

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 19 – NO. 11

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 21, 2021

Supply Problems Loom For Vaccine ‘Phase Two’

By JEFF SINGLETON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – The rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine to “first responders” – firefighters, police, and other emergency workers – appears to be going smoothly in Franklin County. Doubts are mounting, however, about whether the national supply of the vaccine will be sufficient to keep the state on schedule as the program expands to broader populations.

John Zellman, chief of the Turners Falls Fire Department and Montague’s emergency management director, received his initial shot last week at the Community Health Center on Main Street in Green-

field. He said that all his “career officers” but two – one of whom is on military leave – had also obtained their shots at one of three centers available for the county. The other two are the John Zon Community Center on Pleasant Street in Greenfield and the Campus Center at the UMass Amherst.

Zellman called the process “very professional.” Despite high demand at the various locations, there were not long lines or waiting times because the centers implemented a series of well-spaced appointments.

“Boom, boom, boom and you’re done,” said Zellman. He noted that those receiving the vaccine were

see **VACCINE** page A6

Former Radio Host Faces Iowa Sentencing

By CHIP AINSWORTH

NORTHFIELD – A former WHAI sports personality will be sentenced in an Iowa courthouse this week. The Honorable Stephanie M. Rose of the US District Court for the Southern District of Iowa in Des Moines will likely impose prison time on 61-year-old Marty Tirrell.

The FBI arrested Tirrell on February 13, 2019 in Des Moines and charged him with multiple counts of bank fraud, wire fraud, and credit card fraud. He reached a plea deal a year ago, but COVID-related postponements have delayed

sentencing until now.

Assistant US Attorney Rachel Scherle recommended Tirrell serve five years and be ordered to pay \$1,464,563 in restitution. “Tirrell was a recognized personality on the radio [who] leveraged his notoriety and alleged connections to rope sports enthusiasts into giving him money for tickets that did not exist,” wrote Scherle. “When interviewed by FBI Special Agent Kevin Kohler, Tirrell said he ‘always tells the truth’ then proceeded to lie about each fraudulent transaction involved in this scheme.”

Born and raised in Franklin see **FORMER** page A5

New PPP Round Opens

By SARAH ROBERTSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Applications for the second round of a federal forgivable loan, the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), are now open to businesses, non-profits, and independent contractors financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“It kept us going. We wouldn’t be here without it,” said Rachel Katz, owner of the Greenfield Gallery. “Business for us was, and continues to be, slow.”

Katz says she was able to keep her three employees working at the cus-

tom framing and art gallery with the first round of PPP funding, and she plans on applying for the next round.

“We can’t hold artist receptions, which was key to our business model,” Katz said. “In our industry there has not been a return to regular shopping.”

More than 900 businesses in Franklin County received a combined \$93 million in PPP loans last year, according to data provided by the Center for Public Integrity. The largest recipients include All States Asphalt, headquartered in Sunderland, which received almost

see **LOANS** page A8

DISPATCH

The Moody Blues, Part IV Moody Project Sent To Committee

By CHIP AINSWORTH

NORTHFIELD – Let’s get caught up on developments in East Northfield. The news broke in November that a private developer from Missouri named Christian Arnold conspired with the non-profit Moody Center of Northfield and Overland Park, Kansas to put a three-story, 24 room apartment building on the corner of Highland Avenue and Pine Street.

The structure would go on less than an acre of open space and would require the removal of four healthy maple trees and both tennis courts. The lot chosen by Moody actually lacks sufficient frontage, depth, and total square footage

to be considered a building lot in the Planning Development zone. As one Northfield planning board member noted during an informal discussion session, “People are saying the building is crammed onto its lot.”

News of the site plan application was met with stiff resistance. Opposition was well publicized on the NextDoor neighborhood blog and in the *Montague Reporter*. The *Greenfield Recorder*’s editorial page was filled with “My Turn” opinion pieces from residents who are against the project.

In December, about 50 people tuned to the monthly planning board meeting that was broadcast see **MOODY** page A5

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Let’s Wait and See: Tax Taking Postponed



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

The town selectboard opted to hold off on acquiring this vintage industrial asset until after the Environmental Protection Agency takes a look under the hood.

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard decided Tuesday that the town will not aggressively pursue a tax case in land court at this time that could lead to the public taking of the Railroad Salvage property. The property, located on Power Street between the Turners Falls power canal and Connecticut River, has consisted primarily of piles of rubble since a 2016 fire, and is slated for a \$1.8 million hazardous materials cleanup by the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Originally a cotton mill constructed in the 1880s along the power canal, after World War II the building was the location of several retail stores, including Railroad Salvage, which has lent the structure its local name. By the turn of the 21st century the building was

virtually abandoned, and owners began stripping it for material.

During the next 15 years engineering studies of the property identified a large debris pile accumulating within the structure. Its roof collapsed in February 2006, followed by a section of its walls. A fire on New Year’s Eve 2016 led to further collapse, and many of the remaining walls were knocked down by court order.

Meanwhile, the property was purchased by a group called Solutions Consulting LLC, formed in 2013. The corporation listed Gordon Phillips of Milford, New Hampshire, Paul Nolan of Arlington, Virginia, and Jeanne Golrick of Millers Falls as its principals. The next year Philips and Nolan were removed from the articles of organization, leaving only Golrick

see **TAKING** page A7

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Joint Policing District’s Cops Hesitant Over COVID Vaccine

By GEORGE BRACE

At Leverett’s January 21 selectboard meeting, police chief Scott Minckler gave the board a positive update on the town’s joint policing project with Wendell, along with the current status of COVID-19 vaccinations in the department, and preliminary budget figures for next year’s police budget.

The board also discussed the applying for grant money to fund an electric vehicle charging station, and the receipt of another grant to purchase LED streetlights.

Chief Minckler reported that he and all six part-time police officers have received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, but that as of Tuesday, the two other full-time officers had chosen not to get vaccinated. Minckler said the two have not said that they will refuse it, but are unsure about it currently; one officer has said he would do it if mandated, the other has not commented on that possibility.

Members of the selectboard and others present expressed great concern, and discussed the reasons they felt it was important for the officers to get vaccinated, but recognized that it was new ground for the town in determining if it could, or should, be mandated. Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis said she is researching the matter.

“Citizens of the town will want people responding to emergencies to be vaccinated,” said selectboard chair Julie Shively. Multiple other people at the meeting said they wanted to make sure the officers understood that their safety was of great concern to the town as well.

In the end, the selectboard passed a resolution to “strongly encourage” the officers to get vaccinated, along with suggestions to enlist the board of health and find other means to encourage the officers to change their minds. The board will take the matter up again at its next meeting if necessary.

see **LEVERETT** page A7

On the Mend, Coop Calls Annual Meeting

By LILY REAVIS

LEVERETT – On any given afternoon at the Leverett Village Co-op, families generally gather over hot cocoa, businesspeople order deli sandwiches, and staff members chat happily behind food stands. Over the past two years, however, the coop has faced challenges born before and during the pandemic. After nearly closing due to budgetary concerns in 2019, the non-profit has recently hired John Calhoun as its new general manager, and plans to continue expanding through 2021.

“Right now, we have paid off most of our debtors. We still have a few private individuals who have loaned to us whose loans begin to be repaid in June next year,” Sam Black, president of the coop’s board of directors, explains. “We believe that we will be able to eventually build the store business adequately, to repay any outstanding debts, and also to leave it in a decent position for the future.”

Two years ago, the coop found itself at the center of an unsustainable economic situation due to low



REAVIS PHOTO

The coop’s leadership says it has survived its fiscal crisis, a tumultuous transition, and a pandemic – and is rebuilding.

shopper turnout. After 30 years of operation, the organization hit a lull in 2019 which resulted in a member-wide vote on whether or not to dissolve.

Hit simultaneously with the decision to shut down see **COOP** page A5

More Mind Control Offerings From The Deep State

Letters, Illustration, Editorial.....	A2
Local Briefs.....	A3
Sorting It Out.....	A3
Interview With A 2020 Graduate.....	A4
Gill Selectboard Notes.....	A6
10 Years Ago This Week.....	A7
Dip Sadly Reversed.....	A8
Five Favorite Favorite Books.....	B1

A Prehistoric Cover-Up.....	B1
The Gardener’s Companion.....	B2
Lost In Remakes.....	B3
Montague Police Log.....	B3
Gill Police Log.....	B4
Kids’ Page: Into The Light.....	B6
Five Comics and a Puzzle.....	B7
Go Take A Hike.....	B8



The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

Editorial Group

Mike Jackson, *Managing Editor*
Nina Rossi, *Features Editor*
Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno, *Poetry Page*
Victoria Maillio, *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

Starting Line

Wednesday marked the inauguration of a new president in the United States. Joe Biden is the 15th president to have previously served as vice president, and the sixth of those to first reach the presidency by election. On his first day, he was older than any previous president in office – three months older than Ronald Reagan was when he left. He is older than 80% of all living former presidents and 68% of all formerly living ones. Fortunately, he also has a vice president.

"We can join forces, stop the shouting, and lower the temperature," Biden pledged on the Capitol steps after being sworn in. "Politics need not be a raging fire destroying everything in its path."

But cynics on the Democratic party's left flank who have every good reason to expect Biden to govern by centrist triangulation, as has every prior Dem since Dallas, may see some pleasant surprises in

his first 100 days. On Wednesday he fired off seventeen executive orders, a number of which immediately overturned policies set by Trump: against gender discrimination; against the border wall and the Muslim ban; rejoining the Paris climate accord and canceling the Keystone XL pipeline; rejoining the World Health Organization.

There's much more in the works, we are told – and all Americans should be sitting up and watching, and giving input where possible. There's what the government does, and then there's what we do with it. Will the most powerful state in the world continue to be jerked around by a tug-of-war between two parties? The people can aid or undermine its effort in myriad ways, and indeed, attempts in both directions may already be underway.

First up: distribution of this vaccine. Okay, Joe: Let's see what a functioning government can do.

Good Old Days

Every week sees the suspension of long established newspapers in large villages simply because the inhabitants will not support them, no matter how well conducted, or the amount of patient, hard work put into the task.

One of the last to go is the North Brookfield *Journal*, after an honorable life of fifty years. Its proprietor since 1880 was Horace J. Lawrence, a very capable newspaper man, skilled printer and forceful writer.

It is the old story of the little fish asking the big fish to eat them up. The newspapers of the larger nearby cities and towns issue great handbills (with news sprinkled through the pages) advertising the wares of the big department and other stores, and pounce on every village within their reach, and with the aid of paid local men, succeed in killing every worth-while village shop-keeping enterprise, and finally the village newspaper.

The city of Worcester dailies have long had a crack at many surrounding factory villages, and succeeded well in their efforts. North Brookfield is the last place hit, although twenty miles away.

The aftermath of the strangulation of many of these country weeklies is seen in the news of the week that the inhabitants of West Warren mourn the loss of publications conducted by well trained newspaper

men, and propose to fill the void as best they may by amateur volunteers, who are to publish a local newspaper every other week.

Committees will edit the sheet, and committees will publish it, and committees will go into Worcester or other nearby cities to beg big advertisements on long contract from the department stores, and city printers will do the printing.

The local committee will be pleased with their enterprise, and the local merchants will encourage the big city stores to come and take the trade that should remain at home. It is the modern way....

The present writer can well cherish the memory of the companionship of true newspaper men and gentlemen during constant association with them for a half century and more, and amuse himself, if none other, in reminiscence which will escape the faults of a treacherous memory of the old by the adherence to old fashioned newspaper training, requiring verification where guessing would nowadays be considered sufficient....

So many things are printed every day now that "ain't so" it is well to remember one's newspaper training and be ever in a position to be correct.

The Turners Falls Reporter
January 19, 1921
(Cecil T. Bagnal, ed.)



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Leverett's new library director, Misha Storm, shown re-shelving books. Storm started her position last September. Although the library is closed to patrons at present, books are going in and out through an active drop-off and pick-up arrangement.

Letters to the Editors

Keeping History

Thank you so much for the history of Mashalisk, Pocumtuck Sachem. Because the Pocumtuck, as a distinct people, no longer live here (or, debatably, anywhere), it's vital for inhabitants of this area to know Pocumtuck history and to keep it alive.

It is difficult to find information about the Pocumtuck people in general, let alone specific individuals. I feel fortunate to have read David Brule's three-installment series on Mashalisk.

Jane Stephenson
Montague

Coop Meeting

The Leverett Village Cooperative is having our 33rd Annual Membership Meeting Wednesday, February 10 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Come join our collective *love fest* for our beloved community store: bring your chocolate and favorite armchair to celebrate at our online Zoom meeting!

We will provide an annual financial report to document our progress towards a successful turnaround, and celebrate our interim General Manager team of Paul Rosenberg and Patty Townsend, new General Manager John Calhoun, and other volunteers. Members can look forward to reports from our Board committees, news about member incentives, infrastructure updates,

and sustainability plans for the future. Our new GM will provide us with his vision for the store and we will welcome questions and suggestions from members.

Also we will present the nominees for the openings on the Board of Directors, to be voted on in a subsequent two-week in-store process.

We hope that in 2021 we can again host in-store dining and music, as well as outdoor summer festivities like the historic Spring Fling and the second annual Rattlesnake Gutter Festival. Our caring staff and volunteers continue to offer a safe local space to buy groceries, beer and wine, and other beverages, and to get breakfast and lunch take-out food, including Wednesday and Friday night pizzas. In addition you can order online from the Sunderland Farm Collaborative and pick up your order at the store on Wednesdays or Saturdays.

Stop by the Co-op to meet our new GM, John Calhoun from New Orleans. Watch for our Co-op newsletter for an article about the multi-talented John. We are delighted to have him working with the Co-op and welcome him to western Massachusetts!

Our annual meeting is open to the public, so feel free to come to the store to sign up and make sure we have your email to send you the online link to the Zoom meeting. There is *free chocolate love* at the register for those who sign up for the meeting!

Sam Black, President
Ann Ferguson, Clerk
Leverett Village Cooperative Board

CORRECTION and CLARIFICATION:

A photo caption we ran last week alongside our coverage of the Gill-Montague school district (Page A1, "Hopes to Return to Hybrid in February, As Impacts of Remote School Grow Clear") was poorly worded and gave an incorrect impression of the state of learning – and learning loss – at Hillcrest Elementary. "The proportion of Hillcrest first-graders not passing a standardized reading assessment grew from 42% in Fall 2019 to 74% in Fall 2020," it read.

Hillcrest principal Sarah Burstein helped us understand why this was a misstatement of a statistic presented by superintendent Brian Beck to the school committee. "That data point reflects a single standard on

the first grade report card," Burstein wrote. "We use a standards-based report card featuring the grade level standards from the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. The data point was not related to a standardized reading assessment."

Pressed for more information, Burstein explained that the students are rated in a 1:1 setting, "reading a specific text to the teacher while the teacher is recording miscues, self-corrections, fluency, etc."

Apologies to all! (For what it's worth, we also noticed that at the elementary level, as many cohorts saw improvement as decline when compared longitudinally. The Hillcrest stat was one of the most severe, especially shorn of context.)

**WE WELCOME
YOUR LETTERS!**

(ORIGINAL CONTENT ONLY, PLEASE)

Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

editor@
montaguereporter.org

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.

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): _____



By NINA ROSSI

The Authors and Artists Festival presents a **Movement-Language-Nature-Art Workshop** this Saturday, January 23 at 10:30 a.m. Led by Rebecca R. Burrill, the workshop explores “movement-sound as the first human perception,” using guided meditation and art-making to access primary language. Burrill is described as an ecocentric dancer, artistic director, and movement-based child development educator. The cost is \$25. To register, visit authors-andartistsfestival.wordpress.com.

See Trish Crapo's ArtBeat column in the MoRe section for additional events associated with the Authors and Artists Festival.

On Saturday January 23, Racial Justice Rising along with Gloria Matlock's Twice as Smart Program and Vicki Citron's Musica Franklin will present the voices of **children describing how they are surviving during the pandemic**. The program will be screened via YouTube at racialjusticerising.org/video-gallery, at 1 p.m. that afternoon.

The program begins with two 30-minute videos that the children made, one of them talking about COVID-19 in September 2020. Some of the children talk about how things have changed for them over the last four months. Musica Franklin will end the program with a performance by the children singing and playing their violins.

The video will stay on the website for those who miss the date.

Check out www.racialjusticerising.org for additional information on this group's activities.

Looking for work? MassHire Franklin-Hampshire Career Center is holding a **virtual job fair** next Wednesday, January 27 from 9 a.m. to noon. Pre-registration is required, then you will get a link to use to attend the interactive event. Register at www.masshirefhcareers.org.

Massachusetts Jobs With Justice will hold a virtual event called **The Path Forward** on Wednesday, January 27 at 6 p.m. to discuss how to use power the movement built in 2020 to demand equitable housing, health care, education, and more. Find out about their work creating workers' councils petitioning for a fair work week, and more, during the event.

Register through the Massachusetts Jobs With Justice Facebook page, or email laura@massjwv.net for information.

The Pioneer Valley Symphony is hoping to help more people “see themselves” in classical music by offering a five-part virtual series called **Musical Mosaic: America's Composers of Color**. Musical Mosaic features composers and scholars reflecting on the link between identity and music. Topics include Black choral music, the Asian immigrant experience, and the personal artistic journeys of award-winning contemporary Indigenous, Arab, and Latinx composers.

The next concert offering is

Wednesday, January 27 at 7 p.m. and is called “What is a Chickasaw Classical Composer”? Jerod Impichchaachaaha' Tate discusses his ethnic identity in classical composition and how identity impacts the fine arts. Find out more at pvsoc.org.

Atlas Farm is holding a pop-up **winter farmers market** at the Survival Center in Turners Falls, 96 Fourth Street, on the fourth Saturday of each month, now through March. You can pay with credit or debit, SNAP/EBT, and HIP (Healthy Incentives Program). The next market is this Saturday, January 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Questions? Contact Richie, farmersmarkets@atlasfarm.com.

Eat pizza from Red Fire North and help rebuild the **storm-damaged Bridge of Names** in Lake Pleasant. They are taking \$2 off every pizza ordered on Fridays and Saturdays, and donating \$1 to the repair fund, from now until February 7.

Place your order anytime during store hours or by email, then pick up anytime after noon at the store in Montague Center on Route 63. Seasonal vegetable toppings available. Call (413) 367-3071 or email info@redfirenorth.com.

The LAVA Center in Greenfield announces a variety of **Monday evening virtual workshops**. The LAVA gallery and Saturday Salon has temporarily closed to comply with current reduced capacity of only 25% in venues in Massachusetts.

The Poets and Writers Virtual Cafe takes place on the first Monday of the month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Gather on Zoom to share samples of work, talk, craft, and see where it leads. On second Mondays, they offer an Online Playwrights' Circle, and on third Mondays, a Book Club will meet on Zoom. Advance

registration through localaccess.org is required.

The Mass Cultural Council announces a second round of **financial relief** for individuals whose creative practices and incomes have been adversely impacted by the pandemic. This COVID-19 Relief Fund for Individuals makes available unrestricted grants of \$1,500. MCC expects to award 460 grants this year.

The application deadline is Tuesday, February 2 at 11:59 p.m. Apply online at www.masscultural-council.org.

Village Neighbors, a volunteer-run nonprofit dedicated to helping those over 60 lead independent and engaged lives at home, has come out with another e-newsletter chock full of information and resources for seniors in the towns of Leverett, Shutesbury, New Salem and Wendell.

Membership is free for those over 60, and the variety of services offered is growing in tandem with increases in membership. Find out more at www.villageneighbors.org.

Montague Reporter science page editor Lis McLoughlin is pleased to announce her online events company NatureCulture has earned Green America's Green Business Certification and Seal, awarded to small businesses that are committed to using their platform for positive social and environmental change.

According to the press release, NatureCulture broadcasts online events from a solar-powered, off-grid location surrounded by mature forest. There will be readings, open mics, and festivals planned by McLoughlin, as well as events of all kinds hosted for others. Visit www.nature-culture.net to find out more.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

Shop locally!
Support
Montague Reporter
advertisers.

NANCY L. DOLE
BOOKS & EPHEMERA



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

OPEN AGAIN 3 days a week
Tues, Weds, Thurs – 11 to 6

Formerly Jay K's – bigger & better!

Connecticut River
Liquor & Wine



Open Mon-Thurs 10am-10pm
Fri & Sat 10am - 11pm • Sun Noon-8pm

123 Avenue A • Turners Falls
863-5066

GREENFIELD
FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE
Locally Owned Since 1918

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

Sorting Out Leverett's History (Literally)

By JERI MORAN

For the past several weeks, the Leverett Historical Society's Dawn Marvin Ward has been wading in and sorting years of accumulated historical material stored in the Moores Corner Schoolhouse, known now as the Leverett Historical Society Museum.

The structure, built in 1810, has served as a meetinghouse, a school, and since 1964 as the society's meeting space and museum.

Ward has uncovered a wealth of information and artifacts which will be organized, inventoried, and eventually made available digitally for public access. In preparation for this, she and the Leverett Historical Commission have applied for a grant through the Community Preservation Act for funds to purchase scanning and storage equipment for documents and photos, as well as funds to hire an archivist to assemble the materials into an archival preservation platform.

This funding would help create

a digital database of all the materials that are housed in both the Moores Corner Schoolhouse and the Field Family Museum in Leverett Center.

Ward also has had contact with Ed Gregory and Chris Clawson – who were highlighted in a recent *Montague Reporter* article for creating the Western Massachusetts History Collective database – to explore collaborating with them some time in the future. As more materials are uncovered and sorted, Ward says she will be looking for local folks to help identify photographs and other ephemera in the Schoolhouse.

All of this work is towards the goal, down the line, of re-opening the Museum, and once again holding Historical Society meetings and public programs.

But for now, in these COVID times, Ward continues to work on her own, dragging out lots of very dusty, battered boxes in an unheated building to find what Leverett treasures may be waiting inside them.

Top: Dawn Marvin Ward, outside the Leverett Historical Society Museum.

Bottom: Dawn Marvin Ward, inside it.



JERI MORAN PHOTOS

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

Dudek Tax Service

10 Masonic Ave
Turners Falls
MA 01376

Frank J. Dudek

413.863.5394 - Office
413.775.3327 - Cell
frankd_74@yahoo.com

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, Tradeshow 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 January 25
in Montague

more info? call: 863-2054

WE HEAT
FRANKLIN
COUNTY

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



(413) 773-3622

TroubleMandesonCopyEditing
@gmail.comCopyediting
Proofreading
Document Review

ESL and academics welcome

(413) 668-6997

Partridge-Zschau
InsuranceProtect Your
Future

Since 1891

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

INTERVIEW

Graduating Into a Pandemic World

Interview by JERRI HIGGINS

In a year like none other in most people's living memory, the *Montague Reporter* sought to interview Turners Falls High School 2020 seniors on what graduating during the COVID-19 pandemic was like for them – and what has come since then.

While we had hoped to interview a number of students, Montague resident and TFHS Class of 2020 graduate Kaitlyn Miner was our only respondent, stepping up just as she did throughout many aspects of her high school years, from Student Council and other school activities to athletics.

Describing herself as “always on the go, doing a million things at once,” Miner said she was initially excited to have unexpected time off when the Gill Montague Regional School District closed the district's schools for two weeks last March as it was becoming clear that the COVID-19 virus was growing rapidly.

(This interview has been abridged and edited for clarity.)

Miner and her classmates believed they would return to classes once safety protocols were put in place at the high school...

KM: The last day of school [before the shutdown] was Friday, March 13, the day the seniors posted “Senior Skip day.” So we, without knowing, skipped our last day of high school!

It was a very hectic day, from what I heard from other students in the building that day, and I remember about two weeks leading up to when they closed school, they were sanitizing everything. We knew [COVID-19] was a quote-unquote “problem,” but not so much of a problem that they would close the school.

MR: What was your life like once the newness of the pandemic wore off?

KM: From like the middle of March to probably the middle of April, I didn't really have a routine. We still had classwork to do, but I am a person who thrives on routines. I like to do things at certain times of day – which helps me keep grounded – and not having a routine was really hard for me. So I made one for myself, which really helped me keep balanced with everything that was going on.

MR: Is there anything that you feel like you missed out on as a result of the shutdown?

KM: People have different opinions on it, but I am a person who thinks everything happens for a reason, and there is a purpose to everything – and I know a lot of people died from this – but I think that a lot of people, myself included, took this time of quarantine to take a step back and recognize what is important.

For me, I was always on the go, go, go, and having to stay home helped me realize what is important to me. I really worked on myself, and I think I really changed – everyone changed, I think, whether they were trying to or not.

It was a gradual thing, and what I explained to people who said “you are missing three months of school, how do you feel about that?” is something a friend had said to me: that there is a difference between an 18-year-old missing three months of school compared to a 5-year-old in kindergarten missing three months of school. At 18 you have learned most of the basics, and when you are 5 you are just learning life skills that you will use for the rest of your life. I am



Kaitlyn Miner's senior class photo.

18, and there is a 5-year-old going through the same thing as me. I learned to recognize the differences in everyone's life.

MR: Did the pandemic change your friendships at all?

KM: Mostly I kept in contact with my friends through texts, and we scheduled Facetime [video chats]. I made it a priority to continue my connections with people because I knew if I didn't keep in contact, I might lose the friendships, or they would lessen.

Miner also spoke about her first semester at Fitchburg State University (FSU), where she is working toward a nursing degree.

MR: What was it like entering college during the pandemic?

KM: I actually did not commit to my top choice [FSU] until the middle of April, and I wanted to go on one more campus visit, but that all got canceled.

The faculty and staff were all going through a new learning curve, too, because no one really knew how to work and comprehend these online classes and everything. But they took into account what their students needed, and what the students were going through, and they implemented it.

My in-person [Human Growth and Development] lifespan development class is a hybrid course, which is one day online and one day in person. The class is separated into two groups: a Monday group and a Wednesday group. There are 12 to 14 people in my group, and we sit six feet apart and we have to keep our masks on, but we have gotten used to it.

I get an optional [COVID-19] test once a week at FSU, but it is free, and normally you have to pay for the test, so why not? And if I were to contract the virus, I would know soon and could contact anyone to let them know if I got it.

MR: Was nursing always your plan to pursue, and if so, has COVID-19 changed how you feel about your major?

KM: Yes, nursing has always been my plan. Going through the pandemic has made me realize how much I truly want to do nursing.

Seeing the pictures of nurses through social media and the news with their torn-up faces from their N95 masks – and seeing their compassion and true care, working day in and day out to

provide for those suffering with COVID-19, in addition to the other jobs that still had to be done every single day of the pandemic, has truly inspired me even more. Especially seeing through their eyes what is going on in the hospitals in today's world.

MR: Did you do anything new or different during the pandemic? For instance, I have never shared dinner pictures before, but my son and I started sharing what we were having for supper, and it was nice.

KM: I feel like a lot of people really got into cooking. I would not consider myself a Rachel Ray or anything, but I like to cook. I think I did get into making things that I would not have otherwise.

I also got into working out consistently. I had been working out with my sports and school routine, and the school shutdown was between sports seasons, so I stopped working out for a little while, but I have gotten back into it.

Miner shared that being home during the pandemic helped strengthen her bonds with her family. Besides her parents, Miner has an older sister and a younger brother who were all home during the pandemic.

KM: My sister was going to Greenfield Community College, and my brother was going to Franklin County Technical School.

I always knew that family was important, but before COVID and quarantine, everyone in my family was not always home at the same time. We might have been in the house together, but we were often like “hey I'm here, hey I'm going there,” but when this all started, we were all home for 90% of the time. My dad was still working, but my sister and I were not because our work got shut down.

MR: Did you have any canceled travel plans, or anything that did not happen because of the pandemic?

KM: This summer I probably would have gone to the beach more. I did get to go a few times, though. Other than that, I did not have any real travel plans – everything just became virtual.

I did have a graduation party with family, and very few friends, and we were all masked up, so that was different, but I'm glad I had that.

MR: From your perspective now, what advice might you offer to yourself, or someone else facing a pandemic?

KM: Be thankful for the little things. Every day is a new opportunity to become the very best version of yourself, whether that be physically or mentally.

And, it is okay to not be okay. We are living in a worldwide pandemic, and if you have a rise in depression or anxiety – your feelings are valid!

...She's right! If you are struggling, or anyone you know is struggling, help is available:

Crisis Text Line Text “Hello” to 741741

YouthLine Text “teen2teen” to 839863
or call 1(877)968-8491

Local Crisis Services

Greenfield/Franklin County (413)774-5411

Athol/North Quabbin (978)249-3141

Hampshire County (413)586-5555

Suicide Prevention Hotline 1 (800) 273-8255

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 413.834.2201INFO@RENBUILD.NET
413-863-8316RENAISSANCE
BUILDERS

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

RENAISSANCE
PAINTINGSINCE 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

B. RUBIN & SONS INC.



COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS

Shocks • Tires • Batteries • Starters
Struts • Tune-ups • Brakes • Oil Change194 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.

HUGE
WASHERS!
HOT
DRYERS!Open 365 Days
6 A.M. - 10 P.M.SUZEE'S THIRD STREET
LAUNDRY

TURNERS FALLS



VACCINE from page A1

required to wait for 20 minutes to monitor for a potential reaction. During that time they signed up for their second appointments, which are scheduled for the second week of February.

Zellman’s reaction to the initial stages of COVID vaccination was echoed by other officials in the region. Leverett police chief Scott Minckler, who went to the Zon Community Center, said he was “very impressed,” and Gill’s chief Chris Redmond reported a similar experience at the same site.

“It was well run and well-attended when I was there,” Redmond said.

The local officials we spoke to reported that there was little resistance on their staffs to taking the vaccine, although a few did not want to be the first in line.

“I was in the military, and we were pincushions,” said Erving fire chief Philip Wonkka. “Nobody ever asked me whether or not I wanted to take the shot.”

The rollout in nursing homes and long-term care facilities in the region, which is being handled by CVS and Walgreens, also seems to be going relatively smoothly.

Christine Looby, spokesperson for Trinity Health Senior Communities, which currently owns both the Farren Care Center in Montague City and the Mount Saint Vincent nursing home in Holyoke, said residents at both locations were about to participate in their second vaccine “clinic,” and that a third clinic will be held in about three weeks for those on a slower schedule. Most residents of the Farren are scheduled to be relocated to the Holyoke home, but the move has been delayed by the vaccination process.

Michele Carney, co-owner of the Poet’s Seat nursing home in Greenfield, told the *Reporter* that the residents and staff at the facility had nearly completed their Pfizer vaccinations by Walgreens. Carney said that Poet’s Seat, which she said currently has no positive COVID-19 cases, was the first nursing home in Franklin County to receive the vaccine, and one of the first in the state.

Phoebe Walker, director of community services at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments who also serves on the Governor’s vaccine advisory committee, told the *Reporter* that she believed that vaccinations at nursing homes and long-term care facilities were generally proceeding according to schedule.

Walker urged the *Reporter* to emphasize that patients who had received their first shots in skilled nursing facilities but have since been discharged should return to those same locations for their second shots, rather than call their primary care physicians. She also said that vaccinations for home health-care workers, which will probably take place at the Greenfield and UMass locations, will begin very soon.

Doing the Math

Most of the first responders we spoke with will be receiving their final vaccinations during the second week of February. This raises the issue of when the broader public, including the elderly people with pre-existing conditions, and workers in essential industries like retail establishments and schools, will be offered the vaccine.

The state has scheduled a three-phase rollout, with the emergency responders, healthcare workers, nursing home residents and staff, and those in “congregate care settings” such as jails and prisons in the first phase. The elderly living at home, vulnerable residents with pre-existing conditions, and essential workers in a range of occupations like education, grocery and retail employees, and public works among others are scheduled for Phase 2. “All other” residents in the state will in theory be vaccinated during the third phase.

A more detailed description of the timeline is shown on the state Department of Public Health website. The site continues to indicate that Phase 1 should be completed, and Phase 2 will begin at some point in February.

But it is unclear whether this is realistic, given the uncertainties of the nationwide rollout and the limitations of state and local infrastructure for administering the vaccine to a much larger population. Adding to these uncertainties has been a good deal of negative press – and political finger pointing – about the presence of stockpiles of unused vaccine sitting in freezers while elderly citizens are denied vaccinations under rigid state and federal guidelines.

But it is unclear whether the timeline is realistic, given the uncertainties of the nationwide rollout and the limitations of state and local infrastructure for administering the vaccine to a much larger population.

At his weekly COVID-19 press conference on January 15, Massachusetts governor Charlie Baker bristled at the suggestion that the state was withholding vaccines for vulnerable residents in order to implement an arbitrary bureaucratic timeline. “We’re not holding on to any vaccines,” he said. “Nobody’s holding on to any vaccines.”

Baker complained that the problem has been a “lack of visibility [from the federal government] as to how much vaccine we are going to get, and when it is going to be here.” He said he was “absolutely certain” the state could handle greater demand and a greater supply if it came soon.

“We have 660,000 people to vaccinate on Phase 1,” Baker continued. “We’ve only received 400,000 doses.” Noting that the state had only been receiving 80,000 doses per week recently, Baker urged reporters to “do the math.”

The math suggests that if 650,000 people need to receive two doses to finish Phase 1, it will require a total of 1.3 million doses; if Massachusetts had received 400,000 doses as of January 15 and was receiving vaccines at a rate of 80,000 per week, it would take roughly 11 weeks to complete Phase 1.

That would put the start of Phase 2 at some point in April.

Walker told us that there might be some overlap between the phases, which would allow residents in high-risk groups to get the

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Late Town Meeting Causes Free Cash Glitch

By JERRI HIGGINS

The Gill selectboard met on Tuesday evening instead of Monday due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. The brief meeting addressed an “invalid use of free cash” for three articles voted on at Gill’s annual town meeting this past November among the evening’s other agenda items.

“Last week I was notified that [the Department of Revenue] could not approve our tax rate because we used free cash after June 30, and we had not gotten the proper approval from DOR to do that,” town administrator Ray Purington explained to the selectboard.

“At November’s town meeting, voters appropriated \$181,150 of free cash to four different articles,” he said. “We used \$60,000 [Article 14] to reduce the tax rate, \$15,000 [Article 10] for building maintenance projects at the library, \$15,000 [Article 11] for a town hall heating system account, and then the other [\$91,150] went into several stabilization funds.”

Gill traditionally holds its annual town meeting in the spring, but it was delayed this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Purington said he knew the town needed special approval from the DOR to draw funds from the town’s free cash account after the June expiration date, but he told the selectboard that it had slipped his mind amid a flurry of emails from the DOR at that time.

The DOR allowed a one-time COVID-19-related exception for the selectboard to approve transferring the \$90,000 in question from the town’s free cash account to the general stabilization account in order to replace “those three free cash amounts that were not valid votes by town meeting,” said Purington.

Purington also said that the town’s free cash account will be getting recertified within the next couple of months, and he expects it will be more than last year’s free cash amount.

“My recommendation will be that we take the first \$181,000 of our new free cash total and back-fill, or carry out, what the voters approved in November,” Purington said. “That ‘back-filling vote’ will be done at the next town meeting.”

When asked whether the substitution of general stabilization funds puts the town in any kind of financial jeopardy, Purington responded that Gill has adequate funds in its stabilization account to cover the \$90,000.

The selectboard voted unanimously to approve the transfer.

COVID-19 Response

Fire chief Gene Beaubien said that he and a few other Gill first responders got their first shots of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine last Friday, with several other emergency personnel getting their first shots this week. Beaubien said their second shots were scheduled “right then” while they waited for their first ones.

The selectboard approved an optional extension of

the COVID-19 Families First Coronavirus Response Act, the Emergency Paid Sick Leave, and the Emergency Family and Medical Leave for eligible employees from January 1 through March 31 of this year. The initial measure had expired at the end of December.

Election Worker Pay

A personnel committee recommendation to increase election worker pay to the Massachusetts state minimum was approved unanimously.

“Prior to COVID-19 we were paying between \$8.31 and \$9.77 per hour for various election workers, and [town clerk Doreen Stevens] brought the request to the selectboard in May to formalize the temporary approval last year of what we were paying election workers,” Purington told the board.

The new wage will apply to any person employed by the town to receive compensation at least equal to the state minimum wage at the time of their employment.

Purington said that the decision is uncomplicated as far as temporary election workers are concerned, but will require more review for any employees on the town’s step wage scale.

Gill does not have any employees below the state minimum wage currently, but selectboard member John Ward cautioned that the minimum wage may soon go up to a proposed \$15 per hour, and that the selectboard should be thinking about that.

Other Business

The selectboard approved a FY’22 diesel fuel order of 5,300 gallons, as the town has for the last several years, according to Purington, and a heating oil order of 2,500 gallons, which is 500 gallons less than last year.

“In the past we have used 3,000 gallons as the amount we lock in. I want to drop that down to 2,500 gallons for this year,” Purington told the selectboard. “Since we are locking in the oil that we are going to use next winter, we are not going to be using much heating oil at all for the town hall next year.”

“The safety complex pretty reliably averages 3,000 gallons for that building for the heating season. They have never used less than 2,500 gallons, so I think 2,500 is a good amount to lock in. It gives us some protection against not using enough oil and having to carry it over and pay a storage fee.”

Gill’s 2021 sewer commitment for the Riverside neighborhood is \$46,173.81, using the new rate approved at the December 7, 2020 selectboard meeting. The selectboard also approved applying \$10,109.31 in unpaid sewer bills from FY’20 as liens on FY’21 real estate tax bills.

Firefighter – and board of fire engineers member – Aaron Budine, who had been working for both the Bernardston and Gill fire departments, resigned from the Gill department as of January 7. Beaubien said that he will be staying with Bernardston.

vaccination sooner. She also said that her assumption was that the rate of distribution to the states would increase in the coming months.

Defense Production

At a January 15 press briefing on COVID-19 policy, then President-elect Joe Biden criticized the Trump administration’s management of the vaccine rollout, calling implementation “rigid and confusing.”

“If you were to ask most people today, they couldn’t tell you who was being vaccinated,” Biden said. “What they do know is that there are tens of millions of doses of vaccine sitting unused in freezers around the country while people who want and need the vaccine can’t get it.”

Biden vowed to place a greater priority on vaccinating vulnerable populations, including the elderly and workers living in crowded

urban neighborhoods, as well as in “isolated” rural areas. Biden also promised to invoke the Defense Production Act, a Korean War-era law, to increase the production and availability of vaccines along with personal protective equipment. A few days later, Democrats in Congress urged him to invoke the act “immediately.”

According to CNBC, officials in the Trump administration claim that in fact they have invoked the Defense Production Act “18 times in relation to vaccine production.”

In late December, an agreement between the outgoing administration and Pfizer to produce 100 million additional vaccine doses required the federal government to invoke the act to help the company “get better access to around nine specialized products it needs to make the vaccine,” according to *The New York Times*.

The domestic supply of vac-

cines is a product of agreements between the federal government and Pfizer and Moderna, the companies currently approved to produce vaccine. Several more agreements exist with companies which have not yet been cleared for mass production and distribution.

The total number of vaccine doses hypothetically available under current agreements, including the recent one with Pfizer, stands at 400 million, which should cover about 61% of the US population.

Whether further invocation of the Defense Production Act would increase or significantly speed up the production and distribution of that supply remains to be seen. According to *Forbes* magazine, the agreement with Pfizer commits the company to delivering all its doses by July 2021, and “the government has the opportunity to buy an additional 400 million doses.”



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

gretchenwlmr@gmail.com 413-824-7063



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



Rau's Auto
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR
(413) 367-2475
531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague

24 hour emergency towing
Best service licensed Mechanics

TAKING from page A1

as “the sole remaining person with capacity of member-manager.”

The LLC was ordered dissolved by the state in 2016, the typical fate of entities that do not file annual reports. Yet the town’s tax taking, which was first initiated in 2013, has continued to list Solutions Consulting as the owner. Town administrator Steve Ellis said the unpaid balance of taxes and other fees on the property are “approximately \$116,629.”

“I guess that’s not approximate,” he added.

Ellis told the board that town counsel, the law firm Kopelman & Paige, recommended against filing for a final judgment in the case until the EPA has substantially completed its hazmat project, for two reasons.

First, the town wants to minimize its potential liability if it owns the property, “and we just can’t be sure what the EPA might encounter.” Second, Ellis said, it was not clear how the EPA would react if the cost of the project were substantially higher than its estimate.

Ellis said he had been asked about a potential federal lien on the property, made in the agency’s project proposal, which could give the EPA the right to claim nearly \$1 million in “extramural,” or administrative, costs.

“Our legal counsel has spoken with their legal counsel,” Ellis said. “It is our absolute understanding that the town in no way would be responsible for the lien.”

Ellis also said that delaying the property taking beyond this fiscal year would probably cause the town to lose a \$25,000 grant from the state agency MassDevelopment for technical assistance to evaluate the future use of the property. He added, however, that his conversations with state officials had led him to

believe that the town could reapply for that grant in the future.

In the end, the selectboard unanimously voted against a motion to “direct the land court to order a final judgment” on the property, although one board member, Chris Boutwell, initially voted yes by mistake. When the error was pointed out by the chair, Boutwell changed his vote to a “no.” Member Mike Nelson asked Boutwell if he had been “convinced” by the chair to change his vote, to which Boutwell replied, for the record, that he had not been pressured.

Information Technology

The most labor-intensive topic discussed by the board at its meeting Tuesday was a proposal to create a full-time position at town hall for “technical support.” Horace Moody, who has been serving as a part-time IT consultant, made the proposal.

Moody said that his expanded role during the COVID-19 pandemic, plus his work on the new public works garage project, had convinced him that a full-time staff position would benefit the town. “One of the benefits of COVID-19 has been that we have pursued a lot of projects we would not have pursued otherwise,” he said. “A lot of IT has been reactive, as opposed to proactive, which is what would happen if we had someone who had their hands in it on a more day-to-day basis.”

Moody gave examples from his work at the treasurer’s office and at the water pollution control facility.

Greg Garrison of the finance committee said he “completely agreed” with Moody, but said that “we should have a game plan as to what we are going to strategize with that person. What are our long term goals for the IT?”

“Whatever you guys decide to

do, we’ll live with it,” said town accountant Carolyn Olsen, who has served as IT coordinator. But Olsen said that full-time IT support could have “intangible benefits,” like helping staff with smaller technical problems that arise during the course of a day.

Olsen said that Moody had spent “hours and hours” talking to Verizon about a phone problem at the sewer plant. “That is not something that we can expect a consultant at \$40 an hour to be doing,” she said.

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz said he was “not 100% sure we should be looking at a full-time person.” He gave examples from recent businesses he has worked for that employed independent firms for IT support. “My gut feeling is that we would be better served enhancing the other services we provide than spending the money on a full-time person to provide our IT.”

“I have a concern that we’re going to hire someone at \$90,000 per year that will become inundated with strategic planning,” he continued. “They’re going to want to hire a company to do some support, and that budget is going to go from \$123,000 to \$183,000 to \$223,000.”

In the end the board decided not to take a vote on the issue but continue the discussion at a future meeting.

Other Business

The selectboard, meeting with the board of health, heard an update on the latest COVID-19 data and state policy directives on the pandemic. Public health director Daniel Wasiuk said that the number of new active cases – new positive COVID-19 tests – from January 3 through January 16 was 23. The number of “cumulative cases” since October 1 has been 151 cases, and since March totals 180.

The recent numbers lower Mon-

tague’s level of risk from the “red” to the “yellow” state designation.

Concerning the progress of vaccinations, Wasiuk said that it is a “constantly evolving” situation and “every day there’s new information.” [See article, page A1.]

Ellis said the decline in cases was a “positive sign,” but that “we’re right on the edge of the teeter-totter,” and recommended against modifying the town’s COVID-19 policies. No vote was taken.

The board closed the meeting after just over an hour. The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be on January 25.



Support the Reporter!



Sizes M, L, and XL remain.
Order yours at montaguereporter.org, email info@montaguereporter.org, or call (413) 863-8666.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on January 20, 2011: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Turners Falls Woman Hired As Wendell Food Coordinator

Elizabeth Carter of Turners Falls was hired Monday for the new position of local food coordinator for the town of Wendell. The University of Massachusetts soil science major and environmental activist used the words “excited” and “honored” to describe how she felt about joining forces with a community she considers to be “on the cutting edge, by taking the initiative as a town to support its farmers.”

The Wendell energy committee that hired her was equally enthusiastic. Following the Monday night vote, she was phoned from the meeting room with the news. Once it was clear she had indicated her acceptance, members applauded and cheered.

The hiring is a key element of a two-year pilot program narrowly approved by voters at a special town meeting last October that intended to increase local food security by directly committing public funds to that effort. Following passionate debate, voters approved the appropriation of \$5,000 to the energy committee “for the purpose of conducting the first year of a two-year pilot project focused on local food production and agriculture.”

Leverett Elementary Will Get a Greenhouse

This May, a group of parents and staff plan to install a 36-foot greenhouse on Leverett Elementary School grounds. The greenhouse would then become a living classroom, an opportunity to grow food for school lunches, and a food security resource for the community.

Food writer and local foods activist Susan Chang wrote wellness policies for the Amherst and Union 28 districts as part of a Food and Society Policy fellowship. “We started thinking about what we wanted for food in the Leverett school system,” Chang said. “We ran a food survey, a wellness survey, and what came out of that was that people were unhappy with the

selections we had available.... The school lunch program was losing money, so we put together a school lunch study group.”

Chang had also worked to install a school garden as part of her fellowship. The “courtyard garden” is an enclosed space where students grow fruits and vegetables. “We started thinking about what would be even better. And we thought of a greenhouse. If we had a greenhouse we could start to grow lettuce for the salad bar,” said Chang.

“We’re excited about the likelihood the greenhouse will be constructed between the school and the library, and integrated with the school curriculum,” said selectboard member Peter d’Errico. “Our sense is the town is not in a situation financially to support a paid position to work with this project, so we’re in the midst of exploring other means, like grants, volunteers, or finding someone from existing staff who could take the lead on it.”

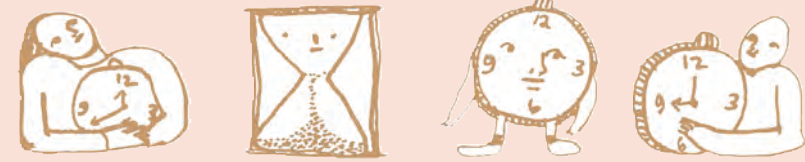
Improved Verizon Phone Service in the Offing

Verizon has provisionally agreed to “significantly improve” the quality of telephone service in the 413 area code. A draft settlement intended to assure that result will be aired at a public hearing next Wednesday in Boston.

It follows over a year and a half of investigation and litigation led by the Massachusetts Attorney General’s office. Complaints about telephone service are frequently heard in the local area. There have been newspaper accounts of emergency situations where the timing of a phone failure was especially unfortunate.

Under the agreement, Verizon is agreeing to survey and complete repair work on “its outside plant” in 33 wire centers, and to “improve the condition of its telephone network” in 34 other wire centers. (One report described this as “most of the rural communities in western Massachusetts.”)

Some of the repairs specifically promised in the agreement were in Montague, and according to the provisional document were to have happened by December 31, 2010.



LEVERETT from page A1

Chief Minckler reported that the first three months of what has been called a “fee for service” arrangement for Leverett to provide police coverage to the town of Wendell have gone “as smooth as he could have hoped.”

The chief said the department has been averaging 27 or 28 calls per month from Wendell so far, higher than 15 to 20 estimate provided by the town, but that he had been expecting a higher volume, due in part to Wendell residents sometimes having called their former chief at home when issues arose.

Minckler said there has not yet been the need to respond to incidents in both towns at the same time, and feedback has been positive among both residents and officers. The chief said he is looking at the situation as “one big patrol district” now, though all activity in Wendell is being tracked for cost oversight.

“This is the way policing is going in small towns,” said Minckler, adding that he had received notice the state will close its part-time police academy, part of a general shift toward full-time police. He said that so far in Massachusetts, four town police departments have combined into two.

Board member Tom Hankinson described Leverett’s effort as a “highly controlled experiment,” and a “good model.”

McGinnis informed the board of a grant available to support work on a contract between the two towns as they continue to feel their way through the change. Shively pointed out that the contract will have an eye toward the future, and will include an “on ramp” if other towns want to join the joint policing district.

Members of the financial committee said they did not yet have enough information for a full understanding of the arrangement’s financial status, but raised no objections to anything they had seen so far, while making clear they would need to know what was going on over time.

Preliminary FY’22 budget discussions were held with the police and fire departments. Both proposed

budgets came in under the town’s goal of no greater than a 1.5% increase, and with no major surprises.

Fire chief John Ingram reported that 14 out of 15 of the town’s volunteer firefighters have been vaccinated.

Other Business

The board held an initial discussion on submitting a grant application, with a March deadline, for the installation of an electrical vehicle charging station. Strong interest was expressed, but many questions raised. Potential sites that were mentioned included the library, the coop, the post office, and the school.

Chief Minckler said he was against installing a station at the elementary school, saying he would be uncomfortable with people coming in and out to use it all the time in close proximity to children and teachers.

McGinnis said she would do more research and get more information on the whole proposition.

McGinnis also reported the receipt of a grant for LED streetlights applied for in 2020. She said there were choices involved in the types of LEDs and other matters that townspeople may want to weigh in on, and suggested putting something in the town newsletter to seek public input. She said people could talk to her or the board as well.

Hankinson said that if there was a strong sense that a meeting should be called for to discuss the lights, the town could do so.

McGinnis also reported she had been on a conference call with state senator Joanne Comerford and town officials from Montague to discuss ways to get more funding for bridges, saying a project was being initiated in that effort.

McGinnis said the town needs to set up a meeting for Teawaddle Hill Road residents to explain the process and permitting for the project connecting them to Amherst town water. Amherst is in charge of permitting for both towns, and Amherst public works superintendent Guilford Mooring can be available to answer questions.



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

HAWKS & REED
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
IN DOWNTOWN GREENFIELD
MUSIC - THEATER - PRIVATE EVENTS
FOR INFORMATION AND RENTAL INQUIRIES,
EMAIL US AT
INFO@HAWKSANDREED.COM
FULL SCHEDULE AVAILABLE AT:
WWW.HAWKSANDREED.COM
289 MAIN ST. GREENFIELD, MA 01301. 413.774.0150

NOW'S YOUR
CHANCE! PLACE YOUR
BUSINESS CARD HERE
CALL 863-8666

STONEDWORK
— BUILD. REBUILD. MEND. —
R. SKELTON, WALLER
(413) 367-2435 • skelton.rob@gmail.com

LOANS from page A1

\$7 million; Valley Medical Group, which got exactly \$5 million; and the Orange-based Pete's Tire Barns, which received over \$3 million. Many of the smallest loans went to independent contractors and small businesses listing one or two employees.

"Here is an opportunity for us to channel a significant amount of money into the Valley and help our customers and community members in dire need," said Greenfield Savings Bank president John Howland. Between Hampshire and Franklin counties, Greenfield Savings helped over 700 businesses apply for PPP loans in the first round of funding.

"Things were changing almost daily in the first round that would shift the course we were on," Howland said. "It's going to be much more straightforward for us this round."

Local banks are working quickly to process as many applications as they can before the March 31 deadline. This time there will be a \$2 million cap on the maximum loan amount, with more restrictive terms, as compared to the \$10 million cap used last spring.

"In the spring the volume was much larger, and there was a greater sense of urgency," Howland said.

The Gill Greenery, an indoor sprout farm based in Gill, lost most of their wholesale customers after the pandemic began. What they lost in bulk sales to schools and restaurants, however, they made up for in part with an increase of retail and

direct customer sales. In the end, overall revenue decreased by about 20% for the year.

"We're fortunate that our business has diversified," said Seay Minor, who owns the small farm with his wife. "We did do the PPP because our future was so uncertain."

Minor said his family business will not be applying for the next round of PPP loans because it hasn't met the new threshold of a 25% loss of revenue.

"I don't like to take handouts, is what it comes down to," Minor said. "But we did do the first PPP, because we just didn't know what was coming down the road."

Brian Frank, who owns a small construction business in Erving, says he hesitated to apply for the loans for similar reasons, but ultimately received \$44,000 through the program, which helped him support his eight employees.

Using PPP money, Frank was able to pay his employees to stay home and get COVID-19 tests when a co-worker wasn't feeling well. The money also helped him buy protective equipment and install hand-washing stations on job sites.

"A small company like mine, I would have laid people off instead of having them get paid for that time," he said.

"We never fully closed. It was more of in the beginning we didn't know what to expect," Frank said. "It was very helpful, and I don't know if it's forgiven yet or not."

Another local lender, Greenfield Cooperative Bank, processed about

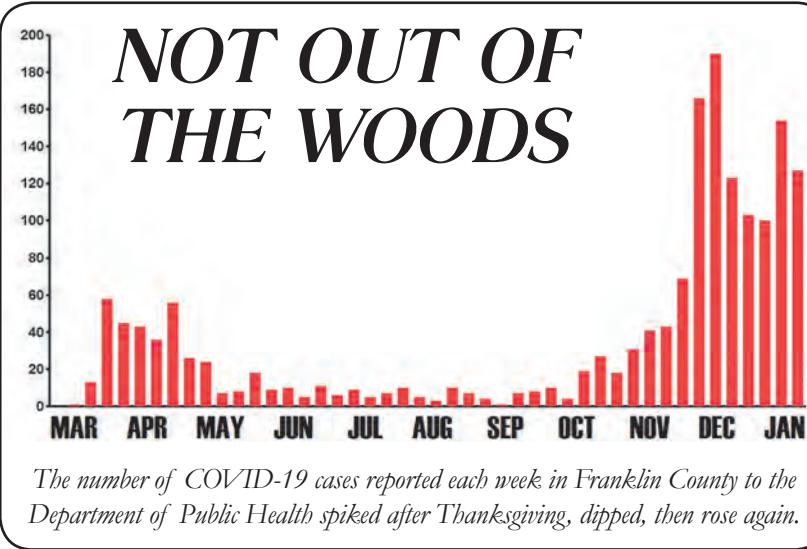
250 loan applications beginning last April. "For a bank our size, that was quite an undertaking for a six-week period," said president Tony Worden. "I imagine we'll be around a third of that [this round]."

Businesses and banks started hearing back last August from the federal Small Business Administration (SBA) about whether their loans would be completely forgiven. At Greenfield Cooperative, according to Worden, just over half of the PPP loans they provided have been fully forgiven so far, with many still waiting for an SBA decision.

"People were really, really worried, and I think that shows in the numbers," he said. "Now everyone has lived through this for almost a year, and people have a sense of what the economy looks like and what businesses will look like."

Most of the loans made through Greenfield Cooperative Bank were under \$150,000, Worden said, so they are eligible for a fast-tracked approval process under a stipulation in the December 21 stimulus bill. He expects the majority of the small loans will be forgiven soon.

Restaurants will have better luck securing this round of forgivable loans, Worden predicted, because applications should be less competitive and the SBA included more favorable conditions for food establishments. Food service and "accommodation" businesses will now be able to receive three and a half times their average monthly payroll from the PPP program, while other businesses can receive two and a half.



The \$900 billion federal economic stimulus bill passed just before Christmas included \$284 billion to reboot the PPP program. The first cycle of the program, established by \$659 billion in CARES Act funding, was exhausted this summer.

In exchange for distributing loans to their customers, banks are paid a small fee from the SBA upon forgiveness of each loan. Smaller banks – those with less than \$1 billion in assets – got a headstart on the application process this time on January 11, a full week before their larger counterparts could start filing applications.

"They did that as an attempt to try to get the initial funds to smaller businesses that may not have been served previously," Worden said. "The really big banks in this country have the technology to upload thousands of loans at a time to the SBA. Community banks like ours don't have that."

While the amount a business is eligible to borrow is still based on its average monthly payroll, the criteria to receive a second round of PPP funding are more restrictive than the first. While first-time applicants must have fewer than 500 employees and are not required to demonstrate a revenue loss, returning applicants must have 300 or fewer employees and be able to prove they suffered at least a 25% reduction in gross revenue in any quarter of 2020 as compared to 2019. Self-employed individuals and independent contractors will also still be eligible for PPP loans.

"It's a lot easier than a conventional loan," Howland, president of Greenfield Savings Bank, told the Reporter. "I've talked to a bunch of people over the last year who say, 'I won't take money for nothing.' I want people to understand this money is here to help people get through a very hard time."



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

Enjoy the Comfort of Insurance Protection

Competitive rates and discounts for all of your insurance needs!

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

159 Avenue A
Turners Falls MA
413.863.4373
ahrist.com

MASSIVE BOOKSHOP
EST. 2020
YOUR LOCAL ANTI-PRIME BOOK SERVICE

VISIT US AT: **MASSIVEBOOKSHOP.COM**

Ariens Snow Blowers \$549 & up

Backed by 50+ years of service & parts experience!

SIRUM
EQUIPMENT COMPANY, INC.
FARM - TURF - INDUSTRIAL
413-367-2481
MONTAGUE, MASSACHUSETTS

Local pick-up & delivery available! sirumequipment.com

Rte 63, Montague 413-367-2481

Corinne McFadden
Financial Advisor

55 Federal Street Suite 260
Hayburne Building
Greenfield, MA 01301
413-773-8063

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
edwardjones.com

BUCKINGHAM RABBITS VINTAGE

OPEN FOR IN-PERSON SHOPPING AGAIN!
WE MISSED YOU!

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS 12-4
102 AVENUE A TF MA

TURN IT UP!

MUSIC & MOVIES

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

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

Peter Waters Painting Services

Interior/Exterior
Custom Residential
Fully Insured

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

Reward Yourself with the FREE GSB Debit Card BUZZ Points Program.

Greenfield Savings Bank
buzz POINTS
2X POINTS LOCALLY*

Earn Rewards with Every Purchase!

\$10 BUZZ Points Sign-up Bonus**

(413) 774-3191 • (413) 584-4441
greenfieldsavings.com

*Double points earning offer (2X points) applies only to locally-owned businesses which are in the GSB-Buzz Points Database at time of purchase and is not applicable at local outlets of national or regional chain stores or businesses.
** Must open account and sign up for BUZZ Points by 06/30/2021 to qualify.

Member FDIC/Member DIF • Equal Housing Lender

DIEMAND FARM

WINTER IS COMING

DIEMAND FARM SOUPS WILL KEEP YOU WARM.

THIS UNPRECEDENTED YEAR IS ALMOST AT AN END.
WE THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT.

THEDIEMANDFARM.COM

126 MORMON HOLLOW RD. MILLERS FALLS, MA 01349

TURN'S LAWN CARE

Landscape Design & Maintenance
Accepting New Plow Customers
Within 7 Miles of Montague Center

522-2563
www.TurnLawnCare.com

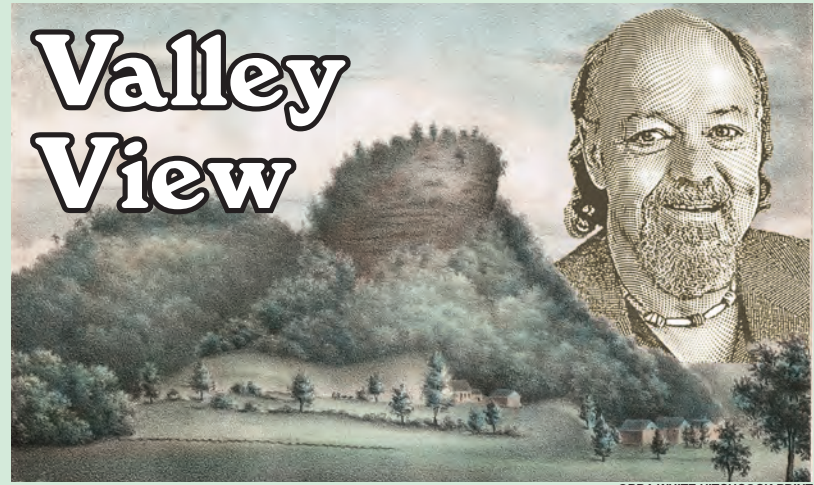
"WE HAD A WONDERFUL AND INFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE, START TO FINISH. SO HAPPY WE CONTRACTED PV SQUARED TO SEE IF SOLAR WAS A VIABLE OPTION FOR US. THANK YOU!"

PV SQUARED
HEART & SOLAR

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



FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER JANUARY 21, 2021



By GARY SANDERSON

DEERFIELD – Septuagenarian archaeologist Richard Michael Gramly Ph.D. never allows the so-called Sugarloaf Site – a Paleoindian caribou-hunting encampment dating back nearly 12,500 calendar years – to wander far from his fertile imagination.

The site, a vast, sandy, outwash plain deposited during the deep time of peri-glacial Lake Hitchcock drainage, sits on the southwestern skirt of Mount Sugarloaf. Gramly, called Mike by friends, performed two important archaeological excavations there, one in 1995, the other in 2013. He doesn’t hesitate to call the treasure trove “the largest human population aggregation and artifact deposit of its time and culture in America, insofar as we are aware.”

Gramly, 74, knows of what he speaks. He is among a handful of the most experienced Paleo or Clovis-era experts in North America, with important digs such as Dutchess Quarry Cave, Vail Site, Hiscock Site, and Bowser Road to his credit, all of them and notable others here in the Northeast.

A high-energy bundle of intellectual curiosity, Gramly has made waves over the past 30 years by challenging modern cultural-resource-management paradigms that have greatly changed the archaeological landscape since he earned his Harvard doctorate in 1975. Over the years, he’s become a rebel outlier, some may even say renegade, and an outspoken one at that. Due to irreconcilable differences with the professional and/or academic

community, he allowed his professional affiliations to expire before 1995, when he founded the Amateur Society of American Archaeologists with his very own Persimmon Press. Even his harshest critics cannot claim he didn’t put his money where his mouth was.

It’s true that funding for archaeological exploration and publishing is difficult without independent wealth, affluent benefactors, and/or financial support from government or private academic sources. Yet Gramly, committed and creative, always seems to find a way.

Though one never knows what the topic will be when his name appears on caller-ID, you can be sure it’ll be interesting, often captivating. Since 2015, he’s been chasing around the country on his own dime trying quite successfully to place human hands all over existing museum collections of ancient mastodon remains previously thought to have died of natural causes.

The impetus for this study was his own 2014 and 2017 skeletal mastodon-recovery missions at Bowser Road in Middletown, New York, where he identified clear evidence that the beasts had fallen to human predation and been the target of ancient rituals involving bone weapons crafted from mastodon rib.

In his “spare time” last year, he not only identified an important new gem-like translucent yellow Southwestern stone used in ancient Stone Age tool-making, but also discovered its lonesome, high-altitude source in the arid

see VALLEY VIEW page B4



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Fluted projectile points and knives found during the 1995 excavation at the Sugarloaf site. From the Sanderson Family Collection (no relation).

Above: Moti Zelman took this photo in the Meadows in Greenfield, near the Shelburne line.



Authors and Artists Festival Explores Nature and Imagination

NORTHFIELD – Where do you feel the word *red* in your body when you hear it or read it? Do you experience it in your chest? As an energy coursing through your veins?

Do you feel the word *bird* in your throat because you know birds sing? Or do you feel it in your shoulder blades or wrists?

Poets Audrey Gidman and Anna M. Warrock seek to explore these and other questions about how we experience poetry physically in their upcoming workshop called *Into the Mystery: The Bodypoem*, offered online on Saturday, February 20, from 2 to 4 p.m.

The workshop is part of a series of associated programming designed to complement the second iteration of the Authors and Artists Festival, which will run February 27 and 28. Originally conceived of as a multi-day brick-and-mortar festival to be held last June, with readings, workshops, and a community art exhibit housed in various venues in Northfield, last summer’s festival was pushed online by regulations and concerns about the coronavirus pandemic.

This year’s festival, with the theme “Honoring Nature,” remains online, with a line-up of writers that includes Christian McEwan, author of *World Enough and Time*, Seeds of Solidarity organizers Deb Habib and Ricky Baruch, and nationally recognized nature writer Scott Russell Sanders.

Festival organizer Lis McLoughlin said the decision not to wait a full year but to try some winter programming was in response to having to compete with the summer weather last June. Not everyone wants to spend their time online when it’s sunny out, McLoughlin said. Still, participation was none too shabby: more than 800



“Photosynthesis,” by Martin Bridge, became the cover art for the new *Honoring Nature* anthology, some of the proceeds of which will help to fund future festivals.

participants logged in to last summer’s festival, either at the time of an event, or to view the art show and recordings of events after they ran.

McLoughlin quickly diverted any personal praise for last year’s success, saying, “Oh, I had so much help!” She cited Wendell poet and spoken word festival organizer Paul Richmond’s mentorship as key to the first festival’s success, and commended the work of 2021 organizers Matt Atwood, Reina Dastous, Lindsay

see ARTBEAT page B4

THE AUTHORS’ CORNER: GREATEST HITS

By IZZY VACHULA-CURTIS

Since this is my very first article of 2021, I thought that today I would talk about my top five absolute favorite books ever. I have interviewed most of the authors, so for each book I list, I thought it would be fun to include my favorite question I asked that particular author and their answer, too. Enjoy!

My favorite series ever is definitely the *Fablehaven* and *Dragonwatch* series by Brandon Mull. I love all the characters, and the setting of the books is so, so cool, and everything about these books is absolutely amazing!

I actually got to interview Brandon Mull a couple months ago, which is crazy because I’ve been reading his books since I was in second grade. If you want to know more about this series, in the August 20, 2020 edition of the *Montague Reporter*, you can find my interview with Mr. Mull and what the series is about.

My favorite question I asked him was, “Do you believe in any of the magical creatures that you include in your books?”

He replied with, “While I’m writing the stories, I believe in them very much. They feel extremely real to me.” I thought this question was super fun, because the *Fablehaven* and *Dragonwatch* books are so exciting to read; it makes you feel like you’re in the books, visiting all the magical places that the main characters visit.

My second-favorite book is *Love & Gelato* by

Jenna Evans Welch. I love this book so, so much because, just like in *Fablehaven* and *Dragonwatch*, it

see AUTHORS page B8



Our correspondent with her fifth, fourth, and first favorites.

Pets of the Week

CARMODY COLLAGE



“HONEY & PANCAKE”

Guinea pigs are incredibly social animals who need to be kept in pairs or groups to thrive. Sharing their lives with other guinea pigs is an essential part of their well being. Guinea pigs need lots of space to run around in, and toys to keep them active and enriched! They should get daily “floor time” outside of their cage. This time outside of the cage will be great for bonding and growing closer with them.

Piggies are gentle pets; they love to eat so much that they eas-

ily come to trust the people who treat them gently and bring them delicious leaves. When they hear the bag rustling they get *so* excited, they start to call “wheet, wheeeet, wheeeet!”

Interested in adopting? Animals at Dakin are available only in Springfield currently. Contact adoption staff at springfield@dakinhumane.org and include your name and phone number. For more information, call (413) 781-4000 or visit www.dakinhumane.org.

Senior Center Activities

JANUARY 25 THROUGH 29

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

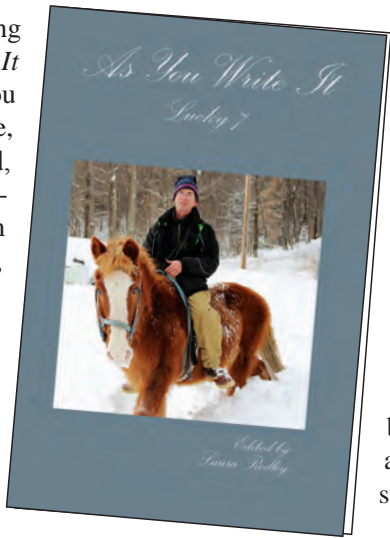
Supermarkets in Massachusetts are now required to provide special hours for seniors and immunocompromised shoppers. Call ahead – this information is accurate as of November 30; hours and accommodations are still changing.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------|
| 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 |
| Green Fields Market: | Senior hours from 8 to 9 a.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 to 11 a.m. on Sunday. Curbside pickup available. Order by 8 p.m.; order ready for pickup between 1 and 5 the following day. Delivery also available. | (413) 773-9567 |
| McCusker's Market: | Curbside pickup only 10 to 11 a.m. Order between 12 and 1 p.m. for pickup the following day. Email pickup@franklincommunity.coop | (413) 625-2548 |
| Stop and Shop: | Senior hours from 6 to 8 a.m. | (413) 774-6096 |

New Anthology Announced

FRANKLIN COUNTY – At long last, the much-requested *As You Write It Lucky 7*, featuring the works of the As You Write It group's writers, Estelle Cade, Joan Hopkins Coughlin, Sally Fairfield, Lillian Fiske, Penny Jordan, Ellen Brucker Marshall, Ann Marie Meltzer, Noreen O'Brien, Laura Rodley, Alice Thomas, and Barbara Waters.

The As You Write It group met for 13 years at the Gill-Montague Senior Center, until COVID-19. For three years the group did writing after guided color meditations, and the resulting book is a trip around the world in color.



Their writings are accompanied by Rodley's photos taken of works and subjects held at the American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore, Wild Animal Safari in Pine Mountain, Georgia, San Xavier Mission and Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Arizona, Saint Louis Cathedral in New Orleans, Louisiana, and the Circus World Museum of Baraboo, Wisconsin.

The book is scheduled for release before Valentine's Day, and will be available at World Eye Books, Boswell Books, and elsewhere.



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

By **LESLIE BROWN**

MONTAGUE CITY – The new Audubon calendar pictures a barred owl dozing in the light snow in the daylight for the month of January. I'd like to be there, sleeping through a second Trump impeachment, waiting to wake up in a new presidential era.

We've found that we feel house bound. We haven't traveled at all this winter, neither north to my Vermont family nor south to Ken's Rhode Island relatives. Sure, we call each other weekly, but that's just not the same. Telephone calls, emails, and the occasional Zoom get-together can't replace a big hearty family hug and a face-to-face meeting.

The dismal cold rain seems to be lightening up and it is Saturday, my favorite day of the week: no obligations or appointments, just uncharted time for writing, reading, and thinking the random thoughts that pass through my head.

My sister, who is five years younger, has filled her retirement with volunteer activities: minding the library desk two half-days a week, reading to a class of second graders, and sharing her husband's study of astronomy. She is the sci-

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION A New Year & New Beginning

entist. My brain is much less disciplined and prefers to read and write and occasionally just muse.

Walking is also a pleasure. We are fortunate to live on a dead-end street with the bike path running along our property line. Just a few steps will start us on an amble across the old railroad bridge and up to the railroad yard or westerly on the other length of the bike path, which also lies on the old railroad bed and, with a few breaks, goes all the way to downtown Turners Falls and the park behind the town hall.

This has been a bustling route during the intermittent school closures and through what has been so far a mild winter. The bike path meanders for a short few miles through wooded areas of pine and deciduous trees, open areas which allow the walker or rider to see a variety of birds – woodland lovers like chickadees, titmice, and sparrows, and open areas occupied by crows, red winged blackbirds, and the occasional eagle – not to mention a myriad of dogs, most of them on leash.

Here at the bike path's end, we've also been visited by a young bear, an adolescent fox, a bobcat too big for the lair, and, of course, deer in the apple orchard, crunching on what's left of the apples. It's a bit like living in the country, although we're actually in town in Montague City.

It's the perfect spot to own a house, a combination of town and country life. It's a bit of both while keeping the best qualities of each. The town

services us with snow plowing and sanding; trash collection and the like still come as expected.

The only thing we've felt the loss of is the sense of privacy as more and more folks find this spot for fishing and swimming (which we would not recommend). We have no trouble with the many others who enjoy walking and enjoying the river area; walkers and birders are more than welcome. The only visitors we do not encourage are late-night folks playing loud music, and fishermen and others who have forgotten how to carry away their trash, despite the availability of containers for same.

This is one of the serious issues for our vast and beautiful country. We have so much that we have become careless of its tending. But no one else will do it. We have so much more than most countries that we have become spoiled.

If we don't become better tenders, we will lose the very gifts we have been given. Let's be wiser and more attentive caregivers of this beautiful land of earth, animals and birds, fresh air and clean water. Let us take the time to walk it, open our eyes to it, and grow fresh produce and plants in our yards. Share with those with no space for growing, and encourage walkers who would hear the birds and see our local beauty.

Bring your children when you travel this way, and help them become citizens with the same goals. That is the best gift you can give to this beautiful land.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Play Around the Shanty

Submitted article.

BRATTLEBORO – The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC) presents Mini Upcycled Ice Shanties, an online workshop with Ross Smart, on January 23 and 30 at 10 a.m. Children will use repurposed and recycled materials to build their own miniature ice shanties. The workshop is recommended for ages 8 to 12. Registration is required at brattleboromuseum.org. The fee for both sessions is \$20.

On Saturday, January 23, Smart will share examples of upcycled shanties and talk about how ice shanties are built and used. Participants will reconvene on Saturday, January 30 to share what they have created and discuss using uncon-

ventional materials creatively.

Participants will be sent (or can pick up at BMAC) a hot glue gun, paint, and decorative flourishes for their creations. They will be encouraged to reuse materials from around the house, such as bottle caps, jar lids, acorn tops, and pine cones, to complete their shanties.

This workshop is offered in connection with the inaugural Artful Ice Shanties Design-Build Competition, presented by BMAC and Retreat Farm; two current exhibits about ice fishing, “Ice Shanties: Fishing, People & Culture” and “Erik Hoffner: Ice Visions”; and the exhibit “Overboard,” in which artist Andy Yoder transforms recycled materials into Air Jordan sneakers.

BMAC is open Wednesdays



ROSS SMART PHOTO

A miniature upcycled fishing shanty.

through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is on a pay-as-you-wish basis. For more information, call (802) 257-0124 or visit brattleboromuseum.org.

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 DIF

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

REAL PICKLES
Locally grown vegetables
Fermented & raw
100% organic

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

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Montague Wood Bank Has Firewood Available



TURNERS FALLS – The Montague Community Wood Bank still has 6.5 cords of dry firewood available for residents in need of heating assistance. Wood will be distributed in 1/2 cord allotments with the potential to receive additional wood as need and supplies allow.

Interested parties should contact the Gill-Montague Council on Aging at coa@montague-ma.gov or

(413) 863-9357.

The Town of Montague recycles town tree removals into firewood with the help of the Tree Advisory Committee. Volunteers are always welcome to come help split and stack firewood. Interested volunteers should contact David Detmold, chair of the Montague Tree Advisory Committee, at (413) 863-9296.

COMPARISON

The Three Lives of *Lost in Space*

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – It seems that the 1960s TV series *Lost in Space* is a popular item. People have made a TV series remake that has some very cool-looking elements to it, as well as two seasons to its name, and a big-screen movie version of it.

The TV series is out of Netflix. I have seen a little of the 1960s *Lost in Space* TV series, and it’s not a horrible-looking show. But Netflix’s is way better in terms of how their Robot look, multiple sets they created for the show, and just some of the other things that people have seen on Netflix’s in comparison to the original one.

While the original’s robot look has become iconic, the one from Netflix can change form and is truly sci-fi looking, which is really awesome. The other is somewhat goofy looking. I understand this may have been the best they could do for this character in the 1960s.

The 1998 movie version of *Lost In Space* did a little better than the original one with the robot, but the remake TV series still has the coolest robot. If you saw it with your own eyes, you would agree.

I should mention that I believe in all three of these, the Robot is still friends with Will Robinson. The movie and the new TV series are on the same level of awesome when it comes to the special effects in them. One difference is that the movie has a male Dr. Smith, while the new TV show has a female Dr. Smith, which seems to have worked very well for the show. They have made one or two other changes to the original setup of the show.

In remakes of movies and TV shows, they seem to like having people who were in the originals appear in the new ones. Netflix’s

Lost in Space did this briefly by having the actor Bill Mumy, who played Will in the 1960s version, make a cameo appearance.

While the movie version isn’t a big hit with me, it does have a cool twist in the story. Let’s just say it involves time travel. I can’t recall whether this was an element in the original.

A highly populated environment is an element in the movie and both TV series. In all three, the family is leaving, or looking for a new home.

Something else I would like to mention is that the Netflix series actually has a Christmas episode, of sorts, to its name, which premiered on December 24. That is definitely something original, like the twist I mentioned in the movie.

The acting in the original show might have been very good, but the only things connected to it which I remember are the Robot and Bill Mumy. It must have done more than one thing right, because it got three seasons at the time.

The new one might be doing the right things, too, because it will also have three seasons by the end of it. The Season 2 finale left them with an interesting cliffhanger for people to see conclude when it comes back. Let’s just say it connects to the past of one of the characters.

I think they tried to leave the movie open for a sequel, because it had a little bit of a cliffhanger to it, too. However, their writing of the movie didn’t end up working with that idea, because a sequel never happened. The writing of the Netflix one, being similar to that, has worked very well.

At the very least, the writers on the original show must have been able to come up with idea after idea for it to have lasted as long as it did.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

All About That Bass; Creepy Driver; Package Thefts; Sharp Debris; Burglary On Fourth; Woodstove Smoke

Monday, 1/11

9:19 a.m. Report of syringe at the end of I Street by the parking area/rocks. Cap for syringe located; disposed of same.

10:29 a.m. Daughter calling on behalf of mother inquiring about Mass-Health scam; advising scam caller wanted to come to her mother’s house. Advised caller of options and advised to call 911 if anyone shows up.

2:40 p.m. Report of town bylaw violation (unshoveled sidewalk) on Millers Falls Road. Referred to an officer.

7:20 p.m. Trespass notice served to male who is no longer allowed in/ on any Powertown-owned properties.

10:56 p.m. Caller from Avenue A states that the people in the apartment above hers have been playing very loud, bass-heavy music all night. Responding officer unable to get anyone to come to the door; did believe music was turned down some.

11:56 p.m. Caller states that she had stopped on Route 63 because there was a dog in the road. Another car also stopped; caller asked the driver if it was his dog and he stated no; male party then started telling her how cute she was. Caller states male was slurring his words and acting suspicious, so she left. Caller states male followed her in his vehicle and continued to keep up with her for a while even when she was traveling at high speeds. Caller states that as she passed the Montague Center post office, vehicle pulled a U-turn in the middle of the road. Male described as 6 feet tall, mid-40s, clean shaven with little to no hair; was looking for “Becky.” Officers dispatched to area. Unable to locate.

6:43 p.m. Farren Care employee requesting to have on record that two of their residents were in an altercation earlier today. Caller states that the residents’ wheelchairs got tangled up and one party struck the other party on the shoulder three times. No injuries reported; no police response requested.

Tuesday, 1/12

8:29 a.m. Walk-in looking for information on getting a Section 35 for a family member. Advised of options.

10:01 a.m. Alarm company reporting alarm sounding at Ja’Duke Center for the Performing Arts; auditorium second floor smoke. Employee called to say the alarm was set off by people sanding, doing new construction.

10:08 a.m. Fire alarm at Lightlife Foods received through the WARN system. Engine 3 responding.

4:57 p.m. Caller from Avenue A states that her downstairs neighbor is banging on the ceiling in an attempt to antagonize her. Officer spoke with all parties; agreed to quiet down for the night.

5:26 p.m. Officer reporting car vs. deer on Factory Hollow Road in Green-

field. No injuries; not impeding traffic. Greenfield PD advised.

Wednesday, 1/13

10:04 a.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road states that four packages were taken from her front stoop on Friday, January 8. Advised of options.

1:02 p.m. 911 caller from Masonic Avenue states that there was a black truck in his driveway when he turned onto his street. Truck backed out and drove to the end of the road by the lodge, then two men got out and walked toward the bike path. Caller advised of options; vehicle operator advised to stay away from the property.

1:18 p.m. 911 call from owner of Montague Village Store requesting officers respond for a male party refusing to leave the store. Male party moved along. Store owner advised of options.

2:50 p.m. Caller would like it on record that someone tried to scam her on Craigslist after pretending to be interested in buying a stove from her. No fraud occurred.

4:03 p.m. Greenfield PD took a 911 hangup call tracking to Canal Road; could hear a male party arguing with somebody before line disconnected. Officer checking area on foot observed a group of people walking on the canal bridge by the Discovery Center. Spoke with parties; no issues at this time; parent present.

11:48 p.m. Caller from Montague City Road states that the people upstairs have children running around, jumping,

and making a lot of noise. Parties advised of complaint; ongoing issue that is being worked on with landlord. Phone number given to call and advise in the future.

Thursday, 1/14

8:55 a.m. Caller reporting theft of packages on numerous occasions by another tenant in the building. Caller is not sure whether the tenant is taking the packages after they are delivered or whether the packages were mistakenly delivered to the wrong apartment, and the tenant there is keeping her packages. Report taken.

2:19 p.m. Social Security scam reported; caller did not give out any personal information.

5:33 p.m. Per Chief Williams, a vehicle was traveling the wrong way down the one-way portion of Fifth Street before cutting him off and proceeding over the canal bridge into Greenfield. Referred to an officer.

6:15 p.m. Following a motor vehicle stop on Millers Falls Road, a 61-year-old Erving man was arrested and charged with operating a vehicle with a license suspended/revoked for OUI.

7:19 p.m. Caller requesting officer for accident report; states he was hit in the parking lot of Hillside Plastics. Other driver exchanged information with caller before leaving. Report taken.

11:15 p.m. Caller from Avenue A states that there has been banging and yelling for about 45 minutes, causing a disturbance. No noise heard upon officer’s arrival, but parties advised of complaint.

Friday, 1/15

7 a.m. Caller advised that around 20 minutes ago she ran over some debris on Millers Falls Road between the airport and Industrial Boulevard; does not know what it was, but by the time she got to Erving she had a couple of flat

tires. Referred to an officer.

12:05 p.m. Message left in general mailbox reporting thefts of packages on two occasions. Advised of options. Caller requests to have on record only; has already been compensated by Amazon.

12:54 p.m. 911 caller with information on drug activity on Avenue A. Provided caller with business line and detective’s extension.

6:31 p.m. 911 open line; could hear two women speaking about where to eat dinner. Spoke with female on callback; advised accidental dial. Negative signs of distress. Confirmed misdial.

Saturday, 1/16

9:52 a.m. Report of burglary/breaking and entering on Fourth Street. Summons issued.

11:02 a.m. Caller reporting that water is flooding Lake Pleasant Road at Broadway; believes the drain area is blocked with ice. DPW foreman advised.

12:58 p.m. Caller from Montague City Road reporting that a dog wandered into her yard; states it is white with brown coloring and a fluffy tail, blue eyes, and the name on one of its tags is Myka. Caller states there is a Springfield rabies tag and another tag for Pet Watch with an 800 number to call. Caller states that she will call Pet Watch and that if anyone calls in about dog, dispatch can give them her information.

2:16 p.m. Caller reporting a strong smell of smoke and visual smoke on Avenue A near the post office; no idea where it is coming from. TFFD and MPD officer advised. Officer advises that he was previously called down there for the same type of call and it ended up being an apartment across from the post office on the third floor that has a wood stove. (TFFD chief is already aware of this.) TFFD advises unfounded; possibly smoke from a clogged wood stove.

(413) 863-9200

34 Second St., TF, MA 01376

MCTV

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION

montaguetv.org

vimeo.com/mctvchannel17

Now is a great time to get involved! MCTV is still providing public access to filming and editing services and equipment! Cameras are sanitized and available for pick-up Monday through Friday 10am-4pm.

If you have an idea for a video, please get in touch!

MCTV is seeking new Board Members for the Treasurer position and more.

If you are interested, please contact the station to set up a meeting.

MCTV is also hiring for a Spanish Language producer.

To apply, please send a cover letter to infomontaguetv@gmail.com

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

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

THE

SPIRIT SHOPPE

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

PRECISION REPAIRS

MA Reg. #RS2190

Ph. (413) 863-2785
Fax: (413) 863-0120
FREE ESTIMATES

39 Center Road
Gill, MA 01354
FREE LOANER CARS

REPAIRS ON FOREIGN & DOMESTIC CARS AND TRUCKS

ARTBEAT from page B1

McCarthy, Joan and Steve Stoia, Marge Anderson, and Kacki St. Claire. She also expressed gratitude for the festival’s local sponsors, a full list of whom can be found on the festival website.

Exploring the Bodypoem

Both Gidman and Warrock are members of Slate Roof Press, which is based in Northfield. The press publishes art-quality poetry chapbooks with letterpress covers designed by the poets in collaboration with master letterpress printer Ed Rayher of Swamp Press. Warrock’s chapbook, *From the Other Room*, was published in 2017; Gidman’s is forthcoming.

Asked what she’d like people to know about the Bodypoem workshop, Gidman said, “I would like people to know that they don’t need to consider themselves poets to be in this workshop. And they don’t need to consider themselves dancers in any capacity. If they do, that’s fabulous and we love that, but it’s not an exclusionary space. It’s very much a perfection-free, exploratory zone.”

Gidman hopes the workshop will generate questions as to “what poetry can be off the page, and where exactly poetry is coming from. Because I think often poetry can be intellectualized. Even the emotionality of it can be intellectualized in conversation. I think poetry comes from a very somatic place first.”

Using the chat feature of the online platform as a virtual basket to gather and share words, participants will generate a roughly 20-word poem that can then be interpreted physically by other participants in small break-out rooms. The translation from words to movement might use just the hands, or the whole body, Gidman said, stressing again the workshop’s non-judgmental intent.

“We’ll be exploring,” Gidman said. “There won’t be a critique or an analysis or a review of any kind. We’ll be listening to how things land.”

The associated program offerings such as this one are an experiment to see if the festival can become self-funding, or at least supplement the grant funding that supports the festival, which remains free to participants, McLoughlin said. As such, the associated program offerings have nominal, sliding-scale fees. The suggested fee for the Bodypoem workshop is \$15.

More Offerings

You can also access other workshops and plenty of related content, much of it free, through the festival website. There’s another workshop on movement, entitled *Stories in Motion: Arts by the People*, led by director and author Paul Rabinowitz on Sunday, March 7, from 2 to 3 p.m.

And there are free monthly reading and discussion

groups, including one coming up on February 7, 11 a.m. to noon, in which Scott Russell Sanders’ new book of essays, *The Way of Imagination*, will be discussed. A bonus, McLoughlin said with excitement, is that Sanders himself will be attending the group. McLoughlin said the groups are generally small, which encourages good discussion.

“People come to trust that the groups are friendly, and that all kinds of questions can be asked,” she said.

There’s also a book launch for a new anthology of writings, titled *Honoring Nature*, on February 27 at 5:30 p.m. The anthology, published by Paul Richmond’s Human Error Publishing, includes work by many of the authors and artists from the festival’s first two years.

And the 2021 art show is beginning to take shape, with a call for art that asks for up to three pieces, along with two or three sentences about how your art honors nature, or how you were moved to create the art.

For more information, including a full list of speakers, and to register for events: authorsandartistsfestival.wordpress.com. Find out more about Slate Roof Press at slateroofpress.com. authorsandartistsfestival.wordpress.com



GIDMAN PHOTO

Audrey Gidman experiments with translating poetry into movement in advance of the workshop, Into the Mystery: The Bodypoem, which she will lead with fellow Slate Roof poet Anna M. Warrock on Sat., February 20, 2 to 4 p.m.

VALLEY VIEW from page B1

Nevada mountains. Remarkably, this remarkable stone valued as a lithic commodity in the New World, is almost identical in appearance to a rare African gem-like material known to the Old World as Libyan Desert Glass.

As for the Sugarloaf Site, nestled along the South Deerfield-Whately line, Gramly recently received corroborating radiocarbon dates for calcined bone fragments gathered from an ancient hearth during his most recent excavation there. Told of new, improved, more-precise radiocarbon dating capabilities, in 2019 he sent samples for analysis to noted Paleo expert James C. Chatters, Ph.D. of Applied Paleoscience and Direct AMS Radiocarbon Dating Services in Tempe, Arizona. The results, which were delayed for months by COVID-19 constraints, basically confirmed previous radiocarbon dating of calcined bone from the same hearth by Beta Analytic Radiocarbon Dating Services in Miami, Florida.

Also confirmed was the upper Pioneer Valley site’s contemporaneity to another important Clovis site in Ipswich, known in the field as Bull Brook. Gramly believes many of the same hunters used the two sites, which lie about 100 miles apart.

Although the new Direct AMS radiocarbon age of 12,470 years old, give or take, adds about 120 years to Beta Analytics’ number for identical bone samples, both labs are in the same neighbor-

hood, so to speak. Let’s be honest: What’s a mere 120 years weighed on such a deep time scale? It’s like comparing inches to miles.

Remember, we’re not talking about 1,250 years but 10 times that, a time span that’s nearly unimaginable to modern mainstream perceptions. Think of it: that’s more than 10,000 before Christ.

And to think the site is right here in our midst, situated a half-mile from the Sunderland Bridge, watched over by a peculiar, twisted mountain known to some as the Great Beaver’s Head – a landmark that has served distant travelers dating back at least to our nomadic Paleoindian hunters following caribou migrations.

Gramly believes the evidence suggests that the Sugarloaf Site existed for eight to 10 years as a seasonal encampment serving 200 to 400 roaming caribou hunters who followed north-south herd migrations, traveling from summer to winter feeding grounds and back. The Sugarloaf Site was an advantageous location where herds could be forced down a narrow ravine carved into the landscape by Sugarloaf Brook. The herds would have passed through twice a year, spring and fall – the latter likely the time for hunting, according to Gramly, who doesn’t rule out spring hunting as well.

The hearth containing what are most likely calcined caribou bones was exposed within a feature Gramly believes was one of six “Clovis

men’s clubhouses where tools were maintained and conversation must have flowed.” These workshops would have been strategically located to shelter the hunting parties from wind, cold, and sandstorms while they performed essential butchering, cooking, tanning, and flint-knapping chores.

Accepted on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980, some of the Sugarloaf Site is today under protective covenant following UMass Amherst archaeologist Tom Ulrich’s 1978 recovery survey that found priceless Clovis artifacts on the then new Deerfield Economic Development and Industrial Complex (DEDIC). Once Ulrich’s survey was complete, his UMass supervisor, the late Dr. Dena Dincauze, ordered a strip of the “Ulrich Locust” buried under a long, lean, 10-foot-high mound of dirt that still stands today. Then, 15 years later, following Gramly’s 1995 excavation, Dincauze’s intervention led to the state’s purchase of the site to prevent further exploration.

And there it sits today, “protected” from further study.

On the east end of the 300-foot mound of sand, dubbed “Mt. Dincauze” by critics, stands a soft-maple tree taller than the roof of an adjacent tobacco barn. The tree is an organic monument standing in celebration of modern cultural-resource-management protocol some would call archaeological neglect.

Gramly is a charter member of

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Bad Drivers, Bad Roads, Round Thing Buzzing

Wednesday, 12/2

11:01 a.m. Party on Main Road reported credit card fraud.

1:12 p.m. Montague PD took two complaints of lights at the Main Road intersection not working, and two near-accidents.

1:24 p.m. Montague PD took several calls from Main Road and the French King Highway regarding intersection construction and lights not working. Checked area; lights are working on flash pattern appropriately. 2 p.m. Received third complaint from Main Road and French King Highway relating to traffic issues. 7:04 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with warrant service.

Thursday, 12/3

2:18 p.m. Report of two-car accident on Northfield Road. Occupants out of the vehicle with unknown injuries. 4 p.m. Vehicle on the French King Highway lost a bale of hay. 5:30 p.m. Caller from Main Road reported a suspicious vehicle in a yard with no plates.

Friday, 12/4

3:57 a.m. Montague PD took a call from a motorist on the French King Highway who was very shaken up regarding incident with a tractor trailer. 7:13 a.m. River Road caller reported carbon monoxide hazard. 5:31 p.m. Assisted board of health on French King Highway. 7:11 p.m. Caller from Main Road advised an unwanted party threw tantrum when asked to leave. She believes he is intoxicated. He left in a white Hyundai.

Saturday, 12/5

4:49 p.m. Greenfield PD advised a caller from the French King Highway advised they pulled over at the gates to the boat ramp to use their phone when a silver car pulled up, facing the wrong way, with female operator completely naked. Gone on arrival. 4:56 p.m. Officer came upon a crash at the junction of French King Highway and Pisgah Mountain Road. 1:05 p.m. River Road caller reported people stealing wood. 1:19 p.m. Caller from Barney Hale and River roads reported suspicious activity. Spoke

with party improving snowmobile trail.

1:35 p.m. Assisted another agency on Boyle Road.

2:15 p.m. Caller from Shaw Road reported suspicious vehicle in the driveway. Checked for Bernardston PD.

Monday, 12/7

2:30 p.m. Caller reported a tractor trailer turning onto the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge struck the barriers, causing damage to barriers and trailer. Officer off with accident.

Tuesday, 12/8

2:46 p.m. Caller reported a power, phone, or cable line down on Mount Hermon Road. Eversource contacted. 8:23 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with arrest, Millers Falls Road.

Wednesday, 12/9

4:43 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with motor vehicle stop on Canal Street. 5:08 p.m. Caller reported that Main Road is a sheet of ice.

Thursday, 12/10

10:07 a.m. Shoplifting reported from French King Highway.

11:52 a.m. Served trespass notice at Mountain Road Estates.

Friday, 12/11

2:26 p.m. Caller reported a red pickup exiting Route 91 toward Gill, driving 85 mph, all over the road. 6:08 p.m. Burglar alarm, Conference Road.

Saturday, 12/12

8:10 a.m. Deceased deer found on West Gill Road.

Sunday, 12/13

11:47 a.m. Motor vehicle crash on the French King Highway. No injuries. 4:52 p.m. Caller from East Prospect Street and State Road reported an SUV driving all over the road.

5:50 p.m. Unattended death on River Road. 6:05 p.m. Caller from French King Highway reported that the tire on his pickup blew out near the Wagon Wheel. Same advised wheel well was on fire. Advised caller to stay away from vehicle.

Monday, 12/14

2:37 p.m. Call relating to a phone scam. 7:49 p.m. Icy roads.

Tuesday, 12/15

5:21 p.m. Caller from River Road reported an 18-wheeler ripped a line from the house, and it was hanging low.

Thursday, 12/17

10:15 a.m. Caller re-

ported a vehicle vs. gas pump at gas station.

1:17 p.m. Caller from West Gill Road reports a vehicle slid off the road. No injuries.

4:13 p.m. Assisted Erving PD on French King Highway.

Friday, 12/18

1:23 p.m. Main Road caller found two dogs. 2:24 p.m. Caller from Main Road advised she picked up an older boxer on the road.

Saturday, 12/19

1:59 p.m. Callers from Riverview Drive and Main Road reported they can’t see over the snow banks pulling out onto Route 2.

Sunday, 12/20

3:32 p.m. Roads very slick. Requested highway department.

Tuesday, 12/22

11:26 a.m. Power lost at the station on Main Road. Checking area for downed lines. 4:50 p.m. Assisted Erving PD on French King Highway.

Wednesday, 12/23

10 a.m. Caller from Old State Road reported she locked her keys in a running vehicle.

Thursday, 12/24

12:35 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with motor vehicle accident.

Friday, 12/25

8:27 a.m. Rescue responding to Main Road area for a tree down, blocking the road. 8:59 a.m. Notified Greenfield dispatch: Route 2 was flooding between Adams Road and Factory Hollow.

9:51 a.m. Caller from Grist Mill Road and Vassar Way reported three trees down, blocking roadway. 10:09 a.m. Caller from Pisgah Mountain Road advised a branch was hooked on a wire, dangling to the roadway.

Saturday, 12/26

10:32 p.m. Caller from Main Road reported that there was a round thing in the ceiling that was buzzing.

Monday, 12/28

9:32 a.m. Walk-in to the station reported scam Google Pay cards.

Tuesday, 12/29

9:58 p.m. Assisted Erving PD on French King Highway. Reports of verbal altercations.

Wednesday, 12/30

9:25 a.m. Pisgah Mountain Road caller reported gate is down and it looked like trucks have been going in the trails. 12 noon. U-Haul truck dropping cargo heading up Main Road.



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

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

• Complete Custodial Services •
• Bonded and Insured •

“We Don’t Cut Corners, We Clean Them!”

Cleaning Franklin & Hampshire Counties since 1972

BKONFONQEQWIYSS . IPY
HMZGESCGQVQFHJW . MMO
FONTLVPEAXQAHDO . 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
885 Mont Hwy (at North Rd)

GCC Alum Plays Key Role in Covid-19 Testing and Vaccinations



Michelle Phillips, director of ambulatory nursing for Baystate Health and a Greenfield Community College nursing alum, planned to take a cruise last March. As Covid-19 spread, the cruise was cancelled, but she still anticipated taking the week off. When Betty LaRue, COO of Baystate Medical Practices and VP, Baystate Health Ambulatory Operations, asked Phillips to train nurses on nasopharyngeal swabbing, the first method of Covid testing, the vacation was forgotten. Baystate started with one testing site, just for employees, with limited PPE and supplies. Before long, Phillips had taken on a leadership role in setting up and staffing multiple testing sites in the region, only pulling back from these responsibilities in December of 2020. For their life-saving and courageous work, Baystate Health Systems awarded Phillips and a team of 20 the President's Excellence Quality Award, one of the highest honors within the medical system.



Phillips comes from a family of nurses. Her mother is an LPN, her sister Mary Phillips is on the GCC nursing faculty, and she worked as a nurses' aid in high school. Phillips initially took another career route, working in the travel industry for 13 years. That changed when her father was in the hospital in 2005. Watching her sister interacting with the medical staff inspired Phillips, and within a year, she was taking nursing prerequisite courses at GCC. Phillips entered the nursing program in 2007 and graduated in 2009 (all while raising three children). She loved the program and felt it gave her an ideal foundation for further education.

Since she began at GCC, Phillips has been an asset to the college and a role model to its students. She worked as a lab assistant and a tutor, eventually becoming an adjunct faculty member. She also set up a student rotation at her workplace—the first GCC nursing rotation in an ob/gyn office—and she worked closely with each student. "She was one of those students that you knew would be successful," says retired nursing professor Cheri Ducharme, who led the program when Phillips was enrolled. "We are very proud that she started here at GCC."

After GCC, Phillips went on to UMass Amherst, where she completed her bachelor's in nursing in 2011 and her master's in science and nursing in 2015.

Phillips began working at Baystate part time in 2006. Once she completed her degree, she worked at Pioneer Women's Health, eventually becoming practice manager. In 2018, Betty LaRue promoted Phillips into a newly created position of Baystate's director of ambulatory nursing, overseeing the nurses and medical assistants for all of their outpatient medical practices.

As Covid continued spreading in the spring, LaRue included Phillips in her Covid response leadership team, to represent nursing and to start the process of setting up testing. The logistics before Phillips were overwhelming: determining how to choose clinical staff, how to train them in proper swabbing technique, how to set up and stock the site, how to manage patients, how to provide them with information, and how to keep track of their health afterwards. Often she worked right alongside the nurses. "I said, 'I will be right there with you. If you trust me to train you, I will be out there swabbing with you,'" she recalls.

After setting up the Springfield site, Phillips and her colleagues began rolling out new sites each week, expanding to Greenfield, Westfield, and Ware. From there they began working with community health centers, setting up sites to test vulnerable patients in low-income areas, and developed a mobile process to test at locations such as homeless shelters. After these were put in place, Phillips worked on the process to test patients who were coming to Baystate for surgery. When the very first site opened in March, they tested six patients. Now they test over 900 a day throughout the region.

The challenges of Phillips' task are obvious in many ways: the enormity of the work, the risk that those working the sites would contract Covid, skepticism from some in the community and all over social media, and the exhaustion. In addition, they had to contend with weather, since testing was done outside on cold days in March and the hottest days of the summer. The normal complications of daily life didn't stop either. "I was driving to Westfield the first day that site was opening and my car's hood flew open on 91," Phillips recalls. "I pulled over, I shut my hood, I got in my car, and I made it to Westfield."

Throughout the Covid crisis, Phillips has been profoundly impressed with her colleagues and with Baystate. "The way staff and nurses and medical assistants stepped up in the very beginning was amazing. They were so committed and they wanted to see this through," she says. "I've never been so proud to be a nurse."

LaRue has only praise for Phillips and her dedication, resilience, creativity, and ability to develop a true esprit de corps among those working at the testing sites. "This whole pandemic, as tragic as it's been, gives you a lens into who your real stars are," she observes. "When you're in crisis, there are certain people that step up and lean in and work their tails off. Michelle is the exemplar of saying, 'Whatever it takes, I'll do it.'"

Soon after Phillips stepped away from active work with the Covid testing sites in December, LaRue assigned her to an equally important mission: setting up vaccination sites. Phillips is working with Aaron Michelucci in Pharmacy and Laura McCormick in Employee Health to staff and stock the vaccine site and develop the workflow. For now, they have one vaccination site in Holyoke running 12 hours a day, Monday through Friday, as well as on the weekend, making the vaccine as accessible as possible to Baystate staff across the region.

Whereas the testing sites are often places of great anxiety, the mood at the vaccination site is very different. "Everyone is so happy and positive," Phillips says. "Some people come out after their vaccines with tears of joy." They still have very difficult work ahead, but they can see the light at the end of the tunnel. "I've been at both ends of Covid, the emotional roller coaster of setting up the testing and now being part of the vaccinations. There's good days and there's bad days, but at the end of the day, we're heading in the right direction."

LEARN MORE ABOUT GCC HEALTH OCCUPATIONS:
gcc.mass.edu/academics/health-careers

KEEP
MOVING
FORWARD

Still time to register for Spring classes

APPLY WITH AN ADMISSION COUNSELOR
admission@gcc.mass.edu • 413-775-1801

PLAN WITH AN ACADEMIC ADVISOR
advising@gcc.mass.edu • 413.775.1339

AWS ACADEMY Cloud Foundations



MONDAYS, FEB 16* – MAR 26
6:00–7:30PM

**First class meets on Tuesday, Feb. 16 due to holiday.*

\$499.00

Amazon Web Services (AWS) is the world's most comprehensive and broadly adopted cloud platform, offering over 175 fully featured services from data centers globally.

AWS Academy Cloud Foundations is a 20-hour course for students seeking cloud computing concepts, independent of specific technical roles. Detailed overview of cloud concepts, AWS core services, security, architecture, pricing and support. This is an entry-level course, but assumes the following: General IT technical and business knowledge.

Delivery methods include:

- Instructor-Led Training and Coaching
- Hands-On Labs
- Videos
- Assessments

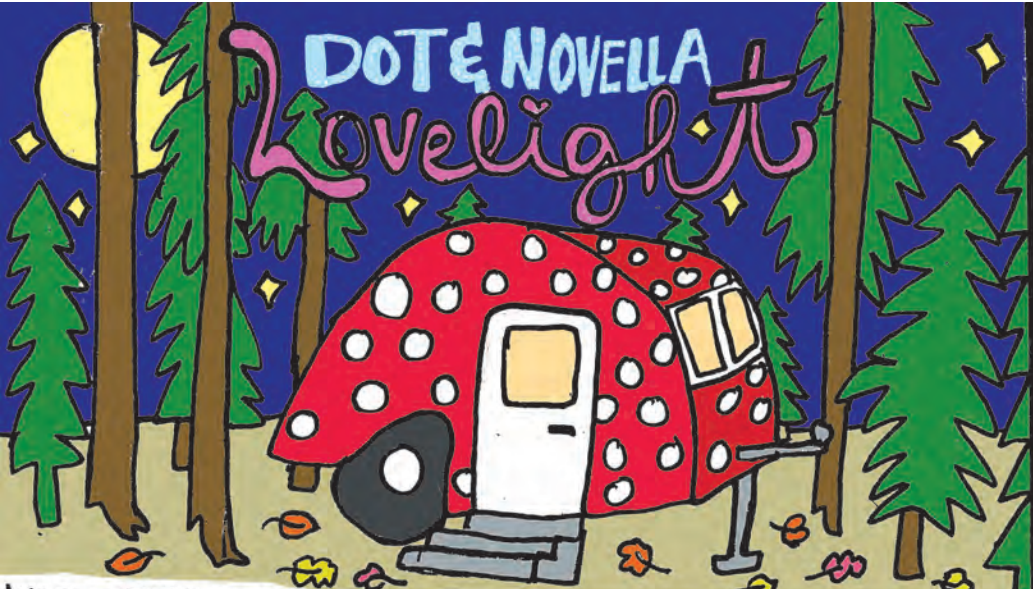
REGISTER TODAY
noncredit.gcc.mass.edu

Greenfield Community College is an affirmative action and equal opportunity institution. For disability accommodation, please contact the Coordinator of Disability Services (413) 775-1812.

ONE COLLEGE DRIVE, GREENFIELD, MA 01301
413-775-1000 • GCC.MASS.EDU

The Children's Page

YONDERNOD ILLUSTRATION



WORDS BY BEVERLY KETCH & PICTURES BY HANNAH BROOKMAN



NOVELLA HAD GONE TO BED EARLY AND DOT WAS SITTING UP AT HER DRESSING TABLE DOING HER NIGHTLY BEAUTY RITUAL.



THE EVENING BREEZE CARRIED THE SMELL OF FLOWERS IN THROUGH THE WINDOW, AND DOT GAZED HAPPILY INTO THE MIRROR, WHEN WHAT WOULD SHE SPY IN THE LOOKING GLASS, BUT NOVELLA-WALKING AS IF IN A TRANCE, RIGHT OUT OF THE DOOR IN HER NIGHTGOWN!



DOT SCURRIED AFTER HER IN A PANIC! SHE HAD HEARD THAT YOU MUST NEVER WAKE UP A SLEEPWALKER, BUT NOVELLA APPEARED TO BE WALKING RIGHT INTO THE FOREST!



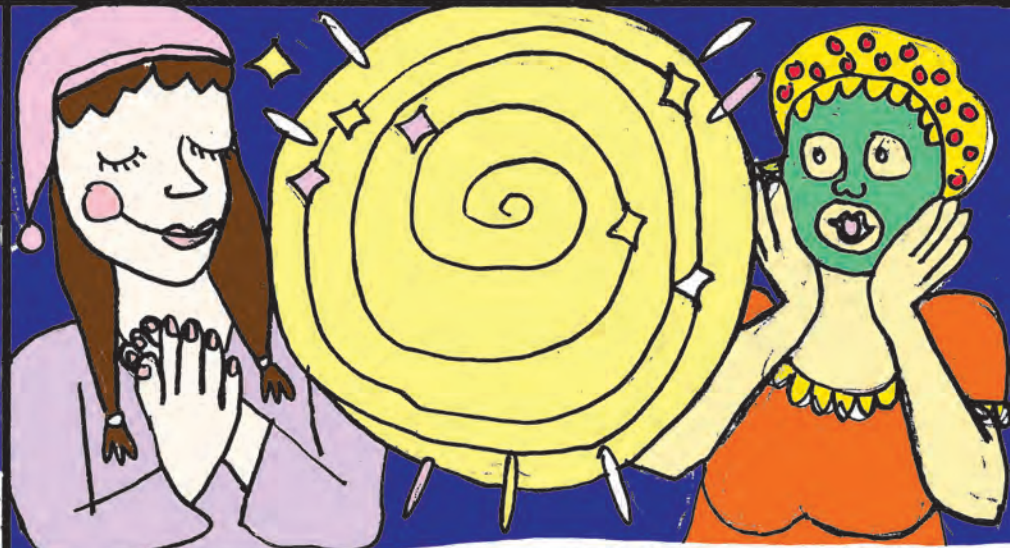
HER LONG WHITE NIGHTGOWN WAS BLOWING GENTLY, HER ARMS DRIFTING BEFORE HER, BECKONED ONWARD BY A MYSTERIOUS FORCE. DOT FOLLOWED AS CAREFULLY AS SHE COULD, TIPTOEING FROM TREE TO TREE.



AS THEY NEARED THE DEEPEST PART OF THE LITTLE GLADE, THE LIGHT OF A BEAUTIFUL ORB CAME INTO SIGHT, FLOATING IN MIDAIR AMID THE STATELY TREES.



NOVELLA WALKED RIGHT UP AND PEERED WITHIN, AND THE LOOK ON HER FACE, THOUGH STILL IN A DREAM, CLEARLY SHOWED WHAT MARVELS SHE WAS WITNESSING, AND THE SOFT LIGHT OF THE ORB GENTLY BRIGHTENED AND FADED AS DOT BEGAN TO HEAR MUSIC EMERGE FROM WITHIN IT.



NOVELLA PRESSED HER HANDS TO HER HEART AND SWAYED TO THE MUSIC, NEVER LOOKING AWAY FROM THE SILVER LIGHT.

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

DOLAN & DOLAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

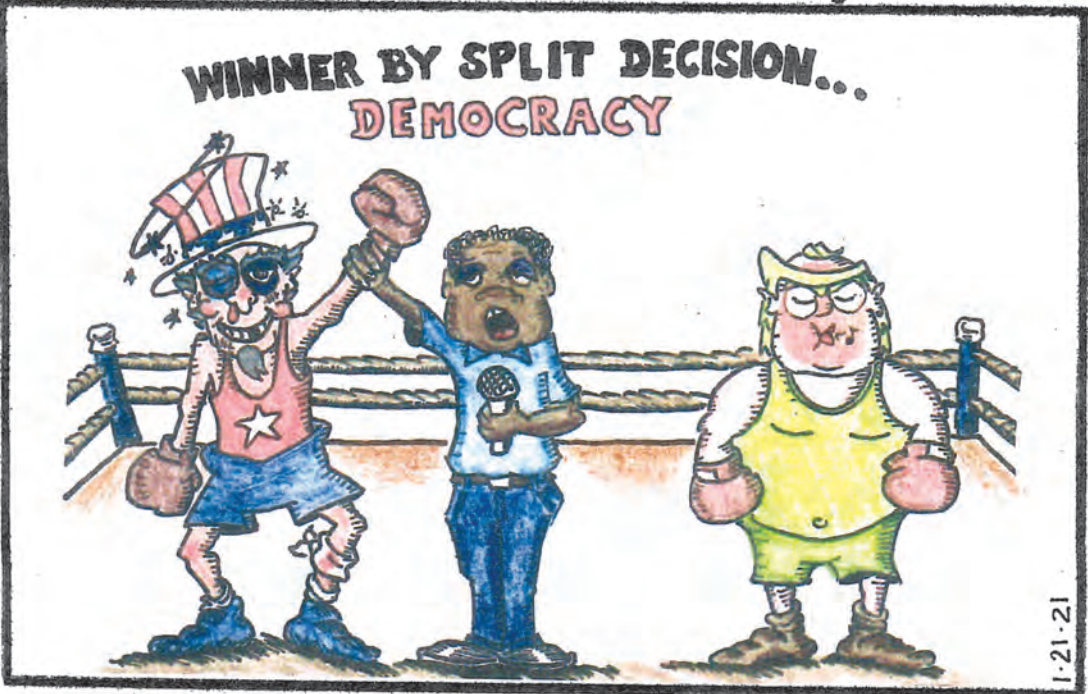
PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

Comics and Puzzle

JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION

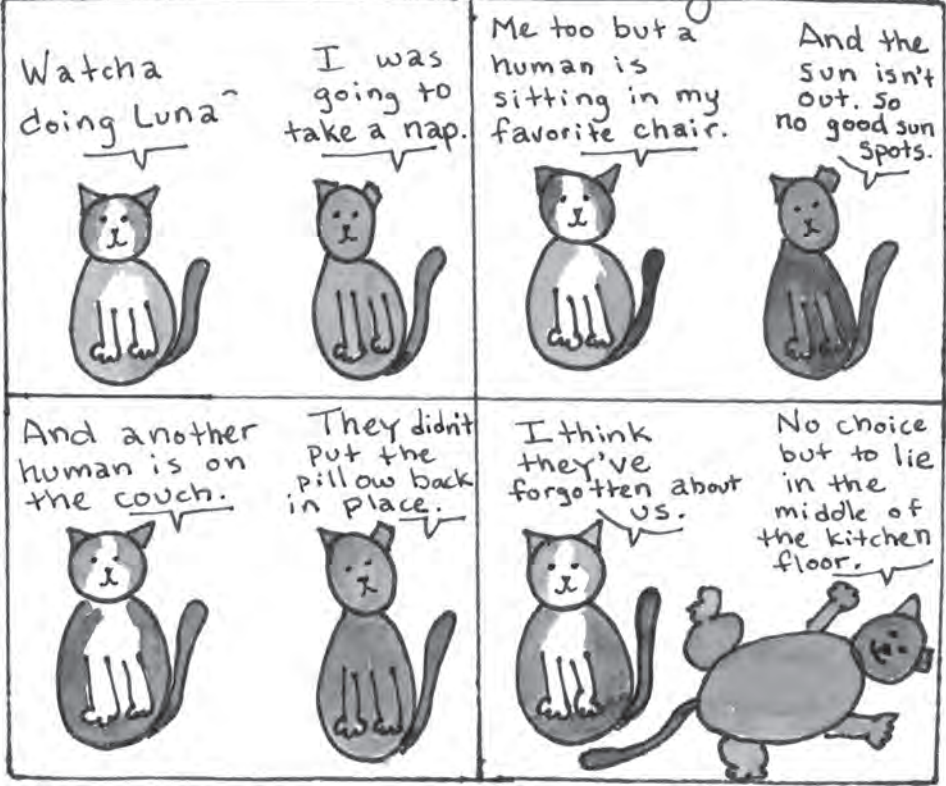
BORDEAUX WHINE

by denis bordeaux



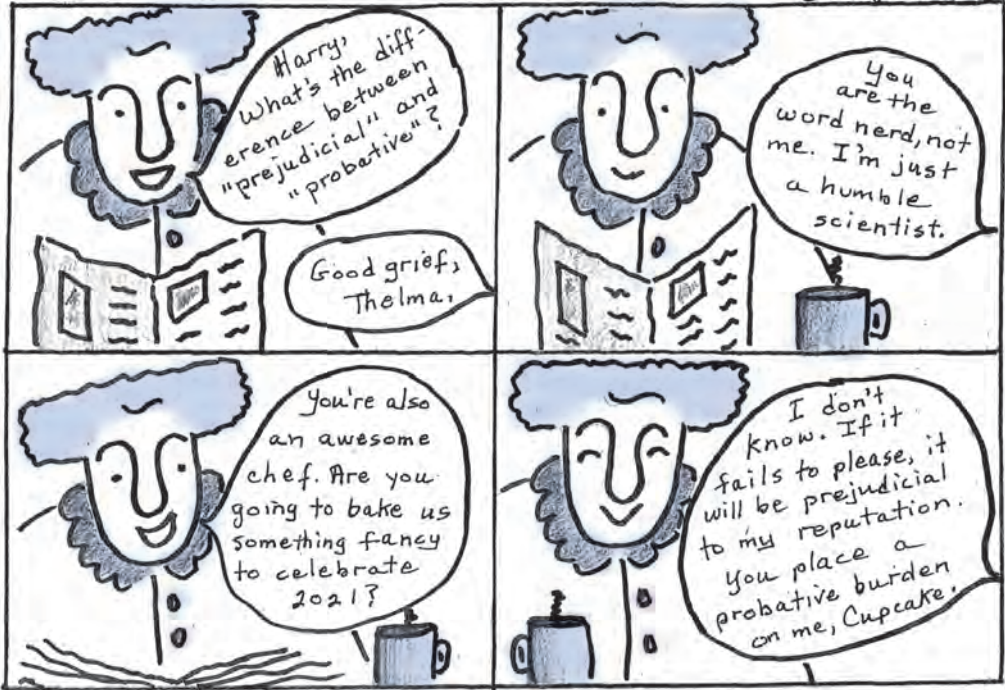
Cool Cats on the Ave

Jay



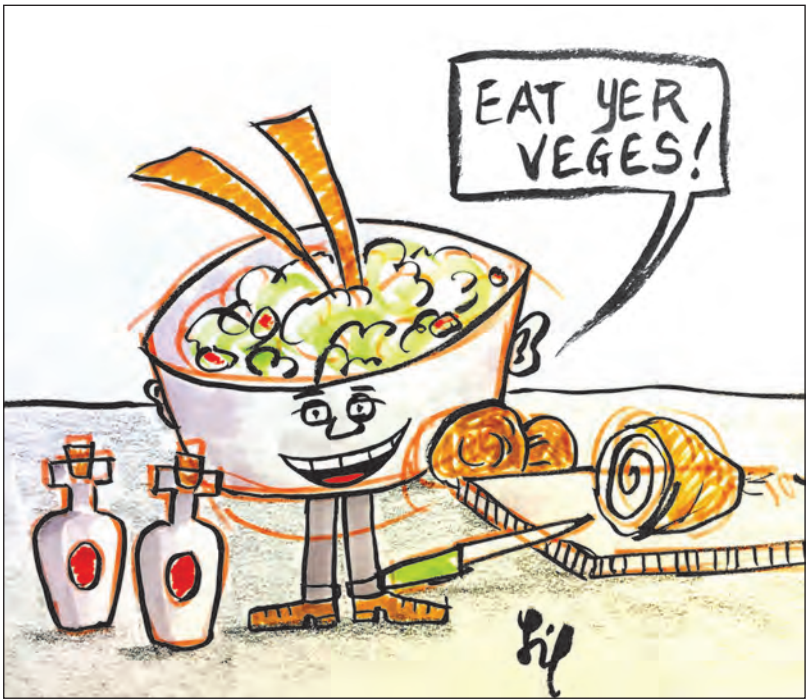
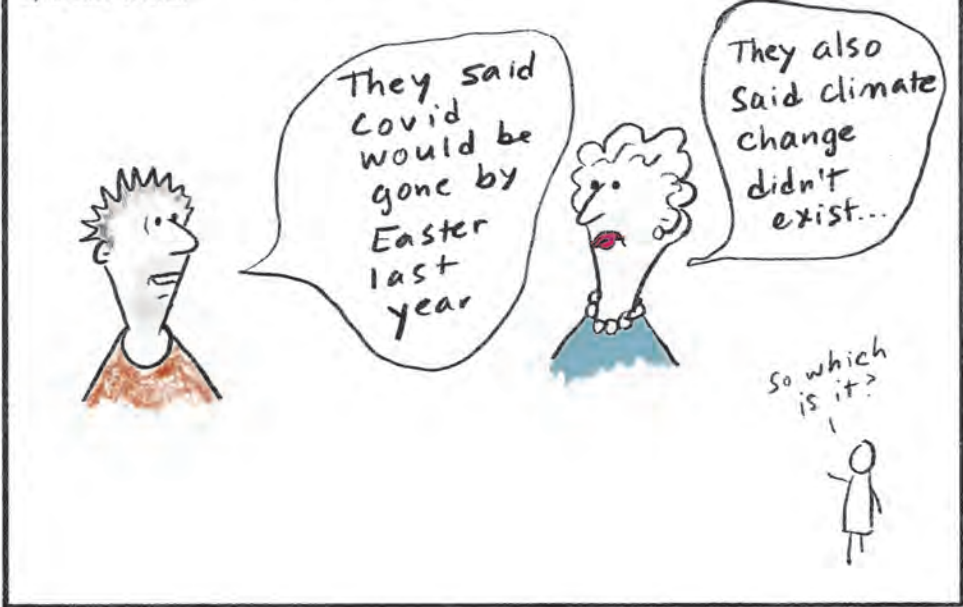
OVER THE HILL

Carolyn Clark



Three Degrees of Warming

By Janice Rowan



LILLY MOSS COMIC

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM!
PUMIZDU SECOND ILU SEU
BIG SEUG ILU, SECOND BCRR
OAS DSIG SEU BIG SEUG ILU.
- PULSARS PLUMES

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

25 episodes are now available!

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



The Montague Reporter Podcast

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!

ED L.

Dealer in used
Home Furnishings

SMALL FURNITURE • COLLECTIBLES • DECORATIVES

374 Deerfield Street • Greenfield
Featuring: Lamps Mirrors Chairs Baskets

Call (413) 834 - 3128 TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

MASK REQUIRED • EXCLUSIVE SHOPPING!

curbside pickups
of food scraps

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

enrich the soil, rebuild lives



**Bryan
Hobbs**
REMODELING LLC

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

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
DOORS & OPENERS

Devine Overhead Doors

Gerry Devine

106 West Street
Hadley, MA. 01035

Hampshire: 586-3161
Franklin: 773-9497

Fred Holmgren
Piano Tuning & Repair

Stay
tuned!

(978) 544-5494
fredholmgren@gmail.com

French King
Restaurant & Motel

OPEN BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER
FRIDAY, SATURDAY, AND SUNDAY



AUTHORS from page B1 makes you feel like you're really in Italy with Lina and Ren. When I'm older I want to move to Italy, and *Love & Gelato* makes me super excited to go there!

In the December 24, 2020 edition of the *Reporter*, you can find my full interview with Ms. Evans Welch, and more on what the book is about. My favorite question and answer from my interview with Ms. Evans Welch was when I asked her whether she has ever been to Italy. She said, "Yes! I went to high school in Florence, Italy so the setting was inspired by my experiences as a teenager." I'm super jealous that she was able to go to high school in Italy, because that sounds so fun!

My third-favorite series is the *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* books, written by Jenny Han. This series is so, so cute, and Netflix has made the first couple books into movies, which I also love! (The third book in this series, *Always & Forever Lara Jean*, is going to be released as a movie on Netflix on February 12th!)

I love the main character in this series, Lara Jean, so much, and the books are so fun to read! I haven't gotten to interview Jenny Han yet, but hopefully I can in a future article. I reviewed this series in the October 31, 2019 edition of the *Reporter*.

My fourth-favorite series is definitely the *Wells & Wong Mysteries* by Robin Stevens! These books are set in London, which I love, because it's so much fun to read about the different bakeries, shops, and places they visit.

I reviewed this series in the August 9, 2018 edition of the *Montague Reporter*. My favorite question and answer from Ms. Stevens is, "Where do you get your inspiration for your books?"

She replied, "I get it from everywhere – from books I read, from TV shows I watch, and from people I meet. But my biggest inspirations are the author Agatha Christie (my

favourite crime writer) and places I know very well. I went to boarding school in England, just like Hazel and Daisy, and so I wanted to write about my school in a book!"

These books are so exciting to read, and each mystery is very different, so you never know what to expect.

My fifth-favorite book is *I Believe in a Thing Called Love* by Maurene Goo. This book was especially fun to read because the main character, Desi, creates a bunch of elaborate scenarios to make her crush, Luca Drakos, fall in love with her.

I interviewed Maurene Goo and reviewed this book in the July 23, 2020 edition of the *Montague Reporter*. My favorite question and answer from my interview with Ms. Goo is, "Since all your books are named after song titles, I was wondering how you pick the titles. Like are they songs that just fit well with the plot of the book, songs you really like, etc.?"

She responded with, "It's a mix of both! First, the song title has to match the theme or book concept. But I prefer songs that have meaning for me, personally. Or songs that convey a certain mood or feeling that I'd like readers to associate with the book. It's a fun challenge to title my books!"

I think it's really cool that Ms. Goo names all her books after song titles, because it's really creative, and it seems like it would be a lot of fun to name each book.

Thank you so much to all the authors I mentioned for previously allowing me to interview them! This article was super fun to write, because I got to look at some of my old articles, and it was exciting to see how I wrote my articles then compared to now.

It was also really difficult to try to narrow down all my favorite books into a list of five, because every book I review is one I love.

I hope everyone has an amazing start to 2021!



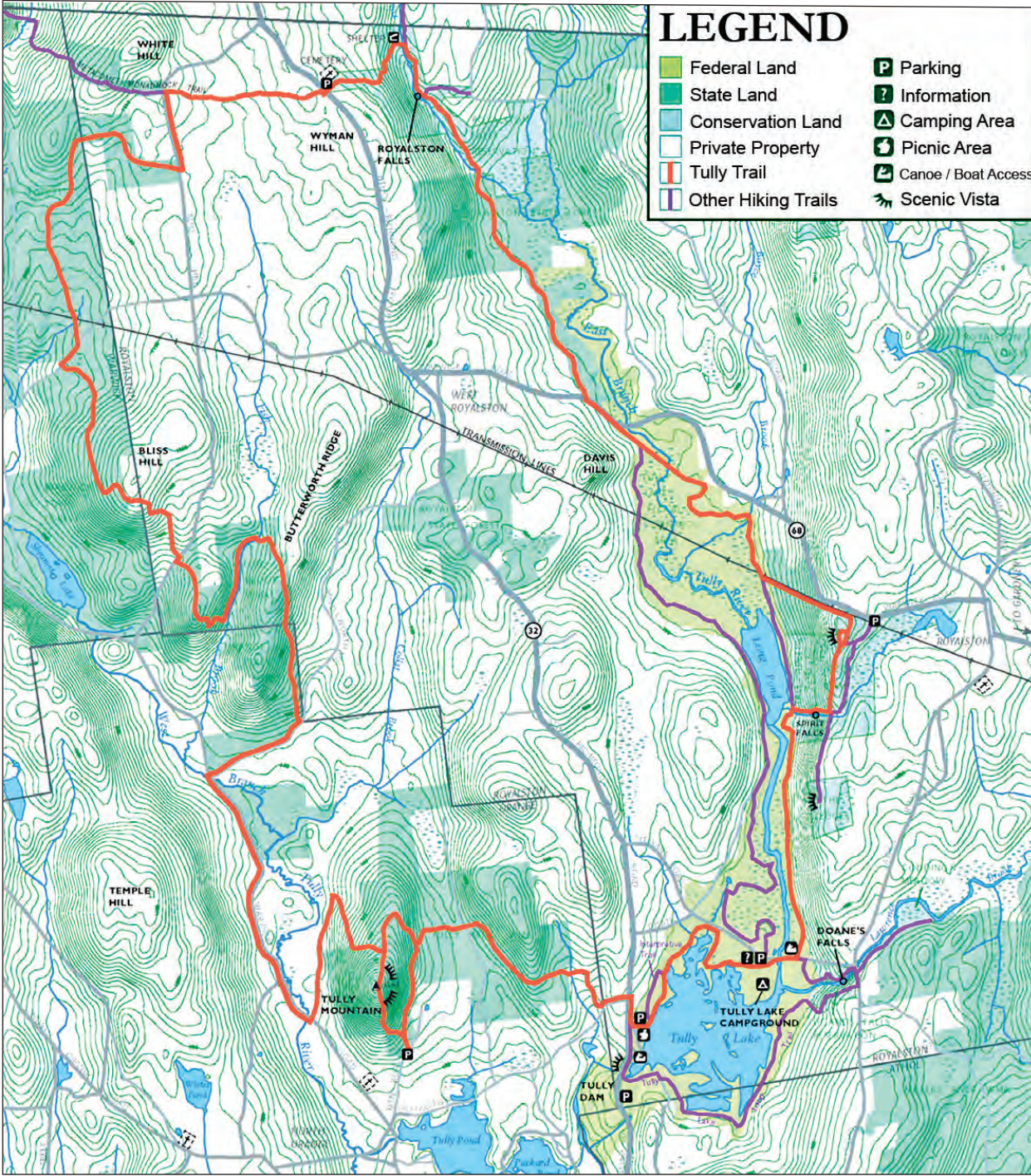
Tully Trail *Doane Hill Road, Royalston, MA*

Trail Map courtesy of the Trustees of Reservations and Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust

During the COVID-19 crisis, we encourage you to safely get outdoors for your mental and physical well-being. All our conservation areas and trails remain open but are subject to the following recreational use guidelines that are in line with the mandates of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. These are subject to change, but include physical distancing of at least six feet between


visitors; wearing a face mask if social distancing is not possible; and keeping dogs on a leash. If you arrive at a full parking lot, please consider coming back when it is less crowded or visiting another trail.

Questions or concerns? Please contact stewardship manager KimLynn Nguyen at nguyen@mountgrace.org or (978) 541-1769.



This map is a product of the Trustees of Reservations. Source data obtained from 1:25,000 scale USGS topographic maps, field surveys, GPS data collection, and MassGIS. Boundary lines and trail locations are approximate. Any reproduction for other than personal use is by permission only.

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



Amherst Books
NOW OPEN NEW HOURS

Tues – Sat
10 AM – 4 PM
8 Main Street

413-256-1547
books@amherstbooks.com

Start the Future Today!

- Wealth Management
- Trust Services
- Estate Settlement



GSB
Wealth Management
& Trust Services

(413) 775-8335 • greenfieldsavings.com



FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CO-OP
144 MAIN STREET GREENFIELD, MA 01301 (413) 773-3567
3 STATE STREET SHELburnE FALLS, MA 01370 (413) 625-2548



About-Face
Computer Solutions

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

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



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!

COUTURE BROS.

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

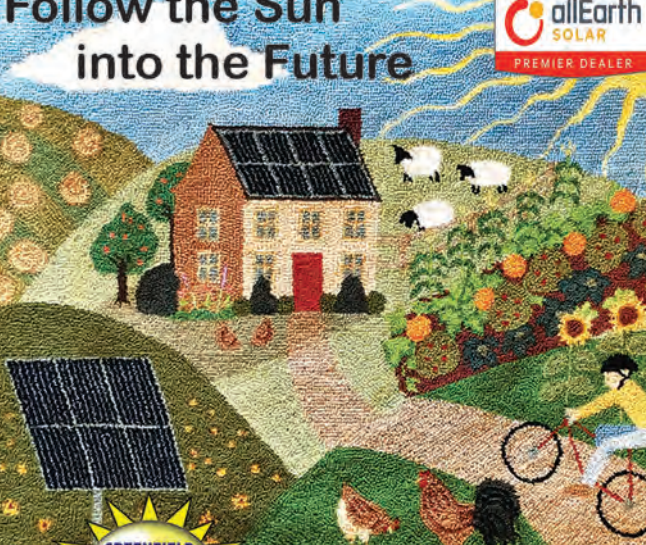
Geri Johnson, Realtor
ABR, CRB, CRS, GRI, SRES
413-863-9736 • Gerijohnson@Realtor.com



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



**Follow the Sun
into the Future**



GREENFIELD 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