

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 18 – NO. 18

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 5, 2020

## Wendell Planning Board Recommends Moratorium on Cannabis Businesses

By MIKE JACKSON

Around 25 Wendell citizens crowded into a town office room Monday night for a hearing on a proposal to suspend all permitting for

cannabis businesses while the town works out a new zoning bylaw.

Wendell chose not to enact such a moratorium in 2018, when the Franklin Regional Council of Governments recommended local towns

do so in order to revise their laws before the plant's legalization.

But after a proposed solar array raised alarm about environmental impacts of development last fall, town meeting approved a one-year moratorium on any such "large-scale" solar projects, and recent inquiries from cannabis entrepreneurs have prompted the planning board to recommend a similar process after all.

A voice poll at the beginning of Monday's hearing found that nearly all attendees favored the one-year moratorium, and a group copy-editing session on the motion had already begun when Patti Scutari, owner of the Wendell Country Store and the shuttered Deja Brew Café & Pub, asked to be recognized.

"I am opposed to a moratorium," Scutari said.

"I happen to be one of the people

see CANNABIS page A6



JACKSON PHOTO

Wendell Country Store owner Patti Scutari (right, standing) was the sole resident to speak against a proposed one-year moratorium on growing and processing facilities.

## Most Local Towns Go For Sanders

By REPORTER STAFF

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Joe Biden's late-breaking surge in the Democratic presidential primary did not seem to reach this newspaper's coverage towns in time for Super Tuesday. Though the former vice president won a plurality of votes in the majority of the state's towns, he came in second behind Vermont senator Bernie Sanders in Montague, Gill, and Irving, second behind Massachusetts senator Elizabeth Warren in Leverett, and third behind Sanders and Warren in Wendell.

In fact, as of press time, 307 of the state's 351 towns reporting, it appeared that Sanders' highest overall showings were in Wendell (51%) and Montague (47%). Irving (44%)

see ELECTION page A8

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## State Rejects Bridge Pleas; Downtown Shops Vandalized

By JEFF SINGLETON

The state Department of Transportation (MassDOT) has rejected requests from Montague and Greenfield to expand the scope of the General Pierce Bridge reconstruction project to include work on the upper portion of the bridge's structure, Montague town administrator Steve Ellis told the selectboard at its Monday meeting. The project, scheduled to begin this year, will focus on the lower portion of the bridge including the deck. MassDOT has, however, pushed forward the time frame for the project, which now could be completed prior to the original target in the summer of 2024.

The General Pierce Bridge connects Montague and Greenfield, crossing the Connecticut River at

Montague City Road. It has been narrowed to one lane of traffic for safety reasons since the spring of 2019. At a public hearing in Turners Falls on February 4 it was revealed that the state reconstruction project was only a "25-year fix."

Local officials and the public expressed concern about the proposal's failure to address potential problems with the upper portion of the bridge structure, including its color. These concerns were expressed in letters to MassDOT from the Montague selectboard and the mayor of Greenfield, who called for a more ambitious reconstruction project.

Ellis told the board he had heard "DOT commentary" about the Montague and Greenfield input at both a regional transportation meeting and

see MONTAGUE page A7

## High School Sports Week: Winter's End



Turners' Chace Novak goes up for two in the Western Mass D-IV quarterfinal against the defending champions, the Drury Blue Devils. Turners fought hard in the 66-57 loss at North Adams.

By MATT ROBINSON

This week two area basketball teams traveled to the Berkshires, only to be handed their walking papers. The Turners Falls cheer team competed in their own right, and Franklin Tech wrestled in the States.

Also this week, fear of the coronavirus caused global cancellations, and put the Summer Olympics venue in question.

Cheer Squad

The Turners Falls High School Cheerleaders are not the stereotypical snobby mean girls. (See any '80s movie.) They're just a bunch of regular girls who are content to stand on the sidelines and cheer for others. Their goal, and their biggest accomplishment, has always been to help other teams succeed. Throughout the fall and winter seasons, these ladies endured hot September afternoons, freezing rain storms, and snow squalls, and through it all, they never lost their spirit.

But in the last few weeks, it was their time to shine in the limelight as they competed against other squads throughout the region. In these cheer competitions, Powertown overcame injuries – cheerleading has the highest injury rate of any female sport – to consistently take top honors in D-IV competitions. This is

see SPORTS page A7

GILL SELECTBOARD

## Solar Operator Challenges Gill Payment Agreement

By SARAH ROBERTSON

The town of Gill is engaged in a dispute with Kearsarge Solar LLC, the owner of a solar array on the Northfield Mount Hermon campus, over the company's appeal of its first Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) to the town.

While neither the company nor the town is willing to comment on the pending litigation, selectboard members recently agreed to hire an attorney to handle the case before the state appellate tax board.

According to town administra-

tor Ray Purington, Kearsarge paid the town \$14,938.86 as a PILOT for FY'19, the first scheduled payment after the array went into operation, but they are appealing on the grounds that the solar equipment was overvalued, and should be tax exempt under state law.

"We are not commenting further than we just want to enforce our existing tax agreement with the town," Andrew Bernstein, a managing partner of Kearsarge Energy LP, said in an email.

During a meeting Monday night,

see GILL page A4

## Montague Scout Troop Hatches First Eagle In Years



PHOTO COURTESY HEATHER POIRIER

Scoutmaster Norm Emond pins Brian Poirier's Eagle Award to his uniform.

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – The first Eagle Court of Honor in over a decade was held in Turners Falls on Sunday at the Montague Elks Lodge. Family and friends, teachers, neighbors, and Elks helped Brian Poirier celebrate his Eagle Award, the highest rank a Boy Scout can earn.

Poirier's advancement also marks a watershed moment for Troop 6 of Montague, as Poirier is the first member in over a decade to make Eagle.

"Brian's journey to becoming an Eagle Scout was no small task, and we should all be proud of his accomplishments," Assistant Scoutmaster Chris Boyle told the

audience assembled in the lodge's packed hall at the outset of the ceremony.

Poirier, a Turners Falls High School senior, has been in the program since the sixth grade. "I just saw a flier, so I figured I'd go check it out," he recalled of those early days. "At first there were only a couple of us, but then kids started to join. We've been doing a lot – it's a great troop."

Though the requirements for Eagle only include 21 merit badges, Poirier's sash boasts 70 – over half of the badges in existence – including moviemaking, metalwork, traffic safety, astronomy, personal management, and home repairs.

Poirier said his favorite part of

see EAGLE page A5

ANALYSIS

## Measuring Opinion on Climate Change in Franklin County

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – At the February 24 Montague selectboard meeting, energy committee member Sally Pick, advocating a resolution to support a statewide carbon tax (or "carbon pricing," as it is now called), cited a Yale survey of opinion in Franklin County on climate change. Pick called the program's finding that 78% of Franklin County respondents support regulating carbon dioxide as a pollutant "pretty astounding."

"Well, you don't know who they polled," said selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz.

"No, but they are reputable in terms of doing surveys," Pick responded.

The exchange piqued the Reporter's interest in climate change public opinion and efforts to measure it through survey research. A

closer look at the Yale survey and its methodology suggests that both Kuklewicz and Pick may be right.

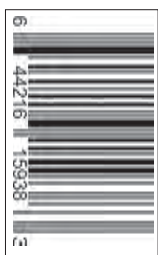
The Yale percentages for 2019 are not, in fact, based on a direct survey of the residents of Franklin County for that year. They are the result of projecting national surveys taken between 2009 through 2019, combined with data for those years on socio-economic characteristics, geographic variation, and political orientation within counties. The results of this method have been verified using a variety of methods, including direct surveys of a sample of states and localities.

Dr. Jennifer Marlon, a faculty member at Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and a researcher for the climate change estimates, calls the program's methodology "the gold standard for

see CLIMATE page A5

### Our Relentless Content

An Editorial and a Letter.....	A2	Valley View: Pynchon's Calendar.....	B1
Illustration.....	A2	ArtBeat: A Squashy Series.....	B1
Local Briefs.....	A3	The Gardener's Return.....	B2
Faces & Places: Ribbon & Owl.....	A3	Montague Police Log.....	B3
Erving Selectboard Notes.....	A4	Five Comics, One Puzzle.....	B4
Leverett Selectboard Notes.....	A6	Monty/Musik/Mountain.....	B5
10 Years Ago This Week.....	A7	NatureCulture Page.....	B6
Road Animal Retrospective.....	B1	Arts & Entertainment Calendar.....	B7





# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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## Scattered Dots

There's not much to say at this point about our state's Super Tuesday primary results – daily papers made nearly every observation Wednesday that we could offer Tuesday.

According to most of the pundits, Joe Biden's first-place finish in the Massachusetts Democratic primary (among other states in which the former vice president outperformed last week's computer models) brought shame to both Bernie Sanders, who had been anticipated to take the state, and Elizabeth Warren, who had a home-court advantage and was expected to place second.

Biden's apparent sudden surge, which tracked with a number of other states that voted Tuesday, may be partly attributable to the back-to-back departures and endorsements from Pete Buttigieg and Amy Klobuchar.

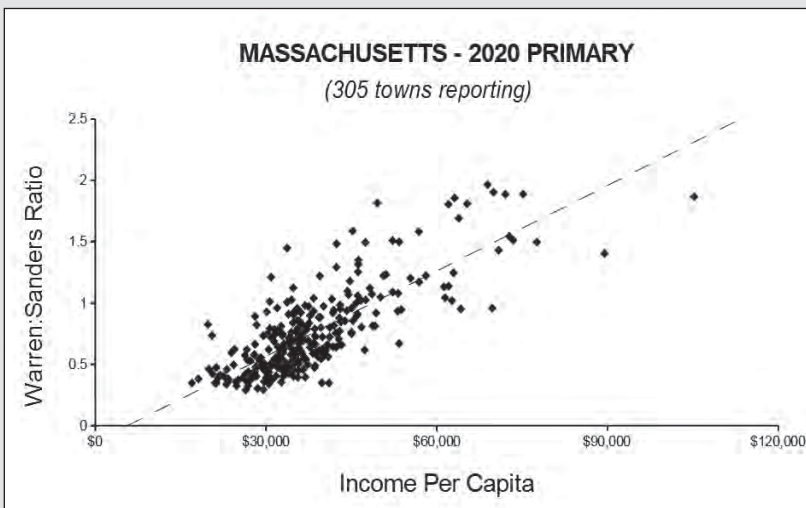
The consolidation of the anti-Sanders wing of the party behind a frontrunner was not mirrored by anyone dropping out and endorsing Sanders. Given the conventional wisdom that Warren shares policy positions with Sanders to a significant degree, the 36 or so hours between the polls' closing and this issue going to press have been full of confusing and acrimonious sniping between Warren and Sanders voters.

It's unclear how aligned their bases are. We have to stretch all the way back to February 10, a Quinipiac poll indicated that Warren was the top second-place choice for those leaning toward Sanders (37%, followed by Biden, Don't Know, and Yang), while Sanders was the top second-place choice for those leaning toward Warren (33%, followed by Buttigieg, Don't Know, and Klobuchar).

At the time, there was a similar mutual-second-favorite dynamic between fans of Biden and Michael Bloomberg (who dropped out on Wednesday, also endorsing Biden). It will be fascinating to

see how some of these preferences shift when this month's polling data come out, given the narrowing of the field to three finalists.

The counterfactual scenario of a "progressive consolidation" isn't really worth thinking through. If all of Warren's votes were retroactively picked up and plunked down in the Sanders column, true, he would gain far more delegates than she earned on Tuesday. But the reality is that many Warren supporters favor Biden over Sanders. And while a 55/45 split would have tipped Maine, in Massachusetts it would have had to be 66/34 – and in Oklahoma, more than 99/1.



The fact of the matter is, there isn't really a large, coherent group of Democratic voters who favor "progressive" policies (Medicare for All, a Green New Deal, student debt forgiveness) but are split between whether Warren or Sanders is the best champion of those policies.

While the two candidates' rhetoric may overlap, it seems more likely that demographic divergence – possibly even demographic aversion – guides left-leaning voters' preferences.

The above graph maps out how Massachusetts' hypothetical "progressives" cast primary votes on Tuesday. The X axis is the per-capita income level of each town, and the Y axis the degree to which they broke toward either Warren

or Sanders. There is a pronounced trend line (calculated automatically and illustrated by the dotted line) which strongly hints that economic class is a determining factor. That's Lawrence in the extreme lower left, and Weston in the far upper right.

To further illustrate the point, we made a second graph, below, using only this newspaper's core coverage towns of Montague, Gill, Erving, Wendell, and Leverett. It is striking the way the data lines up.

Our advice to Warren supporters is that they consider why so many ostensible supporters of Warren's policies, in particular those who stand to benefit more from them, have not been brought into her coalition. If higher education is the key to the divergence, why were better-educated "progressives" less able to promote their candidate?

Our advice to Sanders supporters is that it is probably going to be easier, and more fruitful, to convert voters currently leaning toward Biden than toward Warren. Tailor your case toward older voters, not wealthier ones. And besides, if you're trying to build a working-class movement, it's much more important to make sure it's intergenerational than to chase after those who might not be interested in joining one in the first place.



Liz Sweet snakes a belt onto the engine of a Ford at Rau's Garage in Montague Center, where she has turned wrenches for 15 years. In her spare time, she enjoys restoring '80s trucks.

## Letter to the Editors

### Censorship Policy?

I've been reluctant to subscribe because I don't know your policy on censorship. Your statement says you "reserve the right to refuse advertising." But! What is your stand on Letters to the Editor? Would you publish a Letter to the Editor if the writer refers to, but never names, one of your advertisers?

In this case, the topic is *low minimal*, only 0.03% bank interest on deposits in savings accounts. Receiving an equitable amount of interest from banks is very important for older Americans. The generation before us earned 6 to 15%, so they were able to accrue *enough interest on their deposits* to help fund their retirement, take the family on expensive vacations, and/or loan their grandchildren money to start a local business.

Unfortunately, banks today refuse to pay an equitable amount of interest on deposits in savings accounts, so we don't have enough money to retire and grandchildren must get costly bank loans.

I wrote about the very low interest rate on savings accounts, but was censored twice. Same topic, years in between, but interest is even lower now.

Without naming the bank, I listed a local bank's advertising mailers begging people to switch banks by offering low-priced items as enticements. In that Letter to the Editor, I listed over 15 switcheroo "Gift" items, as an *example* of what we don't need, such as a one-time "gift" of ice cream, pizza, a car wash kit, or a plastic lunch

tray. In comparison, we need higher interest, on deposits. Don't you agree that higher interest rates on our deposits in savings accounts is justifiable, and is a necessity?

What went wrong? Cheap plastic kitchen containers or a roasting pan will never substitute for compound interest on deposits in savings accounts!

The *Greenfield Recorder* censored my Letter to the Editor again because that bank advertises in the *Recorder*.

Will you stand on higher principles? Will you publish my Letter to the Editor, or bow down to the moneyed power of the bank? What is your stand on censorship? Please print your policy in your newspaper.

Thanks,

Muriel E. Russell  
Colrain

### The editors reply:

The *Montague Reporter* makes every effort to maintain a healthy firewall between advertising and editorial content, and that includes our Letters section.

We print most letters we receive, though occasionally we'll ignore one if it appears to have been mass-mailed to many newspapers. We recently set a limit of four letters per year per writer, two on any one topic, though everyone has a right to respond if their name is in print, and that right supersedes our annual cap.

We will not print racist, sexist, or otherwise discriminatory hate speech.

-Eds.

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# LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by NINA ROSSI

The 41st annual **ArtSpace Pottery Seconds Sale** is slated for this Friday and Saturday, March 6 and 7. It's the Greenfield art organization's largest fundraising event of the year, and takes place at Greenfield Community College with over 30 vendors selling pottery, fiber arts, paintings, prints and a whole lot more. The fun starts Friday night from 5 to 8 p.m., then 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday. Parking is free, and a small \$2 entrance fee goes to support art and music programs at ArtSpace.

Check out the last **Winter Farmers Market** on Saturday March 7 in Greenfield at the Four Corners School, 21 Ferrante Avenue. There will be fresh produce, animal products, prepared foods, handmade crafts and so much more. The Friends of Reusable Bags group from Greening Greenfield will be there as well. Unfortunately, HIP benefits are still suspended until May 15.

The market will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Greenfield's regular outdoor farmers market at Court Square resumes on Saturday morning, May 2.

Our own Great Falls Farmers Market will resume Wednesday, May 5. Great Falls Farmers Market manager Annabelle Levine is soliciting folks who want to have **tag sale tables at this year's market**, for a low fee of \$10 per table!

Email Annie at [greatfallsfarmersmarketturners@gmail.com](mailto:greatfallsfarmersmarketturners@gmail.com) if you are interested in vending at the market, which has enjoyed greater popularity after moving to Pesky Park last summer.

Stop by Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls to learn

about **kids' programs at the YMCA** from Dawn Dorsey. Dawn will be on hand to talk about all the exciting things that happen at the Y for kids: programs during the school year, programs during the summer, and the scholarships that keep them affordable.

Dawn will have handouts and can answer your questions, and the bank will provide refreshments. This family event runs from 10 a.m. to noon this Saturday, March 7.

At the Shea Theater this Friday and Saturday, March 6 and 7, enjoy **Head Over Heels**, a play performed by the **Four Rivers Charter School drama club**.

**Head Over Heels** is very loosely adapted from the 16th century romance *The Arcadia* by Sir Philip Sidney. The story is described as "a hilarious, exuberant celebration of love" set to music from the 1980s group the Go-Go's! Choose an evening performance each night at 7 p.m., or a matinee on Saturday at 2 p.m.

This Saturday evening, March 7, you can watch **eight arm wrestlers compete** at Hawks & Reed in an International Women's Day Showdown to benefit Lupine-wood-Speakeasy, a free evening English program for non-native speakers held at Lupinewood.

The write-up for this event promises costumes, raffle prizes, beer, betting, merch, and "brawl." Doors open at 7 p.m.

The Mass Mentoring Partnership's **KELLY Award is an educational gift of \$20,000** awarded to a young person nominated by a positive adult role model: a teacher, program leader, volunteer, or other mentor in their life.

The 2020 application cycle is now open, and you may submit

your nominations online at [www.massmentors.org/kelly-award](http://www.massmentors.org/kelly-award). The award may be used for educational expenses including tuition, tutoring, books, software, and hardware. The deadline is April 17.

Monday night, March 9, come out to the LAVA Center at 324 Main Street in Greenfield for a **Most Dangerous Women Read Aloud**. Come to read or to listen to excerpts from the play *Most Dangerous Women*, which celebrates over a century of the international women's peace movement. The event runs from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

It's time for another **Coffeehouse Concert** at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Friday, March 13. The Hampton Trio will share their repertoire of original music and arrangements for classical guitar, mandolin, and mandola in G. Their music ranges from Baroque to contemporary, performed by Beverly Davis, Mark Davis, and Robert Margo.

The concert starts at 7 p.m., and delicious refreshments are available. The suggested donation is \$6 to \$15; children get in for free.

Also at the Center on the following day, Saturday March 14, celebrate the **Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association's traveling exhibit**, "Fertile Ground - Corn, Cranberries, Tobacco, and Artists," with refreshments from 1 to 3 p.m.

The exhibit explores the connections between the Fuller family of artists in Deerfield, and the agricultural context around them. Create your own art inspired by the local landscape as well.

Pancakes and dancing in the morning? Head down to Easthampton with your carful of boisterous young ones for Flywheel's **Saturday Morning Music Party** on March 14 from 10 to noon. DJ Youth-electronix will spin family dance tunes, and the breakfast will raise money to benefit Flywheel, a volunteer-run, nonprofit community arts space that recently celebrated 20 years at 43 Main Street. The suggested donation is \$6 per person.

Elevate yourself on a Saturday

evening up to the **Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse** with Zydeco Connection. Their Cajun music will get your feet tapping and body spinning on the dance floor. Keep your energy up with Dessert-o-Rama treats. The event is on March 14 at 7:30 p.m., with a suggested donation of \$6 to \$15, all for the benefit of the Friends of the Erving Library.

The April Full Moon Coffeehouse concert will benefit the **Village Neighbors program for seniors** in the towns of Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury, and Wendell. One third of the population in these towns are now over 60 years old, and Village Neighbors seeks to create a volunteer base of creative ways to support seniors who are aging in place with transportation, tech expertise, helping hands, etc.

Volunteers of all ages are needed in this circle of care. Contact [membership@villageneighbors.org](mailto:membership@villageneighbors.org) to find out about the program, or call (413) 345-6894.

It's also another **Common Hall open mic night** in Montague Center on Saturday, March 14. Red Fire Farm serves snacks before the show at 7 p.m. and musical performances start at 7:30.

The featured performer this month is Deep Chinappa, a singer, songwriter, composer, guitarist and occasional percussionist. Deep was born and raised in South India, and became a local rock star there with his band The Unknowns. After moving to Boston he fronted a goth metal band called Sift. Nowadays Deep blends different genres into his own unique sound, and writes songs that revolve around the real life experiences of people he cares about. Donations are appreciated!

The Beales Library in Winchendon announces a **Poetry Contest with cash prizes!** Submit only one, previously unpublished poem, and you might possibly win \$100 for first prize, \$50 for second, and \$25 for third. Read and follow the rules for submitting your work at [bealeslibrary.org](http://bealeslibrary.org). Deadline is March 31.

Send your local briefs to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org)



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**Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week**  
Week ending Feb. 28:

**Grade 6**  
Zoey Kus

**Grade 8**  
Lillian Stafford

**Related Arts**  
Michael Berdugo

# FACES & PLACES



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO



ANGELA ROVATTILEONARD PHOTO

Left: A 10th anniversary celebration of the opening of Greenfield Savings Bank's Turners Falls branch building featured model trains, cake, and even a ribbon cutting. Montague town administrator Steve Ellis, GSB president John Howland, branch manager Linda Ackerman, and board of directors chair Pamela Stobierski wielded the scissors. Onlookers included Stephen Greenwald, president of Renaissance Builders, and architect Joseph Mattei, both of whom had a hand in building the structure.

Above: Encountering an owl at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls last month. Children and caregivers were delighted to learn up close during February school vacation week, thanks to Tom Ricardi of the Birds of Prey Rehab Facility.

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## GILL from page A1

selectboard members voted unanimously to choose attorney Matthew Thomas to represent the town before the state appellate tax board, as recommended by Purington.

"He seems to have a pretty good bit of experience doing solar litigation, and solar PILOTs," Purington said. "I think he'd be a good asset for getting this case resolved."

Kearsarge Gill LLC currently owns and operates the 2.8-megawatt solar array on land owned by the Mount Hermon school. The PILOT agreement was originally negotiated and signed in 2016 with Borrego Solar Systems Inc., the San Diego-based company that built the array. But by the time the system went online in October 2018, Borrego had already sold it to Kearsarge.

In December 2016, the selectboard voted to sign a "letter of consent" indicating that Borrego's rights, title, and interest under the PILOT agreement were being signed over to Kearsarge.

Under the agreement, the operator will make 20 annual payments to the town, increasing by 2% each year.

Voters at a January 22 special town meeting approved spending on legal expenses related to Kearsarge's appeal, together with an ongoing case between the town and FirstLight Hydro Generating Company that was settled this winter. According to Purington, the town spent approximately \$5,700 on the dispute with FirstLight, and has spent \$5,227.20 to date on the Kearsarge appeal.

## Chapter 90 Funding

Selectboard members expressed dismay at the continued reduction in much needed Chapter 90 funds from the state Department of Transportation (MassDOT) for the 2021 fiscal year.

## By KATIE NOLAN

On Monday, the Erving selectboard and finance committee voted to implement the recommendations of the job classification and wage study prepared by the UMass-Boston Collins Center, and institute a grade and step system for town employees.

Under the approved plan, employees will be placed on the step that gives them a raise on April 6, 2020. For the majority of employees, this means being placed on Step 1 of the proposed grade. To address longevity, employees with over five years in a position will be given an additional step increase, and those with over ten years will be given two.

Before the vote, the board, fin com, staff, and citizens discussed the plan for an hour. It will cost Erving approximately \$25,000 to implement, less than the \$50,000 voted for adjustments at the June 2019 special town meeting.

Fin com member and board of assessors chair Daniel Hammock argued that assistant assessor Jacquelyn Boyden, placed in Step 1 of her grade when her job was reclassified as "principal assessor," should be given an extra step. "It's not a new position," Hammock said. "She's been doing the job for years."

"It's hard to quantify," replied selectboard chair Jacob Smith. "No one made an effort to change it over the years."

When Hammock commented "it doesn't seem fair," Smith replied, "There's no way to make this completely fair... We want consistent application across all employees... Step 1 is somewhat arbitrary. This is more about trying to start somewhere."

Fin com member Debra Smith commented that having an employee working beyond their job de-

"Despite the fact that costs continue to go up on road maintenance and materials - and labor isn't any cheaper - we are now \$5,000 lower in our budget than we were in 2012," Purington said. Gill will receive a total \$147,769 in the next fiscal year from the state program, \$137 less than in the current year.

Board members talked about the need for a federal infrastructure spending bill, and having to balance priorities between road maintenance and schools when the town's budget is stretched thin. Purington suggested a thought experiment, asking whether the board members would prioritize schools or roads if they had to. He said Gill's citizens tend to be more vocal about the condition of the roads.

## Retirees' Cost of Living

In a letter to member towns, Dale Kowacki, executive director of the Franklin Regional Retirement System (FRRS), announced the FRRS would consider increasing retirees' cost of living allowance (COLA) from 2.8% to 3% this year.

"In the past, but for the last two years, the [FRRS] board has voted the 3% COLA," Kowacki wrote, "but this year, because of limits set by law, the board must do so at a public meeting, and must notify the towns 30 days in advance of the meeting."

No action was needed on the agenda item, but selectboard members said they would encourage the retirement system to continue a thoughtful dialogue on the matter.

A memo from Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission stated that this year's COLA was set at 1.6%.

In 2018, the Franklin Regional Retirement System reduced their COLA rate from 3% to 2%, cutting \$293,030 off of "unfunded liabilities,"

according to the memo.

The FRRS's board will consider voting for a 3% COLA at its next regular meeting on Wednesday, March 25.

## Other Business

The board voted to purchase 3,000 gallons of heating fuel oil for the next year at a set price of \$2.25 per gallon.

At the end of the meeting, the board took time to acknowledge the global spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19, and discussed how to best prepare the community. They expressed confidence in the chain of command, from the town board of health through the Mohawk Area Public Health Coalition, the state Department of Public Health, and the federal Centers for Disease Control.

"At every link in this chain, emergency response plans are being updated and supplies and equipment are being marshalled," read a handout shared at the meeting. "It's entirely possible that we'll see cases of COVID-19 in our community. We're the lucky ones; we have time to get ready."

However, understanding the scope and spread of the disease, member Greg Snedeker said, "proper precautions need to be taken."

As of Wednesday, there was one confirmed case of coronavirus in Massachusetts, with 259 being monitored for symptoms, the *Boston Globe* reported. Nationally, the CDC has confirmed 80 cases of COVID-19 across 13 states, and nine deaths, all in the Seattle area. The common flu killed 34,157 last year, according to a CDC estimate.

"The FRCOG is well equipped and ready to deal with a pandemic such as the coronavirus," Snedeker said. "People can feel at least comfortable that plans are in place."

## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

# New Wage Scale Finally Hashed Out

scription for a long time "shows the importance of needing a system," and asked of Boyden's situation, "Why wasn't that caught [earlier]?"

Mackensy Bailey recommended including number of years working for the town as part of the determination of which step to put an employee on. "Some people are getting top pay quickly, and some people are getting top pay in 14 years," she said. Employees who get the top pay for their grade later will make less money over the course of their career, Bailey said, and for employees whose current rate was lower than market value, "their pay was so low that Step 1 is a raise for them."

Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith said that the study was a snapshot in time, and its purpose was to create "internal parity." "There's no perfect way to implement this," he said.

## Firefighter Parity

At a February meeting, firefighter Brandon Breault had commented that the plan put full-time and call firefighters in the same grade, but he felt full-time firefighters are "bringing a lot more to the table."

Jacob Smith said the classifications were reviewed based on Breault's comment, and "the essential job functions are the same, so the grade is the same."

Breault asked why in other mixed full-time and call departments, such as Greenfield and Athol, full-timers and call firefighters were paid different rates.

"The short answer is they're unionized," replied fire chief Philip Wonkka. Fin com member Arthur Smith added that call firefighters don't have benefits.

Breault asked whether he should present the board with revised job descriptions for full-time and call firefighters. Jacob Smith said that

the job descriptions were "reviewed internally" as part of the study, and that adjustments could be made in the future.

Noting the number of town employees present, Debra Smith told them, "Thank you for coming out. I know it's not an easy thing for you to come out."

The selectboard and fin com agreed on a 2% increase in compensation for appointed board and committee members. An article will be placed on the annual town meeting warrant regarding compensation for elected officials (town clerk, tax collector and treasurer).

## Hazardous Materials

Five companies bid on the asbestos and hazardous materials cleanup project at the former International Paper Mill, with bids ranging from \$123,200 to \$357,000. The lowest bidder did not submit the required update statement, and was disqualified.

The bid was awarded to the second lowest bidder, Air Quality Experts, Inc. of Atkinson, NH, with a bid of \$180,000. A separate bid for cleanup at the pump house was \$10,000.

Because only \$164,000 is left in the Brownfields grant, the board asked the fin com to approve a transfer of \$26,000 from the reserve fund.

The fin com approved the transfer.

## Other Business

The police department's 2017 Ford Explorer cruiser was totaled in an accident, and the insurer will reimburse the loss at \$47,397.

Police chief Christopher Blair told the board he had found a 2020 Ford Police Interceptor hybrid for \$38,341, and said additional funds would be needed to equip it. The board declared the 2017 vehicle surplus and agreed to purchase and equip the new cruiser for an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

The board approved hiring Gene Sanders of Warwick as cook/kitchen coordinator for the senior center, starting March 15 or sooner.

The recreation commission, public works department, and school Union #28 have all requested using the former library building on Moore Street. Jacob Smith said that the town's insurer would like to know the plan for the building by the end of the month in order to maintain coverage. He recommended keeping it occupied, but the board did not make a decision as to its future use.

The board met with Weston & Sampson project manager Bill Storti to discuss the bid package for sidewalk work on Warner, Strachan, and River streets.



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**CLIMATE** from page A1

estimating public opinion in small, low-population areas.” The methodology page on the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication (YPCCC) website describes the program’s method this way:

“The estimates are derived from a statistical model using multilevel regression with post-stratification (MRP) on a large national survey data set ( $n > 24,000$ ), along with demographic and geographic population characteristics... the model estimates derived from the full data set were compared to the results of independent, representative state- and city-level surveys conducted in California, Colorado, Ohio, Texas, San Francisco, and Columbus, Ohio in 2013.”

Marlon, describing the Yale program’s methodology in a more user-friendly way, told the *Reporter* that the estimates for Franklin County “are based on a model that combines attitudes from several hundred people from Massachusetts and many thousands from elsewhere in the US. The attitude data from these individuals (largely outside of Franklin County) were then combined with data about Franklin County’s

specific demographic, social, political, economic, and geographic context to produce the estimates.”

Marlon also said that the Yale methodology has been “peer reviewed” by others in the field of survey research. The margin of error for the program’s county estimates, according to its website, is +/- 8%.

We reprint (*below*) the “yes” response estimates, in Franklin County and nationally, to six of the questions on the 2019 Yale survey. A map of every county in the United States and responses to 29 questions appears on the YPCCC website.

The Yale estimates show a high percentage of local residents (73%) believe that climate change “is happening,” higher than the national estimate (67%). But the estimates also show a significant gap (approximately 14%) between those who believe that global warming is happening and those who believe that warming is “mostly caused by human activities.” There is a similar gap between the belief in global warming and the belief that “most scientists think global warming is happening.”

On the other hand, there is virtually no percentage gap between

those who believe in global warming and those who believe “it will harm future generations,” and very strong support for regulating CO<sub>2</sub> as a pollutant.

There is somewhat lower, but still strong, support for a carbon tax – although the wording of the Yale question, which suggests that “fossil fuel companies” would pay the tax, could affect the result.

**Politics and Belief**

A comparison of the Yale center’s estimates with other national surveys reveals strong similarities, but also significant differences, partly based on variations in sampling techniques and differences in the questions asked.

For example, a recent (October 2019) Pew Research Center Survey on “Public Views on Climate Change and Energy” was based on a sample of 3,627 who were invited to respond over the internet. Respondents who did not have internet access were given a tablet and provided with an internet connection.

Like the Yale estimates, the Pew survey showed a gap between those who believed that global warming was a reality and those who attributed the phenomenon to human actions. The Pew survey did not ask if respondents believed that global warming is “happening,” but rather whether climate change was having “at least some effect on your local community.” 62% of respondents answered yes.

The Pew survey then asked whether respondents believed climate change was influenced “a great deal” by human activity and/or “natural patterns.” 49% responded that they thought human activity contributed to global warming a great deal, while 35% identified

**PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE  
MONTAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

In accordance with the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, the Montague Conservation Commission will review the following Request for Determination of Applicability at 6:30 pm on Thursday March 12, 2020 at Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA: RDA #2020-01 filed by Turners Falls Rod and Gun Inc. to determine if the removal of 5 trees is subject to the Riverfront Protection Act. Work will occur in the Riverfront Area associated with the Connecticut River at 15 Deep Hole Drive on Assessor’s Parcel Map 17 Lot 18. Filing is available for review at Town Hall during office hours M-Th.



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**Climate Change and Public Opinion**

2019 estimates for the county and country:

Beliefs:	Franklin County	United States
Global warming (GW) is happening	73%	67%
GW is caused mostly by human activity	59%	53%
Most scientists think GW is happening	59%	52%
<b>Risk perceptions:</b>		
GW will harm future generations	73%	67%
<b>Policy support:</b>		
Regulate CO <sub>2</sub> as a pollutant	78%	72%
Require fossil fuel companies to pay carbon tax	71%	66%

**Note:** Original surveys included 29 questions. See [climatecommunication.yale.edu](http://climatecommunication.yale.edu) for opinion map and methodology.

**EAGLE** from page A1

Scouting has been summer camp. The troop attends Moses Scout Reservation in Russell. “This summer will be my fifth year,” he said. “There’s tons of activities, and we just have a great time, hanging out and getting to know kids.”

His least favorite activity was winter camping. “We’ve camped in the snow before, in tents,” he said. “I’m not a big fan of the cold!”

Sunday’s ceremony began and ended with troop members serving as a color guard, and featured an invocation and prayer led by Father Stan Askamit of Our Lady of Peace Church, as well as a slideshow looking back on Poirier’s years in the troop. Scoutmaster Norm Emond pinned the Eagle Award onto Poirier’s uniform, and the Eagle Scout presented pins to his own parents.

“He mentioned once I’d better watch out,

for he may take over my job as Scoutmaster,” Troop 6 Emond joked during a delivered statement. “Sorry, Brian, this position is not open as of yet, but I will personally make sure you are the first to know when it is.”

“Brian’s a great kid,” Emond later told the *Reporter*. “He worked hard. I’m very proud to have him be my first, because he took it so seriously. My job is not to force a kid to do anything... Brian did it himself. With help, obviously, but the drive to do 70 merit badges was all him.”

Emond, also a trustee at the Elks, reflected on changes in the Boy Scout program since his own time as a member of Troop 6 in the 1980s. “There’s a lot more caution,” he said, “and a lot of training that goes on, for obvious reasons.”

But he also pointed to other local artifacts of Eagle service projects – benches along the canal side bike path, the stone fountain at Peske-

ompskut Park – and to the large number of volunteer hours Scouts must perform to advance in rank. The troop serves veterans’ meals, and participates in the Source to Sea cleanup.

For his own Eagle service project, Poirier organized the construction of a “Gaga ball” pit at Sheffield Elementary School last August. “It’s an octagonal pit,” he explained. “You have a kickball inside the pit, and kids get in and hit it with their hands, and try to hit other kids’ feet.”

Emond has overseen the growth of the troop from three boys to 16. Cub Scout Pack 4017, also sponsored by the Elks, works as a feeder, and currently numbers around 34. Most leave Scouts midway through high school, Emond says, as drivers’ licenses and dating start to enter the picture.

Now there are three more prospective Eagle Scouts in Troop 6, and Poirier intends to

stay on next year and grow into leadership.

“With Brian making it, the other kids see it’s not a pipe dream,” Emond said. “A kid – and I don’t care if they’re 5 or 18 – will listen to an older kid better and more clearly than any adult. They can identify, and they look up to them.”

“I’m planning on staying with my troop and becoming a leader for as long as I can,” Poirier said. “I’m not too interested in college right now – I’m going to look around and find a job.”

For kids around 10 interested in Scouting, he had this piece of advice: “Do it. You’re going to meet a lot of great kids. There’s a lot of fun opportunities within Scouts.”



Above: “A scout is trustworthy...”. Troop 6 members recite the Scout Law at the opening of Brian Poirier’s Eagle Court of Honor. Right: Brian Poirier’s sash displays the 70 merit badges he earned along the path to Eagle. He carved his neckerchief slide, a number “6,” himself.



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## NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

# Haggling Over Budget Requests; Anger Over Slow Well Progress; Two New Part-Time Cops

By JERRI HIGGINS

Super Tuesday's Leverett selectboard meeting was moved from the town hall due to voting there, and while the Leverett safety complex was the first choice to reconvene the meeting, a busted heating system boiler there moved it to the Leverett Elementary School conference room.

Wesley Goscenski of the capital planning committee presented a list of "must-haves" for the town's FY'21 budget: the safety complex boiler, currently being replaced; the police and fire radio systems; an electrically fired gas stove to replace a leaking gas stove at the elementary school; a new phone and intercom system at the school; either the lease or purchase of an excavator; and a paving project at the safety complex.

Goscenski presented the selectboard and fin com with four scenarios of how much funding will be needed for capital projects in FY'21. The most expensive, fully-funded scenario would cost the town \$799,515, and the least expensive, partially-funded scenario \$340,400. Goscenski said he recognized that lower number was still outside of the town's current funding possibilities, unless requested department budgets are reduced.

"I wanted to make this the most bite-sized piece that I could give," said Goscenski, explaining that the first scenario fully funds all departments that capital planning has estimates for – except roads and bridges, which come out of state Chapter 90 funding.

The next three scenarios assume \$650,000 of prior savings for capital planning expenses. The third and fourth scenarios are partially funded, and remove any projects costing over \$200,000. The last removes all ADA improvements, which are eligible for grant funding.

"Bottom line is we know that \$340,000 is not even raiseable," said Goscenski. "I would say, go through your budget scenarios, and whatever you have left over, let's put it towards the capital plans. That's the best we can do, right?"

Fin com member Ann Delano noted that without the excavator, the fourth scenario would cost \$130,500, with a late-breaking increase in the estimated cost of the police and fire radio systems from \$22,000 to \$48,000.

Leverett police officer William Kimball explained that some items can be deferred, such as an encryption software upgrade for the radios, but that there is currently a one-time state grant available to cover half

the price of the digital radio systems the departments requested. Kimball said that earlier that day, his department had received an estimate for a different multi-band radio system, and he brought it for the fin com and selectboard, who told him they would consider both purchases based on the final town budget.

Kimball said the department is looking to equip three cruisers with the radios, "in case we have to respond to mutual aid, or mutual aid is coming to us."

"What it comes down to is the fact that we are on the edge of a county," added Leverett police chief Scott Minckler. "We don't have to go this route, but we're throwing it on the table now so that we can communicate back and forth with agencies."

Delano recommended that the police department come up with a plan "that's safe and workable, and include the fire budget, and give that to us in the next two days."

Fin com member Steve Nagy recommended the departments submit a budget with three columns: the minimum the departments can operate on, what their "next-best" budgets would look like, and a column with all options they want, detailing the one-time grant savings.

No votes were taken. The committees will hold an extra meeting on Tuesday, March 10 to continue to review budget details.

## Teawaddle Tensions

At the February 4 selectboard meeting, a letter from Citizens for Landfill Environmental Action Now! (CLEAN!) was presented to the board, referencing Article 16 from the 2019 Leverett annual town meeting. That article appropriated money to resolve an issue of toxins in the wells of five homes, believed to be leaching from a capped landfill. The letter called for a solution to provide clean water to the homes, as well as the timeline for that resolution.

The group came before the board at Tuesday night's meeting to discuss the selectboard's movement on the issue. The town meeting article appropriated money for building a drinking water connection from Amherst, drilling deeper wells for the homes, or appraising them for taking by eminent domain.

Tensions quickly rose as CLEAN! members Patricia Duffy, Virginia Goodale, and Stephen Nagy expressed their anger and disappointment at what they saw as a failure of the selectboard to follow all steps unanimously voted on at town meeting, and what they perceived as a lack of empathy from the selectboard members.

Board chair Peter d'Errico told

the group that Leverett would be entirely responsible for the cost of the water line. "We don't have any extra cash for that," he said. "We have an estimate that is beyond what was authorized."

"No, we don't have an estimate," countered Nagy. "Tata & Howard came up with some numbers. We don't have a bid, and until we have a bid, we don't have a real number of what it's going to cost. You know that, Peter."

The selectboard agreed to get a bid from Tata & Howard, a consulting engineering group.

Asked about grant money Leverett had received that the group thought could go toward the bid, town administrator Marjorie McGinnis said the money had already been spent on a study of the wells and Tata & Howard's estimate of the pipeline cost.

"You counsel patience," said Goodale, "but in the meantime, it feels like you're plotting to take our homes.... We pay our taxes! The problem is that you treat us like we are the problem. We are not the problem. The fucking landfill is the problem – that everybody puts their stuff in!"

## Other Business

With the retirement of officer Tim Batchelder, and the resignation of Nicholas Potts to accept full-time employment elsewhere, police chief Minckler recommended two new part-time hires. The selectboard approved the hiring of Mark Vitale, who has worked in the Athol and Orange area, and James Bernier, who has worked for Sunderland and currently works a few shifts a month for the Conway police department, though it was unclear whether he would stay working for Conway once hired.

McGinnis said she had sent solicitations for an ambulance service contract, but received no responses. Amherst's proposal is a 2.4% increase which is up to \$32,500 for FY'21.

The selectboard approved the emergency management team switching from their reportedly less-user-friendly Blackboard connect mass communication system to Code Red, which has an easier to use app.

A fee owed by the Leverett Village Co-op for using the town hall will not be waived.

A \$24,930 contract for landfill monitoring in FY'21 was awarded.

Facilities manager John Kuscek was authorized to monitor fuel rates through Sprague Operating Resources, and lock in the best oil rate for the town.

## CANNABIS from page A1

who own a property that has a very good opportunity to have a building put on [it]," she explained. "I live, basically, on my home equity loan.... The store is doing pretty good right now, but the store still owes me \$120,000. I have to do something with this property, because I do not want to close the Wendell Country Store."

Scutari said she feared Wendell's rising taxes would force the business to close and seniors to leave town, and she appealed to her fellow citizens to encourage the growth of new industry in order to expand the tax base.

Wendell's total operating budget for FY'19 is \$2.8 million, and its tax rate is \$22.61 per thousand dollars in valuation – approaching the limit of \$25 per thousand set by Proposition 2½.

Scutari disclosed that she had been approached by a group interested in building an indoor growing facility on a lot she owns behind the store, and that the growers had told her they expected to pay \$100,000 a year in local taxes.

"The biggest cash crop right now is asparagus," she said. "Anybody could rent it to grow – they could grow marijuana there, they could grow asparagus, they could grow any amount of anything that could be grown indoors."

"I know how we all feel about wanting to keep our pristine, beautiful community," Scutari argued, "but I think at some point we are going to have to open up to other development that's going to come in and relieve the tax burden for us."

"Unfortunately, I have a second option," she added. "I've been approached by a lot of 5G cell tower people."

"We do take things on a case-by-case basis with special permits," planning board member Richard Asmann told Scutari, before explaining the board's change of perspective on the cannabis bylaw question.

"The thing that's unique about our town is that we don't have a lot of people who want to come through, so there isn't a lot of retail pressure," Asmann said. "One thing we do have is a lot of cheap land, relative to other communities, and we didn't anticipate the wholesale pressures that would be coming because of the cheap acreage that we have here."

Asmann compared wholesale cannabis growing with large-scale solar power generation. "It requires vast amounts of forested land to be taken down," he said, "and we do not currently have provisions within our special permit criteria to deal with the impact of this type of development."

Expressing sympathy with Scutari's dilemma, Asmann implied that it might be difficult to gain a special permit for the project she described. "Not to say anything

against marijuana," he stressed, "but it's classified differently." If Scutari kept her lot intact and leased it for other agricultural purposes, he said, it would not require a special permit.

"If you wanted to put up an asparagus grow house, you can do it," Asmann told her. "It just couldn't be converted to marijuana unless you went through whatever process we finally develop."

"Could you explain to me the difference between how the impact on the community would be different if it was marijuana or asparagus?" Scutari asked him.

"No, actually I can't," he responded. "And I also can't tell you what the different impact would be if you decided to cut down all the trees and grow corn there, but the state says that you can do that, because they protect one- or two-family homes, and they protect farms."

"We need to lower the tax burden for this town, desperately," Scutari said again. "I hear people talking about it constantly, especially at tax time."

Though the audience murmured in appreciation for Scutari's service to the community, the topic returned to the wording of the motion.

Nina Keller suggested that "water" be added to a phrase about addressing commercial cannabis installations' "impact on health, safety, and welfare of Wendell's citizenry."

"That's something we would consider in the bylaw," planning board chair Nan Riebschlaeger told her. She said the town's conservation development bylaw would serve as the model for any new regulations.


To a question about why the moratorium would last a whole year, member Molly Doody explained that the planning board is already tasked with revising the solar zoning bylaw by December.

Board of assessors chair Chris Wings pointed out that a property generating \$100,000 in annual taxes would be assessed at over \$4 million.

"We are really very aware that we need more business in town," she said. "It totally makes sense to have a moratorium and get it right, but I am hoping that there's some way for us to benefit financially, without making sacrifices of our environment."

The hearing adjourned, and the planning board voted 5-0 in favor of the moratorium.

The motion declares "a moratorium on marijuana growing, processing, and selling until a year from this meeting," in order to "undertake a planning process to address the potential impacts of commercial marijuana installations" and "determine how the Town shall reasonably regulate" them.

It will be forwarded to the selectboard and placed on the annual town meeting warrant. 

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**MONTAGUE** from page A1

a meeting at the Montague police station to discuss “public safety considerations” during the project.

“It is clear at this time that there are no plans on the part of DOT to be responsive to requests for attention to be made to the area above the bridge deck,” Ellis reported, adding that MassDOT would not work on the upper part of the structure because there would be no “return on investment.”

He said MassDOT promised to make certain the bridge “was on a full replacement schedule – but of course, there were no specific guarantees, and they have no ability to hold someone accountable for what happens 20 years in the future.”

State officials did, however, suggest there would be an incentive in the contract with the chosen construction company for early completion of the project. MassDOT also hopes to “accelerate” preliminary work on Route 2, which is expected to bear additional traffic when the project starts, so the bridge may be closed for reconstruction as early as this December rather than July 2021. “It’s not making the work happen faster, but it is shifting things forward,” Ellis said.

Finally, Ellis said the state is taking “a number of proactive steps” to improve public safety access to and from Montague over the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge from Route 2. He expressed some concern about the effect “multiple projects” will have on local traffic, including potential delays caused by a project, slated for this September, to rebuild the Fifth Street pedestrian bridge project over the power canal.

**Damage and Comfort**

In other news, the board briefly discussed “some unfortunate vandalism,” in chair Rich Kuklewicz’s words, with police chief Chris

Williams. The vandalism, which occurred last weekend, involved scraping or “etching” tags on the windows of businesses along Avenue A in Turners Falls.

“It’s the same logo or writing on every one,” said Williams. “The glass will have to be replaced.” He said that the police had “some good video” from surveillance cameras, so “hopefully that will lead to something.”

Kuklewicz applauded the work of the police department, and declared that “the board does not tolerate that kind of behavior, and neither does the town.”

While Williams was at the front table he requested that the board approve a “memo of understanding” between the town and the regional school district for the sharing of a “comfort dog,” and the creation of a special account in the town budget to receive donations for the dog. The board approved both requests.

Williams said the dog, whose name is Mack, will be introduced to the board at its March 16 meeting.

**Ambulance Calls**

Williams was joined at the front table by Turners Falls fire chief John Zellman to request the board approve rerouting the initial ambulance call from the Montague police department’s dispatch service to the regional Shelburne Falls dispatch. The fire department’s service is shared with American Medical Response (AMR), which runs a larger regional ambulance operation connected to the Bay-state Franklin hospital.

“The coordination needs to start happening a little bit better,” Zellman said, adding that routing through Shelburne Falls is not expected to reduce local response time. “It’s nothing against Montague dispatch,” he said.

The request, which was supported by Williams, was endorsed by the board. Zellman said the new plan should be in place “on or before July 1.”

**Other Business**

The board approved a request by Ellis to increase the amount on the March 5 special town meeting agenda allocated by Article 7, for the removal of an oil tank and vault at the water pollution control facility (WPCF) from \$75,000 to \$136,000. Ellis explained that the increase was due to a new “solid and comprehensive quote” about the cost of the project. Funding will come from the WPCF capital stabilization fund.

Ellis announced that the committee appointed to search for a new WPCF superintendent would come before the selectboard next week to propose a candidate for the job, “pending a confirmatory conversation I need to have.” He said that the candidate, who was not named, is “someone who we are very excited to be bringing forward.”

The board approved a request for the use of public property for a puppet show in Peskeompskut Park from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on July 31. It also approved a request to endorse a change of manager on the liquor license for the bar at St. Stanislaus Society in Turners Falls.

David Brule of Erving was appointed to the town historical commission to improve communication between the commission and the Battlefield Grant Program. Brule serves as chair of the oversight board for the program, which oversees grant-funded research on the 1676 massacre and battle near what is now called, ironically, Turners Falls.

The next Montague selectboard meeting is scheduled for March 9.



**SPORTS** from page A1

a testament to the hard work these ladies have put in over the years.

So for once, let’s cheer on the cheer squad: for their enduring spirit, their unselfish work, their class, and their poise. As they’ve said so many times before, “Let’s give these girls a hand,” clap, “let’s give these girls a hand.”

**Wrestling**

The Franklin Tech Eagles are known for their wrestling program. They’ve hosted tournament after tournament, and always manage to compete on the regional and state levels. This year in the 2019-2020 MIAA State D-III tournament, Tech scored 30 points off the talents of Josh Brunelle (132), Kyle Brunelle (138), and Peter Saladino (126).

**Girls’ Basketball**

Last Thursday, February 27, the Eagles of Franklin Tech traveled to Lee to play the Wildcats in the quarterfinal round of the Girls’ Western Massachusetts D-IV Tournament.

Jocelyn Crowningshield made a steal early in the game, and took it home to tie the game at 2. But then the refs blew the whistle. The game was stopped and one of the refs came to the scorers’ table and admonished the team: “Delay of Game warning against Blue.” Apparently Crowningshield didn’t pass the ball back to the ref after the basket.

Of course, the visiting fans couldn’t believe the stoppage, and they protested mightily. This call put the Birds back on their heels, and Lee went on a 12-2 run.

Throughout the first half, the foul total was decidedly in Lee’s favor, which only fueled the protests from the Tech fans. The Eagles played tough, but were never able to make up the early deficit, and went into halftime trailing 36-16.

“We’re not playing our game,” advised Coach Gamache in the third quarter. Their usual tight defense folded: Lee would swing the ball around the horn, and two or more Blue players would go to the ball, leaving

several Wildcats open inside.

When the game was deemed out of reach, both teams cleared their benches, and Lee took home the victory. Gemaia Cruz and Jordan Hurlbert led Tech with 12 points each, Isabelle Duga scored 7, Crowningshield and Emily Ryan each put up 4, and Desiree Doane added 2.

Coach Joe Gamache has done wonderful things as a first year coach. They won their first MIAA playoff game, finished third in the state small-voc tournament, and next year... well, next year, look for Tech to have another glorious, but less surprising season.

**Boys’ Basketball**

The Turners Falls boys’ team has overcome many hardships to become a playoff contender. After winning their first playoff game against Franklin Tech, they headed to North Adams last Friday to take on the Drury Devils.

You always want your team to win, but in this game, you have to congratulate Turners just for hanging tough against a top-rated team. There were so many Turners fans in the audience it was like a home game.

Blue surprised the Devils in the opening minutes by going out to a 14-2 lead. Drury settled down and scored 8 straight to make the score 14-10 after a quarter, and the game remained tight in the second. At the break, the Devil was leading by 1 point 30-29.

But Drury pulled ahead by 7 in the third quarter, and they held on in the fourth to take the game 66-57.

The Turners boys’ basketball team has suffered from numbers issues all season. In two games, they only dressed seven players. That they were able to win 11 games this season shows that an undersized and out-gunned team can win if they play together as a team.

Next year, they’ll be facing another size challenge: Anthony Peterson, who’s been their big man since he was in junior high, graduates this spring. Without Peterson, the guards and forwards will have to step up if they want to make another playoff run.



Next week: Winter (season) is over.

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**LOOKING BACK:  
 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK**

Here’s the way it was March 4, 2010: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

**Residents, Business Owners Share Bridge Concerns**

Al Stegeman, District 2 highway director for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, wasn’t having any of Montague Business Association president Chris Janke’s suggestion on Friday afternoon that a “bi-directional solution” to the traffic flow on the Gill Montague Bridge was possible during the upcoming four-year renovation of that span.

“I don’t think we’re going to go there,” said Stegeman. “We’re not going there. We’re going to stick with one-way traffic.” Stegeman insisted the only prudent way to manage traffic flow is to limit traffic to one lane, coming into Turners from Gill, while the bridge deck is under renovation.

Stegeman was backed up by district traffic engineer Bao Lang and project development manager Rich Massey, who pointed out that drivers waiting at a long red light at night might be tempted to run it. By doing so, they could wind up running headfirst into cars coming across the one lane bridge from the other direction.

Mark Pelletier, senior project manager for SPS New England, out of Salisbury, MA, the company that won the \$40.7 million repair bid, was also in attendance. He said the project would actually begin – by the end of March – with three months of reconstruction work at the other end of town, on the General Pierce Bridge from Montague City to Cheapside in Greenfield.

Pelletier said between 10 and 40 construction workers would be employed on the project at any one time. Final completion date for the project is May of 2014.

More than 50 people attended the meeting with the highway engineers on Friday afternoon in the Great Hall of the Discovery Center, within sight of the Turners entrance to the bridge.

“If I have to go to Greenfield anyway,” because of the detour over the White Bridge, “why should I stop in Turners Falls at all?” asked Geri Johnson, a realtor in Riverside. “It’s my pattern of life, and it’s going to be changed, for four years. What’s going to be left to come back to?”

“We’ve got a fantastic community happening now, after years and years of struggle,” she added. “This is not going to be good for Turners Falls.”

**Snow Emergency Declared**

The town of Montague declared a state of emergency on February 24, from 1:30 until 8:30 p.m., due to the heavy snow that fell all day and pulled down multiple power lines around town.

“Originally, when it was first declared,” said town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, “I received notice from Bob Escott, the emergency management director, and he had been contacted by [the Western Mass Electric Company] that a large portion of the town would be without power overnight. They were encouraging the creation of shelter for the elderly.”

Escott worked with the Red Cross to create a shelter at Turners Falls High School in case the need arose for overnight shelter. WME-Co restored power earlier than anticipated. The state of emergency ended at 8:30 p.m.

There is \$8.2 million in emergency funding available to the state of Massachusetts for storm cleanup, and all affected municipalities were asked to file by Wednesday, March 3.

The selectboard adopted a joint proclamation for a local emergency planning committee, which allows for cooperative negotiation with neighboring towns and for local plans and resources to be shared by the 26 communities of Franklin County.

**Testing Planned for Gill Elementary Well**

Regarding the water supply at the Gill Elementary School, which has been cited for high coliform levels in recent years, Gill administrative assistant Ray Purington said the Rural Water Association would conduct tests at the wellhead, listening for leaks after shutting the water off at the school for a period of time in the near future.

If there are leaks at the wellhead or water line, that is a likely point of coliform inflow, and a more easily fixed problem, than if the source is found to be in the water table itself.

Purington said the installation of a chlorination system at the school could cost perhaps \$5,500. He is looking at grant sources to help pay for that, if it becomes necessary.

Purington said one section of the two-volume *History of Gill* details how the current well, about 700 or 800 feet away from the school building, was actually not the first attempt to drill a well for the school. The first attempt, much closer to the building, went down 1,000 feet without hitting water.

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**ELECTION** from page A1  
and nearby Greenfield and Colrain (44% and 45%).

Sanders also won in all six precincts of Montague, with the variation following a now-familiar pattern. Precinct 5, downtown Turners Falls, saw the lowest turnout, but the highest (65%) for Sanders. Pre-

cinct 1's turnout was the highest by far, and while Sanders led in Montague Center (40%), it was Warren's strongest precinct (34%).

The Hill in Turners Falls, Precincts 3 and 4, appears to have been Biden's strongest base of support, as well as that of former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg.


No other candidate received over 3% of the primary vote anywhere in our coverage towns.


Leverett joined with only a small number of towns statewide in favoring Warren: Arlington, Belmont, Brookline, Cambridge, Goshen, Maynard, Northampton, Pelham, Plainfield, Somerville, Stow,

and Watertown.

Though the Republican primary was widely considered non-competitive, given the presence of a popular incumbent on the ballot, some Republicans did vote locally. Donald Trump's share of total ballots cast ranged from 2.5% in Leverett to 12.7% in Erving. Within

Montague, it ranged from 2.8% in Precinct 5 to 11.3% in Precinct 3.

Town clerks we spoke with on Wednesday stressed that all figures released were still provisional. Dick Newton reported a "steady, but not overwhelming" turnout in Erving, and Doreen Stevens a "fairly good" 48% turnout in Gill. 



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**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Syringe Access & Disposal Site Now Open in Greenfield**

**GREENFIELD** – Tapestry's Greenfield Syringe Access and Disposal Site is now open. The program is operating Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the parish hall basement at the Episcopal Church of Saints James & Andrew, 8 Church Street.

The Syringe Access and Disposal Site supplies free sterile syringes, safer injection supplies, referrals to treatment, and harm reduction counseling, including Narcan overdose prevention training and education. For more information, please call (413) 221-7722.

**Freedoms Bus Pass Program**

The Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) has created the "Freedoms Bus Pass Program" for individuals needing treatment and recovery transportation services.

substance use disorder. Clients able to utilize the FRTA fixed route may qualify for a monthly bus pass (otherwise known as a Purple Go! Card) at no cost.

The Freedoms Bus Pass Program is a program of the New Freedoms Grant, a one-year federal grant from the Federal Transit Administration that allows the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) to expand transportation services to individuals in treatment and recovery from a

Stop by one of the following locations to complete an application and inquire about this new program: Clean Slate, 1 Arch Place, third floor in Greenfield; North Quabbin Community Coalition, 251 Exchange Street in Athol; The RECOVER Project, 68 Federal Street in Greenfield.



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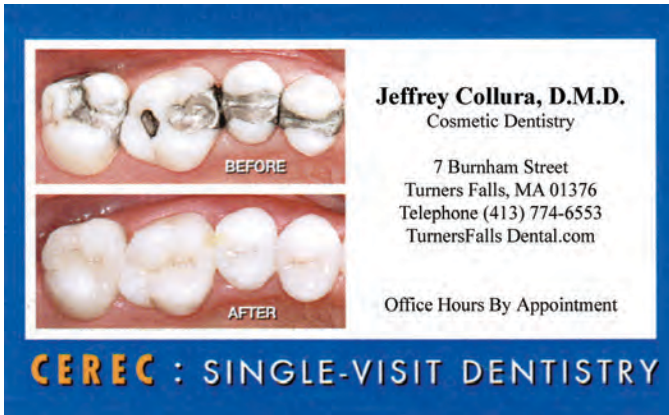
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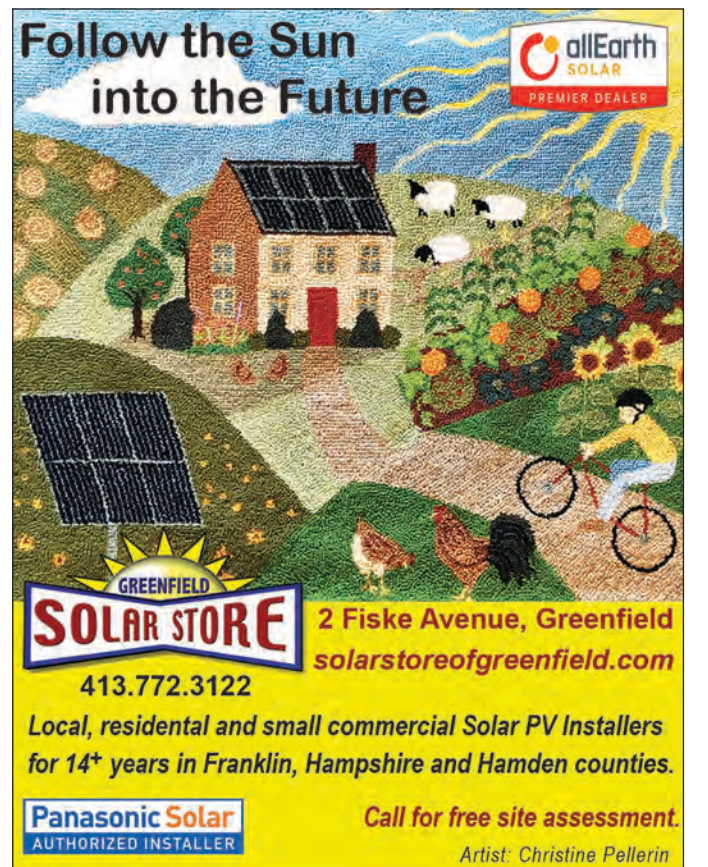
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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

MARCH 5, 2020

Above: An aerial photograph of downtown Turners Falls.

# ArtBeat

by Trish Crapo

## Rebecca Clark: Carrying the Lines

**DEERFIELD** – Maybe you're familiar with patty pan squash, a variety of tender summer squash with a distinctive flat, rounded shape edged with prominent knobs. The oddly-shaped vegetable can resemble an underwater creature, akin to a starfish, or the garden's version of an old-fashioned toy top for children.

On her website, Deerfield artist Rebecca Clark describes patty pan as having "a spaceship look about them, except for the scallops. And oh, those scallops... I could happily spend the rest of my days celebrating and drawing those little radial bumps."

True to her word, Clark does seem quite happily engrossed in her "Patty Pan" series of pastel drawings that she began roughly twenty years ago.

"I began with #1, and I think I'm up to #338 or something," Clark says with a laugh. "A lot of them don't look like patty pan squash," she adds. A glance around the dining rooms at her current work on display at the Hope & Olive restaurant in Greenfield affirms this.

I was sitting down to talk with Clark after she installed the exhibit, which will hang at the restaurant through June. Except for a few small still lifes, all of the work on display is part of the Patty Pan series.

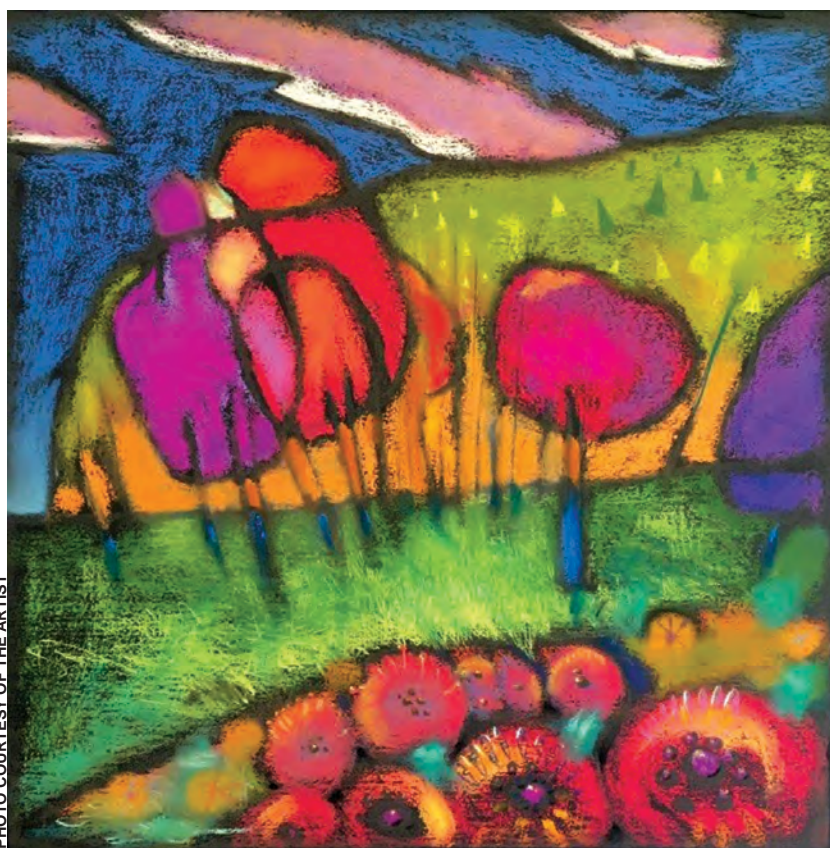


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

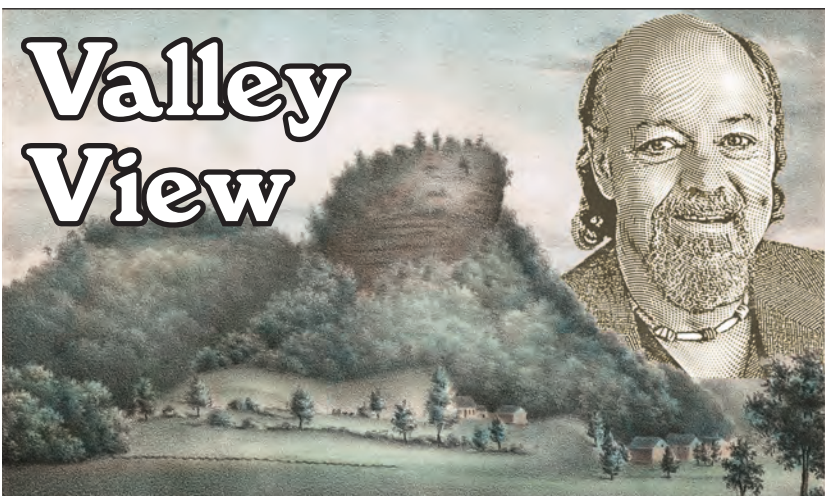
Zinnias, #336 in Rebecca Clark's "Patty Pan" pastel series.

Close to where Clark and I are sitting, there is a large still life featuring a beautifully spare, sensuous patty pan, but there are also compositions that read more like colorful landscapes with prominent triangular shapes of trees being tossed by the wind, or voluptuous, curving

furrows in a field. Many of these drawings are inspired by the rolling landscapes surrounding Clarkdale Fruit Farm, where Clark's husband, Tom, and his family have grown apples and other orchard fruits for four generations.

see ARTBEAT page B3

# Valley View



ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK PRINT

By GARY SANDERSON

**GREENFIELD** – Friend Peter Thomas is back at it, nose to the grindstone.

The good doctor of anthropology and archaeology is at his core an historian. These days the retired author of *In the Maelstrom of Change: The Indian Trade and Cultural Process in the Middle Connecticut River Valley, 1635-1665* is photographically digitizing the *Sylvester Judd Manuscripts* at Northampton's Forbes Library, when not performing the same

chore on Deerfield town records.

Prior to this latest venture, I helped Thomas photograph the earliest records of the Sunderland and Whately Congregational Churches. These were preceded by those of the South Deerfield Congregational Church and early Conway town records. All of this information is important to any historical or genealogical researcher toiling to piece together colonial settlement patterns and the introduction of new families to our slice of the Connecticut Valley.

From time to time, when Thom-

as comes across a subject that he knows will be of interest to me or about which he thinks I may have insight, he emails me a comment or query, accompanied by attached documents he's referencing. The topics can vary widely: from roads and trails to fish and wildlife, from rivers and streams to people and places, from maps and deeds to Indian place names, and more.

Before Christmas, Thomas paid a visit at my Greenfield home on his way home from South Deerfield to Richmond, Vermont. He wanted to share an Indian calendar recorded in fur-trader John Pynchon's own handwriting at some point during the first 10 years of Springfield, which was established in 1636 as Agawam Plantation, a market town focused on monopolizing the Connecticut Valley fur trade.

I knew the calendar from reading Northeastern Native American linguistics scholar Gordon Day's *An Agawam Fragment*, first published in the *International Journal of American Linguistics* (1967), then republished 21 years later in Day's more widely read *In Search* see VALLEY VIEW page B4

# Animals in the Road: A Police Log Retrospective

Compiled by EMILY ALLING

Illustrations by NINA ROSSI

**Tuesday, 6/18/13**  
7:54 pm. Walk-in report of a deer standing in the middle of the roadway at Third Street and Unity Street.

**Thursday, 6/27/13**  
12:41 pm. Report of a fox standing in the middle of Greenfield Road, watching traffic go by. Caller was concerned that it would be a hazard and that it may be ill.

**Wednesday, 7/31/13**  
6:32 am. Sick possum reported walking in circles in the middle of Central Street.

**Wednesday, 7/23/14**  
8:57 p.m. Assisted a kitty in the roadway at First and L streets.

**Saturday, 8/23/14**  
9:44 a.m. Caller inquiring whether it is illegal to run over a chicken if it is in the road. When questioned further, caller advised that there is a group of chickens in the road near the fish hatchery. Caller stated that he thought about running over one of the chickens, but decided against it.

**Monday, 2/16/15**  
12:23 p.m. Officer advises that there is a swan lying in the road; it does not appear to be injured, but its wings may be frozen. Contacted animal control officer, who will warm the animal in his vehicle and then set it free.

**Wednesday, 2/25/15**  
6:50 a.m. 911 caller from Leverett reporting two horses in the road in the area of Hemenway Road and Cave Hill Road.

**Friday, 5/15/15**  
12:55 p.m. Report of two dogs, described as Chinese pugs, in the road in front of the caller's house.

**Tuesday, 12/8/15**  
11:34 a.m. Report of a loose chicken in the road near Second Street Baking Company that is causing a traffic hazard. Total of three chickens located. Chickens were corralled with assistance of a mailman.

**Saturday, 12/12/15**  
9:46 a.m. Caller reports that approximately 30 loose goats have come from a neighbor's property onto her mother's property. The goats have done damage to bushes, trees, etc. Officer checked area; did not see any goats in the road or on the caller's mother's property, but did observe approximately 50 goats behind the neighbor's residence.

**Thursday, 12/22/16**  
7:28 a.m. Caller reporting a dead owl in the road on Lake Pleasant Road.

**Wednesday, 4/6/16**  
2:44 p.m. Report of a horse in the middle of Meadow Road.

**Friday, 4/22/16**  
6:52 a.m. Caller reporting four horses unattended in the road (Turners Falls Road, 1 to 2 miles south of TFFD). Possibly one person attempting to catch same. Traffic backing up.

**Saturday, 4/30/16**  
11:15 a.m. Caller from Taylor Hill Road advises of two golden retrievers that he just chased out of his yard. Caller states that the dogs are often loose in the road.

**Monday, 5/16/16**  
10:10 a.m. Report of a fox that is foaming at the mouth in the roadway at Seventh and L streets.

**Tuesday, 9/20/16**  
11:39 p.m. Motorist reports a large animal in the roadway obstructing traffic at Montague City Road and Turnpike Road;

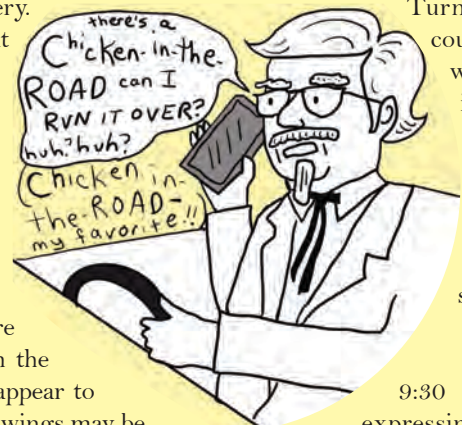
could not say what the animal was other than smaller than a deer. Officer checked area; this is a skunk.

**Monday, 10/3/16**  
9:30 a.m. Caller expressing concern

for the wellbeing of animals (chickens, turkeys, etc.) at a Greenfield Road address, as well as for the elderly person who resides there. Caller advises that house and property are in poor condition and animals appear to be neglected/unhealthy. Animals are frequently in the road, and at least one or two have been struck by vehicles recently.

**Monday, 10/10/16**  
1:06 p.m. Report of 20 or more chickens in the road at Greenfield and Greenfield Cross roads. Caller advises that chickens came up to his vehicle as he tried to drive by. Officer advises that chickens appeared to be following each other; when one started going in a particular direction, the rest followed suit. Chickens have returned to their coop for now.

see ANIMALS page B5





# Pets of the Week



IMAGE COURTESY DAKIN HUMANE SOCIETY

## “COPTER & CADBURY”

If you are thinking of breeding rabbits but aren't sure you can handle the commitment, why not start with two spayed males?

Copter and Cadbury are everything you could possibly want in a pair of Rex rabbits. This bonded pair comes two for the price of one (\$75). Be ready to house them

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Think you can handle this much mellow cuteness? To find out more, contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at [info@dpvhs.org](mailto:info@dpvhs.org).

## Senior Center Activities

### MARCH 9 THROUGH 13

#### 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 3/9**

8 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

**Tuesday 3/10**

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1:30 p.m. A Matter of Balance

**Wednesday 3/11**

11:30 a.m. Friends' Meeting

12:30 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday 3/12**

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Cards, Games, & Pitch

4 p.m. Gentle Yoga

**Friday 3/13**

1 p.m. Writing Group

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 3/9**

8:45 a.m. Stretch & Sculpt

9:30 a.m. COA Meeting

10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance

12 p.m. Homemade Lunch

12:30 p.m. Card Game: Pitch

**Tuesday 3/10**

8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise

9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure Clinic

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

11 a.m. 2nd Graders Read to Us

12 p.m. Homemade Lunch

1 p.m. DIY Crafting

**Wednesday 3/11**

8:45 a.m. Sleep Yoga

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

12 p.m. Congregate Lunch

12:45 p.m. Bingo & Snacks

**Thursday 3/12**

Boston Flower Show

8:45 a.m. Interval Training

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

10 a.m. A Matter of Balance

12 p.m. Homemade Lunch

**Friday 3/13**

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting Workshop

9:15 a.m. Walking Group

9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling

12 p.m. Congregate Lunch

12 p.m. Congregate Lunch

#### LEVERETT

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



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

By **LESLIE BROWN**

**ST. AUGUSTINE, FL** – After twenty beautiful Florida days of sun mixed with clouds, longer light, and temps in the 70s with an occasional 80 – always tempered by the ocean breezes – the weather changed. The temperatures fell and the winds increased. The high temperature on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February was 60 degrees, give or take: still warmer than at home in Montague, but still not what we'd become used to. We began to think the weatherman was bracing us for what we'd encounter when we got home.

On Friday, 51 degrees, followed by a slow rise to 60 degrees on Saturday as a low front moved away. We hoped it would go northward off the coast of New England and ultimately offshore somewhere. But it is possible we will come home to a snowy yard in early March.

Meanwhile, we hope to visit our own beach to see the effects of this Nor'easter, but the manager has put up the sawhorse on the beach path. It says "Danger: Do not enter."

We had hoped to return to this spot next year, but the rents have climbed considerably. This year we paid \$4,200 for three rooms, a full kitchen with washer and dryer, and a bathroom. This same suite will cost \$5,100 a month next year, but

## THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

# Heading Home

our suite has already been booked out from under us – a totally new policy, apparently, as in the past we were always asked if we wanted to return. The manager coolly said that we should have checked online!

So, we have rented another place for next year which looks lovely, but unlike this one, which is basically a collection of suites all on the ground floor with a walkway to a quiet beach. The new spot is a condo in the complex of the same with a pool and ocean access. However, it seems large and unfriendly, despite a beautifully furnished interior. We do not imagine meeting and making friends as we have here, where we have seen some folks for three years now. But we will be paying \$5,000 for the month, and are guaranteed a return, if we wish.

Some things will likely stay the same. We have met up with Ken's Florida nephew twice, traveled across the state to Crescent City, the spot where Ken's aunts and uncles traveled yearly from Colrain to a trailer park in Florida for three months out of the year after they retired.

We have also eaten at a number of favorite spots: Bings Landing, a spot where boaters pull in for a meal and then put out on the huge Saint John's river again; Three Bananas, another favorite spot on Lake Crescent in Crescent City; the outdoor ribs spot where folks take out their food and sit on the stumps to eat them here in St. Augustine. We have also enjoyed the mixed American food at the Oasis where you can

sit at tables and enjoy the crowd of bikers, tourists, and locals keeping current with the PGA.

Now we have but three days left in sunny but very windy weather, following a crackerjack of a storm which took out many of the boardwalks. Ours has been temporarily shored up, but apparently still feels rickety to use. We'll check it out today.

If it's not feeling safe, we can walk down the road to another walkway to the public beach and see if that has held up. The temperature has not returned to the happy 70s, but it will likely return to the 60s if the wind drops.

We have just received the last update from the cat minder and find ourselves missing our little pet. We are ready to pack and head home. Depending on the weather, we could be there in two days or three.

A couple of years ago we woke up to snow on the driveway of our motel in Pennsylvania. The winter boots are still in the trunk of the car, and I actually came part way of the journey down in my long johns, so they're still available if needed. We really hope not.

March can be wintery, or can smell of spring. We look forward to seeing if the crocus tops are showing, and maybe even the daffodils. Pretty soon it will be time to set out the salad greens, and soon after, the peas.

These happy thoughts make us ready to head for home.

It's time.

#### WENDELL FREE LIBRARY

## Art Show: Martha Senn, Painter

**WENDELL** – Wendell artist Martha Senn will exhibit her paintings in the Herrick Room at the Wendell Free Library from March 8 through the end of April. There will be an opening reception on Saturday, March 14 from 3 to 5 p.m. with the artist.

Martha Senn is a local artist who moved to Wendell 20 years ago. She grew up in Montague spending her time horseback riding and just enjoying nature within the towns of Montague and Wendell. Throughout her childhood, she spent her free time drawing and painting her favorite subjects of horses, trees, and flowers.

At a young age, Martha's great-aunt Milli took an interest in Martha's painting, and was always encouraging her and giving helpful suggestions. When Milli lost her fight with cancer, she left Martha all her painting supplies, brushes, and easels. Then about 26 years ago, Martha put her painting supplies away following the incident when her two-year-old daughter Shanna left multicolored hand prints all over the apartment walls.

About three years ago, daughter Shanna and her cousin Heather convinced Martha to go to a painting class with them and introduced her to acrylics. Shanna and Heather were amazed to discover that painting had been a secret passion of Martha's since childhood.

Landscapes may be Martha's specialty, but flowers have always been her fascination and challenge:



*Birch landscape by Martha Senn, one of several on view in the Herrick Gallery during March and April.*

growing them, drawing them, and now, painting them. Painting has become a family affair for Martha and she frequently gets together with family and friends to paint, usually in her kitchen.

Martha comes from a family of artists. Besides Shanna and Heather, several of Martha's nieces, great-nieces, cousins, and grandsons have started painting with her. Martha's great-grandfather Benjamin Crown is a famous local artist known for his photographs, movies, paintings, and

drawings. Some of his work is on display at the Brattleboro Historical Society. Her great-aunt Milli and her grandmother Olive both loved to paint.

Several of Milli's and Olive's paintings hang in Martha's house, providing continual inspiration to those who paint with Martha, and she loves to help others discover the joy of painting and drawing.

*Submitted by the  
Wendell Art Committee.*

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**ART BEAT** from page B1

I ask Clark why she considers these landscapes part of the Patty Pan series, rather than departures from it, and herein, really, lies the heart of the entire project.

"Well, as I'm finishing up each one, to resolve the drawing, I think about the lines for the next," Clark says. She chooses three or four lines that she likes from the current drawing, and carries them over, often marking them down with pencil on a new piece of paper and leaving them for the next time she sits down to work.

Our wine arrives just then, and Clark pauses to offer a toast: "Cheers! Here's to the arts in these dark times."

"We need art in these dark times," I agree, raising my glass to hers.

I tell Clark that the carrying over of those lines reminds me of advice I've heard attributed to novelist Ernest Hemingway, that you should always leave off writing in the middle of a sentence so that when you come back, you have someplace to begin. "That seems kind of the same," I say.

"It is!" Clark exclaims. "This has been kind of the same sentence for the last twenty years."

Clark adds that the practice really helped her soon after she started the series, when both of her parents became ill and died within a year. "In that time, I carried the lines in my head," Clark says. "I carried those lines. I didn't work for probably eight or nine months that year. But every now and then, I would say to myself, 'Oh, there are the lines.' And then when I did finally sit down, I drew them and I picked up from there."

Now that the series has been going for so long, you don't often see the patty pan itself, Clark says. "But once in a while, I'll come back to that shape. I'll bring it back."

"You know what would be really interesting," I say, "is a show where you had a really big space and you put them all up, #1 to #338."

Clark laughs. "Yeah, wouldn't that be something?"

In the meantime, Clark is working on creating a digital archive of her work, with an eye toward creating a book or books. Having professional-quality digital images also enables her to create *giclée* prints, which she hopes will make her work more affordable.

Affordability is important to Clark, who views her materials with frank practicality, preferring the medium-quality Rembrandt brand pastels she worked with in college to pricier brands. The Rembrandts are "like workhorses," she says. But, ever conscious of making a

challenge for herself, rather than repeating "my old tricks," Clark recently bought a small box of Sennelier pastels, which are very soft.

"So what I can do is, let's say I want to get some more color on something at the last minute, that Sennelier will go over it," Clark says. "Whereas if I used a Rembrandt, I'd have to brush off some pigment to put more back on."

Clark taught elementary art in Colrain for 19 years, and then transitioned to teaching at ArtSpace in Greenfield, where she's been for 11 or 12 years. She initially taught drawing to children there, but now she leads two pastel workshops for adults. She is quick to plug her students' upcoming exhibit, which begins March 19 (more details below).

"I learn so much from my students," Clark says. "I'll tell them, 'You do things I wouldn't touch. You do skies that look like real skies, you do water, you do people. All this stuff that I wouldn't touch.' And they laugh at me."

An experiment with black paper in her classroom led to Clark taking some home and working with it herself. While at first she found herself leaving black lines of paper showing through, now you can't always tell whether a pastel was done on white or black. Pressed with questions about whether colors look different on black, Clark says it's more about the black paper forcing her to approach the blank page differently, "shaking things up."

In spite of having stuck to the same series for two decades, Clark is conscious not to repeat herself. One way she tries to stymie herself from repetition is by putting away all the pastels she's been using for one drawing before going on to the next, forcing her to create a new palette each time. This practice differs from how she worked when she was a children's book illustrator, she says. "With an illustration you have to really keep the same colors. You have to make that mouse always the same color."

And though she sometimes kicks herself for temporarily losing track of a color she'd particularly liked, the frustration is worth it to her. She wants to keep challenging herself. "As an artist, we want to grow," she says.

See more of Clark's work at [rebeccaclarkartist.com](http://rebeccaclarkartist.com). See an exhibit of Clark's students' work in the *Pastel Studio Annual Show at ArtSpace, 15 Mill Street, Greenfield, March 19 through April 15. An artists' reception will be held Friday, March 20, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.*



Pastel artist Rebecca Clark in her studio.

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG****Concerning Kayak; Cat Triggers Alarm; Petty Theft; Tagger Etches Glass On 25 Downtown Storefronts****Sunday, 2/23**

11:38 a.m. Caller from Food City states that a man in a wheelchair is hassling customers in the parking lot, asking for money. Male party has been verbally trespassed from property and moved along.

1:13 p.m. Caller states that there is a yellow VW car that appears to have been left in front of his business on Millers Falls Road; car has stickers on it that refer to Nazis. Caller plans to have car towed if owner isn't heard from soon. Unable to locate/contact vehicle owner. Vehicle appears disabled.

2:49 p.m. Caller from Sherman Drive states that a neighbor has a large fire burning in his fire pit again. Fire department requesting police response because homeowner is being unruly.

11 p.m. Caller reporting car into pole on Millers Falls Road; no wires down. Caller states there is steam or smoke coming from the car and that there are injuries. AMR conferenced; officers and TFFD en route. Second caller, off-duty firefighter, reports heavy damage and positive injuries. Officer transporting passenger to residence. Ever-source notified to check on pole. Driver transported to hospital by AMR. Citation issued for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

**Monday, 2/24**  
7:46 p.m. Caller reporting an older female party who was caught trying to shoplift an item from Family Dollar. Employees found it in her pocket; advise female is still in store and is aware police are being called. Officer clear; advises Family Dollar does want the female charged. Summons issued.

**Tuesday, 2/25**  
8:35 a.m. Report of someone ice fishing near the dam; concerned it may not be safe. Officers did not observe anyone on the ice.  
1:29 p.m. DPW found suspected drugs at Millers Falls Road and George Avenue. Items retrieved by officer.

8:31 p.m. Report of strong odor of something burning, like burning trash or rubber, over a long stretch of East Taylor Hill Road up toward Old Sunderland Road and up to Taylor Hill. MCFD and MPD officer responding. Officer in area advising no odor detected upon arrival. Officer checked with MCFD; area search negative.

**Wednesday, 2/26**  
7:24 a.m. Caller from Avenue A reporting that various household items that were left behind by a former tenant have been stolen. None of the items in question belonged to the caller or were left for the caller. Advised caller

that if owners of items would like to report them stolen, they should call MPD directly to speak with an officer.

8:06 a.m. Caller from Moltenbrey Property on Avenue A complaining of loud music coming from neighbor's apartment; advises it has been playing all night. Tenant advised of complaint and will be turning music down.

10:53 a.m. Caller reporting yellow kayak stuck on rocks in river off Newton Street. See previous calls. Services rendered.

2:47 p.m. Alarm company reporting a residential fire alarm on Old Sunderland Road. Unable to contact keyholder. States there is a cat in the house. Shelburne Control and MCFD advised. Alarm company called back and confirmed it was a false alarm. Shelburne Control notified.

4:13 p.m. Shelburne Control reports that they just took a 911 call about the yellow kayak that is in the river. Confirmed with Erving Fire Department that it is not a hazard at this time. See earlier calls.

5:44 p.m. Caller from Grove Street reports that several sleds were stolen out of her yard overnight. Officer spoke to caller and a neighbor; neighbor advises he did see a group of kids out sledding last night. Items may have been taken by family members.

**Thursday, 2/27**  
10:26 a.m. Caller from West Main Street requesting to speak with officer about her options regarding getting two cars towed from her rental property. Caller states that they are unoperated vehicles belonging to her tenants; vehicles are parked in front of a dumpster that was to be removed back in December 2019. Caller has attempted to make contact with vehicle owners several times but was unable to do so, possibly because the parties owe her money for

rent. Caller reports that Rau's will not tow the vehicles because they do not want to get involved. Officer spoke with caller and advised her of her options.  
4:48 p.m. 911 caller reports that she was just struck by another vehicle, which left the scene heading north on Route 63. Vehicle described as gray Toyota SUV. Officer heading to Millers end of Route 63 to look for involved vehicle, which should have slight front end damage. Officer requesting county departments be advised to be on lookout; also reaching out to Clinton police to advise them of the incident.

6:21 p.m. Walk-in party reporting receiving unsolicited mail from a prisoner at the Franklin County House of Correction. Investigated.

**Friday, 2/28**  
12:55 a.m. Notified of a repossession on First Avenue. Paperwork left for admin.

8:45 a.m. Shelburne Control requesting MPD officer attempt to make contact with registered owner of a vehicle that has been parked at the Gill Mill since 6:30 p.m. on 2/27. Officer reports negative contact made with party. Party's father came into station to inquire about why we sent an officer to his residence; states that he saw officer on his Ring camera. Vehicle was left because it is broken down. Father advised of call from Shelburne Control and provided with their number.  
12:53 p.m. Caller reporting large concrete block in the middle of the on-ramp to Route 2 in Erving that is impeding traffic. Shelburne Control advised.

4:41 p.m. Officer conducting motor vehicle stop near F.L. Roberts. Verbal warning for stop light violation. During time frame of stop, officer learned that operator and occupant were searching for a location in Montague

where a family member's ashes were scattered; they had no idea where. The operator only had a picture of a bridge and a river. Officer identified location as Will's Ferry Road in Montague Center and provided a courtesy escort to the location.

10:18 p.m. Shelburne Control advising of loose pit bull in Bangs Street area, described as white with no collar. Officer advised.

**Saturday, 2/29**  
5:20 a.m. Caller from River Child, LLC on Canal Road states that he has run into a young man a couple of times on his security rounds tonight and in the past. Caller states person leaves, walks across the bridge, then comes back. Caller states it has already happened twice tonight. Unable to locate.

12:20 p.m. Family Dollar employee reporting that a male and a female just stole several items and left in a green Toyota Prius with NH plates. Last seen heading up Seventh Street. Shelburne Control advised to be on lookout; MPD checking area.

3:47 p.m. Caller from H Street states that an intoxicated male with a green jacket and a beard is on his porch yelling. Officer advises male is now on G Street with another male, who has taken custody of him.

**Sunday, 3/1**  
9:09 a.m. Multiple storefronts on Avenue A were vandalized overnight: Family Dollar, A.H. Rist, The Gun Rack, Black Cow Burger, CT River Liquors; Turners Falls Pizza House, Riff's, Greenfield Coop Bank, Loot, Apex Dental, Booska's Flooring, BTU, Subway, Break-down Records, Pipione's, Great Falls Market, Buckingham, Mystic Pinball, Texture Beauty Bar, Two Birds, Aubuchon's, Salvation Army, Walgreens, and others. Involved businesses notified of vandalism via phone call.

**Montague Community Television News****Battlefield Study Findings**

By MICHAEL SMITH

On Thursday the 27th, MCTV was at Turners Falls High School to record a presentation of the findings from the ongoing Battlefield Study, an archeological effort to better understand the 1676 massacre and battle of Turners Falls.

Through the admirable effort of the men and women involved, they've been able to piece together a timeline of the battle as it moved from our backyard all the way down to the Deerfield area.

After the presentation, tribal representatives took the stage to comment on the battle, answer questions, and offer

insights on their own experiences as people with native american heritage growing up in the United States. It was an illuminating and moving experience, and it's waiting for you at our website, [montaguetev.org](http://montaguetev.org).

While you're there, be sure to check out the recent selectboard meetings in both Gill and Montague.

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, [info-montaguetev@gmail.com](mailto:info-montaguetev@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!

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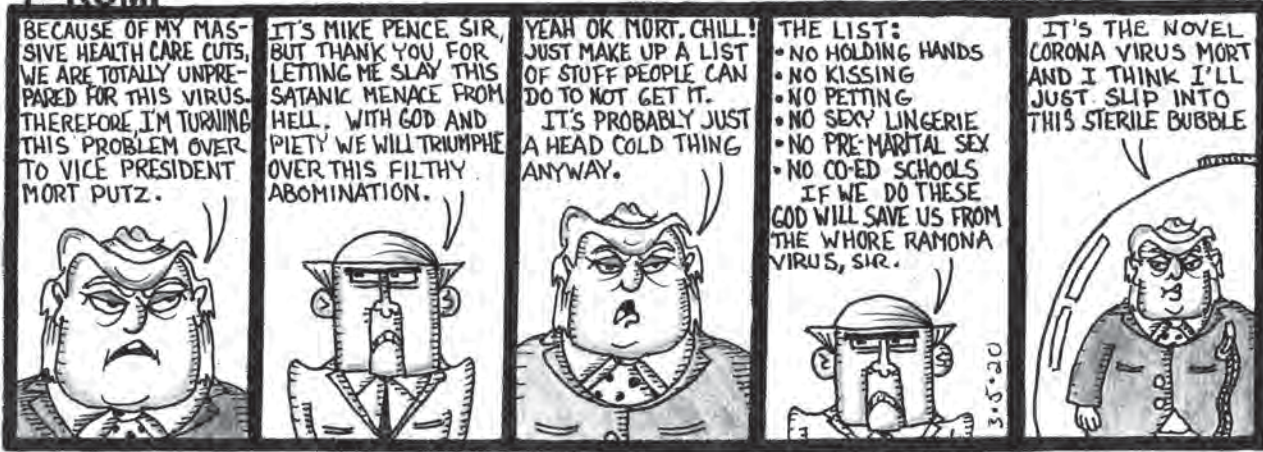


# COMICS and PUZZLE

JOEL PRAYTON ILLUSTRATION

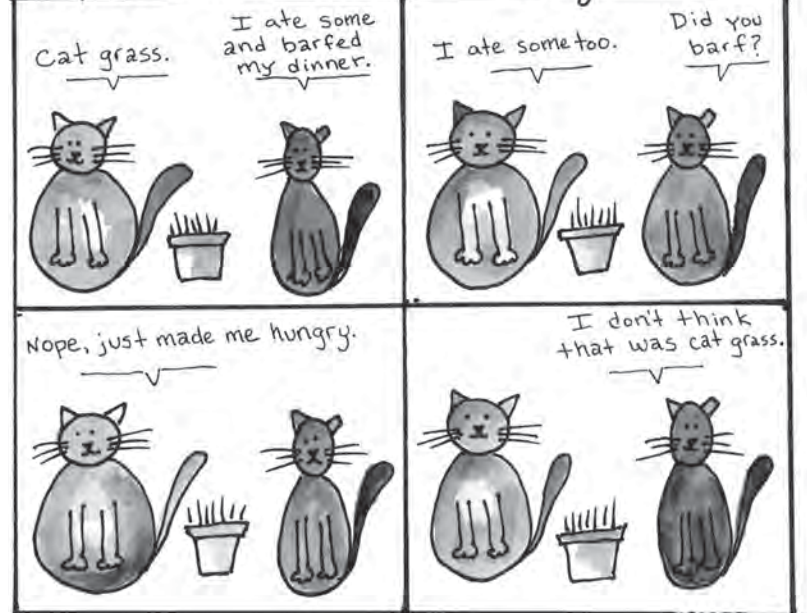
### T-RUMP

by denis f. bordeaux



### Cool Cats on the Ave

August



### OVER THE HILL

Carolyn Clark



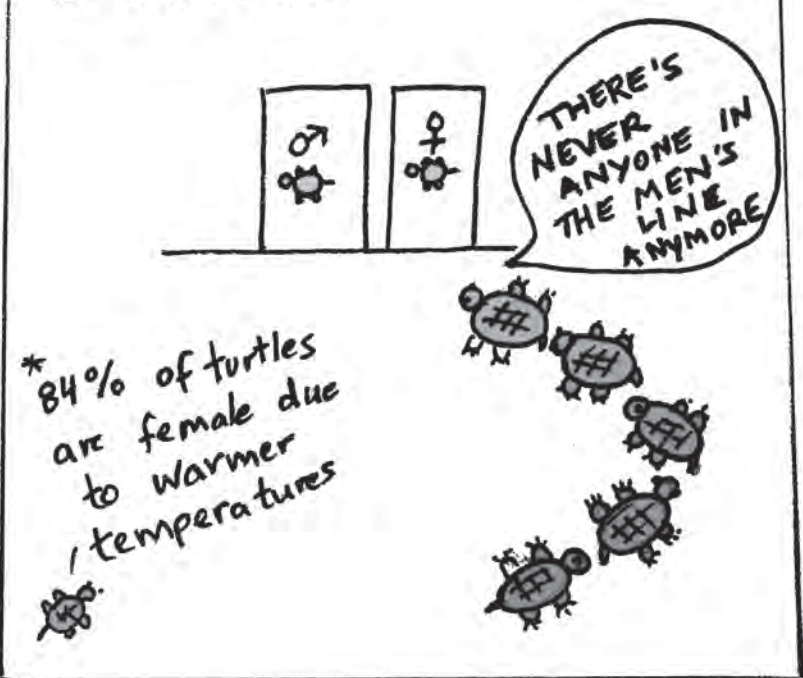
### GLIMPSES FROM THE OFFICE

ANNABEL LEVINE



### THREE DEGREES OF WARMING

JANICE ROWAN



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### VALLEY VIEW from page B1

of New England's Native Past.

It never ceases to amaze me how perceptions change during rereads of material first read decades ago. It makes perfect sense. Years of reading and writing expands your knowledge base. The first thing that jumped out at me when re-evaluating the Pynchon calendar – following years of studying Native American prehistory, spirituality and literature (oral history) – was that it was obviously a “modern” adaptation, rooted in the horticultural epic that began with maize agriculture about 700 years before the Mayflower dropped anchor in Plymouth.

I immediately remarked to Thomas that I'd prefer to see the hunter-gatherer calendar digging 11,000 years deeper into our Valley Indians' culture, even though I knew such a document will never come to light. Unfortunately, it's too late for that.

“From a cultural point of view, we would expect nothing different,” said Thomas. “Human culture is adaptive, and corn/bean/squash horticulture almost certainly arrived

with far more than just seeds – origin stories, prayers, hoes, growing techniques, etc. No cultures are static.”

Yes, it's true that the World Wide Web offers many calendars of Indian moons, which seem to make a lot of sense no matter where you live. But still, wouldn't it be much better if our ancient Connecticut Valley moons were accessible, especially those of the Pocumtuck and Norwottuck villages in what we now know as Franklin and Hampshire counties? Or the moons of immediate upriver and downriver villages, which would have differed slightly based on climate and length of growing season. Prime examples are the absence of a maple syrup moon south of Hampshire County, and slightly earlier planting and fishing dates in the lower valley, where sprouts and leaves appear sooner.

Instead we must settle for this later Indigenous calendar, translated by an Englishman with little understanding of the Algonquian language or its Connecticut Valley dialects, and based on a “Three-Sisters” maize-horticultural lifestyle backboned by corn, squash

and beans. Amazingly, the Pynchon calendar mentions not a word about bird or animal prey, nut- and berry-gathering, or marsh collection of roots, tubers and medicinal plants.

The reason is that Pynchon recorded a New-Age Indian calendar, with one lonely exception: a March-April start of the spring fishing season. Otherwise we get the setting, weeding, hilling, harvesting and eating of corn, the ripening of squash and beans, and no mention of deer, moose, rabbits, beavers, bobcats and bears, not a peep about wild turkeys or migratory ducks and geese, all of which would have been important to a hunting culture.

Don't be misled. This doesn't mean hunting was not important to the Indians encountered by the first colonists to settle our valley. We know our indigenous people were hunters and gatherers who depended on Nature's bounty. However, by the 1600s, agricultural fields yielded the foundational element of Valley Indians' diet, at least south of what is now Vermont, and the Pynchon calendar reflects that.

“There may be a more deep-seated con-

cern,” said Thomas. “If we look at the Indians north of the St. Lawrence who followed a non-horticultural, hunting-gathering lifestyle, the one looming feature of the winter months was starvation times. The storage of a reliable, if labor-intensive, food for the winter (corn) was critical for a secure population, and one that allowed these communities to grow and prosper. So, old is not always best.”

In the final assessment, the calendar is what it is, yet still important – most likely following the month-to-month routine of the Agawam (Springfield) or Woronoco (Westfield) villages the Pynchons knew best; perhaps even the downriver Podunk (Windsor, Connecticut) villages as well.

So, why lament what's lacking? There is plenty of interesting local information to glean, with some of its tendrils reaching the “Falls Fight” of King Philip's War fame. That data centers around the calendar month “Namasack kesos,” which signaled the start of fishing season in “part of March, part of April.”

Remarkably, despite the warmer winters

see **VALLEY VIEW** next page

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Hours: Thursday-Sunday, noon-6 p.m.  
Monday and Wednesday, noon-4 p.m.  
(closed Tuesdays)



**ANIMALS** from page B1

**Monday, 3/27/17**

3:26 p.m. Caller from Second Street reporting two chickens and one duck walking in the street.

**Wednesday, 6/28/17**

10:34 a.m. Caller requesting that animal control officer check on a fox on Kingsley Avenue. Fox was lying in the road for the past half hour, looking lethargic; same just ran off toward river. ACO checked on fox, which has mange. It appears that the fox will pass away soon. ACO advises that animal is likely suffering, and if officers see it, it would be humane to put it down.

**Friday, 8/11/17**

8:08 a.m. Officer advising there is a dead porcupine in the road on Turners Falls Road.

**Monday, 8/28/17**

11:17 a.m. Report from Park Street of a cat lying in the road; appears to have possibly had recent surgery or another issue. Passing cars have been beeping at the cat, but it continues to lie in the road.

**Wednesday, 11/8/17**

7:08 a.m. Report of large brown horse in road, believed to belong to house on Meadow Road.

**Saturday, 1/20/18**

2:23 p.m. Caller from Hillside Road states there are two horses walking in the street; unknown where they came from.

**Tuesday, 5/22/18**

12:10 a.m. Report of large moose in road at Turners Falls Road and Vladish Avenue.

**Wednesday, 6/27/18**

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

7:46 p.m. Caller advising that a raccoon is in the roadway near the Route 63 crossover and will not move for traffic. Second caller is advising that a raccoon in the same location is dead in the road.

**Thursday, 9/27/18**

5:24 p.m. Caller complaining of four or five goats running

free in the road at Federal and Center streets.

**Wednesday, 12/19/18**

4:36 a.m. Caller reporting a fox that was struck by a vehicle near Shanahan's Construc-



tion on Avenue A; same is alive in road, but unable to move.

**Wednesday, 1/9/19**

6:32 a.m. Caller reports what appears to be a baby owl in the roadway on Montague City Road, after the Farren but before the high-tension lines on the left headed into town.

**Tuesday, 1/22/19**

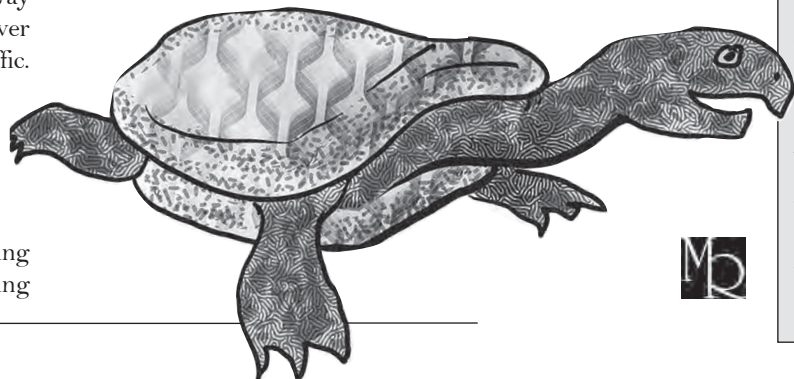
7:04 p.m. Caller reporting a small deer injured in the road on Turners Falls Road. Animal dispatched.

**Wednesday, 3/20/19**

5:48 p.m. Report of eight or nine goats in the road just north of Mark's Auto on Federal Street.

**Tuesday, 3/26/19**

1 p.m. Caller from Alice Street complaining of skunk in her yard. Caller advises animal does not look sick and is not acting strangely, but she has a dog, and does not want it to encounter the skunk. Advised of options. Caller will use an alternate entrance or stay inside until the skunk moves along. Re-



ceived second call re: skunk; second caller advises that the skunk is walking in circles in the road.

**Sunday, 4/14/19**

1:35 p.m. Caller reporting snapping turtle in road on Fairway Drive.

**Tuesday, 4/23/19**

12:05 a.m. Caller operating on Federal Street near Hunting Hills reporting large number of goats in the road; traffic hazard. Contact made with owner of farm.

**Sunday, 6/2/19**

6:08 p.m. Caller states that there is a large snapping turtle causing a hazard in the road on Route 2 at the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.

**Wednesday, 6/5/19**

10:46 a.m. Motorist reporting that there are a few cows in the road at Smiarowski and Meadow roads. Officers checked area homes; nobody knows where the cows came from.

**Saturday, 6/8/19**

8:24 a.m. Report of dead chicken in road on Vladish Avenue. Crows are feeding on it.

**Thursday, 6/27/19**

2:02 p.m. Caller from Canal Street reporting a snapping turtle in the road.

**Saturday, 7/13/19**

6:39 p.m. Caller from G Street believes there is a rabid raccoon in the street; it is growling like a tiger and hissing.

**Monday, 7/15/19**

9:51 a.m. Report of two loose ponies in the road near Highland Apartments. Message left for animal control officer. Officer advises animals – two Great Pyrenees and Shetland ponies – are now in back area of Highland Apartments.

**Wednesday, 7/17/19**

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

**MONTV / MUSIK / MOUNTAIN**



**NUMBER EIGHTEEN: FRANK HURRICANE**

**Interview by J. BURKETT**

**TURNERS FALLS** – Frank Hurricane is well known in the valley... and far beyond. He has done many styles of music – hip hop, folk, noise, industrial – and now a rock band!

He is *the e* self-proclaimed “Spiritual Gangster,” with the mission of spreading love to all the “pimps and players” everywhere (especially to those out there who are tuned in to his “smoked-out galactic frequency”). He has several LPs out, plus many holy tapes and CDRs... plus his live shows can really be beyond belief.

Check him out ASAP. His next show out here is on April 3 at Ten Forward in Greenfield, with 10 Gallon Hat and Hung Trucker. Spread the word, and watch out...

**MMM:** *Hi Frank! So maybe a good place to start with your music is your classic “Same Ole Place” Youtube video. It’s kind of a hip hop commercial for the infamous pizza place in Jamaica Plain, Mass... What is the story with the other rapper in the video?*

**FH:** The name of the other guy in the “Same Old Place” video is DJ Slice, but he also goes by DJ Bakalao or Black Elvis. He is a legendary character in Jamaica Plain. He has been known to flip on people if they forget his birthday! He loves the steak tips at SOP, and mentions them in his verses.

When Freddy Champa, the king prawn of SOP, was still alive, the pizza homies would bring multiple large ‘zas next store to my house, the Whitehaus, every night, and we would party down on the porch until people were yelling for us to stop, almost every night!

**MMM:** *So... you have a rock band now?! How did this happen?*

**FH:** The band came together naturally because I had moved to Athens and my high school homie Jake Merrick is an incredible bass player/musical genius, and our homie John “Taaka Mane” Spiegel is also a musi-

cal genius/insane good drummer. I had been wanting to move to a town and start a band and it worked out real good! The band just recorded a new record, it’s gonna be huge.

**MMM:** *Do you plan to tour overseas after this US tour?*

**FH:** Definitely planning on a huge overseas tour soon. I was in the September edition of *Playboy Magazine* in Poland, and they’re gonna hook up a huge tour for your boy!

**MMM:** *Do you still do hip hop sets?*

**FH:** I do still listen to a lot of hip hop. I’m thinkin it’s about time to start rappin again!

**MMM:** *What do you like best about West Mass? You lived here, right?*

**FH:** In Western Mass, I love the different spiritual zones. I used to live in a psychedelic house off 2 in Erving with trails in the backyard that led to the holy hermit’s cave.

There was the best diner of all time in Erving, in that old train station building, huge omelettes and burgers, run by a mystical woman who was so cool! Those late night drives around West Mass are so magical!

For a little while I lived at 36 Third St. in TF, and wrote most of the songs for *Quintorian Blues* there. I was living in a corner of the living room with Alf blankets as walls, and I was hangin with big Danny Cruz every day!

**MMM:** *What do you like more... Star Wars, or Star Trek?*

**FH:** I love Star Wars, but I like the Trek even better these days! Loved the new Star Wars movie, thought it was amazing.

**MMM:** *Do you like dogs and cats?*

**FH:** I like dogs more than cats, but I live with a pig right now! A big ‘un named Five-O, she drinks beer and loves to party!

**MMM:** *Anything else you want to add?*

**FH:** So excited for the big show at Ten Forward on April 3! See ya there!!

**VALLEY VIEW** from previous page

and earlier springs in contemporary times of global warming, our fishing season still lines up favorably with that calendar. Remember the old April 15 “Opening Day” of trout season? Well, it still fits into that old calendar spawned during the Little Ice Age (1300-1850), when average temperatures across the board were five to seven degrees cooler than today, even though we must take into consideration that the old style English calendar in Pynchon’s time was approximately 10 days earlier than today. That means May 19 then is May 29 today, which still fits the timing of our contemporary anadromous fisheries. The annual two-week-end Holyoke Water Power Shad Derby always coincides with Memorial Day Weekend.

Plus, think of that fateful, predawn, “Falls Fight” sneak attack by colonial militia on a sleeping Indigenous fishing village at Peskeompskut Falls, in what is today known as Riverside/Gill. The date was May 19, 1676 – to this day “right on the money for the peak of our shad run,” according to Dr. Caleb Slater, Mass Wildlife’s Anadromous Fisheries

Project Leader. Still, doesn’t that claim beg many questions, especially if we assume that the fishing activity we’re talking about was focused on migratory shad, salmon, herring, sturgeon, and lamprey eels, all valued by Indians as essential post-winter food?

These anadromous species all begin their upriver spawning runs after river temperatures climb to 50 degrees Fahrenheit, which would not have been achieved by late March and early April during the LIA. Even mid-April would be stretching it.

Then again, ecological changes and man-made river and tributary obstructions may confuse our perception of the annual spring Connecticut River water-temperature formula based on runoff and river flow. Could the many dams in the river basin, not to mention the different makeup of contemporary upland forests framing the valleys, have changed the flow dynamic and skewed our perception of the pre-dam, old-growth valley?

Old-growth forests of the Colonial Contact Period would have absorbed more spring runoff and rain than modern forest, and thus

would have kept river volume down. Then, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>-century clearcutting would have dramatically increased runoff and river volume, which is inversely proportionate to river temperature. When the river rises, its temperature drops, and vice versa.

However, Slater says he’s confident that despite all the changes, the Connecticut River’s hydrology has not changed much, a belief buttressed by three facts we know about the Falls Fight: No. 1, the Indians’ multi-station fishing villages were set up in full force on May 19; No. 2, Indians would not have been there unless the time was right; and No. 3, though incredibly unlikely given the fact that our climate has warmed dramatically, if an angler was today booking an advance shad-fishing trip to Franklin County, he or she would compete for prime slots in mid-to-late May.

It doesn’t matter that the shad run as we know it does not line up with the start of fishing season on the Pynchon calendar. Likely the start of the Indians’ fishing season had nothing to do with the anadromous runs of May, but rather began with fishing

for Eastern brook trout in streams, in beaver ponds, and at the inflow and outflow of natural lakes and ponds, which always open up before “ice-out” and are among the most productive early-season fishing sites. That type of fishing activity would have supplied a much-needed early-spring food source before the anadromous herring runs closed the season with a grand, celebratory crescendo.

And remember, anadromous fish runs would have started and peaked earlier in Connecticut and in what has come to be known as our own lower Pioneer Valley before they did so here. Likely the peak at Enfield Falls would have occurred up to a week before the peak at South Hadley Falls, and up to two weeks before the peak at Turners Falls. The Bellows Falls run would have been later as well.

So, in the end, little has changed over the centuries, despite dams and the warming climate. Anglers start chasing trout in April, shad in May. The Indians’ supplemental summer catch would have included trout and American eels, a sweet, savory river delicacy.

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# The Science Page

WARREN ONDRAS PHOTO

Contributions to NatureCulture are welcome. What are you interested in? Would you like to write about birds, weather, science of any kind? We need your input. Send articles for consideration to: [science@montaguereporter.org](mailto:science@montaguereporter.org). Thank you!  
— Lisa McLoughlin, editor

## All Kinds of Electric Islands

By LISA McLOUGHLIN

**NORTHFIELD** – Even after exporting all they can to the aging United Kingdom (UK) electric grid, the Scottish Orkney Islands have 30% more electricity than they need. Sparsely inhabited by people, the Orkneys’ excess fuel is from wind, wave, and tidal power.

Waves up to 13 meters tall crash against their shores, which makes it a great place to test wave power equipment. CorPower Ocean, a Swedish company, has designed a wave power generator tested in the Orkneys. It looks like a floating space capsule, and is anchored in place. According to the company, the major challenge was to make one rugged enough to survive storms – the successful design goes into “survivability mode” in a heavy storm to protect itself.

This type of energy is under-utilized in our country, and apparently

– water flowing around the islands. The tidal stream is used to move blades on a floating tidal turbine, which looks like an enclosed rowing crew shell. It works like a wind turbine, generating 1.8 megawatts of power from a tidal flow of about 6 knots. Last year, tidal power in the Orkneys provided enough electricity for about 830 homes.

Long known for their role in the oil industry as a major shipping and processing terminal, the Orkney Islands are now becoming known for a new kind of fuel: hydrogen. Between wind and tidal flows, the Orkneys produce extra power, and that creates an issue with storage. They kept having to shut off their wind turbines because the grid wouldn’t accept all the power they were producing. So they decided to experiment by using the extra power to create hydrogen fuel.

Hydrogen is the most prevalent element in the universe – stars are

(California also has some hydrogen buses and other vehicles, having set up a system of hydrogen stations where they can refuel.) Then they needed to learn how to fix them, so they imported a technician to teach a local mechanic to work on them.

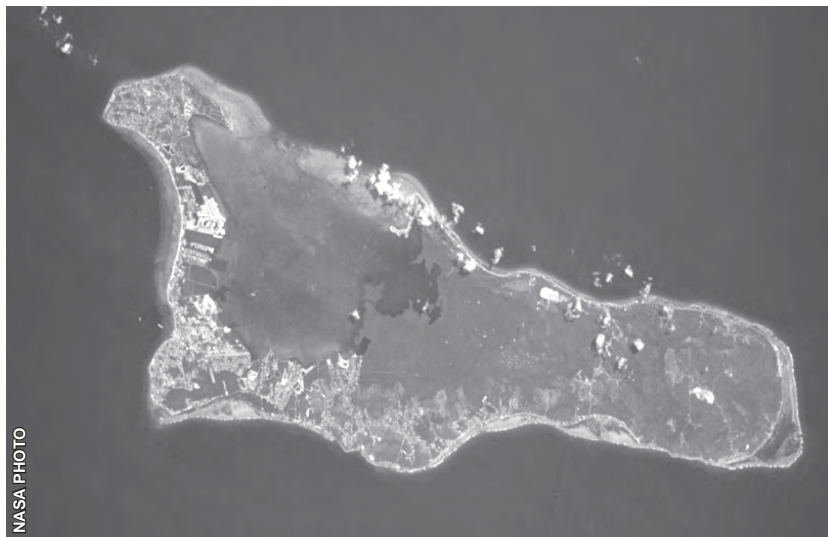
They already had a large percentage of electric vehicles, so hydrogen-powered vehicles didn’t seem like much of a leap, although they did have to set up hydrogen fueling stations.

It’s working so well that they’re planning a hydrogen ferry, and from there they’d like to revolutionize the entire shipping industry – which emits about 2% of all carbon dioxide globally, according to a March 2019 BBC article by Diego Arguedas Ortiz, the main source of research for this article. Since these islands are already home to a giant testing and innovation ground for green energy, they may just succeed.

### The Isle of Eigg

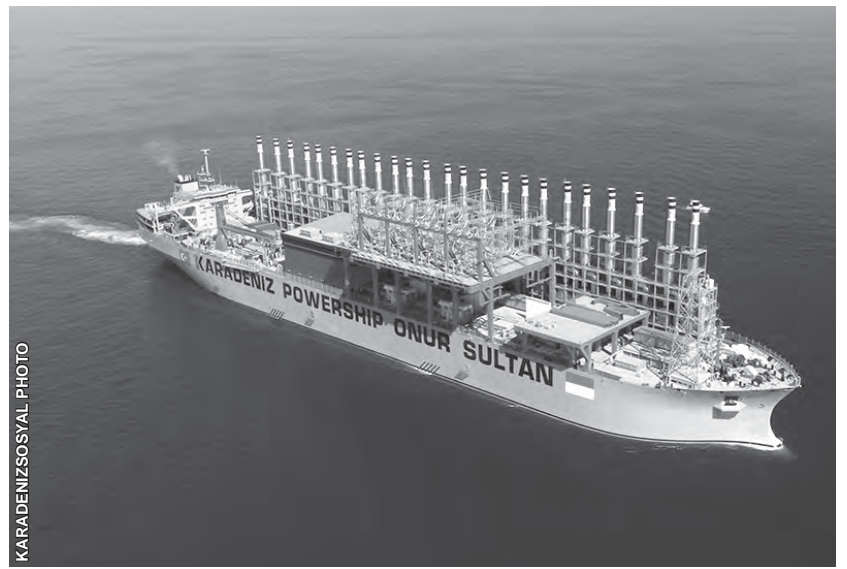
The Orkneys are not the only energy innovator islands in Scotland. The isle of Eigg (pronounced “egg”) has an off-grid wind, water, and solar power battery system, cooperatively owned by the island’s residents. Although Scotland is not sunny, the solar panels add something because the island is far north and has long days in summer. Three hydroelectric generators produce the most in winter, and there are four wind turbines at an elevation of 1,289 feet.

Backup generators are occasionally needed to charge Eigg’s battery bank in the spring, but overall, the entire island uses 90 to 95% renewable electricity. If they make extra electricity beyond their battery bank capacity, heaters in common spaces automatically turn on, which cuts down on central heating bills.



NASA PHOTO

Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands from space.



KARADENIZSOSYAL PHOTO

Karadeniz Powership Onur Sultan.

Being off-grid requires some coordination. The residents agreed not to use more than 5 kW at once (10 kW for businesses), to make sure everyone has enough electricity throughout the day. If they exceed the amount their electricity automatically goes out and they have to pay a 20 pound fee to turn it back on, which is supposedly a rare occurrence.

Six of the 100 people living on the twelve-square-mile island are employed as technicians, with diverse backgrounds. According to a March 2017 BBC article by Karen Gardiner, everyone on the island knows how the system works because they followed its construction closely, with many residents doing construction work themselves to keep costs down.

I was especially drawn to this story because I had read about the island of Eigg, and how it came to be owned by its inhabitants in the 1990s after hundreds of years of being tenants under landlords in the UK’s antiquated legacy of feudal land ownership. The islanders bought their island for 1.5 million pounds raised from donations.

Alastair McIntosh, who writes about Eigg in his fantastic book *Soul and Soil*, was involved in helping Eigg become independent.

He must be very proud of how far they’ve come in just 20 years.

### Indonesian Islands

Other islands are not doing nearly so well, trying to grow using new permutations of fossil fuel technology.

Indonesia consists of 18,000 islands, and the government has started to supply them with giant floating power plants, “power ships” that run generators on natural gas.

The 300-metre-long Karadeniz Powership Onur Sultan, which was built in Turkey, has 24 engines and stretches the size of three football fields. While aiming to have a mix of 23% renewables in its power generation by 2025, the large island of North Sumatra has since 2017 relied on this powership, which produces 240 megawatts, enough electricity for 500,000 homes.

### Cayman Islands

Indonesia is not the only island group a bit behind the curve. For example, the three Cayman Islands generate all the power they require via diesel fuel, despite plentiful Caribbean sunshine.

The per capita consumption of power in Cayman is nearly double that of Europe, and carbon dioxide emissions are about 1.5 times that of Europe per capita.

BMR Energy, a Virgin group investment project, just acquired a five-megawatt solar plant on Grand Cayman that started operation in 2017. Its 21,690 solar panels were sited on a former rock quarry so as not to disturb what few undeveloped areas are available on the island.

Cayman, as part of the British West Indies, did not sign the Paris climate agreement, but the UK did. Cayman is working to transition to green energy with a target of 70% by 2035. The islands, with the exception of the main part of Cayman Brac, have very large flat portions which would be inundated by even a small sea rise. Unfortunately, the beautiful reefs surrounding the islands are already being affected by climate change.

I’ve been diving in Cayman for over a decade, and even in that short period of time I’ve seen what used to be healthy lush coral sites become bleached deserts overgrown with algae. There’s still plenty of really excellent diving in Cayman, but between the invasive lion fish and the warm sea temperature injuring coral, it’s becoming easier to see the costs of globalization, even in paradise.



MAC MCCARRON PHOTO (CC-BY-SA)

A tidal turbine moored at Hatston Pier in the Orkneys, Scotland.

under-studied since there was only half a page of information on it on the US government website. Theoretically, wave power on the coastal US could provide 66% of all US energy needs if harnessed. There are underwater and surface designs currently being tested.

I attempted to get information about US projects underway for this article, but the map on the US Department of Energy website wouldn’t launch. Which, when you compare the resources we’re supposed to have in our huge country with the tiny Orkney islands, is saying something about where we invest. I looked at a few individual projects, but they seemed very low-key compared to what’s going on overseas. For example, there’s some research on using river flows in the Mississippi.

Separate from wave power is tidal power, which ultimately comes from gravity and is prevalent in Orkney in the form of tidal streams

mostly hydrogen – but on Earth it likes to bond with other things, such as oxygen, with which it forms water. Unbonding it takes energy.

Using their extra-green electricity in a process called electrolysis, the islanders break apart water molecules, capturing the hydrogen and allowing the oxygen to discharge into the atmosphere. The hydrogen is then stored as fuel.

The storage is a big deal – unlike batteries, hydrogen doesn’t lose energy over time, or require a lot of metal to make. It’s also very compact, packing a lot of energy in a small space, which is why it’s used as rocket fuel. To run a vehicle, hydrogen recombines with oxygen, generating electricity with a by-product of just water – no fumes or global warming, and at an efficiency of two to three times that of an internal combustion engine.

To use the fuel, the residents of Orkney adopted a fleet of hydrogen-powered vehicles.

## March 2020 Moon Calendar

**First Quarter**  
Monday, March 2

**Full Moon**  
Monday, March 9

**Last Quarter**  
Monday, March 16

**Thursday, March 19**  
Spring Equinox (11:50 p.m.)

**New Moon**  
Tuesday, March 24



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## EVENTS

### THURSDAY, MARCH 5

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Valley Voices Story Slam*. \$ 7 p.m.

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

Looky Here, Greenfield: *The Big Draw*. Figure drawing session with a model in monthly sessions. \$ donation. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *La Creation Mondiale* (France), *id m theft able*, *Otto Benson*. \$ 8 p.m.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 6

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Salt People*, *Intangible Shirt Company* (new Weisman/Goodarzi/Bisceglia trio), *Ellie McAfee-Hahn*. \$ 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's 1940s Hit Parade*. 6:30 p.m.

In the Moment Records, Brattleboro, VT: *Lahnah* album release show, with *Thus Love*, *Jeffrey Gallagher Unfortunately*, *Deep Red*, and *The Phroeggs*. All ages, substance free. \$ 6:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Pamela Means Jazz Project*. In the Wheelhouse. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Four Rivers Charter School Drama Club presents *Head Over Heels*. \$ 7 p.m.

Pushkin Gallery, Greenfield: *Invisible* feat. *Mark Dixon* and *Mark Engebretson*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hutghi's at the Nook, Westfield: *75 Dollar Bill*, *Sunburned Hand of the Man*, *Weeping Bong Band*. \$ 7 p.m.

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

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Nemesis*, *PussyVision*, *A Tension*, *Feminine Aggression*. \$ 8 p.m.

Flywheel Arts, Easthampton: *Hot Dirt*, *Shake the Baby...*, *Landowner*. \$ 8 p.m.

Cold Spring Hollow, Belcher-town: *X Harlow*, *Pfemale*, *Total Smoke*, *Dooley/Winans duo*, more. \$ 8 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *The Pistoleros*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Shakedown*. Grateful Dead tribute band. \$ 10 p.m.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 7

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Four Rivers Charter School Drama Club presents *Head Over Heels*. \$ 2 p.m.

Pushkin Gallery, Greenfield: *Michael Nix*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *International Women's Day Showdown*. Arm wrestling. Benefit for free English classes at Lupine-wood. \$ 7 p.m.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Loud-on Wainwright III*. \$ 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Painted Faces*, *Slasher Risk*, *Donkey No No*. \$ 8 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Ragged Blue*. \$ 8 p.m.

Flywheel Arts, Easthampton: *Control Top*, *Weeping Icon*. Punx. \$ 8 p.m.

Pearl Street, Northampton: *Big D and the Kids Table*, *Crash the Owl Party*, *V as in Victor*. Boston third-wave ska legends. 8 p.m.

Wooden Panel, Pelham: *Mal Devisa*, *Goldsetter*, *Andrew Daly Frank*, *Sir Orfeo*. \$ 8 p.m.

Ashfield Lake House, Ashfield: *Glockabelle*, *Bromp Treb*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

North Village Smokehouse, Millers Falls: *Danny & Heath*. 9 p.m.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Dance Party with DJ Drew*. 9:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Grrrls 2 the Front 2* with *Jeopardy*, *Thus Love*, *Dune Hunter*, *Moxie*, *Faye Patrick Kennedy*, and *Future Fable*. Benefit for the Women's Action Team. \$ 4 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Ian C.*

*Bouras*, *P/u/s/h*, *Brian Dickens*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Soul Rebels*, *Tem Blessed*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Leila Bordreuil/Jake Meginsky duo*, *Vic Rawlings*, *Matt Krefting*. \$ 8 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *The Jayhawks*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

### MONDAY, MARCH 9

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu*. 8 p.m.

### TUESDAY, MARCH 10

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *MUSIC in the Morning*. Children's music series. Live, interactive music by educator *Marcy Gregoire*, accompanied by movement specialist *Hilary Lake*. Puppets, costumes, musical instruments. 10 a.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Jordan Reyes*, *Bromp Treb*, *Scald Hymn*, *Beige*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

Gateway City Arts, Holyoke: *Against Me!*, *Stef Chura*, *Evan Greer*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Owsley's Owls*. Grateful Dead family night. 9:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY, MARCH 12

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Drag Queen Bingo*. \$ 8 p.m.

Sierra Grille, Northampton: *Toxic Friends*, *Felt Star*, *Bloodmobile*. \$ 9:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 13

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The Hampton Trio*. Original music and arrangements from baroque to contemporary for an ensemble of classical guitar, mandolin, and mandola. Sliding scale admission, homemade baked goods. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Gibson Brothers*, *The Green Sisters*. \$ 7 p.m.

Ten Dozen Birds, Brattleboro, VT: *Felt Star*, *Blood Mobile*, *Lady Queen Paradise*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Morning Vodka with Mr. Drag & Karl*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Steal Your Peach Band*. Tribute to the Grateful Dead and the Allman Brothers. \$ 8 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Arc Iris* and the *HDC Dance Ensemble* present *iTMRW*, a sci-fi ballet. \$ 8 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Rosie Porter and the Neon Moons*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Raff Theruler*, with special guests. Hip-hop in the Wheelhouse. \$ 9:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 14

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Farley String Band*. 1 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Community Art Show Reception*. 6 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.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Open Mic*, featuring *Deep Chinappa* and the *DeepC Divers Band*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Whiskey Treaty Roadshow*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *Zydeco Connection*. Benefit for the Friends of the Erving Public Library. \$ 7:30 p.m.


Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jimmy Just Quit*. \$ 8 p.m.

The 413, Easthampton: *Police Kittens*, *The Original Cowards*. \$ 8 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Bonnie Prince Billy*, *Jonathan Richman*. \$ 8 p.m.

## CALL FOR ART

Sixth Annual May Day Fine Arts Sale at the Montague Center Library (second floor) seeks Montague artists interested in selling their work that day. Any medium, with a sale price of \$150 and under, is welcome. The event will be held May 3, in conjunction with the May Day celebrations on the Montague Center town common. Send an email of interest by March 6 to [montague.art.movement@gmail.com](mailto:montague.art.movement@gmail.com).



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MONDAY 3/9 8P  
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WEDNESDAY 3/11 9P  
Dead Night w/  
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## EXHIBITS

Amherst Town Hall Gallery: *Rodney Madison*. Paintings in oil, acrylic, collage and mixed media works. A self-taught artist, Madison is also a teacher and activist. Through April.

Art Deviation Gallery, South Deerfield: Edgy and thought-provoking art from around the world. Featured artists from France: *Christophe Mourthé*, *Cathy Peylan*, and *Anne Eliayan*.

ArtSpace Gallery, Greenfield: *Photographs by Al Norman*. Two collections of photos, one documenting various protests and political rallies, the other looking at nature's symmetry and our collective humanity. Through March 13.

Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts & Arts: *Louise Minks*. Paintings by Minks in the Barnes and Hall galleries, through March 21.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center: *Ask the River*. Elizabeth Billings, Evie Lovett, and Andrea Wasserman have created a community art exhibit on the theme of the

Connecticut River. Through March 7. New round of exhibits opens on March 14 with a reception from 3 to 5 p.m.

DVAA Gallery, Northfield: *My Little Town*, member exhibit, in tandem with solo exhibit *Paintings by Bev Phelps*. Through March 8. *Trash-y Art and Science Show*, a STEAM exhibit, opens on March 14; reception Sunday, March 29, 1 to 3 p.m. Through May 3.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Fertile Ground: Corn, Cranberries, Tobacco, and Artists* exhibit in the Great Hall. The Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association's traveling exhibit explores connections between the Connecticut River Valley's agricultural landscape and generations of artists in the Fuller family of Deerfield. Imaginary art studios represent three generations: George Fuller's painting studio, Arthur Negus Fuller's printmaking studio, and Elizabeth Brooks Fuller's *en plein air* (outdoor) studio. Enjoy reproductions of oil paintings, prints, and watercolors from Memorial Hall Museum's Fuller collection; learn how farming influenced these artists' work; and create your

own art inspired by our local landscape. Designed to engage all ages, with English and Spanish translations. Reception Saturday, March 14 at 1 p.m.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Something Old, Something New, Nothing Borrowed & A Taste of Blue*. Photographs of jazz greats by Bobby Davis. Through April 18. Herrick Gallery, Wendell Free Library: *Paintings by Martha Senn*. Through April. Reception Saturday, March 14 at 3 p.m. Leverett Library: *Wingmaster's Art Exhibit*. Drawings by Julie Ann Collier and photographs by Jim Parks. Parks and Collier rescue and rehabilitate birds of prey. Many of the birds have been with them for years, and their personalities shine out in the images. Through April.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Looky Here 2020: A Submission Based Art Show*. Works by over 30 regional artists in a variety of media: paintings, poetry, video, sculpture. Through April.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Triple SSS 2020: Sensual, Sexual, Smut*. Group show of erotic art from 30+ artists, including sculpture, photography, poetry, prints,

and more. Through March 21.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Marilyn Andrews: Works in Clay*. Retrospective exhibit of this artist's work, who died in 2019, includes over 75 pieces which each use the human figure. Through April 26, with a reception on Saturday, April 18 at 2 p.m. featuring music by Forest Avenue.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Mud Season*, a group show putting a positive spin on this challenging time of the year. Paintings, ceramics, leather, paper cuts, jewelry, wood and ornaments by member artists. Through March 30.

Smith College Art Museum, Northampton: *Black Refractions*, highlights from the Studio Museum in Harlem, through April 12. Also at the museum, *A Dust Bowl of Dog Soup: Picturing the Great Depression*. Featuring 50 photographs and prints from artists including *Dorothea Lange*, *Arthur Rothstein*, *Marian Post Wolcott*, *Martin Lewis*, and more. Through June.

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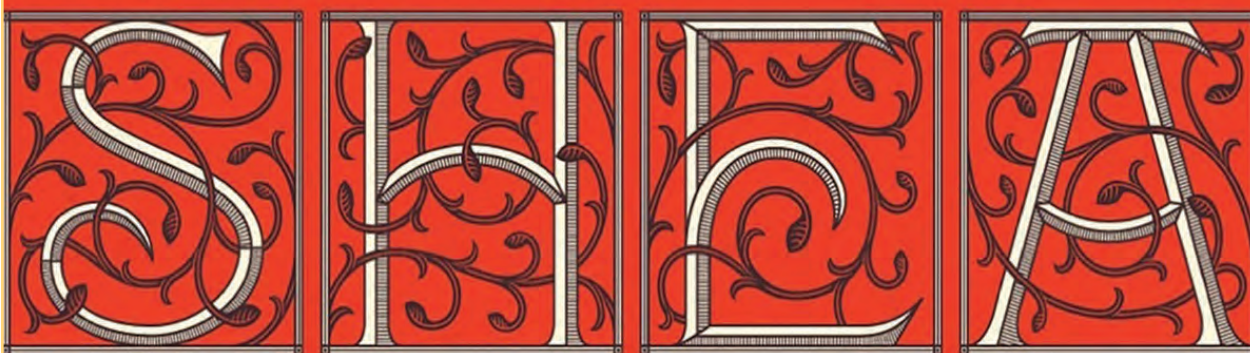
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TV REVIEW

## Project Blue Book: Season 2

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – I decided to review the History Channel show *Project Blue Book* because I thought it would be an interesting review to do, and it was one of many things based on real-life history that the channel decided to do a TV series on.

They also have in it a character named Hynek, who investigates these UFO cases with a partner out of the Air Force. This character existed in real life, and was one of the people who actually did look into this stuff.

The dynamic between Hynek and his Air Force partner, Quinn, has changed slightly since Season 1. Hynek still wants the truth behind UFOs. Quinn is still doing his job the way the Air Force wants him to, but he also realizes they may be covering up things.

Now, the most well-known things connected to UFOs are whatever happened in Roswell, New Mexico and the place called Area 51. I expected that to come up, and my wish was granted. Area 51 will be part of an episode later in Season 2, and the two-part premiere episode focuses on Roswell.

The Roswell incident comes back to bite the military six years later. Hynek and Quinn go there as part of the military's effort to put it to bed again. This includes them doing some quarantining of the town, which the citizens really love. One of the witnesses from the first

time appears to have been paid off. They try to do that again.

Toward the end of the first episode, they get a new account from someone who was there. Then the episode ends – on a cliffhanger.

I won't say exactly how Part 2 of this goes, but it has a lot of twists and turns in it. You might be even surprised by the direction taken by Hynek in this episode. I say that because Hynek is a truth seeker, and what he does isn't exactly in line with that.

This episode stays on track, with the ending showing people who are watching which case from *Project Blue Book* it is based on, which is probably a fair indication they will continue to do that for the rest of Season 2.

The very next episode will focus on Area 51. I believe that the preview indicates a possible alien abduction happening – or a better way to state it is that it looks like one happening. I guess people will have to watch that episode to know for sure! That's how this show seems to go about doing these stories. Either way, this show continues to hold people's attention like it does mine. Maybe that will help with a third season being added to its name.

Lastly, I learned that the "Men in Black" will be featured in this season too, and we will learn how the phrase "Little Green Men" came to be. These are also very well known in connection with UFOs.

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