

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 18 – NO. 31

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 4, 2020

Budine Wins Wendell Selectboard Seat

By MIKE JACKSON

Monday's town election in Wendell saw 327 votes cast, amounting to 46% of the town's registered voters. About three-quarters of the votes were cast by mail due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"A town election where there isn't much happening – high emotions about anything – is usually a bit less than that," town clerk Gretchen Smith observed.

At the top of the ballot was a contested race for a seat on the select-

board that Christine Heard is vacating two years early. Gillian Budine won it with 234 votes to 88 for planning board chair Nan Riebschlaeger. Dan Keller ran unopposed for another full term on the selectboard, and there were no other contested races. A Proposition 2½ vote to authorize borrowing for a new backhoe passed, 211 to 70.

Budine said her margin of victory made her "feel confident that people felt strongly I was right for that position." She said she looked forward to

see **WENDELL** page A5



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Gillian Budine

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Will Hold Meeting Outdoors

By KATIE NOLAN

On Monday night, the Erving selectboard asked town administrator Bryan Smith to begin planning for an annual town meeting on July 15 outside at the Erving Elementary School grounds. The board asked Smith to contact moderator Richard Peabody, who has the authority to postpone the meeting under emergency conditions.

The meeting was originally scheduled for May 6, in accordance with the town bylaw, but under state COVID-19 emergency legislation, the town meeting warrant was issued for June 17. On May 18, the selectboard appeared to favor postponing the meeting until late summer or fall.

Under the state's emergency legislation, towns are authorized to spend not less than 1/12 of their FY'20 budget each month during FY'21 without holding a town meeting to approve the expenditures. Selectboard chair Jacob Smith told the board that this "1/12 authorization" covers only operational expenses, but not capital improvement projects.

In addition, entire or quarterly payments for liability insurance, the

see **ERVING** page A4

D-Day Reflection: All Heroes Are Local



REUTHER STEVENS PHOTO

Col. Moseley's gear at the Dead Man's Corner Museum in Carentan, France.

By BRAD COUNCILMAN

MONTAGUE CENTER – A famous politician once observed that all politics are local. I wonder if Tip O'Neill might have said the same of heroes.

Among the 13,000 Allied paratroopers who jumped into the night on June 6, 1944 was Colonel George Van Horn Moseley Jr., commander of the 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. This event, called D-Day, is considered by historians to be the largest, most ambitious and consequential event in military history. Less than a year later, the war in Europe was over.

In the Montague Center of my youth Moseley was known as "The

Colonel," a dignified and taciturn man more spoken about, than with. His wife Mary and friends called him "Van." I called him "Sir."

During two years of training, his 1,500 soldiers came to call him "Old Moe," a nickname likely born more from fear than affection. He certainly was "Old," nearly twenty years older than most of his men, and ten years senior to most of the other regimental commanders.

After the war, his executive officer said of him: "Moseley was a superb, tough trainer. He accepted no excuses. He could strike terror into the heart of God. He wasn't popular, but he gave the outfit a damned fine discipline. All you had to do was whisper and the men

see **D-DAY** page A6

MEMORIAL

The End of an Era at the Transfer Station

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – Many local residents remember Ray Quinones, Jr., who supervised the town



PHOTO COURTESY TINA WICKLINE

Raymond Quinones, Jr.

transfer station on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. The transfer station is one of those unexpected community meeting places "where everybody knows your name," as they say. Quinones was at the center of it all. His daughter, Tina Wickline, says people use to bring him eggs, muffins, and coffee.

At one point, according to Wickline, he had accumulated so much coffee that he had to give some of it away.

Ray Quinones passed away on May 3 at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield of a lung condition that had all the earmarks of COVID-19 – particularly an inability to absorb oxygen. But he twice tested negative for the disease, and his death certificate lists two other lung conditions, one of them chronic, as the official causes of death.

Quinones's daughter and his son, Rick Kelley, are not so sure. Kelley, who sells medical equipment and coaches soccer in Connecticut, says that the understanding of the disease is "so fluid" that the hospitals "don't even know what they don't know." This was not intended as a criticism, he told the Reporter, but as a reflection of the uncertainties of our time.

Quinones actually entered the Baystate hospital system twice, the first time just before St. Patrick's Day in

see **MEMORIAL** page A8

Locals Join Police Protests With Vigils, Motorcade

By ISABEL KOYAMA

GREENFIELD – About one hundred people showed up on the Greenfield town common last Saturday for a rally in response to the widely-circulated videotaped killing of George Floyd, a black man, by four Minneapolis police officers on May 25. At the time of Saturday's rally, three of the four officers had not yet faced charges, spurring protests and some riots in cities and towns around the United States.

The local protestors were mostly white, wearing face masks and carrying signs. Many came by way of a motorcade, which began in Erving, curled through suburban neighborhoods and down Avenue A in Turners Falls, and ended in downtown Greenfield.

The long line of cars drove slowly, honking and flashing signs calling for "Justice for Floyd" and an end to police brutality, racism, and

see **PROTESTS** page A4



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Protest organizer George-Moonlight Davis addressed the crowd on Saturday.

white neutrality. When the motorcade arrived in Greenfield, demonstrators were there to greet them at the four-corner intersection at Main Street and Bank Row. Some of them had been protesting adjacent to the

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Town Supports Outdoor Dining During "Phase Two"

By JEFF SINGLETON

On Monday the Montague selectboard, in a joint meeting with the town's health board, issued an official proclamation "in support of dining and retail business recovery," replete with four introductory "whereas" clauses recounting recent state and local emergency measures in response to the COVID pandemic. The board then approved a license for the use of public property for the Rendezvous bar and restaurant, which includes a modification of the business's liquor licenses for outdoor service in a portion of the town parking lot on Third Street.

The board's action followed several weeks of discussion in response to a request from the Voo, as it is sometimes called, to use the south side of the parking lot for outdoor seating. The town initially responded by attempting to develop a "comprehensive plan" for

the use of outdoor sidewalk space for other businesses in downtown Turners Falls.

After much discussion, and an attempt to poll uncertain business owners about their needs, the board approved a lengthy application that can be used by others in the downtown area.

In describing the application process, town administrator Steve Ellis said he proposed to waive all town fees. "This is an expensive proposition," he told the board. "What we don't want to do is create any unnecessary economic burdens along the way..."

The Rendezvous had completed a version of this form by the Monday night meeting and submitted a map of the proposed space, with three tables seating six customers and two seating two each. There will also be a service area near the restaurant patio. These are all located in currently existing parking

see **MONTAGUE** page A6

Feeding the Fledglings



BILL DEAN PHOTO

A bald eagle, holding a snack, at Barton Cove on May 22.

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – "When I put my canoe in over at the boat launch, the first thing I'm listening for is the fledglings begging for food," says Bill Dean, who has been photographing bald eagles throughout the region for 13 years, and says Barton Cove is his favorite place to spot them.

"Most of them hatch around the first week of April, and it's at around twelve weeks that they fly," Dean explains. "They need to consume a lot of food. Right around now, they're

starting to flap their wings and get their strength in their muscles."

The retired Monson man, who often wakes up at 3 a.m. and drives to nesting sites in western Massachusetts and southern Vermont and New Hampshire to document the birds, shares his galleries with the public at cutloosewildlife.com.

"I love doing this for people," he says. "I love nature, and it just grabbed a hold of me."

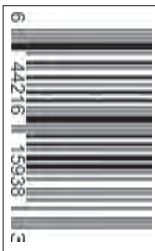
Bald eagles have been nesting on the islands at Barton Cove since 1989, early in a state program to

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The Montague Reporter

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Disorder

After three nights of intense protest, last week, former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin was arrested and charged with third-degree murder for the death of George Floyd, but the fuse was lit, and over the weekend the rebellion spread to thousands of American cities and towns.

The president blames anti-fascist activists for the unrest, and has promised to classify them as terrorists. Others see in the unrest the handiwork of shadowy foreign agents, or even of Nazis, or a conspiracy by the forces of law and order to provoke rioting in order to justify a crackdown.

All of these theories have a trace of merit, but they are all overblown. Millions of Americans – possibly tens of millions – have taken to the streets this week, in all 50 states. That’s millions of videocameras, millions of different perspectives on a sometimes orderly, sometimes chaotic, sometimes pacific, sometimes violent cascade of confrontation throughout the country.

Public opinion is polarized, but it tends toward support for the protestors and their cause. An Emerson College poll found that 87% of respondents agreed that criminal charges should be brought against Chauvin, with 69% backing first- or second-degree murder charges.

(On Wednesday, prosecutors increased his charge from third- to second-degree murder, and arrested the other three former police on the scene and charged them with aiding and abetting him.)

A Morning Consult survey shows that 54% of the country – including 39% of Republicans – support the protest. Back to the Emerson poll, though, only 16% “approve of looting and acts of destroying property as means of protest” of Floyd’s death.

An early framing portrayed a dynamic of peaceful black protestors duped by white outsiders into vandalism, arson, and fighting with the police, but the truth has been more complicated. Within a largely spontaneous and significantly multiracial rebellion, there have been countless specific disputes over whether to try to escalate or deescalate confrontation.

Joined in the cause of defending black lives, white protestors should defer to the leadership of their black counterparts when it comes to the question of confrontation and risk. By about the sixth day of protests, nearly everyone seemed to have gotten that memo. There is a slowly emerging tactical unity around active nonviolence on the side of pro-

testors, though some are rioting, as are some police departments.

The president and his close supporters, on the other hand, saw a political opportunity in the outside-agitator story, transforming it into a John Birch Society-style covert ops fever dream.

For seven hours on Tuesday, a splash headline across the *Fox News* website announce that arrests were ahead for “high-ranking Antifa members.”

“Agitators behind the rioting that has paralyzed the country over the past week want to move into more suburban areas, a government intelligence source has told *Fox News*,” the article began. “Much of the worry stems from the notion that many in well-armed, suburban, and rural neighborhoods won’t hesitate to exercise their Second Amendment rights and elevated anxieties could lead to heavy confrontation.”

For anyone still catching up, “antifa” is a Europhile shorthand for “anti-fascist”; a comparison might be “high-ranking Patriot members.”

Trump has invoked the Insurrection Act of 1807, which allows him to deploy the US military domestically, though no state has accepted them, so they are only occupying the District of Columbia thus far. The Drug Enforcement Agency has been empowered to “conduct covert surveillance” on protestors, and Customs and Border Protection has also been repurposed to act anywhere; its drones have been circling over Minneapolis. 23 states have activated the National Guard.

Amid all this, at least 16 people have lost their lives. Black retired police captain David Dorn was shot and killed in St. Louis after he tried to stop looters from taking used TVs from a pawn shop on Tuesday. On the same day, police in Vallejo, California shot 22-year-old Sean Monterrosa five times while he was on his knees with his hands in the air; they apparently mistook a hammer in his waistband for a pistol.

Each new terrible and unjust tragedy like these is broadcast to millions, inspires new rage, and is used to justify fresh violence. Both sides in this conflict must exercise restraint for the streets to cool off.

Instead, the solution from the top is a fantasy of overwhelming force.

What can break this stalemate? Action by state governments to address protestors’ demands? A fresh outbreak of COVID-19 across the country? A wave of workplace strikes? Hurricanes and tornados?

We can no longer deny that our society is changing. Our job now is to agree on what it should become.

New Gill Principal Starts July 1

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – Outgoing superintendent of schools Michael Sullivan remarked last week to the regional school committee that the group tasked with hiring a replacement for Gill Elementary School principal Conor Driscoll was approaching a final decision.

Last Thursday, the administration announced that Lisa Desjarlais, who has served for the last 10 years as principal at Pelham Elementary School, was under contract for the position.

“I’m so excited,” Desjarlais told the *Reporter* this week. “The interview committee and the Gill committee have been incredibly welcoming, and I feel really honored that they want me to join their staff.”


Desjarlais is a native and current resident of South Hadley, where she now lives in a four-generation household. After work in mental health, she spent 16 years as a fourth-grade teacher, and served as an assistant principal in Amherst before taking the Pelham role in 2010.

“I love small schools,” she said. “I love the bigger connection to nature – I have a lot of animals. There’s something about that community that just drew me... Something that I loved in my tenure at Pelham was that close-knit feel, and really getting to know families and children.”

Desjarlais added that she was interested in the project-based learning model in use at the Gill school.


She will start on July 1, the same day as incoming Gill-Montague superintendent Brian Beck. “I’m glad to be joining him at this time where he’s starting on something new, too,” she said.

Desjarlais added that “despite the virtual-distance world we live in now,” she hoped to find a way to set up meet-and-greet events for district families in the coming months.



Ms. Desjarlais

Letter to the Editors



Open Letter to the State Secretary of Transportation

Dear Secretary Pollack:

This letter is not starting out the way I expected. Until I opened today’s edition of the *Greenfield Recorder*, my plan was to freshen up last year’s letter and send it off via email. But then I read the Page 1 above-the-fold headline: “Body of missing woman found in Connecticut River.” While the cause of death remains under investigation, the circumstances leading up to the discovery of her body on Sunday all point to another tragic and preventable suicide from the Route 2 French King Bridge spanning the Connecticut River between Gill and Erving.

The most recent victim is a 34-year-old woman from Colrain with a history of mental health issues. She was suicidal, and on April 7, the last day she was seen alive, had used Google to research the French King Bridge. Her name was Caroline “Morgan” Bren.

I wish I could list the name of each and every person who has died jumping from this bridge. Every name had family members and loved ones, and a life story cut short. Names and stories bring the touching sense of humanity to the bigger issues that we, as public officials, wrestle with every day. I would list those names to reinforce that this letter is about more than steel and concrete, more than dollars and cents. This is life and death.

The French King Bridge has been the scene of many suicides and attempted suicides over the years. Our Police Chief, in fact, has responded to at least 20 suicide calls, and countless attempts and threats. One of our Selectboard members has found two bodies in the Connecticut River where it passes by his Gill home.

In 2018, after many years of lobbying, pressuring, and (finally) collaborating, a group of state legislators, MassDOT representatives, and town officials completed a study on strategies for addressing this issue. The MassDOT put forward a preferred solution, a curved picket barrier extension behind the existing railing, and our Town supports this solution.

Using other sources of funding, the MassDOT District 2 has started some of the design and engineering for the barriers. However, the work is slow and the timeline is uncertain, largely because there is no guarantee of construction funds since the project is not included in the CIP. The safety and security of this bridge is the most important transportation priority for our town.

The Gill Selectboard requests the project to install suicide prevention barriers be included in the Capital Investment Plan (CIP) currently out for public comment.

During their discussion of this letter at their meeting on May 26, the Selectboard pointed out this is a very tense and uncertain time in our world. Economic depression, mental depression, COVID fatigue, and other mental health issues are on the rise. Vehicular traffic, however, declined tremendously during the shutdown and stay-at-home order. While traffic-related infrastructure is still important, at this time a project involving suicide prevention barriers needs to be recognized, prioritized, and funded.

Earlier in this letter I mentioned names, loved ones, and life stories. I do have some names I can list – each and every member of Gill’s Police Department and Fire Department. These are our heroes who get called upon to go out to that bridge and talk someone off the rail, or get called to search the river for a body that may not be found for weeks, if ever. I could not do what they do. Constructing these barriers will not help those who have already been lost. But it will help those who are still here.

Gill Police Department Chief Christopher Redmond Sergeant Jason Bassett Officer Robert Hunter Officer William Kimball Officer Mark Ruddock Officer Nikol Schreiber Officer Mitchell Waldron Officer Alex Wiltz	Gill Fire Department Chief Gene Beaubien Deputy Chief Stuart Elliott Deputy Chief William Kimball Fire Engineer Aaron Budine Fire Engineer Steven Connell Fire Engineer Edward Curtis Fire Engineer Andrew Howell Fire Engineer Greg Parody Fire Engineer Mitchell Waldron	Fire Engineer Daniel Ware Firefighter William Borcy Firefighter Kane Kurtyka Firefighter Scott Nicholas Firefighter Kaeden Socquet Firefighter Jonathan Vega Firefighter Shane Wells Junior Firefighter Karissa Olson Junior Firefighter Jake Whitney
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We appreciate the opportunity to offer these comments, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. I can be reached at administrator@gillmass.org or (413) 863-9347.

Sincerely,

Ray Purington, Town Administrator
on behalf of the Gill Selectboard
John R. Ward, Chair; Randy Crochier; Greg Snedeker

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

FirstLight Power Company sent notice that their **facilities are re-opening for trail and open park use**, while picnicking, restrooms, and camping are still off limits. Trails and open spaces at Northfield Mountain, Riverview Park, and Barton Cove are open. There are still no kayak and canoe rentals, fish ladder viewing, or portage services. Visitors may not use trash receptacles; if you carry it in, carry it out.

The Arbor Day Foundation has come out with a **tree identification guide** you may get in the mail for the small donation of \$5, or use the online version for free at their website, www.arborday.org. The guide features hand-drawn full color botanical illustrations highlighting the characteristics of many tree species.

Send your name, address, and payment to What Tree Is That?, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410.

Boston Public Library has an online exhibit by the Leventhal Map Center called “Bending Lines,” which aims to help visitors up their data literacy skills. The exhibit shows **how maps can manipulate** the realities they represent in the interest of advertising, land speculation, wartime propaganda, and other agendas.

Check out some of these slanted images, and explore how maps and other visual data have historically been used to manipulate, whether to push commercial advertising, land speculation, wartime propaganda, or a perspective on the news. The exhibit also offers helpful guidance that a responsible map reader can use to figure out the trustworthiness of whatever they’re examining. Some maps are clearly gross distortions, but every map is an edited version of reality. Learn more at www.leventhalmap.org.

Also see an online exhibit of **student and faculty work from Greenfield Community College** called “Within, Without – Living the Remote Life.” These pieces are inspired from the pandemic. As usual, you will be amazed at the quality of the work coming from the college’s art program. See www.gcc.mass.edu/within-without.

Another great online show to check out is “**Pushing the Envelope: Art in the Time of Pandemic**” at Holyoke’s PULP Gallery. A call for entries was put out asking for envelopes with art on them mailed in to the gallery, and they received 400 pieces from 34 states plus other countries. All work is exhibited online and for sale for \$70, with all proceeds going to the artists. See www.pulpholyoke.com.

Don’t forget, this month is the time of the **Northfield Authors and Artists festival**, held online for its first year and taking place on all four weekends in June. Every Saturday between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. you will find a different roster of readers and activities, many presented on Zoom. Check out the schedule at www.authorsandartistsfestival-wordpress.com.

The LAVA Center in Greenfield is continuing their **online book discussion** series on Monday, June 15 at 7 p.m. with a focus on the novel *Portrait in Sepia* by Isabel Allende. Anyone who would like to join the Book Club discussion can email info@localaccess.org and request an invitation to the Zoom meeting. Alternately, folks can message LAVA directly from the Facebook event to request an invitation. Please request your invitation by 5 p.m. on the day of the event.

Silverthorne Theater Company will use online streaming to bring three new plays to the Valley and beyond this summer through the **2020 Theater Thursday Play Reading Series**, starting on Thursday, June 18. All three plays in this year’s series will be streamed free to Silverthorne’s Facebook page, and will feature live discussions with the playwrights following the readings.

The first in the series is Daniel Elihu Kramer’s *Pride@Prejudice*, an online re-imagining of the classic Jane Austen novel, directed by Chris Rohmann. The reading will be streamed at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 18, at no charge.

The re-imagined story has Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy falling in love all over again, this time fil-

tered through the world of the internet. Modern students in a FaceTime group discuss and build on this classic love story while acting it out, interjecting questions and opinions, quotes from movie versions, and even letters from Ms. Austen herself. They create a postmodern view of 19th century England using five actors playing 22 roles.

Following the reading, playwright Kramer will join the cast and director to talk about the play. He works nationally as a theater director and playwright, and as a film director. He is professor of theater and a member of the film and media studies program at Smith College.

The Cancer Connection has been holding their **Music and Movement @ Home** class via video conference for the past six weeks. Robin Diamond, MSN, created the class ten years ago with the goal of helping participants move at their own pace through aches and stiffness, stress and fatigue.

The class combines stretching, breathwork, balance and physical movement using different types of music. It is gentle exercise for people dealing with cancer and with stress, and the program has made a successful transition to being an online only service.

Typically, the Cancer Connection would offer in-person integrative therapies like reflexology, Reiki, and massage to new participants. To learn more, talk with the Connection befrienders about the class by calling (413) 586-1642 and leaving a message.

Got news? Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

OBITUARY

Carol Martha Gregory

1/23/1935 - 5/25/2020

Carol Martha (Pilling) Gregory died of cancer on Monday, May 25. “It’s my own damn fault,” she’d say, remembering the years of smoking. Her courage, feistiness, and humor in facing the disease never faltered.

She was born to Evelyn and John Pilling in Nassau City on Long Island on January 23, 1935, and grew up in Bloomfield, New Jersey. Following the two years she studied at Antioch College in Ohio, she worked for New Jersey Bell as a service rep, and Northwest Airlines in the Big Apple in reservations and ticketing.

In 1959, Carol married Kimon (Kim) Gregory in the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of New York City, and five years later, when he was transferred by CBS, they moved to North Virginia. There they lived for the next twenty-three years, and there Carol worked as a real estate agent, fulfilling a passion to poke about in other people’s homes, something most realtors will admit to enjoying.

Following Kim’s retirement from CBS in 1987, they moved to Erving, Massachusetts. Not content with the pokey kitchen in the 1820s Greek Revival house they had just purchased, Carol designed and had built a large kitchen with a restaurant six-burner stove where she could pursue her love of cooking. Her friends, having tasted her biscotti and pecan tassies, can attest to her skills as a baker and her generosity in sharing.

In Erving she became active in community organizations, almost immediately becoming involved in helping to prevent a major railroad from building over the town aquifer. She joined the Sunderland Women’s Club, the Erving Planning Board, the Erving Conservation Commission, the Erving Historical Commission, and the Friends of the Erving Public Library. More recently she joined the boards of the *Montague Reporter* and the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

As a young woman, Carol had played basket-



ball and left-handed golf, and was a killer badminton player. As she aged, however, back problems interfered with any sports she might have enjoyed. She taught herself to sew, and when her husband’s social obligations required her presence, she sewed her own elegant gowns. She also embroidered, knit, and cross-stitched. She sang alto in choirs, and enjoyed music, especially Ger-shwin and music of the ‘40s and ‘50s.

Her catholic tastes in reading, with the exception of those of the horror genre, encompassed many authors and styles, although her favorites were mysteries and police procedurals. She had the unusual skill of being able to read a good-sized book in one day, and come away with a perfect understanding of it, to the awe of her reading club pals.

Carol loved all animals. She could become

quite weepy remembering a golden retriever named Sonny who had brought her such joy, and had it been within her physical ability to walk a dog, nothing would have prevented her from having one right up until the end.

She was an Aquarian, and as such she had, by her own admission, quirky and sometimes amusing eccentricities. She had an extremely colorful vocabulary, quite awe-inspiring when she got on the subject of politics. She only needed four or five hours of sleep per night, and she was often awake when most of us were abed. She was, she said, a terrible procrastinator. If so, one can only guess that it was because she had so many interests that she was pulled in multiple directions simultaneously.

Carol became, over time, a news junkie, spending hours with Nicole Wallace and Rachel Maddow, swearing like a sailor at the perfidies in the White House, proud of her far-left leanings, never short of an opinion, always able to hit the nail right on the head.

Carol made an impression. She was the sort of person one never forgets.

Kim Gregory died in 2017, just shy of their 58th wedding anniversary. In 2019 Carol sold the house and moved to an apartment in Greenfield.

She was predeceased by her sister, Joan Howe, and is survived by three nephews and a niece: Bradley Howe and his wife Linda; Jeffrey Howe and his wife Sandy; Steven Howe; Katherine Howe and her husband Bradford; also, a number of great-nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank all the hospice nurses and home health aides, and all her very helpful friends who made it possible for her to remain in her apartment.

In lieu of flowers, her family suggests donations to Pioneer Valley Hospice & Palliative Care, Erving Public Library, or Dakin Humane Society.

Arrangements are under the direction of Casper Funeral Service of Boston. There will be a celebration of life for Carol later in the season when COVID-19 restrictions ease. Check casperfuneralservices.com in about a week for a place to leave condolences and remarks.



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PROTESTS from page A1

weekly farmer’s market since 9 a.m. Around noon, the motorcade’s main organizer, George-Moonlight Davis – who often goes by Moonlight – took the stage to speak.

“I don’t know how many of you are old enough to remember when Martin Luther King was assassinated in 1968. If you remember that, think about this: That was the very last time that we had a riot like we had this week,” said Davis. Bystanders and demonstrators, spaced about six feet apart, listened and cheered.

“What does that say about us as Americans and about this country?” he continued. “Why do we have to do this again?.... It’s time that we do something!”

Davis related his own experience as a young man in Philadelphia during the King assassination riots, and said he understands the anger felt by crowds in Minneapolis, which had continued to reverberate across the country even after the arrest of white officer Derek Chauvin the previous day.

“They thought, OK, three days of riots, and then they were going to be done,” he said. “No – last night, they were still angry. Last night they were still pissed off. Last night they were still saying, ‘I don’t have what I need to live.’”

Davis led the crowd in a chant: “I can’t breathe!” These words were among George Floyd’s last as he pleaded for his life, a haunting echo of Eric Garner, who pleaded for his own as he was suffocated to death by police in 2017 on Staten Island.

“Because this is so dear to my heart – because this is about who I am as well – it’s most urgent to drop everything and go after this,” Davis told the *Reporter* on Wednesday as he reflected on the killing of George Floyd and his own speech

on Saturday. “I am here at home now, doing what needs to be done to keep going, but you can bet your bottom dollar that I will not stop fighting.” Davis and Morningstar Chenven, his wife and fellow organizer, were involved in the movement against the Kinder Morgan natural gas pipeline in 2014.

Asked how local activists can keep up the momentum and solidarity, Davis responded, “There’s a way in which we can move forward. First of all, for you to volunteer to help in this cause, it means that you as an individual have to willingly give up some, if not all, of your rights. I think that’s the most genuine thing we can ever expect from each other.”

“My culture may be different than yours,” Davis continued, “but it’s important that as we go through these things, we remember that we can do this. And that’s what a lot of white people need to get: it’s not a cause, it’s a behavior.”

One local organization that turned out protestors in Greenfield last Saturday was Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution (FCCPR). In 2019, the group’s Greenfield chapter wrote a multi-pronged platform that includes a commitment to advocate for police training in de-escalation and implicit bias.

“We’ve acted against these issues in the past,” said FCCPR coordinating committee member David Cohen. “Going back four years ago, we organized demonstrations when a police officer was flying a Confederate flag [in his garage].” Cohen said that the officer backed down and shut his garage doors, but the group never knew whether he took down the flag or not.

Two years ago, Cohen said, FC-CPR also called for the removal of a Baystate Medical Center trustee



Saturday morning’s social-distancing motorcade convened in the parking lot at Renovator’s Supply in Ervingside.

who was disclosed to be involved in an anti-immigrant group that sent postcards against Greenfield becoming a “safe city.” In the end, the trustee resigned.

“White supremacists tend to be a little bit more closeted, but they exist,” acknowledged Cohen. “This is America. And with the election of Trump, racists have become much bolder.”

For now, Cohen said he sees FC-CPR’s role in the current movement against police brutality as publicizing calls for demonstrations, turning people out, and making sure they are safe.

“The energy is different,” commented Greenfield resident Gloria Matlock. “Everybody wants to be a part of [the movement], and to stand up for what’s wrong.”

Matlock is a music teacher and long-time member of the local volunteer organization Racial Justice Rising (RJR), a group that has been holding vigils in Greenfield honoring black people killed by police,

including George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery, whose deaths have all caused national outcry this year.

RJR is organizing another demonstration in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement this Saturday on Greenfield common.

Matlock said that as a black woman, she has felt angry and fearful over every single police killing that makes headlines, but in the case of George Floyd, there was no way the officers could explain away their murder, because of the way his helplessness was caught on camera.

“This guy was lying still. He was totally defenseless,” said Matlock. “If you put your knee on someone’s neck for nine minutes, something is going to happen.”

With regard to white allyship, Gloria added that white people have always been aware of the systemic issue of police brutality. “It’s not so much that they’re just now hearing it,” she said, “but they’re just now listening.”



ERVING from page A1

Franklin Regional Council of Governments assessment, the retiree fund assessment, and the health inspector are due in July, at the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Bryan Smith said that the town might need to request that these annual expenses be broken up into monthly payments, and might need to move money between budget line items. Until a town meeting is held, six bylaws proposed in the warrant will not be considered, and cannot become effective.

Based on these considerations, Jacob Smith asked whether it was “possible to consider an outdoor venue,” and hold the town meeting in July.

“How would we do it?” asked selectboard member Peter Sanders.

Bryan Smith answered that the town could rent tents, a public address system, outdoor lighting, and port-a-potties, and space voters at 6-foot distances.

Selectboard member William Bembury said that the open space should be roped off, and that any outdoor meeting should have “some public safety presence.”

The board asked Bryan Smith to work with the town accountant to determine which expenses could or could not be paid under the 1/12 formula, and report back on June 8. The board also asked him to get information and price quotes for the equipment needed for holding an outdoor meeting.

The warrant for the meeting, which includes a \$12 million FY’21 budget and several proposed bylaws, will be sent to every Erving household in the *Around Town* newsletter.

The proposed bylaws include the addition of a revolving fund for electric vehicle charging stations, reducing the quorum required for town meeting, establishing an electronic posting location, increasing several town clerk fees, amending the driveways and curb cuts bylaw, changing the name “board of selectmen” to “select board,” and changing the dates for the an-

nual town meeting and town election.

Micro-Enterprise Relief

Brian McHugh, director of community development for Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, proposed that the town “re-program” \$20,000 from its community development block grant revolving loan fund to a “micro-enterprise” relief fund for local businesses.

Micro-enterprises are for-profit businesses with fewer than five employees where the owner’s income is not greater than the median county income. McHugh said the goal of the loans would be to stabilize these businesses during the COVID-19 state of emergency. If the micro-enterprises comply with the terms of the loan for five months, the loans would be forgiven.

Town coordinator Bryan Smith is the contact person for information about the loans.

Fire Department

At the May 11 selectboard meeting, Erving fire chief Philip Wonkka presented descriptions of four new fire department positions: training officer, assistant training officer, public fire and life safety educator, and fire inspector.

Wonkka asked for an additional \$0.50 per hour for the department members who take on these responsibilities. At that time, the board asked Wonkka to make revisions to the job descriptions, and re-submit them to the board.

On Monday, the board approved the training officer and assistant training officer positions.

During the discussion, Bembury said that although fire and police officers both protect public safety, firefighters “are never going to have the same pay or benefits as police officers. I would love to see compensation equal to law enforcement.”

He said that one difference is in training, because local police officers all attend the state police academy. He recommended, “we ought to consider firefighters attending the fire academy.”

Wonkka replied that state legislation mandates that police officers attend the state academy, but there is no comparable legislation for firefighters. He predicted that if Erving sends its firefighters to the state academy, they would leave for better-paying jobs in other towns.

Wonkka and Sanders, the board’s fire department liaison, said they would discuss Bembury’s suggestion and provide recommendations at a future selectboard meeting.

Other Business

Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith reminded the board that the 2018 town meeting approved borrowing to finance a sewer project on Arch Street, in which a new line will be constructed between the Arch Street pump station and POTW#2. Smith identified three loan sources: a traditional bank loan, a low-interest loan from the federal Clean Water Trust Fund, or borrowing from the town’s stabilization fund.

The board members all supported applying for a loan from the Clean Water Trust Fund.

The board declared the consulting assessor position as a “special municipal employee” position – a necessary designation to resolve potential conflict of interest issues, given that the proposed consulting assessor is also a consultant for the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

At the end of the meeting, the board held two executive sessions: one to discuss strategy with respect to litigation between the town and the Northeast Police Benevolent Association, and a “strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining or contract negotiations with non-union personnel.”

Most summers, the board meets every other week instead of weekly. This summer the board decided to continue meeting weekly, but cancel meetings during weeks when there is limited business to conduct.



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WENDELL from page A1

learning the selectboard’s process, and learn where she will fit in on it.

“I do have a feeling that the budget, in terms of the financial crisis that we’re facing in terms of COVID, will be a big [issue] that we need to handle,” Budine said of the coming year, “and broadband is certainly a hot topic.”

Budine works for Union #28 as coordinator of the Community Network for Children program, and must file a disclosure with the state ethics commission, though she pointed out that her position is largely funded by grants, and that Heard, her predecessor, had also been employed by the school district.

“Funding for the schools is going to be a very big issue – the towns can only cover so much,” she said. “There’s going to have to be state and federal support to help mitigate the really severe impacts to the school budget.”

Budine said she felt the race had been respectful, and that she had seen support from both newer and older families. “There certainly were a lot of signs for both of us all around town,” she said. “I also respect that people may have reasons why they’d want to vote for the other candidate.”

Riebschlaeger declined to comment on the results.

Chris Queen, Miriam Warner, and Cliff Dornbusch ran successful write-in campaigns for planning board, school committee, and tree warden, respectively.

Voting took place in the town office building, and about 80 residents voted in person. At the direction of the selectboard, the town mailed ballot applications to all households, but households with multiple voters had to download or request additional applications.

Smith then had to verify registered voters who applied, mail them ballots, and then verify and count all the ballots again upon their submission.

“It was extraordinarily labor-intensive, and I hope I never have to do it again,” she told the *Reporter* with a laugh. “It was a small fortune on the stamps.”

Smith said the state issues postage-paid envelopes for absentee ballots, but that she ran out, and so the town paid out of pocket for the additional stamps. “That’s a bone of contention, where [clerks] are asking that the towns should not have to be responsible for the postage for early voting envelopes,” she said.

“The people who came in in person really handled themselves well,” Smith added, with about 80 voters following social distancing guidelines. Two booths were available at the town office, with entry and exit routes and proper spacing marked off with tape.

Smith expressed gratitude for poll workers – who staffed the station from noon to 7 p.m., one hour shorter than a normal election – and to Phil Delorey, who made plexiglass screens to shield the poll workers. “They’re beautiful, and they will serve as well in September and November,” she said.



NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

With Zero Known Cases, Wendell Begins to Reopen, But No Rush; Town Meeting Plan Still Uncertain

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard’s May 27 meeting was the last that member Christine Heard expects to attend as a board member. After 22 years on the board she is stepping down, moving on to other things, and the race for filling out the third year of her term is the most contested race in this year’s town election.

Because of COVID-19 concerns the vote was delayed a month to encourage mail-in voting, and Heard came to two more meetings than she anticipated when she announced her retirement.

It came as no surprise that the last call-in to the Zoom meeting was a thank you for her service on the selectboard. Had the meeting been held in person and not by Zoom, there might have been cake in the office, and the baker might have been Heard herself.

The agenda was long and varied. Its first item was a COVID-19 update. As of the meeting Wendell still had no reported cases, but is maintaining state-recommended policy of masks and having people keep their distance.

Fire chief Joe Cuneo said there has been an increase in calls, but not COVID-related, but instead illegal burns. He said that people are beginning to use their masks as a fashion statement, and he was considering closing the emergency operations center by June 1.

The fire, police, and highway departments have plenty of personal protective equipment, provided by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). Selectboard chair Dan Keller suggested their possible distribution at the annual town meeting if it is held outside.

Cuneo said he doubted that Kemsley Academy would be hosting Chinese students this summer, but that Mark Kemsley has offered its buildings for the annual town meeting. It has a gymnasium – with gymnasium acoustics – and classrooms that can hold overflow voters for remote participation.

Moderator Katie Nolan gave her first report from the annual town meeting planning committee. The

committee recommends an outdoor meeting, because open space keeps the virus load light. But there is no clear good option; an outdoor meeting would still require setting up an area with distances and spacing marked, and a potentially expensive microphone and sound system.

Some people may not want to attend, and others may not want to use a microphone that others have used, even one put in a new sleeve for each speaker.

One thought is to hold an abbreviated meeting, with a simple warrant that addresses only the town’s financial needs, and ask voters to stay away. That is contrary to the concept of democracy, and the whole idea of town meeting. Other concerns can be delayed for a later special town meeting, but there are some issues that citizens want to address now.

But finance committee chair Doug Tanner, also a member of the town meeting planning committee, said he expected COVID-19 infections to remain high for another year. He said the town meeting should be delayed until the proposed FY’21 budget is complete. The committee wants the budget to be distributed to voters ahead of the meeting so they have time to consider it in detail.

Tanner said state senator Jo Comerford expected passage of a bill that would allow towns to spend free cash and stabilization money without the normally-required 2/3 town meeting vote. The committee will continue to work on plans for the meeting.

Wendell will follow state guidelines for re-opening town buildings. There is little need for citizens to enter the office building after election day, and town clerk Gretchen Smith did what she could to have votes cast by mail ahead of election day.

Cuneo said he has six guidance documents from the state about opening town buildings safely, and town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said she saw no need to hurry that process. She wants to check those documents and follow their recommendations, including the need for informative posters for workers and visitors.

Keller agreed that there was no need to rush.

The library opens for curbside service June 1; people can call in orders and pick them up at 15-minute intervals. Board of health chair Barbara Craddock agreed with state guidelines that say no tag sales except online, with curbside pickup.

Bowens Pond Dam

Aldrich said it looks like the state is going full speed ahead to remove the dam that is creating Bowens Pond. She received a 200-page document prepared by consulting firm GZA GeoEnvironmental for property owner Tom Robinson, including maps and pictures. GZA recommended waiving the mandatory environmental impact report.

Citizen Michael Idoine, calling in, said the public has until June 19 to make any comments.

Heard said the town should not support waiving the environmental impact report, and Keller agreed. The selectboard asked Aldrich to write a letter opposing the waiver for board members to sign.

Cuneo said that Robinson “is working to make [breaching the dam] happen,” and has pledged assistance in relocating the dry hydrant associated with the pond. It is the most central of the three in Wendell, the only dry hydrant with a paved pad off the road, which allows trucks to fill without blocking traffic, and keeps water out of travel lanes, where in winter it will form ice and surprise unsuspecting drivers for days after a fire.

He said Robinson has located two other potential dry hydrant sites south of the pond, and added that an adequate site needs to be large enough, and have a 1,000-gallon-per-minute fill rate.

Idoine said he thought the new sites being considered are on his property.

Adam Porter and Beth Jacobs have property abutting Bowens Pond, and have said that the result of dam removal will create a much smaller pond, and will invite invasive plants, especially glossy buckthorn.

Marijuana Agreement

Board members voted to approve a policy for the process for

considering proposals for marijuana facilities.

Applicants are responsible for hosting a forum for community input, and informing residents of that forum, including an ad in the *Greenfield Recorder*. A citizen called in and suggested an advertisement in the *Montague Reporter* also, which the board agreed to. Heard suggested a postcard mailed to every household.

The marijuana facility proponent must put \$2,500 in an escrow account to cover a legal review.

The town assessors have suggested that they pay the town 3% of gross revenue instead of the 1.75% that the current applicant, Appleguy Flowers LLC, offered in a draft host agreement sent to the town.

Other Business

The selectboard approved guidelines for installing the internet connections inside private homes.

Treasurer Carolyn Manley was allowed to make a change in the personnel policy wording to keep the definition of part-time and benefited employees consistent through the entire document.

Board members approved allowing the state to install gates on either end of Thompson Road, with keys to allow fire department, police, and residents to reach places beyond the gate. Cuneo said there is a problem spot, where fires have been set again and again.

Aldrich said no essays came in for the contest to win a campership to Mass Audubon’s Wildwood camp. The camp is not running this summer.

She also brought up retirement of Wendell’s longtime animal control officer, Maggie Houghton. No town resident has come forward to fill the position, so Wendell will probably have to hire an outside person, which will cost much more than Houghton has been getting.

Aldrich said the town newsletter will be late this quarter, and that she will accept items for publication as late as June 15.

The selectboard is sending letters in support of voting by mail for both the primary elections and the November national elections.

MONTAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act, MGL Ch. 131, §40, the Montague Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 11, 2020 to consider **Notice of Intent #2020-01 filed by Town of Montague for the replacement of the bridge on Chestnut Hill Loop Road, affecting a perennial stream and associated resource areas.** The work will occur in the municipal right-of way associated with the roadway.

Due to the Covid emergency, the hearing will be held virtually, via Zoom. Meeting access information and project application is available at www.montague-ma.gov or by calling the Planning Department at (413) 863-3200 x 112.

WENDELL COMMUNITY OUTREACH MEETING


Notice is hereby given that a Community Outreach Meeting for a proposed Marijuana Establishment is scheduled for Friday, June 19 at 6 pm and in light of COVID-19, will be held virtually as follows:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81039235055>
Meeting ID: 810 3923 5055
or Via Dial-in: (646) 558 8656 and entering the Meeting ID

The proposed Marijuana Cultivation Establishment is anticipated to be located at **Lot 3, West Street, Wendell, MA.** There will be an opportunity for the public to ask questions.

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D-DAY from page A1
came on the run.”

To a small town kid he was one of the more interesting people I knew. He grew up on Army posts and attended West Point as did his father, who was a general. I learned that he had jumped with the 101st Airborne Division on D-Day, but he didn’t care to talk about it. Also, it was said that aspects of the John Wayne character in the 1962 D-Day film *The Longest Day* were based on him.

What is considered to be the most well-known D-Day photograph is of General Dwight Eisenhower talking with the Colonel’s men as they prepared to depart for France. Shortly after midnight, Colonel Moseley was the first man out of the C-47 which led the main

airborne assault. It’s hard to imagine the courage it took for those soldiers to jump into a night sky filled with anti-aircraft fire and crashing airplanes. At 37, I’m sure the Colonel no longer possessed that sense of immortality enjoyed by young men. He did, however, possess knowledge of the plan, which anticipated 80% casualties.

That very airplane, named “That’s All Brother,” survived the war, and a long civilian career. Restored by the Commemorative Air Force, it returned to Normandy in 2019 on the 75th anniversary of D-Day. Part of a fleet of restored aircraft, it once again dropped parachutists over France. The role of this aircraft and its troops is recognized at a Normandy museum where the Colonel’s jumpsuit, helmet, and

Purple Heart medal are on display. Hundreds of paratroopers became casualties almost immediately. Some did not survive the flight, let alone the drop. Many were injured, including the Colonel, who suffered a compound leg fracture. Undaunted and refusing pain medication, he had his men haul him around in a hand cart – John Wayne did this in *The Longest Day* – refusing to relinquish command until directly ordered by his commander on June 9.

It must have been a terrible disappointment after two years of training to lose his command after just a few days. Perhaps it was some consolation that his regiment went on to distinguish itself in the campaign. I expect his later silence was in part out of respect for the over

200 men killed and 600 wounded in the first 30 days of the campaign. After months of convalescence, he was stateside again, commanding a parachute training regiment. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Legion of Merit.

Growing up I didn’t exchange much more than polite greetings with Col. Moseley. That changed in 1971 upon returning home on my first leave from the Army. I’ll never forget sitting at the Community Store lunch counter when he came in and proprietor Lee Lund pointed me out as having just gotten home from basic training. A rare moment of redemption. From just another useless teenaged boy (guilty) I had been transformed into a respectable young man.

With my newfound appreciation for rank, I stood (almost at attention) and addressed him as “Colonel.” He welcomed me home, thanked me for serving, and asked about my training and army life. I’ve always thought his last question came directly from an old soldier: “Tell me, do they still do the bugle calls?”

When I next saw him, after my short military career had ended, I finally screwed up my courage and asked him about what D-Day was like. He simply said “I was injured on the jump,” and politely changed the subject. Humility.

Before retiring from the Army, Moseley attended the Naval War College. Although the record is understandably sparse, after graduation he left the Army and was with the CIA for several years. In the 1930s he had been posted to China, and had valuable expertise and contacts in Asia. This led to service during the Korean war in General MacArthur’s Far East Command, and with the Korean War Armistice Commission.

In the mid-1950s he returned to private life in Vermont and served as Norwich University Commandant of Cadets. Having taught English at



Head shot of Colonel Moseley. (Photo courtesy of the 101st Airborne Division.)

West Point prior to the war, in 1959 he returned to teaching on the faculty of the Burnham School, which later became the Stoneleigh-Burnham School in Greenfield. His English and history students said he had great appreciation for the language, and a deep and abiding love of history.

The Colonel, born in 1905 at Fort Sam in Houston, Texas, had two brothers. His younger brother Francis was recognized for important wartime service with the Army in scientific and technical roles. After the war, he founded a high-tech company in his California garage which was purchased by Hewlett-Packard Corp.

His much younger stepbrother, James, had a long career as a prominent UFO researcher, writer, and speaker.

Colonel Moseley died of a heart attack on December 6, 1976. Montague Center was his final and longest-term home. Instead of Arlington, he was laid to rest in the Old South Cemetery with full military honors. A plain GI headstone marks the location.

Brad Councilman now lives in Hinsdale, New Hampshire.



General Dwight D. Eisenhower gives the order of the day, “Full victory – nothing else” to paratroopers of Col. Moseley’s 101st Airborne, readying for the D-Day assault. (US Army photograph in the Library of Congress, Number SC 194399.)

MONTAGUE from page A1

spaces adjacent to the restaurant, including one handicapped space, which will need to be moved by the town.

The space conforms to the current state regulations for social distancing, including six feet between seated tables and a “high-traffic lane” for customers and servers. The six-foot social distancing requirement does not apply to customers seated at the tables themselves.

The board approved the Rendezvous’s application, believing that the liquor license component would need to be sent on to the state Alcohol Beverage Control Commission for approval. “One could imagine that their office is about to be overwhelmed,” said Ellis.

But on Tuesday, town officials received a press release from the governor’s office effectively eliminating that requirement.

According to an amended executive order, designed to provide “improved opportunities for outdoor table service,” a local licensing authority may now “issue an amended [liquor] license to existing license holders without further review or approval by the ABCC,” although the town must notify the state commission of any new license. The executive order also states that the licenses will revert to their original status on November 1, or the date when the order is rescinded if sooner.

The executive order appears to eliminate the need for a bill, currently before the legislature, that would streamline the state approval process for extensions of beer and wine licenses for outdoor seating. At the Monday meeting the Selectboard had endorsed that bill, with the caveat that it should apply to all-liquor licenses as well.

The board’s action followed the lengthy

guidelines, issued by Governor Baker earlier in the day, for businesses and recreational facilities allowed under “Phase Two” of the state’s reopening plan. Baker said he would “monitor data between June 1 and June 6” concerning the virus’s transmission, and then make an announcement of the date of beginning the second phase. During Phase Two, only outdoor seating will be allowed for restaurants.

Rendezvous co-owner Chris Janke told the Reporter that these were “tough restrictions,” but he did not criticize state and local policies, which he called “semi-permanent” until a vaccine is developed. He said the “pressure to reopen” and generate revenue, despite having to create a new business model, comes from fixed costs like mortgage payments, other loans, utilities, and insurance.

Skating Obstacles

While the two town boards made significant progress in resolving the outdoor restaurant seating problem, they continued to struggle with policies to address the use of the town skate park at Unity Park. The park has been closed for six weeks, but parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz said that when he returned from the Memorial Day holiday the previous week, all fences and signs around the park had been removed, “not by myself.”

“The users are starting to get very restless,” he said. “It really has become a battle of the wills.”

Dobosz said he had spoken to a group called the Friends of the Skate Park, and “virtually all” agreed the skate park should be closed until Phase Two starts, “which hopefully is this coming Monday.” He recommended opening the park in Phase Two,

pending direction from the governor.

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz said the town would still need to establish guidelines for the park even if it reopened during Phase Two. “I would be reluctant to vote on anything tonight without seeing a plan,” he said.

Selectboard member Chris Boutwell questioned the town’s ability to enforce social distancing in the skate park.

Health director Dan Wasiuk said he favored opening the park, but acknowledged that it could be difficult to enforce social distancing requirements. “If we have to inundate the public with information, let’s do it,” he said.

The board directed Dobosz to develop an “opening plan” for the skate park.

Reopening Notes

Ellis reported on discussions he had been having with other town officials about the partial opening of town buildings in the coming weeks. He noted that the police and fire departments, due to the essential nature of their services, had concerns about opening the public safety complex to “large volumes of traffic.”

Access to town hall on Avenue A, Ellis said, would probably be restricted to two periods per day by appointment or by walk-in, “which may mean you will be waiting.” There will probably be a single point of entry, he said, which may be the basement door from the back parking lot.

Ellis then reviewed a “COVID supply purchasing program” being developed by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG). He said the FRCOG was “very adept” at group purchasing for towns in the county, and would be focusing on “various hygiene products,” such as sanitary wipes and masks.

Town planner Walter Ramsey reported on a potential application for federal COVID-related CARES Act funds that can be used to supplement the regional small business “micro-enterprise” loan program. He said Greenfield would be the “lead town” on the grant, but asked the selectboard to endorse Montague’s participation in the application, as well as an application by the town of Orange for an expansion of the Meals on Wheels program.

The board endorsed both applications.

Other Business

Ramsey also asked the board to endorse an application to the state Municipal Vulnerabilities Program, which funds projects designed to deal with the effects of global warming, to help address recurrent flooding on Montague City Road. He said if various grants funding the project are approved, the project would begin in the summer of 2021.

The board authorized the application.

At the request of Chelsea Little, superintendent of the water pollution control facility (WPCF), the board awarded the contract for the removal of the facility’s fuel oil tank and vault to Associated Building Wreckers of Springfield.

The board also voted to accept the resignation of chief operator Kevin Boissonnault, who will be moving on to supervise the water treatment plant in Ashfield. Little called this a “good pre-retirement job.”

The board then voted to begin the hiring process for a new chief operator, as well as a part-time administrative assistant for the WPCF.

The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be on June 8.



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EAGLES from page A1

restore the endangered species to the wild.

According to Marion Larson, information and education chief at the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife), the program began in the Quabbin just a few years earlier as scientists learned from falconers, in a trial-and-error process, how to “hack” chicks raised in captivity so that they would imprint on a new territory.

“People who hunt with birds of prey were helpful in providing advice,” Larson says. “We went to great lengths to set up the situation so that they couldn’t see people.”

Tracking Success

In 1989, the state counted four territorial pairs in the wild, of which two were successful in breeding. The population has grown steadily since that time: in 2007, 34 wildborn eagle chicks fledged; by last year that number had doubled to 68. Two babies will be born in a typical nest each year, though last year three hatched in a Barton Cove nest.

A new milestone was reached this spring. Among the nine new nests documented statewide was one in Barnstable, marking a return of the bald eagle to Cape Cod – the site of the last “historic” stand of the species back in 1905.

Generally, Larson says, Mass-Wildlife tries to band the chicks after they hatch. It is a perilous task: a climber must scale a tree and climb over the edge of the massive nest – typically eight or nine feet wide – and then capture the birds without scaring it into a premature attempt at flight. The climber puts each bird in a cloth bag and lowers it to banders on the ground.

The operation is made more difficult in a pandemic spring, as social distancing is tricky on such a team, so few fledglings are being banded this year. “We did band an eagle chick in the Barnstable nest, due to the historic nature of it,” Larson says. “Everybody was gloved and masked, protecting each other.”

The eagles are banded on each wrist – a state band on one, a silver US Fish and Wildlife band on the other – and released. The identifying tags are then entered in a shared national database known as the Bird Banding Laboratory. When photographers like Dean spot eagles in the wild, they are sometimes able to read the numbers and letters.

“I put a small camera behind my ‘scope and zoom in 50 times,” Dean says – a technique known as “digiscoping.” “If I identify a band I contact [MassWildlife], if it’s a Mass band. I also send the information out to the Bird Banding Lab.”

This data, Larson says, allows conservation biologists and other interested parties to track birds even as they travel long distances. “It’s not like they always stick around,” she says. “It takes five years for these eagles to be sexually mature, so they will be wandering about, here, there, and everywhere. A couple years ago, one we banded turned up down in the Florida area.”

The bald eagle almost became extinct due to human activity: habitat encroachment and toxic contamination of its food sources, particularly with the now-banned pesticide DDT. But its restoration has been a success story. Under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, it was reclassified from Endangered to Threatened in 2008, and earlier this year, to “Special Concern.” Larson predicts



Close-up: A young eagle, not yet fledged, peeks out through the trees from its Barton Cove nest.

the species will come off the list entirely within the coming decade.

Hunting for Food

The bald eagle’s majestic size, and its status as a national symbol, have made its restoration to the wild a well-supported goal.

“I think that people love eagles for a lot of reasons,” says Janel Nockelby, visitor services supervisor at the Great Falls Discovery Center. “So many people didn’t see them when they were growing up, and now they’re back, and people want to know about them.”

Nockleby says Bill Dean has been a recurring guest speaker at the Discovery Center, and visitors, members, and staff appreciate his “first-hand knowledge” of the local eagles.

Dean says he will not take money for his hobby, and that he loves sharing the knowledge.

“I’ll be out somewhere like the Quabbin,” Dean says, “and have my scope on an eagle, and I’ll show people, and they say ‘Thank you! I’ve never seen an eagle in the wild before!’”

Here in Turners Falls, the big birds have become a common sight, easy to spot with the naked eye.

“In past recent winters, there is a tree across the river on the hill in Greenfield, below the dam, that I call the Eagles’ Favorite Tree,” says Nockleby. “In December and January, they would often be perched there in the mornings, and we could see them from inside the Discovery Center, even without binoculars.”

This time of year, when shad and other anadromous fish are running up the Connecticut River to spawn, adult eagles can be seen every day, hunting the river for fish to feed their growing young.

That food source has been the subject of a parallel restoration program. The Turners Falls Fishway, where the public can view fish struggling to climb past the hydroelectric dam, is closed this year due to the pandemic, but FirstLight Power Resources spokesperson Carter Wall reports that “monitoring is going on as usual,” and counts have been in line with recent years.

“We hope we can open the fishway to the public next year,” says Wall.

According to Larson, the eagles will sometimes stalk anglers, and steal fish they have on the line. “Birds are not stupid,” she says. “The gulls are always following the lobster and fishing boats. Ice fishermen report that same kind of behavior – when they’re out on the

ice and eagles are watching, and birds will come down and grab one right off the ice!”

In the winter, she says, bald eagles will migrate south from Canada to escape the cold, hunting for food along the coast and in “the major river systems, where the water is still not frozen,” which can include the Connecticut River at times.

Public Education

The eagles and fish both feature in public wildlife education at the Great Falls Discovery Center, which has also been closed this spring. Nockelby says the Center will be reopening, but that the schedule has not yet been determined.

During regular operations, the eagles feature regularly in children’s programming, Nockelby says, and during her canal walk tours she describes their comeback, through both restoration efforts and a ban on chemicals like DDT. “It’s the story of how people can make a difference,” she explains, “if action is taken in time

Some years ago, a camera was also set up on a nest on the smaller island at Barton Cove, and Montague Community Television would broadcast it live. That nest fell down about a decade ago, Dean says, and now the eagles are nesting on the larger island. When they fledge, the young birds will still

often sit on the smaller island, begging for food from the adults.

There is a second nest up the river, closer to the Turners Falls Airport, but Dean says he has not been able to determine whether it is active this year. “Las year they had a baby in there,” he recounts.

Other bald eagle nests he visits are on an island just below Mount Sugarloaf, one at Harriman Reservoir in Wilmington, Vermont, and another in nearby Townshend, just west and northwest of Brattleboro. Dean has also posted photo albums this year from the Quabbin and Hinsdale, New Hampshire.

The online eagle galleries stretch back to 2009, and Dean’s site also includes educational materials, a reading list, and “interesting eagle stories,” as well as a link to his YouTube channel, where he has recently begun branching out to give video presentations about the eagle documentation project.

Dean, a reserved presence on video with a white handlebar mustache and an eagle tattoo on his neck, says his site is getting more traffic during the pandemic – as much as 2,000 hits in a given day – but he says he limits his online activity, and tries to keep a balance with nature.

“It’s amazing to watch these birds and have them fly right past you, and take pictures of them carrying fish to their nest,” the amateur photographer reflects. “How they interact with their nestlings and other birds, and how they protect the area.”

“They’re our national bird, they represent America, and they make me feel so proud,” he adds. “It’s so enjoyable!”

LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was May 20, 2010: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Gill Hit Hard By Last Week’s Storm

The severe thunderstorms that ravaged the area on Wednesday night last week did not spare the town of Gill. Most Gill roads were blocked with fallen or broken trees.

“Mountain Road, Main Road, West Gill Road, Ben Hale Road, Pisgah Mountain Road, River Road, Hoe Shop Road, and Bascom Hollow Road on the Greenfield side were all closed,” highway superintendent Mickey Laclaire said. “We’ve got all of them open now, but we’ll be cleaning up for the next two weeks. River Road and Mountain Road were hit the hardest.”

On Mountain Road, more than 50 tall pines were blown over in a wooded area off of Main Road, owned by the Dodge family. Five trees came down across power lines, knocking over a light pole with a transformer on top and blocking Mountain Road.

The power is back on, but the transformer is still sitting by the side of the road.

Many trees were uprooted and blown over, but others were snapped off 20 or 30 feet above the ground, apparently from micro-bursts that send the wind straight down, snapping trees high off the ground in the process. Winds up to 70 miles per hour were reported in Franklin County that night.

Biomass Opponents Gearing Up for Vote

Biomass opponents are urging Greenfield voters to the polls on Tuesday to decide on referenda which could block the sale of treated wastewater to Pioneer Renewable Energy for use as a cooling agent for PRE’s proposed 47-megawatt biomass plant, to be constructed in the Greenfield industrial park.

Though the Greenfield town council voted to approve the proposal to enter into a contract with the plant’s owner to sell the wastewater, Questions 1, 2 and 3 on the June 8 ballot could overturn that vote.

Pioneer recently withdrew its application for the Reclaimed Water Permit it had submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, citing “timing constraints” and concerns that delays in the application process would hinder progress in the plant’s planning.

Matt Wolfe, principal of Pioneer, said in a press release the plant would use “dry cooling,” with air driven by large fans to cool the steam from the turbine, rather than use the wastewater for coolant as originally planned.

Pioneer’s decision would seem to render the three voter-initiated questions irrelevant, but the Concerned Citizens of Franklin Coun-

ty, who oppose the biomass plant, continued their get-out-the-vote campaign this week in hopes of finalizing the issue and shutting down any possibility of Pioneer’s reconsideration of the matter.

Cut Off for War Funding Sought

“This isn’t about leaving the troops there without funding,” said Elliot Tarry. “This is to bring the troops home.”

A few days after the United States’ combined spending for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq climbed past the \$1 trillion mark, Tarry, a massage therapist from Montague Center, came before the Montague selectboard to explain the purpose of a petitioned article he initiated for the town meeting warrant for Saturday’s annual town meeting. If passed, the article would direct the selectboard to call on Massachusetts senators and Montague’s congressional representative to oppose any further troop increase in Afghanistan, and to cut off funding for the wars in the Middle East.

The article also calls for a public discussion to be held in Montague about the cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in terms of the availability of resources to fund education, transportation, security,

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Distribution Notes

No new cases of COVID-19 have been recorded in our official coverage towns during the last week, though there have been *two* in Greenfield. We are, cautiously, getting back to normal distribution during the next few weeks.

Thank you to all of our subscribers who have opted out of mailed delivery. We will continue to publish PDFs online for free through the end of June at *montaguereporter.org*. If you would like to continue to be able to access these digital files after that, watch for an announcement of a digital subscription option.

Thanks, similarly, to those who have opted to pick up their copies at a central location. We will operate these pickup spots for at least another week, but will restore most routes for home delivery by the end of the month.

We will return to all newsstands

by July. Here is where non-subscribers can currently pick up a copy: Food City, F.L. Roberts, and Scotty's in Turners Falls; Red Fire North, Rau's Sunoco, and the Village Store in Montague Center; the Leverett Village Co-op; the Wendell Country Store; Upinngil farmstand and the Spirit Shoppe in Gill; Dunkin' Donuts in Erving; Green Fields Market, Stop & Shop, and Foster's Supermarket in Greenfield.

Please renew your subscriptions! If renewal is a hardship, get in touch; we can offer a limited number of complementary subscriptions.

Our revenue has fallen off in recent weeks, and we would dearly like to remain in print, so if you are able, please consider donating – time or money – or supporting us through advertising. Most importantly, spread the word about our newspaper... And good luck out there!

MEMORIAL from page A1

March. He was released in April, and hoped to return to work at the transfer station soon. "He missed it," said Wickline. "He loved it that much."

But the breathing problems returned, and he was back at the hospital near the end of April. Doctors put him on a ventilator and, according to Wickline, "that was the beginning of the end." Wickline said she wished she had been better informed of the risks of the procedure used to treat her father. "I wish they had let him call me," she told the *Reporter*. "I never got to speak to him again."

Quinones was born in Puer-to Rico in 1947, and his parents moved to Cleveland, Ohio when he was a child. He went to trade school in that city and moved to Turners Falls, where his first wife grew up, in 1969 to raise their daughter. In 1971 he got a job at Judd Wire, where he would work for 42 years.

After retiring from Judd in 2013, he took a part-time job with

the Montague department of public works at the transfer station right next to his former employer on Sandy Lane.

"He did a great job," said DPW superintendent Tom Bergeron. "He made a lot of money for us there."

Wickline said her father was always tinkering with cars. He was such a good mechanic, she said, that he found fixing engines and transmissions – at least those built before they all became "computerized" – "boring." Father and daughter also went hunting and fishing together.

But Quinones's favorite sport was professional wrestling, at least during the golden age of the 1970s and early '80s. That was the era of André the Giant, Hulk Hogan, and of course the iconic manager, the Grand Wizard of Wrestling.

Wickline remembers that one of her father's favorites was a rather obscure bodybuilder named Paul Orndorff, better known as "Mr. Wonderful." "He had three or four TVs in the house, and taped the matches on VCRs," she told the *Reporter*.

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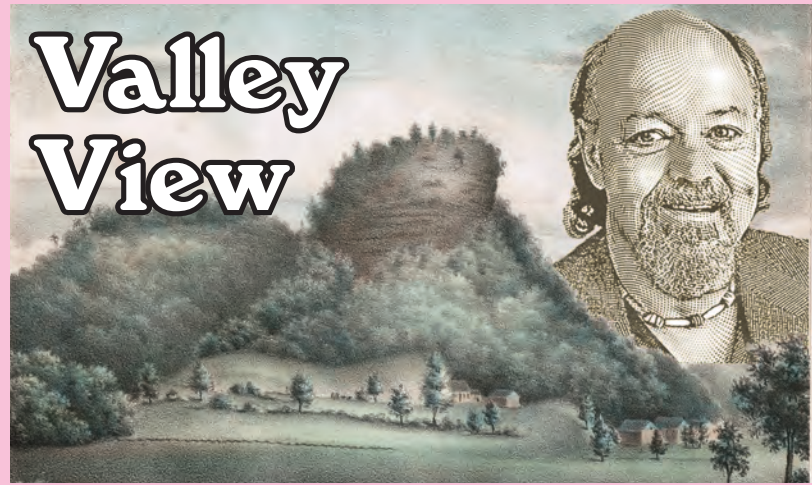
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FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER JUNE 4, 2020



By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – Canterbury came into existence as a place between places in early Hatfield-Deerfield lore, a perilous no man’s land where only the brave dared linger on high alert.

Thus the confusion about the specifics of this place, named in the early days of Hatfield, that ultimately became the northeast corner of Whately. No one is certain precisely why or when it was so named, or who named it. So, at this point, we’ll just have to live with the mystery at a time when only a few local historians are familiar with the obsolete name that went out of use long ago.

Fact is surveyors have never defined Canterbury, *per se*, by metes and bounds. No, it was just a name used by residents to identify a small section of town. Perhaps the acreage of this place grew over time as houses and outbuildings were added, trees and brush were cleared, and swamps were drained to create farmsteads. In fact, that seems most likely.

The prominent landscape feature looming over Canterbury is distinctive Mount Sugarloaf, poking abruptly from the northern perimeter of the fertile river meadows like a cathedral off the Connecticut’s west bank. First written as two words, Sugar Loaf, in Colonial documents, it was a common European name for mountains that looked from afar like the molded, conical lumps of sugar people bought in the marketplace.

From no perspective does Sugarloaf fit that profile better than from the meadows stretching out a mile south from its base. Anyone who’s traveled River Road from Hatfield to Whately is familiar with the spectacle. And the same can be said for anyone familiar with the more twisted shape from the second and third western terraces, the latter known as Hopewell Plain, traversed by Long Plain Road, first known to colonials as the Pocumtuck Path – that is the road from Hatfield to Pocumtuck, later Deerfield.

The name “Canterbury” is written on the first maps of Whately. Likewise, it’s mentioned by 19th-century town historians Josiah Howard Temple (1815-1893) and James Monroe Crafts (1817-1903), whose published town histories appeared in 1872 and 1899.

Though much of what Crafts wrote about the town’s earliest history dating back to its Hatfield days parroted Temple, he did make an important contribution with comprehensive genealogies of the town’s first families. For that, Connecticut Valley researchers are sincerely grateful.

Crafts set the groundwork, so to speak, which makes perfect sense given that he himself was from the earliest bolt of colonial Connecticut Valley cloth. Whately was his hometown. He was born and bred there, which cannot be said of the Framingham native Temple. Better educated than Crafts, Temple came to Whately as a Congregational minister, which doesn’t diminish his historical acumen one iota. Always thorough, careful, and accurate, Temple was the more astute antiquarian.

Contemporaneous historian George Sheldon (1818-1916), a prolific writer about all things Deerfield, never mentions Canterbury by name in his two-volume *History of Deerfield* (1896). He instead refers to the earliest settlers on both sides of the town line along Sugarloaf’s southern skirt as “Sugarloaf people.” He uses the description to identify residents petitioning for relief from Deerfield church and school taxes because their families attended both across the river in Sunderland.

In his extensive genealogies, Sheldon labels as Sugarloaf that Deerfield village hugging the Whately line between the mountain and the Connecticut River. Today lower River Road, Sheldon wanted to differentiate between it and the Bloody Brook and Mill River villages on the mountain’s west side. Perhaps Canterbury had gone out of use by 1890s, or had always been an in-town locative word used only by folks in Hatfield and Whately. For whatever reason, Sheldon never mentions it.

Purely in-town vernacular usage would explain why another respected 19th-century valley historian, Sylvester Judd (1789-1860), follows suit. Judd – author of the *History of Hadley* (1863) and compiler of the 56-volume *Judd Manuscripts* housed at Northampton’s Forbes Library – never mentions Canterbury, even though it would have been within Hadley’s earliest borders.

see **VALLEY VIEW** page B4

ArtBeat by Trish Crapo

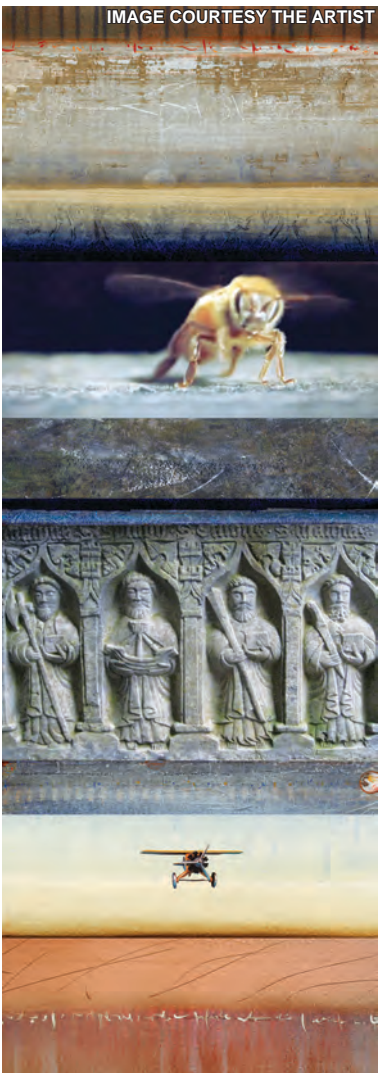
Visual Poems: Kate Whittaker at Salmon Falls Gallery

SHELBURNE FALLS – It’s hard to describe the sudden elation I felt at seeing Salmon Falls Gallery’s big purple “Yes!” flag fluttering in the breeze the other day, and the giddy rush as I crossed the threshold and stepped inside.

“Yes!” was right. Art! Lots of it. And not flattened, flickering images on a screen but “in person,” hanging on walls or standing on pedestals all around me. I’ve been in the gallery plenty of times over the 35 years it’s been in the old grain and feed building on Ashfield Street, but never had it felt so large, and so full.

I’d come for a special preview of Shelburne Falls artist Kate Whittaker’s new show, “Visual Poems,” up June 5 through August 2. The pieces – long composite images on paper, a few framed, most hung as scrolls – are “built,” as Whittaker calls it, using original acrylic paintings digitally layered with photographs taken on Whittaker’s many journeys traveling and working with her husband, geologist Tom Johnson. Most of their work has been in the Rift Valley Lakes of East Africa but they’ve also traveled to the eastern part of Kyrgyzstan, on the border of China, and worked in the American Great Lakes.

Whittaker, who studied geology at Smith College after completing



Untitled #6, from Whittaker’s new series of “visual poems.”

GCC’s art curriculum in the 1980s, and Johnson, who was long a professor at the University of Minnesota in Duluth, study the effects of climate change by analyzing core samples taken from soft lake bottoms. You can see the knowledge of this scientific work reflected in the stratified layers of Whittaker’s scrolls.

Stacked layers of color, texture, and imagery meld into one another – or don’t. Horizon lines blur, creating mirage-like effects. A yellow bi-plane hovers above the ground, taking off or landing. An ancient stone frieze from Ireland is overlaid with the faint colors of a pink peony. A glass case of books banned in China is wedged below a line of planes flying – almost menacingly – right toward you.

Muffled by masks, communicating with our eyes when need be, Whittaker and I talked about her work.

“One of the very first things I wondered,” I began, “was whether you also write poetry, since you call these visual poems?”

Whittaker laughed. “Well, I do, but not publicly. But I think a lot of people find that writing and art go well together, they just exercise different parts of one whole.” She made a large circular shape with her arms.

Whittaker said she sees the pieces see **ARTBEAT** page B4

Birth is Terminal: Part Two

By JEFFREY WEBSTER

TUCSON, AZ – In Part One, I wrote about how and why my wife Susan and I became hospice volunteers. I also briefly described what hospice care is all about. In Part Two I am relating some of our experiences.

The medical privacy act HIPAA prevents us from disclosing anything that might identify a patient. And it would be highly unethical. Anyway, it is unlikely any identities will be revealed since these interactions happened in a galaxy far, far away from Franklin County, Massachusetts.

Young and Old

Hospice is not only for older people. One of Sue’s first patients was a teenager. As soon as she turned 18 she told her parents that she didn’t want to live with her chronic condition any longer. Sue would stay with her on certain days while her parents worked.

They would sit on the bed with the patient’s very cute dog, eat popcorn, and watch reruns of the Brady Bunch. Each would take turns feed-



“Doctor Rick’s Hands,” a photograph by Dina Stander.

ing popcorn to the dog. Sue was asked to speak at her funeral.

Honoring a Veteran

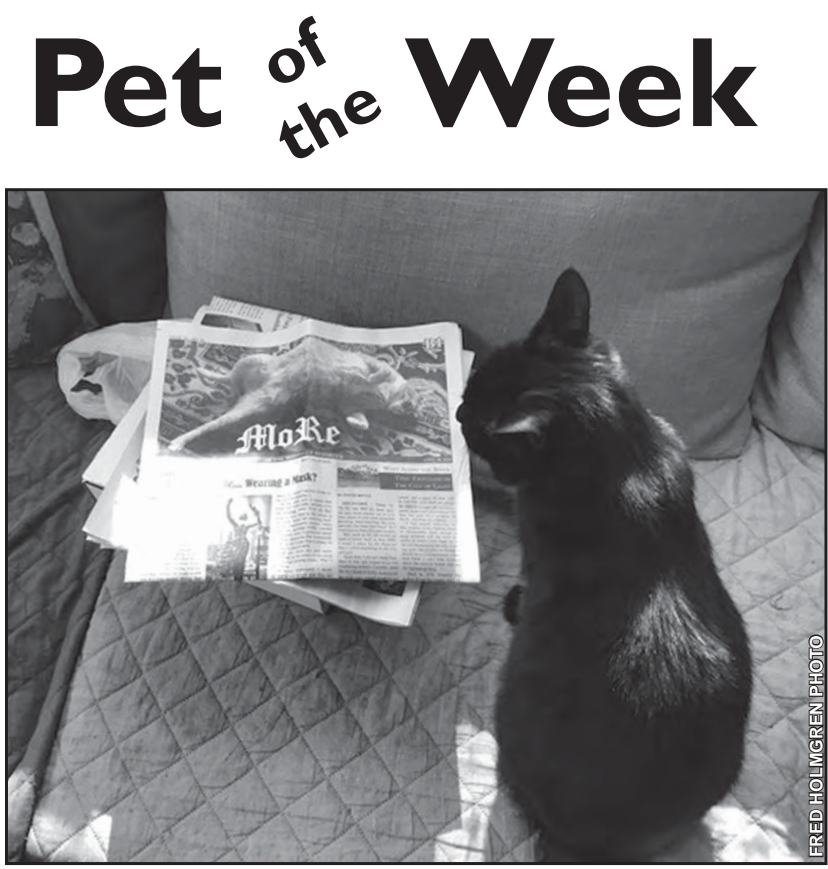
I conducted an in-home ceremony to honor a patient for his Vietnam-era military service. First, I read a summary of his service which I had researched and written. When I started to play his service anthem, he stood up and said, “Wait, stop!”

His family and the hospice staff who were present all reacted as if

he were having a health emergency. After a moment, he said, “Why are you doing this for me? No one has ever done anything like this for me.” There wasn’t a dry eye in the room.

Young at Heart

Another of Sue’s patients appeared at first to be a stern individual. He had already “fired” one hospice volunteer as being incompatible. Sue didn’t think her first visit see **HOSPICE** page B3



“VINNIE”

Loyal reader Fred Holmgren, of Fred Holmgren Piano Tuning & Repair fame, shared this photo with us last month: Vinnie checking out Beast, the lazy creature who graced the cover of our April 30 *MoRe* section.

Vinnie is not up for adoption, but if you’re looking to bring a cat into your home, we see four – Goldo, Lucy, Molly, and Titi – currently listed on the Dakin Humane So-

ciety website, all at the nonprofit’s Springfield location.

In response to COVID-19, animals at Dakin are currently available for adoption by appointment only. Please call (413) 781-4000, or see www.dakinhumane.org, for more information.



By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – How strange the times are now: in the news; in our current lives.

We attended my niece’s wedding virtually online since she lives out of state and we’re all aware of the recommended self-quarantines when traveling.

Our usual weeks’ vacation in Maine will be an unlikely event, as the governor has closed all of the state beaches, and thus the beach towns as well. We wait in hope that things will change by early August.

So far we have avoided the virus, but likely that’s because we go out only briefly, in masks and at low-incidence times for large groups. Frankly, it feels as if we have done nothing except stay home, with occasional trips out for groceries or other necessities. But life moves on. Ken’s brother-in-law has had a recurrence of his cancer; a family member has gone through a divorce; we have attended wakes and funerals.

THE GARDENER’S COMPANION

Virtual Unreality

We’re both a year older this spring. We’ve been together ten years and would have enjoyed a nice dinner out in celebration. Take-out meals are not the same. Instead, we have enjoyed special cuts of meat cooked over charcoal, and fish on the grill. Homemade cake for Ken; a hand-crafted lemon meringue pie for me. Not so bad!

So, what are we doing as we social distance at home? Well, we are reading more, spending much time gardening and tending the yard, which really is larger each year as we extend our plantings of flowers, small trees, and bushes.

One morning I looked out my bedroom window and saw two rabbits inside the fenced-in garden, rolling in the dirt like a dog after a bath. I shouted at them, and the older rabbit squeezed under the wooden gate, but the baby just ran around in circles until I went out and opened the gate for it. No harm done to the plants, and no revisiting of this event.

We also had a good-sized bear at some time one night. It up-ended the compost bin and pawed through the contents. It also pulled the bird feeder off its wire and thoroughly bent it removing the rest of the sunflower seed. Well, it was time to bring the feeder in anyway.

No wonder the cat sniffs the air

when she goes out in the morning and stays right outside the door unless one of us is outside as well. It does seem as if the wild things are closer than they used to be but, after all, we have spread into their spaces and they need somewhere to be as well.

Our land borders the bike path, and we are suddenly more in the public eye than we have been in the past. With schools closed, families are out walking and biking more; all good and healthy things, but we have what may be a selfish sense of violation of private space. We think then of the wild creatures, and how we have invaded their space. So what then is the difference? We have more people and less space to use. Thus, we have a lot to learn about how to share it.

Similarly we have less and less space in the world overall, and more and more people who need a piece of that space. It demands we learn to share better, to let those who need the freedom of our space come in as we share with them our bountiful blessings.

Greed may be one of the greatest sins; certainly one of the most egregious. Selfishness has no place in this world. Learning to share and meet the needs of everyone is what may save us, as a nation and as a world.

POLICY PLATFORMS

The Movement for Black Lives

By REPORTER STAFF

The wave of protests that has swept through thousands of American cities and towns over the past week has no formal leadership, and with a focus in the media on the tactics used by some protestors and the actions of some opportunists, it can be challenging to understand the goals envisioned by those gathering in the streets.

If any one organization can be identified with its general spirit, it is the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL), a coalition formed in 2015 following the Ferguson uprising and now comprised of over 150 groups.

Here are some excerpts from their policy platforms – the rest can be read at www.m4bl.org/policy-platforms.

• **We demand a world where those most impacted in our communities control the laws, institutions, and policies that are meant to serve us – from our schools to our local budgets, economies, police departments, and our land – while recognizing that the rights and histories of our Indigenous family must also be respected. This includes:**

Direct democratic community control of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, ensuring that communities most harmed by destructive policing have the power to hire and fire officers, determine disciplinary action, control budgets and policies, and subpoena relevant agency information;

An end to the privatization of education and real community control by parents, students and community members of schools, including democratic school boards and community control of curriculum, hiring, firing and discipline policies;

Participatory budgeting at the local, state, and federal level.

• **We demand economic justice for all and a reconstruction of the economy to ensure Black communities have collective ownership, not merely access. This includes:**

A progressive restructuring of tax codes at the local, state, and federal levels to ensure a radical and sustainable redistribution of wealth;

Federal and state job programs that specifically target the most economically marginalized Black people, and compensation for those involved in the care economy. Job programs must provide a living wage and encourage support for local workers centers, unions, and Black-owned businesses which are accountable to the community;

A right to restored land, clean air, clean water and housing and an end to the exploitative privatization of natural resources – including land and water. We seek democratic control over how resources are preserved, used and distributed and do so while honoring and respecting the rights of our Indigenous family;

The right for workers to organize in public and private sectors especially in “On Demand Economy” jobs;

Restore the Glass-Steagall Act to break up the large banks, and call for the National Credit Union Administration and the US Department of the Treasury to change policies and practices around regulation, reporting and consolidation to allow for the continuation and creation of black banks, small and community development credit unions, insurance companies and other financial institutions;

An end to the Trans-Pacific Partnership and a renegotiation of all trade agreements to prioritize the interests of workers and communities;

Through tax incentives, loans and other government directed resources, support the development of cooperative or social economy networks to help facilitate trade across and in Black communities globally. All aid in the form of grants, loans or contracts to help facilitate this must go to Black led or Black supported networks and organizations as defined by the communities;

Financial support of Black alternative institutions, including policy that subsidizes and offers low-interest, interest-free or federally guaranteed low-interest loans to promote the development of cooperatives (food, residential, etc.), land trusts and culturally responsive health infrastructures that serve the collective needs of our communities;

Protections for workers in industries that are not appropriately regulated including domestic workers, farm workers, and tipped workers, and for workers – many of whom are Black women and incarcerated people – who have been exploited and remain unprotected. This includes the immediate passage at the Federal and state level of the Domestic Workers Bill of Rights and extension of worker protections to incarcerated people.

• **We demand that the rights of protestors be respected and protected and that there be no abuse of powers. We demand:**

Violations of property should never be equated with the violation of human life;

That local and state officials ensure that there are no abuses of powers;

No use of lethal force on protestors.

Senior Center Activities

JUNE 1 THROUGH 5

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center is closed and will reopen when advised by state and local authorities that it is safe to do so. This measure is taken not lightly but with the utmost concern for the most vulnerable in our community.

The Council on Aging staff will be available for referrals and information from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, at (413) 863-9357 by telephone, and coa@montague-ma.gov by email.

ERVING

Erving Senior Center director Paula Betters writes that the Center is closed until further notice:

“All programs are canceled or postponed. With that said, I will be here or at least checking my messages daily. I want anyone to call me and leave a message if they have any questions or concerns regarding food or other services. I will call them back and if we can

help with services of any kind we will do so. I am working with other agencies so we can be sure to keep our seniors healthy & safe.”

Paula can be reached at at (413) 423-3649 or paula-betters@erving-ma.gov.

LEVERETT

Leverett senior activities are currently canceled. Further updates are being distributed via TTY telephone and email. For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

WENDELL

Wendell senior activities have been canceled. The Wendell Senior Center is closed. The Wendell Council on Aging will continue to provide transportation for essential medical visits if volunteers are available. For more information or for rides, call Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

Local Supermarket Senior Accommodations

Supermarkets in Massachusetts are now required to provide special hours for seniors and immunocompromised shoppers. Call ahead – this information is accurate as of April 8; hours and accommodations are still changing.

Big Y:	Senior hours from 7 to 8 a.m.	(413) 772-0435
Foster’s:	Senior hours from 7 to 8 a.m.	(413) 773-1100
Food City:	Senior hours from 7 to 8 a.m.	(413) 863-9591
Green Fields Market:	Senior hours from 9 to 10 a.m. Curbside pickup available. Order by 8 p.m.; order ready for pickup between 1 and 6 the following day. Delivery also available. \$6 per delivery inside Greenfield. \$8 outside Greenfield.	(413) 773-9567
McCusker’s Market:	Only six customers allowed in store at a time. Curbside pickup available. Order between 12 and 1 p.m. for pickup the following day. Delivery available. \$10 per delivery. Email pickup@franklincommunity.coop	(413) 625-2548
Stop and Shop:	Senior hours from 6 to 7:30 a.m.	(413) 774-6096

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Turners Falls Athletic Club
Announces Scholarship Winners

TURNERS FALLS -- The Turners Falls Athletic Club Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the following six students, who have been selected to receive our scholarships for their academics and contribution to sports.

The awards are in the amount of \$1,000 each, payable to the individual student for their second semester at the college of their choice.

The recipients are: Anthony Peterson of Turners Falls; Hailey Bogosz of Montague; Alyson Murphy of Gill; Joseph Kochan



For Our Youth,
TFAC Scholarship Committee
Christian S. Couture,
TFAC President

HOSPICE from page B1

would last very long. When he asked if she wanted to see his gun collection she had little choice but to say, “Sure.”

The collection filled four walls of his den – all water pistols! They both broke out laughing.

He could still get around on an electric mobility scooter. His friend up the street had one too, and one day he rode down for a visit. Sue casually said, “You two could race those things.” The two guys looked at each other, and in the next moment were scooting down the driveway to the street. Sue had to run out and temporarily block traffic while these two men became little kids again.

Ready

One of my early patients was what I would call a “man’s man.” He had lived a life filled with cigarette smoke, hard drink, and the company of women. I can’t remember how many times he had been married, but it was pretty obvious why they didn’t last.

He had asked for a female volunteer, but after meeting him, the social worker recommended a male. I was selected and, after his initial disappointment, we got along well. During just about every visit, he would declare, “I’m ready, let’s get this over with!”

A Loving Family

It was 110 degrees outside, hotter inside. The little house was not air-conditioned and flies buzzed in and out the open door and windows. About thirty people were packed in the small space surrounding the patient, who was unconscious in a hospital bed.

The man’s brother, who had been in the service many years before, had found his old wool uniform and was wearing it to honor his brother. We were surprised he didn’t pass out in the heat.

There was a whole lot of love in that home. The patient died the next day.

A Final Farewell

One of the most profound moments we have experienced took place when Sue and I were sitting with a patient while his wife was out

of Turners Falls; Eliza Johnson of Montague; and Kaitlyn Miner of Montague.

We would like to congratulate the scholarship winners and thank all the student athletes who applied; we wish you all the best of luck in the future.

We especially want to thank all of the active TFAC members whose donations make these scholarships possible. With this group we have awarded over \$110,000 since 1954.

The Turners Falls Athletic Club: Supporting Sports & Academics for the Youth of Turners Falls Since 1934.

running some necessary errands. The patient was not conscious, and the information we had indicated he had only days left.

Suddenly his breathing pattern changed dramatically. Sue said, “He’s close.” I said, “Yeah, we know that.” She said, “No, he’s close.”

We went to his bedside and watched him take his last breath. We called the hospice office and waited for the nurse to arrive. After she pronounced him, she asked me to help her change his shirt and straighten up the bedding.

When his wife came home, it fell to Sue to tell her. Through her tears, his wife said she knew she shouldn’t have left. We comforted her as much as we could, and Sue explained the phenomenon that a patient will often wait for a loved one to leave, or wait for someone to arrive, before dying. It happens.

Local Service

I urge everyone reading this to consider signing up for hospice volunteer training. When it comes time for your loved one to enter hospice care, please ask your healthcare professional for a referral.

The following hospices serve parts or all of Franklin County:

Hospice of Franklin County / Pioneer Valley Hospice and Palliative Care
329 Conway St., Greenfield
(413) 774-2400
Please mention CarePathways when calling.

GVNA HealthCare, Inc.
34 Pearly Lane, Gardner, MA
(978) 632-1230
Serves Erving, New Salem, Orange, Athol, Warwick, and Wendell, as well as many towns in central Mass.

Coolley Dickinson VNA and Hospice
168 Industrial Drive,
Northampton
(413) 584-1060
Serves some of Franklin County.

Hospice of The Fisher Home
1165 N. Pleasant St., Amherst
(413) 549-0115
Offers both residential and in-home services.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Driver Strikes Child On Bicycle; Sick Sheep; Trespassing, Vandalism, Fireworks, Etc., Etc.

Tuesday, 5/26
8:03 a.m. Report of a porta-potty left on Fairway Avenue this morning that appears to be leaking. Caller believes it is on town property. DPW superintendent advised; checked on same; advised not leaking, but was recently washed and is still drying. Confirmed private property, not town property.
9:28 a.m. Report of damage inside Cold River Mining warehouse and to a company vehicle on site; likely occurred within past two weeks. Report taken.
1:56 p.m. Caller requesting to speak with TFFD re: a weather vane/thermometer-type device that broke in her apartment and has a foul odor; she is feeling lightheaded. TFFD conferenced in and will be handling.
3:19 p.m. Caller requesting to speak with officer re: filing a report about vandalism to the Greenfield Co-operative Bank ATM that occurred last Friday. Officer spoke with caller and sent her a report form to fill out.
8:34 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reporting that his neighbors are playing very loud music and he can’t get to sleep because of it. Investigated.
8:52 p.m. Approximately 15 callers reporting fireworks in the alleyway across from Turners Falls Pizza House. Officer reports that a trans former just blew in the same area, which could be part of the noise people are calling about. Advised involved party of complaint.
9:42 p.m. Caller reporting that the same group of kids who were just spoken to by an officer are now back in the alley, lighting off smaller fireworks. Officer spoke with party and advised him of the second complaint; advised that if this becomes an ongoing issue, he will be charged accordingly.
11:05 p.m. Caller from Third Street reports that his neighbors are out on their porch screaming at each other; ongoing issue. Officer advised parties of complaint.
Wednesday, 5/27
5:53 a.m. Caller from FL Roberts reports a pile of mulch behind the building that had been found smoldering; he “believes” he has put it out, but is requesting FD to confirm. Careless disposal of smoking material. Area wet down by FD.
10:29 a.m. Officer contacted by Franklin County Technical School to report breaking and entering into their greenhouse. Officer advises male on surveillance outside during the day who went into the greenhouse at approximately 11:30 p.m. Male party is skinny with tattoos and a thin beard. Officer requesting extra patrols at night.

10:59 a.m. Report of male party who was stomping around and flailing his arms for approximately 15 minutes outside a gray sedan in front of the Montague Village Store. Male was not wearing a mask and believes the owner asked him to leave. Vehicle just left. Referred to an officer.
1:32 p.m. Report of someone drinking beer in Peskeomskut Park. Several police units passed that location while on a public safety parade; none observed anyone who appeared to be drinking.
2:53 p.m. Caller reporting suspected breaking and entering into the Southworth Paper Mill; unsure if anything is missing; requesting incident on record. Points of entry secured; security of building will be enhanced.
5:25 p.m. Caller from Third Street states that someone is letting off fireworks in the area. No evidence located; no one around to confirm or deny. Will continue to check area.
5:28 p.m. Caller states that a wagon-type vehicle side-swiped him on the General Pierce Bridge and kept going. Report taken.
6:43 p.m. Caller from Montague City Road states that he has found a bicycle with a cooler on it out in his backyard. Nothing suspicious found. Caller says it is OK to leave the bike there.
7:23 p.m. Caller from Avenue A states that a man who does not live in the building is always causing problems. Verbal dispute over parking space. Advised to call if male party continues to be problematic.
9:06 p.m. Male party located inside greenhouse at FCTS. Party moved along.
Thursday, 5/28
10:40 a.m. Caller from Avenue A reporting altercation that just occurred with neighbor in her building over a parking space.

Caller is safe in her apartment at this time. Advised of options. Caller requested permission to tow the vehicle. Officer advised caller she does not have the authority to tow that vehicle and that she should contact her landlord.
10:22 p.m. Caller from Davis Street states that there is a large black bear wandering around the neighborhood. Not causing a problem at this time.
11:49 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street states that a group of kids is running around the area screaming and yelling; also shining flashlights into windows. Kids were playing a game of manhunt; they realized they had shined a light in a window and won’t play anymore.
Friday, 5/29
12:26 p.m. 911 caller reporting that a child was struck by a car while riding a bicycle at Fifth and K streets. PD, FD, and AMR responding. FD requesting LifeStar be contacted. AMR has patient loaded; preparing to transport to landing pad at Baystate Franklin Medical Center.
2:36 p.m. Caller states that there is a tree near the “horse farm” on Route 63 that looks old and decaying and should be cut down. Tree not currently a hazard of any kind.
6:21 p.m. Caller reporting a sheep in distress on Route 63 a quarter mile north of Depot Road. States it may have just given birth or have another medical issue but absolutely need medical attention. Described as a black sheep that is lying against a tree at the side of the road. Shelburne Control contacted due to jurisdiction (Leverett).
10:05 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road reporting that a truck traveling toward Montague Center just hit a flowering tree in her front yard and took off. Area checked; nothing found at this time. Report taken.
Saturday, 5/30
3:32 a.m. Message received on voice mail;

caller from Millers Falls Road states that she went out to have a cigarette and there was a big black bear walking across her lawn towards the river.
4:18 p.m. Caller reporting a dead puppy floating in the water at Barton Cove; stated she is out on the fishing point at the main parking area for camping. Shelburne Control advised.
8:42 p.m. Caller from Avenue A reporting that her neighbor is intoxicated and screaming profanities at her and other residents. Peace restored.
Sunday, 5/31
9:57 a.m. Report from Wonsey Road of male trespassing on neighbor’s property fishing. Caller and neighbor asked him to leave, but he became belligerent and refused to leave. Officer located and spoke with male, who advised the female parties were harassing him and that he was not on their property but rather standing on the bridge. Officer observed area; male was not on private property; all parties spoken with and advised of options.
1:49 p.m. Report of two teenagers on the roof of Hillcrest Elementary School. Area search negative.
5:35 p.m. Officers requesting message be left with DPW to report vandalism on the Colle Opera House and the Booska Flooring building; looks like somebody wrote on the walls with chalk.
9:11 p.m. Caller reporting disturbance in area of Davis Street; states two apartments have been going at it for 10 to 15 minutes screaming profanities at each other, and now kids are crying because of it. Officer spoke with residents; peace restored.
Monday, 6/1
5:17 a.m. Caller from Second Street states he is looking out the window and can see smoke; didn’t give any other information and hung up. Officers advised it is the dam being open.

Montague Community Television News

We’ll Edit Your Videos!

By MICHAEL SMITH

Along with most businesses, MCTV encourages people to stay at home and limit visits to the station. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updated station hours.

One way to connect with your community from the confines of your quarantine is to make videos! It’s easy to film a tutorial, a public service announcement, a story or a hike by using your phone, computer or one of MCTV’s cameras that are sanitized and available for pickup. Any editing

can be done by MCTV staff editors, or you can try it at home!

Residents of Montague can find MCTV on Channel 17, and the MCTV Vimeo page is available online. Email hannahbrookman@gmail.com for editing assistance or filmmaking questions.

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 or infomontaguetv@gmail.com between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. We’d love to work with you!

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VALLEY VIEW from page B1

It’s not surprising. Hatfield split off from Hadley in 1670, after which it would have been only of peripheral interest to a Hadley historian. Plus, Canterbury likely hadn’t even been named by that early date, three years before Deerfield came into existence as Pocumtuck. So, it didn’t take long for not only Canterbury but the entire west side of the river to become irrelevant to Judd.

The same cannot be said for Reuben Field Wells (born 1888), esteemed Hatfield historian who shared authorship of the *History of Hatfield* (1910) with his father, Deacon Daniel White Wells (born 1842). Their publication has much to say about the Denison and Bradstreet Grants and the settlement of the original northeast corner of town without ever once mentioning the name Canterbury. Although that name is indeed more of a Whately phenomenon, it was settled between 1749 and 1770, when still part of Hatfield. Whately separated from Hatfield in 1771. Nonetheless, not so much as a word about it from Wells and Wells, and also not a word about its pioneer settlers.

When and why Canterbury was named may be out of reach as we approach Whately’s 250th birthday celebration next year. The problem is that a definitive answer may be more elusive now than it was for Temple and Crafts 148 and 101 years ago. Presumably, nuanced speculation will have to suffice now as it did then. But maybe, just maybe, we can attach a new spin that sings true and inspires further investigation.

Temple never took a shot at defining Canterbury’s boundaries or exploring the place name’s origin. He just listed Canterbury among 15 localities he believed to have had their names “since the earliest settlement of the territory.” That includes Hopewell, which overlaps Canterbury and he believed received its name in 1679. He doesn’t say why.

Hopewell Plain overlooks River Road from the west, and is referred to as “Hopewell Hill” in early records. Hopewell Swamp hugs the base of the plain’s undulating western lip for approximately 3½ miles south, to within view of Hatfield Pond’s northern reach.

Another landscape feature named Hopewell is a brook bubbling from a spring-hole on the north end of Hopewell Swamp, just a stone’s throw from Sugarloaf’s southwestern skirt. The clear, mucky-bedded spring brook runs south approximately 1.3 miles, crossing under Christian Lane and River Road before joining the Connecticut River about 1,000 feet northeast of the Straits Road-River Road intersection.

Crafts was a little more daring than Temple about Canterbury, writing that it “was so called as early as 1718 and probably earlier,” without sourcing that information, and stating unapologetically that he could “give no reason for its name.” He then attempted to define the area with: “It is now spoken of as including the S.W. Allis place to the Deerfield line.”

Today, that description seems to have been conveniently extended some 200 feet south to Christian Lane by someone. So, if that’s the prevailing wisdom, then Canterbury consumes the final mile and a half of terraced meadows on both sides of River Road between the East Whately Burial Ground and the Deerfield line.

But wait a minute. Let’s take a closer look at the picture Temple and Crafts painted. Neither of them placed the Allis Farm, now owned by the Pasieczniks, in Canterbury, but associated it instead with the old Bradstreet Grant, the northern boundary of which fell some 4,800 feet shy of the Deerfield line. That said, it seems logical to me that the Canterbury plot, as first known, was that very slice of rich, terraced farmland wedged between the Connecticut River and Hopewell Plain, north of the old Bradstreet Grant and south of the Deerfield line.

Looming large in the background is the Sugarloaf cathedral, a tall, proud sentry guarding the farmland below. The earliest settlers had to understand the spiritual significance Indians placed on the mountain. That’s why it wasn’t settled until the late date of 1749, by outsider Abraham Parker of Groton. It was still dangerous territory not far from frontier villages dating back more than 75 years.

Settlement had been a long time coming for fertile croplands purchased in 1672. When a border dispute immediately arose over the parcel that became Canterbury, between the Deerfield and northern Bradstreet Grant lines, the town line was fixed east and west from the point where Sugarloaf Brook crossed the Indian trail. In compensation for what was viewed as lost acreage, Deerfield was granted compensatory acreage north of the Deerfield River.

The Deerfield-Hatfield town line was finally marked 24 years later, in 1696. Two men from each town were chosen to blaze trees with the letters “H” on the south and “D” on the north. They started at a walnut tree on the Connecticut River bank and continued two miles west to Mill Swamp. The previously established northern extension of Deerfield had been settled for years, running a mile east and a mile west from the mouth of the Green River, and three-quarters of a mile north.

Though valuable, fertile, and desirable, the disputed strip of Hatfield land below Sugarloaf remained unsettled for 77 years after purchase and 53 years after the town line was officially marked. Why? Because, according to Craft, settlers were fearful of marauding Indians, who continued to use Hopewell Swamp at the foot of Sugarloaf for refuge when passing through.

Then along came Abraham Parker of Groton and Fort No. 4 (Charlestown, NH), and Canterbury settlement had begun. It was 14 years before the end of the final French and Indian War, and the neighborhood wasn’t free and easy going until the mid-1760s.

According to Temple and Crafts, two fellow Groton townsmen soon joined Parker in Canterbury. They were brother-in-law Joseph Sanderson and Nathaniel Sartwell. Philip Smith was another Canterbury pioneer. He descended from a founding family of Hatfield and had grown up a mile or so away on the Straits. Smith’s was the northernmost Canterbury farm, bordered south by the old Bradstreet Grant.

Those four farms comprised all of Canterbury before Whately was established in 1771.

As the years passed, extended-family members carved out additional farms and sold small parcels to new neighbors. Log cabins were replaced by farmhouses, most of which have burned to the ground, or were torn down



ARTBEAT from page B1

in the Visual Poems show as narrative and hesitates to title them.

“I love hearing what people see within the piece,” she explained. “And I think when I title them – a lot of artists wrestle with this – it trims it down to what I see. I would much rather open it up, like a poem does, to your own experience and what it reminds you of, or invites you to be part of.”

Gesturing to the closest scroll, she identified its various strata: “Photograph, painting, painting. Painting over photograph.”

Describing the effect of this structure, Whittaker said, “The evocation, calling up of different images from different places, to me, is like how you remember a dream when you wake up in the morning. And it’s not a linear thing, necessarily, it’s a layered series of images and feelings that come back to you.”

Some of the imagery comes from numerous museum visits: a Syrian frieze that’s at Yale, a sketch she saw at the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow, cast iron toy soldiers at the Flagler Museum in St. Augustine, Florida. There are images of bees she shot off of her television screen, an homage to beekeeping and the preservation of bees. She also makes use of cuneiform and other ancient writing, including an invented script that resembles Arabic.

She loves to incorporate these various forms of writing, “Because we are a collective human race, speaking all languages together,” she said.

Whittaker hopes the mixed visual vocabularies and references to human history in her pieces end up being unifying. She told the story of being invited, when she lived in Duluth, to bring one of her paintings to a meeting at the university in which a group from Iraq had come to seek technical help with restoring the drained marshes of the Mesopotamian region. Saddam Hussein had drained the marshes – partly for oil, Whittaker said, and partly in retaliation, to deny their use by Shi’a insurgents.

The Iraqis were meeting with a “mom and pop company” about machinery used in cranberry bogs in Wisconsin, to see if it could help open the marshes back up. Whittaker felt nervous when it came her turn to present, wondering what the Iraqis would make of “my painting with my gibberish on it.”

“I happened to mention Mesopotamia as ‘the cradle of civilization,’ because, you know, when you’re a kid, and you first hear that word, that’s what you’re told,” she said. “And I turned around from looking at the painting, and they were all just in tears.”

Whittaker wondered whether the interpreter had conveyed her meaning correctly. Had she said something wrong? The interpreter told her, “No, it’s because you recognized their land as the cradle of civilization.”

“It was very emotional,” Whittaker said. “And I just thought, man, you start out to make some painting in your little studio by yourself, and you end up –”

She has no words to finish her thought, but she doesn’t need them.

Visiting the Gallery

Beginning June 5, you can see Whittaker’s exhibit at Salmon Falls Gallery, as well as everything else there, by appointment. Masks are required, hand sanitizer is available at two stations, and the staff is following strict cleaning protocols. Director and curator Donna Gates is taking appointments for visits, starting, for now, with up to three people at a time. The low number was determined out of an abundance of caution.



Detail of untitled #4 from Whittaker's series.

“Obviously, we have 3,400 square feet of space, we could easily have more,” Gates said. “It’s very easy to stay six feet away from anybody in multiple directions; you don’t even need arrows.”

But, she added, “We want to be very careful that we’re doing what’s safe, and is what the state allows. This way, we can keep really good control over what’s going on. I want people to think of the gallery as a safe place.”

But if you’re not ready to venture out, or it’s not convenient for you, visit the website at salmonfallsgallery.com to arrange personalized virtual tours via FaceTime, and curbside pick-up for orders from the expanded online shop. Or, view the other featured exhibit in the gallery right now, “Transitional Structures: Works in Clay,” by Chris Archer and David Ernstner. (Whittaker’s exhibit couldn’t be presented as a virtual exhibit, Gates said, because her work wouldn’t have been well represented by the required square format.)

“And there’s a page for every single artist that’s here,” Gates said. As the gallery represents over ninety artists and artisans, it was almost an understatement when she added, “There’s a lot there. You could spend a lot of time just hanging out, virtually.”

Salmon Falls Gallery is located at One Ashfield Street, Shelburne Falls. Contact them at (413-) 625-9833 or SalmonFalls@megaplanet.com, or visit salmonfallsgallery.com for more information and virtual tours.



IMAGE COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Elders and People with Disabilities Safe and Thriving at Home: A Forum

GREENFIELD – LifePath is pleased to present a special community forum next Tuesday, June 9, from 2 to 3 p.m., *Elders and People with Disabilities Safe and Thriving at Home: A Virtual Forum*, hosted by AOTV via Zoom video or phone conference.

COVID-19 poses a higher health risk and has a greater impact on quality of life for elders and people with disabilities. The goal of this forum is to highlight the needs of this group and to increase awareness of the current services available, including new supports specifically created for the effects of the COVID crisis.

Panelists will include: Barbara Bodzin, executive director, LifePath; Heather Bialecki-Canning,

executive director, North Quabbin Community Coalition; Senator Jo Comerford of the Hampshire, Franklin, and Worcester District; Clare Higgins, executive director, Community Action; and Christina Johnson, director, South County Senior Center.

The panel will be moderated by Lynne Feldman, director of community services at LifePath.

Registration is not required. You can join at the time of the event online at zoom.us/join or via phone at (929) 436-2866. You will need to enter the following information to access the forum: *Meeting ID:* 948 0819 6371; *Password:* 598148.


Participants are invited to bring their questions and comments. We

hope to see you there! Thank you to AOTV and our partner organizations for helping make this event possible.

LifePath, a private, non-profit corporation, Area Agency on Aging, and Aging Services Access Point, serves all of Franklin County and Athol, Petersham, Royalston and Phillipston, Massachusetts. Some programs, inclusive of AFC and Shared Living, are available in Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester counties.

LifePath partners with elders and persons with disabilities to maintain independence and quality of life in their own homes and communities. Caregivers can find relief and loved ones can choose their own path.

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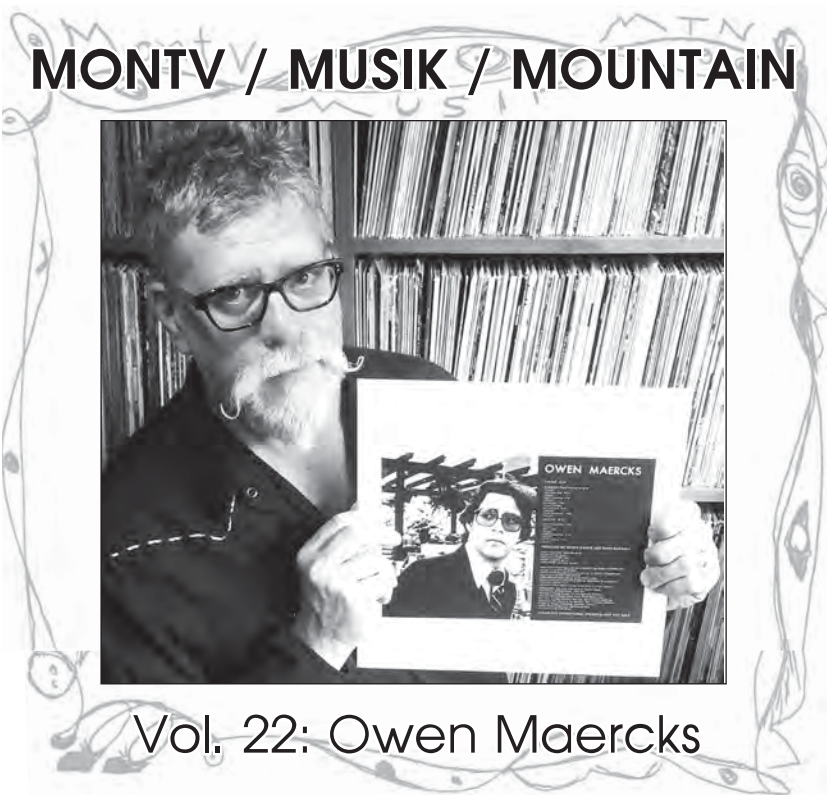
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Interview by J. BURKETT

TURNERS FALLS – Owen Maercks is a unique musician with a colorful history! Along with being involved in lots of interesting bands – and doing stuff like setting up some of the first Talking Heads shows – he also has cool solo albums. His first, *Teenage Sex Therapist*, was released in 1974 and re-released locally in 2014. Now he has a new album out: *Kinds of Blue*, featuring Henry Kaiser and others. It is available now on the Feeding Tube label out of Florence, Mass.

“The last five years have seen the reissue of my ‘lost’ record, the recording of a new one, and plans for another,” Owen told us. “You could knock me over with a feather. It’s like a second life.”

MMM: *So is it true that you lived in Worcester, Mass? Have you ever come out to western Mass?*

OM: I moved to Worcester in 1972 to attend Clark University; I stayed a year, and realized that I was not cut out for formal education. But in that year I also chanced upon a couple of guys intent on taking the bare bones of the college radio station out of mothballs and resurrecting it as a community station: WCUW. Having no idea what I was doing, I teamed up with them and within a year we had started WCUW. I am proud to say that nearly 50 years on it is still going, largely with the same kind of programming intact that we had pioneered. I was the first music director.

Our initial staff came out of the Clark student body, but we envisioned that it would be truly of the community, and started to ask for volunteers from beyond the campus. Brian Goslow and Bob Jordan were two of the first and best to join our ranks. I am friends with them to this day.

I *hated* Miami, where I grew up, and for me, Worcester was a huge step up. I love that town, and I adore western Massachusetts, which I still think of as Lovecraft Country. In 1997 I took my wife back to visit, and fell in love all over again.

In 2014, WCUW had a 40th anniversary, and I returned for the celebration. As part of that trip, I drove out to western Mass, to go record hunting, and to meet with Byron and Ted at Feeding Tube, who were about to release *Teenage Sex Therapist*. While I was out there, I stopped in to Mystery Train and introduced myself.

Through the magic of Facebook (I had posted that I was traveling through), I connected up with my college years girlfriend, who was

born and raised in Chicopee, and happened to be visiting home with her husband. They knew Mystery Train and we met up there.

I have my life and work invested in living in the East Bay, and I am very happy here. But if it were not for the inertia of home and business, and I could freely relocate, I would happily return to the area.

MMM: *Do you have any cool early music playing memories? What was your first band?*

OM: My first band was my high school friends and I jamming. We changed our name every time we played out. I could barely play guitar and was the singer by default. We were terrible, but fun.

I went to an all-boy school, but we had two “sister” schools. One of them was an all-girl Catholic school down the street called Carrolton School for Girls. Somehow, the girls found out about us and hired us to play our first and only paying gig. The dance was 7 to 10 p.m., and when we finished a nun handed us \$20 each.

We had heard there was this super cool new band playing at the University of Miami on a small hall that night, so we rushed our equipment back to our school and headed over to the University. We got there just in time, and, as if by magic, there were five seats open in the front row. We sat down, and the band came out. I recognized the violinist from having seen him in a band called The Flock. They announced the musicians, and I knew the guitarist’s name from my Tony Williams *Emergency* LP. Our jaws hit the floor when they started to play.

One night: we got paid to play, *and* we saw one of the most amazing shows I have ever seen. What a night!

MMM: *You have been involved in some legendary bands! (The Girls, MX-80 Sound, etc.) Do you want to talk about what that was like? Did it feel unique and legendary?*

OM: More like I was thrown out of some legendary bands, including both of those. I knew the Girls was very special indeed. Rehearsed maybe five times with them, and they decided to just go with the one guitar player. I was heartbroken.

Personality clash with MX-80, and that still makes me sad (and I take most of the blame).

MMM: *How did your first solo album come together back then? Was there any interest in it?*

OM: Henry [Kaiser] called me out here to record. I think he wanted me to move out here and thought

that would be the best way to get me to experience the Bay Area. It worked. By the way, the studio we used was down in Monterey; we mixed and mastered it at Zoetrope Studios in San Francisco, where the engineer let us listen to raw tapes of the Doors’ “The End”!

When he called me about the project, I had maybe 20 songs written, but never performed live. I wrote maybe another 10 and recorded them all in a little studio in Worcester and sent the tape out to Henry and Chris Muir, mentioning I would also like to record Little Black Egg.

They chose the songs, and assembled the band. I flew out and the songs were already well on their way to being arranged and rehearsed. I sent that LP out to every record company I could think of, to mostly zero response.

I think it was a time where you were either New Wave or punk, and most everything that didn’t fit either mold was tossed aside. Record companies had already been through the failures of Television, Skafish, Pere Ubu, etc. to have a significant market share. My stuff was maybe even less classifiable than them, plus I didn’t have a stable working band.

As much as I wish luck had favored me and things had fallen into place with a recording contract and subsequent career in music, I still feel incredibly lucky to have made some music that in fact I still generally like.

As a songwriter, I think I made some pretty good songs and some music that holds up, but lots of people have done that. As a guitarist, I was blessed to have an individual voice that comes through, but I did not possess any kind of outstanding skill, and frankly there are thousands of guitarists every bit as interesting and technically much better than me. As a singer, well, there are hundreds of thousands of people who can sing rings around me.

I freely admit that while I love music, and passionately, I have virtually no innate talent for it. I have ideas, sure, but none of it came easily to me. I think that is, in a perverse way, what I brought to the table. When an art form isn’t easy, you have to think of strategies to keep in the game, and solutions to musical problems. So I had ideas where many other musicians would have fallen back on talent, and perhaps not produced things as individual.

COMPARISON

The Flash: 1990 Vs. 2014

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GEENFIELD – It occurred to me that I could compare how they did some things in the 1990 TV series *The Flash*, starring John Wesley Shipp, with how the *Flash* TV series featuring Grant Gustin did them in 2014. This idea came to me when I was watching an episode of the 1990 series on a Netflix DVD.

Things that they did in the 2014 *Flash* that were also in 1990’s were a couple of characters: the show’s own take on them, or additional things that they added to the characters’ deal. The characters I speak of as being in *Flash* 2014 are Plastique, Tina McGee, Trickster, and Captain Cold.

Plastique, in *The Flash* 2014, was a meta-human who could explode things. Now that I have seen the episode of 1990 *Flash* that this is clearly based on, I would say this meta-human is the earlier

show’s version of that character, an android named Alpha with a bomb that can self-destruct things in her head. That episode is what inspired me to write this article.

Tina McGee is still a scientist in the 2014 *Flash*. In fact, she is played by the same actress who played her in the 1990 one! But the 2014 show has her being the director of a place called Mercury Labs.

Captain Cold still has the signature “cold gun” he had in the ‘90s version. Back then, he was just a hitman, finishing a job with the gun. In the 2014 version the character, played by Wentworth Miller, gets a hold of it so he can commit a robbery. He’s just a thief with a sense of honor, like the hitman version.

The Trickster in both is played by Mark Hamill from *Star Wars*. As he does in the ‘90s one, he makes a couple of appearances on the 2014 show. But he is also a character whose deal gets added to.

A copycat of the guy, who they had on the show a couple of times as well, turns out to be his son. So that is definitely adding more to the trickster’s deal in my book. They did that a bit in the ‘90s one too. They gave him a girlfriend named Prank, and she turned out to be the mother of the guy’s son in *Flash* 2014. She made an appearance in an episode to break her son out of prison.

It would be a fair guess that their takes on some of these characters went well when it came to the audience liking them, at least in the 1990s version. Why else would they have had Mark Hamill return as the Trickster a second time?

The only take from the ‘90s version that I really found to be very cool is the android named Alpha, the meta-human that Plastique is clearly based on in 2014. Lastly, I like Captain Cold in the remake better than the ‘90s one because that wasn’t really much of a character. Wentworth Miller’s version really was one.

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— Lisa McLoughlin, editor

OPINION

Grid-Tied: Shift Toward Renewables Proves Difficult in New England

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

NORTHFIELD – The climate crisis is unfolding around us, threatening our health and our entire society, especially poor communities, communities of color, and those of other vulnerable people. The science to back this up is contained in a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the United Nations’ body for assessing the science related to climate change. This special report, “Global Warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius,” was made famous by Greta Thunberg. It emphasizes that transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy now is the easiest way to ameliorate the problem of climate change, as it is much much simpler to stop putting carbon dioxide into the air now than it is to figure out how to pull it out later with some as-yet-undeveloped technology.

Unfortunately, our New England electric energy grid did not get the memo. It is managed by ISO New England, with headquarters in Holyoke. ISO describes itself as having three interconnected roles. “Grid operation” means they determine where the energy flows over the power lines so everyone has the right amount. “Market administration” refers to the wholesale energy market which buys and sells energy. “Power system planning” is creating a plan for present and future energy needs to be met.

ISO is a not-for-profit company, and is independent from power generators – that is, it is not in the business of making power. But it has a lot of influence on how our power is generated because it sets policies for buying and storing power. These policies reward stability and excess capacity, thus making it easier for plants that are already making power to continue to make it. This hinders our changeover from older fossil fuel plants to renewable energy sources.

Market-Based Plan

ISO explains on their website that the “power system planning” part of its mission is accomplished by first taking into account market-based solutions: it “plans” by

seeing what for-profit companies propose to do.

“If market responses are not forthcoming or adequate to meet New England’s needs, then ISO, in its role as Regional Transmission Organization, is required to facilitate a competitive process for ensuring the development of transmission infrastructure solutions,” says the website, www.iso-ne.com.

To this end, ISO issues calls for proposals to solve the problem of not enough power being generated at peak times. Unfortunately, by relying on for-profit companies to drive the proposal process with the goal of making energy and money for themselves, ISO misses the opportunity to upgrade our system.

As with most engineering processes, the person framing the question has the most power over the solution. Take this classic example: two engineering students are being chased by a hungry lion. One stops to put on her sneakers. The other says, “there’s no way you’re going to outrun a lion!” The first says, “I don’t have to outrun the lion – I only have to outrun you.”

ISO’s process, allowing existing fossil fuel infrastructure to continue, has this same goal of looking out for number one. It refuses to take into account Massachusetts’ larger policy goal of reducing climate-change-inducing emissions, and so the problem – and the request for proposed solutions – is reduced to a simplistic, short-term reliance on fossil fuels with no regard for the big picture or even state policy.

Our Commonwealth and regional leaders have weighed in on this issue. In November 2019, seven US senators from New England sent a letter to ISO president and CEO Gordan van Welie. In the letter they state, “ISO-NE is not considering the region’s environmental and climate goals... [and] appears to be pursuing a patchwork of market reforms aimed at preserving the status quo of a fossil fuel-centered resource mix... which will force consumers to pay millions of dollars to existing, polluting power plants with on-site fuel supplies, such as oil, coal, or liquefied natural gas.”

In December 2019, Massachusetts attorney general Maura Healey launched an effort to educate families and businesses about the substantial public health and economic costs of fossil fuel usage, and encouraged them to call on ISO-New England to set market rules that support cleaner energy resources. (See her informational video at www.mass.gov.)

Even the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has negative things to say about ISO’s approach to getting through the winter (fuel security) via their new Inventoried Energy Program. This program consists of paying power plants to store their fuel. For example, it pays coal-burning plants to keep a pile of coal next to their building that they’d normally have there anyway.

FERC Commissioner Glick called the program, which was implemented behind FERC’s back while there was no quorum to oppose it, “patently unjust and unreasonable. The program will cost New England consumers as much as \$300 million without any evidence to suggest that it will actually improve the region’s fuel security or that any improvement is likely to be worth the cost.”

This program was implemented, in contradiction with ISO’s own policies, without an analysis of its necessity, without cost efficiency or protection for ratepayers, and without transparency. In so doing, the program funnels “money to uneconomic resources in order to prevent their retirement,” which undermines the transition to renewable energy.

Merrimack Coal Plant

It is unclear how these superfluous payments will affect plant closures, or interfere with other reliability initiatives overall, but in the case of the Merrimack Station coal plant in Bow, NH, these payments will help it afford to stay open longer. That is not good for the environment, since coal is the most polluting energy source.

“Along with nitrous oxide, another greenhouse gas, the plant’s carbon footprint was the same as 273,488 cars – nearly half the registered vehicles in the state in 2016,” according to an August 2019 article by Bob Sanders in the *NH Business Review*.

Besides emissions, the plant is costly in other ways. Ratepayers paid \$432 million of the cost of \$457 million scrubbers when the plant was sold, and left that balance as “stranded cost.”

The plant is also being sued for dumping heated water into the Merrimack River, which the New Hampshire chapter of the Sierra Club and the Conservation Law Foundation allege killed 95% of resident fish species in the Hooksett Pool and encouraged the growth of invasive clams. A cooling tower, estimated at \$68 million to install and \$6 million a year to run, would be

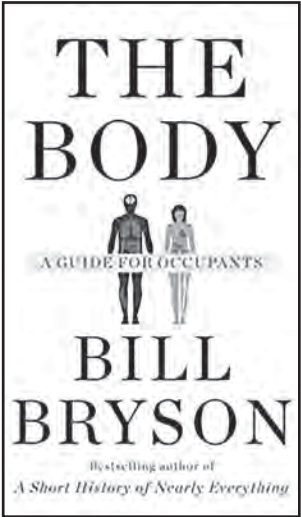
BOOK REVIEW

Bill Bryson, The Body: A Guide For Occupants (*Doubleday, 2019*)

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

NORTHFIELD – Bill Bryson is one of my favorite authors for having written *A Walk in the Woods*, about his very amusing trek on the Appalachian Trail, and *At Home*, a really well-researched book about houses and how they’ve changed over time. So I was excited to see his new book, *The Body*.

However, after reading it, I am sorry to suggest that this book was neither amusing nor well-researched. While he does weave some narrative in among the many facts, they didn’t hold together as well as his other books. It felt less polished, and seemed to not have nearly as many interviews with experts as would have been needed



for such a specialized topic.

But to be honest, I mostly didn’t like it because of his treatment of the female body. Bryson starts the section on the female reproductive system stating that it is under-researched, then proceeds to deal with the entire thing in two pages, ending up with a jaunty “so there you have it.”

Worse, some of the “facts” about women are outdated. For example, he perpetuates the now-disproven theory that girls are born with all the eggs they will ever have. Newer research proves women make eggs from stem cells throughout their reproductive lives.

In short, reading this book I felt let down by Bill Bryson, and am sorry to not be able to recommend it.

June 2020 Moon Calendar

Full Moon
Friday,
June 5

Last Quarter
Saturday,
June 13

Summer Solstice
Saturday,
June 20
5:43pm

New Moon
Sunday,
June 21

First Quarter
Sunday, June 28

Moore F, a crater on the far side of our moon.
(NASA/GSFC/Arizona State University photo)

needed to offset this environmental violation, which has allegedly been going on for decades.

Last September, a coalition of activists from around New England, calling themselves #NoCoalNoGas, organized a mass action at the Bow coal plant. More than 60 people were arrested as they entered the plant. The activists continued to use non-violent direct action in December and January, blockading coal trains on their way to supplying the plant.

The campaign is now also focusing on how ISO New England continues to subsidize this plant and perpetuate the use of fossil fuels in our region. Demonstrations have been held at the gates of ISO headquarters in Holyoke, and Holyoke City Hall.

“We join the Attorney General and US Senators in calling on ISO

to adopt energy market rules that promote affordable clean energy, healthy communities, and climate protection,” said Steven Botkin, one of the #NoCoalNoGas organizers. “And we demand that ISO New England stop subsidizing fossil fuels with rate-payer dollars, and cooperate with New England energy policies for a rapid transition to renewable energy sources.”

As FERC commissioner Glick writes of the Inventoried Energy Program, “there is simply no excuse for pursuing a half-baked operational solution.”

We deserve energy solutions that are responsive to our concerns about climate change, and are fiscally responsible. Paying fossil fuel companies to extend their operations, and thus increase emissions, is responsible on neither count.



Merrimack Station is a coal-fired utility operating at Bow, New Hampshire, owned by the Public Service Company of NH.

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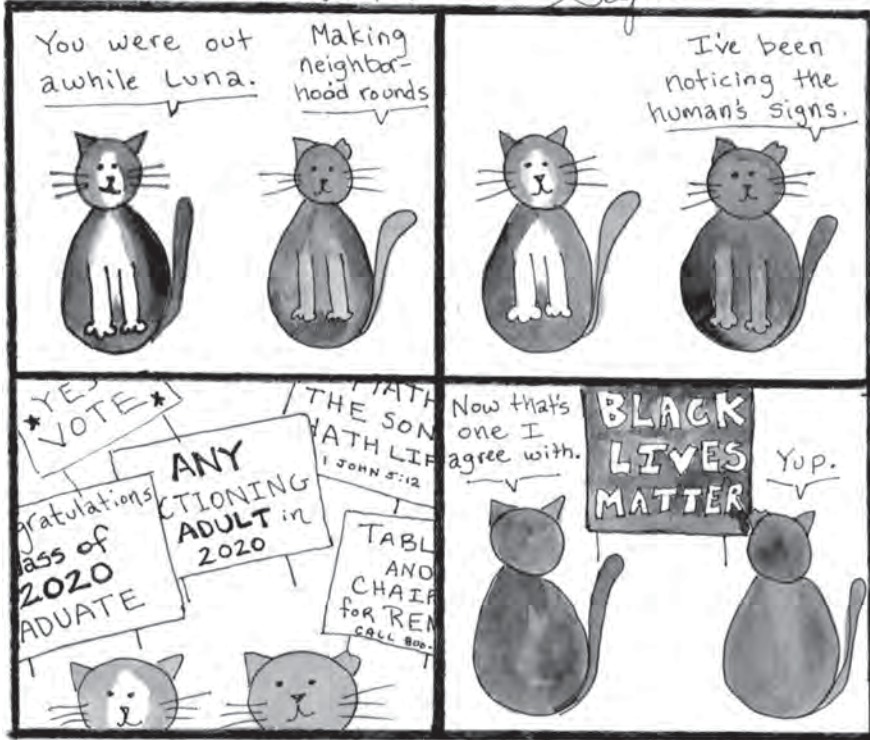
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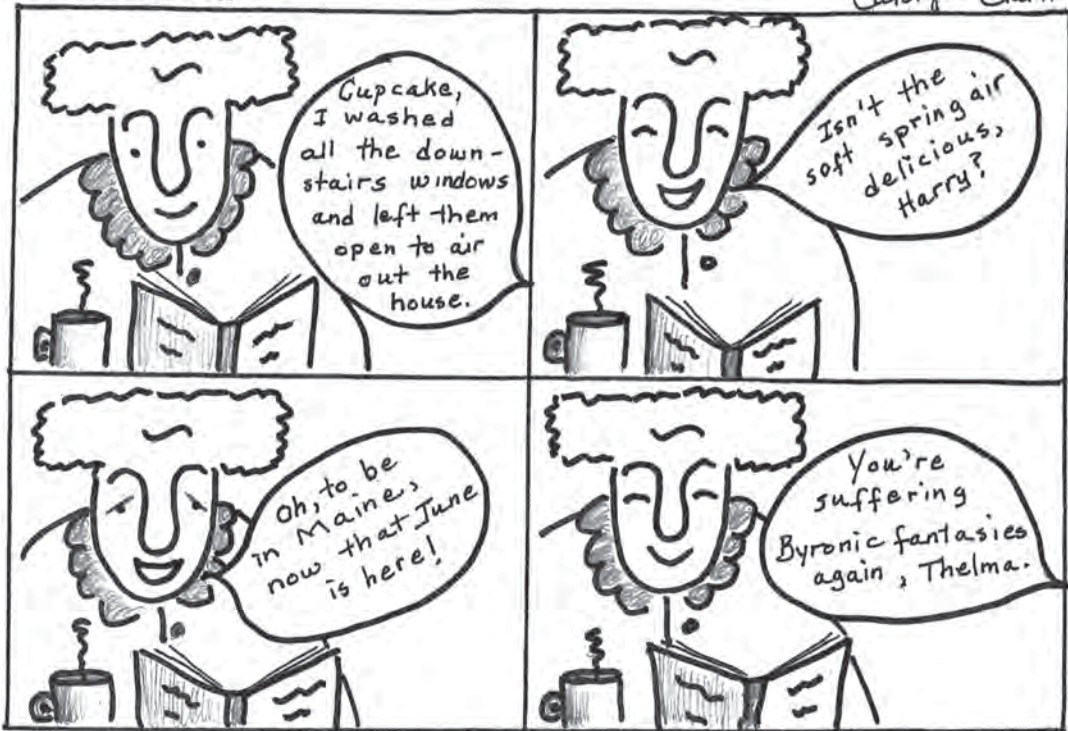


Cool Cats on the Ave



OVER THE HILL

Carolyn Clark



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NOTES FROM THE HEARTFELT CAFE

BY TROUBLE MANDESON

GREENFIELD — I have a sincere desire for everyone to eat well, and not only to eat well, but to learn to love food enough to want to prepare your own meals. In cooking, we can't always count on success, but I find that food will taste just as delicious even if it doesn't present as the prettiest show piece.

In my kitchen, dubbed the Heartfelt Café, food is prepared with love, and there are often multiple things happening at once. On any given day, I may have four loaves of quick banana bread made with sourdough starter baking in the oven, a pile of fresh herbs from the garden being chopped on the counter to make a vinaigrette, a tray of bread-ends drying out for a savory bread pudding, and a rapidly boiling pot of something being canned on the stove — often chutney made from my own rhubarb, or pickled vegetables.

I grew up in a quiet suburb of Los Angeles, where gardening didn't go much further than some decorative azalea or rose bushes in the front yard. After moving to the Pioneer Valley in 2005, for the first time I had a yard and a large kitchen with plenty of counter space. Wifey and I built a few raised beds, and I have been growing and cooking with my own vegetables and herbs since then.

Living smack in the middle of such a rich agricultural area, what I don't grow I can buy from any number of local farms or roadside stands: meat, cheese, eggs, fruit, flour, and more. But looking beyond what we can grow and consume in the vegetable garden are certain plants that we may already have in our



Spruce tips can make a tasty syrup.

yards, but that we don't know are edible.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the amount of time I am spending at home, I've been trying my hand at making things I never knew I'd want to eat.

For example, spruce tips. I've been traipsing around my forested backyard plucking bright green spruce tips off every branch I can reach in order to cook up a batch of gorgeous golden caramelized syrup, which I'll drizzle over ice cream or a soft cheese. I found the recipe online from a Native American Facebook friend, who had me repurposing the tips used to make the syrup into candy, which their grandmother made them as a child.

It's always a bonus to get a story with a

recipe; I have several dishes I still prepare that came from my mother and grandmother, each with their own history and story. This week I experimented with another local plant, the gorgeous profusion of colorful lilacs that grace my front yard. I made such pretty little jars of lilac jelly with their delicate floral scent and flavor, wonderful served on goat or cream cheese. Last year I made a similar jelly from my dinner-plate-sized white peonies, and an unknown variety of a super-fragrant rose.

Both floral jellies were so appealing that I traded several jars for things like fresh-laid eggs, a box of books mailed from the West Coast, stained glass art, and more.

It has been such a unique time that has

forced many of us to slow down and appreciate things we usually neglect or forget. Finding new things within our own familiar surroundings and creating new ways to use them, as well as sharing our ideas for how to feed ourselves, enriches and enlightens us in body and in spirit. Sharing a meal with loved ones can be special. It's a time for us to sit down together, to talk, to reflect, to enjoy and to savor the flavors that come from our kitchens and our hearts.

Here is my recipe for Lilac Jelly. There are many versions out there so feel free to use any available versions; most use powdered pectin, but I had liquid in my stores. This recipe is simple and quick:

LILAC JELLY

makes six to eight 4-ounce quilted jelly jars

- 2 cups of lilac petals, stems and leaves removed and rinsed.
- 2½ cups of boiling water, poured over the petals and soaked for 8 to 24 hours.
- Strain the water off the petals (they can be discarded), put the lilac water into a large pot, and add 3 cups of sugar and ¼ cup of lemon juice.
- Bring to a boil and stir to dissolve sugar.
- Boil vigorously for 1 minute, using a large pot will allow it to foam up high.
- Add 1 package liquid pectin and boil vigorously for 2 minutes.
- Scoop off any remaining foam and pour into hot, sterilized jars.
- You can store the jelly in the refrigerator or seal in a hot-water bath to save for later.

SPRUCE TIP SYRUP

- 2 cups spruce tips; harvest only the bright green new growth
- 1 cup water
- 2 cups sugar
- Bring water, sugar and tips to a boil.
- Turn off heat, cover, and let sit overnight.
- Squeeze water from tips, return liquid to pan, simmer 20 to 30 minutes on medium-low heat until it begins to change color and thicken. Pour into a clean jar and store in the refrigerator.

Trouble Mandeson is a West Coast transplant who lives with wifey and cat in Greenfield. She is a talker, writer, artist, and all-around mensch. Find her at troublemandesoncopyediting.com for your grant writing and copy editing needs.

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