

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 19 – NO. 31

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 10, 2021

TFHS Grads ‘Look Forward’

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

GILL-MONTAGUE – Friends and family gathered in the Turners Falls High School gymnasium last Friday to cheer on the Class of 2021 graduates.

At first entry it was clear this was a graduation event like none other. The crowd seated on the bleachers was half what it has been in pre-pandemic years, enthusiastic but nowhere near as loud. Graduates marched in one by one under the traditional flower-draped trellis, but they entered from the back of the room, then sat on chairs arranged far apart on the gymnasium floor.

As they walked through, to the sound of “Pomp and Circumstance,” the crowd cheered and grads smiled, some widely, some shyly. Once seated they faced the small stage where Principal Joanne Menard stood behind the podium, ready to welcome all. The room was quiet and constrained, as the distances seemed to bring a kind of reverence to the occasion.

The speeches were short, honoring the difficulty of the year the students had all experienced, the lost opportunities to be together in their



TFHS Class of 2021 Valedictorian Leah Timberlake told her classmates that their graduation marked the official end of childhood, and encouraged them to welcome their next adventures.

senior year and share those things most do as they prepare to complete high school and move on with their adult lives, while facing the future with optimism and purpose.

Menard spoke proudly of all they had accomplished despite the challenges they faced. All speakers offered encouraging words, their support going forward, and confidence that the grads would succeed in life, see **GRADS** page A4

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Selectboard Member, Library Director Announce Surprise Summer Resignations

By JEFF SINGLETON

Monday’s Montague selectboard meeting began with a mysterious agenda item called a “Selectboard announcement.” The announcement, it turned out, was a declaration by member Michael Nelson that he was resigning from the board “at the end of August” due to a “rather large promotion” by his employer, the state Department of Public Health.

“It feels important to step down

and give someone else the opportunity to move these things forward,” he told the board.

“I’m saddened to hear that, but pleased for your promotion,” said selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz. “I understand the strain that this office puts on all of us.”

About an hour later into the meeting, an announcement that was not even on the agenda – and was almost forgotten – was made by town administrator Steve Ellis. The town’s library director, Linda Hick-

man, would be retiring “early this coming fall,” virtually at the same time as Nelson.

Nelson will now be working in the central Massachusetts region, which includes Worcester, and said the amount of traveling this will require, particularly with increased in-person meetings in the post-COVID era, would make it difficult for him to devote proper attention to local issues.

Nelson joined the Selectboard see **MONTAGUE** page A7

Representative Tours Turners, Talks Money

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – Jim McGovern, who represents the 2nd Massachusetts district in the United States Congress, paid a visit to Turners Falls last Friday afternoon to meet with town officials and brainstorm about public investment. He received a tour of the canalside bike path and Southworth mill, sang the praises of the ongoing downtown redevelopment, and indicated he would try to help it forward.

McGovern’s main goal for the stop-by was to tout the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), a federal stimulus bill passed in March that will deposit \$859,583 in Montague’s coffers – and another \$5.3 billion to the state of Massachusetts, with instruction to disburse it to towns and cities.

“This one is gonna go quickly,” he warned a group gathered around tables in the town hall annex meeting room. “Everyone’s gonna ask for it.”

Town planner Walter Ramsey and town administrator Steve Ellis gave McGovern a quick sketch of the Montague’s stickiest redevelopment challenges. That morning they



Montague town planner Walter Ramsey, US representative Jim McGovern, town administrator Steve Ellis, and state rep Natalie Blais walk the canalside bike path.

had submitted an application to the state’s One Stop for Growth grant portal seeking \$5 million in funding for the “Strathmore Mill Site Readiness and Stabilization Project” – and an alternate request to the Governor’s office to release the same amount of money earmarked in a 2018 bond bill for the project.

The project would tear down a number of structures in the town-owned mill complex, which sits

between the power canal and Connecticut River, and help make the remainder more attractive to potential buyers.

They also filled McGovern in on the situation just upstream, where the town is trying to convince FirstLight Power to invest more in improving recreational access to the river than the company has offered in its application see **TOURS** page A6

GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Principal Heads Elsewhere

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – “Congratulations to Joanne Menard,” regional school superintendent Brian Beck announced to the Gill-Montague school committee Tuesday night, “who has accepted the position of assistant superintendent in Holliston.” Menard has served nearly two years as principal at Great Falls Middle School and

Turners Falls High School. Beck said the position has been posted, and a search committee would soon be formed. An attempt to reach Ms. Menard for comment was unsuccessful as of press time.

Another search committee is already underway to replace Thomas Gaffigan, who is retiring after two years as assistant principal at the same schools.

see **GMRSD** page A2

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Remote Format Weighed

By GEORGE BRACE

The ending of the statewide COVID-19 emergency on June 15, and state-mandated changes to police policies due by July 1, prompted continued discussion of possible changes to town policies and procedures at Leverett’s selectboard meeting Tuesday.

The end of the state of emergency will mean the selectboard’s return to in-person meetings, though the state legislature may extend the remote option. Residents and board members expressed their desire

for accessibility, transparency, and greater participation in town government, and addressed some of the difficulties involved in creating a meeting format that achieves those goals but is workable for the board and the town.

“I really want to advocate for in-person meetings,” said selectboard chair Julie Shively, adding that remote participation is “like adding a whole other job – it takes away from the issues at hand.” She said that the board likes input, but that “hybrid” meetings combining

see **LEVERETT** page A5

A LOCAL LEGEND



Friends in Montague Center and around the world are mourning the passing of David Kaynor, shown here (seated) last May Day. See pages A2, A3, and A8.

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – This week Mother Nature played havoc with local sports. We had our first streak of 90-plus temps, and while some teams played under stifling heat, others had their games canceled or postponed. Franklin Tech did manage to sneak in a Saturday softball game, and the weather finally broke on Tuesday, just in time for the Turners Falls-Greenfield girls’ track meet.

As the heat began to ramp up last Wednesday, June 2, Turners Falls played a baseball/softball/tennis triple-header at Greenfield. Because those games were held so close to press time, I was only able to report my observations on the softball game, so I’ll include brief recaps of the other June 2 contests.

Tennis

I’ve only been to two tennis matches this season – compare that to the 20 or so which I would attend pre-pandemic. The first, held on May 28, was a rematch against the Cardinals of Pope Francis Prep, who they had faced two weeks prior.

A day earlier, the Thunder celebrated their seniors. Under a clear blue sky, Haleigh Greene, Izzy

Farrick, Mercedes Bailey, and Emily Denison received flowers and see **SPORTS** page A6

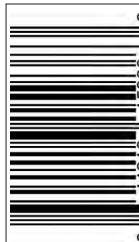


Turners’ single player Holly Hicks races to get under the ball as the Green Wave hosted the Thunder at Greenfield last Wednesday.

Heat Melted Staff Brains

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The Montague Reporter

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August 2002

GMRSD from page A1

During his presentation, Beck spent some time briefing the committee on a hot topic: a heat wave that has been consuming the final days of the school year. Students who have returned for in-person learning are required to wear masks indoors, and a number of the buildings have either no air conditioning or faulty units.

At the secondary school building, Beck said, the cafeteria AC was not working, but the gym was getting cold enough that “many people had to wear a sweater” during last Friday’s graduation ceremony, and staff have set up fans to push that cool air around the buildings.

The situation has been most acute at Hillcrest Elementary, where Beck reported that facilities director Heath Cummings and his staff have been plugging in window AC units and finding that they are not tripping the building’s electrical system, which was upgraded in 2019. Hillcrest principal Sarah Burstein, he said, was monitoring classroom temperatures, and seven window units were planned to be installed by Wednesday.

“It was uncomfortable in the schools,” Beck said, adding that staff were “creative” in providing outdoor time in the shade, and even freeze-pops, to keep students cool.

Beck explained his decision not to add half-days. “Families can make their own decisions about attending school,” he said. “If we added an early release day... we would bump up against time-on-learning requirements, and likely not make them.”

Montague member Michael Langknecht commented that the Hillcrest heat was “a problem that has existed for generations,” and said he was glad it was being addressed.

The final three days of school, this Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, are half-days.

Pupil services director Dianne Ellis and director of teaching and learning Christine Limoges presented a list of nine separate initiatives to promote learning in the summer, ranging from a summer camp with Montague parks and rec to an extended-year program at the elementary school.

Ellis said about 150 students had been selected and invited to that program – a mixture of students with and without individual education plans – but that only 54 had signed up. Montague member Jen Lively expressed her concern at the low rate.

The district is also still seeking

summer staff, particularly teachers and support staff at the middle and high school, as well as food service workers.

Ellis said much of the programming would be funded through two Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) grants on the grounds that it would address learning loss stemming from the pandemic.

The school committee unanimously approved a job description for a new transportation coordinator position, at \$45 to \$55 thousand per year; increased Beck’s salary by 2% to \$130,560, and raised the salary cap for the Hillcrest principal and early childhood coordinator position, currently filled by Burstein, from \$100 to \$105 thousand.

Discussion continued as to whether the committee would return to meeting in person, and whether remote participation would remain available for the public. The official statewide emergency is scheduled to end next week, though it is expected that the legislature will extend provisions allowing remote meetings for a few more months.

A straw poll of the committee members was inconclusive, with two saying they would prefer in-person meetings, two they would prefer to stay home, and two saying they could go either way.

Langknecht and chair Jane Oakes of Gill both complained that poor internet connectivity hampered their participation in the meetings, while Heather Katsoulis of Montague said she found it convenient to attend from home, but that she worked from a home office in any case. “I’m more of a tech person, so that makes sense,” she said.

Montague member Carleigh Dlugosz said that while she thought the committee could have “better conversations” in person, her husband’s work schedule was changing and she was uncertain how easy it would be for her to attend meetings, given that it might require finding childcare.

Lively and Haley Anderson both abstained from the vote, as their terms are expiring after the June 22 town election in Montague, which will complete the district election. No candidates are on the ballot to replace them, and the *Montague Reporter* has not heard of any write-in candidacies as of press time.

Lively and Anderson will attend one more meeting on June 22, and the rest of the committee will hold a special meeting the next day to reorganize itself.



TROUBLE MANDESON ILLUSTRATION

Kathryn Greenwood Swanson of Swanson’s Fabrics at 106 Avenue A in Turners Falls cuts yardage from her vast collection of affordable, and boardable, textiles.

Letters to

the Editors

Remembering Dave Kaynor

The recent passing of Dave Kaynor certainly left a huge hole in the world of fiddle music. We are so fortunate that he settled in Montague Center. Dave embraced village life, becoming a member of the Grange, serving as Master and forming bonds with the older members as if they were his family. Several times he was part of the entertainment for Old Home Days and the Summer Concert Series. His music always drew the largest crowd.

When he wasn’t cradling a fiddle in his arms he could be found running over the hills. He formed a special connection with other runners and the unspoken understanding of how the endorphin rush and image repair of the finishing sprint help define who he

was. He ran the Mug Race whenever his summer music camp schedule allowed. As he lived next door to the starting line many times he would literally roll out of bed from a previous night “gig,” lace up his shoes, and wait for the cannon blast. Some years he would serenade the runners, and he composed a tune in honor of a dear running friend and neighbor Tracy Turn.

The 40th Mug Race will be held on August 21. Let’s hope there will be fiddle music flowing over the hills in honor of Dave.

Ann Fisk
Montague Center

When Did Police Role Pivot?

A recent op-ed by Jeff Singleton suggested that some Montague residents who wanted less policing in the town – even after two commissions found that many people in town have positive impressions of the police department – were blinded by ideology to the “reality” that policing, in Montague, is in fact good.

It’s often tempting to think that the status quo that many of us enjoy is not itself the result of ideology. People who dare to imagine something other than the status quo are easy to point to as ideologues, but that’s only because an ideology, once dominant, tends to make itself invisible.

I’m going to remind readers of this letter that modern policing was invented for two purposes: catching runaway slaves, and breaking labor strikes. People who want to see the end of policing often repeat this fact, which many other people seem to feel is irrelevant: we were all taught since we were very young that police are the friendly people you call when

you have an emergency, and they come to help – and indeed, many people’s experiences with police are consistent with that ideal!

But I ask those people: at what point in our country’s history has there been a national reckoning in which these two founding purposes were laid to rest, and we decided to pivot to the service model?

It might be tempting to point to eras like the 1860s or the 1960s during major upheavals in the systems of slavery and Jim Crow, respectively, but at neither time was there a serious reevaluation of the need and role of policing. In fact, law and the police who enforced it largely evolved in the late 19th century to criminalize Blackness, allowing forced labor, second class citizenship, and outright terror to persist well into the lifetimes of current readers of this newspaper.

The thing about ideology is that if you’re not explicit about it and very conscious about your ideological goals, the dominant one will have

its way with you. So, while I’m not saying that everyone who supports the police is a white supremacist, what I am saying is that, if you merely fall back on our current iteration of policing because you don’t care to imagine something else, the thing you’re falling back on is white supremacist capitalism.

If services are the things that you like about policing, and not racial terror or strike-breaking, then explain to me how it makes sense to have an entity designed for racial terror and strike-breaking and retrofitted to help you with a flat tire provide those services, rather than a new group that we design to do exactly what we want?

It won’t be easy, but I assure you, if the future we want is one not dominated by white supremacy and capitalism, radically reimagining the way we provide services is the only choice we have.

Brian Zayat
Wendell

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By NINA ROSSI

The **Peskeomskut Park Movie Night** features the 2020 Disney movie *Raya and the Last Dragon* tomorrow, Friday, June 11, at 7 p.m. Bring chairs, and blankets to sit on, and enjoy a free family-friendly movie.

Rattlesnake Gutter Market, a **monthly arts and flea market** at the Leverett Co-op, starts June 12 and continues every second Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This weekend there will be live music by Sawzaphonic plus record-spinning by DJ Brian Boyles, in addition to artists, printmakers, a tarot card reader, a massage therapist, a wood carver, and several other talented folks. Rain date is Sunday, June 13. Open to new vendors; for information, email rattlesnakeguttermarket@gmail.com.

The Nice. Ice cafe at Nova Motorcycles in Turners Falls will host DJ Just Joan and her map art at a **Shaved Ice Dance Party**, this Saturday, June 12, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. There will also be a free kids’ drawing class at 3 p.m. called “How to Draw a Turtle.”

Mohawk Trail Concerts presents the Elm Chamber Ensemble and the Adaskin String Trio playing sextets by Dvorak and Brahms this Sunday, June 13, at noon at the ballfield in Montague Center, and at 5

p.m. at the bandshell at the Buckland-Shelburne Elementary School in Shelburne Falls. See www.mohawktrailconcerts.org for more information on these free concerts.

Also this Sunday, June 13, Human Error Publishing presents **The Mole and Do It Now** from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at Peskeomskut Park in Turners Falls. The Mole features true five-minute stories told by Alice Barrett, Dina Stander, Joshua Michael Stewart, and Doug Anderson. Do It Now is spoken word improvisation by Paul Richmond with percussionist Tony Vacca and guitarist John Sheldon. Rain date June 20.

The Asparagus Valley Pottery Trail is hosting its 17th annual tour as a virtual online sale, launching June 11 at noon. An outdoor event will be held June 12 and 13 and will include 20 ceramic artists featured at nine studio locations. Visit www.apotterytrail.com for both events.

The Montague Public Libraries will be open with regular hours starting Monday, June 14. No appointments necessary. Curbside services will still be available during open hours. Visit montaguepubliclibraries.org for details or call (413) 863-3214.

Enter the first-ever **Great Connecticut River Migratory Shad Count**, and guess how many Amer-

ican shad will pass the Holyoke Dam fishway this season. The deadline to enter is Tuesday, June 15 at 11:59 p.m. Win prizes from Captain Morgan’s Boat Training and Charters and Sam’s Outdoor Outfitters.

Winners will be announced June 30 as the fish migration season wraps up. Hosted by the Connecticut River Conservancy; details at www.ctriver.org/fish-count-contest.

The Leverett Library offers Miss Lynn’s Rainbow Machine, a **free outdoor concert for all ages**, on Thursday, June 17 at 5:30 p.m. Lynn Simonds plays covers, sing-a-longs, and on-the-spot improvisational songs to entertain the family. Sit in family groups and bring a picnic, but wear a mask when moving about.

The Great Falls Farmers Market is offering **Free Kids Yoga with Jackie** every Wednesday in June from 3 to 3:30 p.m. at Peskeomskut Park. All ages welcome.

Silverthorne Theatre Company is holding **open auditions** for a production of *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, scheduled for early October in The Perch at Hawks & Reed, Greenfield. Auditions will be held June 20 and 21 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the LAVA Center in Greenfield. Callbacks are scheduled for June 22 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Directed by STC veteran Chris Rohmann, auditioners of all types and ethnicities should supply a current headshot and resume... British accents are a must! All roles are paid and open to Equity and non-Equity performers. Visit silverthornetheater.org/audition for more information.

Learn about **recent research into psychedelics and cannabis** during an online discussion with experts

and activists called *Remembering a Pioneer: Exploring the Legacy of Dr. Lester Grinspoon*. This tribute to Grinspoon, hosted by the UMass Amherst Libraries, is scheduled on what would have been the researcher’s 93rd birthday on Thursday, June 24, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The panel will focus on Grinspoon’s life, activism, and work, including his groundbreaking research on cannabis, psychedelics, and other substances. Register at libcal.library.umass.edu/event/7866950.

Learn how to **protect yourself financially** by playing “Financial Empowerment: The Game,” an interactive workshop hosted by the offices of the Northwestern District Attorney and state Attorney General. Learn about debt management, scams, consumer rights, credit scores and more on Friday, June 25, at 11 a.m. Call (800) 457-2603 to sign up.

Great Falls Books Through Bars will hold an outdoor volunteer day at Just Roots Community Farm, 34 Glenbrook Drive in Greenfield, on Sunday, June 27. Sign up to pack reading material provided free to prisoners. Choose one of two packing shifts at 1 to 3 p.m. or 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.; RSVP by June 20 at fb.me/e/15ESJGBK4. Rain date is July 4.

The **Museum of Our Industrial Heritage**, 2 Mead Street, Greenfield, has a new website hosted by Montague WebWorks. It features many newly digitized rare items relating to the history of the museum and the mill building it inhabits. Check out the collection at industrialhistory.org.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

OBITUARY

David Allen Kaynor

4/17/1948 - 6/1/2021

Fiddle Orchestra and was co-director of the Fiddle Orchestra of Western Massachusetts. He received numerous awards throughout his life; the 2021 Country Dance and Song Society Lifetime Contribution Award was one of the most meaningful.

After David received his diagnosis of ALS in 2018, his remarkable strength and determination, along with a dedicated team of caregivers and the support of his music and dance community, kept him going past all expectations. He continued to teach, mentor, and compose music up until the last few days of his life, the final several months using eye-gaze technology.

He was a long-time member of both Montague Grange #141, of which he was Master for many years running, and Guiding Star Grange #1, where he was elected to multiple terms on the Executive Committee and wore other hats as needed. He was instrumental in starting the renovation project that made the Guiding Star Grange Hall an accessible space.

David was a dedicated runner and cross-country skier. In 1980, he finished Sweden’s Vasaloppet, a course of 56 miles and the oldest cross-country ski race in the world, in 9 hours and 11 minutes.

David is survived by his brother,

Richard P. Kaynor (India), sisters Cynthia L. Ballou (Iowa) and Carol Kaynor (Alaska), niece Lauren C. Kaynor (Alaska), niece Hilary J. Alejandro (Maine), nephew Joseph M. Rikard (Arizona) and his wife, Samantha; and great-nephews Christian Alejandro and Daniel Rikard. He leaves a vast extended family of dear cousins, partners, caregivers and collaborators. Special gratitude goes to David’s lead caregivers, Becky Hollingsworth, Rebecca Weiss, and Will Quale, and to the staff of the Critical Care Unit of Cooley Dickinson Hospital, whose kindness and expertise were essential to David’s comfort in his final days.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Allen and Louise (Frost) Kaynor; his stepmother, Inez “Nezi” R. (Jilson) Kaynor; and his sister Josephine “Jody” (Kaynor) Rikard.

Donations in David’s name would be welcome and appreciated for the following organizations: the Massachusetts Chapter of the ALS Association; Montague Common Hall in Montague; Guiding Star Grange in Greenfield; Vermont Fiddle Orchestra in Montpelier, Vermont; Fiddle Orchestra of Western Massachusetts in Northampton; Northeast Heritage Music Camp in Vermont; or Ashokan Center in Olivebridge, New York.



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OP/ED

Policing's Reality Lurks Behind Ideology Claims

By JON MAGEE

GREENFIELD — In his op-ed “Ideology Masks Reality of Policing in Montague,” Jeff Singleton chides Deborah Frenkel and Maddox Sprengel for being dissatisfied with the final reports of the policing review committees, of which they were members. Sadly, we have every reason to be dissatisfied with the outcome of these committees, not because of confounding “ideology” but because they misinterpreted the basic critiques that motivated a policing review in the first place.

The central issue is not *what most people think of the police*, but *what effect policing has on the people who actually have to deal with them*. Given how much effort and public resources the police put into polishing their public image, and given the great personal risks that people take on if they speak out publicly against the police, the only people who are likely to know what harms the police actually cause are people who are subject to enforcement, or people who are close to them.

The people who get the most *unwanted* contact with police are people without housing, people living in poverty, people who are neurodivergent, and people of color. Some individuals from these groups have positive opinions of the police, but that reveals nothing about larger patterns of oppression caused by policing.

The most relevant perspectives on these issues come from people who have been harmed by policing, and their perspectives are the hardest to get. Gross power imbalances mean that folks who have suffered harms are often afraid to

share their experiences publicly, and it is in fact dangerous for them to do so. A casual, amateur survey will never suffice and will likely do more harm than good. That does not mean that we can never know anything about policing.

Here's what we know beyond a doubt, based on decades of study by the most impacted communities. Policing does not prevent crime or conflicts or personal crises — they show up after the fact and file a report. Police spend a tiny fraction of their time responding to reports of crime (read the police logs for yourself — on average it's 1 to 4% of their time). Police spend huge amounts of time responding to emergency calls that have nothing to do with crime at all, unnecessarily exposing countless people to the criminal legal system and all the harms that can come as a consequence. In the rare case that the police stop an act of harm or violence, they simply shunt it into the world's largest criminal legal system — a set of violent, punishing institutions that only compound harm.

All the talk about police de-escalation practices misses the fact that the mere *presence* of police is an escalation for people who have good reason to fear them. This is true even when a co-responder clinician is present, especially since people are rightly afraid of being involuntarily committed to a psych ward, or getting referred to the Department of Children and Families.

Police killings of Black people mark the flashpoints that lead to large-scale protest, but Black Lives Matter as a movement is about much more than police use of force. The

movement is fundamentally about valuing people as people, which goes beyond merely *not killing them*. It requires reducing harm in all its forms and building new institutions that really take care of people. (Google “Movement for Black Lives policy platform” if you haven't yet.)

We need new institutions for community safety because reforms to the police do not work. None of the proposed oversight, training, or relationship-building reforms on offer are new or promising in any way. Minneapolis had already implemented most of these measures, even as far back as the 1920s, and yet that did nothing to save George Floyd.

The quickest, most effective way to reduce the harm policing causes is to reduce people's contact with police. One way to do that is by building alternative programs to deal with emergencies.

How could we respond to emergencies in a way that's actually caring, that respects people's basic rights and freedoms, but also successfully resolves the emergency? One compelling example is CAHOOTS, a peer-led crisis response program running for 32 years in two cities in Oregon. Their civilian crisis workers get people the care they need in a manner they can trust, rejecting coercive and punitive approaches in favor of meeting basic needs and offering trauma-informed, person-centered care. They are highly successful and beloved in their communities.

In their service area, CAHOOTS handles 20% of 911 calls, although the Center for American Progress estimates they could easily handle 38% if they had proper funding and

support. (Another large share of 911 calls are merely procedural or paperwork issues which could be handled by a non-sworn city employee — for example, filing reports for auto insurance claims.)

In personal correspondence with me, Ariel Elan of the policing equity review committee said she concluded CAHOOTS would be too expensive, that Montague's finances could not afford both a police department and a program like CAHOOTS.

It is true that police departments are notoriously expensive. However, there is money available from the federal stimulus, as well as the state of Massachusetts, earmarked for starting up new CAHOOTS-like programs. We have organizations in Franklin County that are internationally recognized leaders in peer support work who could help build a new program, but they are too often overlooked in favor of big bureaucratic providers like CSO (who provide the clinician for the new police co-responder program). We also have a growing region-wide movement for building up life-affirming programs that offer real safety to everyone.

If it's hard to imagine Montague implementing a new program alone, that's no excuse to give up and keep cycling people through probation, jail, coercive treatment programs, houselessness, unemployment, and personal crisis. Let's talk across towns about how to build capacity together.

Jon Magee is a member of the Greenfield People's Budget, a group campaigning for more just allocation of municipal resources.

GRADS from page A1

but offered none of the usual wise advice mixed with humor that is typical of graduation speeches. This seemed an acknowledgement of the reality of hope, fear, and uncertainty they all face at this time.

Menard introduced senior class president Catherine Reynolds, who greeted her fellow graduates and acknowledged the unexpected nature of the last year. “We have missed much for our senior year,” she said, adding a reflection on what this has taught her: “Nothing is guaranteed.”

Reynolds thanked her family for their support throughout the year, and teachers who had been especially helpful to her. She advised the graduates to “not dwell on what's been lost, but to look forward” to what will come next.

“This is just a beginning. We have much to look forward to,” she said, concluding, “Be your own passion.”

Salutatorian Isabelle Farrick, who also sang the National Anthem at the opening of ceremonies, opened her comments by saying, “We came in with no idea what these four years would be like. Making new friends, becoming close to teachers, whatever it took to get here. It is not a cake walk.” Farrick also thanked her family for their support, and to her fellow grads she said, “I wish nothing but the best for everyone.”

Valedictorian Leah Timberlake offered thank-you's to family, friends, and teachers as she opened her remarks. “This is the official end of our childhood,” she said. “We are so used to being told what to do. Now we are expected to make choices for ourselves. Life is meant to be lived. Now on to the next adventure.”

Superintendent Brian Beck told a humorous story to demonstrate the importance of self-confidence. It was a story of a group of young reporters attempting to challenge baseball great Ted Williams' insistence he was the best player of all time. As Beck said, the story goes that Williams would ask everyone the question, “Who's the best?” and expected them to answer, “You are.” The reporters conspired to challenge him, and an-



The Turners Falls High School graduation was held in the school gymnasium, with full COVID rules in place. Graduates with social distancing spread out across the floor, family and friends with masks and limited numbers.

swered “Ty Cobb” instead. Williams drove them out to Cobb's home, asked the question, and got the answer he wanted from Cobb: “You are.”

“Go out knowing you are capable,” Beck told the graduates. “Don't let the events of this year shake your confidence.”

Jane Oakes, chair of the district's school committee, said that graduation should bring a sense of accomplishment. Speaking of the difficulties of their senior year, she told the graduates, “You have all demonstrated that you know how to surf uncertain waters.” She wished them well, and congratulated them all in their success.

What followed was a pared-down version of the traditional procession to walk through the space and accept their diplomas, along with a single yellow rose, provided by the Gill-Montague Ed-

ucation Fund. Normally, each student then gives their rose to someone special in their life. This was not part of this year's ceremony because of COVID-19, but surely happened outside as family members gathered to congratulate the graduates.

Principal Menard closed the event by congratulating the graduates, and asking them to forgo the usual cap toss (due, again, to COVID) but instead move their tassels from one side to the other, which they did. A moment later, the grads all cheered — and tossed their caps in the air with great enthusiasm. The audience erupted with laughter and applause.

With the ceremonies completed, the Class of 2021 filed out of the room, followed by friends and family, who all gathered outside on the lawn to take pictures and celebrate.



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LEVERETT from page A1

in-person and remote participation are difficult, and that she misses the camaraderie of meeting in person.

In the end, Shively said she was in favor of remote participation if a reasonable method could be devised: “Let’s get in there and start, and see what we can work out.”

Proposed changes included having only remote viewing of in-person meetings, possibly in combination with a telephone conference call system that has been used in the past to allow participation.

Selectboard member Melissa Colbert noted the emergency declaration which allowed for remote meetings ends on June 15, and that the board will need to follow whatever mandates are in place after that date, which the state legislature is still working on.

She said she had heard from residents in favor of remote videoconferencing, but that the town did not have the technological capacity required to run such meetings smoothly, and that she wanted to keep the issue on the radar and do something this year if funding could be found.

Police Policies

Police chief Scott Minckler presented the board with a set of eight policies which must go into effect in all police departments statewide by July. According to the state website, the recently-created Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) system will “set minimum training standards, regulate training programs and curricula, and set standards for maintenance of police licensure or certification.”

Minckler commented that it “took a tragedy” to put the system in place, but the commission and

policies were things that “all us chiefs wanted.” He said that a lot of work would be involved, and the policies would be work in progress for six months or a year.

Leverett has recently expanded its department to cover the neighboring town of Wendell, and may cover additional towns in the future.

The new policies totaled over 125 pages. Minckler said he would submit the disciplinary records of all current Leverett police officers to the state in July, followed by the records of every officer who has ever worked in the town, beginning in September.

Shively commented that many of the new policies were already in place in Leverett, but required changes. She said the new policies included a prohibition on choke holds, more reporting on inappropriate police behavior, and clearer guidelines on profiling.

Shively and Colbert pointed out several transcription errors in the policies, but Minckler said he did not have a copy in front of him to check them due to an incompatibility issue on his home computer.

Resident Aaron Buford commented that the meeting was the first opportunity for the public to hear about the changes, and said he thought it would be helpful to hear Minckler and the board discuss them, suggesting the chief should be better prepared in the future.

Minckler responded that he was following past practice in having the policies reviewed through email, but would be fine changing the practice in the future. He also noted that the new policies were available for review at the police station, and he was available to discuss them in person.

Colbert commented that the

“ask from Buford was positive,” as was Minckler’s reception. She said the board would support Minckler and take on the task of publicizing the changes, and asked if Minckler could summarize the highlights at the next meeting, which the chief agreed to do.

Shannon Gamble asked if the town’s social justice committee could submit questions to the selectboard.

Library Director Resigns

Lisa Werner, chair of the library trustees, reported that library director Misha Storm had resigned to take a position in Northfield. Werner said the search was on for a replacement, and presented an interim plan for covering the position until a new director is found.

Werner said greater pay and less work elsewhere were creating a difficulty in keeping a library director, and that the trustees were looking at restructuring the position.

Werner said two residents have stepped up to put in additional time at the library, but neither is willing to take on the full responsibilities of director. Storm has agreed to work part-time on an hourly basis to cover state reporting requirements, budgeting, and paying bills to cover the gap.

Noting that the previous director had left after two and a half years, Werner said greater pay and less work elsewhere were creating

TOWN OF LEVERETT
Notice of Liquor License Hearing

The Select Board of the Town of Leverett will hold a hearing at the request of the Village Cooperative Corporation (Village Co-op) for a restaurant license to serve wine and malt beverages on Tuesday 22nd June 2021 at 7 p.m. at the Leverett Town Hall. All interested parties may question or give testimony at this time. Written comments will be received by the Select Board at PO Box 300, Leverett, MA until June 21st 2021 at 5 p.m. and will be opened, publicly read, and incorporated into the minutes of the hearing.

a difficulty in keeping a director, and that the trustees were looking at restructuring the position. “It’s impossible to keep someone with a master’s degree,” she said. One possible change may be to cut back on programming and hours; another is to request a larger budget if more hours are desired by residents.

Shively and Colbert agreed with the interim plan, with Colbert commenting that it was a tough spot, and that there would need to be further conversations down the road on the town’s needs and wants.

Other Business

The board appointed Joshua Barber as a reserve part-time police officer, filling a vacancy. A question was raised about the appointment process, and it was noted that part-time positions do not go before a hiring committee as reserve officers work few hours, sometimes only one shift per month.

Cat Ford was appointed to fill a vacancy on the board of assessors for the remainder of the year.

Shively reported that dog officer Roberta Bryant decided to share the position of dog officer with police officer Meghan Gallo, with Gallo taking the lead. “It’s perfect,” said Shively, commenting that the two get along well, and the arrangement

will allow for better officer availability, while maintaining the use of Bryant’s local kennels rather than transporting captured strays elsewhere for safekeeping.

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis reported that the town has approximately \$40,000 in unspent COVID relief money, and she was reaching out to the school and other town departments to check on their status and needs.

Buford suggested some of the money might be used for technology that would facilitate continued remote participation at selectboard meetings. Shively and Colbert agreed that might be a good use if possible. Colbert suggested looking into the same possibility for roughly \$4,500 in unallocated money from the town hall’s building maintenance account.

McGinnis reported that several residents in the Teawaddle Hill neighborhood have requested changes to a waiver they need to sign before work on the water hook-up with Amherst can begin. One involves the timing of the signing of the waiver, the others involve different aspects of the document.

McGinnis and Shively expressed their desire not to slow down the project, and called for a meeting with town counsel to discuss the desired changes.



NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Back In Person: Pot Tax; Juneteenth; Just One New Truck

By **JERRI HIGGINS**

Monday night’s Gill selectboard meeting addressed the imminent end of Massachusetts’ COVID-19 state of emergency, a town meeting vote to tax cannabis sales, a debt exclusion vote for a plow truck on the July 12 election, and surplus equipment at the highway department, among other business.

In the board’s first in-person meeting since March 2020, member Randy Crochier, acting as chair in the absence of Greg Snedeker, noted “how strange it is to have all these people around me.”

Fire chief Gene Beaubien said that as of June 15, Governor Baker’s state of emergency declaration will be “null and void.” He told the board that Gill’s emergency management team, and the town, “adapted very well” to what Crochier termed “the ever-changing rules” for towns and emergency managers during the pandemic.

“What we have been through in the last 15 months really makes me appreciate living in Franklin County,” said town administrator Ray Purington. “The general level of sanity here, and the approach that people took to dealing with the situation, was head and shoulders above the state level, and most of the rest of the country too.”

“As a general rule, I would say that people that I dealt with through this were very calm and easy to deal with – even if they disagreed with me,” added Crochier. He described the high level of support and cooperation he received working as a health agent for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, which he said other health directors in the state did not always have.

“There were health directors across the state who were ready to retire because they could not get along with their selectboard,

their emergency managers, their town administrators, police chiefs, fire chiefs – you name it,” Crochier said. “I served 11 towns. At one point we were doing contact tracing for 18 towns, and never did we feel like we did not have the support from everybody in those towns. It was a completely different world.”

Trucks, and a New Tax

The board unanimously approved three warrant articles for the annual town meeting, which will be held June 26 at Gill Elementary School.

One would place a 3% sales tax, which Massachusetts allows as a “local option,” on retail marijuana sales. While there are currently no retail marijuana businesses in Gill, Purington said he has received several “exploration phone calls” in the past year, and felt it would be prudent to have regulations in place for that eventuality.

Another would “repurpose” \$10,000 originally approved at a 2018 town meeting to repair a snowplow toward purchase of a new, angled, plow instead. Purington said he just needed consensus from the board, and would work on the wording of the article before submitting it for final approval.

Highway superintendent John Miner said he had received a quote of “about \$11,400” for the desired plow.

The third article would allot \$200,000 for a dump truck equipped with a power angle plow, wing plow, and stainless steel all-season sander. The sanding apparatus is built into the body of the truck, allowing it to go from sanding mode to hauling without having to remove the sander.

The selectboard and finance committee met this Tuesday night, and agreed that the dump truck be placed as an article on the town meeting warrant. If allowed, a debt exclusion article

to borrow for the purchase would then be put to a townwide vote on July 12.

Beaubien asked whether another debt exclusion article could be added to request the purchase of a fire department brush truck.

“For the 20 years or so that I have been chief, the selectboard has always been very cooperative and supportive,” Beaubien said, “but the townspeople need to realize they have not bought a firetruck for the town since 1995, and that was only half a truck. You have been supporting me on everything else, but we are asking for a \$55,000 fire truck. I know that the town also needs a dump truck.”

Crochier responded that both trucks are needed, but that “there is only so much we can support at one time, and I fear that putting too many [debt exclusions] down at once would cause all of them to fail.”

The fin com recommended against adding another debt exclusion article for any other vehicle on this year’s ballot.

New Holiday

Juneteenth, a holiday officially adopted by Massachusetts on June 19, 2020, which Purington said had been overlooked after the declaration last June, was unanimously accepted by the selectboard as a paid holiday for Gill employees.

Juneteenth originated in Galveston, Texas to commemorate the June 19, 1865 “Freedom from Slavery” proclamation, ordered by General Gordon Granger of the Union Army.

In a press release posted on *Mass.gov*, Governor Charlie Baker remarked that designating Juneteenth as an official holiday “is an opportunity to recommit ourselves to the goal of creating a more equal and just society,” and offers “a chance for us all to reflect on this country’s painful history of slavery and the systemic impact that racial injustice

continues to have today.”

Old Equipment

Miner was unanimously approved by the selectboard on Monday for \$2,585.02, a quote by C.N. Wood, to replace the “rotted out” rear fender and fender supports of the town’s Komatsu bucket loader.

Several items were unanimously approved as surplus: a Tenco sander; “a couple of plows, that are estimated from the 1970s,” which Miner said are only valuable as scrap metal; and three “oil and stone boxes.”

“No one is using the oil and stone anymore, and I do not ever see the town going back to that,” Miner said. He recommended listing the boxes for sale.

Other Business

A COPS Hiring Program grant, listed on Monday’s agenda, was dismissed due to Gill’s ineligibility for the program. Purington told the selectboard that police chief Christopher Redmond had emailed him after he learned that the grant is only available to accredited police agencies. Currently, Greenfield has the only accredited police agency in Franklin County.

Ray Steele, chair of the agricultural commission, was unanimously granted permission to use the town common and town hall for a planned Autumn Festival on September 25.

The selectboard received a letter from a resident requesting that a sidewalk be installed from the entrance of Stoughton Place to the corner of Main Road and Route 2. The matter was tabled until after the current “budget season,” to allow Purington time to set up a meeting between the Stoughton Place resident, and any businesses and homeowners along the proposed sidewalk.

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TOURS from page A1

for a new federal license for the canal and Turners Falls Dam.

McGovern encouraged the town officials to watch closely what happens with Massachusetts’ ARPA funds. The process has not yet been determined. (*State House News Service* reported last week on conflicts between the state’s Republican governor and Democratic-majority legislature, which was not discussed on Friday.)

“You have a plan here, which I think will make it more attractive to the state to want to work with you to help get you whatever you need,” McGovern advised. “I also think it makes it easier for us to aggregate the federal monies that the state will receive that, in some way, somehow, some fashion, some of it ought to come back here.”

Departing town hall, Ellis and Ramsey – accompanied by Montague’s representative in the State House, Natalie Blais, who once worked as an aide to McGovern herself – led the Congressman down the bike path.

“A lot of the worst graffiti has been covered over by good graffiti,” a determinedly sunny Ellis pointed out as the delegation walked under the Turners Falls-Gill bridge.

Ramsey shared the town’s vision for the “waterfront area” below the dam. “They’re going to have to pump more water in the river, and that’s going to open up the potential for recreation,” he explained. “We have a whole opportunity to renew our relationship to the river.”

McGovern expressed his interest in helping the town sell this vision to the power company. When he admitted he had some

extra time to kill, Ellis sent a text to Tom Cusano, the owner of the Southworth building, warning him of an incoming party.

Cusano, who is working with a commercial tenant that plans to grow cannabis in the former paper mill, greeted the group at his door and invited them in for a tour within a tour.

“In a lot of communities, the inclination is to tear everything down rather than preserve,” McGovern said, when the delegation had reached the mill’s top floor. “I mean, you can never build something like this ever again.” Talk turned to cannabis.

“One of the things that has been difficult for the industry is that we haven’t changed the federal laws yet on banking,” McGovern explained, “which means that the normal stuff that you would do, if you’re a business – ”

“You can’t get an SBA-guaranteed loan, that’s for sure!” Cusano chimed in.

“We did get a bill passed in the House that will fix it, and we’re waiting for the Senate pick it up,” McGovern said. “I mean, it’s a no-brainer.”

The group was gathered at a window overlooking the adjacent Building 11 of the Strathmore complex, one of the structures the town is hoping to leave for reuse. Ellis shared that Cusano had expressed his official interest in purchasing it down the road.

“One of our hurdles in [US Economic Development Administration] investment is we can’t use Tom’s private match to this facility for EDA, because it’s cannabis-related,” said Ramsey.

“Which is stupid,” McGovern replied. “This bill would try to fix that.”

The visitors shook Cusano’s hand and



Southworth owner Tom Cusano showed McGovern the view of the adjacent Strathmore complex.

headed back across the canal and up onto Avenue A, where Ellis pointed out a number of restaurants and boutiques, and McGovern expressed his love for the town-owned Shea Theater. By this point in the afternoon, the mutual goodwill was palpable, though the dialogue seemed to be falling back on earlier talking points.

“You have a plan, and that’s half the battle, quite frankly,” McGovern said in summary. “Now we know what we’re fighting for the money for.”

“I’m galvanized, following that meeting,” Ellis told the *Reporter* several days later. “I see a clearer path than I’ve seen, in my previous four years here, to getting some really important work done in that part of the Canal District. All the other hard work – the planning work, the abatement work, the small investments and large investments that the community and state grants have allowed us to make in that building, and in that district – allows us to have this moment where we actually see promise.”



SPORTS from page A1

balloons, and the thanks and praise from their teammates and coach.

During the Pope Francis match, it poured out rain, and because some of the aforementioned seniors were sitting for AP exams, the match was decidedly one-sided.

The visiting Preppies are one of the best teams in the area: they have swept every match 5-0, except against Frontier which they won 4-1. But in the rain, Powertown played them tough.

First singles player Greene and second singles player Farrick each won five games. First doubles team, Maria Labelle and Steph Peterson, battled to a tiebreaker in their first set and lost the second 6-4. Second doubles, Denison and Maddy Lilly, won their second set 6-2 but ended up losing the tiebreaker, and the Popes took the match 5-0.

At the Greenfield match last Wednesday, I sat behind the courts between the first and second singles matches. Greene was on her third game before the other matches even began – and she was winning, which prodded coach Gonzalez to ask his other players to follow her example. Greene took the first set 6-2, and the second 6-4.

It was a little different on the second singles court. “Something’s wrong,” Farrick, down 3-0, called to her family. “I can’t get going.” But she persevered, and won six of the next seven games to take the first set 6-4.

As the other matches progressed, Izzy found herself dropping the second set 6-4. At this point in the contest, anything could happen, and unless she could secure the win in second singles, Greenfield might spoil Powertown’s chance for its first W. But she dug in and won the rubber set convincingly 6-1 to give Blue at least two points.

Meanwhile, Greenfield had won third singles, so it was down to the doubles.

“We need this,” Gonzalez called to Peterson and LaBelle as they fought tooth and nail in the first set. After a 6-6 push, the ladies had to play to best of 12. The tiebreaker was just as tight, but with the score 5-5, the duo managed to score two unanswered points to take the set 7-6.

Their second set was just as close, with a second tiebreaker again running to 5-5, but Peterson and LaBelle again won the hard-fought second match 7-6 to ensure the victory for Turners.

It turns out that it was a moot point. The second singles match was swept 6-0, 6-0 by Lily Spera and Abbi Holloway to give Powertown a well-deserved 4-1 victory.

The Thunder Ladies were scheduled to play this Monday, but M. Nature forced a postponement. Their final match will be played at home next Monday, June 14 – weather permitting, of course.

Baseball

The Turners Falls Baseball Team fell 15-1 in last Wednesday’s Greenfield game. This was to be expected – it is a rebuilding year for Blue, as their roster has only one junior and one sophomore.

The Powertown Nine then played their final game on Monday under the sun in Athol. Thunder dropped that game 7-0 to finish the season at 0 and 11.

Girls Track

Greenfield 96 – TFHS 32

The heat finally broke on Tuesday, sending scattered thunderstorms throughout the region. But the track meet went on in Greenfield. There was little wind and no thunder – except on the track, of course. One flash of lightning was sighted but apparently it was northwest beyond the mountains in Vermont.

Even with the rain, the Greenfield Track and Field complex is welcoming. All the field events are held close to the track, allowing fans to casually walk the infield from event to event. They gathered in groups of two or three under umbrellas or slickers, and socialized as they cheered on the athletes.

Six different girls from the Turners Falls/Franklin Tech hybrid track team scored points on Tuesday.

Brynn Tela won the 800m in 3:19, and placed second in the triple jump (23’2”), while Kaylin Voudren won the pole vault with a vault of 7’0”. Blue also swept the discus, with Linley Rollins (53’8”) taking home the gold, Zoey Kus (42’7”) finishing second, and Rachal Jaurbe (27’5”) placing third.

Kus also took second place in the 200m dash (49:6) and third in the shot put (16’3”). Raygan Pendriss ran the mile in 7:01 for third place and finished second in the 800m (3:34), while Izzy Curtis finished third in the 100m high hurdles with a time of 28.2 seconds.

Softball

TFHS 9 – Greenfield 6
Franklin Tech 5 – Westfield Tech 0

The Ladies in Blue have steamrolled over most of their opponents this season. Last Wednesday’s game was more challenging: the Green Wave led through most of the game, and it wasn’t until Jade Tyler hit a grand slam that Turners took back the lead for good.

This is good. The level of competition in the playoffs will be stiff, and Turners proved they can come from behind and win the close ones.

Because of the scorching heat, the thunder storms, graduation, awards night and the holiday, very few contests were played this week.

On Saturday, June 5, the Franklin Tech Softball Eagles blanked the visiting Purple Tigers of Westfield Tech 5-0.

The last time these two teams met, F-Tech scored 20 runs to W-Tech’s seven. This time, however, both squads played exceptional defense under the blazing sun.

Tech’s five runs didn’t come easily, and they had to rely on strategic base running and timely hits to slowly build their lead. The Franks drew first blood in the bottom of the first when Kaitlin Trudeau scored off an Emily Eastman RBI. But the Westie pitcher was on fire, and kept pace with Tech’s Lauren Ross, retiring most of the batters she faced.

It wasn’t until the fourth inning that the Eagles scored their next run. And they did it with only one hit – one that hit hammered right between Mackenzie Martel’s shoulder blades.

Martel wasn’t fazed as she took her base. And although the next three batters struck out, she stole second. Later, she

booked it to third. The throw went wide and she raced home. The throw to home came in hard, and Martel had to dive for the plate – she looked like Pete Rose from that famous *Sports Illustrated* photo. She slid on her belly and stretched out her hand, and the ump called her safe.

So, after four complete, the Eagles were now leading 2-0. F-Tech got some insurance runs in the fifth. Trudeau reached on an error, and took second on the throw. She proceeded to steal third, and scored on a Lilly Ross RBI.

Ross also stole second, and although Franklin failed to register another hit in the inning, she managed to circle the bases and score F-Tech’s fourth run of the game.

The Birds scored one more run in the sixth inning. Faith Smith drove in Martel to make it 5-zip and the Eagles held on to take the contest.

In the circle, Ross pitched a complete game shutout, scattered three hits, struck out seven, and gave no walks.

At the plate, seven different Franks got hits, and Martel was hit by a pitch; on the base paths, the Eagles stole a combined five bases.

The win keeps Franklin atop the Tri- County League with a record of 10 – 2, with three games left in the regular season.

Because of postponements, the Lady Birds are scheduled to play those three games in four days. On Friday, they travel to Amherst to play the Hurricanes, on Saturday they host the Hatfield Smiths, and on Monday they travel to Northfield to take on the Black Panthers.



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners’ #1 singles player Haleigh Greene returns a serve as the Green Wave hosted the Thunder for a tennis match last week. Greene was on her third game before the other matches had even begun.

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MONTAGUE from page A1

in 2013, filling the last year of veteran member Pat Allen’s final term. He has been working for the Massachusetts health department since 2007 and worked for the Gill-Montague school district “during [his] college years.”

He told the *Reporter* his current plan is to remain on the town board of health, and continue to coordinate events in and near Turners Falls including the annual Great Falls Festival (formerly known as

Pumpkinfest).

Hickman, who was not at the meeting, told the *Reporter* that she had originally planned to stay on as director for “at least four more years,” but decided to retire in order to regularly assist her father, who is in his nineties and living in Greenfield. She said that COVID-induced isolation had significantly increased his need for companionship and support. “My father has been so good to me, and to so many other people, that I’m

glad I have a chance to give back to him,” she said.

Hickman, who originally grew up in New Jersey, was the Montague children’s librarian for 15 years before she became the library director in December 2013. She lives on a “small farm” in Wendell. She told the *Reporter* she intends to be part of the process that hires a new librarian, and assist in the transition after that.

On Monday evening, Ellis said he had attended a meeting of the

library trustees the previous week and had worked on updating the director’s job description with that board. He also said “to the extent that the [selectboard] wishes, I will be part of that hiring committee.”

The process involved in replacing Nelson, who is an elected official, will be more complex. The ballot for the spring June elections has already been finalized, with Kuklewicz in the rotation for re-election. Nelson kept his seat as a write-in candidate last year, and would leave nearly two years on his term. The board seemed in agreement that Nelson’s slot could not be left open until the following spring, which creates the necessity for a fall special election.

Town clerk Deb Bourbeau, who attended the selectboard meeting,

said she needed a “65-day notice” to call a special election allowing time for nomination papers, ballots, “and all that jazz.”

Bourbeau said the 65-day clock starts “when you give my office notice,” not at Nelson’s actual retirement date at the end of August. She also said that she needed to contact the various polling locations, including the Franklin County Technical School and Gill-Montague senior center, to determine their availability.

The board discussed possible Tuesday dates at the end of September and the beginning of October for the special election. Bourbeau said she would investigate those dates further, and get back to the board as soon as possible.



MORE NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

No Local Push for “Herd Immunity”; Second Cannabis Grow Moves Forward

By JEFF SINGLETON

At its weekly joint meeting with the town’s board of health, the Montague selectboard heard that the town’s total two-week count of new COVID-19 cases, as of the previous Saturday, was nine, with only one new case reported in the second week. Health director Daniel Wasiuk also said that 53% of eligible residents of Franklin County had been fully vaccinated, and 64% had received at least one dose.

Wasiuk was asked how the health department was responding to the state’s new vaccination policy, which involves closing down most larger vaccination sites and encouraging a campaign to reach those not yet vaccinated. State Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders has likened the push, designed to increase vaccinations to reach so-called “herd immunity,” to a grassroots political campaign.

Wasiuk responded that vaccines were now widely available, and listed all sites in the area, including pharmacies and hospitals. “Our part as the board of health has slowed down,” he said. “Right now the board of health does not have any plans to run a small clinic, or go door to door.”

Wasiuk went on to say that the board had not received any “input from the community” on the need to play a role in the inoculation push, and that with the end of COVID restrictions the health department had an increased workload, including inspections.

Both the selectboard and board of health voted to rescind the local state of emergency on June 15, pending the Governor’s decision to affirm the previously announced end date at the state level.

They then discussed whether they would be able to hold virtual meetings after that date, which is dependent on whether the state legislature agrees to extend the option. “A lot can happen in two weeks, or a little can happen in two weeks,” said town administrator Steve Ellis. The board will be able to hold its June 14 meeting virtually, but after that, “at the present time, we have to assume those will be in-person meetings,” he said.

A bill to extend virtual meetings to different dates than the Governor has proposed emerged from the state Senate Ways and Means Committee this week, and is expected to be debated by the full Senate this Thursday. Asked by the *Reporter* whether this would leave time for the Governor and legislature to agree on an extension proposal, state senator Joanne Comerford responded, “That’s the plan!”

The board also discussed whether it was necessary to continue to disinfect playground structures at the current COVID rates. Wasiuk said it was no longer needed due to current low “transmission rates.” The board, without a formal vote, decided to “discontinue that practice,” in chair Rich Kuklewicz’s words.

Ellis reported on the town use of federal CARES Act at funding, which can continue through the summer but will be subject to greater state “scrutiny” by the state. He prioritized the need to continue aggressive cleaning of porta-potties in town parks, renting or purchasing a tent for outdoor children’s programs at the Carnegie Library, and “ventilation projects” with a “long-term public health benefit.”

Back to Normalcy?

The board approved potentially moving the annual Native American Pocumtuck Homelands Festival, scheduled for August 6 to 8, from the area on Unity Street on FirstLight property next to the Connecticut River to “the real Unity Park,” in parks and rec director Jon Dobosz’s words.

David Brule of the Nolumbeka Project, one of the

organizers of the festival, called the move “Plan B” in case there is flooding in the traditional location. “As you probably know, the area along the bike path has been subject to flooding, and we’ve had some unbelievable rainstorms in the past,” Brule told the board.

The board also approved a proposal from Mark Lattanzi for an August 1 concert at Unity Park to celebrate the 40th anniversary of WRSI.

“I think it’s a great event,” said Kuklewicz. “Kind of a ‘welcome back’ to normalcy.”

Assistant town planner Suzanne LoManto introduced a report on a “Rapid Recovery Plan” for Turners Falls, funded by a state grant. Dan Hodge, a consultant who prepared the plan, showed a presentation of the report’s current status. The initial phase has included a survey of downtown businesses, and Hodge said the next phase would be developing a list of projects suitable for state funding.

Rural Healthcare

The board executed a deed for 7.9 acres of land in the Turners Falls industrial park with River Bluff Group, LLC, which plans to build a cannabis cultivation facility under the name of Flower Power Growers.

Ellis said the town Economic Development and Industrial Corporation will also have to approve the deed. He told the *Reporter* that Flower Power has received “provisional approval” for its license from the state Cannabis Control Commission, and may now begin constructing its facility.

Ellis also gave an update on the Farren Care Center, recently abandoned as a long-term care facility by Trinity Health of New England Senior Communities.

Trinity has promised to create a redevelopment and marketing plan for the complex. Ellis said “the process does not look exactly like the process we agreed to last fall” but the town had been given a “connection to it.” Trinity has assured Ellis “that they won’t be dumping the building off to an unqualified owner.”

Ellis said that if rehabilitation proved to be “too challenging,” one of the options would be to demolish the facility’s multiple structures and prepare the site for other uses.

“I think what we have from Trinity Health is a clear promise that they will not leave the town with a building that could potentially become an albatross,” Ellis said. “At the same time, I know that they are very sensitive to their long-term carrying costs of the building, and so they are also unlikely to be shopping and marketing this building for a period of years.”

Other Business

Three sewer abatements proposed by water pollution control facility (WPCF) superintendent Chelsey Little were approved by the board, as were a winning bid and a rental contract with Russell Resources Inc. of Brewer, Maine for a new sludge dewatering press. An increase in pay and move to full-time status at the WPCF for Patricia Holloway was also approved.

The board voted to treat the state Juneteenth holiday, which recognizes the 1865 end of slavery in the United States, as a paid holiday for town employees this fiscal year. The vote followed an executive session earlier in the meeting because the issue involved collective bargaining strategy. Kuklewicz noted that there would be more discussion about making the date a permanent public holiday.

Ellis announced that the town would be participating in a three-part “Racial Equity Webinar Training Series” in June and July, sponsored by the Massachusetts Municipal Association.

The next selectboard meeting will be held June 14.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on June 9, 2011: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Towns to School Committee: “We Should Not Be Ignored.”

“I’d like an explanation,” Gill selectboard member Ann Banash told newly re-elected school committee chair Mike Langknecht on Monday.

Banash wanted to know why the Gill-Montague school committee had disregarded a letter from the selectboards of Gill and Montague urging a slower process in picking an interim superintendent for the regional school district.

The letter read, in part, “...the District is at a critical juncture. There are immediate hiring decisions that need to be made (only one administrator is in place for next year) and the Level 4 report must be written and submitted to DESE [the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education]. In addition we believe there needs to be serious discussion now about the future of the District... Last week you accepted the recommendation of the superintendent for an interim superintendent without so much as an interview with the person who was recommended. We certainly understand the urgency of the situation; however it is your responsibility as school committee members to get the absolute best person to lead the district in this critical time. We don’t feel that you have exhausted all the possibilities even in this tight time frame.”

The letter, which Banash read aloud to the school committee on May 24, after receiving the endorsement of all the members of the selectboards of both Montague and Gill, concluded by proposing a hiring committee be formed to search for an interim superintendent, and proposing that the search committee include members of the school committee and representatives of both towns.

After hearing this proposal from Banash on the 24th, the school committee immediately

proceeded to hire Nadine Ekstrom, former special education director for Gill-Montague, on the recommendation of departing superintendent Carl Ladd.

On Monday, Banash wanted to know why.

Langknecht replied, “It’s fair to say Carl [Ladd] did most of the process. He was in a hurry to leave the district – my interpretation. He made some effort to leave the district whole on his way out. His recommendation included an individual to take the interim superintendent job. On the night of reorganization [of the school committee, on May 17] the recommendation was moved, seconded, and approved. I was authorized to go [as school committee chair] negotiate a contract.

Langknecht said he checked with sources in the Massachusetts Association of School Committees about the availability of qualified superintendent candidates at this end of the school year, and heard back from MASC director Glenn Koocher that Gill-Montague was lucky to find any candidate at all.

“I did what I could to check things out,” Langknecht added.

Misfits Welcome to the Prom in Wendell

This Saturday, dust off your corsages and put on your dancing shoes for the third annual Wendell Misfit Prom.

Organizer Donna Horn said the event is a chance for anyone who didn’t like their first prom to have a do-over. Even if you did enjoy your first prom, you won’t be turned away.

“You can go any way you like for this prom,” promised Horn, who moonlights as a cashier at the Wendell Country Store when she is not organizing community events for quirky people.

The all-girl fave band Dedicated to Delilah will be performing live on stage with classics from the ‘60s, ‘70s, and ‘80s, with the surprise addition of Llama Lasagna, described as a theatrical cover band.



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David Kaynor...

.... leaves behind him a deep legacy in Montague Center, and in music and dance scenes far and wide. We hope readers will share their memories, tributes, and photos in the coming weeks.

Chris Wise shared these remarks, which he delivered on April 21 at an award ceremony for the Country Dance and Song Society, which granted Kaynor its 2021 Lifetime Contribution Award.

First of all, happy birthday David, and congratulations for this richly deserved reward. Here in Montague, we're all very proud and happy for you today.

For those of you not familiar with Montague Center, where David has lived since before the invention of dirt, let me just tell you that it's an almost impossibly quaint and traditional New England village. Right on the town common, across from the obligatory congregational church, sits the old grange hall, a stately old vestige from a simpler time. Originally built as a Unitarian church, it was converted by the old grangers into a multipurpose meeting house, complete with a lovely maple floor, perfect for dancing.

Into this historic but slowly fading institution, David and his merry band of contra dancers came a-waltzing, and found not only a perfect venue for dancing, but a genuine connection to the older residents of the town. Under his leadership, the hall became home to all manner of dances, concerts, and workshops, from weekly family dances to week-long fiddle workshops.

In fact, it was in the basement of this very building that I first met David over 20 years ago. There was a contra dance advertised on an



Will Quale took this photo of David (far right) at a session on his birthday in April 2019.

old-fashioned flyer (which we learned later that David himself had hand lettered) and we wanted to meet people in our new neighborhood. We arrived a little early and found a potluck dinner in full swing, with David at the center of the bustle. He was so cheerful and welcoming that we were immediately charmed, and I wanted to know all about this place.

David introduced me to the beauty of the hall and the strange rituals of the Grange, and within months I was initiated with pomp and circumstance as a member. David was the Montague Grange's longest serving master, and through his leadership and tenacity he kept a thriving Grange here for years after most others had shut their doors.

Once it became clear that the Grange as an

institution was no longer sustainable in such a small town, David had the vision and grace to help us transition to the hall's current status as a non-profit community center called the Montague Common Hall. It is no exaggeration to say the hall would probably not exist today if it wasn't for David's boundless enthusiasm for keeping it going for so many years.

Back in September of last year, we named the main space in his honor, the David Kaynor Music & Dance Hall. Obviously, and sadly, we haven't been able to use the hall recently, as we seem to be cursed to live in "interesting times". We are all feeling the effects of infections, both biological and social, that are running through our lives.

But David helps us remember that it's

not just microbes and viral memes that can spread from person to person. Laughter, music, and dance can also be infectious. David's "two thumbs up" enthusiasm is what drew so many of us here in Montague into his orbit, and his generosity and boundless energy have kept us there. He makes big problems seem small, and small kindnesses seem large.

Thank you David, for all you've done for our little town.

His close friend and caretaker Will Quale shared these reflections with the Reporter:

David was largely responsible for my moving to Montague Center nine years ago: I was drawn by the joy of Montague May Day and the appeal of David's welcoming all-comers Monday night tunes session. I bought and renovated a house with the idea of creating a space for house concerts and musical gatherings, and a few years later David became my housemate. Moreover, his Monday night tunes session moved in, and it was a delight to see him thrive in such a musical space.

Ironically, given how often we each traveled, I think we spent more time together as housemates during the pandemic years when we both stayed at Becky Hollingsworth's, David in a makeshift home hospital room and I as one of his live-in care team.

David provided encouragement for the daily singing on the town common, through which outdoor socially distanced music sustained many individuals and created a new musical community in the village, and David was delighted on the occasions he could wheel out to the common to join us.

David, we'll keep singing and making music in Montague, for ourselves and for each other and for those yet to discover our village and always, always for you.

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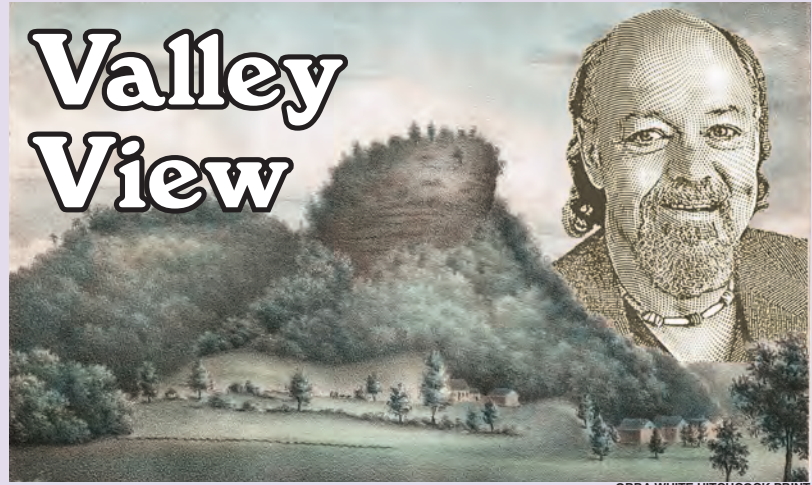
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By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – One never knows what interesting little tidbits of local lore will appear in 19th-century newspapers, be they little blurbs of town gossip, full-length news stories, obituaries, articles of interest lifted and “localized” from faraway publications, and even advertisements.

To briefly digress, I can’t help but recall aspiring young reporters who joined the newsroom from fancy collegiate J-schools and were immediately confronted with the dreaded assignment of “localizing” a wire story that had been all over the TV news. The ploy was to bring the national story home by channeling it through local people and places.

I can still hear the instructions no one wanted directed their way – instructions that produced rolling eyes behind the assignment editors’ backs: “You know the drill,” the editor would say. “Put a local spin on it. Get quotes from this person or that.”

Pee-yew! It reeks of John Q. Average, lazy, unimaginative newspaper editor manufacturing “local” news for small dailies, a stench any cub reporters worth their salt immediately recognize. Idealistic and eager to roll up their reporting sleeves, they’d prefer probing a complicated investigative piece exposing crime, corruption, or professional misconduct, something new and exciting that creates a community buzz.

Of course, my experience is from late 20th and early 21st century newsrooms removed more than 170 years from the story we will examine here. Wire news came to us electronically, 24/7 through cyberspace, a far cry from the pre-radio and television era of newspaper publishing. Our oldest newspapers relied on post riders, stagecoaches, and railroads to deliver “wire” news from faraway cities like Boston, New York and Philadelphia, nearer still, Hartford, Albany and Worcester.

Back then, most of the local news came from community correspondents living within their paper’s circulation, be they full-time “stringers” trolling their towns for news on their daily travels or venerable guest contributors commenting on current events within

their area of expertise. Plus, of course, editors that put the paper together would also consistently chime in on important issues.

The interesting front-page story I recently stumbled across in the weekly *Greenfield Gazette and Courier* dated Tuesday, January 25, 1848 touched on a familiar topic that immediately seized my attention. Written by guest contributor Dr. Stephen W. Williams (1790-1855) – a Deerfield physician from the same “royal” family that produced the so-called “Redeemed Captive,” Rev. John Williams – the understated headline read *Rattlesnakes – Crotalus Horridus* (which is Latin for timber rattlesnake). A lengthy newspaper story for its time and place, it was reprinted from the scholarly *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*.

Williams’ narrative was written in reaction to a tragic snake-bite that had six weeks earlier (December 10, 1847) killed a New York City physician named Arnold F. Wainwright. Because Williams identified the victim only as Dr. Wainwright with no hint of a first name, we can assume the writer knew that readers were well aware of a story that had gone viral. That likelihood is buttressed by the fact that Williams also failed to provide details about the crazy snakebite itself. His objective was obviously to give local readers a follow-up on the latest rattlesnake science, where they were found, the potency and medicinal value of their venom, and the newest medical treatment for those bitten by them.

Plus, of course, he wanted to present his narrative through a Franklin County lens. He accomplished that objective right up front by informing readers that rattlesnakes “were formerly found in great abundance in our sandstone and greenstone ranges of mountains in Deerfield and Greenfield, but few are found there now. Occasionally we hear of their being killed upon Mount Toby and the range of mountains east of the Connecticut River in this county.”

Then came the intriguing kicker that really sunk in its hooks – in an interesting bit of Deerfield folklore attributed to the December 8, 1835 *Franklin Mercury* and pulled by Williams from Massachusetts Historical Society archives. see **VALLEY VIEW** page B3

The Great Montague and Leverett Flood: Residents Look Back After 25 Years

By DONNA PETERSEN

MONTAGUE – Driving down East Chestnut Hill, all is green and growing. On a hot June day, the Chestnut Hill Brook is a tame stream, often only three feet wide, with low water gently tumbling over rocks. At the bottom of the hill, it joins up with the slow moving Sawmill River and there is very low water behind the old dam. Twenty-five years ago, on June 13, 1996, it was a very different story.

I stayed home from work that Thursday. The weather did not seem threatening – just a late spring day. I watered the deck plants at my Montague Center apartment and left the stock pot I had used for watering outside.

At some point in the afternoon, it started to rain; it was a rain unlike any I had seen before. The air seemed to be water. I don’t know how long it lasted exactly but after what felt like a couple of hours it slowed and eventually stopped. I checked the stock pot I had emptied and there were about six inches of rainwater in the pot.

I could hear sounds of disturbance from around Montague Center, and realized that things were amiss.

The few records I could find about the flood are brief, and say that the National Weather Service calls it a 100-year or possibly even a 500-year event.



The 1996 flood badly damaged roads in North Leverett. This still was taken from a video compiled by Ruth West, which can be viewed on Youtube.

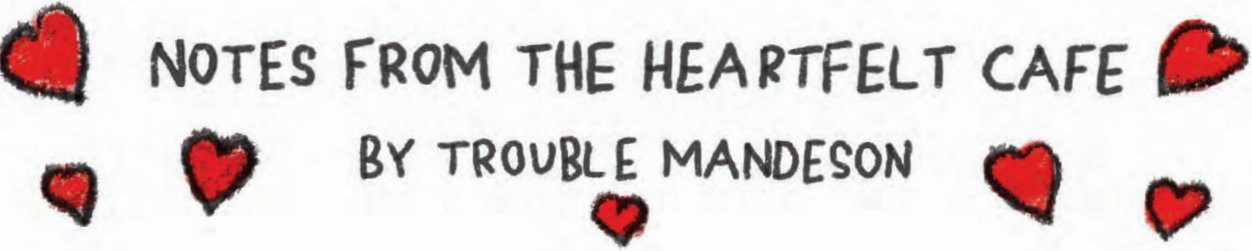
Brian Emond of Leverett was a National Weather Service observer at the time, and said the Weather Service reported a chain of six storms approaching. When the microburst did hit, it was extremely localized, inundating parts of North Leverett and Montague Center and up into Chestnut and Montague State Forest.

With estimates of from 5.5 to 7 inches of rain falling in no more than two hours, Williams Brook, Chestnut Hill Brook, and Spaulding Brook became raging torrents, overflowing their rocky banks. Then, those streams poured into

the Sawmill River already swollen with waters from further upstream, creating a powerful surge of water as the Sawmill wound its way to the Connecticut River.

Emond told me of watching as the waters surrounded his home next to the Sawmill, and seeing his canoe start off downstream, running off after it and catching it in waist-deep water as he realized there was lightning and thunder in the air.

Ruth West and Carole King, who live up Dudleyville Road, started to walk to the Village Co-Op and thought they heard thunder, but it see **FLOOD** page B2



A platter of ready-to-eat lobster.

GREENFIELD – Memorial Day weekend has just passed, and I don’t know about you, but for me it was all about the food this year. Well, that and seeing beloved friends for the first time in ages. This year for the long holiday weekend we headed to New Jersey to join up with a long-awaited gathering of friends, including those coming from New York City and New Orleans, all weary of COVID-19, all fully vaccinated, and all more than ready to spend time enjoying each other’s company.

We hoped to recreate the magical time we had when together on the very same weekend six years ago. The memory of that time still resonates strongly with me as it was a riotous three days full of excellent food, drink, smoke, laughter, tears, and stories, so many stories... and so many runs to Wegmans to stock up on more! More beer, potatoes, corn, berries, wine, ice, bacon – wait, pick up another dozen eggs, more wine, grab some chips, we need more beer – and on it went, a splendidly hedonistic blur of walks to the ocean, naps in the hammock, drives to Wegmans, and an endless parade of consumables.

I’m happy to report that my wife won \$80 this past weekend from the betting pool with the correct guess of six total runs to Wegmans.

see **HEARTFELT** page B8

Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

“EMILIANO ZAPATA”

Hi, my name is Emiliano Zapata! I’m very cute but also a little nervous about being handled, and not really used to people yet. Because I am so small and so fidgety I am not a good pet for a small child.

An older child or adult who understands I don’t really enjoy being held, who has some time and patience for me, is the kind of home I’m looking for!

Hamsters are nocturnal, which means that we love to sleep during

the day and play at night. We have poor eyesight and are easily startled, and when startled we may nip, so take it slow when picking us up!

The hamster adoption fee is \$17. 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.

FLOOD from page B1

was big boulders tumbling down the stream. They watched as their neighbor’s little covered footbridge washed away.

The house that is just below the falls on Rattlesnake Gutter Road was totally inundated, an island in a streaming torrent. Other houses and outbuildings were also swamped up and down the affected area.

Later that day and into the evening, people came out to see the damage or just to try and get home from work or school. West and King made it to the Village Co-Op, where folks gathered, and they remembered “everyone was in awe” and disbelief.

Nancy Folbre left work at UMass and made it to the bottom of what had been Chestnut Hill Road and found her husband, Bob Dworak, waiting across the washed-out bridge and damaged road with a rope so he could help her get across the gap full of still flowing water. They walked home to Chestnut Hill Loop.

Lisa Enzer of East Chestnut Hill Road left her job at the Montague Center School, drove through door-high water to make it to Chestnut Hill Road, and then hiked up through the woods to her home.

Later that evening, Brian Emond put lawn chairs across North Leverett Road to block cars because there was a hole in the road he estimated to be seven feet deep and about twelve feet across. He watched a police car stop and move the chairs and proceed to attempt to drive on the road, not quite stopping in time. A fire vehicle behind him helped get the dangling front



Another still from West’s video compilation shows a car caught in a sinkhole.

end of the police car back on the pavement.

According to the then-Leverett road boss, Will Stratford, the Montague road boss attempted to drive through deep water on the remaining side of North Leverett Road in his pickup, and “the waters picked the truck up and spun it around, facing the way he had come.”

Two friends of mine were returning from Boston later that night, and unaware of the storm, attempted to drive up from Millers Falls to Wendell. Oops! – they had to back down when they realized the other side of the road was just not there anymore.

To illustrate how localized this event was, Leverett was holding its “Leverett in Bloom” gardening tour and sale at the time. Three of the tour sites were in North Leverett and were washed out. When those gardeners called the other organizers about postponing the tour, those folks couldn’t understand what the “northerners” were talking about. Flood? What flood?

As the extensive damage became obvious, the National Guard was called in. They would have to repair roads and culverts, replace and repair bridges, and more.

The National Guard came through the Wendell/Millers Falls end of East Chestnut Hill Road that goes unmaintained through the Montague State Forest to help the isolated residents of Chestnut Hill.



Scan this QR code to watch the video of the 1996 flood!

Senior Center Activities

JUNE 14 THROUGH 18

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center will be resuming aerobics and chair exercise classes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. respectively beginning on June 14. The weekly knitting circle at 1 p.m. on Mondays will resume on June 7.

Monthly Brown Bag on the first Thursday of the month, Foot Clinic on the second Wednesday, and the Western Mass Food Bank Parking Lot Pantry on the third Wednesday have continued through the pandemic and are all ongoing. Drop-in hours, other regular programs, and meals may be added by the end of June. Un-vaccinated guests and participants will be required to wear face masks.

The Council on Aging staff and volunteers are 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 e-mail.

ERVING

Senior Center director Paula Betters writes:

“Erving Senior Center is still

closed to the public. We are here daily taking calls and doing outreach work for seniors and their families. Call with any questions or concerns, need help with SHINE, SNAP. We are also taking calls to help seniors sign up for their COVID vaccine. We are here to help make a difference.” Paula can be reached at (413) 423-3649 or paula-betters@erving-ma.gov.

LEVERETT

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

WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is open for a foot care clinic the first-Wednesday of each month. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments. Otherwise, there are no activities. The Senior Health Rides is also suspended until advisories change. For more information, call Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

Senior Grocery Hours

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. Curbside pickup & delivery is available on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. (413) 773-9567

McCusker’s Market: Curbside pickup available from 10 to 11 a.m. Order by 1 p.m. for pickup the following day. Delivery available Monday to Friday. Email pickup@franklincommunity.coop (413) 625-2548

Stop and Shop: Senior hours from 6 to 7:30 a.m. (413) 774-6096

OUT OF THE PARK JUNE 2021

By JON DOBOSZ

UNITY PARK – Hello everyone! Well, summer is finally here. Hard to imagine how quickly the seasons come and go, but we’re certainly geared up for a few fun-filled months ahead.

When people think about summer, most often many think about camp, and we’re no exception. **MPRD’s Summer Camp** will be starting in the next few weeks – June 28, to be exact – and we’re putting together a great program for kids ages 5 to 12. Our summer camp operates Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., through August 13. We have daily activities, trips to Laurel Lake, and some other field trips for your kids.

The camp is \$85 per week for Montague campers and \$100 per week for non-resident campers. Children may register for the entire summer or selected weeks.

The Gill-Montague Regional School District is also offering scholarships for those children who are enrolled in the district and free lunch for all campers. At the time of this article, we only have a few



spots remaining, so feel free to view our camp brochure on our website, www.montagueparksrec.com, and contact us ASAP to register.

We would also like to announce that we are partnering with RiverCulture to bring back **Movies in the Park**. Movies are scheduled for Friday evenings on June 11 and 25, July 9, and August 13 at Peskeomskut Park on Avenue A in Turners Falls. Our June 11 film will be *Raya and the Last Dragon*, with the June 25 movie being *Mary Poppins Returns*. The July and August movies are to be determined.

MPRD is also bringing back **Night Skates** on July 31 and August 28, when we illuminate the

Unity Skate Park to allow skaters the opportunity to enjoy the park through 10 p.m.

Finally, be sure to mark your calendars for the return of the **Montague Soap Box Race**, scheduled for Sunday, September 19 at Unity Park and First Street. MPRD, in partnership with Nova Motorcycles and Montague WebWorks, is looking forward to this great community event returning.

We’re still tinkering with the details, but if you’re planning to enter your own cart for the race, please log onto montaguesoapboxraces.com. There are three age divisions: Youth ages 8 to 12, Teens ages 13 to 19, and Adult ages 20 and up. If you’re interested, get ready to build.

That’s about it from here. If you wish to receive additional information on these and other programs simply contact us at (413) 863-3216, check out our website, or view our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Enjoy the start of summer, and we’ll talk to you in July!

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

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Montague Community Television News

Ceremonial Recordings

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – Congratulations Graduates! The Turners Falls High School honored their graduating seniors last week.

Both the awards ceremony and the graduation were filmed by MCTV, and are now available on the MCTV Vimeo Page which can be found linked to the website *montaguetv.org* under the tab “Videos.”

All community members are welcome to submit their videos to be aired on Channel 17, as well as featured on Vimeo. MCTV is always available to assist in local video production as well. Cameras, tripods,

and lighting equipment are available for checkout, and filming and editing assistance can be provided.

The MCTV board is looking for new board members, specifically someone interested in filling the role of treasurer. The station is also looking to hire a producer to make Spanish-language content. Please email *infomontaguetv@gmail.com* with a resume to schedule an interview!

Something going on you think others would like to see? If you get in touch, we can show you how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment. Contact us at (413) 863-9200 or *infomontaguetv@gmail.com*.

VALLEY VIEW from page B1

Below (in italics) is my lightly edited version of this local anecdote.

A Mr. Jonathan Hawks was ploughing not far from the mountain called Sugar Loaf that lies near the ferry leading to Sunderland, when he noticed a number of turkeys coming into the field and got his gun to kill them. Before he was ready the turkeys made off toward the mountain and, as he was advancing up the same, he was surrounded by a number of rattlesnakes.

Being of a heroic spirit, and man-like, loathe to turn and run, though surrounded by such spiteful and malignant serpents (as those serpents are the most spiteful of any serpents that crawl upon the ground), he set down his gun, (as they had none,) and took a stick that lay handy. He stood his ground and fought them, killing 34 serpents on the spot. The rest were so frightened at the valor and activity of the man, that they were glad to quit the field of battle and hide themselves in the holes under the rocks and leave the hero in the possession of the field. He took 33 eggs out of the snakes he killed, thus destroying in all 67 serpents.

I find it interesting that Williams – himself the descendant of an iconic, early Deerfield family – did not attempt to further identify protagonist Hawks by connecting him to a Franklin County Hawks household of the day. Also, perhaps due to time limitations, he was willfully vague about when the incident unfolded, willing only to speculate that it “must have occurred nearly 100 years ago.” Obviously, the 1835 *Herald* story was published decades and perhaps even generations after the incident, thus the original correspondent didn’t know the date either.

Further research through George Sheldon’s *History of Deerfield* genealogies indicates that Williams’ knee-jerk estimate probably should have been prefaced by “more than 50 (instead of 100) years ago.” The only Jonathan Hawks (1762-1792) I could find living in Deerfield in the late 18th century appears to have been the son of Asa (1732-1801) and Elizabeth Smead Hawks (1732-1816) of South Deerfield’s western farm village of Mill River. That Jonathan Hawks married Mary French of Greenfield and, according to Deerfield vital statistics, died as head of a town household.

As for the story itself, well, let’s just surmise that it had over time been “slightly” exaggerated, embellished, or in news-critic parlance

“sensationalized.” Nonetheless, can there really be any question that rattlesnakes were once common in parts of Franklin County, and especially along Mount Sugarloaf’s sun-baked talus slopes? After all, such rocky terrain is classic snake habitat. In fact, I believe it’s safe to assume that an expert snake-hunter or daring hiker could still today stir up a rattler there on a hot summer day. Rattlesnakes and copperheads are not uncommon a short distance south of Sugarloaf, in the Mount Tom Range between Interstate 91 and the Westfield River in Woronoco.

So, enough about Mr. Hawks. Let’s move on to unfortunate Dr. Wainwright who, incidentally, probably got exactly what he deserved. And, no, this snakebite *did* not occur in the wild, but rather in an oil-lamp-lit city tavern.

Although Williams spared *Gazette* and *Courier* readers all the gory details of Wainwright’s tragic final hours, eyewitness D.B. Taylor – on the scene from snakebite to death – laid it all out in a New York *Globe* piece picked up by the upstate *Albany Evening News* on December 13, 1847. In italics below is my slightly edited version of the front-page story that shook New York, New England, and eventually the nation.

Most Horrible Death from the Bite of a Rattlesnake

... On (the afternoon of Dec. 9, 1847), Dr. W. received from a brother-in-law in Alabama, through the mail, a number of rare plants, etc. from that state. Also, probably for the purpose of furnishing a subject for scientific experiments, a six-foot-long rattlesnake was included in the package.

The reptile was securely boxed, but it seems that Dr. W. for the purpose of exhibiting it to some friends in the evening, took the box to the Broadway House on the corner of Grand and Broadway. There, knocking off the top, the snake was let loose upon the barroom floor. Throwing itself into a coil, the dangerous creature immediately commenced that low hum, or species of ringing (not a rattle), that is peculiar to the species, and seemed inclined to remain quiet. Probably the change of climate produced a sort of torpor, and it was repeatedly teased with a stick. Without betraying much viciousness, indeed, one gentleman ventured so far as to raise it with the toe of his boot, no less, escaping unscathed.

After being exposed some twenty minutes to the gaze of those present, Dr. Wainwright attempted to return

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Grandparent Scam; Bridge Graffiti; Skunky Dumpster; Migratory Way Gate Traps Cars 4 Nights Out Of 7

Monday, 5/31
10:12 a.m. 911 caller from Cumberland Farms reporting that another vehicle has struck her car. Report taken.
9:30 p.m. Motorist locked inside gate at Silvio O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center on Migratory Way. Services rendered.
10:41 p.m. Caller from Montague City Road states that the upstairs neighbor children are being loud.
Tuesday, 6/1
10:24 a.m. Caller reports receiving two calls for the grandparent scam.
10:57 a.m. Report from Fairway Avenue of a fawn that appears to be alone. Caller suspects something happened to its mother; requesting to speak with environmental police or animal control officer. EP number provided.
11:22 a.m. Report from Montague City Road of a male kicking a dog repeatedly and the dog squealing when the man kicks it. Reported to be in progress. Caller states that two males were working on a vehicle with CT plates. Description provided of male observed kicking dog. Dog described as a pit bull/rottweiler with a chain around its neck. ACO and patrol units advised and responding. Caller called back with plate number; also advised he spoke with neighbor and confirmed males took the dog with them in the vehicle, last seen heading toward Avenue A. Unable to locate. Units will continue to be on lookout.
2:32 p.m. Report of two-vehicle accident at Bridge and East Main streets. Minor damage to one vehicle. Both vehicles have left area. Advised of options.
5:40 p.m. Caller reported a vehicle was tailgating her all the way down the

mountain from Greenfield onto Canal Street, then illegally passed her and flipped her off. Caller stated the driver is in a gold car that was currently parked at the tech school. Area search negative.
7:54 p.m. Greenfield PD requesting female officer to assist in a search. Services rendered.
Wednesday, 6/2
7:30 a.m. Multiple calls reporting accident at Unity and Grove streets. All callers advise negative for injuries, smoke, fluids, or airbag deployment. Officer requesting TFFD for traffic control; other patrol unit committed on another call. One caller called back advising his wife and son are now complaining of injuries. Report taken.
10:35 a.m. Caller reporting graffiti on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge that appeared approximately one or two months ago; requesting graffiti be removed. Officer provided caller with number for DPW.
12:37 p.m. Caller from Third Street reporting hit and run to her vehicle in her driveway; suspects one of the Verizon trucks involved with pole work downtown yesterday hit it. Caller reports damage and paint transfer to her vehicle. Officer advises to have caller contact MPD when she is back home.
12:50 p.m. Caller from G Street reporting that a year ago his neighbor put a dumpster on his property; advises it is attracting skunks and other wildlife and he wants the neighbor to remove it. Officer spoke with caller, who advised the dumpster is not actually on his property but is close to it. Officer referred caller to board of health.
7:54 p.m. Caller from Fifth Street reporting a male party in a red sedan

smoking something off of a piece of tin foil in a vehicle outside her residence. While on the line, male party drove off. No plate or person description given. Unable to locate.
Thursday, 6/3
9:28 a.m. Caller from Swamp Road reporting theft of a catalytic converter. Report taken.
11:48 a.m. 911 hangup call. On callback, spoke with caller, who advised misdial; a button was pressed when he put the phone in a compartment on his tractor. Officer confirmed misdial.
1:01 p.m. Message left in general mailbox requesting to have on record that a bear came through the caller’s yard on Millers Falls Road overnight.
3:53 p.m. Caller requesting number for environmental police; has several raccoons on his property that he would like assistance relocating. EP number provided.
5:27 p.m. Caller states that while he was walking his dogs on Millers Falls Road, a dog from a neighboring property was off leash and ran after his dogs. The dog came onto the sidewalk and tried to attack, but the caller had two dogs with him and they fought back. Caller given number for ACO.
7:05 p.m. 911 caller from Roosevelt Street states that two dogs got into a fight, then broke loose from their owners and are running through the neighborhood. Owners located. One owner advised to quarantine her dog; other owners are taking their dog to the vet.
7:39 p.m. 911 caller from Old Greenfield Road reporting that people from a neighboring location are continuing to trespass on his property. All parties advised of options.
11:16 p.m. Caller from L Street reports that next-door neighbor is starting a fire in his backyard and using gasoline to get it going. Shelburne Control notified to tone TFFD.
Friday, 6/4
6:08 a.m. First of many annoying/harassing phone calls received by dispatch.
9:15 a.m. Report of a bear wandering between houses on Turnpike Road. ACO off today. Nearest Environmental Police officer is in Pittsfield on another bear call. Officer advises bear has moved up to the wooded area by Laurel Lane. Call placed to TFHS school resource officer to advise.
1:23 p.m. Caller from Park Street reporting scam call where caller posed as an employee of the Sheriff’s Department. No personal info given out.
4:45 p.m. Officer checking on male party walking near high school who

the snake to the box, and for that purpose, foolishly seized the venomous viper with his naked hand. In an instant, with only the slightest premonitory rattle, the reptile raised his head, threw back his upper jaw, and struck. The fangs entered Mr. W’s fingers, fastening on the inside of the ring-finger of the right hand!

The rest is dreadful history.

Although in the neighborhood of one of the nation’s best medical colleges and hospitals, with many top doctors available, Wainwright could not be saved. As his swelling and pain migrated, he begged for emergency amputation of his entire arm as a desperate life-saving measure. When sophisticated medical consultation deemed amputation inadvisable, the emergency measure was nixed and the victim was soon sinking into his death throes.

Wainwright, 36, a Brit, left a wife and two children. His careless behavior was likely buoyed by alcohol in a raucous tavern scene. He poked the proverbial hornets’ nest and got stung with a lethal dose of venom. Frankly, the astute professor of medicine and chemistry should have known better.

A moral to the story? Maybe to handle with care any and all packages from in-laws.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEVERETT POLICE LOG

Groundhog Attack; Medical Emergencies

Saturday, 5/1

11:02 a.m. Caller from Montague Road got home to find smoke in her home and all the outlets are black. She has limited power and was aware there was some type of outage last evening. She was unable to get hold of an electrician and does not know if her house is safe. Put in a request for assistance from Eversource; FD on location saying all set.

Sunday, 5/2

12:09 p.m. Medical emergency on Long Plain Road.

Monday, 5/3

6:56 a.m. GEICO called advising they received a report from a client from Long Plain Road that he struck a turkey in the Cranberry Pond area. Requested an officer to take a report. Officer advised damage is minor; he will take pictures and forward them.

Tuesday, 5/4

6:04 p.m. Abandoned 911 cell call from North Leverett Road. On callback, spoke with caller who advised he was returning a loose dog and was assaulted. Denied need for medical attention.

Wednesday, 5/5

5:39 p.m. 911 transfer from Montague. Caller advises a small tree is resting on the wires on Depot Road. 5:53 p.m.: Officer advises the tree is resting on the primary lines. Although they are insulated it will need to be addressed. Eversource advised. 7:36 p.m.: Officer providing lights/traffic for Eversource.

Friday, 5/7

6:33 p.m. Tree limb on the power lines on Long Hill Road. Power company advised.

Saturday, 5/8

6:08 p.m. Caller from Montague is asking to meet his ex at station to do the custody exchange of their daughter tomorrow morning. Voicemail left for ex. Former wife advises she will not meet for the transfer and will submit paperwork to the courts as the custodial parent. Message

relayed to caller who stated he understood.

Monday, 5/10

9:24 p.m. Medical emergency on Still Corner Road. Seizure call transferred from Amherst with ambulance *en route*.

Tuesday, 5/11

7:27 p.m. Medical emergency on North Leverett Road.

Wednesday, 5/12

11:59 a.m. Medical emergency on Still Corner Road.

Thursday, 5/13

2:39 p.m. Caller from Long Plain Road reports Raymour & Flanagan box truck all over the road, highly erratic, in and out of the breakdown lane with a brake light out. Officer found vehicle on Depot Road and observed for about three miles to Amherst line. Did not observe erratic operation.

6:32 p.m. Medical emergency involving seizure on Still Corner Road.

Friday, 5/14

4:59 p.m. Caller from North Leverett Road reporting ongoing speeding by trucks. Conducting radar in the area.

6:36 p.m. Caller reports odor of burning wood on Hemenway Road. Grass Roots Landscaping burning stumps.

Saturday, 5/15

10:37 a.m. Caller from Cave Hill Road states a groundhog is attacking her dogs and chickens. She has secured her animals, but it keeps coming back. Set up Have-a-Heart trap with bait. Did not observe any open wounds on pets.

1:49 p.m. Caller from Cave Hill Road states she was attacked by the groundhog when she went into her backyard. Officer dispatched groundhog.

5:51 p.m. Medical emergency on Sprinkle Road. Possible heat exhaustion.

7:10 p.m. Caller from Still Corner Road reported she was leaving her friend's house and noticed the tail lights on the neighbor's Prius were on.

After touching the car she realized it was running. Nobody came to the door although the elderly female is at residence. Made contact with the homeowner who is hard of hearing and didn't have hearing aids in. Car shut off.

Wednesday, 5/19

9:09 a.m. Alarm on Long Plain Road. Operator reached homeowner, but she did not confirm password. Account requires sending police if the password is not provided.

12:48 p.m. Officer visited Cushman Road on an investigation of mail burned last night. 6:41 p.m. Caller asked for an officer in reference to a past issue with people camping and having fires near the waterfalls on Long Plain Road. People camping in Sunderland on the other side of the train tracks have been having fires between Ox Hill and Roaring Mountain Falls. Caller advised to contact UMass PD; info to be given to Sunderland PD. She also requests extra patrols at night for illegal dumping.

Friday, 5/21

10:38 a.m. Caller advises his wife has a flat tire on Long Plain Road. He is *en route* from Gill.

5:51 p.m. Toured property on Juggler Meadow Road for emergency responses.

Saturday, 5/22

6:07 p.m. Caller from Depot Road called about a bear. Found that bear left area.

Sunday, 5/23

1:30 p.m. Caller from Montague Road reporting a neighbor burning trash and it's pretty windy. 1:54 p.m.: Fire extinguished, homeowner advised of rules.

4:51 p.m. Motor vehicle accident involving a motorcycle reported on Cave Hill Road.

4:54 p.m.: Lifestar will use the conservation/field area close to the scene. 5:03 p.m.: CPR in progress. 5:06 p.m.: Lifestar advised of location change to the elementary school, and then canceled.



By MISHEL IXCHEL

TURNERS FALLS – No two pregnancies are alike. There are some folks who love being pregnant, and feel just about great from start to finish. Others are not as fortunate: the most famous of these accounts belong to Kate Middleton, Duchess of Cambridge, who suffered from hyperemesis, an extreme form of morning sickness that eventually landed her in the hospital.

There are so many factors that play into pregnancy, and I've come to learn that nutrition and meditation play a major role in the experience.

When I was pregnant with my first child, I truly had no idea what to expect. When morning sickness hit, I was caught off guard and soon found myself in a downward spiral of agony and illness.

For me, morning sickness was all day, every day for three months. It was a vicious cycle that started with nausea, which altogether annihilated my appetite. I was so sick I didn't want to eat, and because I wasn't eating my blood sugar level was perpetually low. Plus I was living in New York City, where the air is stale and polluted and there are a thousand smells – not all of them pleasant. I carried vomit bags with me everywhere I went. I threw up on the subway, in the streets, in bathrooms, staircases, in the car... the list goes on.

Turns out that in order to keep

The Bump Made Me Eat It

morning sickness at bay, one needs to stabilize blood sugar, amongst other things. By the end of my first trimester, I had barely consumed any food or drink and I lost 15 pounds. Because my physical body was in a state of hell, my mental health suffered as well. I battled depression. I went from feeling vibrant and healthy to thinking about suicide and death almost on the daily. Not knowing when it would stop was the worst. I knew that it could potentially get better in the second or third trimester, or on the flip side, it could be my experience all nine months.

Like a light switch, within a week into my second trimester, the nausea and sickness dissipated and I once again began to feel like myself. I started eating once again, and while the rest of the pregnancy and childbirth had their own set of struggles, I could have done it all with my eyes closed after surviving those first three months of torture.

So imagine my gut-wrenching fear when, a couple of months ago, I found out I was pregnant again. I dove into the literature and I got my hands on every possible product and naturopathic medicine that could help me navigate morning sickness. The one piece of prevalent advice was this: eat throughout the day, and eat lots of protein.

I made this my full-time job. My plant-based diet was soon eclipsed by the consumption of meat, dairy, and carbs. As expected, by week five I started to feel ill. For an entire month, I lay around in agony, force feeding myself all the protein I could get my hands on and cursing the day I was born. I was not

feeling any better and depression soon followed.

It wasn't until a couple of weeks ago, as I was about to start my yoga practice – the one thing that brought some relief – that it hit me like a ton of bricks: *of course* I'm sick. I tuned in to my body and realized just how inflamed my system was. All of the animal protein I had eaten out of fear and in order to avoid sickness was nothing but an over-compensation. And there it sat, in my belly, badly digested, fermenting and making me ill.

At that moment, I remembered what my body likes, what it best runs on, and within a day of flipping back to a plant-based diet I was already starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

It took about a week to bounce out of that extreme sickness. I'm navigating the rest of my first trimester far better than the onset of this pregnancy, and even more so than my first time round.

I'm also learning to what degree the mind has power over the body: it is no coincidence that when I am deep in my yoga practice, my meditation, I feel relief. So when I'm not on my yoga mat, I have to remember to keep my thoughts in check, because the wrong thoughts unchecked will sit around, fermenting like dead animal meat.

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

Transported by ambulance. 6:31 p.m.: Ernie's *en route* for tow.

Monday, 5/24

12 noon. Assisted citizen, Montague Road.

5:25 p.m. Caller from Bull Hill Road reported that earlier he was on Route 63 in Leverett when a dark green pickup began tailgating him and turned on red flashing lights, almost driving off the road and smashing into another vehicle. The caller followed him and the truck operator yelled "I'm the police," then told him he was in the FD. Caller felt threatened by a crazy person, took down the plate number.

8:23 p.m. Caller from Richardson Road was walking her dog in the woods and met a woman with a dog off leash. Caller asked her to control her dog, but no action was taken. Both dogs friendly, but caller

wanted it documented. ACO noted this is the third complaint of leash law violations in five months.

Tuesday, 5/25

1:18 a.m. Report of a dark-colored hatchback-type vehicle pulled over on North Leverett Road with the door open and someone sitting in the passenger seat with one leg out. Caller thought it strange for this hour. 1:46 a.m.: Officer advising no one with vehicle, checked registration. 2:27 a.m.: Owner is on scene with her father and is checking her vehicle to make sure nothing was missing. 2:29 a.m.: No emergency; nothing taken from vehicle.

12:45 p.m. Caller from Juggler Meadow Road had questions about complaints made by neighbor; is new to area and had questions about bylaws. May seek mediation.

Wednesday, 5/26

9:55 a.m. Operator hit a piece of metal on Long Plain Road, but cannot locate debris. Found a large shard of glass that punctured tire. Operator is putting on spare tire.

10:29 a.m. Report of a landscaping truck blocking a section of Shutesbury Road. Agreed to move.

12:52 p.m. 911 hang-up from Dudleyville Road. On callback left message on machine. Familiar with both parties and provided mediation. Both were extremely grateful.

Thursday, 5/27

7:55 a.m. Loose dog reported near Route 63 and Long Hill Road. Checked the area, did not find dog.

8:08 a.m. Snapping turtle in the roadway on Route 63 and Long Plain Road. Helped turtle cross street. 10:56 a.m. Helped citizen on Montague Road drop

off expired antibiotics.

12:06 p.m. Courtesy call to a resident. Motor vehicle passed officer earlier; report from database showed expired license. Left a message advising party that license expired in April with directions to renew online.

12:10 p.m. Walk-in from Teawaddle Hill Road with report that yesterday morning around 11 a.m. a Whittier Plumbing & Heating truck backed into her driveway. Service representative said he had a work order showing the house had been vacant since December and he should check the second floor. Citizen said that she has been living there the whole time and that the house has no second floor.

12:43 p.m. Caller from Montague Road called to apologize for hitting a fox. Advised her it was already removed.

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FUNDRAISER

Paws on the Town

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I like doing certain topics for my articles, such as concerts, and things the Dakin animal shelter does for events. The last time, Dakin had a pet food drive that I covered. This time they are doing something kind of unique, which is called Paws On The Town.

Dakin’s official website said this started on June 1, and goes on the whole month. Around June 22, various restaurants in the area will donate part of their customers’ bill to the shelter when they eat at the places involved. There are two different kinds of restaurant locations involved – one is called “premier” and the other is “participating.”

I know one premier location, Ice Cream Alley, which is in Greenfield. Participating ones in Greenfield are Bart’s Homemade Ice Cream and Bonnie B’s Country Kitchen. A premier place donates 20% of each bill, and the other ones do 15%. The names of other restaurants that are involved are 1636 North, Nosh Restaurant & Café, and a food truck called Thai Chili. All three are located in Springfield.

I ended up talking about this with Kaitlyn Holloway, who has been the development and event coordinator at Dakin going on a year. She said, “I think if it’s a successful event, we will look to hold it in the future.”

There is also a contest connected to this event where you can win prizes. You take a selfie, and post

it online to “share your dining experience.” Kaitlyn said. As for the number of restaurants that ended up being a part of this, she said she wants as many as she can have on board for Paws On Town.

Besides this event, she also has been involved in an event called the “31 Day Activity Challenge” for Dakin, and she’s planning their “first in-person event, called Barks and Brew.”

I decided to talk to one of the places involved with this event for the article: Ice Cream Alley, at 221 Main Street in Greenfield. My editor wanted me to ask about a promotion they were doing on June 22, which I did.

“Puppy Scoop is a small scoop of vanilla ice cream with a dog biscuit on it for any dogs. We do it all the time. But we’re having a weekend where we are doing it for free.” That is the way it was described by Beth Diamond, one of four owners of the place. Ice Cream Alley has been open since 2018, and is involved in this for the first time. They do a lot of business in the summer.

Dakin managed to get 12,000 pounds of pet food donated last year. If they can do something along that line with the funds raised during Paws on the Town, then it will be a success and they will have it for a second year.

You can probably continue to check out what other restaurants might join this event at www.dakinhumane.org.



Part 3: Error 404: Romance Not Found

AMHERST – The uncertainty of the future with a cancer diagnosis changes you. Now, potential partners must not only have longevity but also incredible strength and emotional intelligence. “Until death do us part” may not be 20 years – I might have five or ten years. Time with my son isn’t just parenting, it’s what he will remember if he loses me before he reaches adulthood.

I quickly discovered when I was first diagnosed that simply getting through a cancer diagnosis with someone you are hoping to be with long-term isn’t realistic. In my case, a newly budding romance lost its legs almost immediately.

And it’s no wonder. I went from a fun, active woman to a woman who had lost all her hair and wanted to fall asleep at 5 p.m. I had a period of two weeks of absolute hell, and that about did it for that romance. I’m hoping it will re-bud when things get easier, but who knows.

Having no hair is at once easier and harder than one might imagine. It’s easy to pop on a wig, style it, and go out the door. The overall maintenance is low compared to real hair. But the wigs get heavy, and they slide, and it’s impossible to kiss someone with a wig on without worrying about it falling off. There is no real hair for him to run his fingers through, and when I sleep I wear a dorky hat because I cannot bear to sleep with a bald head.

Emotionally, it’s painful to go through something like this alone. However, there are nights when I am a complete wreck, especially in the beginning. It takes a hot minute to find the new equilibrium, and the anxiety at one point caused me to lose two to three nights of sleep in a row. I don’t know if anyone in those moments could have soothed me. I eventually figured out the se-

cret formula for less anxiety, which for me is a comfortable new bed and frequent hikes up Mount Sugarloaf.

Casual dating during chemo treatment is also really awkward. Most people I talk to are okay and cool with the cancer thing, but I don’t have enough energy to pursue anything new beyond a couple of words. I feel like I’m giving romantic IOUs: If you can just hold that thought until October, I’ll be on my way back to myself and I’ll be able to hold a real conversation for more than five minutes. When I can say I *had* cancer, not *have* cancer, it will be a little easier.

My entire life plan also changed with my diagnosis. Whereas before I was hoping to have another child, and was thrilled at the possibility, now I will be at least 41 when I can explore whether it is even still possible and whether it will be a dangerous idea given the nature of my tumor. Where before I was looking for a man who wanted to have more children, now I am looking for someone who is okay however it turns out. There is a huge question mark for me, in terms of more kids, where there wasn’t before.

Tomorrow isn’t promised to anyone. It’s not promised to me and it isn’t promised to you. But it’s what we all count on when we make plans, look to the future, and make a life with someone. We count on many more tomorrows, and while we know one partner will eventually lose the other, we don’t want to think about it until we get to our retirement.

The idea that “death do us part” means inevitable heartbreak is foreign when you’re my age. Until I had my cancer diagnosis, I didn’t understand the weight of that promise. It’s until death, but also for every single day I remain breathing on this planet. And whoever’s heart breaks with the loss of a love well lived, it means you probably did it right.



Learning to Fly Fish: Part IX

Ariel Jones, who recently passed away, penned a series of 14 articles in the Montague Reporter in 2005 on her experiences learning to fly fish. This is the ninth in the series. Jones was a pioneer of the local art scene when she moved to Turners Falls from NYC and opened a photography studio on Avenue A in 2000.

By ARIEL JONES

MONTAGUE – Leaving Bradley Airport for home on May 7, I don’t know why I thought the dismal weather was just a fluke. Today is May 31, and while it is somewhat warmer, there is still a raw chill in the air and clouds are moving in.

The rivers are still high. Tom reported to me that the Swift was up to his chest. That means it is practically over my head. Fishing is terrible. A thought troubles the back of my mind – could I actually be happy living in Arkansas?

I see strange sights: a family of pigeons huddled under an umbrella on my window sill; squirrels dashing across tree limbs dressed in little yellow rubber suits. There are rumors about dizzy fish confused at this prolonged depth of the rivers. What is happening? When was the last time it rained every day for a solid month? Is it Tim de Christopher’s fault for building that damn Noah’s Ark thing?

I dashed in to see Richard at Pi-pione’s the other day, but one look at his face told me it wasn’t a good

time to chat about fishing. Our eyes locked. I nodded sadly, turned and left. I didn’t even have the heart to inspect his flies and pick out a few. This was not good. The constant drumming sound on the roof and against the windows is driving me mad.

Good Morning Heartache

When a lovely day warm enough to fish came along, I went exploring down to the Green River and located a spot described to me by a guide I’d met at Sam’s in Brattleboro. (To clear up an unfortunate rumor here: no, I do not go to fishing shops to cruise men. I enjoy looking at wooly buggers.)

The river had been stocked; conditions were great, with little wind; I was ready. Little did I imagine the catastrophe awaiting me.

In the process of driving from an unproductive spot to the recommended one, a mysterious accident occurred. When I reached into the car for my rod, ready to head down the bank, I discovered that my lovely Sage rod was now in three sections, rather than two. I was so shocked and horrified I sat down on the ground and cried. Was this some kind of test? Had I angered the fishing gods? Do all fly fishers have to suffer to prove they are worthy?

Sitting on the ground, staring in disbelief at my shattered rod, I began to hear the sort of songs you listen to when drunk: “La Vie en Rose,” “Good Morning Heartache,” “Darn

that Dream,” “I’m a Fool to Want You,” and so on and on, playing mournfully through my mind as I blamed myself for such carelessness with an object I truly love.

Trying to pull myself together, I realized I actually didn’t know what happened. I had laid the rod at a diagonal across the seats of my car with the tip poking out the front of the window. I kept checking it, holding it lightly in the middle from time to time, and driving very slowly.

I heard nothing, not a crack or a moan. In fact, I do not know how it broke.

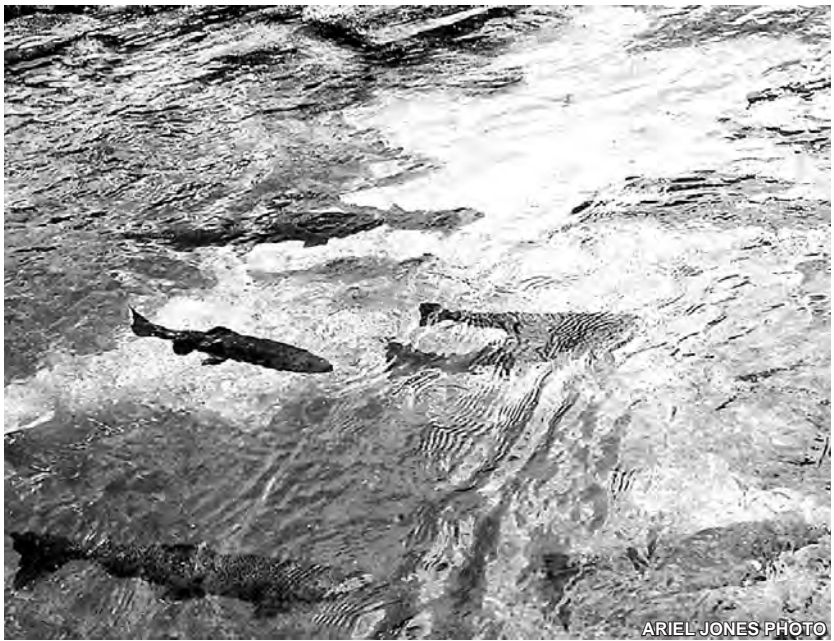
Graphite rods are both tough and very flexible and a Sage rod is one of the better ones.

Fishing Is Not the Only Form of Madness

OK. There’s no crying in fishing. I got back in the car and headed home in the gloomiest of moods, telling myself that this is fixable, I can get a new rod, etc. The problem was a familiar one: blaming myself for an accident. Accepting that it was my fault is different from unreasoning self-blame.

In the larger picture this was not very serious, so why was the sense of culpability so very overwhelming? If someone else told me about this incident, I would agree that it was upsetting, but I would never think, “You idiot; how could you be so careless?” Yet it felt perfectly appropriate to think this about myself.

By the time I reached home I



Happy trout in pre-flood days.

was feeling secretive about it; on the one hand wanting to call someone, and on the other not wanting anyone to know. I really didn’t want to tell Tom. I thought about my loyal readers. How could I reveal that I had managed to break a lovely rod I had only used a couple of times?

Oh God, oh God; what to do? I became drugged with obsessive thoughts, and fell onto my bed in a deep sleep. When I woke up, it was raining.

Mountains Out of Molehills

After putting on galoshes and making a pot of fresh coffee, a picture rose in my mind of the rod in three sections, and the events from earlier that day came rushing back.

But now I remembered something astounding: my Sage Life-

time Warranty. Perhaps other people broke their rods? Why else would Sage provide this safety net?

Feeling a heart lifting, growing confidence I sat down and wrote a letter to accompany my rod back to the manufacturer in Washington State. Omitting embarrassing self-revelation, I simply stated my rod had broken, could they please replace it?

A few days later I received a polite and pleasant telephone call from a woman at the Sage Company letting me know when I could expect my rod back; and could they do anything else for me?

My rod will be back on Wednesday, just in time for this weekend’s Deerfield River One Fly Event.

To be continued...

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EVENTS

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

Florence Congregational Church, Florence: *Yemen Blues*. \$. 6 p.m.
Quarters, Hadley: *Raw Power* with *DJ Lindsey* & friends. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

Leverett Village Co-Op: Rattlesnake Gutter Market feat. *Sawzaphonic*, *DJ Brian Boyles*. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Nice Snack Parlor, Turners Falls: *DJ Just Joan*. 4 to 8 p.m.
Northlands, Swanzey, NH: *Indigo Girls*, *Lucy Wainwright Roche*. \$. 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 13


Montague Center Ball Field: *Elm Chamber Ensemble*, *Adaskin String Trio*. Brahms and Dvorak string sextets. Bring your own chair or blanket. Free. 12 p.m.
Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *The Mole*, *Do It Now*. Mu-

sic and spoken word; bring a chair. Free. 2 p.m.
Valley View Farm, Haydenville: *Roman Diaz Rumba Ensemble*. \$. 6 p.m.
Black Birch Vineyard, North Hatfield: *Livingston Taylor*. \$. 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY, JUNE 19
Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club, Turners Falls: *Tracy & the Valley Revival*. \$. 6 p.m.
SUNDAY, JUNE 20
Black Birch Vineyard, North Hatfield: *Amy Helm*. \$. 6:30 p.m.
TUES-SUN, JUNE 22-27
Garden Cinemas, Greenfield: *Cinema Week*. Special events and prizes daily. \$. See www.gardencinemas.net for the full schedule.
FRIDAY, JUNE 25
Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Rosie Porter & the Neon Moons*. 6 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 27

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Don Bikoff*, *Wes Buckley*, *Frozen Corn*, *Bridge of Flowers*, *Blues Ambush*. Outdoors. \$. 3 p.m.
THURSDAY, JULY 1
Energy Park, Greenfield: *R&D*, *Joe Graveline* and *Nina Gross*. Franklin County Musicians Co-operative summer concert series. Free. Bring a chair. 6 p.m.
SATURDAY, JULY 3
Stone Church, Brattleboro: *NRBQ*. Still at it! \$. 7 p.m.
SUNDAY, JULY 11
Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Freedom Fest* feat. *Sonorus*, *Jimmy Just Quit*, and *No Lens*. \$. 12 p.m.
Amherst Common, Amherst: *Freestone* or *Ooze* feat. *Sunburned Hand of the Man*, *A.P.I.E.*, *Allysen Callery*, *Willie Lane*, *Mazozma*, *Toppus Bottomus*, *10 Gallon Hat*, and many

more. Free. 12 p.m.
SATURDAY, AUGUST 21
Center Street, Montague Center: *Barbès in the Woods* feat. *Liraz*, *Son Rompe Pera*, *Kaleta & Super Yamba*, *Los Cumpleanos*, *Bigyuki*, *Arooj Aftab*, and more. \$. See barbesinthewoods.com for more information.
SUNDAY, AUGUST 22
Iron Horse Music Hall, Northampton: *John Gorka*, *Lisa Martin*. \$. 7 p.m.
TUESDAY, AUGUST 24
Look Park, Northampton: *King Crimson*, *The Zappa Band*. \$. 7 p.m.
FRI-SUN, AUGUST 27-29
Franklin County Fairgrounds: *Green River Festival* feat. *Jon Batiste*, *Shakey Graves*, *Ani DiFranco*, *Drive-By Truckers*, *Valerie June*, *Deer Tick*, *Antibalas*, and many more. \$. See greenriverfestival.com for info.




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HEARTFELT from page B1

We provided some of the meals for the group this year, eight in all, and for the trip our car was packed to the roof with many of the ingre-

dients needed for our dishes. Although traveling to a perfectly civilized neighborhood where homes likely have the basic necessities for cooking and Wegmans is but a short

car drive away, wifey nonetheless packed every potential ingredient from the fridge and pantry.

There was a cooler packed with meats and cheeses for sandwiches, bags of chips and other snacks, eggs, cheese, and pre-cooked bacon for wifey's yummy egg cups for Friday's breakfast... or was it Saturday's? Muffin tins, baking sheets, flour, and yeast, it all came with us for this frenzied festival of feeding.

Along with the aforementioned egg cups – a great finger food for parties or buffets made with eggs, shredded cheese, bacon bits and chopped green onion, salt, pepper and/or herbs, mixed in a bowl and poured into greased muffin tins then baked until firm – I made a lovely focaccia decorated with a pretty garden landscape of sliced red onions, cherry tomatoes, and parsley. It's a four-ingredient recipe you can find below, and it produces a splendidly crunchy-crust ed airy bread; the added veggies on top add flavor and color to each bite. It's a great picnic food that's delicious dipped into olive oil or used to make sandwiches.

On our first night our hosts insisted on taking us out for juicy, succulent oysters and crispy fish and chips, but every successive meal was made in their well-equipped, suburban kitchen. The following night we enjoyed freshly steamed lobster dipped in melted butter, and grilled Italian sausage with onions, peppers, and soft rolls to make sandwiches.

The next morning came the egg cups, focaccia, bagels with cream cheese, lox, onions, capers, and sliced lemon, and never-before attempted hash browns, which I made from the doggy-bagged French fries and leftover sausage, peppers, and onions. We even had chocolate-walnut biscotti I had whipped up the day before.

The next night our host made each of us a steak using the *sous vide* method. This is cooking food in vacuum-sealed bags in water at a pre-

cise temperature for a precise time. It cooks the entire piece of food to the same degree throughout, ensuring even cooking. Grilled asparagus, sliced beefsteak tomatoes with fresh mozzarella, basil, salt, pepper and olive oil, and slices of a French bread baguette completed the meal.

Our final night together we dined on the two huge beef lasagnas that I'd made early that morning while everyone else was sleeping off the night before. Did I mention my friends drink a lot of wine? I think the pool really should have been about how many times the recycle bin was cleared of empties, but we'll save that one for when we gather again in New Orleans. (Ah, New Orleans, I can already smell the gumbo cooking... but that's a future column.)

After our fill of lasagna, we gorged on the elegant pastries brought from a high-end NYC bakery, shimmering lavender lemon cake, and chocolate shells filled with wobbly layers of custard topped with crunchy bits of toffee that sent one's taste buds to the moon.

Early the next morning, with air kisses and hugs, everyone left by car, train, or plane, all but one couple sporting a giant slab of lasagna in a to-go container along with happy smiles full of good humor, satisfied bellies, and soothed souls. It was a wonderful weekend, spent with those we love, where indulging our taste buds and filling our bellies was a large part of the story.

What's your story for the summer holidays? Make your own by inviting friends over, opening a bottle of your favorite beverage, setting out a cheese platter or a special meal, and letting the magic happen. Happy summer eating!

Trouble lives in Greenfield with Wifey and Mama Catt Elliott and volunteers at many local agencies working with food-insecure populations. She loves to talk, read, write, garden/farm, cook, and make art.

Franklin County will host not one but two **soapbox races** this September: Greenfield on Sunday, September 12 at the Recreational Park on Nash Mill Road, followed by the return of Montague's race on Sunday, September 19 at Unity Park.

Both are fundraisers for their towns' Recreation Departments.

American ingenuity will be on kinetic display and rewarded in these fun, family-friendly events. Each race will have trophies for the fastest three carts in each age division – kids, teens, and adults – as well as custom trophies for creative style. For the adventurous who wish to build a cart and enter the race, as well as those who wish to sponsor the race and maybe even individual teams, volunteer, or otherwise support either race, visit their respective websites: GreenfieldSoapboxRaces.com MontagueSoapboxRaces.com

Both races are members of the Northeast Soapbox Association, a new venture by Mik Muller, former Montague Soapbox Race Director and chair of the new Greenfield soapbox race committee. Anyone interested in starting a derby in their own town may contact him at NortheastSoapbox.org.

The **Anarchestra** is moving to Looky Here! This selection from the collection of Andy Thurlow's handmade electro-acoustic instruments will open this Saturday, June 12 from 12 to 3 p.m. at 28 Chapman Street, Greenfield.

Open hours will continue from 12 to 3 p.m. on Saturdays until August 14. This show includes Thurlow's music library, as well as archival and new recordings of the Anarchestra.

Workshops, screenings and events will be posted to the Looky Here website, lookyheregreenfield.com.

For more information on the collection, see anarchestra.org.

REFRIGERATOR FOCCACIA

4 c. all-purpose flour
2 t. kosher salt
2 t. instant yeast*
2 c. lukewarm water**
Butter for greasing
4 T. olive oil, divided
Flaky sea salt

Make the dough by whisking the flour, salt, and yeast; add water and use a rubber spatula to mix until the liquid is absorbed, and a sticky dough ball is formed. Rub the surface of the dough lightly with olive oil and put into a non-plastic bowl. Cover the bowl with a tea towel or plastic wrap, and place in the refrigerator immediately for 12 to 24 hours.

Line your baking surface with parchment. You can use two 8" or 9" pie plates, or one 9" by 13" pan, or a flat cookie sheet. Grease with butter or nonstick

spray. Then pour one tablespoon of olive oil onto the center of your baking surface.

Remove dough from the fridge. Using two forks, deflate the dough by pulling it toward the center, rotating the bowl in quarter turns as you deflate. Split dough into two equal pieces if using two dishes, or keep as one. Roll it in olive oil again and allow it to rest in the bowl for an additional three to four hours.

Preheat the oven to 425° with the rack in the middle of the oven. Place the dough in the pan(s) and use your fingers to gently stretch it to the edges. Some people like to dimple the dough with their fingertips; I like to create art with cut vegetables. Follow your heart, then sprinkle it with sea salt.

Bake for 25-30 minutes, until the underside is golden and crisp. Transfer to a cooling rack and let it cool for 10 minutes before cutting and serving. If slicing the loaf in half for sandwiches, allow it to cool completely.

* If using active dry yeast, sprinkle over the lukewarm water and wait 15 minutes until foamy.

** Make by combining ½ cup boiling water with 1½ cups cold water.



A breakfast of focaccia, egg cups, and french fried hash browns.

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