoral debate on October 24.

October 17: Metaxas announces the GCA “will be co-sponsoring a nationally known guest speaker and a public meeting at the John Zon Community Center.” (“It’s not Michelle Malkin,” he adds. “But I would almost give my right arm to get Michelle here.”)

October 20: Metaxas announces that the debate is cancelled.

October 21: GCA announces a presentation instead by Bristol County sheriff Thomas Hodgson, a nationally controversial proponent of immigration restriction.

October 23: Metaxas refers to the Southern Poverty Law Center as a “partisan hate group” while defending Hodgson against criticism.

October 24: During the Hodgson event, there is a sizable protest outside the venue, and booing, heckling, and challenging questions inside. Greenfield police ask one group to leave the room. GCA supporters later complain of opponents “yanking on the blinds.”

October 25: Metaxas posts: “Antifa wannabe punks... were banging on the Center windows, screaming profanities, interrupting the Sheriff and assaulting the elderly and women.” Douglas Cloutier writes of “attempts to intimidate the women, elderly and veterans in attendance,” urging readers to “[v]ote against Sanctuary this November 5.”

October 26: Metaxas escalates his rhetoric: “Antifa domestic terrorists were planning to attack the John Zon Community Center on Thursday evening and the almost 90 innocent Greenfield citizens within it... there is overwhelming evidence that this was planned.”

October 28: “If it could happen at the John Zon Community Center in front of the police,” Metaxas points out, “it can just as easily happen at the polls at Greenfield High School in front of the police.”

October 29: “My wife asked me if we would be safe going to the polls November 5 because of what happened at the John Zon community center,” posts Karl Affhauser.

“I almost think that it was set up anyway buy those George Soros followers,” Becky Ryan writes.

“Antifa is a **TERRORIST** organization, with internationalist roots,” explains Norman Schell. “They are completely Un-American in every sense. They need to be **STAMPED OUT WITH EXTREME PREJUDICE.**”

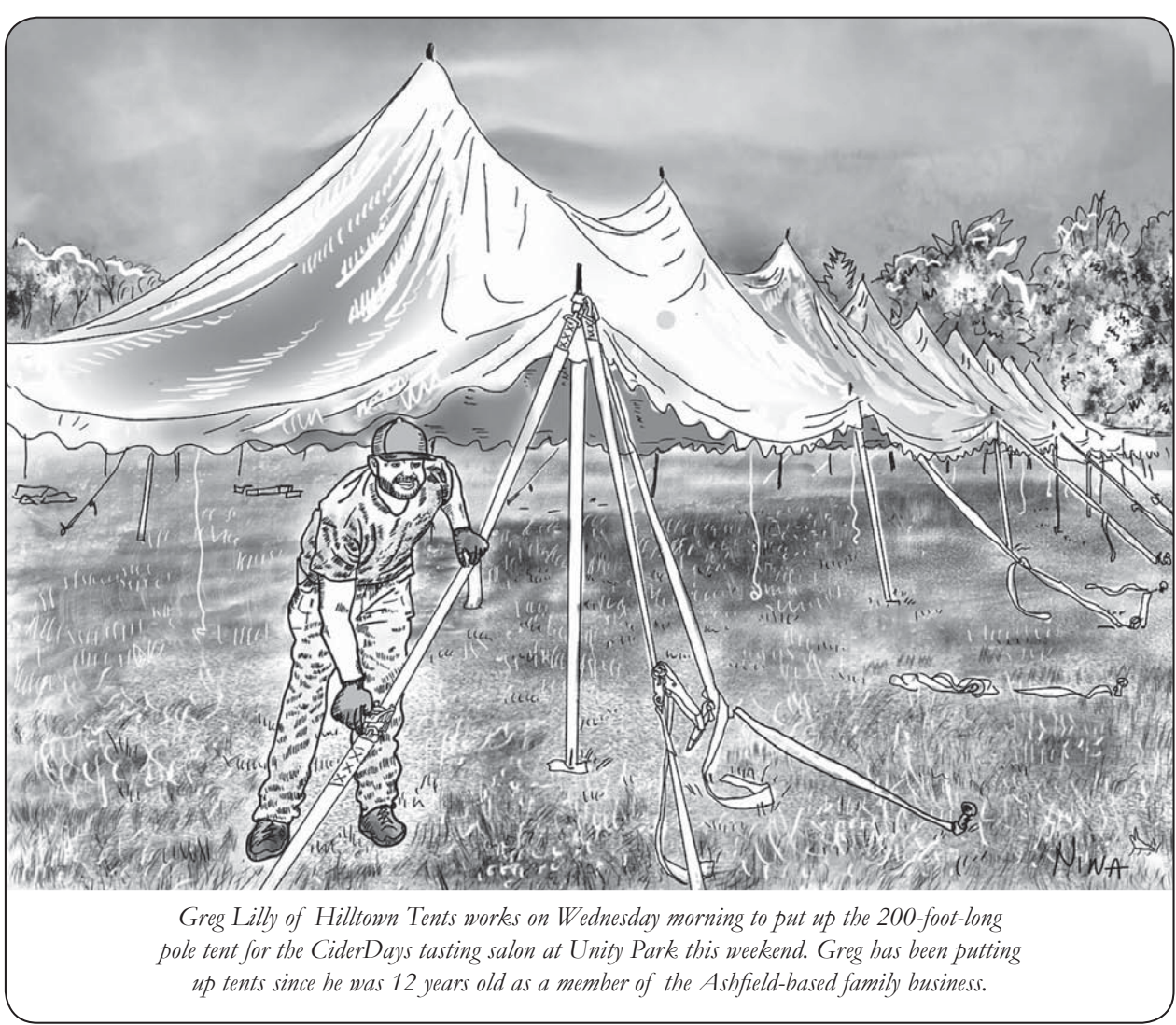
Former Greenfield police chief David McCarthy picks up on the election thread: “The possibility of the masked punks trying to intimidate voters is real and they would intimidate many elderly from exercising their right to vote. There **MUST** be a sizable presence of police officers patrolling the entrances to the school parking lots or some seniors will just go back home out of fear.”

October 30: “There are people today, blinded by politics,” Metaxas writes, “that still deny that Benghazi happened. In this town.”

Responding to requests to produce any evidence that an assault actually occurred, he says that “it is difficult to take video when you are defending yourself and others and/or fleeing to your cars.”

“If our local police force can not or will not protect us from harassment and threats from this terrorist group Antifa; if they can not or will not guarantee our right to peaceful assembly and the exercise of our first amendment rights without intimidation, then I propose the formation of a citizens militia that will,” posts Schell.

Wow, guess we’d better vote!



CORRECTIONS

Thanks to our three readers who noticed the Montague recycling schedule infographic we usually run on Page A4 had gone off course earlier this month and was giving incorrect instructions. We wonder why it took three issues for everyone to start yelling at us, but we’re glad to know this service is used. If you’re ever in doubt, check montaguepaperorplastic.com, one of our favorite websites!

Letter to the Editors

One Simple Solution

Local, Community, Sustainability. We all are familiar with these buzz words. But they have meaning only if they are backed by action.

For some time now (eleven years), the Leverett Village Coop has had a decline in customers, hence a decline in revenue, hence a decline in the number of products available. The recent success of food service, especially the Wednesday night dinners and the wine and beer pour license, produced an upturn in revenue, but not enough to offset the eleven years of decline.

To keep the doors of the Leverett Village Coop open, it is necessary for all of us seeking to give meaning to local, community, and sustainability to act.

Spend your dollars at the Coop. Now’s the time.

Angela Taylor
Leverett

GUEST EDITORIAL

“We Loved Our Trees And Waters”

By H. PATRICIA HYNES

MONTAGUE – Last summer I saw a young man standing by a large, dusty, gray turtle on the Turners Falls bike path, shielding this fellow creature from oncoming bikers. I recalled the Native American poet Joy Harjo’s words I had read that morning:

*We loved our trees and waters
And the creatures and earth and skies
In that beloved place,
Those beings were our companions
Even as they fed us, cared for us...*

I remembered, too, my neighbor Sally Pick’s sheer joy showing me the container in which she was raising now-endangered Monarch butterflies from larvae and caterpillars, which she would release when mature for their 2,000-mile journey to Mexico. And I thought of my brother Ed, a prize-winning gardener in Lewes, Delaware, who sent his sisters milkweed seeds to plant for the Monarch.

How many of us, myself included, knowing of immense insect losses in recent years, carry spiders and other insects to the door, rather than crush them in our homes?

Within the last few years, the crisis of plant and animal extinction has hurtled into the foreground after decades of human disregard, inspiring a torrent of actions and activism. Pollinator gardens are emerging all over western Massachusetts. Last spring Greening Greenfield, with the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice as co-sponsor, offered the forum *Pollinators! Silent Spring* and see **GUEST ED** next page

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by **CHRIS PELLERIN**

Happy Halloween! I hope all the trick or treaters fill their baskets with sweet treats, and everyone stays safe tonight!

The **Kidleidoscope** program continues through the fall at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls, on Friday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Learn about our wildlife neighbors who share our home in the Connecticut River Watershed.

Each 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, November 1 is **Deer**.

The **Montague Wood Bank** has a volunteer day this Saturday, November 2 beginning at 8:30 a.m. at 10 Sandy Lane in Turners Falls near the transfer station.

Call David Detmold of the Tree Advisory Committee at (413) 863-9296 for more information.

All are invited to **create a personalized, unique collage** with Nila Patterson at Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls on Saturday, November 2 from 9:15 to 11:45 a.m. While some supplies will be available, you can personalize your collage by bringing materials such as old calendars, magazines, family photographs, wallpaper patterns, and other papers.

The workshop is offered for free, for ages ten and up. GSB will provide light refreshments. For more information, contact Nila Patterson at (978) 544-2974.

The 25th annual **Franklin County Cider Days** is happening November 1 through 3, and in-

cludes tours, cidermaking and tastings, workshops, and much more in orchards and venues county-wide. The complete schedule of events can be found at www.ciderdays.org, but here are the events happening in Turners Falls:

On Saturday, the United States Cider Makers Association’s Cider Salons will be held in a large tent in Unity Park. This is the continent’s longest-running hard cider tasting with more than 120 individual cider brands from across North America and Europe. There are two sessions: 3:30 to 5 p.m. and 5:45 to 7:15 p.m. on Saturday. (These sessions are sold out.)

Saturday at the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., attend **“The Apple Genome Project** and Tomorrow’s Apple” with Dr. Cameron Peace of Washington State University. From 1 to 2 p.m., Tom Oliver of Oliver’s Cider and Perry, Herefordshire, UK, answers your questions. Then from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., hear about **“19th Century Pears, A Ruling Passion:** William Lewis’s Pear Orchard, 1861-1894” with Christie Higginbottom. All programs are free.

On Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., the Shea presents “Traveling the Cider Road in a Group of Solo” with Ria Windcaller and Al Sax. “The Road Ahead: **The Future of US Cider,**” a discussion with the United States Cider Association is from 1 to 2 p.m., and from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., **“Making Cider with Cannabis**” with Paul Correnty and the Merry Makers. Featured ciders on tap at the Shea Theater bar by Headwater Cider and West County Cider.

Elsewhere in Turners Falls, the Great Falls Discovery Center hosts an exhibition of historic cider presses and images that honor the orchards, producers and enthusiasts who have advanced the art of cidermaking through November 6. The Discovery Center is leading a walk for children ages four to eight and

their friends, siblings, and families. Meet in the Great Hall at 1 p.m. on Saturday. The program is inspired by the picture book *From Apple Trees to Cider, Please*, by Felicia Sanzari Chernesky. Also, stop by the center for activities and crafts all about apples. This program is rain or shine. In case of inclement weather, the story walk will be indoors, inside the center.

The Official **Cider Days bookstore** is at Two Birds, 106 Avenue A, Turners Falls. The storefront will be transformed into a cider author’s bookstore and lounge, complete with signings both Saturday and Sunday. At LOOT, 62 Avenue A, a showcase of wild apples, paintings by Casey Williams, and cider tasting with Tandem Cider are happening Sunday, November 3 from 12 to 4 p.m. Check the website (<https://ciderdays.org/>) for cider on tap at local restaurants and bars.

On Wednesday, November 6, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Jesse Bruchac presents **“An Evening of Abenaki Stories, Music, and Language”** in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center. Bruchac, storyteller, author, musician, and Abenaki language teacher, tells traditional stories with flute music and playful language and games to share a glimpse of Northeastern Native American culture with audiences of all ages.

According to Jesse, “Native languages offer speakers a window into an indigenous worldview.” He is one of the last fluent speakers of Western Abenaki and works vigorously to revitalize the language. He is an accomplished musician, producing several albums of Abenaki music. These include collections of traditional songs of drum and rattle and Native American flute music. Sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Looking ahead...

‘Tis the season for **holiday bazaars and craft fairs!** After a one-year hiatus due to a major renovation project at the church, the Dove of Peace Bazaar at Our Lady of Peace Parish, 90 Seventh Street in Turners Falls is back on Saturday,

November 9. Gift baskets, seasonal wreaths, pies and other baked treats, crafts, gifts, “Attic Treasures,” and raffles await eager shoppers. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. but why not stay for a delicious lunch?

Other churches and organizations: please send me information on your upcoming bazaars for publication in Local Briefs!

If you’ve never been to Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center to see the **Western Massachusetts High School Cross-Country Championship** races, you really should make your way up Route 63 on Saturday, November 9.

Cheer on runners from local schools as they complete the 3.1 mile course. Races begin at 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. Bring a picnic lunch or tailgate, and dress appropriately for being outdoors.

Also at Northfield Mountain, from 1 to 3 p.m. on Monday, November 11, Kathy Richards, an environmental educator with over 20 years’ experience, will lead a **child-friendly hike through the forest**, searching for signs of wildlife. Skulls, scavenger hunts, and more will help children and adults learn about wildlife and the November woods. For families with children ages five to 12. You must pre-register for this free program by calling (800) 859-2960.

RiverCulture is compiling a **Holiday Calendar** of cultural events happening in Montague between November 23 and December 31. The calendar will be posted on the RiverCulture website, in social media, and circulated in the *Montague Reporter* on November 21.

To list your exhibition, craft fair, holiday concert, musical performance, theater performance or gift drive, please submit the following details to riverculture@montague-ma.gov by Friday, November 15: the event name, location, address, time, price, a brief description, and media links.

Call Suzanne with any questions at (413) 863-3200, ext. 126.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org

GUEST ED from prev. page

Rachel Carson’s Legacy to launch a season of pollinator education and planting in Greenfield.

Over the last months the Wendell State Forest Alliance arose to oppose logging for profit on 80 acres of an old oak stand in Wendell State Forest, using non-violent tactics to block equipment from entry into the forest and also appealing in district court to stop the logging. Though unsuccessful, they are championing House Bill 897, “An Act Relative to Forest Protection,” proposed legislation that designates state-owned land, comprising 20% of forested land in Massachusetts, as “parks” for recreation and “reserves” where ecosystems are conserved. Why?

Older trees remove and sequester more global warming carbon dioxide than younger trees; re-planted logged areas take decades to replace the efficient carbon capture of mature trees. Forests hold moisture in their soil, diminishing runoff and soil loss and thereby replenishing groundwater, and whole ecosystems

of plants and animals are lost when they are logged. Given the extreme rates of extinction currently in insects, other animals and plants, we cannot risk losing the ecosystems in mature forests – the ones with the most endangered plants and animals, according to climate scientist William Moomaw – to logging for profit-making, only to wait decades for new forests to replace the lost ones.

How critical is the current loss of animals and plants? The 3-billion bird loss over the last 50 years in North America, as *Greenfield Recorder* columnist Bill Danielson lamented in a recent column, is just the tip of the iceberg. We are in a new period of extinction – 1,000 times the rate before humans existed – called the 6th Extinction, the first extinction caused by human activity.

- Up to 60% of mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians have disappeared since the 1970s.

- Over 40% of insect species are threatened with extinction. Many of these are food pollinators.

- The once-rich ecosystem of coral reefs is home to more than

1/4 of all marine species: 25% of these reefs are virtually dead, and the remaining are endangered in the near future.

The primary causes of our planet’s ecosystem collapse are well established: global use of pesticides; burning of rainforest for cattle ranching; logging of forests, including biodiversity-rich southeastern US forests, for highly polluting industrial wood burning plants here and in Europe; and the climate crisis.

Journalist Dahr Jamail, after interviewing climate scientists and biologists across the world on the fate of the planet given the accelerating pace of loss of plants, animals, and glaciers, atmospheric warming, and sea level rise, contrasted our Western culture with that of Indigenous cultures.

He writes:

While Western... culture believes in “rights,” Indigenous cultures teach us of “obligations” that we are born into: obligations to those who came before, to those who will come after, and to the Earth itself. When

we orient ourselves around the question ‘What are our obligations,’ the deeper question immediately arises: “From this moment on, knowing what is happening to the planet, to what do we devote our life?”

All of us – parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, librarians, teachers and mentors of youth, journalists, land users and landowners, and politicians – have a critical responsibility to honor our obligations to nature and to share this with children. Nature makes our life possible; living with this awareness, Native Americans address the Earth as our sacred Mother. Without her web/womb of life, we humans would not continue to exist as a species.

Let us spend time in nature, restore our sense of wonder in it, and support a lifelong love of and responsibility for the natural world in our children.

Pat Hynes directs the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice (www.traprock.org). *She lives in Montague.*



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Grade 7
Madison Liimatainen

Grade 8
Kyleigh Dobosz

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COOP from page A1

neither of which had been seconded – before the board at the same time.

Board member Ann Ferguson, who is chair of the membership committee, said that the board needed to be self-critical about the business plan it had adopted earlier in the year. This had involved an upgrade of the coop’s food offerings, as well as hiring a chef and financial consultant. Later, she moved to establish an advisory committee to help rewrite the business plan.

Ferguson’s comments drew widespread applause from the audience, but one member immediately rose to say that complaining about business decisions in retrospect was not useful. “Based on what they knew at the time,” he said, “it was a reasonable decision.”

Lynton called for tabling Ferguson’s motion, which never received a second.

Member Sam Lovejoy arose to urge the board to focus on paying the organization’s back taxes, since state or federal tax officials had the ability to “put a lock on the door.”

Howard Wein, the owner of the Alvah Stone restaurant in Montague Center, pleaded with members to end their divisions and “get up the

mountain,” which he said would involve adopting a plan to raise money immediately. “The community is not together in a way that will keep the coop going,” he said.

This led to the proposal, eventually adopted by the board, to call a special meeting devoted to developing a new financial plan.

At the beginning of the meeting, Lynton had reviewed the coop’s current financial status, and presented a number of options for the board to consider. She said that in August, the board had recommended that the coop raise \$100,000 to pay off its debt or “execute alternatives.”

These alternatives included selling the building “to an individual” who would then lease it back to the coop; selling the building to an operator/owner who would continue to operate a local grocery store and restaurant; or “selling the real estate to someone who would use it as he saw fit.” These options would allow the coop to sell the property while it had enough equity to pay vendors, settle its tax burden, cover payroll, and address its credit card debt.

Lynton said the organization had been unable to raise the \$100,000, but the board did not vote Tuesday night on which alternative to pursue.

The slide show also contained a proposal to “help avert the current cash flow and payables crisis.” This would entail “1,000 active and inactive members” buying prepaid cards valued at up to \$300 in the next two months, but not use them until May 2020. These members and non-members would also be asked to pledge to spend \$25 per week “over what they are spending now” at the coop.

“Give us your email, and we will send you what you currently spend, and we will track your spending quarterly,” the slide explained. When this proposal was presented, a significant majority of audience members raised their hands to indicate they would be willing to sign on to the plan.

The presentation noted that 700 of the coop’s approximately 800 members have spent less than \$100 each over the past year at the store, adding that “at this rate, the grocery business is not viable.”

One audience member criticized what he called a “culture of complaint” among members of the organization. “Spend time helping the organization, spend money, and quit complaining,” he advised.



MONTAGUE from page A1

may need to consider taking money from the town’s reserve fund, Ellis said.

That fund, which receives an appropriation at the annual town meeting and is under the control of the finance committee, currently contains \$60,000. “It’s very early in the year to spend this much of the reserve fund,” Ellis said.

In response to a question from chair Rich Kuklewicz, Ellis said the town would be able to complete an “expedited” bidding process in November, and that it is “absolutely our objective” to complete the project before the winter. Explaining the uncertainties of the process, Ellis told the *Reporter* that “you can have tremendous good fortune, or awful luck,” depending on the timing.

He contrasted the new department of public works garage, which came in well under cost estimates, and the state-funded Complete Streets projects, which will have to be revisited due to bids that exceeded available grant funds.

Ellis told the *Reporter* that potential flow into the Erving plant this winter from Millers Falls is a “significant concern” to Erving officials. “It’s all about whether we have a significant rain event during the winter,” he said.

Brian Smith, town administrator of Erving, said he was not aware of the need to rebid the project, but said “I trust that Steve Ellis is working with his team to see what that needs to look like.”

Exciting News

Town planner Walter Ramsey updated the board on the proposal for a new building at 38 Avenue A, currently the site of the abandoned building near the Discovery Center known as the “Cumby’s building.”

The proposal, which has been approved by the Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation, is to construct a multi-use building modeled on the old Grant Trunk Hotel which used to occupy the space, which would house a medical facility, office space, and apartments.

Ramsey said the project was estimated to cost \$11 million, and that the town would negotiate a land development agreement with the developer, New England Wound Care (NEWC). He added that he was impressed with the “development team” NEWC owner Dr. Sohail Waijen has put together.

“I don’t have any more news, beyond what’s been reported in the pa-

pers,” Ramsey said. “I apologize for getting to you until after it’s already been reported on.”

“This is pretty exciting news,” said Kuklewicz.

Edible Landscape

Annabel Levine, Rachel Labrie, and Andrew Mangold of the Great Falls Apple Corps came before the board to propose that a “food forest” be planted on the grassy slope adjacent to town hall.

“The idea is that it would be edible landscaping that people could come and pick from,” said Levine. “We would take care of the planting, it would not be a cost to the town, and we would organize harvest days.”

Selectboard member Mike Nelson asked if the group would take care of the area, picking up apples and other fruits that remained on the ground. Labrie said the group was not planning to plant apples, but that if there was an “overabundance,” the group planned to implement organized “harvest days.”

“Hopefully, people will just learn about it, and come harvest themselves,” said Levine.

Kuklewicz said he was trying to think of “the questions people in the [town hall] building might have” about the proposal.

Ellis expressed concern about the safety of someone “working on the edge of the garden” next to the road that goes down to the parking lot.

Labrie said the group did not yet have a “planting plan,” but wanted to find out if the selectboard was interested in the idea.

“If you guys could just get a Google Map of it and plop in how you would envision it,” said Nelson, “that would be great.”

“I think the best thing to say is that we’re not opposed to it,” said Kuklewicz. “Maybe do a little layout, talk to the tree warden... The next step is to try to build some plans out.”

The board did not take a vote on the issue.

Nearly Self-Funding Airport

Bryan Camden, manager of the Turners Falls Airport, presented an annual “update” on the facility. He said “activity” at the airport was up 14%, and that “commercial activity” now accounts for nearly one-third of the airport’s business, “so we’re seeing people coming in to the area, either going to the private universities, schools, or businesses.”

He said that a survey of passengers showed they spend “an average of \$22 in the local economy.”

Camden said the first new hangar in 24 years is “almost complete.” He reviewed the projects being funded by approximately \$328,000 in grants: a proposed solar array over the parking lot, expected to offset 100% of the airport’s electricity use; the installation of solar lights on the runway; and extensive vegetation removal along West Mineral Road.

Camden also said the revenue total exceeded projections by “at least” \$1,800 so far this year. “It looks like if everything stays the way it is now, we’ll be pretty darn close to zero taxation funding next year,” he told the board. Town meeting appropriated just over \$6,000 from taxation to fund the airport in the current fiscal year.

Camden also asked that the board appoint Cameron Wood to work at “grounds/maintenance” on a part-time basis. The board approved the request.

Fuel Depot

Several members of the committee overseeing the construction of the new public works facility on Turners Falls Road requested that the selectboard consider adding a new fueling station to the project, at a cost of “up to” \$450,000. The current fueling station used by the department is located on Sandy Lane near the transfer station.

Ellis reviewed the reasons the committee had voted at its October 8 meeting to recommend that the fueling station be added to the project. The new station is estimated to cost \$350,000, but with contingencies, design fees, and the cost of decommissioning the existing station, the committee requested \$100,000 more.

Ken Morin told the board a fueling station had initially been considered as part of the project, but that the committee had received an estimate from engineering firm Weston and Sampson of \$750,000. He did not say why the more recent estimate was so much lower.

Morin said that the department was “having trouble with the pumps” at the current station, which are “getting kind of antiquated,” and pointed out that if the current station failed, DPW trucks would need to get gas at the Cumberland Farms on Avenue A. There followed a lengthy discussion of the potential risks of fueling large trucks at that gas station, which everyone who spoke felt was a bad idea.

Building committee member Jay DiPucchio said he thought it made more sense to build a new pump

station now, while funds were available and interest rates are low. Ellis said the cost of adding the station would still leave the overall project’s final cost well below the budget appropriated at town meeting.

The selectboard approved the request.

Electricity Depots

The board approved a request by Ramsey to make onstreet winter parking spots available for downtown residents, as it did last year. Spaces will be available on L, Prospect, and Ninth streets.

Ramsey said the permits will cost \$25, and landlords will be able to purchase them for their tenants. The permits cover the “parking ban season” from December through March, and are available at town hall and the public safety complex.

The board approved a proposal to place charging stations for electric vehicles in the Second Street municipal lot, near the Discovery Center, and the Sixth Street lot, next to Peskeompskut Park. There will also be charging stations at the Turners Falls Airport in the industrial park, and on the bike path in Turners Falls on property owned by FirstLight Power.

The two stations directly under the control of the town will be constructed by Eversource, with “ongoing maintenance and a cloud service” costing the town approximately \$2,000 annually.

Other Business

The board approved a contract with the Massachusetts Cultural Council to transfer \$6,300 to the Montague Cultural Council, funds primarily used for small grants to local arts projects.

Water Pollution Control Facility superintendent Kevin Boissonault was authorized to sign and access permits from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The board increased the hours of Anne Stuart, administrative assistant to the board of health, making her position at the department full time. The board then increased the hours of RiverCulture coordinator Suzanne LoManto to temporarily cover part of the planning clerk position being vacated by Stuart.

Tracy Hall was appointed to a full time position as police dispatcher.

The board retired into executive session to conduct the town’s contract negotiations with Ellis. The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be held on November 4.



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GUEST COLUMN

Millers On The Move: October 2019

By MICHAEL NAUGHTON

Changes are happening in Millers Falls, spearheaded by a loose-knit group of residents known as the Millers Falls Community Improvement Association (MFCIA) and the Montague Planning Department.

They began with a Place Vibrancy Study survey last spring; after establishing some demographic information, the survey asked respondents to rate their attitudes about and impressions of Millers Falls. These were intended to establish a base line of how residents felt, with the intention of updating it with follow-up surveys over time to see if/how things change.

Next came a public forum in July, hosted by the Covenant Church on Bridge Street. Town planner Walter Ramsey began by announcing that town officials were starting work on a “master plan” for the village of Millers Falls, similar to the one that was produced for Turners Falls some years ago. He also introduced the core working group for the plan: himself, RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto, and village residents Kate Martineau and Richard Widmer. This group will coordinate communication and cooperation between town officials and the village.

Next, consultant Peg Barringer from FinePoint Associates presented the results of the survey. There were 69 responses, and from them she had created lists of “strengths,” “weaknesses,” and “opportunities.” After a general discussion in which attendees were asked to comment on and add to those lists, people broke into smaller groups to develop ideas for enhancing the strengths, addressing the weaknesses, and pursuing the opportunities.

Those ideas were presented back to the larger group for further discussion, and then Ramsey, LoManto, and Barringer took them away for analysis. They returned in September to present the results, and ask local residents for their pri-

orities. They had prepared a handout recapping the ideas discussed at the July meeting, and from them they had prepared a list of ten general goals, with various projects listed under each one.

The goals were:

A. Increase opportunities to improve health and expand recreation opportunities;

B. Strengthen Millers Falls community building and capacity;

C. Increase economic opportunities;

D. Expand uses and attract businesses that meet local needs;

E. Increase events and activities to bring people to Millers Falls and build community;

F. Improve connectivity among village establishments and recreational assets;

G. Activate underutilized properties with uses beneficial to the village;

H. Improve the physical appearance of the village;

I. Make the village a more safe, inviting, and convenient place to spend time; and

J. Create/reinforce a positive unique identity for the village; develop a sense of place.

The specific projects they suggested were categorized as “short term” or “long term,” and they were listed on poster-sized sheets of paper along one edge of the room. Attendees were encouraged to add projects that they thought had been missed, and once that was done, each person was given stickers, and asked to mark the three short-term and three long-term projects they considered to be priorities in each section.

The most popular projects on the short-term list were formalizing the MFCIA organization and increasing its membership, and repairing the stairway and improving downtown access to Highland Park. These were followed by a project to address truck traffic and one to develop a “Millers On The Move” column for this newspaper – which resulted in this column.

Completing the riverfront park improve-

ments, growing the MFCIA’s social media presence, and making better use of Highland Park came next, followed by several projects that got fewer votes.

On the long-term list, the project to relocate or improve the bus stop was the clear winner, though one attendee admitted afterward to skewing the vote by using all his stickers on that one. A project to enforce speed limits came next, followed by one to improve Highland Park, and another to connect the Smokehouse restaurant to downtown via a sidewalk.

Working with the village grocery store, improving bus service, and expanding library services were also on the list. (See the complete results at www.facebook.com/millersfalls/.)

Once again, town officials took the results, this time to formulate a plan for proceeding with specific projects, which they will bring back to the village in the coming months. In the meantime, progress has been made on the riverfront project, which I’ll describe in another column.

By the time you read this, the MFCIA will have hosted a Halloween event at the library on October 29 with pumpkin decorating, bead spider construction, and making painted masks.

Another event is planned for some time in December – check the “Local Briefs” section of this newspaper for date, time, and details. Our hope is that these events help to build community and make Millers Falls a wonderful place to live.

The Millers Falls Community Improvement Association is open to all residents of Millers Falls. You can follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/millersfalls/, and if you’d like email updates, please contact gretchenwetherby@gmail.com and ask to be put on the list.

Michael Naughton is a member of the Millers Falls Community Improvement Association. This column is a collective effort by members of the MFCIA.

SPORTS from page A1

win just to stay a game out of first in the Inter-County North. The Franks were playing for pride: Franklin Tech has been in every game this year, and the Mahar game was no exception. In fact, Franklin kept the Politicians off the scoreboard for more than half the game.

Mahar got the ball first and punted. On Tech’s first series, they drove the ball all the way to the Senators’ 5-yard line, setting up a first and goal. The Eagles pushed ahead a couple of yards, giving them second and goal from the 3, but they were pushed back to the 5, and an incomplete pass forced a fourth down. Tech was unable to score on that all-important fourth down, and handed the rock back to Mahar.

Mahar’s next series ended on an intentional grounding, which gave Tech the ball on the Senators’ 39. This time, Owen Bashaw connected with Donte Rosewarne, and Tech finished the drive. The 2-PAT was smothered, and Tech went into the second quarter leading by 6-0.

The teams traded punts in the second, and Tech tried an unsuccessful fourth down, but neither team could score, and Tech held onto their lead. On the first drive of the half, Tech was forced to punt, and Mahar got the ball on their own 44. They put together a few good plays, and drove into the zone to give them a 7-6 lead.

Tech scored on the ensuing kickoff; but a penalty brought the ball all the way back to their own 17. This was the straw that broke the Eagles’ back. They couldn’t gain any ground, and the Politicians got the ball at midfield and scored again to go up 14-6. They stacked on another touchdown with 7:42 left in the game, but the

PAT was low, and Mahar’s lead remained at 20-6. Tech made a final drive into the Senate’s territory, but an interception gave the ball back, and Mahar held on to the win.

In this game, Tech had 111 yards on the ground, and 81 in the air. Bashaw finished 7 for 15 under center with a TD and two picks, and Ian McClure led in rushing yards with 86.

Defensively, Dylan Demers made 10 tackles, Rosewarne snagged an interception, Dominic Bowden-Smith caused a fumble, and Rosewarne recovered it.

Field Hockey
TFHS 3 – Mahar 0
TFHS 0 – Mohawk 0
Smith Academy 1 – TFHS 0

The Turners Falls field hockey team finished last week 1-0-1, giving them a 8-5-5 record for the regular season. They faced Smith Academy on Wednesday in the first round of D2 playoffs, and were eliminated in overtime play.

On October 3, Blue Thunder defeated Mahar 3-0. Powertown had another exceptional defensive effort in this one. The defensive players again got the ball upfield, and the offense put pressure on the Senators’ goalkeeper. While Haleigh Greene only had to make five saves in the entire game, the Mahar goalie was forced to make 16.

Three Powertown shots managed to make it into the net: Lindsay Davenport scored off an assist from Olivia Whittier, Kaylin Voudren scored unassisted, and Brooke Thayer was assisted by Brynn Tela.

Then last Thursday, the Mohawk Warriors drew a tie against Powertown. Most of the action was played between the 40-yard lines, and Greene and Mohawk’s Maddie

Gorrell only needed to make six saves apiece.

Field hockey is one sport with just two divisions, which means the playoffs are sprinkled with larger schools. But 7th-seeded Turners’ first opponent was Smith Academy, one of the only schools with a comparable enrollment.

The True Blue Faithful went down to the Hatfield Middle School on Wednesday. Thunder held the Falcons out of the net for two closely fought 30-minute halves, but a single overtime goal ended Turners’ playoff dreams.

The field hockey team was a young team this year at Turners Falls. Though they will surely miss fullback Aly Murphy, who is graduating in the spring, all the other players will be able to return for another run in 2020.

Volleyball
Sabis 3 – TFHS 1

Last Thursday, October 24, The Turners Falls volleyball team ended their season with a 3-1 loss against the Sabis Maroon Bulldogs. It was Senior Night, and the crowd said goodbye to Hailey Bogusz, Dabney Rollins, and Lindsay Whiteman. Thanks were also given out to Eliza Johnson and Anthony Peterson for their help during the season.

The loss of the three athletes will certainly leave a void. Bogusz and Rollins owned the front court, while Whiteman played the plucky Libero.

Before the game began, it was announced that the Volleyball banner in the gym would need to be updated: it was Powertown’s third straight league championship. While Turners was coming into this game as league champion for the third straight year, Sabis was in a

must-win situation: they had to win to qualify for the playoffs.

The scuttlebutt in the stands was that Turners had this one in the bag. “They’ve beaten them before,” some of the fans shared. “We’re a much better team.” But Sabis didn’t listen. There weren’t very many Bulldog fans in the gym, but the players made up for it with the sheer volume of their screams and cheers.

Their enthusiasm seemed to catch Blue back on their heels. The Bulls jumped out of the gate and charged ahead 11-2. Blue fans weren’t deterred: “They’ll catch up,” one of the True Blue said confidently.

And they did – but it took Powertown most of the match to do it. The match was knotted at 21, and Blue finally won on a fault 25-23.

Sabis scored the first five points in the second match, and held onto a 4- to 5-point margin until the score was 22-17. Then they went on a tear, winning the match 25-18 to knot the game at 1 all.

There was no desperation in the crowd at this point, though the cheers became “You can do it Blue” and “You got this Blue.” The girls on the floor seemed a little more desperate, though, diving after kills and shooting spikes into the Dogs’ defense. One Turners player actually banged into the seats going for an errant second hit.

Both teams chipped forward until the game was 21-20 Sabis with Turners serving. Maroon got the serve back, and rolled to a 25-20 win to take a 2-1 lead.


With their backs against the wall, Blue again fought hard and tried several different formations. The match leapfrogged along until it was tied at 17. But Sabis went another run, and won the fourth match 25-20 to take the game 3-1.

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The three seniors led Thunder in stats: Bogusz finished her last regular season game with five kills, six aces and four assists; Rollins had eight kills, one ace, and nine deflections; and Lindsey Whiteman dove for 18 digs, served an ace, and made a kill shot.

Big Blue laces up their sneakers to take on Southwick in the first round of the playoffs this Friday.

Golf

Last Monday, October 21, the Franklin Tech Golfing Eagles took fourth in the D3 West sectional tournament held at Agawam Municipal Golf Course. This was a team tournament, so the Eagles played against the best D3 teams in the region.

The tourney was a shotgun start, which means different foursomes tee off from different holes. Another difference is that they shot 18 holes, not the nine holes played during regular season.

The Tech team shot a combined 364 through the talents of Mike McGoldrick (89), Alex Sulda (90), Jacob Shaw (93), Anthony Zager (96), Nate Sciandra (99), and Ryan Artus (110). Congrats to all.

Next week: Tech Soccer, two football games, and more playoff action!



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MOTHERS from page A1

conviction, momentum, faith in changes on top of changes, news of many successful gains in obtaining parental workplace accommodations, and an all-around feeling of, “We’ve got this. We’re working to get it for everyone else, too.”

TheatreTruck ensemble member and mother Elizabeth Pangburn spoke first, summing up concerns attendees had identified in a questionnaire they filled out when they registered for the summit.

Some of the barriers for working mothers that were identified in the responses were workplace attitudes of ignorance, fear, and misogyny. Many respondents reported feelings of guilt and shame about their dual roles. Limitations on their time and availability due to caregiving roles had cost them in lost opportunities.

Despite the identification of further barriers, such as the rural geography of western Massachusetts and the lack of theater companies with good equity contracts, Pangburn called for creating new realities for mother/artists. “We want our mothering to be an asset in a workplace that’s inclusive,” Pangburn said. “Together we can imagine something new.”

Brianna Sloane, also of TheatreTruck, then introduced Talya Kingston, dramaturg, director, playwright, and lecturer at UMass. Sloane had turned to Kingston for advice when she became a mother and was worrying about “disappearing” into her role. (She didn’t.) Kingston invited Sloane to talk to her students about one of her theater projects, and Sloane gave her talk while nursing her infant, something Kingston said was very important for her students to see. Kingston herself had gotten pregnant while working at the Hartford Stage, and said she had been advised to compartmentalize her life.

“This terrified me,” she recalled. “The idea was this trap of perfection. Now I work for a company where we celebrate our personal life, have flexible schedules... We bring our children into things, we are merging things. We are starting to provide childcare for performances. We are making little steps towards being a mother and an artist, holistically, in the same place.”

Making Structural Changes

Flora Reed spoke next. Reed is a member of the band Winterpills, and works as a publicist for Signature Sounds in Northampton. She and her husband, fellow band member Phillip Price, have a ten-month-old son together. Reed has performed three times in the past ten months, bringing her child on stage with her while she sang for one performance, and having friends and family help out during others.

As for touring with children, she advised, “You don’t have to have a tour-level bus. You can have a van. You can sell t-shirts and CDs to pay for childcare, and you can get childcare with *care.com* in a different city every night if your caretaker can’t travel with you.”

Lori Holmes Clark, a choreographer, performer, and teacher who is part of the local Clarkdale Farms family, spoke about the difference in focus she feels as a mother, compared to her earlier career as a performer in NYC. For 15 years she lived her dream and attained technical virtuosity in her field. Now, she says, “Suffering with grace is what we need to have as parents; a glowing, growing gratitude. You



KYLE BOATWRIGHT PHOTO

The participants at last Saturday’s forum gathered for a photo.

can’t do 100 percent in any one direction anymore; you need kindness towards yourself with this model. If you suffer with grace, you amplify your power.”

Melissa Moschitto, founding director of the NYC theater ensemble The Anthropologists, spoke about how she had not been sympathetic to working artist parents until she herself became one, and then almost didn’t leave her apartment again. “But, I had to make it work with our company, find ways to make this collaborative theater work with family commitments,” explained Moschitto. “We are building child care stipends into our budgets, creating rehearsal schedules differently.”

“It’s interesting how we are moving from being freelance or salary performers,” Brianna Sloane commented, “into managing, leading, and making structural changes that make space for others.”

“We need to write the rules,” said Rachel Spencer Hewitt, founder of the Parent Artist Advocacy League (PAAL). “We need to address the institutions, and the power. We need to tell our story, and make it a constant practice, and collect solutions for parents.”

Hewitt hid her first pregnancy for five months, trusting no one, feeling no community support in the theater culture. She assumed it would be death to her career, and indeed, when she did start talking about it, she was advised to be silent. She was galvanized into blogging her own story, which attracted the stories of other theater parents.

Hewitt said she eventually realized that this work “needed to become a national objective, because it directly affects our leadership pipeline.” Her organization, PAAL, pursues solutions for the obstacles facing mother and caregiver theater artists and leaders who have been previously ignored, and works to attain more equity in caregiving and the arts in general.

Hearing Other Voices

I attended the Anthropologists’ theater production, *Artemisia’s Intent*, at the Shea that same night. This one-woman show, performed by Mariah Freda, tells the story of Artemisia Gentileschi, a 17th-century painter who was raped by her painting teacher, Agostino Tassi. Artemisia’s father brought suit against Tassi for “deflowering” his daughter. During the trial, interrogators used thumbscrews on Artemesia to verify she was telling the truth, and she was cross-examined by her attacker, Tassi.

The record of this trial exists, and Tassi’s questions sound like the assault trials held today: “Why didn’t

you make any noise?” he asked. “How long after it happened did you tell?” Tassi was convicted, but the record is not clear on whether his exile was actually enforced.

As a painter, Gentileschi was commissioned to paint scenes of violation over and over again, because it was what wealthy men wanted to see: buxom women raped, threatened, spied upon, and otherwise romantically abused in scripture and myth. In other paintings, she was able to portray herself and other women as strong figures opposing such degradation.

A strong performance by Freda, whose physicality on the stage, moving in and out of ornate picture frames as she told her story (with many Italian eye-rolls and R-rolls on the tongue), was well matched with robust descriptions of paint and painting, the intent and process of anger and passion as scene after scene came to life with her words and presence.

Strains of Baroque music were laced with recorded testimony from contemporary assault trials: testimony from the suit against Brock Turner by Jane Doe; trial testimony from the suit against Bill Cosby by Andrea Constand; transcript from the police wiretap of Harvey Weinstein.

In the play, Gentileschi knows how history has shunted her off into the closets and basements of museums, and she rails against those critics who believed her work to be too superior to have been done by a woman.

At one point, she presents advice to the audience as a sort of list of instructions: Find your teacher; know your audience, and improve your skill set. When talking about securing patronage, she shares her prescription for managing a lecherous patron. Humorously and sadly familiar to many of us in the audience was this necessarily delicate balance of flattery, self-deprecation, confidence and humility. *How to channel your rage?* Artemisia asks at the end. Answer: *You put it in a painting.*

There is humor along with the rage, and this provides light in the darkness of her story, serving as it does in painting to add realistic dimensionality. Throughout, I was riveted to the story, the paintings brought to life, the testimonies from trials of the day, and the year before, and four centuries back...

The day left me stirred up and hopeful that attention is being brought to the right things for a change, and that even though history seems to repeat itself, other voices may now be heard, and other stories told.



NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Dog Hearing Canceled

By GEORGE BRACE

A last-minute settlement made a scheduled nuisance dog hearing unnecessary at Gill’s October 28 selectboard meeting. After learning of the cancellation, the board went on to discuss a new recycling contract and a grant application for a gear washer for the fire department, and then closed the regular meeting to discuss litigation in a closed, executive session.

Regional animal control officer Kyle Dragon was on hand to let the board know that moments before the meeting, a complaint regarding a male boxer named Lewis, or Louis, had been withdrawn due to the dog no longer residing in the town of Gill. Dragon said that Lewis, or Louis, who had been reported to be continually loose, was now residing in New Hampshire.

Town administrator Ray Purington reported “good news, bad news” from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The good news was that Gill had been awarded \$4,200 under the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP). The bad news was that an increase in trash recycling rates will take effect on July 1, 2020.

Purington said the \$4,200 in the SMRP award will bring the town’s account up to \$12,392. He said the town was following the advice of Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD) director Jan Ameen in spending enough of the money to keep MassDEP happy, as the agency does not want towns to stockpile all the money. He said that Gill spends a few hundred dollars a year from the fund on supplies such as recycling bins and trash stickers, and mentioned that in the past, the fund has been “eyeballed” as a possible source of seed money during discussions on curbside compost collection.

As for the news of the rate hike, Purington said that “some of the dire warnings that we’ve been receiving did come true.” He reported that MassDEP has finalized a contract with the Springfield Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) resulting in a \$93.50 per ton processing fee for recyclables brought to the facility, beginning in July. He said currently, there is no fee for recyclables, and the town has received a little bit of “profit” from some of the recycled materials.

Purington called the new rate “quite a game changer,” which would result in a brand-new \$13,000 to \$14,000 expense for the town. Up to this point, Gill has been paying a hauler a lump sum per ton for the combined weight of recyclables and solid waste. Purington predicted that with towns now having to pay \$93 per ton to get rid of “the good stuff,” market forces will drive up the rate for the overall hauling service.

Board member Randy Crochier and chair John Ward discussed possible adjustments the town may make. Crochier said the matter hadn’t been discussed by the board of health, but that he has had informal conversations about raising the price of trash stickers.

Purington said Ameen has advised towns not to do anything yet, but give the FCSWMD time to explore options.

Crochier observed that the new fee “makes the Amazons of the world look a little different,” given all the packaging that delivery services bring into the town.

“We really need to figure out how to use less packaging,” Ward added. “Less stuff.”

Board member Greg Snedeker presented a \$13,334 quote for gear-washing equipment for the fire department as part of a grant proposal. A grant of \$5,000 is available for the equipment, but the balance of over \$8,000 would not be covered. Snedeker said the department currently has an informal agreement with Greenfield to use that city’s washer, but noted it was a burden for part-time firefighters to bring their equipment to Greenfield, and while the arrangement worked, its informality made it questionable.

Snedeker said there was a grant created specifically to encourage the use of such machines, which clean uniforms to OSHA standards. The board discussed the logistics of placing and installing the machine if purchased, saying they wanted to make sure the electricity and plumbing hookups in the safety building would be able to support it.

The board voted to move forward with the grant application, which is due on November 4, authorizing Purington and Snedeker to work on it and sign if they didn’t see any problems.

The board then approved a series of grant proposals under the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA)’s Risk Management Grant program.

The highway department requested a gas-powered post driver for replacing street sign posts, safety equipment for the bucket truck, a drum dolly, an oil rag can, and other items. The board felt all the items were reasonable, and expressed surprise the department was lacking some of them.

The police department sought a couple of cases of road flares, and the fire department sought to apply for a backup camera for Tanker 1. Also included among the proposals was money for preventative plumbing maintenance work, which Purington said the MIIA was encouraging towns to look into.

Purington said he was aware of maintenance needs that would fall under the grant criteria, including the replacement of iron nipples in the town hall’s plumbing which have caused problems as recently as a month ago.

The board approved hiring Alex Urgiel III for a vacancy in the highway department in a 2 – 0 vote. Purington said he would be a “good fit.” Crochier abstained from the vote due to being Urgiel’s brother-in-law.

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo and Patricia Crosby were appointed to the Gill Cultural Council.

A “disclosure of financial interest in a municipal contract” was received from Isaac Bingham of the Cultural Council, due to a Cultural Council grant application submitted by his wife Sorrel Hatch, who may receive a stipend.

The regular meeting closed with an announcement that state senator Joanne Comerford’s “The People’s Office Library Tour” would be coming to Slate Library on Saturday, December 7 from 1 to 2 p.m.

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SHERIFF from page A1

would prevent any city officials from asking questions about immigration status, and would explicitly forbid law enforcement officers from detaining a suspect on orders from the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) division of the Department of Homeland Security.

While Hodgson’s speech was billed as an informational talk by a noted expert, it very quickly became a heated argument between the sheriff and various audience members. Hodgson was characterized by audience members as a racist for describing undocumented immigrants from Mexico and Central America as “diseased,” “rapists,” and conclusively linked to

the illegal distribution of fentanyl.

It was also noted that Hodgson, who has worked with the Trump administration on various anti-immigration initiatives, is an official advisor to the Federation for American Immigration Reform, an organization characterized by the Southern Poverty Leadership Committee as a “hate group” for its history of opposition to immigration to the US from Catholic-majority nations.

After a yelling match between a member of the GCA and various others in attendance, the GCA member was escorted from the room by Greenfield police, and large portions of the audience elected to leave the speech to sus-

tained cheering. A large group of protestors had, by this point, gathered outside the Jon Zon Senior Center, and the Greenfield police stationed outside were also now joined by elements of the Massachusetts State Police.

Sheriff Hodgson continued to speak for about an hour, and afterwards responded to largely critical questions from the audience. After the question period ended, audience members exited the Senior Center, past protestors, and under the watch of police.

Members of the GCA have since claimed on their Facebook page that several people were assaulted by “antifa” as they exited the talk.



CONGRESS from page A1

she has filed along with state senator Jamie Eldridge. Sabadosa thanked Rep. Khanna for the bill he filed making it easier for states to implement single-payer health insurance, and asked McGovern to sign onto it “so that here in Massachusetts we can be the first state to implement Medicare For All on the state level.”

Khanna later remarked that a Canadian province “passed single payer ten years before Canada did,” adding that “if Massachusetts and California take the lead, it will make an enormous difference,” and thanking Sabadosa for her leadership on the issue.

Joking that it was great to be in Northampton because “Washington, DC is so boring,” McGovern spoke of the nation’s current anxiety and of Constitutional crises created by the president, his cabinet members, and the attorney general.

“But I am hopeful,” he said. “I am hopeful that we are going to get through this.”

“Our colleague in Congress, the great Civil Rights leader, John Lewis, always says: ‘This too shall pass,’ McGovern said. “My grandfather used to say, ‘This too shall pass – like a kidney stone. It will be painful, but it will pass.’”

Pausing for laughter, he finished: “It’s probably more accurate about where we are right now.”

McGovern praised citizen activism in favor of Medicare For All and the Green New Deal, and credited “public pressure” with the Trump administration backing down on its attempt to dismantle the Affordable Care Act, and to host next year’s G7 meeting at Trump’s own Doral resort in Florida.

“That would not have happened without the determined activism of people in this room, this church, and all across this country,” he said.

Khanna, who introduced a War Powers Resolution last year to end US involvement in Yemen, related that McGovern was the only Congressman to help lead that charge. Together they passed that legislation, he said, cementing their bond both in Congress and as friends.

Khanna and McGovern spoke on what they saw as the leading issues facing their constituencies and the country.

Khanna had once seen former US president Jimmy Carter, preaching in another church, define what it meant for the US to be a “superpower”: to “have people around the world want to come to Washington, DC for wisdom, for help in bringing peace, for help in standing up for human rights, for help in solving climate change, for a leadership that will make a more peaceful planet.”

China, Carter said, has not been in a war since 1979, while the United States has been involved in 40 conflicts since then, and in that time China’s money has gone instead into developing high-speed rail, education, and high-speed internet. Carter told Khanna to imagine if instead of spending \$6 trillion on 18 years in Afghanistan, the war in Iraq, and all the other conflicts, America had invested in infrastructure, health care, and education.

The representatives answered questions from the audience.

“I’m not for a society where, say, a Mark Zuckerberg makes all the money and sends every American a check,” Khanna said, asked what he thought of the Universal Basic Income proposal promoted by Democratic presidential candidate Andrew Yang. “That’s not going to work in this country.”

He spoke of the “hollowing-out of industrialization” in towns across the country, saying how these overlooked places in America must be given new reason to trust Democrats.

“We’re going to bring the new jobs and new opportunities to these communities,” he said. “Donald Trump... went to towns and said, ‘Look, you built

America. Your grandparents fought in the wars. Well, these new people have come in – they’re on the coast – they’re making all the money – what happened to you? I’m going to bring back your pride. I’m going to bring back these jobs you had.’ That, in a nutshell, was his campaign.”

McGovern, who serves on the Agriculture Committee and Nutrition Subcommittee, said he diverges from Khanna on the Universal Basic Income question. “The concept is attractive because of the inequality that exists in this country,” he said, adding that he didn’t know how it would be put into practice.

McGovern pointed out that the majority of Americans receiving benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) do work, but many don’t earn enough to feed their families.

“There is something fundamentally wrong with that,” he said, criticizing large companies that “intentionally pay their workers low wages” while relying on taxpayers to subsidize their cost of living.

“We want a country where people are not just hanging on by their fingernails, hoping they can get through each week,” McGovern said, before discussing the problem of hunger as an international problem. “I suspect there’d be a lot less terrorism and more peace in the world if American foreign policy borrowed more from Ghandi than it did from Attila the Hun,” he added.

Addressing concern that impeaching Trump might hurt Democrats’ chances in 2020, McGovern said that impeachment is moving forward, but “needs to be a process that has integrity... that elevates the discussion in this country around the issues of why he is being impeached, but also providing a civics lesson.”

McGovern disputed the president’s assertion that Congressional Democrats are “obsessed” with impeachment.

“What I’m obsessed about is people who are working two, three jobs, and still can’t make ends meet because nothing pays a livable wage,” McGovern told the crowd. “We live in the richest country in the history of the world, and 40 million of our fellow citizens don’t know where their next meal is going to come from. What I’m obsessed with is the fact that we’re destroying our planet with each passing day and Congress isn’t doing a damn thing about it – well, let’s put it this way, the House is.”

Both representatives said they advocated a return to paper ballots as a way to thwart electronic election interference, either foreign or domestic, and Khanna decried senator Mitch McConnell’s refusal to take up election security legislation before the Senate.

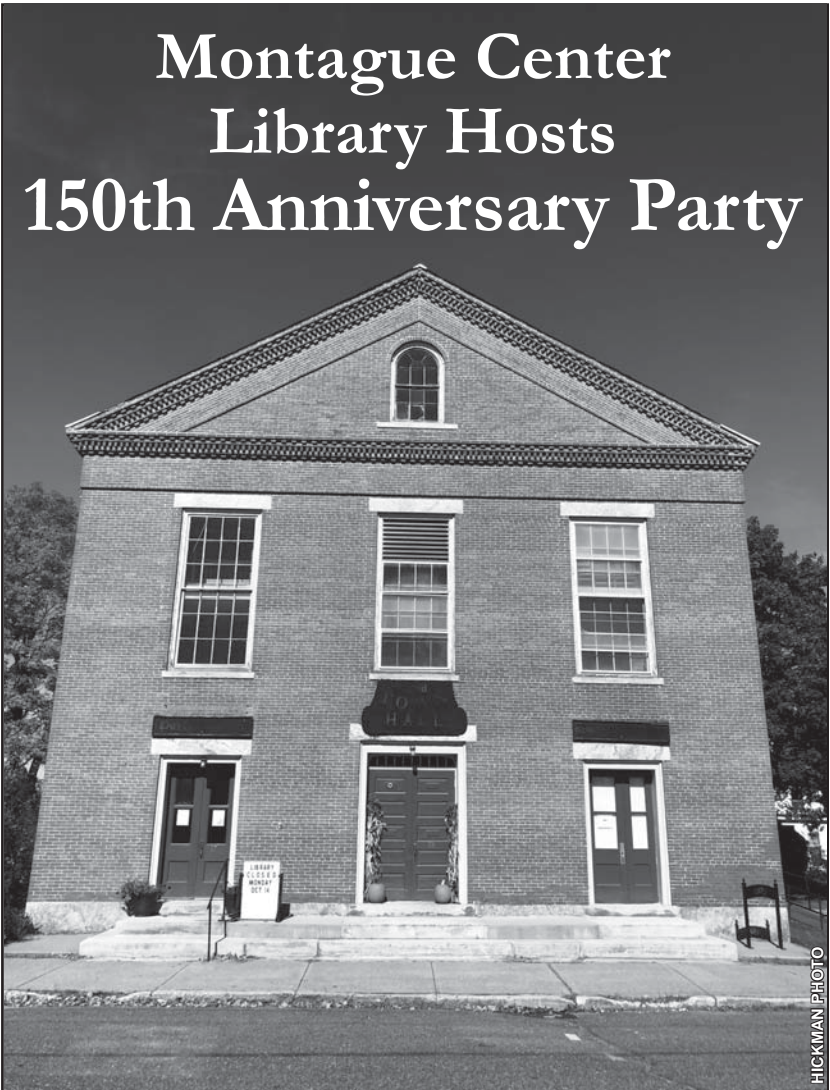
In closing, Khanna and McGovern spoke in broad terms of shifting a political culture of blame to one of collective responsibility.

“Donald Trump has been very skilled at making people who are very well-off feel like they’re victims,” McGovern said, noting that he has heard from constituents and others outside of Massachusetts who feel unfairly burdened with caring for others, or that immigrants are somehow at fault for problems in their lives:

“You don’t have a good job, you blame immigrants.... We have to be aspirational, and that means making sure that everybody knows we care about them, and they’re part of what we think about each and every day,” said McGovern.

“We have to tell a story about what our national purpose is,” added Khanna. “[Americans] want to be inspired.... They want a more inclusive vision than what Trump’s offering, but they want a vision of where this country needs to go.”

“The challenge for us in 2020,” McGovern concluded, “is whether we can make America good again. That’s what’s at stake.”



HICKMAN PHOTO

By LINDA HICKMAN

MONTAGUE CENTER – There will be a 150th anniversary party next Monday, November 4 from 4 to 7 p.m. to celebrate the Montague Center Library’s establishment in 1869. Historical photos and documents will be on display. Melinda Georgeson will play background harp music. The Friends of the Montague Public Libraries are organizing the event.

This first public library in Montague was established by a Montague Center School teacher, Miss Bailey, who collected some books. A fair was held, which raised \$1,000. A library committee was formed, and the town voted to provide a location in the town hall on March 11, 1869. Families were charged \$1 a year to borrow books.

After ten years, there were 1,700 books. Over the years, the library shared the first floor with other users, including the local chapter of

the Grand Army of the Republic civil war veterans, the selectmen’s office, a post office, and a store, while the second floor served as the town hall.

The town hall functions slowly transferred to various sites in Turners Falls, and the post office moved to its own building. Eventually, the library took over the entire first floor. The second floor is used infrequently by the parks and recreation department.

In 1982, the Montague Center Library, Millers Falls Library (1903), and Carnegie Public Library (1906) consolidated into the Montague Public Libraries for greater efficiency. Anna Greene has been the branch library assistant for over ten years. The Montague Center Library is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 to 7 p.m.

Linda Hickman is Montague’s library director.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was October 29, 2009: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Walking the Line at the Mariamante Property

A crew of volunteers made up of Native Americans and townspeople of Gill were back walking the line on Tuesday at the Mariamante property, at the intersection of Main Road and West Gill Road. They pushed a computerized contraption on an oversized baby buggy down 700-foot-long, five and a half foot wide files, sounding the depths of the soil for underground objects with ground-penetrating radar.

By day’s end on Tuesday they had covered about two-thirds of the 10-acre parcel, and walked more than 25 linear miles in their endeavor.

The results will take months to compile, but in the end should show whether there are underground burials located on the prem-

ises. The town of Gill has been interested in developing the parcel for commercial use, but have so far found no buyers.

A UMass archeological survey determined one area of the parcel is of sufficient archeological sensitivity to be preserved from development, due to the concentration of Native American artifacts. But areas of the parcel directly adjoining Main Road were not examined, since setback requirements would have prevented most of that frontage from being developed anyway.

Representatives of the Narragansett Indian Tribe and the Wampanoag Tribe of Gayhead (Aquinnah) and their local allies believe the whole parcel should be considered ceremonial due to its proximity to an unusual Native “spokes burial” recorded in 1895. They have met with the selectboard and proposed an educational use for the property, to promote a better understanding of the past use of the land by Native peoples.

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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Board Talks Plastic Bottles, Wi-Fi, Hydrology, Cannabis

By ROB SKELTON

The Leverett selectboard met Tuesday with the town’s technology team – Tim Haas, Geoff Pooser, and George Drake – to get updated on four major topics: town wi-fi, firewall log-ins, Windows 10 upgrades, and wi-fi guest options.

Haas, of Granby, chief technology officer at Holyoke Gas & Electric, also runs Haas Networks, hired by Leverett to maintain its IT network. Haas said he’s been working with the fire department to make ready the public safety complex for the vendor, Synology. He has yet to wire up access points for the town hall (two) and library (one), and estimates that the three transceivers should cost \$500 apiece installed.

Haas also estimated \$500 in labor costs to establish a firewall, and another \$1,000 to execute the wi-fi guest process. The selectboard didn’t say where it would get the \$3,000, but town administrator Margie McGinnis floated the possibility that \$2,000 or more left over from a previous grant might be used.

The board decided the order in which town systems would be transferred to the new protocols, with town clerk Lisa Stratford’s clunky Windows 7 machines leading the charge, followed by the collector/treasurer’s archives.

Road boss Matt Boucher set vendor rates for winter snow removal, which the selectboard okayed. He said he’d wait on uniforms until he had a full staff, partly to save money. He reported that he’d be returning to the sand/salt mixture which his predecessor eschewed, and that he’d be eliminating storm “pre-treatment,” which his predecessor promoted.

Boucher noted a gauge failure at the high-

way department gas tank, and asked what happened to the drinking water deliveries to his workplace. McGinnis said that the town had discontinued single-serving plastic bottles as part of “green” policy, and that she would make sure that 5-gallon bubbler bottles would be provided.

Boucher said he looked forward to re-hiring longtime town employee Mike deRosa for sand-truck driving.

A Verizon wireless phone billed to the highway department, for a phone used by the former road boss and of uncertain location, is to be discontinued. “Quit paying the bill,” said d’Errico.

Pat Duffy, Virginia Goodale, and Steve Nagy, residents whose water has been polluted by a plume leaking from a closed south Leverett landfill, brought a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to the selectboard which sparked a familiar refrain.

The latest effort to solve the clean water dilemma involves re-drilling some of the affected wells. Goodale’s MOU, which would hold the town liable for “immediate” mitigation of any side disorders, was questioned by d’Errico. The board’s position was that insurance held by water consultants Wilcox & Barton should suffice in the event of a problem.

“It’s hard coming here every week, and it feels up and down,” said Goodale. Each time they hold the selectboard’s feet to the fire, it starts talking eminent domain land takings, Duffy noted on her way out.

“I’m not ready to get a degree in hydrology,” d’Errico said after they left.

A huge increase in hauling costs for recy-



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Left to right: Erin Ferrentino, Bill McKerchie, and Tamara McKerchie, co-owners of the new Upper Bend Café + Brunchonette at 112 Avenue A in Turners Falls, have been hard at work. They will open for breakfast at 7 a.m. next Wednesday, November 6 – “but don’t all come at once,” Ferrentino says, sounding slightly concerned when she learns of our readers’ interest. Upper Bend will be open Wednesdays through Fridays from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

cling has negated any hoped-for savings, said McGinnis, referring to Leverett’s membership in the Franklin County solid waste district.

McGinnis shared the good news of three successful grants: \$10,000 for a regionalization police study; \$5,000 for Narcan and training for first responders; and \$2,700 for an Emergency Management Performance grant (EMPG).

Police chief Scott Minckler wants to send candidate Meghan Gallo to police academy in January – a departure of sorts for Leverett, McGinnis said, as the town usually sends more known and experienced officers. Gallo has apparently proved her worth as an intern

in the department, and has offered to pay the \$3,000 cost, which could be clawed back as incentive over time, according to selectman Tom Hankinson.

The board agreed to Minckler’s prerogative, though no vote was taken.

McGinnis announced that she was contacted recently by a lawyer for a potential outdoor marijuana growers’ collective to be sited on Jackson Hill Road.

“Tell them they can grow it there as long as they sell it in Leverett,” said Hankinson, salivating at the prospect of a 3% cut for the town.

“You’d better provide some smoke for us,” added d’Errico.

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Pet of the Week

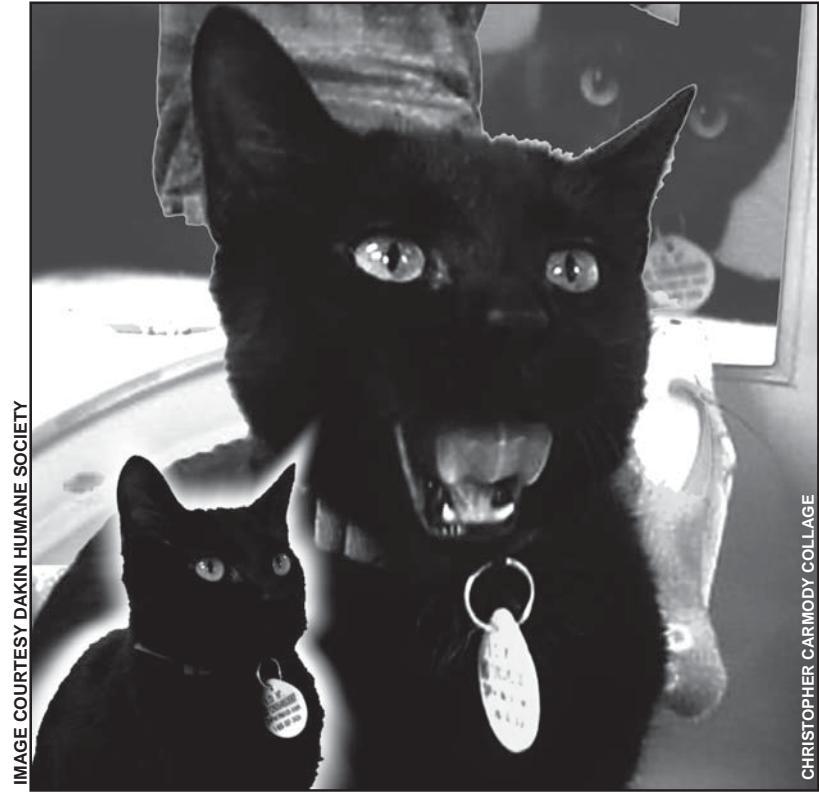


IMAGE COURTESY DAKIN HUMANE SOCIETY

CHRISTOPHER CARMODY COLLAGE

“DEBRA”

Debra is a young gal who was found as a stray and who quickly made herself at home at Dakin.

While she’s got some pep to her step and a little bit of attitude, Debra also has her quiet moments when she welcomes attention from visitors as she lounges in her favorite cat tree. Debra shares a colo-

ny room at Dakin with multiple cats and seems to enjoy feline company. She’s keeping her past a secret, but makes it clear that she hopes her future includes a new home! If you think you might have one, contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.

Senior Center Activities NOVEMBER 4 THROUGH 8

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 a.m. Aerobics; 10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise
T, W, Th: 12 p.m. Lunch
Monday 11/4
12 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday 11/5
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. SHINE Info Session
Wednesday 11/6
9 to 11 a.m. Veterans’ Affairs
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 11/7
9 a.m. NO Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. NO Chair Yoga
10:30 a.m. Brown Bag
1 p.m. Cards & Games
4 p.m. Gentle Yoga
Friday 11/8
1 p.m. Writing Group

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 11/4
8:45 a.m. Step & Sculpt
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance
12 p.m. Congregate Lunch
Tuesday 11/5
8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure Clinic
10 a.m. Stretch & Balance
12 p.m. Homemade Lunch
1 p.m. Blanket Making
Wednesday 11/6
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
11 a.m. M3 Class
12 p.m. Home made Lunch
1 p.m. Costume Contest
12:30 p.m. Bingo & Snacks
Thursday 11/7
8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
12 p.m. Congregate Lunch
Friday 11/8
9 a.m. Quilters Workshop
9:15 a.m. Walkers
9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch

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 programs, or for a ride.

NOVEMBER LIBRARY LISTING

Montague Public Libraries

Turners Falls: Carnegie (413) 863-3214
Montague Center (413) 367-2852
Millers Falls (413) 659-3801

MONTAGUE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Monday, November 4: *Montague Center Library 150th Anniversary Celebration.* This was the original library for the town of Montague. It will be an informal party with refreshments, historic photos, and harp music by *Melinda Georgeson*. Sponsored by the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries. 4 to 7 p.m.

Wednesday, November 13: *Youth Advisory Committee Meeting.* Ages 10 to 15 invited to join the other YACers at monthly meetings to plan events, volunteer at the Carnegie Library, and make a positive impact in their community. Snacks! 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 16: *Woodland Magical Creatures Party at the Carnegie.* Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited to enter our magical realm and build their very own fairy houses, using natural and recycled materials. Snacks will be provided. Costumes are encouraged, but not required. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

LEVERETT LIBRARY

Sunday, November 3: *Senator Jo Comerford* visits as part of her Western MA Library Tour. 3:45 p.m.

Tuesday, November 5 and 19: *Musical Gatherings!* BYO instrument and join others in this acoustic jam. 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 7: *Introduction to Chess for Families.* 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 9: *A Sense of Where You Are:*

Weather, etc. sometimes causes changes in library events; you may want to call ahead to confirm events.

Conversations about Leverett’s historic industrial landscape and community with *Cathy Stanton* from Tufts University. 1 to 4 p.m.

Thursday, November 14: *Ukulele Strum-Along with Julie Stepanek.* 6:45 p.m.

Sunday, November 17: *Afternoon with the Author: David R. Gillham*, New York Times best-selling author. His newest novel, *Annelies*, imagines a world in which Anne Frank survives the Holocaust, and her life in the aftermath. 2 p.m.

WENDELL FREE LIBRARY

Saturday, November 2: Film, *Event Horizon.* Astronauts look for long-lost spaceship. Part of monthly Sci-fi/fantasy series. 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 16: *Full Moon Coffeehouse* presents *The Gaslight Tinkers.* Proceeds to benefit Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 30: Film, *The Thing.* Sci-fi/fantasy series. 7:30 p.m.

DICKINSON LIBRARY, NORTHFIELD

Friday, November 1: *Social Justice Chorus.* Eveline MacDougall, resident of Northfield and founder/director of the Amandla Chorus will read from her new book, *Fiery Hope*, which details the

chorus’s work with such renowned world leaders as César Chávez, Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Pete Seeger, Wally and Juanita Nelson, and Malala Yousafzai. The chorus recently changed its name to *Fiery Hope* as well. 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Saturday, November 2: *Apples of New England.* Brief history of apple growing in our region with Russell Steven Powell, author of *Apples of New England* and *America’s Apple* and director of the New England Apple Association. Books and apple calendars available for sale, and taste testing! Part of *CiderDays of Franklin County.* 1 to 2 p.m.

Saturday, November 16: *Winter Bird Feeding* with Kim Noyes of Northfield Mountain Rec. & Environmental Center. Indoor event, co-sponsored by the Northfield Bird Club. Most appropriate for adults, and children ages 8+. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, November 19: *Trivia Night at Cameron’s Winery, Main Street.* Come with a team (up to 6) or without (we can match you up with teammates) for three rounds of questions and answers. Refreshments available for purchase. Adults. 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Friday, November 22: Movie, *Toy Story 4.* 2 to 3:45 p.m.

ERVING FREE LIBRARY

Friday, November 1: *Erving Library Fundraiser: Atkins Farms Savory Suppers.* See Friends of the Erving Library Facebook page, or call for details. \$ 6 p.m.

REFLECTIONS

Music at This Year’s Great Falls Festival

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

TURNERS FALLS – I decided when I went to the Great Falls Festival in Turners Falls this year (formerly called Pumpkinfest) that I wanted to review a band for an article for the *Montague Reporter*. I ended up reviewing four.

The first band I decided to review was **Mister Right Now**. The band consists of three guys who could play guitars, and a fourth who was on a drum set. I believe they are a rock n’ roll band. They were an all right rock ‘n’ roll band. I enjoyed the lead singer when he sang and played his electric guitar. (I should mention that I particularly like guitar playing.) He had a nice voice to hear singing. I also enjoyed the keyboard playing.

I decided also to review the **Fortified Blues Band**, a five-person band that sounded like they were

indeed a blues band. They could be seen as sounding like that because of a harmonica in the band. Their sound also had a twangy sound that you would think of as coming from a blues band. At one point, I heard both a guitar and a harmonica being played together, which is what I enjoyed the most about them. Those two instruments just sounded very nice together as a combination of sound. One of the band members made me think of the singer from Blues Traveler for a second time.

The Savage Freds from Des Moines, Iowa and **Curly Fingers Dupree** from Montague were the last two performances I listened to at the festival. The Savage Freds were another rock ‘n’ roll band. I liked the singing from Mister Right Now better than The Savage Freds, but the Freds were a better-sounding rock n’ roll band to me, because I liked almost everything about their music,

unlike when it came to just liking certain aspects of Mister Right Now. Their three guitars playing together sounded very good.

Curley Fingers Dupree made me think of a heavy metal band. They didn’t sound offbeat or anything. Someone was playing conga drums in the band. The harmonica playing in their band was what I liked most. I wouldn’t call them one of my favorites of the bands I have seen, but the others I did see ranked a little better than that.

This is how I ranked them: Mister Right Now, The Savage Freds, Fortified Blues Band, and then Curly Fingers Dupree. But to a huge rock ‘n’ roll fan who wanted to know what was the best rock ‘n’ roll band I saw, I say the Savage Freds.

It turns out that me coming here to review these bands was a worthwhile idea, and very enjoyable.

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Artist Deborah Garner sits on the couch in her Leyden home.

ARTBEAT from page B1

Garner’s paintings will be featured in an exhibit, “Upstream,” at UMass-Amherst’s Hampden Gallery from November 10 to December 6, with an opening reception Sunday, November 10 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Fellow Leyden resident Karen Loomis’s show “Kintsugi” will be in the gallery’s “incubator space” concurrently. *Kintsugi* is the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with lacquer dusted or mixed with precious metals. Loomis applied the technique to branches and other natural objects, and has created a series of paintings and prints that explore the patterns she found there.

The Garner Collection

Garner came to painting after a career beginning in the mid-’70s, working with museums to source and buy textiles, jewelry, and other cultural adornments. She worked as a buyer for the museum shop at Harvard’s Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology, where the collections inspired her to begin a life-long independent study in anthropology, religion, and art history. In the ’80s and ’90s, she traveled the world, sourcing materials for museums, and designed jewelry inspired by traditional cultures for museum shops across the US.

Her Deborah Garner Collection website features beautiful clothing and textiles from Vietnam, Bhutan, Burma, Africa, and the Americas, and artifacts such as a Navajo wedding basket, beadwork from Indonesia, and an Ojibwe beaded string bag. She sells traditional jewelry on the site, as well as her own creations, which use seeds, stones, bits of bone, colorful glass beads, precious gemstones, and hand-wrought gold or silver pieces.

Garner’s designs are inspired by the traditional jewelry she’s so familiar with, yet each piece is one-

of-a-kind, designed and hand-strung in a process she likens to her improvisational approach to painting.

Garner will bring the jewelry to the 5th Annual Holiday Open House at Kristin Nicholas’s home at Leyden Glen Farm in Leyden, held this year on December 7 and 8, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Other artisans displaying work will be Nicholas, Gail Callahan, and Alicia Hunsicker.

Garner says she loves blending the colors of the various eclectic beads and other elements of her jewelry, “and adding something global in it just for fun. Knowing this is the only one that’s going to be like that. It’s not a very practical way of making a living. It’s kind of a crazy portfolio for success. But I’m just a one-off person.”

Garner’s approach to art is strongly rooted in her Buddhist practice. “One of the things about improvisational painting, or design, is it’s just being in the moment. And being present,” Garner says. “It’s all about being present. Even here in the woods of Leyden, you can get so distracted by ‘the things that need to be done.’ But if you do even those things in a mindful way, it makes such a difference. It makes such a difference! We don’t realize how quickly the days are flying by until we bring our heads up and think, ‘Oh my god.’ If we could stretch those moments of pleasure and creativity and enjoyment and connection –”

Garner doesn’t say what might happen if we could do that, but it’s clear from the smile on her face, it’d be worth finding out.

Learn more about Deborah Garner’s original art and jewelry at deborahgarnercollection.com. To find out more about the open house, visit kristinnicholas.com/2019-holiday-open-house-dates or phone Kristin Nicholas at (413) 774-6514.



MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

River Cruise, Migration, Volleyball

By MICHAEL SMITH

Available now on montaguetv.org: Take a relaxing trip down the Connecticut River from the comfort of your own home by watching video captured while boating down from Gill. Also, check out video from the 4th Annual Migration Festival.

As always montaguetv.org is the best place to review the Turners Falls High School varsity volleyball and Mohawk football games. New

videos are added regularly, so keep an eye on montaguetv.org’s latest videos, and follow us on Facebook.

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

Wolf-Like Mask; Theft From Cars; BB Gun Spree; Two Minor Accidents At General Pierce Bridge

Sunday, 10/20

6:35 a.m. Report of two large horses in road just south of Turners Falls Road and Old Northfield Road. Caller states she almost hit one. Officer en route. Horses no longer in area.

10:51 a.m. Caller from Center Street would like to speak to an officer about a recent dog complaint.

2:32 p.m. Caller states that there is a minor vehicle accident in the parking lot at Food City. Report taken.

10:21 p.m. Officer checking on a vehicle with people walking around it on Montague Street. No problems at this time.

11:44 p.m. 911 caller from Letourneau Way requesting police to check area around their and their neighbors’ houses. Caller’s teenage children were startled by screams outside. When they looked outside, they saw someone running in the neighbor’s backyard with a “wolf-like” mask on. Unknown situation. Officers en route. Surrounding area and length of Dell Street checked. Spoke with male who was grilling on back deck in area; he did not see or hear anything. Officer spoke with caller and her son. Son is unsure of what he saw and heard. Clear.

Wednesday, 10/23

5:11 a.m. Box alarm received from Farren Care Center. TFFD en route. Call from third-floor employee advising of electrical burning smell. No smoke or flame at this time. All TFFD units clear; maintenance handling.

11:41 a.m. Report of motorcycle with Vermont plates that has been parked in front of the Five Eyed Fox and has not moved in 6 to 8 weeks. Officer advises vehicle has been checked on previously; same is owned by a resident of Third Street and is registered. No further action needed.

2:53 p.m. Officer off at airport with party who has been warned twice previously about trespassing on airport property. Party moved along.

2:59 p.m. Third-party report of minor accident at General Pierce Bridge; no apparent injuries/smoke/fluids. Officer responding. Information exchanged; report taken.

3:12 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street states that his vehicle was broken into overnight; money and a phone were taken.

Tuesday, 10/22

12:52 a.m. Officer out checking on vehicle near pier on First Street. Female said she was just looking for a place to watch stars. Female moved along.

7:17 a.m. Report of tree on wires across Chestnut Hill Road. DPW copied direct and responding; they have already contacted Ever-source. Road blocked at top and bottom of hill. Leverett PD is aware.

8:30 a.m. Received two calls for short green light at the General Pierce Bridge. Officer observed several cycles of lights; advised all vehicles made it through without any vehicles being cut off. No further notifications needed at this time.

11:50 a.m. Report of stop sign missing from inter-

section of Seventh and L streets. DPW checked intersection. Sign is still there but is back several feet from the actual intersection.

3:48 p.m. Report of two-car collision on General Pierce Bridge. No injuries. Officer reports that a bystander stated that the two parties spoke before leaving the scene and there did not appear to be significant damage.

8:14 p.m. Caller from Station Street reports hearing a loud screaming sound from a large field near her home. Officers checked surrounding area and spoke to caller; nothing located.

9:26 p.m. Caller reports that the lights at Avenue A and Seventh Street are not cycling properly. Message left for DPW.

Report taken.

6:17 p.m. Caller from Greenfield Road states from 7 to 9 a.m. and from 4 to 6 or 7 p.m., there seem to be many speeders and drivers passing on a double solid line in this area. Requesting extra patrols if possible.

Thursday, 10/24

8:40 a.m. Report from Scotty’s Convenience Store of donation jar stolen Monday afternoon. Suspect on surveillance. Report taken.

9:09 a.m. [Redacted - Turnpike Road - referred to TFFD/MSP bomb squad]

9:53 a.m. Caller reports that yesterday afternoon he and other people in Food City Plaza observed a male and female casing cars in the parking lot; observed male enter at least one of the vehicles and steal something, then run off. Caller advises he has observed this on previous occasions as well. Advised caller this would be passed on to officers and advised to call when this is in progress should he observe it again so that officers can respond.

2:23 p.m. Report of series of gunshots coming from the direction of the riverbank off First Street. Officer checked area; advised noise sounds to be coming from the Gill side of the river but does not sound like gunfire. Nothing located along riverbank on Turners Falls side.

2:30 p.m. Caller from Farren Care Center calling on behalf of another employee reporting vandalism to employee’s vehicle; back window smashed out sometime after she arrived for her shift at 7 a.m. Report taken.

2:34 p.m. Caller requesting options re: a debt collection company that has called him approximately eight times over the past couple of weeks. Officer returned call and attempted to advise caller of options. Caller became argu-

mentative and hung up.

Friday, 10/25

12:09 a.m. Report of strong odor of smoke in area of Ferry Road. MCFD en route. MCFD reporting visible smoke along the train tracks.

9:50 a.m. Report of illegal dumping on Lake Pleasant Road; male in dark blue Ford F150 dumped a black contractor bag of unknown contents on the side of the road. Area search negative.

12:16 p.m. Report of vandalism to Nova Motorcycle building overnight; appears to be a BB gun shot through a window. Report taken.

1:06 p.m. Report of male smoking a controlled substance in the driver’s seat of a parked car at the dog park on First Street. Male drove away a few minutes later. Referred to an officer.

3:01 p.m. Caller from Third Street left message reporting that a kid shot at her back with an “air gun”; no description left in message.

3:19 p.m. Caller states that three kids are shooting a handgun-style BB gun at trees and other random targets near the dog park area of Unity Park. Parties spoken to about laws and recent complaints; also advised of consequences that may be incurred.

8:16 p.m. A 32-year-old Springfield woman was arrested on two straight warrants.

Saturday, 10/26

8:07 p.m. Caller reporting vehicle in field about 1,000 feet south of West Pond off Main Street; not sure if it is a disabled vehicle or not. Officer confirmed disabled vehicle; requesting Rau’s for tow.

10:12 p.m. Fire alarm sounding on Avenue A. TFFD advised. Received call from resident who stated that another resident left a pan on the stove.

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Part XII: Allysén Callery

Interviewed by J. BURKETT with CROW DEVI

TURNERS FALLS – Allysén Callery is a songwriter and musician from Bristol, RI. She has invented a category for her own music, “ghost folk,” and it’s perfect for an October day. *Ghost Folk* is also the title of her new album, coming out on the German label Cosirecords.

She plays out regularly in Western Mass, at venues like the 10 Forward in Greenfield (where she is playing this Saturday, November 2) and the Dream Away Lodge in Becket, where she played last month with her gifted daughter Ava.

You can find out more about her and her upcoming shows at allysen-callerymusic.com. This interview is an extension of one we did together for the magazine *Terrascope*.

MMM: Would you say you have a “muse”? If so, can you expound upon what that is, and how it inspires?

AC: I’ve used love, or something close to it, to inspire me into that realm of poetry. It’s like a drug, and in that way can be really dangerous. Crushes can hurt, even when they are mostly fantasy. I’m safer with myself these days, and get inspiration from other sources.

MMM: In our last interview together we talked about “ghost folk.” I am curious about the origin of it, and what role the natural, supernatural, and spirit world play in your music.

AC: I’m sure there are things about our world we cannot understand, or prove, with the science that we have as of now. I spend most of my time at home completely by myself, but I almost never feel alone. I’m surrounded by many things my ancestors used, silverware and pretty plates.

I think they are proud of me, but I’m not sure if they are helping me with the poetry or songwriting. My dad played guitar, but wasn’t a lyrics writer, so I’m not sure where it’s coming from... but I do get a lot of help writing songs when I let myself go.

MMM: We also talked about your connection with cats, and how, if you are quiet, things will come to you. What is the best thing to come to you lately?

AC: Well, three weeks ago, a geriatric cat showed up at my door at work. I work alone in a gated facili-

ty, but found out later she’d lost her owner, who like herself was an older lady. I felt an immediate bond and called her Angel, because heaven sent her to me. She is getting along better with our other cats day by day!

MMM: Which comes first for you when writing, the music or the words? Or does your writing process feel more a manifestation of both simultaneously?

AC: I usually write words for a tune, but sometimes have a poem ready when I come up with new music. There have been a couple times when they both spring forth at the same time, and that’s when I feel like I’m getting help from spirit friends!

MMM: What role does storytelling play in your music? Poetry and spoken word have played a large role in your creative life and process... do the two arts/disciplines overlap? Which came first?

AC: I only have a couple songs that I’d consider true storytelling, but they are my favorites. I should look into it with more intention!

Poetry was how I got my start, but I was a late bloomer and never wrote anything decent until my late 20s. But I’d journaled secretly all of my teenage years, and some of that is pure gold. Lol.

MMM: I know you like Neil Young, but what other contemporary artists do you like? What other artists’ work have had the most influence on you, and how has that changed as you have grown as an artist?

AC: Well, I probably wouldn’t have had the courage to come out of my bedroom to play music if not for Cat Power. Marissa Nadler was a light unto my path. Jessica Pratt continues to encourage my resolve that quiet, understated music can be cherished and understood more widely than I’d thought possible.

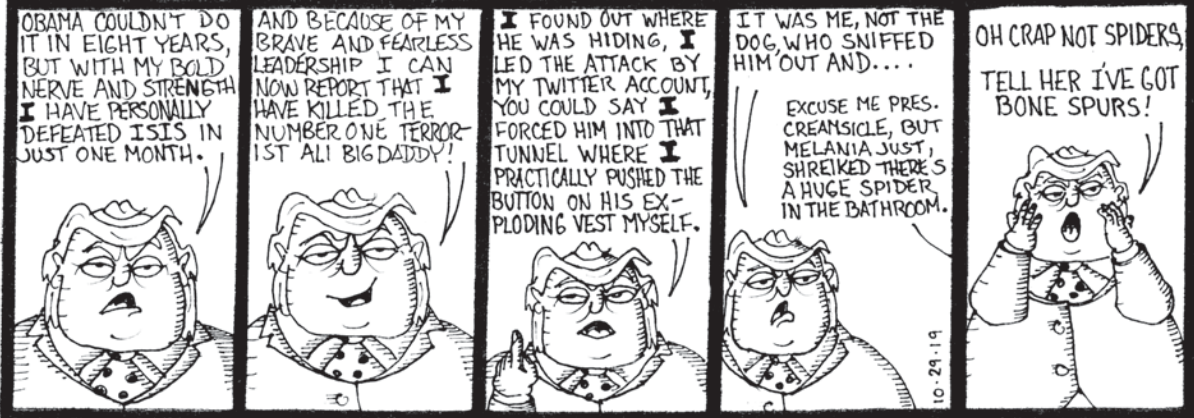
MMM: You have been playing music for quite a while now. What has been the best thing you have gotten out of doing music? Any advice for folks who are starting out, or insights into the crazy world of playing out?

AC: The Road is super fun for me. I like being alone, and it comes naturally. GPS is a miracle that I thank God for every day: I have no sense of direction, and it’s changed my life. Traveling is one of the best things you can do for yourself. I’ve had amazing adventures around the

COMICS

by denis f. bordeaux

T-RUMP



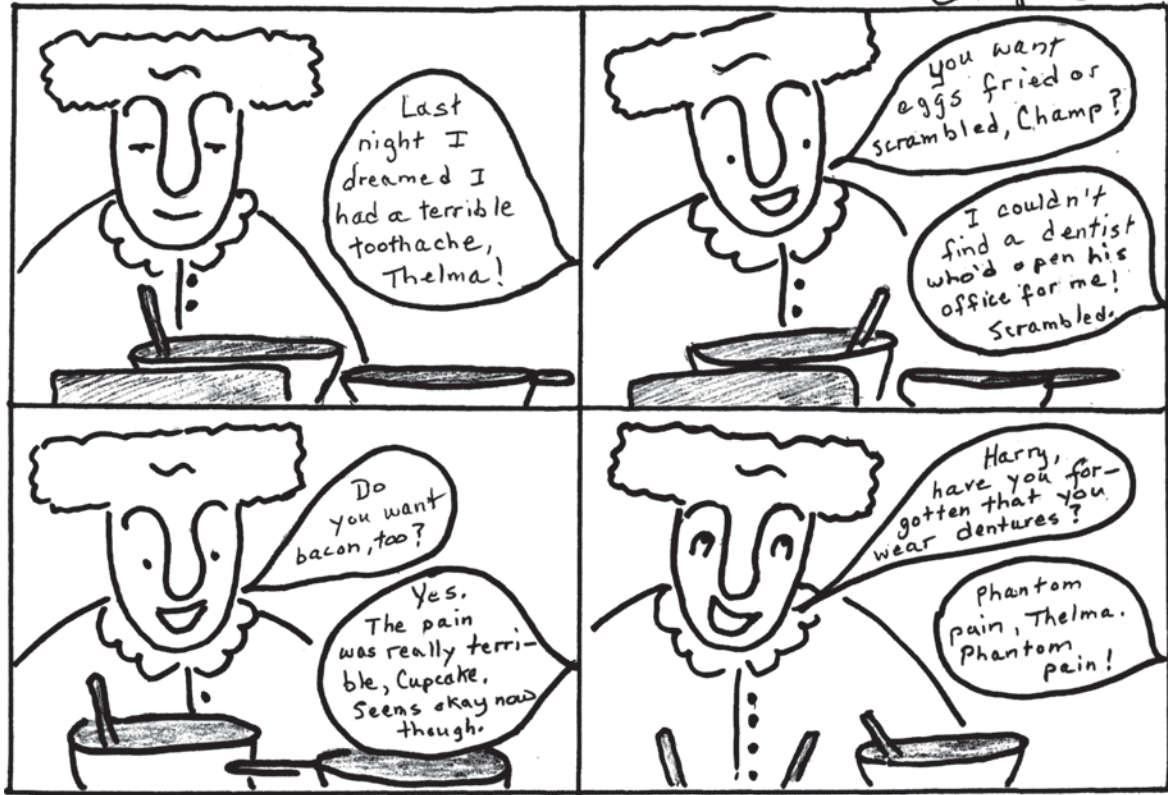
THREE DEGREES OF WARMING

JANICE ROWAN



OVER THE HILL

Carolyn Clark



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US and overseas that I could have never experienced if not for learning how to play guitar.

At home when I’m driving, I hoard up podcasts that I like.... Good practical advice is to make sure you have healthy snacks and water in the car – you never know when traffic gets bad, and there’s nothing worse than showing up to a gig on an empty stomach and having to play a two-hour show with nothing but wine in your belly! Which happened to me in the mountains of Germany; there’s video, too, and I look pretty rough.

Try to eat salads, fresh fruit whenever you can, and take a shower if one is offered. You don’t know when it will be your last!

Have one nice outfit to wear onstage, and save room in your bag for traveling daywear; it will help morale to feel fresh and nice during the day.

Be nice to everyone you meet. I’ve made true, lasting friends under the strangest of circumstances.

MMM: What has it been like to see your daughter, Ava, come into her own, and to have had the chance to perform together?

AC: I cannot tell you how much this means to me! Okay, maybe I can? My heart explodes with love and pride! It absolutely soars!

I still get weak knees when she opens her mouth to sing. Keep in mind she never would sing in the car or anything as a kid. She’s got an incredibly beautiful voice, she writes beautiful songs, and has always been an amazing writer. She has a beautiful touch with electric guitar, and does cool stuff with loops.

Her band is called Beauquet, and their first release is coming out soon.

MMM: Have you seen any cool birds lately? What are some favorite birds?

AC: I did see a cool bird this past summer! I just happened to be home in the afternoon for a short while, and a bird I’d never seen before

was at the feeder. It was a migrating rose-breasted grosbeak, coming through on tour, I guess!

I always love seeing goldfinches and hummingbirds, but I love all songbirds, and birds in general. I’m so lucky to live across the street from protected land, and also by the water so we can see the beautiful egrets, cormorants and blue herons when we go out kayaking.

MMM: You have a new record coming out... Do you want to talk about it?

AC: I am extremely happy to be working with my friend Myles Baer for this record. He produced my first two self-released CDs, *Hopey* and *Hobgoblin’s Hat*. He’s also worked on several of Marissa Nadler’s records. We are very close and I love his artistic sense.

The new record will be coming out in 2020 on Cosirecords (Germany). I cannot wait to share these new songs!

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Bryan G. Hobbs
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VALLEY VIEW from page B1 mission was the realization that I had accepted the wrong site for the supposed Turner burial discovery.

When I was a Greenfield historical commissioner during the early years of this millennium, a go-to source for Greenfield historical data told me in casual discussion that the bones were not found along the terrace edge where the Nims home stands today, at the intersection of Colrain and Plain roads. Instead, they were unearthed on an elevated escarpment point overlooking the west bank of the Green River, where Turner’s body was recovered by a search party a couple of days after the Falls Fight attack. This elevated shelf is located across Nash’s Mill Road from the so-called Greenfield Swimming Pool and Turner Monument, just south of the bike-path bridge crossing Green River.

Given the source, a Greenfield native and longtime resident, I didn’t question the location until my recent review of Kellogg, who clearly identified a site along Colrain Road a short distance south of the Nash’s Mill Road outflow.

Perplexed, I phoned a 72-year-old friend, neighbor, and local-history buff who grew up in the Meadows. I wanted his opinion. He knew the tale, concurred with Kellogg: the bones had been found somewhere off the east side of Colrain Road between Butynski Farm and Harper’s Store. With piqued curiosity, I fired up my truck and drove a mile down the road to investigate.

Sure enough, right there in plain view, across from Harper’s Creemee stand and an underhanded stone’s throw from Nash’s Mill Road, stood a site that securely fit Kellogg’s description – a small, peaceful, wooded, gumdrop knoll rising some five feet above the road.

According to my Terrain Navigator Pro measurements, the distance west from where Turner fell to the knoll off Colrain Road is 2,033 feet, and the change in elevation 21 feet. The site favored by my go-to Greenfield historian is 1,046 feet south of where Turner dropped, with an elevation change of 25 feet.

I wondered: why would a search party sent out to recover war dead have carried Turner’s decomposing corpse more than 2,000 feet for proper interment? Not impossible, but still it will never be proven that the bones were Turner’s. In fact, the probability that they were the Baptist captain’s is slim indeed. And guess what? Judge Thompson knew it.

Location, however, was only one of several questions that arose in my mind from Ms. Kellogg’s description. Thank the starlit heavens that I reviewed her book before publishing inaccurate information that would require a correction.

You see, I was prepared in my last column to include Thompson’s incinerated box of bones as one of many evidentiary items pointing to a curse hovering over the Nash’s Mills neighborhood ever since May 19, 1676 – the day irate Indians slayed Turner crossing the Green River below the Mill Brook falls on his troop’s retreat from their slaughter of an unsuspecting, non-combative, sleeping fishing village of Natives along the north shore of Peskeomskut Falls.

This curse brought no less than nine devastating factory fires and a destructive flood, not to mention the obliteration of a quaint country neighborhood, its placid mill-

pond, and a handsome brick church during Interstate 91 construction. And who knows what carnage has unfolded on that “haunted” highway corridor since it opened more than a half-century ago?

In the process of dissecting the story about the bones vanishing in a factory fire, I had first suspected the building must have been Thompson’s own chisel factory at Nash’s Mills. Not the case: the F.M. Thompson Chisel Shop burned in 1871, three years before Kellogg says the bones were found.

Maybe she had the date wrong. But, I surmised, if so and the bones had vanished in *his* factory fire, wouldn’t Thompson have named the site? And wouldn’t he have been capable of pinpointing an accurate date of discovery?

That question begged for a little research and, sure enough, there were four pre-1874 Nash’s Mills factory fires – in 1866, 1868, 1870 and 1871 – but only one after 1874, a blaze that burned Warner Manufacturing to the ground on Nov. 20, 1897.

My suspicions grew. Something didn’t add up. Why the mystery?

Before I threw the destruction of Thompson’s bone collection into the mix of Nash’s Mills catastrophes, I wanted to check Kellogg’s reference one more time. I went to my study and chased it down in the third book I pulled from the bookcase.

The more I studied Kellogg’s retelling of Thompson’s tale, the more questions arose. Something just wasn’t adding up. Why so vague? And why didn’t Thompson include some mention of the bones in his detailed narrative of the Falls Fight and Turner’s death in his own *History of Greenfield*? That I found really puzzling.

So, it was off to the Internet for an online search of the published *Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA) Proceedings*. Maybe Thompson had addressed the bones in that publication. Nope. Not the case. Why?

And something else that didn’t bear out was Kellogg’s excuse that, at the time of his discovery, Thompson was not as interested in local history as in later life. While it’s true that his membership did not date back to PVMA’s inaugural year of 1870, he did become a “councilor” in 1877, was granted life membership in 1882, and was elected vice president in 1886. Could it be possible that he had not been interested in local history three years earlier, upon finding the skeleton around 1874? Seems unlikely. Maybe even preposterous.

Considering how active Thompson had been in PVMA research between 1877 and his 1916 death, I speculated that perhaps there existed some sort of Francis M. Thompson Papers in Historic Deerfield’s Memorial Libraries collections. I took the short ride to Deerfield, and was quickly able to engage librarian David Bosse in my pursuit.

His curiosity stirred, he soon produced an enticing lead: an obscure two-folder collection of correspondence from Thompson to Deerfield historian George Sheldon. Did I want to explore the letters? Yes, indeed.

Bosse went upstairs to retrieve the box of data, which included one folder of correspondence between 1896 and 1904, another from 1905 to 1915. In the latter, I struck long-hidden gold in Thompson’s own handwriting.

There, three or four letters into



The 1905 Turner monument sits in front of the Green River swimming area.

the pile, on personalized Franklin County Probate Court stationery dated May 1 and May 8, 1905, Thompson addressed the looming placement and dedication of the Turner Monument at Nash’s Mills. By then, the granite boulder selected for the monument had likely been retrieved from Leyden by George Wright and delivered to Greenfield Granite and Marble Works on Miles Street, where it was to be faced and inscribed as it stands today.

Greenfield politician Frank Gerrett – an Upper Meadows resident residing on the farm I now call home – was chairman of the Greenfield Old Home Week Association committee charged with selecting a site and planning the July 26, 1905 dedication ceremony. The committee eventually chose to place the monument on the triangular North Parish Church common overlooking Nash’s Mills Pond, just south of Leyden Road’s Cutlery Bridge that spanned the dam and waterfall. In the event of wet weather, Gerrett was confident his church could accommodate the 400 or 500 spectators expected.

As it turned out, weather was not a problem, and the “Turner Square” dedication drew a thousand spectators. The event is chronicled in Kellogg’s *Hearth Stone Tales*, published five years after her *History of Greenfield*. With a chance to add credence to Thompson’s discovery of bones that may have belonged to Turner himself, she mentioned not a word about them in a two-page narrative. Curious indeed! But why? By then, Thompson wasn’t around to dissuade her – he had been dead 20 years. The tale was surely repeated often back then, as

it is today. Still, no mention.

Maybe she was aware that Thompson knew, in the days before radio-carbon dating and DNA analysis, that there was no way to prove the bones were Turner’s. His first mention of the bones in his letters to Sheldon appears on May 1, in the context of choosing a site for the Turner monument. He admits:

I don’t dare go much on the bones found, and think we better put the Monument about 40 feet west of the end of the bridge, and on the south side of the road – a rod or so away...

Then, in the May 8 follow-up letter to his friend and PVMA colleague, he goes a step further by casting doubt on his discovery, and confessing:

It doesn’t seem to me that we could hardly honor those bones as the body of Capt. Turner on what information we now have.

In the next paragraph, Thompson drops the bombshell, entrusting Sheldon with a sacred family secret that solves a 150-year-old mystery:

By the way, I find that Mrs. Nims, who always thought the bones ought not to have been disturbed, had one of the men put them in a box and bury them near the place where they were found and say nothing to anybody.

So, there you have it: the real story, straight from the horse’s mouth, debunking a clever ruse of bones consumed in an unnamed Nash’s Mills factory fire. Hey, he

could have said his dog ate them.

But let us digress briefly to identify Mrs. Nims. She was Thompson’s mother-in-law, Susan (Cordelia Amadon) Nims, wife of farmer Lucius Nims, who owned the middle of three contiguous Nims farms that ran from today’s Hatch greenhouse on Plain Road to Four Rivers Charter School a little less than a mile south on Colrain Road.


Now owned by the Butynski family who still farms the acreage, the middle farm was the original Nims farm in the Meadows, with the first dwelling built by Thomas Nims in the mid-18th century. The farm was passed to son Hull Nims and grandson Lucius Nims.

According to private family papers compiled by descendants of the Meadows Nims line, the 18th century homestead burned sometime before 1810, when Hull Nims built a new Federal home. The prosperous Meadows farmer and Revolutionary War veteran then proceeded to build bookend farmsteads for sons Thomas to the north (1824) and Albert to the south (1839). The Hull Nims home was torn down in the 1960s and replaced by the ranch where Anna Butynski now lives.

Although “Mrs. Nims” lived until 1890, she must have ordered the reburial of the bones before 1880. The farm was sold out of the family after her husband’s 1879 death.

We now know that, thanks to Mrs. Nims, a Brookfield woman of conscience, those mysterious Greenfield Meadows bones didn’t disappear in any industrial fire. That tale was a clever cover, pure subterfuge. On orders from Thompson’s mother-in-law, the bones – which were likely stored on some spooky, out-of-the-way shelf in a Nims barn or shed – were respectfully boxed and reburied near where eldest child Mary’s husband had dug them. Exactly where is anyone’s guess, but traces probably still exist.

Provincial George Sheldon cannot be overappreciated. Due to his commitment to preservation, the well-hidden calico cat’s finally out of the bag. Had not the Deerfield antiquarian saved those Thompson letters, the truth would never have surfaced.

So, how about Lucy Cutler Kellogg? Did she know the truth? Not likely. Nims, a woman of proud Protestant tradition, wouldn’t hear of it. She believed secrets should be kept, and the interred 

INDIE MAMA from page B1

To my listener, I go on to say that when I was boarding the plane to NYC all those years ago, I remember doing so with the same ease as I would board the school bus. I was as cool as a cucumber.

I’ve told this story so many times, but only recently it’s gotten me thinking: even though I’m not exactly putting my 4-year-old on airplanes by himself (goodness knows, we now live in different times), in my own way I’m throwing him out into the world, for more or less the same reasons.

Giving him opportunities to get his feet wet. Leaving him with his dad or his grandparents for long stretches of time. Encouraging him to open up his wings and leave the nest from time to time. And strengthening our bond and our trust everytime I remind him that “mama always comes back.”

The first time I left him was out of necessity. He had just turned two, and I took off on a work trip that lasted 10 days. I’ll never forget the intense discomfort I felt when, on my first night away, having realized I’d forgotten to pack the breast pump, I ran around downtown Bethesda like a madwoman looking for one.

Over time it’s gotten easier. For one, I’m not nursing him anymore. But mostly, I’ve learned to lean into the

whole “it takes a village” concept. Therein lies the gift: the opportunity for him to socialize in different settings. To learn how to remain true to himself in different situations. To plunge into different circles, and connect with a diversity of people. To see the beauty and richness in the proverbial melting pot.

Coexisting amongst a wide variety of different people has been the biggest gift I received from living in New York. My adult life has also been peppered with travel, each time setting off on different adventures with the same ease I did as a child. And now, I know I must pass these gifts on to my child in every way I can.

Because, as Mark Twain so perfectly puts it: “Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one’s lifetime.”

Ecuadorian-born and New York City bred, Mishel Ixchel is mama to a toddler, and currently resides in Turners Falls where she practices and teaches the art of sacred self-care. You can find her on Instagram @indiemamadiaries.



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NatureCulture: The Science Page

REPORTBACK

The Montreal Climate March

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

MONTREAL, QUEBEC – I had the privilege of taking part in the climate march in Montreal, Quebec on September 27, and wanted to share my experience.

I made my sign for the march over a few days, creating a golden spiral mathematically, trying to express the relationship between science and Earth-based religions, and on the day of the march I arrived at the statue where they were to start two hours early in order to get a good spot. It had been rumored there would be opening remarks by Greta Thunberg (whose last name, according to her, is actually pronounced “Tune-bur-y”), but there were no speeches. Unbeknownst to most everyone, the public speeches had been moved to the end of the march.

I got to see the crowds gathering. When I arrived, it was already crowded and many groups had been decorating. The Green Party had posters up for their candidates along the route, and even these mature trees had been brought into the debate.

There were multiple drones, including one very large one hovering above the crowd, two or three helicopters circling, and three or four small aircraft overhead at all times. One protester held a sign reading “Ban Private Jets” upturned whenever the little planes went by.

There was no lack of entertainment. Multiple protesters climbed the Sir George-Étienne Cartier statue while others juggled, sang, and danced. Some Indigenous people were there with signs in English, French, and Indigenous languages, and bells on their traditional outfits.

Once it became evident speeches were not forthcoming, the crowd started moving toward the old port. We all went what Montrealers would call south (actually more east) along a very wide road called Parc Avenue, which narrowed and then fanned out again, meandering through the city.

At times I felt claustrophobic in the narrow areas, so I took a side street and walked parallel on a less crowded route for a few blocks. Some of the media were filming these less-populated routes, and I wondered if they were trying to minimize the count in their newsreels by filming just the overflow rather than the main flow of the march, but it would have been hard for them to wedge in with all 600,000 of us.

People were also lined up in front of their houses along the route, holding supportive signs and playing music. Within the crowd, people were loosely grouped: I saw lesbians for the environment; several labor unions; multiple Extinction Rebellion signs; a few businesses (banks mostly); political parties, including the Greens; Wiccans (one had a cape that said “Witches Fly Green”); some signs against Trump, and against the Canadian govern-



Top: This banner reads, “I am one of the best remedies for the climate crisis.”
Bottom: A swath of the crowd at Montreal’s Climate March.

ment’s (and specifically Trudeau’s) energy policies; and groups of friends and families who had obviously come with their small children in strollers to walk together. There were many performance artists, often on stilts.

The police were everywhere, some in riot gear, and as far as I could tell they were blocking traffic from the marching route and helping people who were lost. I saw no violence. There were some banners and slogans painted on the many statues depicting colonizers, including Queen Victoria’s statue in Victoria Square. This defacement of statues of specifically political figures was the only property damage I observed.

After four hours I was near home, and limped back to the apartment and then got some food. The speeches were being given by then, but I was close to too tired to care at that point. Many businesses were closed while their workers were climate striking, but restaurants and other tourist venues remained open. I shared my photos of the march with the waiter at the local cafe, who had to work that day, and when he got off shift shortly thereafter he went to hear the speeches.

Your stories about climate marches and demonstrations are welcome. Send them to science@montaguereporter.org.

ANALYSIS

Why March? A Look at Global Science and Policy

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

PARIS, FRANCE – Our global management of Nature is not working. This is the conclusion of a May 2019 report from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), an independent body with over 130 member states.

IPBES uses science to assess biodiversity and ecosystems, and promotes the use of science to support conservation and sustainable use in political policies. Their most recent report summarizes their findings about the Earth’s ecosystems and global governmental policies.

The main message of the May report is that biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services are deteriorating worldwide, and are unequally distributed. Left unchecked, these changes will very likely become irreversible. The increased amount of food, energy, and materials we are taking from Nature is unsustainable and beyond rejuvenating. Biodiversity, according to the report, is declining faster than at any time in human history.

The causes of this deterioration include direct and indirect drivers of change in Nature which have accelerated at an unprecedented pace during the past 50 years, mainly in production and consumption patterns as well as in human population, which has doubled in that time frame. These vary globally. Examples include the overexploitation of animals such as fish, plants such as trees, and damage to the long-term health of soil and land through the expansion of large-scale agriculture. Human-caused climate change exacerbates these problems and more, including increases in invasive species and pollution.

The report points to consistent global patterns of economic incentives that favor expansion over ecology, and disproportionately endanger land currently used by Indigenous and economically disadvantaged communities. To counter this, change

would be needed across economic, social, political, and technological sectors. The report suggests that policy changes could conserve and restore Nature while meeting global societal goals for human well-being if such changes were geared toward sustainability.

Its suggestions include: developing incentives and widespread capacity for environmental responsibility among governments and businesses, while eliminating perverse incentives; promoting more integrated decision-making within governmental structures; preemptively avoiding and mitigating deterioration of Nature; managing the environment for resiliency; and strengthening environmental laws.

One source of wisdom suggested by this report for managing land sustainably may come from global Indigenous populations, which manage some of the world’s most diverse habitats. Traditional knowledge systems are globally relevant as models for beneficial human participation in Nature. Traditional land management plans tend to not only value human needs, but the long-term health of the ecosystems that serve those needs.

Examples included in the report are: the domestication and maintenance of locally adapted crops and animal breeds, such as potatoes in Peru and sheep in Kyrgyzstan; the creation of species-rich habitats in cultural landscapes such as the hay fields of Central Europe; the cultivation of useful plants in high-diversity ecosystems, such as forest gardens in Indonesia; the management and monitoring of habitats and landscapes for wildlife and for increased resilience in Australia and Alaska; the restoration of degraded lands in places like Niger; and alternative concepts of relations between humanity and nature, found in Northern Australia.

An especially relevant example of the interplay among politics, economics, and land use is the illegal deforestation of Indigenous territories in Brazil’s Amazon basin. Presently the Amazon is being cleared by forest fires, more than double the number of fires they had there last year. These were encouraged by President Bolsonaro, a right-wing, pro-business leader of Brazil who is interested in seeing more land cleared for cattle ranching rather than providing carbon storage, animal and plant habitat, or home for Indigenous people.

If you are interested in learning more about how we can shift the global emphasis away from resource extraction and money and toward sustainability, check out the writings of former Harvard economist David C. Korten at davidkorten.org.

November 2019 Moon Calendar

First Quarter
Monday, November 4

Full Moon
Tuesday, November 12



North Pole of our Moon. (NASA/JPL PHOTO)

New Moon
Tuesday, November 26

Last Quarter
Tuesday, November 19

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EVENTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Pumpkin Carving Contest*. Bring your pumpkin in and win a prize. 6:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Mama's Marmalade* and *Gaslight Tinkers*. Halloween concert and bash. Costumes encouraged. \$. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Costume Party and Show*. Love-lights Media and Goulfriend Productions present this party featuring *Mozzaleum*, *Nemesister*, *Minivan*, *Owlhouse*, and more. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Roots of Creation*, *Treehouse!*, *No Lens*. Halloween bash. \$. 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Laura*, classic film noir of the 1940s era. *Coop Jazz* plays before the show Friday night at 7 p.m. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Carolina Eyck*. Elegies for theremin and voice. \$. 8 p.m.

Flywheel Arts, Easthampton: *La Neve*, *Mal Devisa*, and *Feminine Aggression*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *RJD2*, *Tonio Sagan & Co.*, *Cajordion*. \$. 9 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

12 Federal Street, Greenfield: *Climate Change Theater Reading*. Short play readings on climate change with incidental music and talk back session. 4 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *From Inside: What Our Voices Carry*. Play created by incarcerated women's group, *Voices From Inside* and local playwright *Trenda Loftin*. Weaves women's personal experiences into the larger picture of incarceration, addiction, and mental health systems. Sliding scale tickets. \$. 7 p.m.

First Church, Hatfield: *Dixieland Stomp*. Sextet with brass and banjo playing high-energy music. 7:30 p.m.

LEGO artists wanted for the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center's annual LEGO Contest & Exhibit. Drop off your creation on Tuesday, November 5 from 4 to 6 p.m., with an entry form and \$5 fee. Prizes in creativity and craftsmanship awarded in six age groups at November 7 ceremony. Details and entry form at brattleboromuseum.org.

EXHIBITS

Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts & Arts Center: *Oh Beautiful Glass*, an eclectic group exhibit by glass artists, begins with an opening reception on Saturday, November 2, at 4 p.m.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center: Exhibits include *Fafnir Adamites: Interfere (with); Doug Trump: By Rail; Maria Elena Gonzalez: Tree Talk; Gordon Meinhard: The Lives of Tables*; and *Thelma Appel: Observed/Abstract*. Through February.

Wendell Free Library: *Movie, Event Horizon*. Astronauts make a startling discovery when they investigate a long-lost starship's disappearance. Part of the Sci-Fi, Fantasy, and Horror movie series. 7:30 p.m.

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

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Laura*. Classic film noir of 1940 era. *James Smith* plays "blues and such" before the show at 7 p.m. \$. 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Post Moves* album release show, with *Josh Burkett*, *Willie Lane*, and *Allysen Callery*. \$. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Shadow Twisters HalloWendell*. Halloween bash. \$. 8:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jimmy Just Quit*. \$. 9:30 p.m.



There's a Halloween Bash at the Shea tonight, Thursday October 31 starting at 7 p.m. presenting the *Gaslight Tinkers* (left), whose "Afrobeat, Caribbean, breakbeat, funk, and Latin grooves meet traditional northern fiddle," and *Mamma's Marmalade* (right), a progressive bluegrass band that "transforms the bluegrass experience into a high-octane bootenanny." Come in costume or as you are, and dance off some of that candy.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Moxie*, *ZoKi*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Cider Days at the Shea*. Free lineup of talks, presentations with featured ciders on tap in the lobby bar. 11:30 a.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Obituary*, *Scald Hymn*, *Federico Balducci*, *Grabass Cowboys*. Noise show. \$. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Buck Gooter*, *Evil Sword*, *Beige*, *Ships in the Night*, *PussyVision*. \$. 8 p.m.

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bingo*. 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Music in the Morning*. Live, interactive children's music series with professional musician and educator *Marcy Gregoire* and movement specialist *Hilary Lake*. Puppets, costumes, musical instruments. \$. 10 a.m.

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

Montague Retreat Center, Montague: *Contact Improv Dance Jam*. This week is a silent jam. Preceded by a class at 6:30. \$. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Great Falls Discovery Center Turners Falls: *Abenaki Stories with Jesse Bruchac*. Traditional stories with flute music and playful language games. Family friendly. 6:30 p.m.

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

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

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Looky Here, Greenfield: *The Big Draw*. Figure drawing session

with a model in monthly sessions. \$ donation. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Zion-I*, *Tem Blessed* and *Blest Energy*, *Carter*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Montague Retreat Center, Montague: *Rebelle*, *Dub Apocalypse*, *Kotoko Brass*. HeArtbeat Collective Celebration and Fundraiser. Music, yoga, more. \$. 6 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Joe Graveline*, *Nina Gross*. Graveline and Gross perform with guitar, viola, and experienced vocals. Refreshments. \$. 7 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *East Coast Swing*. Dance lessons at 7 p.m. with *Drew Irving*; dance at 8 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Driftwood*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Queer Punk Drag Night*. With *Crickets* (featuring *JD Samson* of *Le Tigre*, *Roddy Bottum* of *Faith No More*, and *Michael O'Neill* of *MEN*), *Kurt Fowl*,

Dump Him, *Feminine Aggression*, *Nemesister*, and *DJ Odiosa*. All ages. \$. 8:30 p.m.

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Mikeflo*, DJ for *Dead Prez*. \$. 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Flywheel Arts, Easthampton: *Flywheel Comics Fest*. Free admission. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PVPA, South Hadley: *June Millington*. Legendary musical pioneer *Millington (Fanny)* will be performing this fundraising concert for students who will be traveling to Puerto Rico as a part of the MAPS 2020 exchange program. \$. 2 p.m.

St. James Church, Greenfield: *Greenfield Drum & Dance*. African dance, followed by a Drum and Dance instead of the usual Dance Spree. \$. 6 p.m.

Pushkin Gallery, Greenfield: *Robert Markey*, *Andrew Jenkins*, *Jim Matus*. Part of the Resonate series. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Dead Collective*. *Grateful Dead* tribute. \$. 8 p.m.

Flywheel Arts, Easthampton: *PussyVision*, *The Media*, *Drop-weapon*, *A Child Of A Few Hours*. \$. 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Fred Cracklin*, *Wsabi Fox*, *Psychic Energy*, *Fullbody*, and *Feedback Queen*. \$. 8 p.m. Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *New Wave*, *Glam*, and *Indie DJ Night*. 10 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Nite Caps*. Honky Tonk dance. \$. 2 p.m.

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Mic*. 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Music in the Morning*. See November 5 listing. 10 a.m.

Montague Retreat Center, Montague: *Contact Improv Dance Jam*, with live music from *Same Size Feet* (Bruce Elliot and friends). Preceded by a class at 6:30. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Comedy*. In the Wheelhouse. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Begonia*. *Alexa Dirks* performs. \$. 8 p.m.

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

who live in the Valley. Through November 16.

McCusker's Market, Shelburne Falls: *Glacial Potholes*, photographs by *Geoff Bluh*. Through November.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Mapping the Body*, multimedia installation by *Nancy Lautenbach* featuring her Pod series, inspired by the female form in collage, drawings, and sculpture.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *All Creatures Great and Small*, group show through November 25.

Memorial Hall Theater
POTHOLE PICTURES

Friday & Saturday
November 1 & 2 at 7:30 p.m.
LAURA
1944 film noir, directed by Otto Preminger

Music at 7 p.m.: Friday, *Coop Jazz*, cool jazz;
Saturday, *James Smith*, blues and such

51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls 625-2896

CALLS FOR ART

Nina's Nook in Turners Falls invites artists to submit erotic art for Triple SSS 2020: Sensual, Sexual, Smut. Submit up to three jpegs to eroticart2020@gmail.com by January 15 for the February show. A \$10 participation fee is asked at drop off to help with expenses relating to the reception.

Where do you live? Where are you from? Who gets to make the map, and what gets left out? Exploded View announces a call for art on the theme of "You Are Here." Open to all media; send three jpegs along with descriptions and dimensions of the work and name, address, phone number to exploded-viewma@gmail.com by December 15 to be juried into the show, scheduled at the *Great Falls Discovery Center* during *January and February 2020*.

Artspace in Greenfield welcomes artists and art instructors with ideas for exhibits and programming at the center. If you have an idea for a class, a musical project, a gallery exhibit, or what have you, please contact the office at (413) 772-6811 or email info@artspace-greenfield.com.



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**FRI 11/1 6:30 pm
Drew Paton's
1940s Hit Parade**

**SAT 11/2 9:30 pm
Moxie; ZoKi**

**SUN 11/3 11 am
Jazz Brunch w/
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THE AUTHORS' CORNER: JENNY HAN

By IZZY VACHULA-CURTIS

TURNERS FALLS – Happy Fall! I recently read *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* by Jenny Han. I saw the movie, which I loved, and my aunt told me the books were really amazing, so I started reading them. I just finished the first one, and it was so incredible!

To All the Boys I've Loved Before is about a teenage girl named Lara Jean Covey. Lara Jean has been in love five times in her life, with five boys: her two middle school crushes, Peter Kavinsky and John Ambrose McClaren; Kenny, a kid from a summer camp; a classmate named Lucas in her high school; and her current crush, her older sister's boyfriend Josh Sanderson.

For every time Lara Jean has fallen in love with someone, she writes a love letter to her crush. Not to send to them, just to have for herself. She keeps her letters in a teal hatbox, a gift her mom gave her before she passed away.

Lara Jean, her older sister Margot, and younger sister Katherine, who everyone calls Kitty, call themselves the Song girls, which was their mom's maiden name. She was Korean-American, and they like to use her last name as a way to remember her. The three sisters are really close, partly because their mom died years ago when Kitty was real-

ly little, and Lara Jean and Margot helped take care of Kitty, making her lunch, cleaning up around the house, etc. Their father is a doctor and he works a lot, so the girls all help take care of each other.

Lara Jean is really shy, and likes to be at home. She usually spends her free time baking. For Christmas she and her sisters have a Christmas Cookie Bonanza where they make a ton of different cookies, like fruitcake cookies, creamsicle cookies, and snickerdoodles.

She has never had a boyfriend, and mostly hangs out with Margot, Josh, Kitty, her dad, and her best friend Chris, who is mischievous and adventurous, the total opposite of Lara Jean. Josh used to be Lara Jean's best friend, and when he started dating Margot, she would still hang out with them, but she always felt like a third wheel.

One day, Lara Jean's letters suddenly go missing, along with her teal hatbox. The letters have somehow been mailed out to all of the boys Lara Jean has ever loved, including – most embarrassingly – Josh Sanderson and Peter Kavinsky. Lara Jean does not want Margot or Josh himself to know she has a crush on Josh, and Peter has recently broken up with the very popular Genevieve, who was Lara Jean's former middle school best friend.

In a funny, convenient way, Peter

and Lara Jean start pretend dating, to hide the fact that Lara Jean is in love with her sister's boyfriend and to make Genevieve jealous and want Peter back. Will Peter and Lara Jean's pretend romance plot succeed, or will they end up actually liking one another? You'll have to read this novel to find out.

I really really loved this book! The movie was also super good, but I preferred the book, because you find out more about the characters, and more about how Lara Jean is feeling, because it's told from her perspective. Instead of just seeing her acting, you get to really know how she is feeling and what she is thinking.

In the book, I found Peter to be kind of annoying at first, though I liked him from the start in the movie. I think my favorite parts of the book are when Peter is doing all these cute things for Lara Jean, like buying her delicious, warm donuts for a school trip, or remembering her favorite snacks when they go to the movies. Peter is also really nice to Kitty, which is really sweet! And I really like Kitty, who is really funny, and has big crushes on both Peter and Josh.

In the movie Lara Jean is played by Lana Condor, who I think makes a perfect Lara Jean. Peter is played by Noah Centineo, who also makes a really good Peter. You can watch

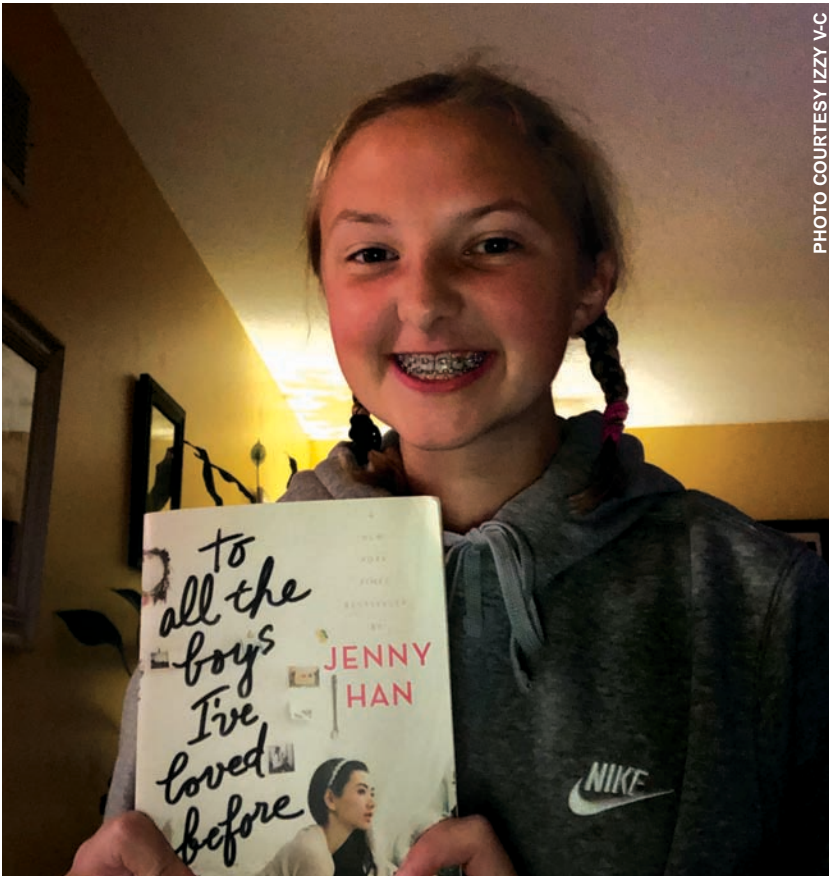


PHOTO COURTESY IZZY V-C

Our correspondent hasn't heard back from Jenny Han, but reviews her book.

To All the Boys I've Loved Before on Netflix. The second movie, *P.S. I Still Love You*, is going to be released on Netflix on February 12. I love this series so much, so I'm super excited to see the second movie!

I would recommend this book to young adults, or adults who enjoy happy romance novels. (My mom and my aunt read the books and really enjoyed them, so I think some adults will have a lot of fun reading these!) The *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* novels are some of my favorite books right now, so I

definitely suggest reading them and watching the movies.

Also – this isn't related to *To All the Boys I've Loved Before*, but last year I reviewed *Let It Snow* by John Green, Lauren Myracle, and Maureen Johnson, and there is a movie version of that coming out on Netflix November 8! I loved the book so much – it's similar to *To All the Boys I've Loved Before*, but it's a Christmas movie. I can't wait to see it.

Thank you so much for reading, and I hope you all have a Happy Halloween!

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