

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 18 – NO. 35

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JULY 9, 2020

One Dead In Randall Road Attack

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE – A home invasion and stabbing attack on Randall Road last Friday left a 41-year-old man dead and a 39-year-old woman recovering in the hospital. The victims, Nicholas and Teresa Weir, were allegedly attacked by Teresa’s nephew, 18-year-old Elijah Michonski, who was arrested Friday night in Erving and pleaded not guilty to charges including murder.

According to state police spokesperson Mary Carey, Michonski is alleged to have broken into the Weirs’ home Friday evening, stabbed them with two knives, stole their car, and fled. The incident is still under investigation.

Both victims were hospitalized after neighbors and Montague police responded at the scene. Nicholas Weir was announced on Sunday to have died, while Teresa Weir is expected to recover.

Michonski was arraigned remotely via the district court at Greenfield on Monday, and pleaded not guilty

see **ATTACK** page A2

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Sludge Deal With Paper Mill Moves Forward

By KATIE NOLAN

The Erving selectboard, finance committee, and capital planning committee, meeting via GoToWebinar on June 30, reviewed the financial impacts to the town of current and proposed projects. These included the recent request from Erving Industries, Inc. that the town borrow to finance a sludge dryer for POTW#2, the wastewater treatment plant owned by the plant but operated by ERSECO, a subsidiary of the paper company.

Erving Industries president Morris Housen had presented the company’s plan for drying sludge at POTW#2 on June 8. Housen told the board that drying the sludge would qualify it to be applied to land as fertilizer, and would help keep the Erving Paper Mill viable.

As the owner of POTW#2, the town would apply for a loan to finance the estimated \$13 million project. Long-term, low-interest construction loans for wastewater treatment plants are available to towns from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust. Town administrator Bryan Smith said repaying the loan would be the subject of a structured agreement between the town and the company.

Fin com chair Benjamin Fellows asked whether applying for a sludge dryer loan would affect applications for other loans, such as an earlier one to fund a sewer main project. Bryan Smith said there was

see **ERVING** page A5

Drought Fuels 66-Acre Brush Fire in Leverett



ROBERTSON PHOTO

The fire’s aftermath last Thursday on a ledge on Joshua Hill. It burned enough topsoil to expose tree roots, and the earth still smoldered nearby.

By SARAH ROBERTSON

LEVERETT – A large brush fire is still smoldering in the forest around Joshua Hill after igniting two weeks ago on the rocky, steep, and heavily wooded terrain.

The fire is now contained to 66 acres, according to Leverett fire chief John Ingram, while teams of firefighters continue to check on hot spots to make sure it does not spread. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

“It’s still smoldering in the middle, but the fire isn’t coming out around the fire line,” Ingram said. “The issue that we’re having is the canopy cover is so thick up there that the rain we are getting helps but it’s hard to penetrate down to the ground.”

It will take two to three days of

heavy rain to completely douse the fire, Ingram said, which he hopes will come from the storms forecast for this weekend.

The Leverett fire department first received reports of a possible fire in the area of Rattlesnake Gutter and Cave Hill roads on a Thursday morning, June 25, and discovered a half-acre blaze on top of Joshua Hill. According to Ingram, the fire grew from that half acre to approximately 20 acres by the end of the day, then doubled in size the next day to approximately 40 acres.

“The terrain at Joshua Hill is very steep and rocky and ledgy. It’s very difficult to get up in there,” Ingram said. “There are some hiking trails and stuff, but with vehicle access, it was very difficult.”

see **FIRE** page A8

Wendellites Hope to Blunt Cannabis Farms’ Impact

By JEFF SINGLETON

At its June 27 town meeting, Wendell approved a one-year moratorium on “commercial marijuana growing, processing and selling.” The vote came in the wake of a proposal from a company called Apple Guy Flowers, LLC, based in the town of Harvard, Massachusetts, to legally grow an estimated 25 to 50 marijuana plants for sale on a small wooded property on West Street.

The proposal has encountered considerable opposition at recent meetings of the town selectboard.

It is unclear whether the state attorney general will declare the moratorium valid, because it comes well after the window for towns to revise

their zoning bylaws to regulate cannabis under the rules established by the state Cannabis Control Commission (CCC). It is also not entirely clear whether the moratorium, if it does take effect, would apply to West Street proposal, though Apple Guy Flowers first approached the selectboard to negotiate a so-called “community host agreement” in February.

Wendell has a history of support for marijuana legalization. According to town resident and *Montague Reporter* reporter Josh Heinemann, “In the late 1970s or early 1980s, an annual town meeting vote decriminalized marijuana within the town, basically instructing the town police not to enforce

see **WENDELL** page A7



AL MAGNITYRE PHOTO

Voters at Wendell’s June 27 annual town meeting approved a moratorium on new cannabis businesses in town, but it is unclear whether the vote will have teeth.

Now In Special Biweekly Format

Illustration.....	A2
Letters to the Editors.....	A2
Local Briefs.....	A3
Guest Editorials.....	A3, A4
Erving Town Meeting Preview.....	A5
Wendell Town Meeting Review.....	A7
Wendell Selectboard Notes.....	A7
10 Years Ago This Week.....	A7

Valley View: A Portal to 1990?.....	B1
ArtBeat: Parking Garage Theater.....	B1
Libraries Reopen & Change.....	B1
Indie Mama Diaries.....	B2
Montague Police Log.....	B3
Out of the Park.....	B4
Summer Nature/Culture Page.....	B6
Five Comics and a Puzzle.....	B7

Town Hall Launches Special Police Inquiry

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE – Following last month’s town meeting vote to cut the proposed FY’21 police budget by 2.7%, and a march down Avenue A of about 400 area residents protesting racism and police violence, the Montague selectboard is establishing a “special inquiry” to examine policing practices in town.

“I don’t think there’s a lot of other communities taking this as seriously, and proactively, as Montague,” town administrator Steve Ellis said on Wednesday. “We may be leading in some respects.”

Last Monday the selectboard voted unanimously to move forward on

a plan to appoint two seven-member “advisory groups,” one focused on overall police community engagement and the other on questions of equity and use of force. Application forms are available in English and Spanish at *montague-ma.gov*, and must be submitted by 5:30 p.m. next Monday, July 13.

The advisory groups, which must operate in accordance with the state open meeting law, will research the issues, solicit public input and discussion, and make recommendations to the selectboard.

Ellis said that while any see **INQUIRY** page A5



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Major Electrical Upgrades Planned in Turners Falls

By JEFF SINGLETON

At its June 29 meeting, the Montague selectboard approved the first phase of an upgrade of the electric system serving Lake Pleasant by endorsing the installation of 15 new poles along Lake Pleasant Road by the electric company Eversource. At the same meeting, Eversource representatives reviewed the first phase of a plan called the “Montague Conversion Project” which will upgrade electric systems in Turners Falls over a three-year period.

Carla Trosino-Laramy, an Eversource special project engineer, presented five maps of the 15 proposed pole locations on Lake Pleasant Road. The project will extend from just south of the road’s intersection with Millers Falls Road to just north of Beach Road, which runs past Green Pond. The installations will reduce span lengths between poles in half to allow for larger and more

reliable conductor wires.

Eversource engineer Michael Rosenberg presented the Turners Falls conversion project, which, he said, will begin with the retirement of the Dell substation which he claimed is on the corner of Willmark Avenue and Sunset Drive. The change in the substation configuration will require work on numerous poles, transformers, and “pole-top hardware” along a number of neighborhood streets, including Montague Street, Dell Street, and Crocker Avenue.

Rosenberg said there will eventually even be some work on Avenue A in downtown Turners, and that the project would impact the service of approximately 1,800 customers, including those in “adjoining neighborhoods.” Rosenberg said the transition to the new system will require “short customer outages,” which will be “coordinated neighborhood

see **MONTAGUE** page A4

GILL SELECTBOARD

Road Closure At NMH Draws New Objections

By JERRI HIGGINS

Monday night’s call-in Gill selectboard meeting heard a complaint from resident Megan Bathory-Peeler on the closure, since March, of Mount Hermon Road.

“It was a big surprise to us that the town gave the school permission to close a town road,” said Bathory-Peeler, who lives on the road and whose spouse is employed at Northfield Mount Hermon School (NMH). “There did not seem to be any discussion, consultation, or communication of any sort from either the town or from folks on campus.”

Representatives from NMH came

before the selectboard in March as COVID-19 was rising, and were granted approval to close both Back Road and Mount Hermon Road for 90 days, and install a locked gate and gatehouse off of the school’s Route 10 entrance. They received an extension in May, which expires July 25.

“The school came to us concerned about when the students came back from spring break,” selectboard chair Randy Crochier explained, “and to help contain the campus a little bit with the onset of COVID-19. Since all the properties on Mount Hermon Road are owned by Mount Hermon, we agreed with their decision. I did

see **GILL** page A5



The Montague Reporter

“The Voice of the Villages”

Editorial Group

Mike Jackson, *Managing Editor*
Nina Rossi, *Features Editor*
Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno, *Poetry Page*
Victoria Maillo, *Spanish Page*
Beverly Ketch, *Children’s Page*
Lisa McLoughlin, *Science Page*
Gloria Kegeles, *Editorial Assistant*

Production Group

Annie Levine, *Business Manager*
Lyn Clark, *Interim Distribution Manager*
Charlotte Kohlmann, *Layout Assistant*
Christopher Carmody, *Layout Assistant*
Sarah Brown-Anson, *Podcast Producer*

Technical Administration

About Face Computing

Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August 2002

A Salute

We didn’t advertise it well enough, but many of our readers seem to have been taken by surprise when no paper arrived last week.

Every July and August, the *Montague Reporter* drops to bi-weekly publication. Our next editions will come out July 23, August 6, and August 20. We’ll be back to every Thursday in September.

This issue is also a sad milestone: the 372nd issue printed at the *Hampshire Daily Gazette* press in Northampton – and the last.

The loss of one more regional press is a public tragedy. The *Gazette* has printed the *Reporter* for the past eight years, and our col-

leagues there always went above and beyond to give first-rate service to what might shortsightedly have been viewed as a competitor.

Though all media are important, the disappearance of newsprint will ultimately prove harmful to a free and thriving fourth estate. We hope for a just local solution, beginning with favorable terms for the 29 workers losing their jobs this month, and join with the Pioneer Valley NewsGuild in looking toward a future in which a diverse and accessible journalism can again flourish in our communities.

We’ll be back July 23 – though we might have a different look!

A CORRECTION

Our reporting last edition on the suggestion that the name of Turners Falls be changed (June 25, *Petitions Call to Change, or Retain, “Turners Falls,”* page A1) contained an error.

David Brule, who serves among other roles as the project coordinator of the local Battlefield Grant Advisory Committee, wrote in with a correction to our statement that representatives of Mohican group are involved in that study:

“[T]he Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians is not part of the Battlefield Advisory board. In 2014 they were invited to join us, and participated for a few meetings, but they determined that the Mohicans did not have an active role in the Valley during the King Philip’s War, except to have welcomed Pocumtuck refugees after the massacre of May 19, 1676.

“They are now located in Wisconsin where they have reservation lands, and although originally situated in the Berkshires, they only have one person in their office in Albany. “On the other hand, the Elnu Abenaki *are* members of the Advisory board, and their homelands are located in southern Vermont. We therefore have representatives from two local tribes, which is very important: the Chaubunagungamaug Band of Nipmuc Indians, and the Elnu Abenaki.

“Two other tribes, the Narragansett Indian Tribe and the Wampanoag of Aquinnah, are also Advisory Board members. They are tribes from the coast, but who played a major role here in the Valley during KPW, and have been very active here in Montague for decades.”

Thanks to Mr. Brule, and our apologies to all for the error!

— Eds.

ATTACK

from page A1

to breaking and entering (daytime) with intent to commit a felony; two counts of home invasion; two counts of aggravated assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (knife); two counts of armed assault with intent to murder; one count of murder; and one count of motor vehicle larceny. He will be held without bail, with a pretrial conference set for August 25.

“There’s two things cops don’t want to do,” Montague police chief Chris Williams told the Reporter. “They don’t want to have to take somebody’s life, and they don’t want to have to see somebody’s life that was taken.”

Williams said Sgt. Det. Josh Hoffman was the first officer responding at the scene. The depart-

ment issued a lookout alert to all neighboring towns, and Michonski was apprehended by Erving police near Farley Flats.

Williams said there have been four homicides in Montague since he joined the force in 1995, with the most recent in about 2004.

Neighbors of the Weirs have set up a fundraiser on Facebook, “Helping Teresa Weir,” which can be accessed via www.tinyurl.com/HelpingTeresaWeir. Over \$7,000 had been raised as of press time.

“We are asking people to come together as a community to help her get some of her life and belongings back after this horrible tragedy,” fundraiser organizer Amber Sullivan wrote on the page. “All of the donations will go directly to her in this time of need.”

Published weekly on Thursdays.
Every other week in July and August. No paper fourth week of November, or the Thursday closest to 12/25.

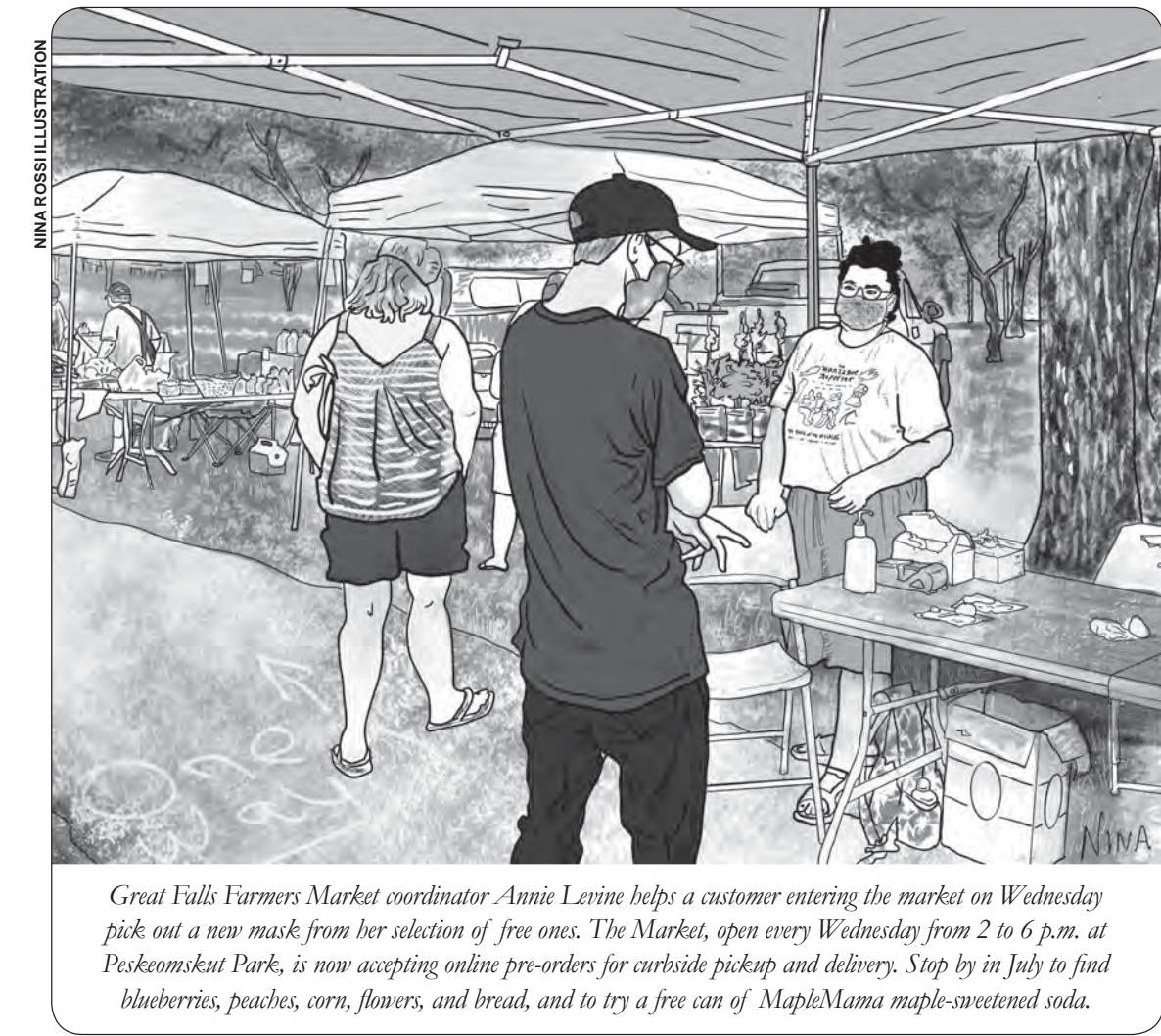
PHONE: (413) 863-8666
Please note new email addresses:
editor@montaguereporter.org
features@montaguereporter.org
ads@montaguereporter.org
bills@montaguereporter.org
circulation@montaguereporter.org
events@montaguereporter.org
poetry@montaguereporter.org
subscriptions@montaguereporter.org

Send address changes to:
The Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Advertising and copy deadline is **MONDAY at NOON.**

This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper, such as they are.

Annual Subscription Rate:
\$30 for walking subscriptions;
\$40 for driving route subscriptions;
\$60 for mailed subscriptions.
Call us or contact
subscriptions@montaguereporter.org with any questions.



Letters to the Editors

Dry Hill Trails: A Response

The Dry Hill Trails were initially supported by a state grant and the Montague Planning and Conservation Department in effort to make over 1,000 acres of public woodlands more accessible to the public, and to enhance connections to the regional Robert Frost Trail. Trail building and maintenance is done informally by volunteers.

While over five miles of trails have been developed off of the unmarked, but well-established, Dry Hill Road, there is certainly room for improvement on these rugged trails. After reading your feedback, I posted signs and maps at key crossroads.

Also, my office has begun to compile an expanded list of trail volunteers for maintenance. Anybody up for a workday Sunday August 2? Email planner@montague-ma.gov to get on the trails list.

Walter Ramsey
Town Planner/Conservation Agent
Montague

Suggestion Regarding Flags

Looking towards Flag Day, June 14 and July 4, 2020, I began taking a poll last year, asking whether American flags should *only* be manufactured in America. Yes! I also asked whether all US military uniforms should be American-made. Yes!

I never attend large gatherings, so my survey is limited, but why are American flags and American military uniforms made in foreign countries? Shouldn’t we support American workers when the *object* being produced is fundamentally American? *American flags and American military uniforms: Made in America!*

United States Military Uniforms: I have a Bradford Exchange ad for *imported* military jackets being sold to civilians for \$189.95 each.

Bradford Exchange is “officially licensed” to sell these Official US military jackets. Each military branch is listed, but from the content of the ad, only the Army is earning money from their trademark, thereby supporting “US Army Morale, Welfare, and Recreation programs.” (*Country* magazine, August/September 2019)

At this time I have two flags. I bought an American flag at Baker Office Supply in Greenfield, made by Annin Flagmakers in New Jersey. In large print, their package proudly says “Made in the U.S.A.” Annin’s package proudly focuses on the American flag, not the porch.

The other flag is American in design *only*. In tiny, tiny print it says “Made in India.” The company misleads customers by calling itself Nantucket. It shows a large, New England-style house with two small flags. That flag, made in India, has a Native American Indian name, *Nan-tucket*, and was sold to somebody else at a Christmas Tree Shop.

June 14, Flag Day, and the Fourth of July! Made in the USA! Uphold the Constitution! Uplift Truth and Justice! “A house divided against itself cannot stand.” Abraham Lincoln. Democracy and Freedom: “Government of the People, Government by the People, *Government for the People.*” Lincoln, 11/19/1863. *Uphold the Constitution!*

M. Michie Russell
Colrain

More Acclaim for Co-operative

I was sad to see the advertisement in your publication inviting people to join a lawsuit targeting the Leverett Co-op.

While I do not know which individuals are pursuing this project, I wanted to take this opportunity to express my full-throat-ed support for the Leverett Co-operative and to express my hope that community members can use their time to help us build and strengthen our local institutions, rather than engage in efforts to hurt or tear them down.

No doubt the individuals behind this unfortunate project feel they have legitimate grievances. However, as a member of the community, it has been apparent to me that the new Board believes in transparency, and concerns brought to their attention have been and will continue to be addressed in a thoughtful and deliberate manner.

I’ve been so impressed by this Board’s playful approach to the financial challenges confronting the Co-op, and by the terrific progress they have made. More importantly, I appreciate their ethical approach to decision making. This is a mission-driven group and it is clear that they center the community and our needs every day.

So grateful for the Leverett Co-op!

Ellen Ellsberg Edge
Leverett

WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS!
(ORIGINAL CONTENT ONLY, PLEASE)

Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

editor@montaguereporter.org

Sign Me Up!

\$20 { 8 months (31 issues) for our walking routes
6 months (23 issues) for our driving routes
4 months (15 issues) for mailed subscriptions

The Montague Reporter

177 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____
Email (optional): _____



Compiled by NINA ROSSI

This Friday night, July 10, **live entertainment returns to the Rendezvous** in Turners Falls with Drew Paton performing his “1940s Hit Parade” during dinner from 5 to 8 p.m. Paton, in his stylish vintage suit and hat, croons tunes from the era in a show that has been a monthly feature at the Voo for many years. It will also be livestreamed on the restaurant’s Facebook page for those who are still avoiding the potential dangers of public respiration.

Greenfield Garden Cinemas announces that they are opening their doors again this Friday, July 10. You will now be able to escape the sultry evening heat by watching movies in air-conditioned darkness, with up to 25 other folks per theater. The theater will use ultraviolet wands to disinfect seats and armrests between seatings.

New titles being screened include *Guest Artist, It’s Never Too Late*, and *Irresistible*. Some classics will also be screened such as *Star Wars V: The Empire Strikes Back*, *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*, *Anchorman*, *The Muppet Movie*, and *Casablanca*. These older movies will have limited runs of one week only. There will also be online streaming movies available still for those who want to watch at home. Check the schedule at www.gardencinemas.net.

Epsilon Spires in Brattleboro is sponsoring “**Backlot Cinema**,” a series of summer films every Friday night in July and August, also beginning this week. They have portioned out COVID-safe circles in their parking lot for people to reserve for their own group of two to six friends.

The premiere screening will be

Afrofuturist films, “New African films that decolonize the imagination and explore the past, present, future through a Black lens”: *Crumbs* (2015), *Afronauts* (2014), and *Robots of Brixton* (2011). Ethiopian and Eritrean cuisine by A Taste of Abyssinia will be available for purchase, or you can bring your own for a picnic under the stars. Tickets at www.epsilonspires.org.

Paddle with the Nolumbeka Project the following Saturday morning, July 11. Sponsored by the Connecticut River Conservancy, bring your canoe, paddleboard, or kayak to meet up at 10 a.m. at the Riverview Picnic Area, 156 Pinemeadow Road in Northfield.

During a discussion afterwards at the pavilion at noon, Nolumbeka president David Brule will share insights on Native history and lifeways on the river, and Andy Fisk of the Conservancy will speak of efforts to provide vigilant stewardship of this wonderful resource. This event is free, but registration is required. It’s suggested that you bring your own lunch to eat during the talks.

Several museums reopen with the beginning of Phase III in Massachusetts: MASS MoCA and the Norman Rockwell and Clark Art museums will accept visitors starting this Saturday, July 11.

A press release from MASS MoCA promises more than 40,000 square feet of brand new exhibitions. They are dealing with social distancing by selling timed tickets, and have moved the entire admissions section outdoors. Some exhibits, such as James Turrell’s *Into the Light*, are by reservation only. They have even scheduled a live performance by Treya Lam for July 18. Find out

more at www.massmoca.org.

The Pioneer Valley Workers Center (PVWC) is looking for **volunteers for their farm coop**, Riquezas del Campo. You can help with planting, tending, and eventually harvesting the crops, or lending tools and equipment that others can use.

The center is also piloting a **Hiring Hall**: “Our community members in low-wage work, especially immigrants and POC, have been hit the hardest during the COVID-19 crisis and unprecedented numbers of people are having hours cut, being furloughed, or getting laid off with no indication of when those jobs may reappear.”

If you are looking for help, and are willing to pay a minimum of \$20 an hour, you may register on their website and they will pair you with a worker-member. An agreement is signed outlining expectations, and the PVWC will make sure both parties feel safe, have their rights protected, and can communicate clearly throughout the job. Find out more at www.pvworkerscenter.org.

Do you **need help with bills, food, rent, utilities**, internet fees, or SNAP applications? Financial help is available from Community Action. Call (413) 475-1570 to find out what is available for you during this time, or visit www.communityaction.us.

Piti Theatre Company of Shelburne Falls presents a **series of radio plays** created by teens in collaboration with NYC sound designer Florian Staab. The youngsters, ages 13 to 19, worked remotely in groups to develop programs based on stories from their lives.

The six-month program was originally meant to have culminated in live performances at Hawks & Reed in Greenfield. (Note that some of the plays contain sensitive material about mental health, the opioid crisis, stalking, cyber-bullying, and other issues, as well as some mild profanity.) Tune in at www.ptco.org.

The Brick House Community

Resource Center in Turners Falls is organizing a **Creativity Drive**. Would you like to help teens get creative during these long summer days, when they don’t have access to the usual resources of the Brick House teen center because of the pandemic? Isadora Reisner is coordinating donations of art, craft, gardening, music, and other tools. If you have supplies to share, please email isadora.reisner@gmail.com to schedule a pickup.

The Augusta Savage Galleries at the New Africa House, UMass-Amherst also has a **call for artists** to respond to the recent deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, and subsequent protests, for a fall 2020 exhibit entitled “Breathing While Black.” Send your work by July 15 to www.umass.edu/facforms/Call-forArtists.

Quonquot Farm in Whately announces their **Third Annual Blueberry Festival** on Sunday, July 19. Celebrate the classic northeast native fruit, and high summer, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the farm. Fun and games for all ages, plus beer, wine, and cider tasting, blueberry bake-off, and more.

The TV show “**American Pickers**” is **scouting around New England** for antique “pickers” to feature this fall. According to their press release, “The hit show follows Mike and Frank, two of the most skilled pickers in the business, as they hunt for America’s most valuable antiques.... Along the way, the Pickers want to meet characters with remarkable and exceptional items.”

If you or someone you know has a large, private collection or accumulation of antiques that the Pickers can spend the better part of a day looking through, send your name, phone number, location, and a description and photos of the collection to americanpickers@cinetflix.com, or call (855) OLD-RUST.

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

LOOKING TO BUY

Turners Falls and Greenfield High School Yearbooks (All Years)

Call: (413) 863-9297

NANCY L. DOLE BOOKS & EPHEMERA



20 State Street,
Bucklandside
Shelburne Falls
413-625-9850
ndole@crocker.com
closed Mondays

Nina's Nook
Uniquities,
Frivolities,
Un-necessariums



Closed Indefinitely due to COVID-19
125A Avenue A Turners Falls
413.834.8800

Find me on [Etsy.com/shop/ninarossi](https://www.etsy.com/shop/ninarossi)

www.ninasnook.com

WE HEAT FRANKLIN COUNTY

- System 2000 (Energy Kinetics)
- Thermo Pride
- Weil-McLain
- Other Major Brands
- Expert Burner Service



(413) 773-3622

unknown, and not just contained in a four-home segment of Teawaddle Hill Road. Home theft will not permanently solve the contamination problem, whereas a water line would. Leverett leadership needs to think ahead, and stop spending many tens of thousands of taxpayer dollars on non-solutions.

CLEAN! wants to thank the Leverett citizens for their support, which was obvious at Town Meeting, shown by applause for Virginia Goodale, support of our amendment, and many personal comments to us. We are grateful that the citizens of Leverett find eminent domain to be abhorrent. It would in effect victimize the victims, making them pay for a “relic activity of the past”: throwing toxic waste into a hole in the ground.

Patricia Duffy lives in Leverett. She writes on behalf of Citizens of Leverett for Environmental Action Now! (CLEAN!).

The Amherst Water Line: Clarifications

sense, at Leverett’s 2019 ATM. Creating this “choice” has been going on behind the scenes for the past year, while voters fully expected the Selectboard to proceed as mandated by the unanimous 2019 vote. Paying for appraisals of homes was approved to be done *only* as a last resort. The lowball appraisals have been done by drive-by, but the water line design has not been moved forward.

Peter d’Errico said at the Town Meeting that using eminent domain powers would be cheaper. And to that end, the Select Board made a *de facto* decision to remove one home from the list of affected homes. The cheaper option would be to steal family homes, and destroy a vital and dynamic neighborhood in Historic East Leverett. The crowd booed.

The duress this is causing is inhumane – especially during such stressful times, during COVID, business loss, and unemployment.

Julie Shively said: “We approved the Amherst water line last year, but the town wanted us to first explore the deep-well option.” They had all of 2019 to do so. She should therefore be happy to focus on moving forward with what the Town wanted them to do next: the water line.

To be clear, I believe d’Errico was misquoted in your article as saying the newer estimate for the water line has *increased*. He said that it *decreased*. The estimate is less than Town-approved borrowing by hundreds of thousands of dollars. A missing piece here is that an awarded MassWorks grant would have paid for the entire water line *design*; instead, half was used on the design, and half on the “deep well” experiment. If that grant had been used as initially intended, the water line would have been *shovel ready* and eligible for various local, state, and federal funding. It was this part of the borrowing that CLEAN! was attempting to get paid for by July 2020, to have clean water by fall 2021.

We could have had water by fall 2020. The Selectboard could have gotten this done, but chose not to. Work on the “deep well” experiment was prioritized because it was cheaper, borrowing was approved in June 2019. Work did not start until November 2019! Also, it was always the lesser choice because it did not address all the homes. But it did prove VOCs at 300’ below ground.

Meanwhile, the whole summer

and fall were lost: important funding and seasonal deadlines were missed for the water line design, bids, and permitting.

CLEAN! wants the Select Board to move forward. But at one recent Selectboard meeting, the Town Administrator, when asked about getting bids, said the Town attorney said this would be a ‘mistake.’ What could this possibly mean?

In reference to Article 26, we at CLEAN! wanted to have transparency and clarity around the new testing for PFAS. In town publications and references, the contamination plume area has been nicknamed “Teawaddle Hill Neighborhood.” This was put into the Article 26. We wanted to make clear that the MassDEP-mandated PFAS testing would include four *more* homes, not just four on Teawaddle Hill Road and one on Cushman Road (the home removed from the group by the Selectboard); so *nine homes* total: six on Teawaddle Hill Road, two on Cushman Road, and one on East Leverett Road in Amherst.

We believe this is important so that the people of Leverett can see that MassDEP is concerned that the plume contamination movement is

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!

REAL PICKLES

Locally grown vegetables
Fermented & raw
100% organic

A worker co-op in Greenfield, MA
www.realpickles.com | (413) 774-2600

Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Most Convenient

IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE

UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD

413-883-7323

Easy in-town location
Secure 24-hour access

VARIETY OF SIZES
THE BEST PRICES

OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA

Contractors, Flea Marketers, Tradeshaw Vendors
and Artists encouraged to inquire

Brian R. San Soucie
Locksmith - CRL

certified - bonded - insured


863-2471
28 Montague St
Turners Falls, MA

Trusted for over 25 years, installing all types of
locks & entry devices for business & homes

- Dead BOLTS
- Household Lock Sets
- Master Keys & Re-keys
- Safe Combinations Changed

RECYCLE

BOTTLES & CANS
Week of July 13
PAPER
Week of July 20
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054



Partridge-Zschau Insurance
Protect Your Future

Since 1891

25 Millers Falls Road
Turners Falls, MA 01376
tel: 413-863-4331
www.pzinc.com




269 High Street - Greenfield
(413) 773-9639

Local Farmer-Owned

Products for the home,
farm, pets, yard & garden

If you
Feed it - Seed it - Weed it
We GOT it!

www.greenfieldfarmerscoop.com



"It's just a stone's throw from reality."
Groceries - Videos - Home Baked Goods
Beer - Wine - Liquor
MON - SAT 7-9, SUNDAY 8-8
978-544-8646
Lockes Village Rd.
1/2 mile south of Wendell Center



THE LADY KILLIGREW:

*Awesome Beer
Amazing Food*



Amazing, Awesome Employees!
440 Greenfield Rd, Montague MA
7 Days / 8am - 11pm (at least)
(413)367-9666

MONTAGUE from page A1

by neighborhood,” but that the upgrades will reduce “nuisance outages,” because the new wires can “take a [tree] branch.”

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz asked how quickly the other utilities that use the poles can complete their work so the “piles of sand” that accumulate in residents’ yards can be moved away. Rosenberg said his company will “definitely circle around” to work with the towns to speed up the process, said Rosenberg.

Selectboard member Chris Boutwell, who lives near the substation to be removed during the first phase, said it was actually on Oak Street, not Willmark, the error perhaps being the result of an old map.

Town administrator Steve Ellis requested a “larger overview” of the company’s plans for other heavily-populated neighborhoods.

“That sounds good,” said Ever-source community liaison Melissa Hancock.

Pandemic

The board then moved on to a discussion of COVID data in Montague, and the town’s progress in reopening businesses and public facilities.

Health director Daniel Wasiuk called the infection rate in Montague “very low”: the cumulative number of infections since the pandemic began stood at 28, and there had been only four cases testing positive over the previous month. “In terms of flat-lining or leveling the curve, we have been there for a while,” he said.

Wasiuk noted that the state remained in Phase 2 of reopening, and suggested that the state might not move to Phase 3 soon due to a second wave of infections in other states. (Phase 3 began on July 6, with the reopening of fitness centers, movie theaters, and museums with significant capacity and other restrictions. Boston will reopen on July 13, and “large-capacity venues,” such as sports stadiums, must wait until Phase 4.)

Board member Mike Nelson agreed that the trends in Montague were positive, but warned that “life’s not going to be back to the way it was in February anytime soon.”

Ellis reported on the recent reopening of town hall, which he called “managed access,” with limited hours, a controlled entrance at the basement door, screening of those entering, and significant restrictions on the number of visitors at any one time. Ellis said the opening, with only “two days under our belt,” had been “very, very smooth.”

Parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz said the reopening of the parks, which has been accompanied by frequent washing of playground structures and restrictions on activities at basketball courts and the skate park, “seemed to be going well.” “People are not wearing masks,” he said, “but they seem to be practicing social distancing... On the playgrounds, kids see one another and they gravitate toward one another.”

Parks and Highway

Dobosz also reported on a plan

to address the lack of parking for residents near Rutters Park in Lake Pleasant. He proposed that the town create a “TRG strip” on the edge of the park for parking, but not plow the strip during the winter.

Dobosz was asked if this might lead to competition for parking spaces which had been shoveled, as often happens in cities in the eastern part of the state. Ellis said he was familiar with the problem, having grown up in Boston, but “I am sure people in Lake Pleasant will do a great job. They are much more civilized than my relatives.”

The board approved the parking plan, and Lake Pleasant resident George Shapiro, who said he had been promised a parking space during the Rutters Park planning process, gave the plan his “blessing.”

At the request of Brian McHugh of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, the board approved several disbursements for the Rutters Park and Spinner Park projects. McHugh noted that there had been a number of “stops and starts” on the Spinner Park project, since several subcontractors had “experienced coronavirus cases in the workforce.”

Neil Joyce, manager of the project to build a new department of public works (DPW) facility on Turners Falls Road, reviewed the obstacles encountered by the project during the recent winter and spring. He said that despite those obstacles, the project should be completed by the end of August, and the DPW could move in

in September.

The board approved an extension of Joyce’s contract through the “substantial completion” of the project. The board did not discuss some “dystopian photos,” in Ellis’s words, of the project which had been in the original meeting materials.

Other Business

At the request of airport manager Bryan Camden, the board approved hiring two part-time workers, who will primarily be working on the airport grounds. Both are students at the Franklin County Technical School, and one will probably be retained in the fall, according to Camden.

The board approved a credit card for water pollution control supervisor Chelsea Little to make purchases within her budget.

The board appointed Nelson as their representative to the committee overseeing a review of town financial policies.

Ellis reviewed changes in town recycling policy, both at the curbside and at the town transfer station. He said the Springfield recycling facility where all materials are sent will no longer accept shredded paper or aerosol cans, but can now accept clear plastic egg cartons and glasses.

Kuklewicz announced that Ellis had recently been certified as a public procurement officer. “Hurray,” said Ellis, although he did not reveal whether a badge came with the title.

The board’s next meeting will be on July 13.



GUEST EDITORIAL

By PHIL WILSON

NORTHAMPTON – It has been six weeks since George Floyd was murdered, and after protests occurred worldwide, with unprecedented scope, involving some 2,000 cities and literally millions of protesters, few would argue that this sheer mass of human passion represented a merely ephemeral event. I protested in Greenfield, Amherst and Northampton. In the latter town, some 5,000, mostly white demonstrators gathered on Center Street. Why?

Writers and pundits have offered an array of fairly predictable explanations citing the frustrations of the pandemic and suggesting that the accumulation of racist police murders finally reached a tipping point, but it may be that these protests involved something more elusive – these crowds in the street, perhaps, were forcing a referendum on public cruelty.

I have just finished reading a book called *Backing Hitler*, by Robert Gellately, which explores the mundane experiences of ordinary Germans of the Nazi era. One chapter is entitled “Concentration Camps in Public Spaces.”

Most people assume that Nazi atrocities were essentially secret acts of brutality that never engaged the average citizen with the pornographic clarity that caused moral discomfort. Gellately, however, documents that the crimes of Nazism took place within a publicly transparent narrative in which most citizens subscribed to a common point of view about the fate of enemies of the regime. A system of concentration camps appeared vividly in almost every community, with human misery calculatingly displayed in the form of half-starved, dirty prisoners cleaning streets, clearing rubble, laboring in local factories, or plowing small farms.

In Germany virtually every enemy of the state was designated as lazy – Jews, Gypsies, Bolsheviks, Slavs, and even some Germans bore the terrible designation, “work shy.” Local concentration camps provided theatrical evidence that all of humanity was divided into two categories: those who work by choice, and those who have to be forced to work.

Is this not the central narrative of the Repub-

lican Trumpists – that blacks, Hispanics, illegal immigrants, and liberals are lazy, and looking for “free stuff?” In the simplistic world of race and work, virtue and disgrace, mythical, dark-skinned villains race about in taxpayer-funded Cadillacs filled with bastard children decked out in Air Jordans. None of them have worked a day in their lives as they siphon the hard-earned cash from industrious white workers.

These narrative fables were already fully utilized in the nuanced structures of Nazi racial theory some 90 years ago. In the Trump narrative, the MAGA masses don’t complain about the cost of medical coverage or education. They work, work some more, and don’t begrudge fossil fuel CEOs a nickel of their hard-earned billions.

The ancient tropes dividing all society into the categories of idle parasites and hard-working, square-jawed racial heroes now support a flourishing theater, in which acts of public cruelty – caging children, deporting asylum seekers, evicting impoverished families – has become popular entertainment. Indeed, there is a YouTube channel in which a landlord films and narrates the evictions of his tenants – and he enjoys millions of views.

In Nazi Germany the population had been so psychologically ransacked that the meaning of police murders would have had almost no ambiguity. That is not to suggest that people experienced no private trauma while watching captive, bound, unarmed victims being publicly savaged by truncheons or boots, but the narrative scaffolding in a fascist culture means that the default interpretation, if one does not manage to look away quickly enough, is always the same: The beating or killing of a lazy person should elicit no regret. *They got what they deserved.* A systematic program of state violence is premised on the finely tuned resonance of onlookers.

The reaction to the murder of George Floyd is shocking and heartening – we may be emotionally farther from fascism than I had imagined. Typically, racist police murders, no matter how egregious, or how vividly they were captured on cell phone videos, have only incensed black people and a few whites, while many other whites, fed on racist narratives, have voiced predictable

slogans of deflection and rationalization. “What about blacks killing each other in Chicago? What about all the police who have been killed?”

There will inevitably continue to be debate – and the backlash of denial – involving all groups, around the strategy to combat racism and inequality, but the emotional eruption of the past month and a half speaks to a collective shift in perspective.

Uniquely, the helpless, pleading, powerless agony of the bystanders in the George Floyd video might have shifted the point of consideration away from the victim and onto the onlookers. To be fair, members of the crowd in that video confronted the police, verbally, and, most of them being black, knew exactly what sort of nightmare had invaded their community.

There is no shortage of cruelty and brutality available to the public on YouTube, but the video of George Floyd being murdered in slow motion was the most terrible thing I had ever seen. Inevitably, as a human being, I imagined the feeling of having a knee grinding into my neck, but the thing that continues to haunt my imagination is the thought of being a bystander – one of the members of the crowd impotently pleading with the murderer to check Floyd’s pulse.

And, of course, that is the role that all white people have been assigned. We are all onlookers, bystanders, and the Floyd murder video proved to be an epiphany. We have been bystanders for our entire lives, and many, like myself, perhaps, realized that onlookers have no power in the moment, and no retroactive strength. We do, however, have great influence *preemptively*.

Could that be why so many people have poured into the downtown streets of towns and cities? Is this a new alliance of those who imagine themselves as being strangled by some future police whim, and those who foresee themselves just watching and pleading? Might that be the psychological mechanism causing this exponential growth of protest across all racial divisions?

Phil Wilson recently retired after working for 25 years as an outreach mental health clinician in Franklin County. He lives in Northampton, and has been keeping a daily “COVID Diary.”

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!

Renaissance Excavating, Inc.




COMPLETE SITE WORK

Septic & Drainage Systems | Sand, Gravel & Loam

Main Road, Gill
Douglas Edson 413.863.4462
renexc@gmail.com cell 413.834.2201

INFO@RENBUILD.NET
413-863-8316



RENAISSANCE BUILDERS

WWW.RENBUILD.NET • PO BOX 272, TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376



SINCE 1970.
LICENSED, INSURED
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING, ALL PHASES
POWER WASHING

BRIAN MCCUE, PRESIDENT
240 GREENFIELD ROAD • MONTAGUE, MA 01351
PHONE & FAX: 413-367-9896 • RENAISSANCEPAINTINGCOMPANY.COM

ERVING from page A1

no adverse effect to applying for two loans at once.

Fellows asked about the proposed loan’s 20-year term for the loan: “What if the paper company

Town Meeting This Saturday

Erving’s annual town meeting will be held this Saturday, July 11, starting at 10 a.m., under a tent on the Erving Elementary School grounds. Voters will consider the proposed \$12 million FY’21 budget and six proposed bylaws.

The budget includes \$5.2 million for education, with \$3.3 million for Erving Elementary School; \$2 million for employee benefits; \$250,000 for the capital stabilization fund; and \$273,000 for the general stabilization fund.

The proposed bylaws include creating a revolving fund for electric vehicle charging stations; amending the driveways and curb cuts bylaw; increasing several town clerk’s fees; establishing an electronic posting location; changing the dates for the annual town meeting and town election; and reducing the town meeting quorum.

goes out of business?”

The town administrator answered that the contract would address that possibility. If the paper mill should fail, he said, the town would take over operation of the wastewater plant. He added that he felt it was important to update the town’s existing contract with the company.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith said that although a contract would give the town some “assurance,” it was not a guarantee, and that “there’s a risk that we take on.”

Fin com member Daniel Hammock said the town and paper mill had been cooperating for over 50 years, and that “there have been very few bumps in the road in agreements we’ve had with the mill.” He suggested a public presentation about the project.

Fin com member Arthur Johnson suggested that if the mill “makes a lot of money [using the sludge dryer], they could pay the loan down more quickly.”

In the end, fin com members agreed that the town should continue to explore cooperation with ER-SECO on financing the sludge dryer. The loan application would need to be approved by town meeting.

The three committees also briefly discussed the grant application for an electrical vehicle charging

station in Erving Center, and road and sidewalk work on River, Warner and Strachan streets.

Pay for Elected Officials

In April, Erving implemented a step and grade system for employee compensation. Under the plan approved by the selectboard and fin com, employees were placed on the step that gave them a raise on April 6, 2020. For the majority of employees, this meant being placed on step 1 of the proposed grade. To partially account for longevity, employees with five or more years in the same position were given one additional step increase, and employees with ten or more years in the same position were given two additional steps.

At the June 22 election, however, incumbent treasurer Julie Wonkka, who had qualified for a longevity step increase, was replaced by a challenger, Jennifer Eichorn, who had not previously worked for the town.

“Should a person without town experience get the step/grade pay of the past treasurer?” asked Jacob Smith at last week’s meeting.

Johnson answered that Eichorn should “get whatever that position is paying.”

Fin com member Debra Smith suggested that in the future, there

should not be step increases for elected positions. “Keep the elected officials’ compensation on a schedule,” she said.

Bryan Smith said he would look for examples of how other towns set the pay for elected officials, and report back to the selectboard.

Other Business

Jacob Smith said the bulk of the hazardous materials cleanup at the former International Paper Mill had been completed. Bryan Smith said that a consultant to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments was a mill rehabilitation specialist, who could provide technical support for drafting a request for proposals for the property’s reuse.

The selectboard re-appointed Philip Wonkka as fire chief, and Christopher Blair as police chief, both for three years. Bryan Smith was appointed as representative to the Franklin County Solid Waste District, and planning assistant Mariah Kurtz to the Franklin Regional Planning Board.

The board approved Eversource’s request to re-activate a pole at 143 Old State Road.

Bryan Smith said that town hall will start opening on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Later this month, it may also be open Monday evenings.

TURNERS FALLS
BRICK HOUSE
COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER
CREATIVITY DRIVE
Art CRAFT GARDENING
HELP OUR TEENS HAVE A
FRUITFUL SUMMER BY DONATING YOUR
EXTRA TOOLS AND SUPPLIES!
EMAIL: ISADORA.REISNER@GMAIL.COM
FOR INFO OR TO SCHEDULE A PICK-UP

Formerly Jay K's – bigger & better!
Connecticut River
Liquor & Wine
Open Mon-Thurs 10am-10pm
Fri & Sat 10am - 11pm • Sun Noon-8pm
123Avenue A • Turners Falls
863-5066

GILL from page A1

not think about the residents that lived on it.”

“The three of us did not raise that question,” said board member John Ward. “My understanding is that this was a temporary closure, and that the administration would be in touch with you to let you know ahead of time that this was happening.”

Fire chief Gene Beaubien, who was on the call, said he had been notified by NMH. “Their original plan was to block [NMH] off completely, and I said no, I need a gate up there... and I have a key with a keycode that firefighters also have in their trucks.”

Bathory-Peeler said the road closure and gate placement have added extra strain and disruption for her and other residents who commute to work, and must now sign in through the gatehouse every time to get to their homes. “There aren’t any other residents in town who are experiencing the pandemic in this way,” she said. “Imagine if your houses were cut off.”

Bathory-Peeler acknowledged the challenges of the pandemic to NMH and to Gill, but said that no other area schools had blocked off roads.

Crochier said he expects representatives from NMH to attend the next selectboard meeting seeking a work permit extension, and promised to address the residents’ concerns with them then.

A related concern Crochier expressed is a loss of business from the blocked access to Main Road which, in the past, has brought visitor traffic to Gill. “We are cutting our town off from one of the largest draws of people to our town,” he said.

COVID-19 Update

A motion was carried for police chief Christopher Redmond to keep on a third full-time officer, to be revisited in mid-August. Town administrator Ray Purington said he thought the additional hours could be paid for through federal CARES Act funding, and state emergency funds.

Chief Redmond described issues as “ancillary to COVID-19” if not directly, such as a lack of childcare resources and other economic is-

sues, as well as “unique challenges” related to custody issues while the county House of Corrections was not accepting prisoners, and courts and social service agencies operating on a limited scale.

“The calls we are getting have a lot of extenuating factors,” Redmond told the selectboard. He said there have been more well-being and mental-health calls, as well as a large increase in fireworks calls, which he attributed to the cancellation of public fireworks displays over the Independence Day holiday.

River Safety

A request to the selectboard from FirstLight Power Resources to place an eight-by-eight-foot “Dam Ahead” warning sign on the former Red Bridge abutment in Riverside was denied.

FirstLight had already installed a new bracket and water gauge on the abutment earlier this year, without permission from the town, or consultation with Gill’s historical commission. FirstLight’s letter stated that the old dam warning sign is under power lines, and it is considered too dangerous to place the new sign there. A “Dam Ahead” sign had already been placed on the Turners Falls bridge abutment.

Pamela Shoemaker, representing the historical commission, expressed her confusion at FirstLight’s actions in a letter to the selectboard dated July 2. The commission recommended preventing FirstLight from creating any further damage to the Gill side of the federally registered historic bridge abutment, and argued that the power lines do not present a safety issue for the replacement signage.

The selectboard voted 3-0 to deny the new sign on the abutment, but to allow the new depth gauge to remain.

Candidate Visit

Will LaRose, candidate for the Second Franklin district in the state house of representatives, joined the call to introduce himself and briefly discuss his platform. A Democrat vying for Susannah Whipps’ seat, LaRose’s vision is toward specific

goals on rural revitalization, which he described as having three pillars: infrastructure, education, and economic development.

Having grown up and been educated in Athol, LaRose wants to develop a new statewide service corps that would give “especially younger people the opportunity to serve, right in their own community. It’s something I’ve wanted to see for a long time,” said LaRose.

Other Business

The selectboard approved employing David Rich to a vacant mechanic/operator position on the highway department, contingent on Rich getting roadside mower certification and other training. Rich’s ten years of experience in the Buckland highway department, “doing just about everything that we do,” said Purington, made him a good fit for Gill.

A resident complained that the Gill Community Choice power aggregation program should be opt-in, rather than opt-out. The program was approved and voted on at Gill’s town meeting, and board members said it does not present a conflict of interest for any member, as the resident’s letter suggested.

The selectboard voted to opt the town out of the Community Choice plan only for its three streetlight accounts, because Eversource is currently offering a rate about 25% less than the plan, saving the town approximately \$10 to \$25 per month, depending on usage and future rates.

A \$42,289.66 Riverside sewer commitment was approved. Purington said the neighborhood’s sewer usage was down slightly from last year.

A motion passed for a \$10 hotworks permit fee to be added to the fire department’s fee sheet. The permit covers grinding work, or anything involving heat, spark, or flame that is not in a prescribed welding area.

This Sunday, July 12, the fire department will be working on Route 2 in the French King Bridge area to finish up house number signage which was stopped during the winter months.

INQUIRY from page A1

comments made at an advisory group meeting are public, he is “certain that there will be ways that we can make it safe for anyone who does not wish to disclose their identity, as they offer feedback, to do so.”

The two advisory groups, in turn, will be appointed by a five-member “search committee” consisting of Ellis, selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz, Precinct 1 town meeting member Ariel Elan, and two additional people who have not yet been determined. Ellis said Kuklewicz was assembling the search committee, but an inquiry to Kuklewicz was not answered as of press time.

Two members of Montague Defund, an ad hoc group that grew out of the vote at town meeting to freeze FY’21 police spending at FY’20 levels, said they had been invited to serve on the search committee, but had not yet accepted the invitation.

“I think it’s vitally important that people who are directly impacted by police violence and racism are able to guide this whole process,” said Elliot Ezcurrea of Precinct 5. “I would prefer to give up my seat to someone with those experiences.”

“I appreciate Rich and Steve’s initiative to move forward conversations about the issues many community members have been raising since annual town meeting, and the amazing Black Lives Matter protest the following day,” said Natan Cohen, also of Precinct 5. “Elliot and I noticed that none of the three community members who were extended that invitation are people of color, or have had the kinds of personal negative interactions with the police that this movement is trying to address.”

Ariel Elan of Precinct 1 said she had accepted the invitation, and was also applying to serve on the advisory group on equity and use of force. Elan currently serves on town meeting, the energy committee, and the highway facility building committee.

“I’m very happy to be on it,” Elan said. “My entire motivation is to bridge among people who may have different perspectives, feel like they have different interests to protect, or different interests to bring forward

that have not been in the public.”

Elan said that last month’s town meeting, in which 90 to 100 people were able to meet outdoors, made her optimistic the groups will be able to host public discussions in person. “We certainly have the resources to have large forums,” she said. “All of the different channels of input that we can find are going to be open.”

Montague police chief Chris Williams said he saw the committees as “a good opportunity to listen, and then react.” “I think a lot of people in the town don’t know what we do, or why we do it, or why we’re trained a certain way to do it,” he said. “I think all that will come out.”

“Because of George Floyd, and the shooting down in Atlanta, people are concerned,” Williams added. “They want to know: is the Montague department doing it right?”

At last week’s selectboard meeting, Jen Audley of Precinct 4, who chairs the town’s finance committee, recommended the town set aside money to support volunteers. “I’ve participated in a lot of meetings like this, and there are a lot of very specific things you can do to really make them inclusive and equitable,” she said, citing childcare as an example.

Kuklewicz said all committee members will receive “training relative to effective group process” from Leverett resident Paula Green of the Karuna Center for Peacebuilding. Town officials have already met with Green to discuss their vision for the special inquiry.

Ellis said he had contacted Green at the recommendation of state representative Natalie Blais, and that his plan is to pay her for her work with money from the town’s “community development discretionary unallocated resources” line item, which can be used “for the purpose of supporting facilitation [and] logistics.”

Ellis later clarified that the training sessions with Green are not subject to open meeting law.

Natan Cohen said that they had “recommended to the town that they also hire a person of color with expertise supporting anti-racist and cross-class dialogue,” in addition to Green.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!



Bringing Peace to Tired Muscles
Please stay safe!
Re-Opening in Late July
Gretchen Wetherby LMT
Massage Offices in Shelburne Falls and Millers Falls
www.gretchenwetherby.massagetherapy.com
gretchenwlm@gmail.com 413-824-7063



Fred Holmgren
Piano Tuning & Repair
Stay tuned!
(978)544-5494
fredholmgren@gmail.com



Rau's Auto
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR
(413) 367-2475
531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague
24 hour emergency towing
Best service licensed Mechanics



Baystate Franklin Medical Center RNs



Baystate Franklin Medical Center nurses appreciate all of the support hospital staff have received during the COVID-19 pandemic!

BFMC RNs Donna Stern and Suzanne Love outside the State House. Nurses have been advocating at the state and local level for safe personal protective equipment, improved infection control protocols and more support for healthcare workers to keep them safe and healthy.

Our community members have made tremendous sacrifices to help keep us all safe. You have experienced the loss of loved ones, risks to your health, financial strain, and social isolation. Through it all, you have followed public health guidance and worn masks, kept six feet apart and done everything you can to limit exposure and flatten the curve.

- You stayed home unless necessary
- You donated food countless times to BFMC staff
- You advocated for safe PPE for all healthcare workers
- You worked on the front lines as first responders, grocery store clerks, delivery drivers and childcare workers
- You jumped in your cars and rallied in solidarity with frontline workers who needed masks and safety gear

Our fight against COVID-19 is far from over. Please keep wearing your masks and follow public health guidance. Your support means everything to us.

Together we will stay safe and overcome!

WENDELL from page A1

those laws. Within six months, that vote was reversed at a special town meeting.”

The 2016 statewide referendum to legalize pot was approved by nearly 80% of Wendell voters. When the state commission established the process for cities and towns to respond to proposals by prospective cannabis businesses, there was widespread support for local moratoria to allow cities and towns to revise their zoning bylaws. Moratoria were recommended by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, but Wendell chose not take this action.

Before proposals began to surface for cannabis growing and production facilities, opposition movements erupted in many small, woodsy rural Massachusetts towns to medium and large-scale solar arrays. Residents who had supported state subsidies for solar power opposed what they considered to be large scale “industrial solar,” which they argued would undermine the rural character of their communities.

In Wendell, a large-scale solar project proposed in June 2019 encountered strong opposition at hearings of the planning board and

conservation commission. In response, the planning board proposed a moratorium on any similar projects, which was approved by an October 2019 town meeting and was not challenged in court. The board is now considering revisions to the town’s solar bylaws, and that moratorium is in effect through December 2020.

Though the solar array was proposed before the moratorium, and therefore not subject to it, the project’s developers withdrew it in February from consideration by town boards. This was generally deemed a victory for opponents of “industrial solar,” and the townwide discussion about development may have encouraged opposition to similar cannabis facilities, though the proposed West Street project is smaller in scale.

At selectboard meetings this spring, as well as at a public “community outreach meeting” organized on June 19 by Apple Guy Flowers, opponents have raised numerous objections including the operation’s impact on vegetation, odor, and the precedent it may set for other, larger projects. There has been little open support for the project.

Initially it was reported in this newspaper that the West Street project, similar to last year’s solar proposal, would not be covered by the new moratorium. But planning board members Nan Riebschlaeger and Christopher Parker argue that a decision on the cannabis project would be delayed by the moratorium, because their board had not yet received a formal application from Apple Guy for a special permit. So far the project has only come before the selectboard to negotiate a “host community agreement,” as required by the state.

According to Parker, “The moratorium begins when the planning board had its hearing. The legal process for approval [of the project] is a submission to the planning board, which has not occurred to date. The community host agreement is not an approval for the project.”

Riebschlaeger told the *Reporter* that the issue has not been sent to town counsel for an opinion. The legal firm that represents Apple Guy could not be reached for comment prior to this week’s deadline.

At last week’s town meeting, Parker warned that the proposed moratorium might be overturned by a ruling of the state attorney

general, presumably because it was approved well after the window established by the CCC for bylaw revisions.

Riebschlaeger said that the AG would not discuss its stance on the moratorium with her, in part because the office had not yet received a copy of the town meeting article.

At its most recent meeting, the planning board approved an 8-page draft bylaw to regulate “recreational marijuana establishments.” The proposed bylaw might allow a cannabis project of the size of the Apple Guy proposal, but it contains numerous provisions for odor, runoff, and noise mitigation that a small grower might find onerous. The bylaw also contains requirements for energy and water “efficiency.” Article XVI, as it is called, does not explicitly state that its purpose is to preserve the rural character of the town or its woods. Rather, the goal is to “promote safe attractive business areas, maintain property values, protect and preserve the quality of residential neighborhoods, and protect the safety of children and young people.”

A hearing on the proposed bylaw will be held on August 3.



A Cool, Quick, Outdoor Town Meeting

By JOSH HEINEMANN

WENDELL – Rain held off for Wendell’s annual town meeting on Saturday, June 27, and in fact left an hour’s grace between the time the meeting ended and a light drizzle started. It allowed Wendell citizens to approve the entire warrant with almost no dissenting votes, in a meeting held outside on the common with participants wearing masks and with spacing between chairs.

Article 25, to establish a moratorium on marijuana facilities to allow the planning board to create an appropriate bylaw, passed without a dissenting vote. Planning board member Chris Parker cautioned that the state attorney general might strike the article down, or that the proposed moratorium might expose the town to a lawsuit.

Discussion was short, limited to the article and not allowed to stray to the facility that Lucas Thayer, who is not from Wendell, is proposing for a three-acre parcel on West Street.

Because of restrictions on groups of more than ten, a town meeting advisory committee had formed. Plans were made for a rain date,

with the hope they would not be needed. That Friday, fire chief Joe Cuneo had met citizens and marked the common with playing-field spray. At 8:30 Saturday morning, 11 volunteers met to set up the tables for check-in and for town officials, as well as the evenly spaced chairs. They were done in a half hour.

Finance committee member Al MacIntyre provided a sound system, and deputy moderator Chris Parker put the meeting on Zoom for citizens who could not attend. Current law does not allow people who are not physically present to vote.

In order to reduce the time that people would be gathered, the warrant was streamlined into a consent agenda in which similar articles were grouped together and voted as one, unless someone wanted one singled out for discussion.

The total operating budget approved, under Article 4, was \$2,985,616. Mahar school committee’s full budget request passed, rather than a lower amount, which would have been consistent with the Orange and New Salem town meeting votes.

Citizen Seal LaMadeleine asked

to separate out the police item from the town’s operating budget in Article 4 in order to bring up community-police relations, a relevant discussion nationally. Wendell once had a community-policing group, but that group stopped meeting. A community-policing committee may become necessary when longtime police chief Ed Chase actually retires.

Citizen Morgan Mead singled out the debt service for Wendell’s fiber-optic internet system from the group of debt service articles, and cast the lone vote against that payment. Still, voters approved paying all of the town’s debt service.

The town took \$201,680 from the stabilization fund to reduce the tax rate and cover various regular expenses, including debt service, and moved \$255,452 in free cash into stabilization, bringing the total stabilization account up to \$381,241.

The sky was overcast, and the town common stayed pleasantly cool during the meeting. Citizens and officials stayed afterward to disinfect the chairs and tables, then put them back in the town hall for Sunday’s Good Neighbors, again taking just one half hour.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Hosting, Towing, and Raises

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard ended the open session of its June 24 meeting by 8 p.m., in time for two scheduled executive sessions. The first session was held “to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government’s bargaining or litigation position.” The second was called “to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual.”

Since their May 27 meeting, the selectboard office had gotten several letters of concern about a proposal to grow marijuana on a three-acre parcel on West Street. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich did not read them aloud, but summarized them as not in favor of the plan.

The town meeting warrant had an article to establish a moratorium on marijuana facilities, and allow the planning board to create bylaws to protect the interests of residents if a marijuana facility comes to town.

Board members did not discuss that article at the June 24 meeting, but did discuss the next step the selectboard needed to take. The proposal cannot go to the planning board without a host community agreement. Apple Guy Flowers LLC, the potential growers, gave the town a draft agreement, and a check for \$2,500 to go into an escrow account for legal fees. The agreement needs legal review.

Aldrich said she did not attend the June 19 outreach meeting that Apple Guy Flowers held, but selectboard member Laurie DiDonato said it was clear there was quite a bit of opposition in town. Citizen Deb Flying Horse, participating at the selectboard meeting, said that Apple Guy’s lawyer was hostile and had lied, saying the company had a purchase and sale agreement, when in fact they did not.

DiDonato said there were questions for Apple Guy Flowers, and then for the lawyer. DiDonato said she had contacted Sheffield, where there are two outdoor marijuana farms – one of 90 acres – and that

the town had no complaints about odors. (One person noticed an odor, but did not complain.) A third proposal is being planned in Sheffield, and overall, the town is happy with the income the facilities provide.

Enforcement

The board of health has heard complaints about crowding at Fiske Pond, with cars parked along the road where signs prohibit it as a tow zone, and in the parking lot entrance. The parking lot was made small deliberately to limit the number of people at the beach, and overflow parking has been a regular problem.

Police chief Ed Chase has given cars parked in the tow zone one warning, which has usually been enough to stop cars from parking outside the lot. The entryway needs to be maintained wide enough to allow emergency vehicles to enter.

DiDonato asked if towing could happen with no warning. The tow zone signs are not at all ambiguous.

Selectboard chair Dan Keller recommended putting tow zone signs along the parking lot entrance, and

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was July 8, 2010: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Montague Applies For \$1.9 Million Grant

Calling the Strathmore Mill the “linchpin of the downtown and townwide revitalization effort,” Montague’s new town planner, Walter Ramsey, sought and won selectboard backing for the town to apply for \$1.9 million in grant funding to remove obstacles to development at the mill complex.

The town will seek the funds in two phases from a Public Works and Economic Development grant, funded by state transportation bonds. The state extended the deadline for Montague to put in the application, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said.

In the first phase, Ramsey said the town hoped to rebuild or renovate the condemned pedestrian bridge connecting parking areas along Canal Street with the Strathmore complex, and also to do the design work for a new parking area where the former Building #10 stood, up until it was destroyed by arson in 2007.

Wendell To Consider Simple Living Proposal

In the second phase, the town will seek to remove the asbestos-tainted debris from that arson pile and build the parking lot.

On July 13, the Wendell board of health will hold a hearing on an application by Jonathan and Susan von Ranson to construct a 750-square-foot non-electric apartment on the second floor of their recently renovated barn.

The von Ransons hope to gain legal approval for their plan from all relevant permitting authorities in order to reduce the environmental impact of their living space. They have lived before with a hand pump for well water and a wood stove for heat and cooking, and they would like to live that way again.

Their former home was way in the woods, but the proposed apartment would be right in the center of Wendell, on the town common. Thus there was no question of an “out of sight, out of mind” approach to relevant building codes, which presently require electric wiring, running water, and a septic system for any approved living space.



the other board members agreed.

Letters of complaint about speeding have come to the selectboard, but the location of those speeders has been all over town. In conversation with DiDonato, Chase said that patrolling for speeders is difficult given Wendell’s small force and miles of road; the best approach is for citizens to make a note of offending cars, especially regular offenders.

Highway commission chair Phil Delorey said he would advocate radar and penalties.

Employment

Treasurer Carolyn Manley told board members that one town employee has taken COVID-related sick leave to care for a child. The CARES Act allows that sick leave not be taken from regular sick leave an employee has earned. Selectboard members approved reinstating the employee’s sick leave, as

allowed by the law. DiDonato said that the town should make its procedure a policy, and not have to make a decision for each individual. The COVID pandemic is not over.

The board went along with a firm recommendation of a 1.8% COLA pay raise. Aldrich declined the raise. Her salary is paid by both Wendell and New Salem. She said New Salem gave no COLA raises, and that if Wendell gave her a raise, her pay would become too complicated.

Animal control officer Maggie Houghton has agreed to stay on while her replacement is being found.

Al MacIntyre agreed to take the position of water operator, and allow Larry Ramsdell to retire. Ramsdell’s annual salary is \$600, and MacIntyre will accept that amount. The town got one other offer, from an out-of-town company, for \$7,300 per year. MacIntyre has started the training.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!

enrich the soil. rebuild lives

**curbside pickups
of food scraps**

now serving greenfield & turners
weekly and
every-other-week service
(413) 376-8076
www.thecompostcooperative.com
thecompostcooperative@gmail.com

EDWARDS TREE SERVICE
Matthew Edwards
Certified Arborist

Tree Climbing Specialist • Pruning And Removals
Stump Grinding • Practicing Fine Arboriculture
Residential / Commercial / Municipal
60 Ft. Aerial Lift • Brush Chipping
Fully Insured With Workers Comp. • Insurance and Liability
WWW.MATTEDWARDSTREE.COM
Wendell, MA
Serving Hampshire And Franklin Counties
413-325-7823 or 978-544-7452

**Bryan Hobbs
Remodeling LLC**

Blown Cellulose Insulation • Spray Foam Insulation
Airsealing • Energy Audits • Replacement Doors & Windows

Email: bryanhobbsremodeling@gmail.com
Now Accepting Credit Cards

Office: (413) 775-9006
Lic # 083982
Reg # 139564

Bryan G. Hobbs
PO Box 1535
Greenfield, MA 01302

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Social-Justice Conflicts Passed On to Volunteers

By GEORGE BRACE

At a remotely-held meeting Tuesday night beset with audio difficulties, the Leverett selectboard opted to create a social justice committee with a volunteer, rather than official, status, due in part to challenges presented by state regulations on the conduct of town committees. A lengthy discussion was held on the issue, and the related matter of an ongoing graffiti battle on the town’s roads, which will be among the committee’s first agenda items.

Before the social justice committee item came up for deliberation, police chief Scott Minckler asked if the board had made any decision on what to do about the graffiti and paint that began appearing on the town’s roads recently. Initially, 3 foot by 2.5 foot “Black Lives Matter” messages had been neatly stenciled on approximately 15 of the town’s intersections. Over the past several weeks, the messages have been painted over and repainted with conflicting messages, in a back-and-forth graffiti battle that caused the board to change their minds about the need for action.

Chief Minckler reported that the painting activity has appeared to be increasing, with people dumping paint, crossing out previous messages, and using expletives. The chief said he had also received complaints about wet, messy, paint on the roads causing property damage by getting on people’s cars. Board chair Peter D’Errico said he has also heard these complaints.

Minckler said he understood the graffiti was a sounding board, but that people’s property was being damaged, and the activity was illegal. He said it had been a month since it began, and urged the board to do something and start with “a clean slate.”

Residents made numerous suggestions, including leaving the graffiti and recognizing it as a historical record; pursuing criminal complaints against perpetrators; seeking volunteers to paint over the graffiti; and authorizing an official town mural in support of BLM. One resident said that an official mural would make a statement as a town: “We don’t support graffiti wars, but

we do support Black Lives Matter,” adding, “Paint it in front of the police station. It will be safe.”

D’Errico said he felt “enough is enough” with the graffiti battle, and the board would be issuing a statement on the matter in the near future. He said paint on roads is not a solution to racism, but a discussion of residents’ concerns and divided opinions has that possibility. D’Errico and others suggested that issue would be a good fit for an item to be taken up by a social justice committee, the formation of which took place moments later.

A proposal to form an official town “social justice committee” was rejected in favor of creating a committee with volunteer status. The primary reason given for the choice was the burdensome laws and regulations regarding the conduct of official government groups, particularly the state open meeting law and quorum requirements.

Approximately 20 people have volunteered for the committee, meaning it would need a quorum of 11 members to conduct business, and members would be unable to communicate with each other on relevant matters outside of committee meetings, due to the open meeting law.

Board members and residents noted that while making the committee official would give its work more legitimacy and weight, these requirements were “incredibly cumbersome” and would pose a challenge to the committee’s goals. It was decided to form the committee on a volunteer basis, with some of their first tasks to be the wording of a mission statement, outreach to similar groups such as the Leverett Alliance, and coming up with options for dealing with the graffiti issue.

Other Business

Fire Chief John Ingram gave a brief update on the Joshua Hill fire. (See article, page A1.) The chief said the department was keeping an eye on some smoldering logs, but the outer ring was holding fine.

The board followed the school committee’s recommendation and appointed Jessica Rocheleau to a vacancy in its membership. The seat will come up for election in one year.

Peggy Wolff was appointed to

FIRE from page A1

Several people called to report seeing smoke along Route 63, while those living close to the fire worried about where it could spread.

“At first the wisps of smoke resembled bits of fog clearing off, but we quickly saw distinct plumes of what could only be smoke,” said Dan Warner, a Leverett resident who lives about one mile north of Joshua Hill.

“We watched the fire move on the top of the hill from east to west most of the first day, dreading a change of wind direction,” Warner said. “Even with the wind in our favor, the air was smoky.”

At least 25 fire departments from across Hampshire and Franklin counties responded to the fire, as well as helicopters from the state police Air Wing unit and the Department of Conservation and Recreation. In the first three days, anywhere between 95 and 115 firefighters were fighting the fire at one time, according to Ingram.

“We were able to get some water brush tankers up to a couple different points where we were able to get some water up there,” Ingram said. “It still wasn’t enough. It was such a large area.”

Moderate drought conditions across the state contributed to the severity of the fire, according to first responders, who said the fire burned deeper into the parched topsoil than a brush fire typically would in June. Below-average precipitation through the winter and spring contributed to “abnormally dry” condi-



ROBERTSON PHOTO

Damaged trees are still toppling in the burn zone, and the ground is coated in a soft coat of ash. Hikers are discouraged.

the energy committee.

The board approved changes in hours and increases in pay for several library workers, two of whom are stepping up to fill in while the town seeks a new library director. (See article, page B1.) Both workers said they were not interested in the permanent position, but were willing to fill in during the transition.

Chief Minckler informed the

board that officer Meghan Gallo passed her physical and is registered in the last available spot at the Boylston police training facility, to begin September 14 and run through February. Gallo is also waitlisted at the Western Mass police training facility, which is closer.

The board signed a warrant for a debt exclusion to pay for an excavator. The warrant specifies next Satur-

tions in the western, central and northeastern parts of the state until June 26, when it was officially declared a “moderate drought.”

While helicopters dropped buckets of water on the fire, “hand crews” worked with shovels, rakes, leaf blowers, and other tools to clear debris from the perimeter of the fire and prevent it from spreading. This was the first official deployment for members of the specially trained team, of which 60 Franklin County firefighters had just completed their training in March.

“In the Leverett fire it was obvious that most of the work had to be done by hand crews,” said Greenfield fire chief Robert Strahan, whose department also responded to the fire. “They were able to slow the fire down, but there were times the fire would jump the line, and they would have to go back.”

“I used to be on a wildfire crew 20 years ago traveling the country to fight,” the Greenfield chief added. “In Franklin County, in my close to 30 years of experience, I’ve never seen fire activity like that.”

By the time heavy rains arrived on June 27, the brush fire had burned through 55 acres. As the rain fell, Ingram and David Celino, the state fire warden for the Department of Conservation and Recreation, held a press conference on the situation.

“It’s a daunting effort in the conditions that we’re in,” Celino said. “The conditions are that the state is now in a moderate drought situation... With that comes dry forest fuel conditions, the driest forest field conditions that I have seen in my 30 years in the fire service for the month of June.”

The state of Massachusetts had seen at least 710 wildfires so far this year, Celino said, averaging less than one acre burned per fire. However, as drought conditions worsen this could change, he said.

“As you can see by this incident, getting containment and getting control of these fires is going to get more difficult,” Celino said. “Our message to the public is to be very vigilant out there when it comes to camp fires, or any type of outside ignition source.”

The fire also prompted the first ever use of Leverett’s new CodeRED emergency notification system.

“We had just got it up and running probably a week prior to this,” Ingram said. Anyone in town can sign up for emergency phone calls and text messages through the Leverett town website.

In the coming weeks, the Leverett fire department plans to present a recap of the event with photos, firsthand accounts, and the historical context of the fire. Hikers are asked to stay away from the area of the fire, as there are still falling trees and potential hot spots underground.

“We had overpowering support from the community who were bringing us food, and water, and fruit and local businesses donating [supplies],” Ingram said. “The Leverett fire department absolutely wants to extend sincere thanks to all the community.”



PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!

Painting & Home Repair

Established 2003

Tony Tucker (413) 863-4833

For Owners Seeking Recurring Service

413.522.2563

www.TurnLawnCare.com

Wherever you venture...
WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED!

SINCE 1888
A.H. Rist
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

Competitive rates and discounts for all of your insurance needs!

159 Avenue A | Turners Falls | 413.863.4373 | ahrist.com

GREAT FALLS HARVEST
fresh • local • creative

Rich flavors from around the world with a local state of mind.

NOW TAKING RETAIL AND PREPARED ORDERS
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Pickup: 5 to 7 p.m.

863-0023
50 Third Street
Downtown Turners Falls

Professional Painting & Decorating Contractor Since 1900

Celebrating Our 120th Anniversary!

Christian S. Couture, President

- ★ Commercial
- ★ Residential
- ★ Industrial

Tel: (413) 863-4346 Fax: (413) 863-3740
400 Avenue A - PO Box 270 - Turners Falls, MA 01376
www.couturebros.com | HIC Lic. 100326

Geri Johnson, Realtor
ABR, CRB, CRS, GRI, SRES
413-863-9736 • GeriJohnson@Realtor.com

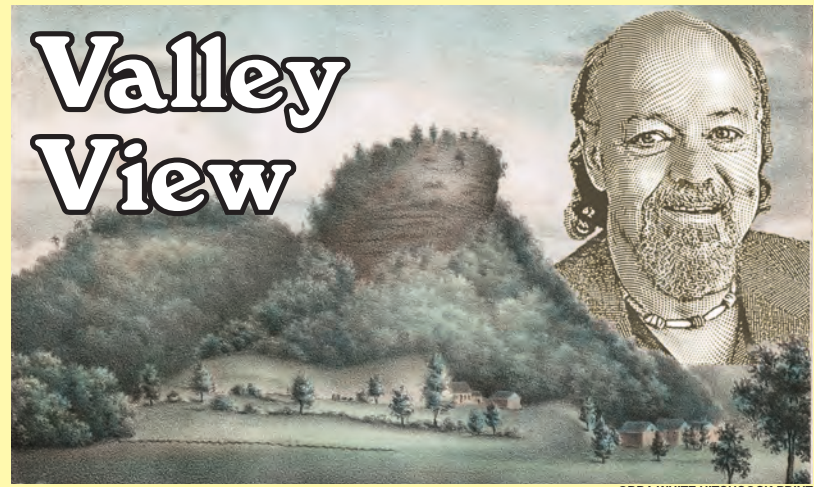
66 French King Hwy., Gill **WWW.GJAR.COM**
GERI JOHNSON, CRS 30 years of experience.

“WE HAD A WONDERFUL AND INFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE, START TO FINISH. SO HAPPY WE CONTRACTED PV SQUARED TO SEE IF SOLAR WAS A VIABLE OPTION FOR US. THANK YOU!”

413-772-8788
PVSQUARED.COOP
GREENFIELD, MA
MA ELEC. LIC. A13764 MA HIC 140077



FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER JULY 9, 2020



By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – An underwater panther in Montague? Well, bear with me. An adventure, indeed.

Credit Acton kayaker Al Peirce with the interesting May 20 discovery, made while killing time awaiting takeout following his maiden Deerfield River paddle.

Launching from Montague, across from the Deerfield’s dangerous Connecticut River confluence located between the General Pierce and bicycle-path bridges, Peirce had maneuvered more than a mile upriver when obstructed by shallow water requiring walking. He briefly pondered towing his craft upstream through the riffles, but it was getting late. Instead, he called it a day. Why not return for another voyage under favorable flows?

Reappearing at the mouth of the Deerfield, hugging the East Deerfield shore, after riding the downstream flow – Bingville to the left, East Deerfield right – Peirce looked across and noticed a couple of men standing on the Montague side near where he had put in. With evening approaching, they were exercising their dog by tossing a ball into the river for retrieval.

Reluctant to engage in conversation during the height of state’s COVID-19 distancing measures, Peirce decided to paddle a short distance down the Connecticut on a temporary reconnaissance mission. That’s when he came upon his exciting discovery, not far upstream from an island and across from an agricultural shelf known

in Deerfield annals as Sheldon’s Field. The plot forms the town’s northeast point overlooking the mouth of its namesake river. Just downstream, clinging to the Connecticut’s East Deerfield shoreline, lies exposed, red-sandstone bedrock known historically as Sheldon’s Rocks.

Timing was everything concerning the sighting.

“Had the western sun not been at a perfect angle to illuminate it through a gap in the foliage, I would have never noticed it,” recalled Peirce, who, curious about what looked like a manmade squiggle on an obscured standing stone, turned his kayak around and paddled upstream to investigate.

Vessel beached, Peirce walked to the stone, parted the wide green leaves covering most of its face, and was amazed by what he saw. It was more than a little squiggle. Much more. Staring him in the face was a well-executed petroglyph of a strange creature he thought could be a resting deer with a snake or eel beneath it. Wanting to capture images to share, he snapped off several cell-phone photos before paddling back to his launching site, which, to his relief, was vacant, the path to his vehicle clear. Yup, time to return to his riverside campsite off Meadow Road in Montague. There he would spend the night alone in a tent, his wheels of curiosity humming.

Questions swirled. How old was this carving? Who made it? What did it mean? Could it

see **VALLEY VIEW** page B5



The apparent petroglyph spotted this spring by kayaker Al Peirce.

Library Doors Are Slowly Opening. . .

By JERI MORAN

MONTAGUE – Besides the obvious sadness of missing being with family and friends, people have different things they “miss the most” during this pandemic. For some it’s their favorite restaurant, for others it’s the gym, their favorite bar, or a music venue. For some of us, the inability to go into our local library to peruse the new books, get a couple DVDs, maybe use the computers to check our emails – that’s been hard. While libraries have been trying to help patrons by phone to use the library’s online resources, including

databases and e-books, it’s just not the same as “being there.” No children’s programming, no chit-chat with the staff – those are things that people have told me they really miss.

As Massachusetts slowly re-opens, the libraries are trying to do the same. For most folks in the area, you can now order books, DVDs, and other materials from your own library only, and curb service has been set up so you can pick them up outside the library. Each library is doing this a little bit differently. Call your local library and the staff will gladly help explain the process, or check their website.

One of the big stumbling blocks right now is the fact that there has been no normal delivery service from library to library, so anything you ordered from another library has been stuck “in transit” for months in a warehouse. But as of this week, the statewide library system delivery service is up and running again. Deb Kern, director of the Northfield Public Library, said that she understands that the warehouse has over 300,000 items to deliver, for Western Mass alone! They must sort and deliver these items first before new requests will be honored. But it is exciting that things are starting to happen, and items you may have ordered months ago are now on their way.

Opening Doors

Everyone is eager for the library doors to reopen, but like everywhere else, there has to be a plan. First the governor has to declare that the libraries are allowed to open, and there is a long document from the state telling the libraries what they have to do to comply. Each library is coming up with their plan, working with their local governing boards, local health department, and library trustees to ensure that patrons and staff are as safe as possible as they reopen.

see **LIBRARIES** page B3



The brand-new Erving Public Library has not yet had its grand opening event.

ArtBeat

by Trish Crapo

Jack Golden Reimagines Theater in the Pandemic

GREENFIELD – Back in March, Jack Golden had his van packed up and was ready to go for a two-week run of shows in the Southeast. Then he received a text from one of the presenters, telling him, “We’re shutting down.” It was mid-March, just as the severity of the coronavirus pandemic was hitting the US.

Golden, who lives in Leyden, has been a professional performer and – he’s not afraid to say it – clown, since 1981. He has performed with the world-famous Pickle Family Circus of San Francisco, and is a founding member of the award-winning comedy troupe The Wright Brothers. He now makes his living primarily by visiting schools with his educational, vaudeville- and circus-inspired shows, such as “Garbage Is My Bag,” “Water, Water Everywhere,” and “A Litter Bit Goes a Long Way.”

This spring’s trip to schools in the Southeast had also included a brief stint teaching improvisational theater techniques at Savannah School of Art and Design, a gig Golden was particularly looking forward to. Thinking back to that text, Golden said he realized that the cancellations were going to keep coming.

“I realized, all this work is gone.”

The next day, he drove to his studio in Greenfield, unloaded his van, and then, “I just sat on the floor, thinking, Wow, is this it for school shows now? Is this it for live performance? I’m 67 – does this mean I’m done as a live performer?”

Describing himself with a laugh as a “live-performing animal,” Golden allowed as to how “that was a hard question to ask myself.”

The more he let the question sink in, the more Golden began to feel that “well, maybe I can keep doing live



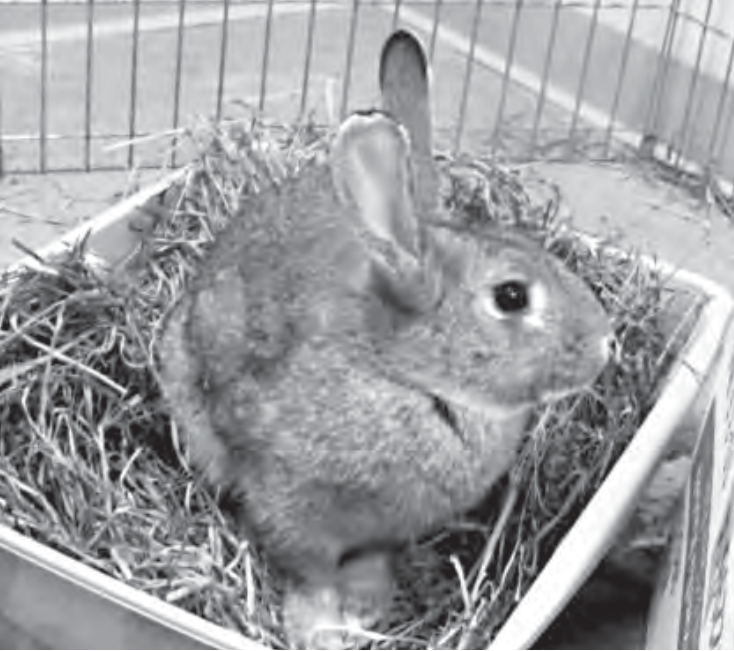
Jack Golden brings his talents and passions to new work created during the coronavirus pandemic.

performances, but I have to reframe what it will look like. It’s not going to look like going into a school auditorium and doing a show for 300 kids, and it’s not going to look like going to the Shea Theater.”

Golden has put in his time on the stage at the Shea, participating in many of Eggtooth Productions’ shows there. He brought his memorable one-man show, “You Don’t Know Jack,” to the theater in 2017. He’s also performed in immersive theater productions by theater

see **ARTBEAT** page B8

Pet of the Week



“BUNNY HOLLY”

Some of you might chuckle when you hear my name – an attempt to put a lighthearted twist onto my story, which begins with me roaming the streets as a stray. I’m no street-wise bunny with the smarts to survive the dangers of modern suburbia; I’m lucky to have been found by a kind person, and brought to safety. Sometimes I’m still spooked by those days on the street. I tend to startle easily at loud noises and fast movements, and will choose “flight” over “fight” when I feel threatened. I would do best in a quiet home

with someone who will let me come around in my own time. Once I know and trust you, I enjoy petting, and also have excellent litterbox habits. Maybe you’re the backup singer – I mean adopter – I’ve been waiting for? Animals at Dakin are available for adoption by appointment only. Please call (413) 781-4000, or see www.dakinhumane.org, for more information.



By MISHEL IXCHEL

TURNERS FALLS – When I first moved to Turners Falls a few years back, I made friends with another single mama, who also only had one child. Our children were the same age. Before they moved out of state, we’d hang out at each other’s apartments, connecting on so many levels. This mama also happened to be one of the funniest people I’ve ever met in my life, so I went out of my way to hang out with her as much as I could.

Here’s the thing about this mama. She is a Waldorf teacher, and therefore totally anti-screen time. By then, I had been using screen time not-so-sparingly. At the time, I could barely float the monthly bills, let alone add to the expenses by getting a babysitter, and I wasn’t working full time, so I relied on screen time to be able to work remotely. My child’s dad and I were still trying to get our footing, still in our initial stages of figuring out this co-parenting thing, and it wasn’t always pretty.

So you can imagine my shock when I learned that my friend had not allowed her child near a screen during her whole life. Adding to my shock was getting to know her daughter, and constantly being wowed by this child’s vocabulary and enunciation. (At the time, the

Adjusting to Digital Life

kids were two years old.)

My head dropped. I felt like the ultimate failure of a parent. I mean, by using screen time, had I robbed my child of optimal brain development? Was I deterring his vocabulary expansion? Impeding his ability to properly pronounce?!

Until it dawned on me. Duh, of course – my friend was a Waldorf teacher, and her work and training clearly spilled into her home.

I’ve since cut myself some major slack, and I continue to use screen time as needed. *It’s how I’m getting this article done.* Nothing sucks more than at the end of the day feeling like a shitty parent. Even though I’m doing a hundred thousand things right, when I start comparing myself to another mom or their style of parenting, which for whatever stupid reason feels superior, all the good things get temporarily flushed down the toilet.

Now, all of this? This was pre-pandemic. Whereas before, screen time may have been used moderately and sparingly, now it’s part of our daily life, and the kid even has his own tablet. (Much obliged, stimulus check!) Also, having recently learned about digital eyestrain and the harmful effects of blue light, I outfitted all of our devices with blue light blocking screens.

The point is, I’ve accepted the fact that my kid’s gonna grow up using these devices, and as long as I can stay informed about the best practices, I might as well gear up.

The use of screen time hasn’t

only increased for the little ones, but for us adults as well. If a business was able to go virtual in the last few months, you better believe it has. Whether for work or pleasure, we’re probably consuming screen time like never before.

I don’t know about you, but while I’m embracing some aspects of this virtual life, for the most part, I want out. I want to unplug, delete my social media accounts, and check my email only once a day – or perhaps every other day. Which of course is easier said than done, because I haven’t really and fully followed up on any of these things.

A couple of months ago, just at the onset of the pandemic, I underwent a dietary cleanse. It was, quite frankly, the best decision I could have made, as I’m still reaping the benefits of the experience. I’ve wanted to embrace a plant-based diet for as long as I can remember, and this cleanse allowed me to create the transformations I needed in order to have that disciplined way of eating.

I don’t quite know yet what I need to undergo in order to transform my relationship with screen time – or my child’s. Even though I’m grateful for it, I can’t help but feel there’s a better way to do all of this: this new digital/virtual way of living.

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

Senior Center Activities JULY 13 THROUGH 24

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 (413) 423-3649 or paula-betters@erv-ing-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 Senior Health Rides program is also suspended until advisories change. For more information, 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

Sarah and the Wendell Mask Makers

By JOHANNA BARTLETT

WENDELL – Wendell has a very successful organization of mask makers, who have provided free masks for anyone in town who needs one, including all of the children and staff at the Swift River School. The linchpin in this endeavor has been coordinator Sarah Vular.

Very early in the mask-making movement, Sarah offered to organize the efforts of folks in Wendell. She volunteered to collect fabric and other supplies, distribute those supplies to the makers by driving frequently to all of their houses, and collect masks from the makers. She offered valuable feedback to the makers about their most successful products, and relayed to them which particular masks were in demand.

She also investigated places where the masks could be distributed, including at town meeting on a recent Saturday. Sarah set up a card table and displayed an impressive array of masks, in all sizes and many styles, depending on what best suits a person’s needs.

Sarah has become a mask fitting expert, who can help people choose the right mask for them. Masks can have elastic ties or t-shirt ties, and are constructed from a variety of materials, which may appeal more to men, women, or children. There was also an effort to offer some black masks in response to the Black Lives Matter demonstrations.

And so, because of her efforts, the mask makers of Wendell have been free to stay home and make masks,

confident that their products are going to those who need them. Sarah has stood behind her table full of masks at some increased risk to herself. She occasionally delivers supplies to mask makers accompanied

by a flower, or a sprig of lavender.

Many of the makers have never met her, but look forward to the day when they will be able to thank her in person. We are all a little bit safer because of Sarah.



Sarah Vular set up a table to distribute masks made by Wendell residents at the recent annual town meeting.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!

BestLocalBank.com
FREE Online Banking with Bill Pay, Transfers, Account Opening, Debit Card Controls & More!
FREE Mobile Banking APP with Mobile Check Deposit, Alerts, Freeze/Unfreeze & More!
GREENFIELD Cooperative Bank
NORTHAMPTON Cooperative Bank
Avenue A, Turners Falls | 413-512-5012
MEMBER FDIC MEMBER SIF

THE PEOPLES PINT

OPEN DAILY
LUNCH and DINNER
24 Federal St., Greenfield
773-0333 / thepeoplespint.com
The Pint Says: TURN THE KEY!
When you idle your car's engine for more than 10-20 seconds, you're wasting fuel.
Save on Gas - Save our Climate

BUCKINGHAM RABBITS VINTAGE
COME SEE OUR NEW HOME ON AVENUE A!
THU-SAT 12-6 SUN 12-5
102 AVENUE A TF MA

MPD from page B3

and that a loud bang was heard around the time it went out. TFFD and Ever-source advised.

4:13 p.m. Subway employee reporting customers fighting about mask wearing. Involved female was arguing with two men because they did not have masks on, but they were covering their faces with their shirts. Female was arguing that it was a law to wear a mask. Officer explained that it is not a law, but a policy that a business can choose to enforce or not. Party continued to argue with officers but eventually moved along.

4:48 p.m. Multiple 911 calls reporting a two- or three-car accident near the Turners Falls post office involving a pedestrian and a propane tanker that may be leaking. TFFD, PD, and AMR responding. Three total cars involved, two of which were parked. Two patients transported. Rau's request-

ed for two vehicles; Roseledge for tanker truck. Summons issued. Report taken.

Friday, 7/3

4:39 p.m. Caller states that a male is throwing "nip" bottles out of a window onto the sidewalk on Avenue A. Male is yelling with slurred speech. Officers made contact with involved male, who cleaned up his mess and was advised of future consequences.

6:04 p.m. Assault on Randall Road; entry redacted; "refer to press release." (See article, page A1.)

9:39 p.m. Caller from G Street states that a man in a window across the street is performing a lewd sexual act while looking at her. Both involved parties spoken to. No body parts could be seen by caller. Involved male advised of complaint.

Saturday, 7/4

9:12 a.m. Hunting Hills business owner reporting that the plant stand was broken into; items are

missing and damaged. Report taken.

10:40 a.m. Caller from H Street states that a man came out of a house and smashed the mirror on his truck. Report taken.

1:48 p.m. Caller from L Street states that a large tree stump rolled down the hill behind his house and damaged his vehicle; believes it came from a loose pile of logs left by a crew doing work on High Street. DPW notified; DPW supervisor advising that debris was left by Northern Tree. Investigated.

9:03 p.m. First of many reports of fireworks being set off around town.

Sunday, 7/5

6:37 a.m. Caller states that she was out for a walk and there is a trash bag with a dead cat in it on the side of Millers Falls Road. Message left for DPW.

9:58 p.m. First of many reports of fireworks being set off around town.



OUT OF THE PARK JULY 2020

By JON DOBOSZ

UNITY PARK – Hello everyone! Yes, it's been a while. We hope you are all doing well during these challenging times. It certainly hasn't been easy for any of us, but we shall strive on. As many of you know, we had to cancel some of our initial plans these past few months, but that doesn't mean we're shutting our doors waiting for things to get back to normal. We've still put together some great programs to help our community stay active and healthy this summer.

While we were unable to offer our traditional summer camp, we created a **Morning Playgroup Program** for the next few weeks. The program consists of separate Arts and Crafts and Field Game weeks that are offered from Monday, July 13 through the week of August 3. Sessions are held 9 to 11 a.m., Mondays through Thursdays (Fridays are rain days), and serve children 5 through 12. The cost is \$50 per child per week. We follow state guidelines relative to virus mitigation. Contact us and we'll send you a full program brochure.

We also have **Grab 'n' Go Crafts** each week from July 13 through August 17. Purchase craft kits so you can enjoy them with family members at home. Online instruction will be available, and supplies are limited to first come, first serve.



The craft schedule is as follows. Week of July 13: Stars & Stripes Frame, \$7 per pack; July 20: Velvet Door Hangers, \$9 per pack; July 27: Cloud Climber Jet, \$5 per pack; August 3: Pour Painting, \$12 per set; August 10: Super Hero Shields, \$8 per pack; August 17: Foam Race Car, \$8 per pack. Call us to reserve these craft packs.

If your child enjoys baseball, how about registering them for our **Baseball Clinic**? This program is for kids ages 8 to 12, and is held at Unity Park from Monday, July 27 to Thursday, July 30 (Friday the 31st will be a rain date). Let's develop hitting and fielding skills, and build back what may have been lost these last few months. We ask that all players bring their own bats, gloves, and helmets, as equipment cannot be shared. The fee is \$50 for Montague residents.

If soccer is your game, then we'll be holding a **Soccer Clinic** from Monday, August 10 to Thursday, August 13 for kids ages 9 to

12. Soccer season is right around the corner, so what better time to work on those skills. Learn from a current coach and player who will give players the tools to kick off the season on a high note. The clinic will be held at Highland Park in Millers Falls, and fees are \$50 for Montague residents.

Finally, MPRD is getting into the e-gaming industry. We're currently working with an e-gaming company to host a number of different online leagues throughout the year. By the end of the summer we'll have up to 18 leagues on our platform, ranging from sports to role playing simulation games. Keep an eye out for our launch date.

Please note that a list of protocols will accompany registration information for all "face-to-face" programs. Non-residents are allowed to register for the programs noted above at an additional fee, but will be placed on a waiting list to allow Montague residents first dibs.

If you wish to receive additional information on these and other programs, feel free to contact us at (413) 863-3216, log onto www.montague-ma.gov, or view our Facebook page. Enjoy the start of summer and we'll talk to you next month!

Jon Dobosz is the director of parks and recreation for the town of Montague.

TV REVIEW

Netflix's *Messiah* (2020)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – Netflix's *Messiah* looks at what would happen if the Messiah suddenly comes back on the scene.

Various people are involved with this happening, and we see it from their perspectives. This individual is called Al-Massih. The moments involving him are really the only interesting things to me in the first episode. But we do get a look at the characters whose perspectives I believe the show is from, from what I read in one summary.

One of them is a CIA officer named Eva Geller, and she is sort of a believer of the truth. Two more individuals whose perspectives are involved are a Palestinian refugee and an officer of the Israeli Shin Bet.

In the pilot, Al-Massih is at Damascus, Syria, where he apparently frees a bunch of Palestinian refugees from ISIS's effort to hold them prisoner. I know of Damascus's religious significance from the story of Paul of Tarsus. That's where he had a vision of Jesus on his way to look for and persecute his followers.

Al-Massih ends up leading 2,000 refugees to Israel. He believes they have a right to be there. While the first episode doesn't show this figure meeting up with the CIA officer, because he is in Israel, he meets up with the Shin Bet officer named

Avrim Dahan. The two talk, and he speaks of something that he couldn't possibly know about this officer.

Creatively, it's an interesting way to go about showing an interaction with who this individual is supposed to be. I would be curious to see in what way they are going to have him interact with the CIA officer. In the first episode, what is mainly done by the CIA officer is her finding out for sure whether this man is a con artist.

Well, the moments with this supposed messiah individual were my favorite highlights of the episode. After stumbling upon a review of this show on a site I like, I went ahead to the last episode of the present season to see if the review had indeed accurately stated that it was an unsatisfying ending to the season. I won't say that, or spoil anything else in great detail. But I will say that Al-Massih appears to do something that is pretty good proof that he is indeed the Messiah.

Taking that into account, this show might get a second season.

This was not the first Netflix series that I have reviewed of late. The other was *Lost in Space* Season 2. I really liked that season premiere; I liked it even better than the first episode of Season 1 of that show. If I had to rank them in order, I would say Season 2 of *Lost in Space*, *Messiah*, and Season 1 of *Lost in Space* is the way it goes for me.

FRIENDS OF THE MONTAGUE COMMON HALL

What's Happening at the Common Hall?

By KATE O'KANE

MONTAGUE CENTER – The Montague Common Hall functions as the community center of Montague Center, the place where people gather to dance, listen to music, do yoga, and celebrate. As with many other gathering places, the Common Hall has been closed since late March 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

At the time this article was written, it is still not clear when the Hall will be open for large gatherings.

Despite this hiatus, the Friends of the MCH have continued working behind the scenes. Lovely flowers in pots have appeared outside the front entrance, tended by Board members, and the Board has continued to oversee the financial health and future of the Hall.

As soon as is feasible, the main room of the Hall will be named "The David Kaynor Music & Dance Hall," in honor of David, the longest-serving master of the Grange and a founding member of the Friends of the Montague Common Hall. David served the larger community for decades in his roles as fiddler for contra and square dances, teacher to generations of new fiddlers, master of the Grange, and member of the Board of the MCH. We will be delighted to honor him at a celebration, which will hopefully be held in the not-too-distant future. Stay tuned for news of this!

The Common Hall has been under financial stress since the start of the pandemic. As you might guess, in addition to donations, the Hall relies to a large extent on rental fees to cover its expenses. Those rental fees have shrunk to practically zero in the past three months, with a big loss being the cancellation of the Mutton & Mead group's use of the building. This unexpected change in finances has meant our Treasurer has needed to dip into savings in order to pay expenses.

And renovation/maintenance projects are not complete: the exterior of the building will soon need to be




The hall's main room will be named in honor of Grange master and founding Common Hall Friend David Kaynor, pictured here circa 2010.

painted, and the tall windows at the front of the building badly need to be restored.

So we, the Board of the Friends of the Montague Common Hall, are asking that you consider becoming a sustaining member. The regularity of monthly donations from sustaining members means that we can plan for and count on those donations. And the monthly donation amount needn't be large! If you're able to, join us and your neighbors in supporting a local organization that in turn supports community in your neighborhood. For more information and to make a donation, visit montaguecommonhall.org.

We are grateful for all the support the community has provided in the past. It is an amazing and beautiful thing that a village has decided to support a non-profit organization in maintaining a lovely, historic community gathering space. Thank you for your ongoing support!

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!

**FEDERAL STREET BOOKS**

8 Federal Street, Greenfield
federalstreetbooks.com

LIC #36550-EL 1-413-345-1687

ELECTRICIAN
CHRIS M. STRAKOSE

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL
ALL ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS AND REPAIRS
EMERGENCY SERVICE

9 SWAMP ROAD
MONTAGUE, MA 01351
EMAIL: CSTRAKOSE.ELEC@GMAIL.COM

FULLY INSURED FREE CONSULTATION

**OrigamiUSA**

Origami is for anyone, anywhere, anytime!

Join us at: **OrigamiUSA.org**
Email: **admin@origamiusa.org**
Tel: **212.769.5635**

- Find a local community origami group
- Fold from diagrams in our publications
- Shop for origami paper and books
- And much more!

SPIRITS, BREWS & FINE WINES

53C S. Main St. South Deerfield, MA
295 Amherst Rd. Sunderland, MA

New Location Now Open:
6 Main Road, in Gill
(formerly Jan's Package Store)
Come check us out!

Deerfield: (413) 665-2456
Sunderland: (413) 665-5030
Gill: (413) 863-5730



Pipione's
SPORT SHOP

- Fishing supplies; Live bait**
- Fishing & Hunting Licenses**
- Paintball & CO₂ Refills**
- Guns & Ammo**

Open 7 am 7 days a week
101 Ave A, Turners 414.863.4246



Doug's Auto Body
Doug Smith - Owner



MA Reg. #RS2190

Ph. (413) 863-2785
Fax: (413) 863-0120
FREE ESTIMATES
REPAIRS ON FOREIGN & DOMESTIC CARS AND TRUCKS

39 Center Road
Gill, MA 01354
FREE LOANER CARS

VALLEY VIEW from page B1 possibly be unknown to locals? Could it have been recently unveiled by flood erosion? All were questions capable of keeping a thinking man awake nights, tossing and turning in possibilities. Yes, he had work to do – the kind he loves.

Joining the Chase

Now, fast-forward six days, to the morning of Tuesday, May 26, noon-time approaching. I was sitting at my desk crafting the opening paragraphs of a column, when a sudden distraction flashed in the lower righthand corner of my laptop screen. Outlook was alerting me to Peirce’s email. He’d found an online column of mine expressing confidence about the existence of ancient petroglyphs and pictographs still to be discovered in our slice of the Connecticut Valley. He wondered if I was familiar with his Montague find.

“It looks like a Native American petroglyph,” he wrote. “Though partially hidden by vegetation, it’s hard to believe someone wouldn’t have previously seen it at some point. I’ve attached photos.”

I studied the series of shots and was intrigued by the carving, which I immediately recognized as the mythical underwater panther – *Mishebeshu* is one of many spellings – of Native American cosmological lore. The horns and long tail were dead giveaways.

Wow! Talk about a show-stopper. The column I was writing became temporarily irrelevant. My focus broken, there was a bigger fish to fry.

My initial reaction was that the image looked too good, maybe a bit too crisp and clean to be hundreds of years old. But what did I know? No petroglyph expert, it was time to reach out. I forwarded the photos to two trusted friends and experts, Peter A. Thomas and R. Michael Gramly, a pair of sage, PhD archaeologist/anthropologists with decades of field experience and knowledge. What were their thoughts?

The first to respond was Gramly. His email arrived that evening from Tennessee, where he was overseeing the follow-up archaeological excavation of a 13,000-year-old mastodon site.

“Yes,” he wrote. “It appears to be a *piasa* or underwater panther – equivalent to the Chinese dragon. Such animals lurk near deep holes and water vortexes.”

I immediately Googled “underwater panther,” and struck gold. There is much online information on this mythical beast, most commonly associated with Ojibwa and other Great Lakes tribes.

Thomas, catching up on yardwork at his northern Vermont home, didn’t respond immediately. But he did chime in a day or two later on the phone. After a brief exchange of pleasantries, he moved straight to the point.

“Where did you come up with that petroglyph?”

“A kayaker found it on the Connecticut River.”

“Interesting. Usually, when I’m shown something like this, my reaction is, ‘Ehhhhh?’ Not so with this. I’d like to see it.”

Having studied the photos carefully, Thomas cited a couple of potential problems with the execution. First, the glyph’s straight edges and depth suggested metal tools to him. Second, such carvings are not typically found on standing stones, but rather on river, lake, and bayside ledge. Yet he still believed it could be an important discovery dating back to the Colonial Contact

Period, maybe even a smidge earlier. Metal trade goods had surely found their way to our slice of the Connecticut Valley decades before the Agawam Plantation (Springfield) was founded in 1636; and even if it had been carved for spiritual posterity by some post-King Philip’s War indigenous straggler, perhaps a shaman, it would still be a remarkable discovery.

A Dark Portal

Gramly’s most authenticating observation was the underwater panther’s association with water vortexes, better known in laymen’s terms as whirlpools. A short distance upstream from the carving, there is just such a deadly feature. In fact, not only is it a dangerous whirlpool, it may well be *the* most dangerous whirlpool in the 400-mile-long Connecticut Valley. Although I know of no way to confirm that, I do know this hazardous site has claimed many lives in my lifetime. The swirling vortex is created by the collision at an odd angle of two powerful natural forces – the Deerfield and Connecticut rivers – capable during high-water events of swallowing a canoe and spitting it out.

Such dangerous whirlpools were viewed as portals to the underworld in worldwide hunter-gatherer cultures, including those of North America’s Eastern Woodlands. So, no doubt this one would have been known to our earliest indigenous paddlers, who recognized it as a perilous place of high spirit inhabited by dark underworld and water spirits. The underwater panther was the lord of the underworld, known to reside in oceans, lakes, whirlpools, deep pools, treacherous rapids and caves. In a foul mood, this lurking creature was known to emerge from the depths to pull swimmers and boaters to drowning death. Thus, the carving had context, always important in such matters.

Something that gave the panther even more context at this site was the fact that it also stood near a documented Connecticut River ford, or footpath crossing, at adjacent Sheldon’s Rocks. The Native attackers of the infamous Sept. 19, 1677 Ashpelon Raid on Hatfield and Deerfield used this very crossing on their retreat home, up the Connecticut Valley to Canada with colonial captives. So, not only did this warning sign stand a short distance below a treacherous whirlpool; it also stood near the crossroads of two major travel arteries, one by land, the other by water. Yes, an appropriate site to post a warning. But how old was it? That was the salient question – one that only a field trip could reconcile.

Warning Flags

First, a little more on the underwater panther itself. The Peirce images in the hands of Gramly, Thomas and myself spurred independent research by all of us, with communication flying back and forth. Plus, without revealing the precise location, Thomas and Gramly both sent the images to rock-art scholars for additional feedback, among them University of Pennsylvania anthropologist Megan Kassabaum and former Maine State Archaeologist Bruce Bourque. Thomas had discovered an informative video by Kassabaum about the underwater panther and queried her, while Gramly thought it wise to run it past Bourque, a longtime friend and colleague who’s seen many Maine petroglyphs. Everyone agreed the carving was worthy of professional, on-site evaluation.

I watched Kassabaum’s video

with interest, and it led me to my study to see what I could find in my bookshelves. Poring through sources I owned, they were helpful in identifying additional sources to probe. My search started with Michael Angel’s *Preserving the Sacred: Historical Perspectives of the Ojibwa Midewiwin*, then moved to Brian Swann’s trilogy on Native American Literature.

Then I purchased two compilations of scholarly essays online – *Ancient Objects and Sacred Reals: Interpretations of Mississippian Iconography* and *Icons of Power: Feline Symbolism in the Americas*. A third source, Theresa S. Smith’s *The Island of the Anishnaabeg: Thunderers and Water Monsters in the Traditional Ojibwe Life-World* will arrive any day now.

Out of the focused reading arose growing suspicions in my mind about the source of the Montague petroglyph. Though the horned, long-tailed image fit the mold, it became clear to me that it was essentially of Central Algonquian iconographic form, especially that of Great Lakes tribes, not our own Eastern Algonquians.

In New England, the lord of the underworld was the related Great Horned Serpent. Despite their different appearance – one with legs, the other without – they were the same beast playing the same cosmological role: in perpetual warfare with thunderbirds, lords of the Sky World in the indigenous Eastern Woodlands realm.

Although the regional preferences didn’t necessarily rule out the possibility that the Montague carving had been executed by an indigenous carver of Connecticut Valley heritage, it did raise warning flags.

According to indigenous creation lore, many Central Algonquian people were ancient migrants from the Great Salt Water of Dawnland. Thus, the people most associated with underwater-panther imagery had their deepest roots on the East Coast and may indeed have left such an image hidden somewhere in New England before migrating west. Still, I could find no New England examples of an underwater panther, just serpents.

Closer Inspection

In the process of trying to set up a field trip with Thomas, Peirce and myself at the very least, I fired off a cautionary email to Thomas on the morning of June 7 indicating that I wanted to eliminate one last potential source who could know something about the carving. This person is a Native American woman who ran a hilltown summer camp to which I had sent my grammar-school sons. Despite long ago hearing through the grapevine that she now lives in the same neighborhood as the petroglyph, I never dug deeper. I was, however, quite sure she was not originally from New England.

So, I had to rule her out before spending another second trying to arrange a field trip.

Well – Bingo! – as it turned out, the local underwater panther graces this very woman’s private, secluded Connecticut River “beach.” The descendant of 19th-century Miami chief Little Turtle (Michikinikwa in her native tongue), she grew up in Chicago and used to visit the Alton, Illinois *piasa* image adorning cliffs overlooking the upper Mississippi River.

Her brother, Long Arm, carved the image in 1990. He was living with her at the time after retiring from the US Marine Corps. He brought the stone to her property

Have you been ripped off by the Leverett Village Co-op?

If you are owed money for any reason join us in collective legal action to recoup what is owed to us all.

Have you:

- provided goods or services to the co-op for which payment is long past due?
- made a donation or loan that was solicited under false pretenses?
- made a donation that was collected by a private individual?
- had the co-op board illegally shift its debts to you?
- been owed back pay?
- had the co-op back out on an agreement to pay or misrepresent the terms?
- been otherwise taken advantage of, misled or been a victim of fraud?

You can also be compensated if you are a victim of:

- retaliatory actions
- threats or abuse
- sexual harassment

Have you been stonewalled, gaslit or lied to when you tried to collect what is rightfully yours?

Do you see the co-op being run for the benefit of a few at the expense of the greater community?

Do you have knowledge that the co-op has been misleading the public about their situation or keeping inaccurate books?

Are you privy to information that the board is aware, or should be aware, that the co-op is already dead but is not admitting to it while it continues to waste the funds others are putting into it?

Let's work together. Contact us at:
js.lawoffice3@gmail.com

from Northfield, carved the panther on its face, and buried it upright on her small, sandy beach.

She was a gracious hostess to me and Thomas during a two-hour, June 12 visit to her home. We enjoyed a warm chat with the property owner in her cozy library before walking to the beach to see the panther. Close inspection of the stone revealed drill holes indicative of modern quarrying. Plus, Long Arm carved a discrete, tell-tale Marine anchor on the back to mark it as a modern creation.

So goes the tale of Montague’s mysterious underwater panther.

Looking back, my ears still ring with Gramly’s exasperated telephone scolding that occurred early during our many discussions. When, for the umpteenth time, I repeated

an “if it’s real” disclaimer to preface a question about the petroglyph, Gramly would have none of it.

“Why do you keep doubting it’s real?” he barked. “Trust me. No white man carved that panther.”

Once again, my scholarly friend was right on the mark. Indeed, the panther did have a Native American creator, despite being executed much later than we had hoped.

Yes, the image was crafted by an upper-Midwest Miami warrior of aristocratic Great Lakes heritage – a man who placed it on his sister’s private beach in an appropriate location. Whether he was aware of the whirlpool and ancient ford is irrelevant. It is what it is – just another uncanny example of Native intuition.



Long Arm, at right, in an undated photograph.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

TNT Productions
DJ & Karaoke specialists



413-522-6035
www.tntprodj.net





413-256-6217

*fine instruments
bought and sold
repaired and restored*

Fretted Instrument Workshop
49 So. Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass. 01002

**HUGE
WASHERS!**

**HOT
DRYERS!**

Open 365 Days
6 A.M. - 10 P.M.

SUZEE'S THIRD STREET
LAUNDRY
TURNERS FALLS

**Suzee's
THIRD ST. LAUNDRY**
413.863.1376

WARREN ONDRAS PHOTO

NatureCulture:

The Science Page

The Science Page is Powered by the Solar Store of Greenfield.



Contributions to NatureCulture are welcome. What are you interested in? Would you like to write about birds, weather, science of any kind? We need your input. Send articles for consideration to: science@montagureporter.org. Thank you!

- Lisa McLoughlin, editor

Archaeology from the Skies: Peru’s Nazca and Palpa Lines



Líneas de Nazca, Nazca, Perú, taken in 2017.

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

NORTHFIELD – Archaeology is no longer an earthbound activity. Drones are the latest archaeological tools. Equipped with cameras and sometimes with other technical equipment such as Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) sensors, drones join satellite imagery as a method to see landscape-scale and smaller archaeological sites that are hard to view from the ground due to their size or because they are under the cover of forest or sand.

LiDAR is a remote sensing technique that uses light pulses to measure different distances to the ground, thus revealing raised or sunken features. Light in the near-infrared range can be used to map on land, while light in the green range goes through water and maps underwater features. LiDAR maps are very accurate, which, in addition to finding sites never before seen, can bring new, more nuanced insights to even the most well-researched places.

The Nazca lines have long inspired UFO enthusiasts, but since 1994 they have been recognized as a United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization heritage site. They were created between 500 BC and 500 AD by Indigenous people of what is now Peru. All the lines are exceedingly well-constructed geometrically, and required advanced surveying skills to create. Each line is made by removing the top layer of gravel, revealing a lighter colored bedrock below.

Comprised of over 10,000 lines covering approximately 450 square kilometers of land in the Nazca desert of southern Peru and extending into the hilly Palpa region to the north, more than 300 of these giant geoglyphs are visible with drones. Some of the depictions of plants, animals, and imaginary beings are several kilometers long. They are believed to have ritual and astronomical meaning, and to have been made over a period of about 1,000 years.

There are also straight lines

which may be roads or tracks. Other theories include the idea that the lines are a code to the landscape. For example, research by David Johnson has shown that spiral shapes indicate water close to the surface – very important in this dry environment.

Johnny Isla is the chief archaeologist of the Nazca and Palpa lines for Peru’s ministry of culture. He is responsible for discovering hundreds of geoglyphs using drone technology. The glyphs predate the previously discovered Nazca lines by 1,500 years and are on hillsides where they would be visible to people in the valley looking up. This is different from the larger lines and glyphs to the south, which cannot be seen in their entirety from anywhere on the ground.

The research involved taking thousands of pictures which, when processed, create exceptionally clear and detailed images in which even individual pebbles can be discerned. According to Luis Jaime Castillo, a Peruvian archaeologist quoted in *The Guardian*, so far this photogrammetry has likely only documented five percent of what is there. This is easy to believe, since new glyphs keep being discovered.

At the end of last year, a Japanese team of researchers led by anthropologist and archaeologist Masato Sakai used a combination of hands-on fieldwork, high-resolution satellite imagery, and artificial intelligence developed by IBM to piece together more new geoglyph finds. At sites where they found pottery shards they believe to be ritual offerings, the team analyzed ten years’ worth of satellite imagery using the artificial intelligence program, and was able to discern that these sites were also the location of geoglyphs no one had noticed.

The meanings of the glyphs and lines is not completely known, and may never be discovered. Until we do somehow make the connections, preserving these cultural treasures is paramount.

Tiny, Colorful Peacock Spiders

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

NORTHFIELD – Australian peacock spiders were photographed for the first time in 2008 by Jugen Otto. Otto has a great website, *Peacockspider.org*, from which most of the information here comes. There are 75 variations of these tiny, half-centimeter-long spiders, and maybe because of their size they aren’t well-known; more are being discovered on an ongoing basis.

Peacock spiders have venom, but don’t bite humans. These tiny spiders hunt their prey of bugs rather than build webs. They live about a year, being born in the summer, and grow in a series of

molts during which they resemble the leaves around them. By fall they are adults; females brood eggs for a month, after which the young disperse and the adults die.

The females are brown and look like normal spiders, but the males have colorful abdomens which they flaunt in a mating display. Their colors appear very bright, almost luminescent, by a combination of pigment plus structure. They have “superblack” spots which are black pigment plus microscopic bumps that reflect very little light and make the colorful spots stand out. Red and yellow are produced by pigments, but the blue and purple colors are made by light reflected from hair-like scales.



Male peacock spider (maratus caeruleus).

BOOK REVIEW Lisa See, *The Island of Sea Women* (Simon & Schuster, 2019)

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

This book tells many interwoven stories in the life of Yong-sook, a Korean *haenyeo* or freediver, who holds her breath to go underwater without SCUBA equipment to harvest edible sea life. It covers her life from the 1930s through the present on her isolated island of Jeju, which is organized into all-female diving collectives.

The women dive in all kinds of weather with very little protective equipment. When there’s not enough work at home, they travel to Vladivostok and dive there. They dive pregnant, they dive in winter, and they dive well into their old age.

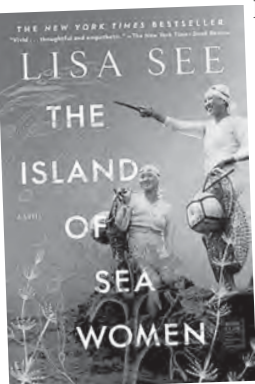
Their diving forms and is formed by their culture, their belief in their island as the home of goddesses, and of themselves as strong feminine entities. Their apprenticeship system, and their ability to support their families financially, sets them apart from more traditional roles for Korean women. They say

“The ocean is better than your natal mother. The sea is forever.”

Interwoven themes include the political, with the Japanese and American invasions, and familial ties within intergenerational families and obligations to the land. These themes lead to the personal: how a close friendship is changed by political and familial influences beyond one’s control.

In the 1960s, scientists came to the island to study the remnants of the diving collectives, which were being destroyed by political, technological, and cultural changes. The scientists tell the *haenyeo*, “You have a greater tolerance for hypothermia than any other humans on the planet.... you’re famous.” The women dismiss this with, “Famous to whom?” This insularity and groundedness runs like a current throughout the book.

While at times the story is very disturbing due to the violence that war and occupation bring to the island, it’s a beautiful book that celebrates women’s strength and their partnership with nature.



July-August 2020 Moon Calendar

Last Quarter Sunday, July 12	Last Quarter Tuesday, August 11
New Moon Monday, July 20	Perseid Meteor Shower Wednesday, August 12
First Quarter Monday, July 27	New Moon Tuesday, August 18
Full Moon Monday, August 3	First Quarter Tuesday, August 25

The Aristarchus crater on our moon is very geologically complex.

NASA PHOTO

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!



B. RUBIN & SONS INC.




COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS

Shocks • Tires • Batteries • Starters
Struts • Tune-ups • Brakes • Oil Change

194 MILLERS FALLS RD. • 413-863-2236

10% SENIOR DISCOUNT FREE ESTIMATES

MASS INSPECTION STATION: NO. 13051



BOOK MILL

440 Greenfield Rd.
Montague, MA 01351

413-367-9206 www.montaguebookmill.com

Books you don't need in a place you can't find.

DOLAN & DOLAN

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

174 AVENUE A
TURNERS FALLS MASSACHUSETTS
01376
413-863-3133

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

COMICS and PUZZLE

JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION

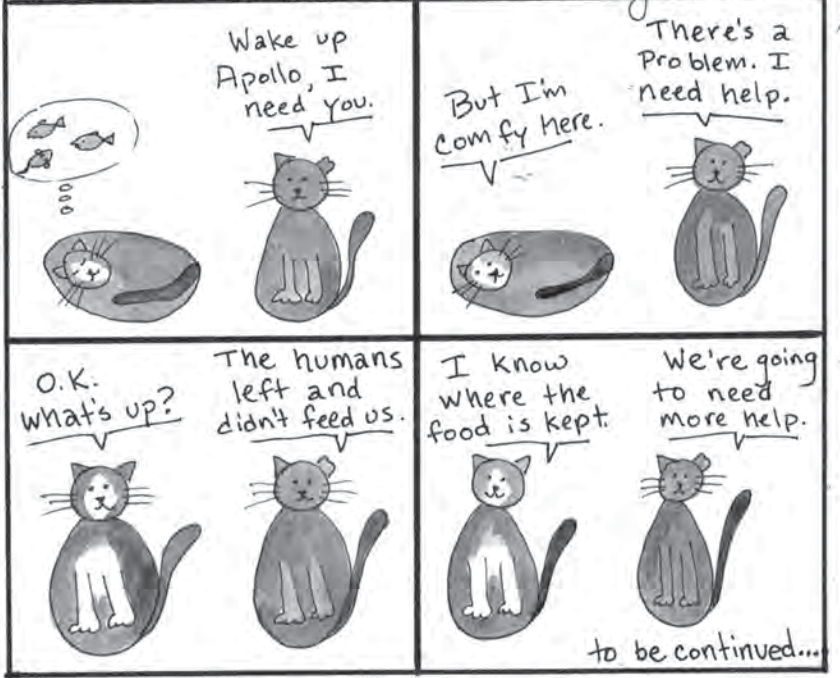
T-RUMP

by denis f. bordeaux



Cool Cats on the Ave

by J. Paxton



OVER THE HILL

Carolyn Clark



GLIMPSES FROM THE OFFICE

ANNABEL LEVINE



THREE DEGREES °F WARMING

by JANICE ROWAN



13 episodes are now available!



Look for us on Apple/iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, Anchor, Castbox, and elsewhere...

The Montague Reporter Podcast

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

R PHATUESAEAI DSFETZ GURUZ

AZZKG AS DSFETZ.

- JEFFERY G. WHOOSHING

CRACK THE CODE? SEND YOUR ANSWER TO: INFO@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

Submit your comics and puzzles to editor@montaguereporter.org. Original & local creations only, please!

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
DOORS & OPENERS

Devine Overhead Doors

Gerry Devine

106 West Street
Hadley, MA. 01035

Hampshire: 586-3161
Franklin: 773-9497

About-Face
Computer Solutions

(413) 863-5447
176 Avenue A Suite 2,
Turners Falls
WE FIX COMPUTERS!
www.about-facecomputers.com

Turn your computer troubles around!

French King
Restaurant & Motel

OPEN BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER
WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY 7 A.M.

Edward J. Terault
(413) 223-5494
www.REILCLEAN.com

Reil
CLEANING SERVICES LLC

• Complete Custodial Services •
• Bonded and Insured •

"We Don't Cut Corners, We Clean Them!"

Cleaning Franklin & Hampshire Counties since 1972

BKONFONQEQWIYSS.IPY
HMZGESCGQVQFHJW.MMO
FONTLVPEAXQAHO.SHC
LJKEVOBFBFNAPGR.RED
SECRETBROADCAST.NET

a weekly secret message podcast

RIVERSIDE RADIATOR

General Auto Repair
RADIATORS for CARS - TRUCKS
and HEAVY EQUIPMENT
Foreign and Domestic

Propane Filling Station

Route 2, Gill
863-4049 1-800-439-4049
85 Monday (closed) Tuesday

ARTBEAT from page B1
director John Bechtold of Montague, such as “Deus Ex Machina” at the Shea in 2018, and an adaptation of Shakespeare’s *The Winter’s Tale* at the former Arts Block, now the Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center, in Greenfield in 2016.

Golden sifted through his options. “I’d already heard of people who were starting to livestream stuff,” he said. “And I just – at first blush, it didn’t do much for me. I really wanted to find a way to keep performing live. At some point I flashed on drive-in theaters, from our past. It occurred to me, cars are like a safety zone. They’re like an extension of your living room. Oh! Couldn’t I do a live show for a bunch of people sit-

ting in their cars?”
About a week later, Golden received an email from Linda McInerney, Eggtooth Productions’ executive director, announcing a mini-grant program designed to encourage artists and performers to come up with new ways to create during the pandemic.
“That really made me think again about the live drive-in theater thing,” Golden said, with remnants of that first excitement animating his voice. “This might just be the push I need to move this forward. And Linda loved the idea. Linda was the one who said, ‘Oh! Top floor of the parking garage in Greenfield, that’s the place to do it.’”
Golden took a field trip to the

parking garage and while there, “I had this image of a clown coming over a brick wall, carrying a suitcase. He’s going on a journey. Where is he going?”
The seed of this idea was accompanied by two others that drew from past performances: an improvisational piece that would be like a journey inside of himself, and a shadow piece performed behind a screen in which all of the “characters” are actually items of cleaning equipment, such as mops and brooms. The entire three-piece performance, called “Under the Stars,” would be short, Golden figured – about 25 minutes – to allow for two shows per night, with an audience of about eight cars with passengers inside them, and possibly a “second row” of people sitting atop their cars.
McInerney set up a conference call for Golden that included Bechtold, who fed the fire of Golden’s ideas with lines from Dante’s *Inferno*: “In the middle of the journey of our life I came to myself in a dark wood where the straight way was lost.”
“Dante’s *Inferno* is dark,” Golden said, with a chuckle that said he knew this was an understatement. “It’s a journey that goes downhill quickly. That wasn’t the message I wanted to do.”
In addition to addressing the fearful time we find ourselves in, Golden wanted to focus on an idea he found a few lines down: “So bitter is it, that scarcely more is death: but to treat of the good that I there found, I will relate the other things

CALL TO ARTISTS

So many of us turn to art in its many forms to heal, to process, to speak out, to bring us together, to uplift.

The Montague Cultural Council is seeking submissions of work to be shared with the Town of Montague through whatever sources are fitting to the artist’s medium.

SELECTED ARTIST WILL RECEIVE \$250 AWARD.

Have you been using your creativity to address THESE TIMES?

DEADLINE: AUGUST 1
Submit work to:
montaguecouncil@gmail.com





Jack Golden’s new show, “Under the Stars,” grew out of an intensely productive time during the coronavirus pandemic.

positive energy in this time of uncertainty. It was really a gift.”
Golden said that they’ve gotten the “green light” from the town of Greenfield for the performances, but there are still a few details to be hammered out. He’s got a backup location as well, so the show will go on regardless.
Target dates are Thursdays through Saturdays, July 23, 24, and 25 and July 30, 31, and August 1, with shows at 8 and 9 p.m. each night. Tickets will be available through Eggtooth Productions at a sliding scale of \$15 to \$25 per person, with possible “second row” seats for \$5 to \$15.
For more information and updates, check the Eggtooth Productions website at eggtooth.org, email them at info@eggtooth.org, or email Golden at jackinleyden@gmail.com.



PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!

We Service all Types of Equipment!



310 Federal St.
Rte 63, Montague
sirumequipment.com

Ask about pick-up & delivery options!

SIRUM
EQUIPMENT COMPANY
FARM, TURF, INDUSTRIAL
413-367-2481

facebook

Turners Falls Pizza House

Family Owned & Operated
Serving Turners Falls area for 40 Years
Dave Argy, Family & Staff

**PIZZA, GRINDERS,
DINNERS, SALADS, BURGERS**

www.turnersfallspizza.com

119 Avenue A, Turners Falls (413) 863-8000

MUSIC & MOVIES

TURN IT UP!

BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

SHANAHAN CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CO. INC.

SCSC “Rock solid service with level advice”

Complete Masonry Supply

Offering a complete line of pavers, wall stone, retaining wall block and more.

298 Avenue A., Turners Falls 413-863-4322
and at our new location 529 S. Main St, Brattleboro or 802-579-1800
www.shanahansupply.com

DIEMAND FARM

Smokehouse is back!

Keep social distance but have your Smokehouse Dinner fix

Take Out Baby Back Rib Dinners
Wednesdays, July 15 and July 29

Reservations at thediemandfarm.com/smokehouse

BLUE DRAGON APOTHECARY

CUSTOM CRAFTED HERBAL PRODUCTS
TRADITIONAL MEDICINES & HOLISTIC HEALTH
OFFERING BODYWORK AND CONSULTATIONS

RETAIL HOURS: TUE-FRI 10-6; SAT 10-4
413-773-3730. INFO@BLUEDRAGONAPOTHECARY.COM
158 MAIN ST, SUITE 10 GREENFIELD, MA 01301
BLUEDRAGONAPOTHECARY.COM

Dennis L. Booska
Dennis L. Booska, Jr.

Phone & Fax
413-863-3690

Booska’s Flooring

169 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Member
The Flooring Network.

Tile Lino Carpet

A BEAUTIFUL Smile Starts With Healthy Teeth

GEETU SHOKEEN, DMD

Montague Dental Arts
General Dentistry
300 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 • 413-863-2288

The Gill Tavern

Come For a Drink, Stay For a Meal

www.thegilltavern.com Open Wed - Sun at 5 PM
326 Main Road Gill, MA 413-863-9006



FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CO-OP

144 MAIN STREET GREENFIELD, MA 01301 (413) 773-9567
3 STATE STREET SHELBOURNE FALLS, MA 01370 (413) 625-2548



magpie


- Pizzas
- Entrees
- Salads
- Full Bar & Patio

magpiepizza.com
21 Bank Row, Gld. 413-475-3570

woodfired pizzeria

Follow the Sun into the Future

CallEarth SOLAR
PREMIER DEALER



SOLAR STORE

413.772.3122
Local, residential and small commercial Solar PV Installers for 14+ years in Franklin, Hampshire and Hamden counties.

2 Fiske Avenue, Greenfield
solarstoreofgreenfield.com

Panasonic Solar AUTHORIZED INSTALLER
Call for free site assessment.
Artist: Christine Pellerin

Start the Future Today!

- Wealth Management
- Trust Services
- Estate Settlement



GSB
Wealth Management & Trust Services

(413) 775-8335 • greenfieldsavings.com

Peter Waters Painting Services

Interior/Exterior
Custom Residential
Fully Insured

Office: 978-544-6534
Cell: 413-461-5172
Wendell, MA
peterjwaters88@gmail.com