

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 19 – NO. 34

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JULY 8, 2021

LEVERETT TOWN HALL

Con Com Puts Brakes on Pond Friends' Plan to Hand-Pull Pond

By SARAH ROBERTSON

LEVERETT – Two separate weed management plans proposed by the Friends of Leverett Pond (FLP) were the subject of spirited debate at Tuesday night's Leverett conservation commission meeting.

The nonprofit group is waiting on findings from environmental studies before it formally proposes a long-term plan to address invasive and nuisance vegetation on Leverett Pond. In the meantime, it has requested permission to remove some vegetation in front of waterfront homes this summer by hand.

"More aggressive methods of weed control are probably not going to happen this year," FLP vice president Mitch Mulholland said during Tuesday's meeting, and the longer we wait, the worse these weeds are going to get."

However, some commission members and town residents took issue with the new request, saying it circumvented the permitting process already in the works.

"You're basically saying, 'we want the commission to have no review of this work, no follow up, no more detailed understanding – just, let us go and do that,'" said conservation commission member Jono see **LEVERETT** page A7

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

More Funding Available for Housing Rehabilitation

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Brian McHugh, director of community development at Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, came to the Wendell selectboard's meeting Wednesday night for a required public hearing about the town's community development block grant (CDBG) funding, which he oversees.

The CDBG offers zero-interest loans of up to \$40,000 for bringing houses up to code, including roof and septic repairs. The loans do not come due until the property changes hands.

Wendell and Shutesbury share a grant, and had expected to have 18 units rehabilitated between them under the current round of funding, but because some repairs have cost less than the maximum, the total number in the two towns is 28, including four in the application phase. Twelve of the completed units are in Wendell.

Wendell also has access to \$69,418 of repaid loans that are available for reuse. The selectboard had asked that \$30,000 be set aside to help residents pay for broadband connections, but no one applied see **WENDELL** page A7

SETTLING INTO SUMMER



Onlookers gaze into the Fourth of July bonfire in Montague Center on Sunday. Thanks to Joe Kopera for this photo, as well as our MoRe section header! Readers may find this edition short on hard news, as some of our regular contributors are enjoying time off, and summer plus post-pandemic reopening has meant general scheduling chaos. But it is also packed with features and contributed opinion pieces – including several reflections about cutting down trees for wood. We hope you will enjoy!

Turners Clinches State Championship

By MATT ROBINSON

In the last two weeks, the Turners Falls Softball Thunder won the West bracket of the MIAA D-III

tournament, came from behind to edge out the Central Mass champs in extra innings, and then beat the Eastern champions by a single run. The final game capped off a perfect

18-0 season, and brought the D-III state title back to Turners Falls.

TFHS 10 – Mount Greylock 0

The Thunder successfully defended their Western Mass title on Friday, June 25 in a 10-0 shutout of the sixth-seeded Mount Greylock Mounties.

Blue scored their first run in the first inning off a Jade Tyler scorcher. They scored three more in the second thanks to an Emily Young lead off double, a Greylock error, a Hannah Marchefka walk, a base hit by Taylor Murphy, and a sacrifice from Olivia Whittier.

In the fourth, Murphy and Whittier scored to make it 7-0. Two more runs crossed the plate off a sac fly and a RBI blooper, and the final run was scored by Audrey O'Keefe.

The game ended on back-to-back Tyler strikeouts, and Powertown see **CLINCHES** page A6



The Thunder celebrate after making the final out of the tournament.

Gill Town Meeting Pulls For Dump Truck

By JERRI HIGGINS

Blustery winds blew loose agendas around, and the gusts caused several speakers to pause at times during the June 26 annual town meeting held at Gill Elementary School's back field. It became evident that the main draw on the warrant was Article 17, \$205,000 to buy a replacement for the highway department's Sterling dump truck, as several residents left after it passed.

The purchase will also require a townwide vote for a Proposition 2½ debt exclusion override, to be held next Monday, July 12.

Town meeting voters unanimously elected Edward Golembeski and Clifford Hatch as field drivers, the regional animal control officer as assistant field driver, and members of the selectboard as the town's fence viewers, wood and bark measurers, and lumber surveyors.

Chapter 90 funding was unan-

imously approved for road work contracts, as well as funds from the Quintus Allen Trust, which can be used for education-related expenses in several local towns.

Highway superintendent John Miner began the dump truck discussion by saying that he was not a

good public speaker, but his argument for why his department needed a new plow truck was persuasive enough for a 41-7 vote authorizing the town to borrow up to \$161,285 for the vehicle. Another \$43,715 would be transferred from the Gill

see **GILL** page A5



This year's annual town meeting was held under a tent at Gill Elementary.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Town Sells Sandy Lane Lot to FRTA For Bus Barn

By MIKE JACKSON

The Montague selectboard voted unanimously at its June 28 meeting to sell the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) five acres of town-owned land off Sandy Lane to build a new maintenance facility for its fleet of buses.

"It's been a long road, for those who haven't followed selectboard meetings," chair Rich Kuklewicz said, congratulating FRTA administrator Michael Perreault on the \$125,000 purchase.

Town administrator Steve Ellis said the facility is hoped to be built by next June to comply with grant timelines. FRTA currently houses its fleet in a fire-damaged structure on Deerfield Street in Greenfield dating to the days of electric streetcars, and the extensions of the towns' lease with FRTA has been a recent source of tension as Greenfield has sought land for new public buildings.

The selectboard also agreed to extend the project to rebuild Spinner Park on Avenue A, which was supposed to be finished by June 30 but is delayed due to back-ordered bricks, until August 30.

The meeting was held in a "hybrid" format, with members and guests videoconferencing in, and Ellis and administrative assistant Wendy Bogusz sitting at town hall to test new specialized equipment. Cameras tracked their voices and faces as they moved from seat to seat, and by the meeting's end the selectboard see **MONTAGUE** page A6

Groups Plan 'Parade' to Call For Investment In River Access

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – With a new federal license for the use of the Connecticut River for hydroelectric generation by FirstLight Power expected to head later this year to the state of Massachusetts for approval, a number of groups hoping to shape the company's impacts on the river are amplifying their public appeals.

This Saturday, a coalition calling for increased investment in recreational access to the river will hold a press conference at Unity Park, then lead a three-mile "parade" down the canalside bike path to the steep put-in on Poplar Street in Montague City.

Organized by the Appalachian Mountain Club, American Whitewater, and Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC), the event is intended to highlight poor access to the river for paddlers of non-motorized watercraft.

"I'm planning to be there," Montague town planner Walter Ramsey told the Reporter. "There's a lot of mileage of riverfront in Montague, and the town has a public position asking for upgrades at certain points along the river, both above the dam and, importantly, below the dam."

According to Ramsey, the town hopes that increased flow of water in the "bypass stretch" between the see **PARADE** page A8

Not An Elaborate Front For Organized Crime, We Swear

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The Montague Reporter

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Montague: Open School Committee Seat ...

"Any Montague resident interested in being appointed to the vacancy on the Gill-Montague regional school committee should send a letter of interest to the Su-

perintendent's office – 35 Crocker Ave., Turners Falls – by Monday, July 12. An appointment will be made at the July 13 school committee meeting."

... & Open Selectboard Seat

"Montague will be holding a Special Town Election on Tuesday, September 21 to fill a vacancy on the Selectboard. The polls will be open from noon to 7 p.m. in all six precincts. All registered voters of Montague will have the opportunity to vote for a new selectboard member for a 2-year term, fulfilling the remainder of a 3-year seat held by Michael Nelson.

"If you are interested in taking out nomination papers to run for selectboard, you may obtain papers from the Town Clerk's office. To get your name onto the ballot, you will need to acquire 36 signatures from Montague registered voters at large.

"The last day to obtain nomination papers is Monday, August 2. Nomination papers will need to be returned to the Town Clerk's office no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, August 4 for certification.

"Vote by Mail will still be offered even though COVID restrictions have been lifted. An applica-

tion can be downloaded from the town's website www.montague-ma.gov in the red announcement box. Once downloaded, the application can be mailed to the Town Clerk, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls or emailed to townclerk@montague-ma.gov. If you do not have a computer, one can call the office and request an application be mailed, or one may request an application in writing along with a signature.

"The last day to request a vote-by-mail application is Wednesday, September 15. The last day to register to vote is Wednesday, September 1. One may register in person at town hall or online at www.RegisterToVoteMA.com.

"Town Hall is open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Town Hall is closed on Fridays.

"For more information, call the office at 863-3200 x. 203 or email at townclerk@montague-ma.gov."

SUMMER SCHEDULE
VOL. 19 #35: JULY 22
VOL. 19 #36: AUGUST 5
VOL. 19 #37: AUGUST 19

Statewide Forest Rally

Our coalition is holding a statewide rally to protect our lands and waters from large ground-mounted solar generation utilities and battery storage systems. These are not clean, green, or renewable energy, but a dangerous false solution to the climate crisis.

While many Massachusetts municipalities have strict zoning laws prohibiting large solar projects, vulnerable communities like Wareham and Carver have already lost hundreds of acres of forest to industrial solar. This is threatening home values and climate resiliency. "Dual use" – so-called "agro-voltaics" – are proposed for our

valuable, prime and irreplaceable agricultural lands and threaten the state's food sovereignty at time when the planet is suffering from loss of arable land.

A statewide coalition is putting on two simultaneous in person events on Saturday, July 31 from 1 to 4 p.m. Events are in Energy Park in Greenfield in Western Massachusetts, and in Wareham in Southeastern Massachusetts.

See our Facebook event @Land-WaterPlymouthArea and our website, www.savethepinebarrens.org.

**Janet Sinclair
Buckland**



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Mishel Ischel of Fire and Embers Yoga will offer free Sunday morning yoga sessions at Unity Park in July and August starting this Sunday, July 11 at 8 a.m. (Mishel also pens the Indie Mama Diaries column in this paper.) Join her down by the basketball courts with your mat and a water bottle for an hour of stretching by the river.

Letters to the Editors

Reflection Time

Having moved to this area from a small town in Maine several years ago, and to Montague only recently, I am very aware of the value that small, tight-knit communities rightly place in their unique histories and traditions. How many times have we heard directions being given to passers-through that include such gems as, "then turn left at the intersection where Addie's farm stand used to be"?

And so I was interested in taking in the local traditions on Sunday when I made my way down to the ballfield in the Center to view the annual bonfire event. Not knowing what to expect, I looked on with a mixture of shock and amazement to see the local firemen manfully applying flamethrowers and industrial leaf blowers for a good 15 minutes to a massive pile of massive wet logs in order to set them aflame for the benefit of the crowd of onlookers.

Now I'm sure that many of those good folks gathered there are proud owners of energy-efficient vehicles, weatherized homes, and some even with rooftop or backyard solar panels, all in the effort to help mitigate the climate crisis in these perilous times. And while I don't relish the role of the innocent child in the crowd crying out in surprise, "The emperor has no clothes," this exercise must have thrown as much carbon into the atmosphere as though every one of the hundred or so gathered there had driven a 1950s gas-guzzling station wagon cross country several times.

What this image highlighted for me is that, while it is a good thing for each of us to take responsibility for our own actions and lifestyle in our care for the planet, it is equally important for us to choose, as a community, a collective responsibility for how we act in community. After all, the actions of hundreds of millions of individuals to lower their carbon footprints are overpowered by a government's military operations, or natural gas wells leaking methane into the atmosphere.

But we have to start somewhere. Just as charity begins at home, so does care for the planet begin at home. And so, in the spirit of the immortal Sam Lovejoy, may we heed the call to shear the cables of the innocent but unconscious past and be willing, collectively, to be alert to and reimagine ways in which we act as a community that may be less healthful and caring for the planet than we seek to be individually.

I don't claim to have the answers. Much as I love being here in my little basement apartment in the hills, I recognize that any changes must come from deep within the heart of the community for such a change to be authentic, and lasting. May this be a golden opportunity to come together in unity, for the sake of our beloved planet Earth, and for our children and our children's children, seven generations hence.

Respectfully,

**Karun Das
Montague Center**

New All-Way Stop a Recipe For Disaster

The new all-way stop at the intersection of Canal Street and Turners Falls Road strikes me as bit of a mess. While well intentioned in terms of seeking to make the intersection safe for pedestrians and cyclists crossing on the rail trail, I've found it to be a more dangerous intersection for driving.

In particular, when one is heading back into Turners Falls on Turners Falls Road, traffic stopped on the right-hand side on Canal Street does not seem to obey the all-way stop, owing to the great distance between the several stop signs. Rather, drivers on that side tend to not wait their turn and instead cross the intersection one after the other, turning left onto Turners Falls Road and over the bridge, as if they have the right of way.

I have alternated between being stopped much longer while multiple cars pass through the intersection from the right, or having near misses with cars thinking they have the right-of-way to turn left onto the bridge.

MassDOT should consider whether it is possible to install a roundabout at this difficult intersection, as traffic studies have shown roundabouts are much safer than either intersections or rotaries.

**Ray DiDonato
Wendell**

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

This week's **movie at Peskeomskut Park** in Turners Falls on Friday, July 9 at 7 p.m. is *Indiana Jones and Raiders of the Lost Ark* (1981). Come back for free summer concerts with the Montague Community Band on Mondays, July 12 and 19 at 7 p.m. On Wednesday, July 14 at 7 p.m., check out the Tommy Fuentes Band on the Montague Center Common.

A series of **concerts** organized by the Shea Theater and RiverCulture is also planned for July 22 through 25 at the Peskeomskut bandshell. Performers include Home Body, High Tea, Carrie Ferguson, Rocking Puppies, Holy Basil, and She Said. These are ticketed concerts. Check on all these events, as the full lineup develops, at www.riverculture.org.

The LAVA Center in Greenfield will host live music by Vimana at their next **Saturday art salon** on July 10 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Brian Rodriguez and Leo Hwang will perform original pieces as a duo. David Andrews and Trouble Mandeson will exhibit their artwork and zines, and Cathe Janke's artwork is in the gallery for July and August.

The following Saturday, July 17, check out the artwork of Eric Grab and get a tarot card reading by Amy Hyson.

Slate Roof Press is holding an online celebration this Sunday, July 11 at 2 p.m. for the release of **Writing From the Broken Places**, an anthology of poems written by people at the Northern Hope Recovery Center in Greenfield. Members of the recovery community will read poems from the book, followed by questions and answers. Find out more at slateroofpress.com. A portion of the sales from each book is donated to the North Quabbin Recovery Center.

Also on Sunday, July 11, attend an **artist reception with live music** at the Salmon Falls Gallery in Shelburne Falls. Loren Feinstein improvises on his sax from 2 to 4 p.m. during the opening for photographer Rhea Banker's show, "Divergence: Shaping the Land," and Jim Gambaro's photography show called "Painting with De-Light." Both are up through August; details at salmonfallsgallery.com.

Sawmill River Arts Gallery will hold its annual **Small Works Exhibit and Sale** August 1 through 31. Interested artists should submit ready-to-hang artwork, no larger than 10 inches in any dimension, to the gallery at 440 Greenfield Road in Montague Center (the Book Mill complex) between July 11 and 25.

This non-juried show is open to

anyone in the community, but there are guidelines, and you must fill out an application, available at the gallery or at sawmillriverarts.com/events.

Silverthorne Theater resumes its **"Theater Thursdays" live play readings** on July 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the LAVA Center. The performances are free to attend, either online or now in person.

The next play is *Fourteen Wedding Dresses* by Steve Henderson, directed by Keith Langsdale. Find out more (or attend) at silverthornetheater.org.

Musica Franklin announces its **Third Annual Fun Fest** at Peskeomskut Park on Saturday, July 17 from 1 to 5 p.m. (rain date July 18). This will be an afternoon of music, and hands-on activities like a make-your-own paper marbling bookmark or veggie print painting. Visit the instrument petting zoo, play with giant bubbles, and listen to some fabulous music, all free!

Musica Franklin students, Viva Quetzal, and The Gaslight Tinkers will play a diverse selection of joyful music. Bring your own blankets and chairs and respect social distancing boundaries regardless of vaccine status. Details are at www.musicafranklin.org.

Storyteller Rona Leventhal will come to the New Salem Library on Saturday, July 17 at 6:30 p.m. with multicultural tales about animals called "Bees, Beavers and Beasts." Leventhal incorporates song and dance into stories that explore questions such as *Where do turtles go in winter?* and *How were dragonflies created?* The free event is outside, so bring blankets or chairs.

The Carnegie Library says that there are twelve African animals exploring Avenue A in Turners Falls. Help the librarians find them all, and enter for a chance to win a prize, in the **Sidewalk Safari challenge**. Pick up an activity sheet at any of the Montague Libraries.

Families are invited to pick up Take-and-Make Craft Bags as well. Animal-related craft bags will be available on Mondays at the Carnegie and Montague Center libraries, and Tuesdays at the Millers Falls branch, until July 27.

Meet the library at the Great Falls Farmers Market from 2 to 4 p.m. on Wednesday to pick up a book and animal craft bag while you shop for fresh fruits and veggies.

Community members are invited to participate in a **community design workshop** to envision a pocket park on Avenue A in Turners Falls. The project site is located between Loot (62 Avenue A) and Gary's Coins (56 Avenue A).

Participants will help define the park's uses and functions, and explore other aspects of the design, like pedestrian circulation and the siting of elements such as benches and planters. The "drop-in" event will occur on Sunday, July 25 between 12 to 6 p.m. in the alleyway where the park is proposed.

Architect and project coordinator Pete Wackernagel explains that "community design" is a grassroots strategy for place-making that creates change in the built environment through participatory decision-making, focused on the needs of the local community.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

Ariel Jones' Memorial Gathering
Sunday, July 18



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Another Letter to the Editors Mea Culpa



A big "thank you" to all the voters in Montague's Precinct 2 who wrote me in for Town Meeting member. I am very grateful for your support, and I look forward to continuing to work for the best interests of the precinct and the town.

I'd also like to correct a misunderstanding caused by my previous letter. I did not mean to imply that a slip-up in the Town Clerk's office was the reason my name was not on the ballot. At the time, I didn't know what happened, but it's been confirmed that it was definitely my mistake: I clearly checked the wrong box on the form that I sent back to town hall.

I know from long experience that the Clerk works very hard to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the town's records, and this case is just one more example. I regret that some people thought that my letter implied otherwise.

Mike Naughton
Millers Falls

CORRECTION

In our June 24 coverage of a recent Gill Historical Commission meeting (Page A5, *Popular Book, Retro Linens, Treasure Trove*), we erroneously reported that the commission planned to collaborate with Montague assistant planner Suzanne Lomanto and historical commission chair David Brule to create a "Penobscot walking tour" extending from the Turners Falls bike path to Riverside.

Upon investigation, someone at the meeting did likely say that by accident. While it briefly raised the eyebrows of both our reporter and editor, they weren't raised high enough to make either of us stop and realize that the project is the *Peskeomskut Walking Tour*, after what is believed to be a Native name for the Falls here. Apologies!

OP/ED

The Farren's Culture

By JUDI FONSH

LEVERETT – My intention in writing this had been to reflect on Farren Care Center, where I had the pleasure of working for over 20 years.

First I want to pay honor to the memory of Rhonda Thompson, who was recently killed by a hit-and-run driver in Shelburne Falls where she lived while on her morning walk. Rhonda epitomizes why Farren lived by its motto "Farren Cares."

I worked with Rhonda throughout my time at FCC and watched her develop her skills as she went from a medication nurse through many job responsibilities; when she closed Farren just several weeks ago, she was the Director of Nurses. She really showed her strengths in that position, as she was a major force in Farren being one of about 1% of nursing homes that never had COVID – quite a feat.

Her death is a tragedy as she left so many who cared about her, especially her husband Mark, her daughter Ella, as well as many family members, colleagues, and friends who came out to honor her three weeks ago at a candlelight vigil in the lovely backyard at Farren. She shared with so many her skills that were reflected in her 25 years of service, including how to care for staff and residents to continue the tradition of "Farren Cares."

Over these last many painful months, since I learned that Trinity had made the decision to abandon Farren Care Center and the staff and people it served for almost 30 years, I have reflected a great deal about what made Farren so different, and why it made such a difference in the lives of many who came to Farren.

The seeds were present from the Sisters of Providence, and the hospital they first created many years before. The Farren Care

Center was the caring culture that was created and that was based on the commitment to the Sisters' mission – compassionate care.

The facility was fortunate to have started as a specialized nursing home with some of the staff from the hospital including many caring maintenance staff, food service staff, and some nursing staff. There were very few Sisters who joined the staff themselves, but they left a foundation that was built upon.

My understanding – I wasn't there when it opened – was that there were some initial struggles as the staff learned to care for the very complicated residents who came to FCC. Nevertheless, the culture was already there, and it grew over the years: Farren Cares.

Staff came and went, but while they were there, most employees understood that Farren was the residents' home – that the residents were not their "Dx," or diagnoses, but were people who had some behavioral issues, but they were and are human beings who deserved respect and the best care possible.

Staff created that environment in part also because of their advocacy. They never hesitated to tell medical providers, including the psychiatric providers, what their residents needed and how they were really doing. Farren really believed in teams at all levels, and were very collaborative in providing care with an ongoing, multi-disciplinary approach.

Rhonda was exemplary of that care – the very best possible care, within the constraints of a limited budget.

It is very sad that it has now closed, and was not adequately re-created to meet the needs of this very special group of people.

Judi Fonsh, MSW, LICSW, was formerly the director of admissions and social work at Farren Care Center. She lives in Leverett.

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Week of July 12

PAPER
Week of July 19
in Montague



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OP/ED

Flexibility, Balance the Right Approach

By EMMA G. ELLSWORTH

MONTAGUE – I grew up in Montague Center, on Taylor Hill Road. The woods below my father's house contained forts we built, waterfalls we splashed in, and trails we crashed our bikes on. My father, Allen Ross, was an avid hiker and trail runner. We spent weekends in nature, hiking up Toby or paddling on the Connecticut River.

Dad taught me to enjoy the quiet, the occasional glimpses of a wild turkey or deer crossing the trail ahead, and the bald eagles sweeping high above the bow of the canoe. He taught me that anxiety and sadness are best “treated” with a jaunt through the forest.

Since I have joined Mount Grace, first as Deputy Director and more recently as Executive Director, I have been learning about a different side of the woods that Dad taught me to love. I have been learning about forest age and different wildlife habitats.

As a kid I cried when trees were cut down, believing only that something had died, but not understanding that each death also made space for the new. As a gardener working at Blue Meadow Farm, we often thinned seedlings, or yanked monarda back to make sure the clematis, or columbine, also had sunlight and space to grow.

I am learning that hundreds of years ago our forests had many “gardeners”: beavers, forest fires, storms, and indigenous peoples practicing agriculture. Then colonists arrived in the region and nearly wholesale cleared the land. Everywhere we see a stone wall deep in a hemlock thicket was a pasture for cows, or most likely sheep. Since the collapse of the wool market in the 1840s, those pastures have grown in. This se-

ries of events resulted in the woods we have now.

Massachusetts is one of the most densely-forested states in our nation, which is both a spectacular aspect of our landscape and one that is a cause for lamentation. Our forests are primarily one age. These trees started their lives when the pastures were abandoned and left fallow over a hundred years ago.

Walking through a glade of huge pines or hemlocks with their gorgeous soaring canopy can feel mystical and peaceful, but there is also remarkably little understory, and subsequently, we are at risk of losing biodiversity. Our pollinators, birds, and other critters require a variety of tree ages and forest types for different life stages and seasons. A healthy and resilient ecosystem depends upon variety: stands of older trees alongside big open swaths of saplings, next to forest openings bathed in sunlight.

I worry about climate change. I worry about the increasing frequency and volatility of storms, the virulence of pathogens affecting both plants and humans, the rising flood waters. I worry about droughts.

I also worry that we are creating a false narrative that having a viable local timber industry and advocating for active management on many of our lands, both public and private, is exacerbating climate change. Yes, we need to care about carbon storage, but carbon is stored in that log, in the chair on which I sit, and in the locally-sourced pine ceiling given as a wedding present above my head.

I would rather buy lumber that is harvested in Massachusetts based on mandated sustainable practices than wood that has been logged with significantly less regulation from far away. We must

consider the implications of sourcing our wood from thousands of miles away that travels by truck, train, or boat. I would certainly rather build with wood than with either steel or concrete, which has an exponentially higher carbon footprint.

While carbon impact should and must be considered in our forest management plans, we need to also consider the importance of habitat and biodiversity, as well as overall forest health. I advocate for site-specific, nuanced plans that take into account the terrain, health, and age of each parcel.

Let's let the land guide where we should act with a light hand, or not at all, and where we need to be more actively involved. Our goal should be flexibility and balance rather than doctrine.

This last year most of us flew less, drove less, and subsequently had a much lighter touch on the entire planet. We watched the air clear and views sparkle. We can learn from this last year about the many things we can live without. We have great potential to have a positive impact protecting our planet by grappling with how to use less fossil fuels. The local sawmill is a critical component of a strategy to mitigate climate change.

Additionally, one of the strongest tools in our toolbox is to focus to the goal of conserving 50% of our Commonwealth by 2050. Let's work together to protect our land from development, keep forests forest, and keep farms farm. Let's focus on eating local and building with local timber. Let's envision a landscape that's a patchwork of different forest types and ages and habitats. Let's work together to build a resilient Massachusetts.

Emma Ellsworth is executive director of the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust.

OP/ED

Management, Harvest Benefit Forests

By CHRIS EGAN

MARLBOROUGH – I'm writing in response to the recent op-ed column by Bart Bouricius. I am the executive director of the Massachusetts Forest Alliance, a trade association representing forest landowners, foresters, timber harvesters, and forest product companies.

Like any trade association, we represent our members on Beacon Hill. We did oppose a bill that would have essentially banned tree-cutting on state-owned land, resulting in a number of negative effects.

For example, the bill would have hindered DCR from converting dying Depression-era monoculture plantations to native mixed-species forests, explicitly prohibited MassWildlife from cutting trees to create suitable habitat for declining and threatened species like the Eastern Whip-poor-will and New England Cottontail, and strictly limited management on watershed lands, where trees are managed for reasons such as avoiding blow-downs that pollute reservoirs.

The Nature Conservancy, Mass Audubon, the Environmental League of Massachusetts, the Trustees of Reservations, and others also opposed the bill.

We did oppose a bill that would ban glyphosate. We told legislators that we supported restricting its use to licensed applicators and restricting or prohibiting its use around schools and playgrounds. Glyphosate can be carefully hand-applied to kill invasive plants (a huge problem in our forests) while leaving nearby native plants unharmed. Perhaps that's why the Native Plant Trust echoed our testimony in their own opposition to the bill.

We support modern wood heating and its inclusion in the Altern-

ative Portfolio Standard (APS) because the science supports it. Only best-in-class automated high-efficiency furnaces and boilers that run on pellets or dried wood chips qualify for Alternative Energy Credits – not wood stoves, outdoor wood boilers, or pellet stoves. They must meet strict efficiency and air quality standards that more traditional wood heating systems cannot achieve.

The state's research in the *Manomet* study supported modern wood heating as an effective decarbonization measure, and subsequent peer-reviewed published research has confirmed this, showing 50% or greater net carbon reductions when switching from oil to wood (while saving substantial money to boot!). That's why major environmental organizations supported the inclusion of modern wood heating in the APS when it was created.

Most of the feedstock of APS-eligible modern wood heating systems today comes from sawmill and raw wood manufacturing residues, which have an even more favorable decarbonization impact – since no additional trees were cut to produce it and it would release its carbon and thermal energy regardless of how we use it.

The idea that science opposes sustainable forest management is simply wrong. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – the United Nations body of the world's leading climate change scientists – came out heavily in favor of sustainable forest management in their *Special Report on Climate Change and Land*, which was released at the end of 2019.

The IPCC said:

“Sustainable forest management can reduce the extent of forest

conversion to non-forest uses. Sustainable forest management aimed at providing timber, fiber, biomass, non-timber resources, and other ecosystem functions and services, can lower greenhouse gas emissions and can contribute to adaptation. (high confidence).”

Mr. Bouricius claims that logging is “overwhelmingly the largest cause of tree death.” Actually, in Massachusetts in 2019 (most recent data), tree mortality from invasives, weather events, and simple overcrowding was nearly three times more than the trees harvested for forest products. Massachusetts trees grew more than seven times as much new wood – in just that year – than was harvested. It's therefore not surprising to learn that carbon sequestration and storage in our forests continues to increase each year.

To pretend that no longer cutting trees in Massachusetts (where it is tightly regulated) would be a net carbon emissions saver is wrong – we would simply push our demand for forest products to other places,

where forest management is less regulated and could result in even more emissions.

We all use forest products every single day – we live in homes built of wood with hardwood floors and wooden furniture, we use tissues and toilet paper, read books and magazines, have cardboard boxes full of goods arrive on our doorsteps, toast marshmallows over a campfire, enjoy maple syrup on our pancakes, and more.

Our members love their woodlands and take pride in growing trees, sequestering carbon, protecting wildlife habitat and water quality, and sustainably producing renewable forest products in Montague and other towns. Their small, family-owned companies pay livable wages in struggling rural communities and contribute to the local economy while giving us the forest products we all need.

Let's not demonize them.

Chris Egan is the executive director of the Massachusetts Forest Alliance.

Montague Dems to Elect Convention Delegates

Registered Democrats in Montague will hold a caucus on Tuesday, July 13 through a Zoom meeting to elect delegates and alternates to the 2021 Massachusetts Democratic State Convention.

This year's state convention will be held September 25 at the Tsongas Convention Center in Lowell, where thousands of Democrats from across the state will come together to discuss Party business and prepare for upcoming elections.

The caucus is open to all regis-

tered and pre-registered Democrats in the town of Montague. Montague can select five delegates and four alternates to the convention.

Youth, minorities, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ individuals who are not elected as a delegate or alternate may apply to be an add-on delegate at the caucus or at www.massdems.org.

Anyone interested in attending the convention and obtaining the Zoom link is encouraged to contact Mark Wisnewski at mpwisnewski@gmail.com.

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Elementary Electrical Service project fund, as well as \$10,000 from an unused appropriation toward a snow plow repair approved at the 2018 annual town meeting.

The truck has reportedly made all who drive it sick, due to a “blow-by” issue with the truck’s particulate filter, releasing toxic fumes into the cab through the fresh air intake. This has recently been discovered to be a nationwide issue with many diesel trucks’ particulate filters, and it is now understood that they need earlier and more frequent cleaning and inspection.

According to Miner, a solution was jerry-rigged to reduce the noxious fumes, but it did not eliminate continuous error codes that made the Sterling truck inoperable.

Finance committee chair Claire Chang delivered her committee’s 3-1 recommendation against the purchase, while the selectboard’s recommendation was 2-1 in favor.

Chang noted that the passage of Article 8, which allowed a \$300,000 debt exclusion to replace flooring at the Gill Elementary School, would increase the tax rate if that project was not approved for federal funding.

Selectboard chair Greg Snedeker said that he was in favor of the new truck on principle, but that he also voted against it because of “the uncertainty of where our residents are financially.”

Gill resident and Montague highway department superintendent Tom Bergeron spoke in support of the new truck. Several other residents cited the health concerns with driving the Sterling, and the liability risk to the town if its engine is not rebuilt and an accident should occur. Bergeron also echoed Miner’s argument that the sand-hauling capacity of a new truck would be double that of the Sterling, saving

the town money on sanding trips during winter storms.

After Article 17 passed, selectboard member Randy Crochier explained that Article 18 needed to be voted down so that Gill would not have to hold a special town meeting if the debt exclusion is defeated in the July 12 townwide election. Snedeker added that voting the article down would also allow the selectboard to work with Miner to “further evaluate the existing truck,” which some have argued might still be repaired.

Finance committee member Tupper Brown offered a substitute motion to transfer \$30,000 from free cash, to be used at the discretion of the selectboard for repairs to the Sterling truck. It was unanimously approved.

School Floors

Article 8, allowing the town to borrow the \$300,000 for the asbestos remediation and new flooring project at the Gill Elementary School, was also unanimously approved.

Town administrator Ray Purington said that Gill hopes to cover the project using some of the \$437,000 in coronavirus relief funding Gill is eligible for under the federal American Recovery Plan Act, but that the work “needed to proceed” even if that is not approved. A debt exclusion override already passed at the May 17 spring election.

Purington explained the town’s rationale for using the relief funding to replace the asbestos tiles, which have been coming unglued. “The glue was accustomed to a certain use pattern, and then suddenly last March the school closed,” he said. “All of the door openings and closing, and all of the warm little bodies, and the humidity that was part of that – that all changed. And

then as part of reopening, we needed to improve ventilation systems and increase the airflow.... we had fresh air coming in that the mastic was not accustomed to.”

Joanne Blier, business manager for the Gill-Montague regional school district, attended the meeting in support of the flooring project, and said the district had received two bids for it. “On July 7 we will be opening those bids,” she said, “and then we will know exactly how much it will cost us for this project, and we hope that work on that can get started right away.”

Stabilization Back on Track

Articles 22 and 23 transferred money from free cash into three stabilization funds.

Purington explained that Article 22 was actually a do-over of a vote for the FY’21 budget at the November 2020 town meeting, which had been nullified by the state Department of Revenue (DOR) because it was held after June 30. The DOR, he said, had then “recognized that several of those votes were of a critical nature,” allowing the selectboard to spend from general stabilization as a “one-time exception made possible by COVID-19 emergency regulations.”

Article 22 put \$2,000 into the energy stabilization account, \$15,000 into the stabilization fund covering the purchase of air packs for the fire department, and \$90,000 into general stabilization.

“We have to replace these every 15 years, because they become non-compliant,” said Snedeker of the air packs for self-contained breathing apparatuses. “They run about \$9,000 per unit, so it is good that we are setting this money aside.”

Article 23, which was for FY’22 put another \$2,000 into energy stabilization, \$15,000 into the air pack fund, \$40,000 into educa-

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tion stabilization, and \$92,489 into general stabilization. Both articles were approved unanimously.

Other Budget Items

The town voted unanimously for town officer salaries, a 1.3 % cost-of-living adjustment for town employees, and a \$1,917,203 omnibus budget. \$50,000 from free cash was approved to help stabilize the tax levy and reduce the tax rate. \$8,738 through taxation, and another \$5,000 from free cash, were put into Gill’s trust fund for “other post-employment benefits” (OPEB), a growing liability for municipalities.

Voters unanimously approved the use of \$28,439 from the “Gill Elementary School well and water project account” for a feasibility study and design for a new roof, and \$7,500 from free cash for an assessment of the building’s capital needs.

Another \$6,489 from free cash was approved to fix their ten-

nis courts at Turners Falls High School, as well as \$20,000 for water and humidity remediation at Gill’s town hall.

Assessor Bill Tomb said that humidity, and sometimes standing water, in the town hall basement had caused peeling tiles and damaged records, which have been moved to the first floor. “I am in favor of the article,” his fellow assessor Pam Lester said. “I am not in favor of putting money into a fund when we do not get the actions taken.”

\$2,200 was unanimously approved to purchase an electronic vote tabulator, and \$1,754 to cover Gill’s share of the regional animal control officer and dog kennel costs.

Voters approved a \$3,000 annual membership fee to join the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District, and a 3% tax on adult-use retail cannabis sales. No businesses are currently approved to sell cannabis in Gill, but there are mosquitoes.



NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Dog’s Last Chance; Behind On Projects; Limping Along

By **JERRI HIGGINS**

Gill’s selectboard meeting was held on Tuesday due to the Fourth of July holiday. Among the brief meeting’s business items were a follow-up to a nuisance dog hearing, a discussion about dampness at the town hall, and a town Chapter 61 “right of first refusal” for a property to be sold.

Regional animal control officer Kyle Dragon attended the meeting to discuss the town’s options concerning Wesley Johnson of Main Road, who has not complied with a previous agreement to secure his dog Lucy.

At an April 12 hearing, Johnson and his housemate Rufus Thomas were warned about seizure of their dogs Lucy and Mozzi if they could not keep them properly secured by a chain or in a kennel. Johnson and Thomas assured Dragon and the selectboard that they would construct a kennel and keep the dogs securely restrained when outside.

Dragon told the selectboard that Lucy has been picked up “eight or more times since the end of May,” and said that a kennel constructed in April had since been dismantled in favor of a swimming pool. The board agreed to warn Johnson that his dog would be seized if she is picked up one more time, and to demand the kennel be reconstructed.

“It is the single hardest motion I have ever had to make,” said selectboard member Randy Crochier. “I do not like to take someone’s dog away from them.”

“My concern is also for the motoring public that use those roads,” responded Dragon, about Lucy’s wanderings down Main and

South Cross roads.

“Of all the chances he has been given – we are not taking the dog,” said town administrator Ray Purington. “If he does not correct the situation, he is basically giving up the dog.”

Damp Basement, Damp Mood

Purington told the board he has received a “mini-flurry of email suggestions” from attendees of the June 26 town meeting about using the \$20,000 approved for a town hall basement remediation project.

Purington said that account now has a balance of \$53,418.

Crochier voiced annoyance at suggestions that the selectboard was not taking action on the wetness and potential mold growth in the town hall basement, which have damaged files belonging to the town assessors, and said that those making complaints had not come to selectboard meetings to discuss the issues.

Selectboard chair Greg Snedeker said he feels the first priority is to free up more time by getting Purington an assistant. Purington replied that he would be placing a newspaper ad by the coming weekend or the weekend after.

“We have had a lot of stuff go down – especially in the last two to four years with turnover, and COVID-19 putting a lot of things on the back burner,” said Snedeker. “I think there is, understandably, frustration about the projects that have not moved forward that we have funded.”

“There is also frustration, on this end, when you make blanket statements about the building with no proof at all,” said Crochier. He added that the assessors had submitted a

five-year capital improvement plan, “which we just funded Year One of five years. It seems kind of strange to me that your board would put in a request to put funding away for five years, and now you are pushing to get something moving the first year?”

“We will get moving on it, but it is just going to take time,” said Snedeker. Purington suggested placing an article in the next town newsletter asking for volunteers to help with the issue.

Right of First Refusal

James and Sonja McComb notified the town of their intent to sell 6.51 acres of land on Dole Road to a buyer wishing to build on that lot. The land is enrolled in the state Chapter 61 program, which offers a property tax reduction in exchange for the town having “a right of first refusal” to purchase agricultural land.

Purington told the selectboard that the board of assessors do not have any recommendations one way or another. After the planning board and conservation commission have a chance to make recommendations, the selectboard will make a final decision about what action to take.

Other Business

The only new information on a planned floor replacement project at Gill Elementary School dealt with color. Purington said Joanne Blier, business director of the Gill-Montague regional district, discussed a “textured-looking lighter color” for the flooring which would minimize the look of

wear over time. Bids for the project were due to be opened on Wednesday.

Purington recommended that the board wait for the outcome of the townwide July 12 debt exclusion vote to replace the highway department’s Sterling dump truck before discussing the \$30,000 approved by town meeting to repair the truck.

“I agree,” said Crochier. “If the debt exclusion goes down, I think the conversation has to be, ‘Is the highway department just able to limp along?’, rather than putting money into something that I am not sure is worth putting money into.”

A special permit was granted to Jerrold Wood for an auction of motorcycles, parts, and tools at Green River Powersports this Saturday, July 10. “He has no expectation of more than 300 people attending this auction,” said Purington, “so we did not go through the public gathering permit process. The auctioneer is expecting mostly dealers, but I get a little nervous with the location that people will stop out of curiosity.”

John Ward was unanimously appointed as the selectboard’s representative to the Franklin Regional Planning Board, and Lynda Hodsdon Mayo as assistant town clerk, through June 2022.

Snedeker and member Charles Garbiel approved three-year renewals of contracts with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) for accounting software and services, plumbing, gas, and wiring inspection, and zoning enforcement. Crochier recused himself due to his employment with the FRCOG.

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DAVID HOULT PHOTO



DAVID HOULT PHOTO

Top: Center fielder Emily Young's spectacular into-the-fence catch ended the final game's fifth inning. Below: Jade Tyler pitches to Amesbury during the second inning.

CLINCHES from page A1

accepted the Western Mass D-III trophy.

This left four teams standing. Although Powertown won their playoff games by a combined 37-0, the other teams still alive boasted similar stats.

TFHS 4 – Hopedale 3

Blue's next battle came on the following Monday against Hopedale, the Central Mass Champs. The 16-1 Blue Raiders came to town after knocking off top-seeded West Boylston in a no-hit, 12-0 shutout.

Not only did the Raiders have firepower, having outscored their previous playoff opponents 36-1, they also had exceptional pitching; pitcher Bianca Fitch is so tricky the *Worcester Daily Telegram* dubbed her throwing style the "Fitch Pitch."

Hopedale also scored two runs before Turners even came to bat. The leadoff Raider bunted and just beat the throw to first. Tyler struck out the next batter, but Fitch slammed a home run. Tyler walked the next batter, putting a runner on base with only one out, but the Blue D got the next two Raiders and Powertown came to the plate down by two. Hopedale gave up a walk, but Turners' next three batters all struck out.

Hopedale struck out the Turners side in the second, and again in the third – but the Thunder Ladies were beginning to make contact, and all three batters hit at least one foul. Thunder went 1-2-3 again in the fourth, but two batters put the ball into play. It seemed that Mullins' team was beginning to adjust to the Fitch Pitch.

In the fifth, Liimatainen took a walk, and then Young made contact. She raced to first, and barely made it, but the ump called her safe. With two on and no outs, Thayer hit a sacrifice RBI, bringing Liimatainen home and cutting the deficit in half. The next batter struck out, but with only one more out and Powertown trailing by a run, Young stole second on a wild pitch.

Young was batted in by Murphy, who advanced to second on the throw. With the game tied, Whittier reached on an error; third-base coach Jason Salls waved Murphy home to give Turners the 3-2 lead.

Hopedale got the run back in the sixth, and neither team scored in the seventh, sending the game into extra innings.

Hopedale went 1-2-3 in the eighth. In the home half, Tyler drew a one-out walk, and was relieved on base by Paige Sulda. Sulda stole second, putting the winning run in scoring position. Julianna Rode then reached on an error, and Sulda didn't stop until she scored the winning run, sending Turners Falls into the championship game.

TFHS 5 – Amesbury 4

The Amesbury Indians are the Eastern Mass champs. Not only do they have two excellent pitchers, they have four batters with .400-plus averages.

The game was played at Amesbury's home field, but the Blue Faithful showed up in droves. It was originally scheduled for last Wednesday, but was postponed to Thursday by extreme heat advisories, tornado alerts, and severe thunderstorm warnings. So it wasn't until July 1 that the Thunder finally rolled into Amesbury.

Powertown drew first blood early. With two outs in the first inning, both Rode and Holly Myers got base hits. Then, on a two-strike pitch, Liimatainen hit a base clear-



Head coach Gary Mullins signals to position the players.

ing triple to give Powertown the 2-0 edge.

Excellent infield play by Turners in the bottom of the inning retired the first two batters, but a home run put Amesbury on the board. After one complete, Turners was clinging to a slim 2-1 lead.

Turners added to their lead in the second when Taryn Thayer scored on a Whittier RBI. In the third, Amesbury got two runners on base. Then with two outs, the ball was hit sharply into deep left field. Olivia Stafford sprinted after it, and to the dismay of the home crowd, made a spectacular over-the-shoulder catch to end the inning.

In the home fifth, the ball was cracked into center field. It cleared the fence, but Emily Young leaped for it. Her momentum carried her into the fence, collapsing it. She got back to her feet and raised her glove in the air, showing that she made the catch for the inning's final out.

Amesbury's leadoff batter in the sixth hit another bullet into the outfield, this time into the right-field gap. Myers raced toward it and made another dramatic over-the-shoulder running catch.

Turners padded their lead to 5-1 in the top of the seventh, as Liimatainen placed the ball into the gap, scoring two insurance runs.

Amesbury is a great team – the best in Eastern Mass – and they did not go down gently into the afternoon. Three times, they came down to their last strike, but they managed to score three runs before Tyler finally ended the game with a strikeout.

With the win, the Turners Falls Softball Thunder takes back the Massachusetts D-III state title.

So where do we go from here? Losing three infielders and their starting pitcher to graduation is a big hit, but not a fatal one. Every year, they lose players and every year, Coach Mullins seems to fill the holes. I suspect that they will remain the team to beat for years to come.

Not only in our own region but all over the state, schools big and small will relish the chance to play against the dynasty known as the Turners Falls Softball Thunder.



MONTAGUE from page A1

decided it had worked well enough to use again at the next meeting.

Special Election

A special town election must be held to replace member Michael Nelson, who has announced an early end to his term. Town clerk Deb Bourbeau recommended Tuesday, September 21, and the board approved the date.

Nomination papers are available at town hall until August 2 for anyone wishing to run for the seat.

Bourbeau also requested shorter hours for the election than normal, as it was a "one-race" election.

Ellis voiced an objection to hours that might be "less than the length of an individual's work shift," but Bourbeau responded that the full mail-in voting options made possible under the COVID emergency would still be in effect, and the board unanimously approved a timeframe of noon to 7 p.m.

Later, as the members ran through a list of 90 annual appointments, Nelson's role as a liaison to the county solid waste management district was reassigned to Kuklewicz.

Personnel

The board unanimously voted to hire

Suzor IT of Athol to provide information technology services to the town at an annual cost of \$32,550. Ellis said Montague had received five responses to an RFP, and Suzor's was "a tremendous value relative to most of the other bidders."

Owner Adam Suzor joined the meeting to introduce himself, and said his firm already works for the towns of Erving and Orange, and the Mohawk and Mahar school districts.

Kuklewicz thanked Horace Moody of Moody Consulting, who is moving away, for his past service.

The board also agreed to retain Wright-Pierce of Middletown, CT for on-call engineering services at the water pollution control facility (WPCF). WPCF superintendent Chelsey Little said the town was already working with the company on various projects, and the agreement would "help streamline" the arrangement.

"We're having less and less major emergencies at the facility, which is good," she said. Kuklewicz said this was "good to hear," then commented on the facility's most recent odor. Little said the department is considering installing an odor mitigation system.

Police chief Chris Williams brought four state-mandated policy updates, and the hire of a new full-time patrol officer, for approval.

Shawna Williams, who Williams said had been working on a "temporary full-time" basis since last November, will start at \$22.95 per hour. The policies concern social media, information technology, corrective action and discipline, and internal affairs review. Everything was unanimously approved.

Other Business

Chris Girouard, president of the St. Kazimierz Society, came before the board to modify the liquor license held by St. Kaz at 197 Avenue A to reflect the fact that the club now leases its space, rather than owning the building.

"The old-timers are starting to die out," Girouard said, of the club's decision to downsize. "We're looking to get in as many younger members as we can."

The board unanimously approved the request, and granted a one-day beer and wine license to Northampton-based caterers Belly of the Beast for a wedding reception at the Montague Retreat Center in late July.

The board approved orders of taking for three temporary easements on Canal Road to facilitate the "Canal District Gateway Enhancement Project," which will install a new pedestrian bridge and sewer pump station. Southworth building owner Milton Hilton,

LLC agreed to waive reimbursement for 1,100- and 9,000-square-foot areas, while River Child, LLC will be paid \$700 for the use of a 3,600-square-foot parcel.

Town planner Walter Ramsey also proposed that the 125-foot alley between Pioneer Valley Brewing and Unity Park, "a popular alley for pedestrians and cyclists, and kids in scooters and skateparks," be closed through November. This was approved.

Assistant planner Suzanne Lomanto was approved for several requests concerning the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival, including the closure of most of First Street on August 8 and 9.

Lomanto also received permission for downtown businesses to set up tents this summer to sell merchandise. The stipulations include not letting one's tent blow away. "I fully endorse getting businesses any opportunity we can," said Kuklewicz.

Ellis announced that the recycling market was finally improving, and that May was the first month in recent years in which the town earned rather than lost money sending curbside recyclables to the Materials Recycling Facility in Springfield.

The board's next meeting will be held July 12. It can be attended either remotely or in person.



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LEVERETT from page A1

Neiger. “It seems like an end run around the process we’re in the middle of.... We don’t even have a clear picture that only invasives are being pulled in these areas.”

For decades the FLP has received permits from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to manage nuisance weeds and invasive species on Leverett Pond. To continue its use of herbicides and hydro-raking, the group must submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) describing its plan for the next three to five years.

At the urging of the con com, FLP has hired a wetlands scientist, Mickey Marcus from SWCA Environmental Consultants, to conduct a habitat assessment and make recommendations for the NOI. Results from a fishery study conducted by the state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife were also turned over to SWCA for analysis.

The con com has asked the FLP to refrain from calling the pond “unhealthy” unless an “independent aquatic scientist” deems it so, according to a document shared at the commission’s May meeting.

“We consulted with the DEP.... There was back and forth about whether it even made sense,” Tessa Dowling, the town’s conservation agent, explained at Tuesday’s meeting. “Because the NOI will not be completed during the growing season, in all likelihood, the [FLP] have concerns about targeting invasive plants growing at this moment. So, with DEP’s input, they have submitted a request for determination of applicability.”

The FLP’s short-term plan would involve assembling and training a group of about 20 volunteers to hand-pull and rake invasive weeds in front of private residences.

Commission members Ralph Tiner and Joan Deely said they support hand removal of invasives, but wanted to wait to make a decision until after July 24, when the commission has scheduled a site visit to the pond.

“It doesn’t make sense to change course at this point in time, and I think waiting until a site visit makes sense,” Deely said.

The FLP’s working proposal for the long-term plan includes up to eight acres of herbicide application, four acres of mechanical removal with a hydro-rake, and hand removal. The group has been concerned primarily with variable milfoil, a fast-growing invasive that is currently spreading in several areas of the pond.

According to a description of the project on the town website, “[a] major goal of this Project is to improve fisheries habitat by removing invasive monoculturistic nuisance aquatic vegetation, thereby improving habitat edge for fisheries.... While not a part of the Wetlands Protection Act permitting process, FLP’s goal is also to improve recreation and pond use.”

“We’re not even sure that hand removal of the weeds is actually going to support or detract from the fishery,” Kemper Carlson, a Leverett resident and former wildlife biologist with the Nature Conservancy, said on Tuesday. “We’re just going by the seat of our pants, and we need better data.”

Another resident, Macaylla Silver, argued that removal of certain species can feed into an “invasion treadmill” by giving more aggressive invasives like milfoil new room to thrive. He pointed to milfoil growing in front of Mulholland’s house on Cider Mill Road as an example of the consequences of raking.

Silver posed a list of questions to the FLP. “How is it determined what a nuisance plant is?” he asked. “Why has scuba and hand-pulling never been used before? I want to know what your goals are. What do you want the pond to look like when you finish?”

Mulholland said he would provide answers at con com’s next meeting, which will be held on August 3.

The commission voted to continue the public hearings for both the long-term and short-term plan until then.



Montague Economic Development & Industrial Corporation (MEDIC) SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

MEDIC is seeking expressions of interest for potential new volunteer members as they undergo an update to their 5-year Economic Development plan. The plan lays the groundwork for MEDIC to play a proactive role in the development of properties in the Airport Industrial Park, on Avenue A, in the Canal District and at the Sandy Lane Industrial Area.

This is a great chance for residents with a background in real estate, municipal finance, or economic development or similar to be part of the team that helps build a robust and resilient local economy. MEDIC meets quarterly and receives professional staff support from the Town Planner.

Please contact Walter Ramsey, Town Planner, at (413) 863-3200 x 112 or planner@montague-ma.gov if you are interested in learning more about the roles and responsibilities of MEDIC.

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WENDELL from page A1

for it. The board voted on Wednesday to return that money to the fund for general use.

Meeting and Planning

Alisha Brouillet, who the selectboard hired to replace retiring town coordinator Nancy Aldrich, came to the board’s June 23 meeting.

Brouillet grew up in New Salem and attended Swift River School, and lived in other Franklin County towns before moving to Wendell. She will start training, working alongside Aldrich, on July 20.

The June 23 meeting was the board’s second one in person, and was held in the office building meeting room, which allowed some space between people. Reflecting Governor Baker’s lifting of the COVID-19 emergency, almost every person in the room wore no mask.

Planning board members came to propose creating a town master plan, and a committee to create that plan. A final plan will be expensive, with the town contributing some, a grant providing some, and the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust providing some. The first step, which will not cost the town money, is to form a committee to get ideas from citizens and concerned boards and departments, notably the open space committee and highway department.

Planning board member Nan Riebschlaeger mentioned an information-filled potluck including a survey.

Selectboard chair Dan Keller moved to allow the planning board to create a master plan planning committee, and the entire board approved that motion.

Town Buildings

Selectboard and energy committee member Laurie DiDonato said the energy committee plans to go ahead with installing window quilts at the library Herrick room and the selectboard office.

The town’s Green Communities grant does not have enough money left to put quilts on the much larger town hall windows after they are replaced, but Aldrich said the selectboard office stays warm enough in winter and is shaded in summer, so she recommended putting the quilts on the finance committee office.

DiDonato said she would check in with Don Stone of the energy committee about that possible change.

As a member of the kitchen committee, DiDonato announced that Mary Holtorf has been hired as town hall kitchen coordinator. Holtorf is ServSafe certified.

The kitchen has passed inspection, and is available for individuals to rent – currently through the town coordinator, but eventually through Holtorf. She will have to be in contact with the town coordinator about possible conflicts with other uses of the town hall.

House and Land

Joy Gorzokoski and Dennis Hudson are interested in buying and restoring the town-owned house and land at 97 Wendell Depot Road. The house is one of Wendell’s oldest, with 40-foot chestnut beams, and is in good but not habitable condition.

Because of its historic nature the selectboard has not wanted it simply to be demolished, but its location – almost directly under high voltage wires – has kept interest in the building low. DiDonato said that research has shown no evidence of health issues relating to proximity to high-voltage transmission lines, and only one result with slight correlation.

Keller suggested modeling a request for proposals (RFP) after the one used on Marion Herrick’s house, with a low minimum, \$10,000, to consider the cost of restoration. The least Wendell would gain in the sale is having the property return to the tax rolls.

Other Business

Wendell received \$270,000 from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) to help with expenses and loss of revenue that followed the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impact.

Only two essays about the importance of nature were submitted in the contest to win two scholarships to Mass Audubon’s Wildwood camp, which the organization gives to the town each year *in lieu* of taxes. Aldrich read them both aloud although both writers, Helen Maiewski and Geo Vular, earned their scholarships by taking the initiative to submit their essays.

Board members agreed to use email and ranked-choice voting to select this year’s citizen of the year. At the annual town meeting, Old Home Day organizer Karen Cope-land said she expected that 2021 will have a smaller than usual Old Home Day, the traditional time for announcing the citizen of the year.

With the reintroduction of in-person meetings, selectboard members can now sign documents and appointment slips during the meeting, and no longer need to schedule separate times to come to the office for signatures. At this meeting they signed the “hundreds” of appointment slips for the new fiscal year.

But the Zoom meetings had also allowed citizens to watch and hear meetings from home without much disruption to their normal lives. Board members said they want to continue that involvement, but Zoom is not well-suited to a meeting spread out around a room. The town owns a speakerphone that might be able to allow interested citizens to participate remotely if it can accept calls from more than one person, but its sound quality is not good.

Board members went home to think about ways to allow citizens to continue following the meetings from home.



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

Here’s the way it was on June 30 and July 14, 2011: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Remembering the Grand Trunk Hotel

Looming like a phantom over the broad expanse of Avenue A as it approaches the reconstruction of the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge is the shadow of the one building that will never join in the revitalization of downtown Turners Falls.

The Crocker Bank, nearly destroyed by an arson fire in 1997, has been meticulously restored and returned to life. So, too, has the former machine shop of the Montague Paper Mill, now the centerpiece Great Falls Discovery Center. But in between lies a ghostly space now partly occupied by a decrepit one story cinderblock structure – a former Cumberland Farms – with its leaky roof and empty rooms.

It sits there like the stump of an amputated limb, in the footprint of what was once the grandest building in town – gone, but not forgotten – the Grand Trunk Hotel.

This four-story edifice, built in 1872 with bricks from the Montague City Thomas brickyard, with a mansard roof done in the style of the French 2nd Empire, was 100 feet long and 75 feet deep, surmounted by multiple brick chimneys, a cupola and observatory.

A home away from home for French Canadian loggers at the end of their log drives, the destination for sleigh-riding revelers from Shelburne Falls on snowy winter days, and the see and be seen locale of bigwig dinners in the boom years of Turners’ industrial might, the hotel eventually housed multiple storefronts, the

town offices, and inexpensive apartments on the upper floors.

Built like a battleship, it took days for the wrecking ball to reduce to rubble. No one can quite remember whether it fell in 1967 or 1968, although most local history buffs seem to favor the earlier date. The town condemned the building in 1966, three years after purchasing the new town hall across the Avenue from the Western Massachusetts Electric Company for \$100 and moving the town offices.

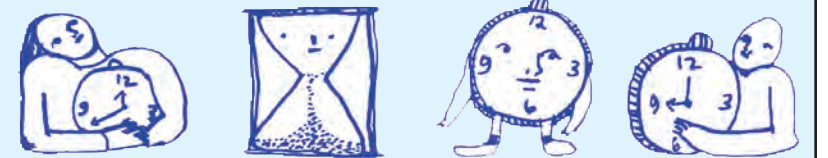
Improvements Funded At Unity Park

“Wonderful! Fantastic! It’s going to bring a much needed improvement to a great park. Now, it’s going to sparkle from a regional perspective.”

That was how an elated Jon Dobosz, director of the Montague parks and recreation department, reacted to the news this week that Montague had been one of just three towns in Franklin County awarded funds in a highly competitive round of Community Development Block Grant applications.

In Montague’s case, the long-planned improvements to Unity Park, which had scored high but just missed funding for a first phase of renovations in 2010, got the go-ahead in the form of \$652,000 in CDBG funds to finally get the project underway.

“Thankfully,” said Dobosz, “we’ll be able to focus on the most popular aspect of the park, which is the playground.” The park director said the plan is to retire the ancient playground equipment in favor of, “new swings, new play equipment, and a water spray element,” perfect for weather like we are experiencing now.



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PARADE from page B1

dam and Cabot Station will result in increased economic activity related to boating and rafting.

In its license application submitted last December, FirstLight has offered to create a “formal access trail and put-in” below the dam at Turners, and another trail and “stairs for take-out” at Poplar Street, a notoriously difficult embankment.

Under its existing license the company is required to offer on-call portage service from the canoe ramp on the Gill side of Barton Cove to Poplar Street, though the service was suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic and has not been restored.

“We’re doing a variety of things to try to educate the public about the different issues having to do with

relicensing,” said CRC river steward Andrea Donlon, an organizer of Saturday’s demonstration. The coalition is organizing a similar “parade” upriver at Bellows Falls on July 17, highlighting another portage zone it sees as lacking around three dams owned by Great River Hydro.

“The proposed plans that the companies have put out have a lot of room for improvement,” Donlon said. “We had requested a study for feasibility of a walkable portage around the [Turners Falls] dam.”

Donlon suggested the construction of an access point at Unity Park for canoeists and kayakers, which would allow for a short walk to the put-in proposed below the dam.

“As part of the relicensing process, we have proposed \$130 million in additional spending on recreation and environmental stewardship, including \$5.6 million in new recreation development,” FirstLight spokesperson Carter Wall wrote on Wednesday when reached for comment. “We are having active, ongoing conversations with all of the towns and other key stakeholders to develop recreation proposals that are an enhancement to the community and promote tourism in Franklin County while maintaining public safety.”

Complicating the issue, the section of the “bypass stretch” at Rock Dam is protected spawning habitat for the endangered shortnose sturgeon. FirstLight proposes to vary its flows in support of sturgeon and shad spawning, and schedule eight four-hour “whitewater releases”

each year to entertain rafters.

“There’s not a ton of research that I’m aware of that points to whether or not boats would be a problem – that’ll be hard to balance,” said Donlon. “Certainly people getting out of boats around these shoals where there’s spawning would definitely bear a problem, I would imagine.”

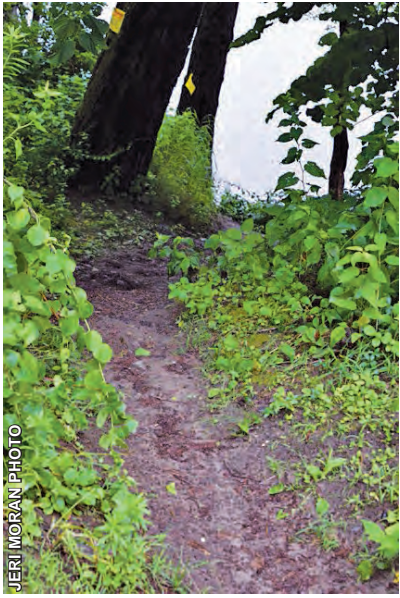
The CRC has also recently criticized both FirstLight and Great River Hydro for failing to consult with local tribal representatives in their license applications.

The next stretch of the Connecticut, downstream from Poplar Street, is a “quiet river corridor” where boating speeds are restricted by law, thanks to the efforts of the late conservationist Terry Blunt and other local environmental activists.

“Leaving the river and bringing boats up the hill at that access is impossible for many people who would like to paddle that lower part of the river,” said Montague kayaker Jeri Moran. “The Poplar Street access is one area that needs attention from the power company, which owns that land and agreed to provide access to the river.”

Moran added that the stairs and dock FirstLight proposes to build there “doesn’t solve the problems” faced by boaters unable to carry their craft uphill.

Saturday’s event starts at 11:30 a.m. at Unity Park with a press conference, and the “parade” begins at noon. A press release encourages attendees to bring “signs and noisemakers.”



The Poplar Street access point is daunting to many paddlers.



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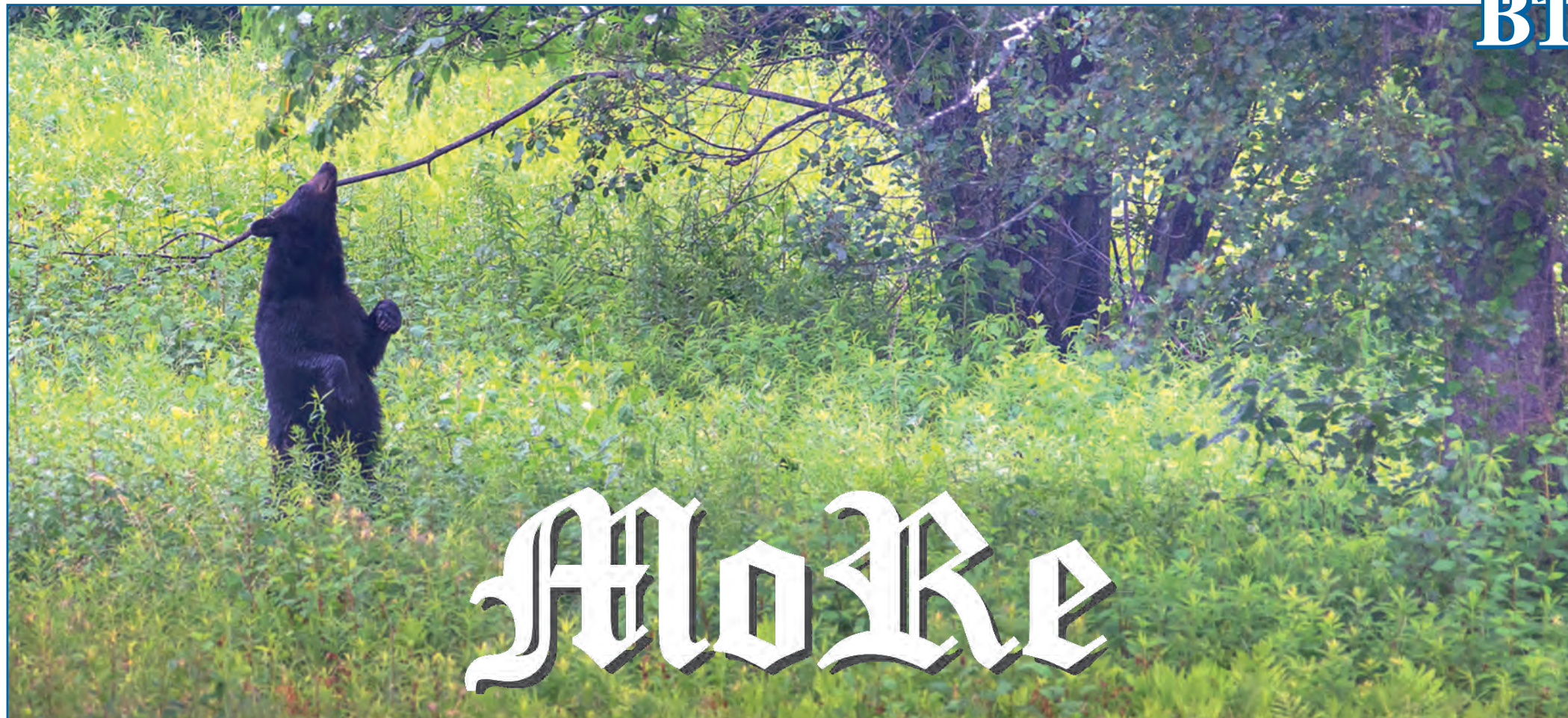
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Above: At the edge of the woods on Chestnut Hill, a bear (or person in a convincing bear suit) uses a branch to scratch their face.

Summer Movie Reviews

F9 (2021, dir. Justin Lin)

By SEAMUS TURNER-GLENNON

CHARLEMONT – In *F9*, the latest entry in the now twenty-year long *Fast & Furious* action franchise, there's an action sequence in which Jakob Torretto (John Cena), the newly-introduced brother of franchise protagonist Dominic Torretto (Vin Diesel), fights a bald, tattooed, musclebound goon on top of a large armored truck whipping through the streets of Edinburgh, Scotland.



Cena's setpieces – unlike those of castmate and fellow World Wrestling Entertainment veteran Dwayne Johnson – mimic the sort of exaggerated pro wrestling style of faux-combat he made his name with. The roof of the armored vehicle is their ring, and Cena and his opponent are unquestionably aware of this: the two throw one another and roll to recoveries exactly as if they're in the ring in the midst of a wrestling match, retaining all the over-the-top pageantry and bizarre, pantomime-like mannerisms of Cena's previous career.

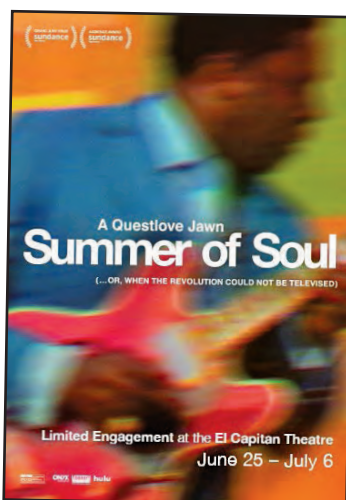
I've never particularly understood the appeal of professional wrestling. While I can understand the draw of the campiness inherent to the "sport" (does it even call itself that? The jury is out, I suppose), there's something about its impenetrable-to-outsiders exterior and sweaty, strange aesthetics and rituals that have always put me off of it. I've just never really

see **F9 REVIEW** page B4

Summer of Soul (2021, dir. Ahmir 'Questlove' Thompson)

By BRIAN ZAYATZ

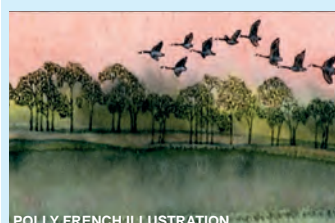
WENDELL – In the summer of 1969, the City of New York collaborated with local community leaders to host a series of free concerts collectively known as the Harlem Cultural Festival, featuring some of the biggest names in Black music from the previous decade, and some whose biggest contributions were yet to come. The event, though lacking a budget even for lighting, was filmed, but the tapes gathered dust for 50 years as no contemporary TV network had interest in airing what was billed as "the Black Woodstock."



The footage has finally been released in the form of the new documentary, *Summer of Soul (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)*, and who better to guide the viewer through the experience than Questlove? The drummer and bandleader of The Roots's knowledge of this era of music is encyclopedic: his DJ sets are always chock full of remixes, collaborations, and rarities from your favorite artists that you never even knew about.

Lovers of this type of musical trivia will not be disappointed by the film, which opens with an impressive drum solo by a young Stevie Wonder.

see **SOUL REVIEW** page B3



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

WEST ALONG THE RIVER

RIDING THE SUMMER BREEZE

By DAVID BRULE

THE FLAT, ERVINGSIDE – July 1. For three days now the temperature has hit 100 degrees by 2 p.m. The humidity lays over the landscape like a heavy wet blanket. So at 7 a.m., all in this old household rise early to take coffee at the green café table set under the apple tree, before it gets too hot.

We open all windows and doors to let the morning air into the rooms. The house breathes in, then breathes out. The scent of those late June roses floats in from the turn of the 19th century.

Pale blue sky, cloudless, domes over the quiet yard, our feet and legs stretched out to touch the lazy dog. Heavy dew falls every morning here along the west-flowing river.

The half-moon up there moves slowly through the blue in her monthly turn.

The riot in the cherry tree has calmed. Thrushes, catbirds, robins, and orioles have carried off their share of the unexpected 2021 bumper crop. Cherries ripened and reddened more than a week early this year, likely due to the lack of May frost and the steady bright sun of June.

We put a ladder up into the branches to gather the ripest fruit before the feathered and frenzied host of the air carried all away. We harvested about half the cherries, or at least the ones we could reach from the ground or on the six-foot ladder. The rest was left for the others. We only take what we need. There are enough cherries for two families: ours and that of the birds.

Our share is the annual two mason jars of Montmorency cherries

preserved in Stolichnaya vodka to add to my reserve of two jars from last year's harvest. We call the contents "50-50", just as our Russian friend Nelly called her jars of wild berries collected around her summer *dacha* in Karelia. Her formula for half fruit, half vodka keeps her in our memory. Having just polished off my jars of the 2019 stock, I'll be all set with these four jars of 50-50 well into the next two years to come. Best be prepared, you never know what those years will bring, in terms of unpredictable cherries and politics.

By 2 p.m. no creature will stir in the super-heated air, but for now, like us, all take care of daily business requirements before noon. Bird families bring their clamoring broods into the yard, getting enough provisions before the siesta heat slows everything down.

Still, summer chores never wait in a household like ours. There's the oft-delayed walk to the river path to take care of the wild roses that bloom there every year. Oak and maple saplings crowd them; we need to cut the greedy seedlings back so that those old roses will bloom again in full sun.

Then there's the knotweed forest, growing thickly, hiding the path to the river. The machete comes along on this trip, to do its work in hacking through the river-bottom bamboo jungle. Beavers do their part too, cutting down those invasives for snacking at river's edge, but I can't seem to get them to cut a path for us. They work their own patch every night, following their own beaver logic, leaving knotweed stalks laid out neatly on the pebbly river shore.

see **WEST ALONG** page B5



The Montague City Rambler: Father's Day

By LILITH WOLINSKY

MONTAGUE CITY – Montague City, I imagine, is particularly prone to cycles of sound, as its industry has waxed and waned in recent centuries. The ailing General Pierce Bridge is now closed, and near silence has descended. Gone are the horns, the squealing brakes, the low hum of large tires, and with them most of the fumes and the dusty clouds which accompany

speeding traffic. Gone too, are the multi-challenged residents of the Farren, their workers unmoored and slung south, while the venerable neighborhood anchor sits quietly, holding the memory of things she has been and has seen, and patiently awaits an influx of vision and cash.

Life continues unabated, traffic or no. My right medial malleolus swells and recedes as if to the moon, putting a damper on gardening and walking, and futzing. The garden neither

knows nor cares, but I suppose this is part of what I love about tending my small patch of earth – the steady pulse of life both larger and smaller than my own.

The apple trees and the crab seem to have successfully rooted, and are surrounded by haloes of oblong leaves the color of summer. The crab has three tiny green fruits (a surprise for its first year) and an army of aphids, the latest in a series of garden dramas. Rust, too, seems to be in evidence, and I am learning new skills with which to counter these offenses. The scent of petunias, and my just-now-climbing honeysuckle, spreads throughout the yard, and subtly lifts my spirits, when laden. Long-sought ruby throated hummingbirds have finally found me on their aerial map of food, and are a tiny whirring thrill for both me and my window-bound kitties.

It's Father's Day, and as I write, I ponder the notion of fathers. My own father, a troubled man by all accounts, disappeared when I was six after a few years of domestic turbulence. For all intents and purposes,

see **RAMBLER** page B10



MONIQUE BRULE PHOTO

The author's Montmorency cherries, preserved in vodka.

Pet of the Week



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Adoption fee is \$425. Interested in adopting? Animals at Dakin are available only in Springfield currently. Contact adoption staff at springfield@dakinhumane.org and include your name and phone number. For more information, call (413) 781-4000 or visit www.dakinhumane.org.

Senior Center Activities

JULY 12 THROUGH 23

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. Senior Health Rides are now available. Contact Susan von Ranson at (978) 544-3758 to set up a ride.

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For more information call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Monday 7/12

10:15 a.m. Aerobics with Linda
11 a.m. Chair Exercise with Linda
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 7/13

3 p.m. Tai Chi with Mari Rovang

Wednesday 7/14

No Activities

9 a.m. Foot Clinic

Thursday 7/15

10 a.m. Chair Yoga with Andrea, outdoors at the Discovery Center
1 p.m. Cards & Games & Pitch

Friday 7/16

10:15 a.m. Aerobics with Linda
11 a.m. Chair Exercise with Linda

Monday 7/19

10:15 a.m. Aerobics with Linda
11 a.m. Chair Exercise with Linda
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 7/20

3 p.m. Tai Chi with Mari Rovang

Wednesday 7/21

9 to 11 a.m. Veterans' Services
10:15 a.m. Aerobics with Linda
11 a.m. Chair Exercise with Linda

1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Parking Lot Pantry

Thursday 7/22

10 a.m. Chair Yoga with Andrea, outdoors at the Discovery Center
1 p.m. Cards & Games & Pitch

Friday 7/23

10:15 a.m. Aerobics with Linda
11 a.m. Chair Exercise with Linda

ERVING

Erving Senior Center is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Open for cards, limit six people max in the library. Exercise room also open, limit three people. Exercise classes will be limited to 15 people per class. There will be four classes to begin. Much more will be added as we begin to get back to the new normal.

No lunch will be served. We will continue with Brown Bag the first Thursday of each month. For any questions or concerns, please call Paula at (413) 423-3649. Masks are optional. Proper handwashing and social distancing are still required.

Mondays

9 a.m. Stretch & Balance

Tuesdays

Good for YOU (starting July 20)

Wednesdays

9 a.m. TBD

Thursdays

9 a.m. Restore & Re-Emerge

Fridays

9 a.m. Quilting Workshop

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.



By MISHEL IXCHEL

TURNERS FALLS – I ran into my friend’s mom the other day, at the perfect moment in what felt like a very chaotic time. These first few months of pregnancy have proven to be quite challenging; sometimes I feel so physically ill that it’s only a matter of time before I feel my mental health also begin to deteriorate. It’s a downward spiral that’s very hard to crawl out of, so I am forever grateful for the chance to chat with a very wise woman.

My friend’s mom, whom I’ll call Jane, reminds me of a saint. She’s the type of person who makes you feel more at peace being around her; just like I imagine it would be to get a hug from the hugging saint, Amma.

I told her of my woes: feeling sick just about all the time, having a heightened sense of smell that makes me gag at everything around me, feeling how small my apartment is and how hard it is to find the right home in this crazy market, and how as a result of being so sick my business had taken a toll these last few months.

Jane sat and listened, nodding, but overall she just listened. The first thing she asked me was how I felt about this pregnancy. On the surface, I felt joyful, but underneath, the truth was that I felt a deep resentment and exhaustion. The

BOOK REVIEW

Hazel Dawkins, *Hazy Memory* (2021, Murder Prose)

By MARY CHICOINE

GREENFIELD – There’s romance. There’s adventure. Heck, there are even flying coffins and quicksand! For those of you who know author and former Greenfield resident Hazel Dawkins, none of this about Hazel’s life is a surprise. And for those of you who are about to meet her in her new memoir, *Hazy Memory*, you’ll soon learn why I say that.

The village of Tuckton on England’s south coast is home in the 1940s to young Hazel and her three much younger siblings, whom she herds and protects as only a big sister can do. Hazel reveals her inquisitive, determined personality – so evident in her adult self – early in *Hazy Memory*, especially in the face of adults bent on shutting down those qualities in her. How such an unflappable and devilishly humorous person could spring from a mother so rigid and silent as Hazel describes her, is a memoir in itself.

Hazel’s childhood is lived in a world gripped by World War II, the reality about which she often has only hints and intuition. And yet, unforgettable adult characters such as Granny Garnham – or GG as little Hazel secretly calls her – bring color and joy to a childhood that seems short on both at home.

After a youth filled with adventure, scrapes, and near-misses with her siblings, including a narrowly averted drowning of her sister, Hazel

Watch Out for Your Thoughts

idea of starting from scratch with a new baby makes me wanna hide under a rock. She nodded, and went on to say that any negative emotion we carry has the potential to disturb not only our hearts, but our minds and our bodies.

Could it really be that I was contributing, unknowingly, to my own morning sickness?

The first thought that came to mind was the water experiments by author Masaru Emoto. He took several jars, wrote down different words on the jars, ranging from “love” to “hate” to “peace” and “anger.” After freezing them and examining the ice crystals that formed in the different jars, he believed that the crystal structures were more beautiful in the jars with positive messages. Masaru claimed that the “love” jar had crystals that looked like snowflakes, whereas “hate” crystals looked more like a grainy TV screen.

If we’re mostly made up of water, wouldn’t it make sense that the words we carry, consciously or unconsciously, in some way affects our state of being? Jane seemed to agree: “You need to witness the thoughts in your head, without judgment. And then, you need to feel what kind of emotions those thoughts create.”

‘Cause then, and only then, do we have a shot at feeling how we want to feel, rather than being taken for a ride by our thoughts.

Eckhart Tolle is the grand master when it comes to stuff like this. His teachings all center around the idea

of being in the Now – the present moment – versus living in the past or in the future. He also teaches how to live in the now, and it starts with the breath. I decided to take on the task of observing my thoughts, particularly around the resentment that I was feeling. It didn’t take long for me to realize just how much I was tripping in my head.

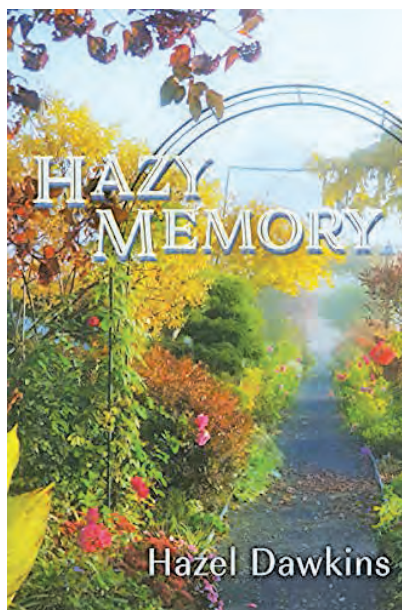
For starters, I noticed that the resentment I felt was rooted in a never-ending comparison. I was comparing myself to others, in particular other women who from the outside seem to have it all together. It didn’t stop there: I compared my relationship, my finances, even my business, to others, only to wind up feeling like a failure.

This whirlwind, I noticed, further worsened my all-day morning sickness. My mind was racing, thoughts were speeding, and even though I lay there bedridden, I might as well have been everywhere at once.

The next time I saw Jane, I shared with her my frustration with the resentment that I felt, which is precisely what not to do when you notice a recurring thought.

“Judging it won’t help,” she said. Instead, I need to accept it. Accept it all, down to the very last detail.

I am not gonna lie and say that from that moment on, I accepted things as they were and my life immediately improved. It’s still a daily struggle. But it’s also become a daily practice, to breathe, to notice thoughts, to practice non-judgment and acceptance. Something good has got to come out of this.



launches herself into adulthood with confidence and seeming nonchalance. After graduating from Bourne-mouth College, she sets her sights on working abroad, and her fearless, no-nonsense attitude appeals to more than one employer.

In spite of the tragic death of her beloved father interrupting her early career and pulling her back home for a spell, Hazel ultimately manages to crisscross continents, working in exciting locales such as Sydney, London, Paris, and New York City, with esteemed organizations such as London’s *Evening Standard*, Harper & Row, and Chilton. She later established herself as a successful freelance editor in her own right, even while looking after her young daughter.

As Hazel’s nomadic inclinations

continue to propel her, so wander the chapters in this book, in much the same way that hazy memories can spring up and merge with other memories as we recollect the story of our lives. Luckily for those of us who wouldn’t otherwise know her, Hazel the nomad landed in western Massachusetts in 2002. This move occurs some time after her beloved husband, Colin Dawkins, died suddenly. And although her relationship with Colin, whom she calls her “true love,” is one about which I wished to hear more, I am left wondering if the story is still too tender for Hazel to reveal these many years later.

Here in the Happy Valley, Hazel infuses her new friendships with an always youthful spirit and humor from the start, and it is with great sadness that many of us bid her adieu as her country of origin – and her siblings – called her back home in 2019. For some of us, reading this book will be like having a particularly enjoyable visit with our good friend as she gathers and shares remembrances, while some others will be making a new friend and going on an exciting adventure.

Along with *Hazy Memory*, Hazel Dawkins is the author of four mysteries: *Eye Witness*, co-authored by Dennis Berry, *Eye Sleuth*, *Eye Sleuth’s Ghostly Vacation* and *Eyes on the Past*.

Hazy Memory paperbacks are available from the World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield, as well as on Amazon and on Kindle.

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SOUL REVIEW from page B1

If you're expecting to watch a straightforward concert documentary, however, you may be frustrated, as I was at first, by the amount of talking heads in this film, who continuously pop up to set the scene while the music plays in the background.

The opening intertitles of the film compare the festival to Woodstock, and it's hard not to compare the film itself to the authoritative eponymous documentary on the bigger festival by Michael Wadley, which is nearly four hours long and almost exclusively made up of footage of performances.

This is simply not Questlove's M.O., and much of the beginning and middle of the film are spent giving a historical context, which is, in its own right, quite fascinating. The viewer hears from attendees, surviving performers, and, as a sign of the times, one of the Black Panthers who provided security at the event.

Some of the themes raised in the film are familiar to those who have followed Questlove's career. A lengthy section on The 5th Dimension, who were often described as having a "white" sound, presents the dilemma of such artists, who are faced with the choice of producing art authentically and risking not reaching the community they care about, or changing their sound to appeal to a monolithic notion of Black people – a notion disproved by the artist himself.

Questlove writes about this experience in the first person in his memoir, *Mo' Meta Blues*, a riff on a Spike Lee title that deals with the same issue. The synthesis of this conflict in the film comes in the form of Sly and the Family Stone, whose infectious melting-pot of genres, styles, and multi-racial inclusivity invites everyone to dance along. One attendee described him-

self and his friends at the time as "suit-and-tie [Motown] guys," who, after Sly's performance, knew they could no longer limit themselves to one scene.

Thankfully, once Sly takes the stage, Questlove starts giving the performers a little more room, culminating in a moving performance of "Young, Gifted and Black" by Nina Simone. Other performers we see more of include Stevie Wonder, Ray Baretto, David Ruffin of The Temptations, and Mahalia Jackson with Mavis Staples. Still, I wouldn't mind a companion or special edition with more full performances.

I found myself mulling over the film's subtitle before and after watching it. While it is catchy, Questlove's politics have mellowed in his years since The Roots became Jimmy Fallon's late-night house band. One of the film's speakers even acknowledges that the festival could easily be seen as a counter-revolutionary measure meant to placate the people of Harlem, who spent the decade seeing some of their biggest champions assassinated while material conditions remained bleak. In montage, Questlove contrasted footage of white Americans expressing pride at the moon landing with the thoroughly unimpressed people of Harlem, who seemingly unilaterally demanded better social programs.

So where is the revolution? The answer comes in part through explorations of Afro-Latinx identity and multi-racial and international solidarity, but ultimately, Questlove turns again to Sly, whose performance of "Higher" closes the film. The revolution, Questlove seems to answer more or less satisfactorily, is in using music, fashion, collaboration, and whatever other tools we have on hand to transcend, to create new forms, to take us higher.



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Mug Race to Honor Ross, Kaynor

MONTAGUE CENTER – The 40th Montague Mug Race will be held Saturday, August 21 starting at 8:30 a.m. The race takes place in Montague Center, with the start taking place at the Village Green, 4 North Street. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m.

The race is 5.5 miles in length, and heads out to Taylor Hill from Old Sunderland Road. The course offers hills, dirt roads, and great views of the Connecticut River. The finish line is at the ball field on Station Road.

Get maps and other information

online at montaguemugrace.com.

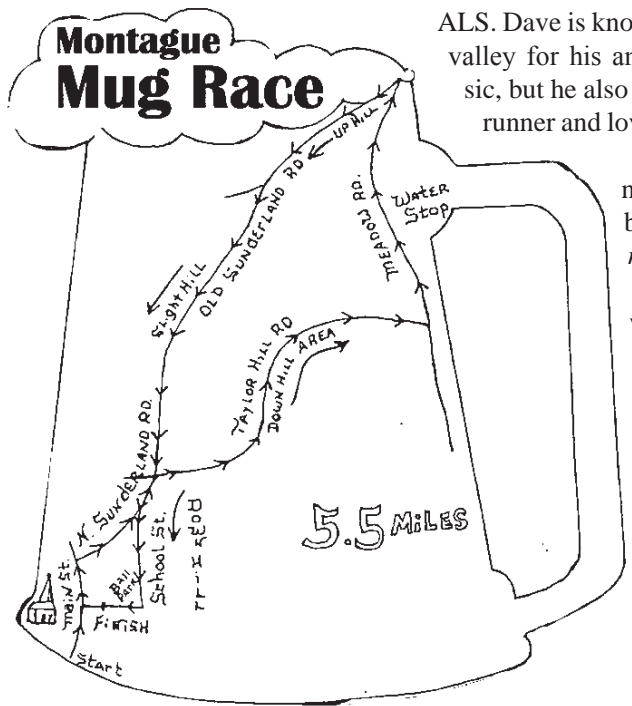
Top prize is a pewter mug for the top male and female runners. Ceramic mugs are awarded to the top three finishers in each division. T-shirts are given to the first 65 people who register.

This year the race will pay honor to its founding course director, Al Ross. Al passed away in October 2020. The route was Al's daily running route, and the race was his brainchild.

The committee also plans to pay tribute to long time participant Dave Kaynor, who passed away on June 1 after a lengthy battle with ALS. Dave is known throughout the valley for his amazing fiddle music, but he also was a high caliber runner and loved the Mug Race.

Registration is now open and can be found on run-reg.com.

One other note: we will not be holding the two-mile Mini Mug Race this year.



The Montague Mug Race route.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Pigeon Hunt; Misplaced Benz; Millers Disturber; Three Catalytic Converter Thefts; Hypodermics

Monday, 6/21

8:06 a.m. First instance of persistent, near-daily annoying/harassing phone calls received by dispatch throughout reporting period.

5:27 p.m. Caller states that a male has been walking back and forth on the train bridge on Newton Street, is concerned he may be thinking of jumping. Officer confirms party on bridge pacing back and forth; advising male is on Erving side. Requested Erving PD, who got male party off the bridge.

5:52 p.m. Caller from Avenue A would like it on record that one of her car tires had been slashed over the weekend.

5:54 p.m. Caller from K Street states that she found a dead skunk on her property; unknown how it got there. Caller given phone number for ACO.

Tuesday, 6/22

8:44 a.m. Report of male party shooting a BB gun at something from a second-floor porch in the alley between Third and Fourth streets. Male in 40s, striped shirt. Neighbor told male to stop. Responding officers unable to locate male. Witnesses advised male was shooting at pigeons and left in a van. Note left at residence advising not to shoot at the pigeons.

10:24 a.m. Report of loud explosion in area of Davis Street. Officer advises at least two poles with breakers tripped. TFFD on scene.

Wednesday, 6/23

8:56 a.m. While on foot patrol on the bike path, officers recovered fifteen needles and six empty baggies.

5:10 p.m. Caller stating his black Mercedes Benz was just stolen out of the Food City parking lot while he was in the store. Caller has possession of the keys. Vehicle located; caller forgot it was parked at Salvation Army.

9:08 p.m. First of several calls during reporting period from callers stuck behind locked gate on Migratory Way. Services rendered.

9:42 p.m. Report from Turners Falls Road of ongoing issue with silver Jetta driving at high rates of speed and revving its engine. Units advised.

Thursday, 6/24

9:34 a.m. Caller complaining of an RV parked by the First Street bridge abutment overnight the other night; it is there again now with a generator running. Officer checked on camper; not causing a disturbance; no signs prohibiting camper from being there. Officer will advise occupants of

complaint if he sees them outside.

9:21 p.m. Several calls from East Main Street reporting an intoxicated, belligerent male spitting on people, using racial slurs, screaming, and threatening. Summons issued.

Friday, 6/25

10:37 a.m. Report of lime green mountain bike stolen on Griswold Street. Report taken.

10:40 a.m. Caller from East Main Street requesting options regarding a male; concerned about the safety of her staff. Caller advises the male has threatened the lives of her staff and their families on multiple occasions and there have been multiple disturbances involving him outside the bar recently. Caller advises the male is outside the bar now and the bartender is afraid to unlock the door to open the business. Officers simultaneously out dealing with this male for another complaint; additional resources contacted to address issue. Officer called reporting party back and advised of options.

1:13 p.m. Report of catalytic converter theft last night on Chestnut Street. Report taken.

3:02 p.m. Report via 911 text app that a male party stole \$300 from the caller; advised she will be waiting outside for officers. Officer states no one would answer the door after knocking several times. Summons issued for female party for larceny from person.

4:23 p.m. Caller from East Main Street expressing concern about a male party; states that he is back in Millers Falls and many people down there are concerned for their safety. Caller states the party has made numerous threats to harm people and to burn buildings down. Caller doesn't think it is right that he is not being arrested for his actions from previous calls. Referred to an officer.

5:20 p.m. Caller reporting that a male party who was riding a scooter in and out of traffic was just riding through FL Roberts unsafely. Officer spoke with parties, who were not operating scooters when she saw them. Involved male called 911 to speak with an officer in regards to feeling harassed. Officer spoke with party.

5:53 p.m. Multiple reports of loud noise in the apartment above Black Cow Burger Bar. Officer spoke with involved parties and with landlord regarding the complaints and the arrests that have been made out of that

apartment recently.

7:13 p.m. Party at station to speak with an officer regarding someone destroying her father's and step-mother's gravesites at Ste. Anne's Cemetery. Party states that she just redid the flowers yesterday and went to water them today and they were all dug up. Report taken.

8:30 p.m. Caller reporting injured beaver; possibly a broken leg; caller does not want to have beaver put down. Provided number for Environmental Police.

9:53 p.m. Caller reporting a male party standing at the corner of West Main Street staring at the bar. Caller states he has been out there all afternoon and is still out there now. Referred to an officer.

Saturday, 6/26

9:34 a.m. Caller reporting male party from yesterday is back in downtown Millers Falls creating a disturbance, making noises, yelling, singing, gyrating, and appears to be under the influence. Units spoke with caller; caller was advised and asked to move along.

10:29 a.m. Caller reporting that at approximately 8 a.m., a male was walking on Fourth Street and she has seen him walking there before; suspects based on that information that he is involved with drugs or selling drugs. Caller did not observe any drugs, or provide any further information to substantiate the claim of drug activity. Officer advised.

11:56 a.m. Caller from East Main Street reporting that one of his tenants is on the sidewalk yelling at, harassing, and intimidating people walking by to the point that they are walking in the street to avoid contact with him. Male party was moved along, back to the property where he resides.

4 p.m. Party dropped off two used needles in a soda bottle that were found at Rock Dam.

4:46 p.m. Caller called officer directly reporting a male in the bike path area behind the Discovery Center; states male is intoxicated and harassing people. Caller witnessed male giving kids beer. Call received from involved male stating that he is being harassed by the female caller. Units clear; male party was not high-ly intoxicated; there was a disagreement, and he has been moved along.

10:24 p.m. Shelburne Control transferred 911 call from Newton Street, where caller reports that a group of kids have been letting off smoke bombs in front of his house. Un-

able to locate.

Sunday, 6/27

6:57 a.m. Caller from Chestnut Street reports hearing a loud explosion type noise and then the power went out. TFFD determined that a squirrel was the culprit. Shelburne Control contacting Eversource.

8:27 a.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road reporting vandalism to property overnight. Caller has incident on surveillance camera. Officer will return later to Millers Falls Rod & Gun; they will be having a meeting, and the security person will review the cameras. Units off on Turnpike Road with vehicle matching description of suspect vehicle. Vehicle owner read Miranda rights. Summons issued.

12:05 p.m. Report of catalytic converter stolen off caller's vehicle on Avenue A. Report taken.

3:42 p.m. Report of intoxicated female party pulling her pants down and causing a scene in front of children behind the Discovery Center by the river. Units located female party; courtesy transport provided.

3:42 p.m. Report of intoxicated female party pulling her pants down and causing a scene in front of children behind the Discovery Center by the river. Units located female party; courtesy transport provided.

11:53 a.m. Report of suspected drug activity in camper parked near dog park on First Street. Referred to an officer.

1:52 p.m. DPW received message from a party complaining of an issue with woodchucks on their property. Message left for animal control officer.

5:21 p.m. 911 caller stating that another tenant who is intoxicated just broke into his room and became violent towards him. Peace restored.

Tuesday, 6/29
4:08 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road reporting that a package was stolen off her stoop yesterday and that her husband's bike was stolen on May 26. Advised of options.

Wednesday, 6/30
12:30 a.m. Caller states there are about a dozen people being loud in the pool at Jarvis Pools and Spa. Officer advised. People in pool are wrapping it up for the night.

9:07 a.m. Report of drug paraphernalia and needles on the dirt path between Park and High streets. Officers disposed of items.

10:03 a.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road is looking for her black and

see MPD page B4

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MPD from page B3

and white horse, which has been gone for about an hour. Male party called advising he is out with this horse on Turners Falls Road; will stand by for owner.

11:24 a.m. Catalytic converter theft reported on Second Street. Report taken.

4:24 p.m. First of numerous calls reporting trees, branches, and wires down, manholes popping up, and roads flooding around town. MPD, TFFD, DPW, and Eversource responding.

7:10 p.m. Two calls reporting male party

walking on Avenue A who is yelling, screaming, and out of control. Officer advised party of complaint and spoke with party's friend, who said it is OK for party to come to his apartment.

Thursday, 7/1
7:10 a.m. Vehicle reported vandalized on Park Villa Drive.

11:03 a.m. Packages reported stolen at Crocker Building.

12:44 p.m. Medication reported stolen on Third Street.

Friday, 7/2
5:52 p.m. Report of three subjects who left Food City Plaza with a shopping cart with

five grocery bags in it. Caller does not believe they have permission to use the cart. Area search negative.

Saturday, 7/3
3:52 p.m. Caller states that people are smoking at the skatepark, which is against the rules; it is bothering her and her kids. Area checked; no one smoking; caller had left already.

Sunday, 7/4
11:17 a.m. Report of vehicles blocking driveway on Bridge Street so that caller cannot get out; ongoing issue.

Vehicles moved.

**F9 REVIEW** from page B1

understood what it is people see in it.

That is, until I saw *F9*.

Let me put all my cards on the table here and say that I am wholly, unequivocally sold on the *Fast & Furious* franchise. Every one of its odd idiosyncrasies – Vin Diesel's bizarre, grunting acting style; the lack of interest in any consistent continuity that surpasses even *Mad Max*; the tendency to cycle in and out characters with each entry – has become part of the appeal and part of the ritual for me. I find myself invested in its larger-than-life characters, strange soap opera-like narratives, and commitment to a sort of strange macho melodrama: it's somewhere between *Dallas*, *Bond*, and *Dukes of Hazzard*.

I can only imagine that my willingness to invest in this comes out of a love of the franchise, and a sort of mutual agreement with the franchise to embrace all its peculiarities. It is similar to the feelings of excitement and joy WWE fans feel with every faux-divorce and leg-chop.

But the main reason I come to the *Fast & Furious* franchise is the same reason that I can only assume a great deal of us do: the action. As the franchise has gone on, it has progressed from street races and comic book-colorful chases to espionage action, mass-scale heists, and the presentation of cars as the extension of

the human physical form.

Like any good action cinema, the people behind it (particularly series mainstay, director Justin Lin, who's taken the reins once again for *F9*) understand the inherent dynamism behind the human form in motion – in *action* – that makes the genre compelling.

In *Fast Five*, Dom and Brian O'Conner (Paul Walker, RIP) carry out the heist of a full bank vault from a Rio police station by dragging it with chains behind their cars, using the vault to smash the cars of pursuers. In *Fast & Furious 6*, the crew chase an airplane as it rushes down a runway, jumping from car to car, from car to airplane, and from airplane to car. In *Furious 7*, likely the best in the series thus far, Dom and Brian jump a customized "supercar" from skyscraper to skyscraper. In *The Fate of the Furious*, characters speed across frozen Russian tundra like strange pawns on some kind of game board.

And in *F9*, the aforementioned Edinburgh set-piece, cars and trucks flip and speed and go vertical the wrong way throughout the strange, antique architecture of the city. Characters go to space in a modified muscle car, cars and ATVs spill through the forest in an opening chase sequence, Dominic Torretto monologues about family, and all is well in the world.



SCENE REPORT

A Car Show at Greenfield Garden Cinema

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – Due to a new *Fast & Furious* sequel *F9* premiering and coming to the Garden Cinema in Greenfield, they held their own car show. This was, of course, a perfect event to have in connection with that movie playing in their theater.

On June 27, people could vote to give prizes to cars they thought to be "Best of Show," "Best Muscle Car," "Best Pre-1970," "Most Fast & Furious," and "People's Choice." There were cars parked in two straight lines for people to see, one directly in front of the Garden, the other across the street in front of the Greenfield Savings Bank.

Some of the cars present were really worthy of being in that show. I mean, if I had to pick cars to be in a show, I would pick some of these. Included were a couple of old Ford

pickup trucks from the '30s, some Model A's, a couple of Chevrolet Bel Airs, one Willys station wagon from 1958, a Ford Deluxe from 1941, Volkswagen Karmann Ghia from 1973, and a red 2005 Ford GT that looked like it belongs in the *Fast & Furious* movies.

The Ford GT was the one which most belonged in *Fast & Furious*, but there were others there that made that list too – a blue Dodge Challenger, the Volkswagen, a 2014 Nissan GT-R, and a Shelby GT500 Snake. There were several that would make up the list of what could be the "Best Muscle Car" of the show: the Challenger and the Snake, a 2000 Ford Mustang, and a 1969 Chevy Chevelle.

The Ford pickup trucks would obviously make my list of the Best Pre-1970s, along with the Model A's. But I also believe the Willys station wagon, a 1953 Chevy Sedan,

and a couple of roadsters would be on it too, and I would have given the prize to the Ford Deluxe.

For whom I believe should win the other prizes, my choice for the Muscle Car was the Chevelle, and I didn't really have any pick for People's Choice or Best of Show. However, others felt the Chevy Chevelle was right for People's Choice.

I would have only had the Ford GT for "Most Fast & Furious," but a very-cool looking blue Chevy Corvette showed up at the last moment that also looks like it belonged in that category. In my opinion, they both tied for that prize. The winner turned out to be a 2020 Toyota.

A decent number of people showed up to see the cars for this show, and an even better number of different and cool cars that showed up to be part of it. I liked the whole thing very much – it was a good car show that the Garden held.

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Learn About Local History Resources

GREENFIELD – The LAVA Center is proud to present a panel lecture entitled "Historical Societies, Libraries, Newspapers" as part of the ongoing Exploring and Creating Histories Ourselves (ECHO) program this Saturday, July 10, at 1 p.m. The panel features guests from local institutions talking about the resources they offer. The guest panelists will be Richie Davis, retired journalist with the *Greenfield Recorder*, and author and local researcher Carol Aleman.

Aleman grew up in Shelburne and spent her early years mostly unaware of the rich history that lay within the hills and valleys, and along the streets and meadows, of the county she called home. She roamed the pastures of the family's dairy farm and tended to the calves and heifers. For decades the word "history" had come to mean little more than sitting in Mr. Lang's junior class, petrified of being called upon and not knowing "the correct answer."

It wasn't until fifty years later, as she edged closer to her 2018 retirement from the Five College Consortium in Amherst, that the fear gave way to a fresh interest – in local history. She began to volunteer for the historical society in Greenfield, and even surprised herself by adding courses in history to her lifelong learning experience.

On discovering there was little in Greenfield's formal written history that addressed people of color, Carol began a very personal mission to identify as many members as possible of Greenfield's black population of the past, with an eye toward who they were, what their lives were like, and how they had participated in and contributed to community life. Marrying into a Black family in 1972, Aleman was equipped with a starting point, and despite the divorce that came to follow, she stayed close to the O'Hare family. Over the next four decades, they shared fragments of their past and prepared her for the quest she

would later take on and the goals she would later pursue.

Aleman will speak about her research, and the resources at local and not-so-local historical societies that have graced her path.

Richie Davis, who retired as the *Recorder's* senior writer in 2019, served as a reporter and editor at the newspaper for more than 42 years, and was awarded more than 35 regional news and feature-writing awards. As an environmental and energy reporter, he wrote about two proposed gas pipeline projects, the region's two nuclear plants, and energy alternatives, and was awarded for overall agricultural coverage and named a Local Hero by Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture.

Davis came to Franklin County from suburban Rochester, New York after visiting a Shelburne dairy farm for a week. His coverage of a cultural bridging effort between Franklin County, MA and Letcher County, KY was awarded a grant from the Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting, and he has served as an advisor for Pulitzer's Reporting Fellowship program. He's been a Commager lecturer at Greenfield Community College and has spoken in the Charlemont Forum on the media. He recently released his second collection of *Recorder* articles, "Good Will & Ice Cream," a sequel to last year's "Inner Landscapes." He blogs at richiedavis.net.

ECHO Greenfield provides support, resources, and space for people of all ages to be curious about the histories that surround us, both known and forgotten, and the histories that live within us. There will be hands-on activities, discussions, and support for expressing learning creatively at The LAVA Center as well as resources online. Visit echogreenfield.org for more details.

The LAVA Center is an arts incubator, black box theater, and community space on the first floor of 324 Main Street in Greenfield.

A "drop-in" community design workshop for:

Plan a pocket park in the Crocker Building's alley!
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Can't make the event? Write to proteangarden@gmail.com to share your thoughts and ideas

ANNOUNCEMENT

Rattlesnake Gutter Market Showcases Local Talent

LEVERETT – The Rattlesnake Gutter Second Saturdays Market is scheduled for this Saturday, July 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and features local crafts, arts, live music, non-profits, worm castings for your garden, tarot card readings, massage therapy, tool sharpening, and lots of good vibes.

Markets will be held on the second Saturdays of each month in summer and autumn outside the Leverett Village Co-op, 180 Rattlesnake Gutter Road. Rain dates will always be the next day, Sunday.

Second Saturday vendors are a diverse group of creatives who make products such as hand-carved wooden bowls; herbal tinctures, salves and creams; spun-wool scarves and clothing; silkscreened

clothing; jewelry; hand-made soaps and body butters; paintings; prints; collages and greeting cards.

Music for this week's event will be provided by the Wendell Warriors from 11 a.m. to noon, and by Ann Ferguson and Paul Newlin of The Diggers Band from noon to 1 p.m. DJ Brian Boyles will be spinning records throughout the day.

Nonprofits in the lineup include YouthLine, which raises funds to help provide educational opportunities for children in Malawi, Africa, and Village Neighbors, which offers support and programs for people ages 60 and over in Leverett, Shutesbury, Wendell and New Salem.

For more information, please visit www.leverettcoop.com and www.facebook.com/LeverettCoop.

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WEST ALONG from page B1

By July 4, however, we have done a complete about-face weather-wise. We are just coming out of that three-day rain.

Before the downpour, the Sahara heat was so burning that stepping barefoot on the boards of the deck, dew-damp footprints dried before your eyes. Bee-balm and peonies wilted on their stalks and were hanging limp as the temperature hovered near 100.

Then the drenching rains poured down, somehow tropical and warm. And day after day, we were confined to front-porch piazza sitting, listening to the thunder of drumming rainfall on yonder oak and maples. Those who love their Fourth of July fireworks, bombs bursting in air and rockets red glare, have to wait a day or two to get their exploding bomb thrill.

Now once again, as in other past months of July, we sit under the old apple tree where mother and her brothers and sisters played in those black-and-white photograph times long ago. In the shade of the early morning and rich green rainforest growth, we are glad we got the cherries in. That Fourth of July cherry tree is now shorn of the year's crop. The apple crop is still only forming, the heritage Baldwin dropping its tiny green apples, while we hope that the higher ones will ripen, good enough for apple pie and winter-keeping.

The wood thrush sang all through the three-day rain, ringing out over the flooding frog pond. Tadpoles have lost their tails and have become juvenile green frogs or wood frogs. They now thrive in the re-oxygenated pool before heading out on their own into the woodland.

By July 6, the summer sun beams and dries out the drenched flower beds and green leafy woods. Nature spent four days drinking deeply, and is now getting on with summer.

Crimson red bee-balm is drawing in ruby-throated hummingbirds. A vigilant cock male, fierce as a bantam rooster, jealously guards his personal domain. He buzz-bombs other males and females alike, threatening to impale any rival on his rapier beak. Be sure to

duck when he streaks by, blinded as he is with the determined fury to drive out intruders.

The river too has drunk its fill, rushing noisily along its stony confines and flooding into alder-lined banks and blue flag iris islands. The river is running too high for good fishing, the rod and reel hang out near the back door, waiting for the river to spend itself out and get back to normal.

Families of cardinals and titmice clamor on the edge of the woods and yard. The young of this year pursue their parents, still wanting to be fed although they've left the nest for good days ago. The elusive black-billed cuckoo calls, invisible in the green tree-tops. She moves somewhere up there, and is it true that she sings as she flies, like in the old-timey Appalachian song?

The jenny wren is happily singing in the garden, all bustling busy body and peeking into the newly vacated birdhouse, ready to start a second brood of wrens for this season. The phoebes bailed out of the shelf nest on the front porch two weeks ago already. I will see them down along the river where they will spend the rest of the summer.

Grilled spare ribs over the campfire last night have left their barbecue scent lingering in the air. This time Brother Bear didn't crash through the fence in search of his share, lucky for us.

This first week is marked by rolling thunder storms, then sunshine, causing the deck and streets to steam. Back and forth between sun and storm, I wouldn't mind sharing some of this rain with folks out west in California and Texas. New England is overflowing with that gift from the heavens, while the rest of the country sizzles.

Still, soon summer zephyrs will float again through the cherry tree. Summertime is fleeting and precious. If all goes according to plan, we will ride that summer breeze right on through to late September.

Check out David's website at riverstoriesdavidbrule.com.



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Learning to Fly Fish: Part XI

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 eleventh 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.

A memorial for Jones will be held on Sunday, July 18 from 2 to 6 p.m. at 21 Central Street in Turners Falls.

after the hot and humid afternoon. We saw some rises and waded in two different directions.

This wonderful feeling of being out on the river with a good friend in a beautiful place released the frustrations I'd had the week before, and they vanished into the fog. I began to watch the water, perhaps even reading it, and took my time to cast. I caught several tiny brookies. Lively as schoolchildren released at the end of the day, they practically leapt off my line and swam away.

BY ARIEL JONES

MONTAGUE – Non-fly fishing people generally look amused to hear me talk about going out and catching nothing, over and over, or finally catching a nice sized trout only to release it. It is impossible to explain. It's just how it is. Even as a beginner, I understand and accept these conditions without question.

It's not that I don't fervently wish to catch fish. It is that I know it's not easy, that I have a lot to learn, and that catching is not the same as fishing. I suppose I could say, I am mad about fly fishing, and I love to catch trout also.

Getting frustrated is just part of it, and it usually happens to me when I am over eager, wanting to catch more than to fish.

The Y Pool

Late afternoon last Saturday Tom finally took me to the Y Pool on the Swift River.

As we walked along the path above the river the sun was getting low. The very bright highlights glittering off the foliage and the deepening shadows enfolded us along the path. I felt like I had fallen into a C.S. Lewis novel about two children who go fishing and find themselves in a magical wood.

Fog was rising from the river's surface, softening the outlines of a fisherman in the water. Wading down into the probably 58 degree, crystal clear Swift felt like heaven

Who's Your Mama?

We worked our way downstream, had a few strikes but caught nothing else, and decided to cross Route 9 and fish the other side. The bank was steep and slippery, and the water was deeper than it looked from above. By the time we were in the middle of the river I was up a bit past my waist and my vest was getting soaked. It was beginning to darken quickly now. A small hatch was on. These are conditions ripe for causing Time Panic.

Time Panic can cause you to not change a tippet or fly because it will be dark soon. Time Panic can make you cast too quickly to the wrong places, because it will be dark soon. When you feel Time Panic coming on, you must take a deep breath and do your damndest to ignore the quickly fading light. Put on the fly you believe is the right one, and cast to the chosen spot with nonchalance.

I managed to do this, except I also began calling out to the trout, "Who's Your Mama? Who's Your Mama?" Of course, that was too much even for the subtle trout. I caught a brightly colored fat rainbow who put up a good fight. Once I had pulled him in close he made another leap right up at me. Tom thought he had landed in my waders.

He did not, but the feisty clever fellow did jump free of the hook and took off. I saluted him and waded back to the bank under the darkened sky.

It was a good day of fishing.

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Historic Deerfield Celebrates Lucy Terry Prince Day

DEERFIELD – This Sunday, July 11 is "Lucy Terry Prince Day," marking the bicentennial of the first known African American poet's death.

Deerfield's Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association and Historic Deerfield are holding free events all day in Memorial Hall Museum, Deerfield Teachers' Center, Indian House Children's Museum, and at the Wells-Thorn House, Lucy's first home in Deerfield.

Lucy Terry Prince's life, from her birth and captivity in Africa c. 1730 to her enslavement in Deerfield, to her death as a free woman in Vermont in 1821, encompasses signal events in the lives of enslaved people and their important contributions to American culture, the Revolution, and the economy.

There will be tours of the Memorial Hall galleries connecting Lucy's story with that of the African American community of her day and with English Deerfield people such as her minister Reverend Ashley; places like the meetinghouse on the common where she attended; the house where she resided; and locations in Deerfield where she lived both as an enslaved single woman, and then as a free married woman of color. Listen to the music from her world in West Africa, and from her new life in Deerfield.

Tours of Lucy's home, the Wells-Thorn House at 52 Old Main Street, will be given on the half-hour starting at 10 a.m. Self-guided walking and driving tour handouts will be available for visitors to find places of importance in Lucy's life on Main Street and farther afield in Old Deerfield.

At 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., Turners Falls artist Belinda Lyons Zucker will give doll-making demonstrations at the Deerfield Teachers' Center, 10 Memorial Street. The African American doll artist has recently donated a Lucy Terry Prince doll to the PVMA collection. Zucker creates both traditional and contemporary dolls.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. artist Louise Minks will be at Memorial Hall, showing her portrait of Lucy.

Also at the Teachers' Center at 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. will be "Roots," by the African American Sisters In Stitches Joined By The Cloth guild. This quilt trunk show called "Beyond the Quilts," will feature quilts displayed in a historical timeline that embraces



A doll made by African American doll artist Belinda Lyons Zucker of Turners Falls, who will give a doll-making demonstration at 10 a.m.

spirituality, rites of passage, enslaved ancestors, resistance to slavery, poetry, and social justice.

Indian House Children's Museum at 107 Main Street will host hands-on activities all day from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Chores to try might include using a yoke to carry buckets of water, sewing a straight line with the tiniest stitches possible, and carding and spinning wool.

Since Lucy worked in a one-room tavern in the original Indian House, visitors can examine historic images to discover what activities took place in one and learn about the laws governing the patrons and tavern keepers. Lucy was taught to read and write at home by her owner, Mrs. Wells. Some of her lessons might have come from a "hornbook," and visitors can find out more about them and experience a lesson from one, or try writing with a quill pen.

For more details, visit www.deerfield-ma.org.

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Ainsworth at Large: Florida Investigation

By CHIPAINSWORTH

NORTHFIELD – The vaccine was my good-to-go card for a spin down the highway. I pulled out in Northfield, cruised through New York City, Baltimore and Washington, over the Woodrow Wilson Bridge into Virginia and down through the Carolinas and all the billboards for cheap lodging, old time religion and bedbug hotlines.

After 14 hours I arrived at a privately owned hotel and restaurant in Santee, SC, a town that caters to golfers and fishermen. Clark's Inn was a nicer and less expensive alternative to the cookie-cutter chain across the street. The quiet rooms are homey, and complimentary breakfast includes eggs, grits, and biscuits in a room filled with deer antler lamps and chandeliers.

That was before COVID. This trip the clerk handed me a paper bag with an orange, bottle of water and breakfast bar.

I stayed an extra day to relax and browse for historic locations off the interstate, and the next morning left I-95 near the Georgia border and drove west on Route 78 to Branchville.

Either a chamber of commerce or historic commission had tried to change this small, lower-middle income town into a tourist destination. It was, they claimed, the site of the world's oldest railroad crossing.



Looking east at Branchville Station, South Carolina.

It looks like any other crossing, but on Christmas Day, 1830, the nation's first scheduled steam service rolled through town on the South Carolina Canal and Rail Road Company's inaugural 136-mile route from Charleston to Hamburg.

A recent book review by Adam Gopnik in the *New Yorker* noted that railroads preceded automobiles, and therefore "the speed of trains altered the understanding of American space." Indeed, a faded historical marker described passengers riding "on the wings of the wind at a speed of 20 miles a hour, annihilating both time and space and leaving all the world behind."

Alas, the memories and historic markers weren't enough to bring travelers off the interstate. The depot's doors were locked, and signs for COVID testing were taped to a wall between a coat rack and a row of chairs. Someone had left an umbrella against the wall. Outside, a flatbed trolley cart that had been used for luggage and mailbags was parked next to a caboose.

And that was about it – no brochures, no schedules, no people, not even a distant train whistle. A block

away a youngster stood in front of a tent selling coffee and pastry.

"School vacation?" I asked.

"Home schooled," she said, her hands jammed into the pockets of her faded North Face jacket. I poured a weak stream of coffee from the carafe, paid her, and put the change in the tip jar. A few miles later I poured it out and resumed traveling on Lowcountry Highway past Bad Ham Road and Ricochet Road, past pine groves, cattle pastures, cinderblock churches, modest brick homes and rusted aluminum trailers.

Two hours later on I-10 west of Jacksonville, my boyhood friend Crosby Hunt texted to say the ballgame between the Florida Gators and Mercer University was rained out. That was a bummer, missing my first live sports event in over a year.

Crosby and his wife Deborah were theater professors at Middle Tennessee State, and when they retired they returned to her hometown Gainesville. Their daughter Suzy Hunt teaches acting in New York and has had roles in several TV shows, including 12 episodes of *The Americans*. Their son Ian was visiting while en route from New York City to Nashville. He grilled hamburgers which we ate inside after a thunderstorm forced us off the patio.

"Look at what Grace did to my arm," said Deborah, showing me the bite marks inflicted by their German Shepherd pup. Grace was born

on November 30 in Deerfield to my son Mat's two purebreds, Eva and Ike. Fortunately they have separate bloodlines. "I got Eva from a hippie in Leverett, and Ike from a Russian in Chicopee," he said.

They mated the night before they were due to be neutered and spayed. Eight weeks later my daughter April helped Eva deliver eight pups, which Mat sold at cost (shots, food, and time) to his friends. The Hunts' beloved German Shepherd had died a few months earlier, so I called them and they said yes. Deborah named her Grace.

Then came the task of getting Grace from Northfield to Gainesville. While the Hunts made plans to drive north April took her for a few days, and then I brought her to my house. One night around 3 a.m. she woke me with a mischievous growl, her tail in the air and my sock clenched in her mouth.

On a bright February morning after a snowstorm, I drove to meet Ian and his brother at a gas station off of I-95 in Bridgeport. When they arrived I put Grace in Ian's arms and left before I changed my mind. Grace stayed with Ian in the Big Ap-



The calm waters of the Loxahatchee River in Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Hobe Sound, Florida.

ple while Crosby and Deborah drove through an ice storm to get her.

It had been six weeks since she saw me. Crosby opened the door and called for her. She looked at me quizzically and then leapt up and jumped around like pups do when they're excited.

They put me up in their Sportsmen travel trailer, and the next morning we used the maple syrup from Milt Severance's sugarhouse to pour over Deborah's southern-style waffles. Shortly later I bid adieu and left for South Florida, eschewing I-75 for Route 20 eastbound.

On the outskirts of Palatka I noticed a "Trump 2024" sign painted on an orange barn. I took a photo, and on April Fool's Day sent it to Hunt and other liberal friends with the message, "Trump Announcing Today."

The village of Tequesta is located on the coast between Jupiter and the Martin County line, about four miles from Jonathan Dickinson State Park. It's near Jupiter Island, which *businessweek.com* calls the second-wealthiest small town in America, behind only Sagaponack on Long Island.

During my week in Tequesta I split time between my friend Liz Spaulding's condo and an \$89-a-night motel room close to the park. The local Publix parking lot was filled with Land Rovers and BMWs, and inside were beautiful women shopping for yogurt and retired businessmen who wore t-shirts that said "Conquer Your Cocktail."

Up the road in Hobe Sound I stopped at a roadside stand and bought some oranges and grapefruit. The cashier was in his 40s. He wore a wide brim camo hat and was missing a few teeth. He said that Burmese pythons were getting closer to Palm Beach County, smiled and added, "It's how I got my wife to let me buy an AR-45."

The latest non-indigenous species to get the locals' attention is the arapaima, a South American invader that grows up to ten feet and can jump out of the water and eat small mammals. There are no pythons at Dickinson State Park, but I've come across a dead rattlesnake stretched across a trail with its head cut off and seen feral pigs, alligators, otters, and tortoises.

Not many tourists, though, they're at the beach or golfing.

Liz's condo is on land that was owned by a Trenton, NJ native named Vincent Nostokovich. In the 1930s he moved south and built a campground next to the Loxa-

hatchee River where he caught fish, wrestled alligators, and called himself "Trapper Nelson." Whenever he needed money he sold parcels of property to developers. He died in 1968 of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, though some thought it was the result of foul play.

The sprawling 11,000-acre park near his campground was given to the state by the feds, who'd used it to train military personnel during World War II. The old Route 1 passes through it and parallels the Florida East Coast Railway, and so does the orange-blazed Florida Trail. A four-mile access road leads to the Loxahatchee River, where migrant workers come on weekends to picnic and play soccer.

After a cold, solitary winter, the hot sun and humidity crept into my bones and limbered my body, and I thought no wonder Ponce de León searched here for the fountain of youth.

The *Palm Beach Post* and *Sun Sentinel* offered plenty of news. Former Boca Raton mayor Susan Haynie had admitted concealing hundreds of thousands of dollars she received from developers, but Florida being Florida she wouldn't do jail time. In Jupiter, Donald Trump, Jr. and Kimberly Guilfoyle were moving into a \$9.7 million house in Admirals Cove. Amenities include two 18-hole golf courses and a marina that can accommodate large yachts.

Palm Beach Post meteorologist Kimberly Miller reported that water temperatures were above average and hurricanes would encounter less wind shear this summer, advance warning for the storm that threatened the state on Fourth of July weekend.

In Stuart, former *Greenfield*

Recorder staffer Josh Solomon is pumping out copy for the *Stuart News* and *tcpalm.com*. We met outside the Lyric Theatre, where Roseanne Cash will be performing in January, and walked to a spot near the St. Lucie River.

"Brightline's coming," he said, referring to the high speed train that will zip up the coast from West Palm Beach to Orlando and cost \$100 for the three-hour trip. "They're laying down a second track, and they'll be going through here at 80 to 100 mph. It turns inland in Cocoa – the Cocoa Curve, they're calling it. Nobody wants it, but if it's coming, Stuart would at least like to get a spot out of the deal."

"The irony is that people wouldn't be here if Henry Flagler hadn't built the tracks a hundred years ago. Essentially the railroad is reclaiming what is theirs."

Josh covered the 2020 election and county politics. He hates the hot summer and sees corruption and graft down there as a way of life. Now that the election is over he wants to return north to Philadelphia or Chicago. "I want to be back to the daily grind of a city beat," he said.

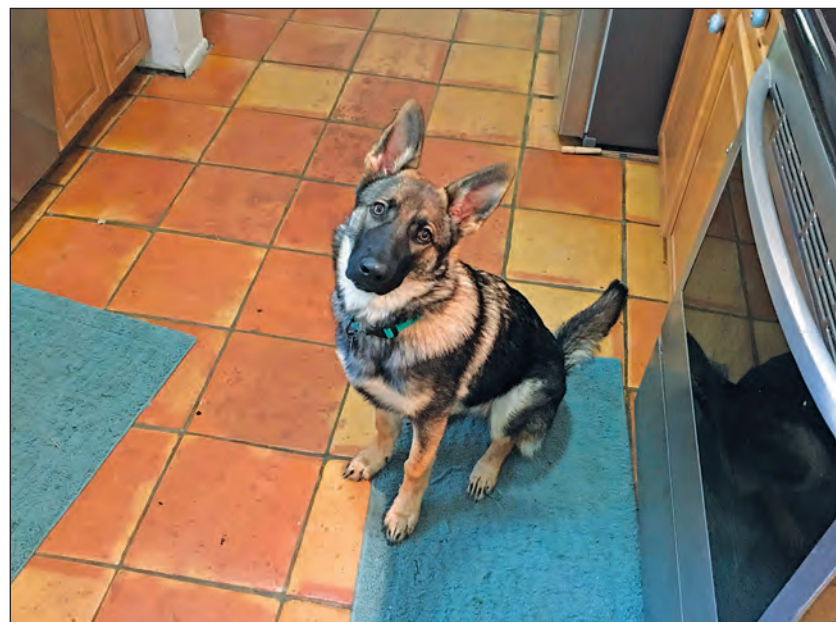
Josh gave me the names of two family farms, and I stopped on the drive north and bought oranges, grapefruit, honey, and pecans. Baseball kept me company during the long journey north, an early afternoon game followed by a 4 p.m. game and a night game all the way to Emporia, Virginia.

The hotel where I regularly stayed there was in decrepit condition. The stairway carpeting was badly soiled, the television was broken, and there was nary a bottle of water or coffee maker. The next morning I left in a hurry and called Radisson Rewards, and they added 10,000 points to my account.

Truckers have a saying there's only two seasons, winter and construction, and parts of I-81 were completely closed. The GPS directed me onto back roads and state highways through Pennsylvania into western New York.

It was weird being ten miles from Binghamton and feeling close to home, but the GPS assured me I'd be in Northfield by 8:45 p.m. It was a first, returning from Florida by way of Bennington and Brattleboro. Soon the same route will be used to go to Saratoga, and that will be another story for another time.

Chip Ainsworth writes sports for the *Greenfield Recorder* and commentary for the *Montague Reporter*. He lives in Northfield.



Grace, the traveling wonder dog, at her new digs in Gainesville, Florida.

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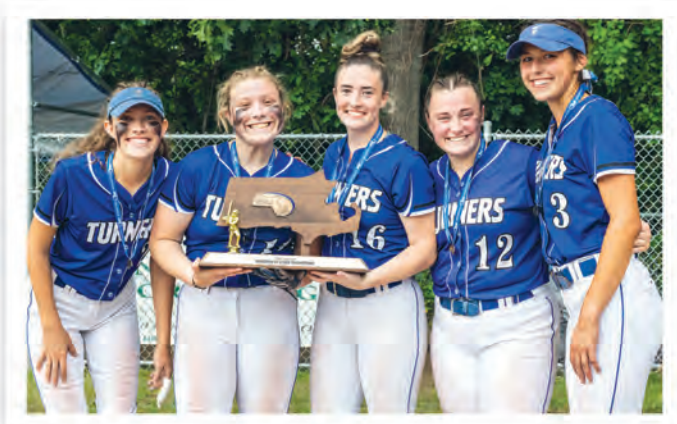
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863-8000 Congratulations, Team!



2021 senior captains: Taylor Murphy, Juliana Rode, Taryn Thayer, Jade Tyler, and Liv Whittier.



The team gather around pitcher Jade Tyler after the last out.



Left to right: Rode, Tyler, and Murphy celebrate the first out in the bottom of the 7th during the championship game.

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NatureCulture: The Science Page

WARREN ONDRAS PHOTO

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

Recycled Plastics



Plastic lines strung between trees to collect maple sap.

By LISA McLOUGHLIN

NORTHFIELD - Plastic is made of oil. In the US we generate the most plastic waste per capita of any country: 232 pounds per year. Sixty-five percent of US household trash is packaging. Recycling of plastic only uses 9% of it - an estimated 5.4% in Massachusetts, according to the Connecticut River Conservancy - as systems to recycle are badly designed and/or outdated. A tiny percentage of plastic is burned which releases toxic chemicals into the atmosphere.

Most plastic waste ends up in the ocean, and a not-insignificant amount ends up in us and other living beings, negatively affecting our health. This burden is heavier for low-income people, who live in areas where most petrochemical and industrial factories are sited.

Glass is easily recyclable - we could do much more with glass. We currently recycle only 35% of glass, whereas in Sweden they recycle 95%.

A better solution than citizens trying to figure out what to do with plastic that ends up in trash cans and beaches would be for corporations not to create plastic in the first place. Yet, plastic production is forecasted to double in the next 20 years.

To get rid of plastic at its source, we could re-incorporate some aspects of our pre-throw-away culture, for example reusable bags and bottles, and repairing rather than throwing things out. Banning or taxing companies which create products that create waste might help them think about a cradle-to-grave design that would, according

to the International Labor Organization, increase global employment by .01% - six million jobs more than we'd have otherwise.

And wouldn't it be nice not to have to volunteer to clean up our roadways and waterways every year? Locally, the Connecticut River Conservancy has joined a national group called Purge the Plastic. According to the Conservancy website, in 2019 Cleanup volunteers collected over 30,000 beverage containers, mostly plastic bottles, nip bottles, or other plastic containers. Over 150,000 beverage containers have been removed from in and near our rivers in the 23 years that volunteers have been cleaning up the Connecticut River basin.

Maybe we need some plastics. What about the healthcare industry? Plastic has been replacing sterilization and glass in healthcare since about the 1940s. Much of the plastic being disposed of could be cleaned and reused, but some could not be safely disinfected.

Yet here, again, packaging creates a huge amount of waste which could be eliminated. There may be situations in which plastic is a better choice in the short run - for example in some hospital tubing - but in many more situations we might think more carefully about the cumulative, long-term effects.

How about the tubing we string up in the woods to collect maple sap, rather than collecting it in tin buckets? Some even collect the sap in plastic buckets; not exactly bucolic, either.

It used to be possible to live without plastic. Hopefully we will figure out how to replace it again, one bottle or bucket at a time.

Deep Water Anglerfish Washes Up on Beach

By LISA McLOUGHLIN

NORTHFIELD - A type of anglerfish that lives 2,000 to 3,300 feet below sea level washed up on the beach in California this past May. Scientists are not sure how it got to the beach, although a few have washed up in the past, including the first one found in 1833 in Greenland.

Anglerfish fossils appear as far back as 55 million years ago, and there are about 300 known species. Their scientific name is *Lophiiformes* but they're also known as "football fish." There are at least ten differently-shaped subspecies of anglerfish, and they can grow anywhere from one to 40 inches long, mainly because females are much larger than males. They can swallow prey twice their size due to thin, flexible bones in their jaw and around their stomach.

Anglerfish have phosphorescent



Anglerfish.

phorescence comes from symbiotic bacteria. There is some debate about where the bacteria come from: either they are passed from parent to egg, or they are taken in from seawater.

Humans have observed anglerfish from remotely operated underwater vehicles. While it is likely that observing them changes their behavior, we think they drift around, conserving energy while waiting for prey to come to them. In 2016 humans observed deep water anglerfish mating practices for the first time near the coast of the Azores islands. These volcanic islands are about one-third of the way from the European continent to North America, making them a popular place to stop and eat for migrating and other sea life.

Anglerfish males attach themselves to the much larger females and simply stay there, withering away to just gonads while receiving nourishment from the female body.

lures called illicium which are part of their dorsal fins and dangle in front of their mouths to attract other creatures, as fans of *Finding Nemo* will remember vividly. The phos-

They Are Animals

By LISA McLOUGHLIN

NORTHFIELD - In an extreme version of reuse, there is a movement in the UK to eat dead animals we kill with cars, euphemistically called roadkill. There are 194 million birds and 29 million mammals killed annually on European roads. It is legal to eat roadkill there as long as it wasn't a pet, or livestock or run over on purpose. Their Food Standards Agency discourages this because there's no way to tell if the animal was healthy when killed.

Of course, humans aren't the only ones eating roadkill. Another UK study found 90% of roadkill was scavenged by other animals in about 12 hours.

Another way to reuse roadkill is to make fur clothing out of the pelts. This is one way to keep warm without synthetic fibers, and without contributing to hunting, trapping, or breeding of fur-bearing animals. Some companies doing this also reuse old fur clothing to make new fur clothing, which is certainly better than throwing it away.

Composting roadkill is another way to help animal remains return to the Earth. Leaving dead animals near roads encourages other animals to come eat them, putting the live ones at risk. Composting carcasses can be done any time of year, and is safer than leaving the bodies in the open, because the heat of a compost pile kills off pathogens. The Cornell School of Waste Management suggests composting for the over 25,000 deer (plus all the other animals) killed annually on New York state highways.

Animals are a part of our world, and their bodies should not be treated as trash to be gotten rid of. Driving is dangerous to animals, and roads are not going away anytime soon. We



Moose versus car.

might at least consider ways to treat the dead that are less irreverent than running them over again and again, or leaving them to lure their cohorts to their deaths as well.

BOOK REVIEW

Dina Gilio-Whitaker, *As Long As Grass Grows* (2020, Beacon Press)

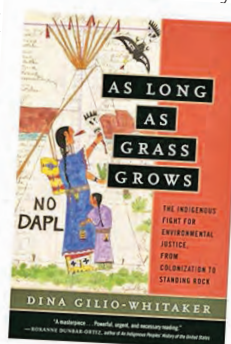
By LISA McLOUGHLIN

NORTHFIELD - I read this book, by the Indigenous co-author of *All the Real Indians Died Off and Other Myths*, because Dina Gilio-Whitaker is going to be a speaker at the Authors and Artists festival that I am coordinating for next year on February 26 and 27.

Her book, as all the books in the festival, has something important to say about humans' relationship to Nature. The key argument here is that on this continent, killing off the environment, *ecocide*, is and has been intimately linked to killing off Indigenous people, genocide. This happens both physically, when Indigenous

foodways are disrupted and unhealthy foods and disease are introduced, and in less tangible but still culturally damaging ways, such as when access is cut off to spiritually important places.

The book traces the history of Indigenous environmental protest from the landing of colonists on this continent through the present. While this book is more academic than most books we feature in the festival, the points she makes, linking the Dakota Access Pipeline to the killing off of the buffalo by the railroad and other political and corporate forces, is well worth the read.



July 2021 Moon Calendar

Aphelion: 1.0167 AU Monday, July 5	Full Moon Friday, July 23
New Moon Friday, July 9	Delta Aquarid Shower Tuesday, July 27
First Quarter Saturday, July 17	Last Quarter Saturday, July 31

NASA PHOTO

Pictured: the formation of new stars in the dwarf galaxy NGC 4214.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, JULY 8

Montague Village Store, Montague Center: *Lexi Weege, JJ Slater*. 5 p.m.

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Orlen, Gabriel, & Avery, Boys of the Landfill*. 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 9

Anchor House of Artists, Northampton: Opening reception for exhibits by *Anna Bayles Arthur, Jake Meginsky, Hannah Brookman, and Kevin Bouricius*. Music by *Jake Meginsky, Liz Tonne*. 6 to 8 p.m.

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: Movie Night feat. *Raiders of the Lost Ark*. Free. 7 p.m.

413 Pub, Easthampton: *Sedagive, Billy Eli*. 7 p.m.

Pulaski Park, Northampton: *Cloudbelly, Lisa Bastoni with Sean Staples*. Free. 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 10

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *The Shadow Twisters*. 6 p.m.

Florence Congregational

Church: *Mandingo Ambassadors*. Afro-jazz. \$. 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 11

Amherst Common, Amherst: *Freestone or Ooze* feat. *Glenn Jones, Chris Brokaw, Sunburned Hand of the Man, A.P.I.E., Allysen Callery, Willie Lane, Mazozma, Toppus Bottomus, 10 Gallon Hat, Frozen Corn*, and many more. Free. 10:30 a.m.

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: Freedom Fest feat. *Sonus, Jimmy Just Quit, and No Lens*. \$. 12 p.m.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: Reception for *Divergence: Shaping the Land*, photographs by *Rhea Banker*, and *Painting with De-Light*, photographs by *Jim Gambaro*. Music by *Loren Feinstein*. 2 to 4 p.m.

John Doe, Jr., Greenfield: *This Could Be It, Gracious Calamity, Holy Basil*. Free. 2 p.m.

MONDAY, JULY 12

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Montague Community Band*. Free. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14

Montague Center Common: *Tommy Fuentes Band*. Free. 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 15

Montague Village Store, Montague Center: *Mike Wood*. 5 p.m.

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Katie Clarke and Larry LeBlanc, Pat & Tex with Avery and White*. 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 17

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: 3rd Annual Fun Fest feat. *Musica Franklin, Gaslight Tinkers, Viva Quetzal!*. Free. 1 to 5 p.m.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Jeff Tweedy, Nels Cline*. \$. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 18

Antenna Cloud Farm, Gill: *Andrew Yee*, cello. \$. 7 p.m.

MONDAY, JULY 19

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Montague Community Band*. Free. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21

Montague Center Common: *Becky and John*. Free. 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 22

Montague Village Store, Montague Center: *Khalif Neville*. 5 p.m.

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *High Tea, Zoe Lemos*. \$. 6 p.m.

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Selah haleS, Austin & Elliott*. 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 23

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Home Body, Holy Basil*. \$. 6 p.m.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Kevin Morby, Waxahatchee*. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 24

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *She Said*. \$. 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

Montague Center Common: *Farley Five*. Free. 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 29

Montague Village Store, Montague Center: *Nate Martel*. 5 p.m.

FRI & SAT, JULY 30-31

MASS MoCA, North Adams:

Bang on a Can feat. *Kronos Quartet*, many more. \$.

FRIDAY, JULY 30

The Palladium Outdoors, Worcester: *Bright Eyes, Lucy Dacus*. \$. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 31

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Sam Amidon*, folk singer and banjo player. Free. 5 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 2

Gateway City Arts, Holyoke: *Japanese Breakfast, Mannequin Pussy*. \$. 8 p.m.

SAT-SUN, AUGUST 7-8

Unity Park, Turners Falls: *Pocumtuck Homelands Festival*. A celebration of Native American art, music, and history. Free.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

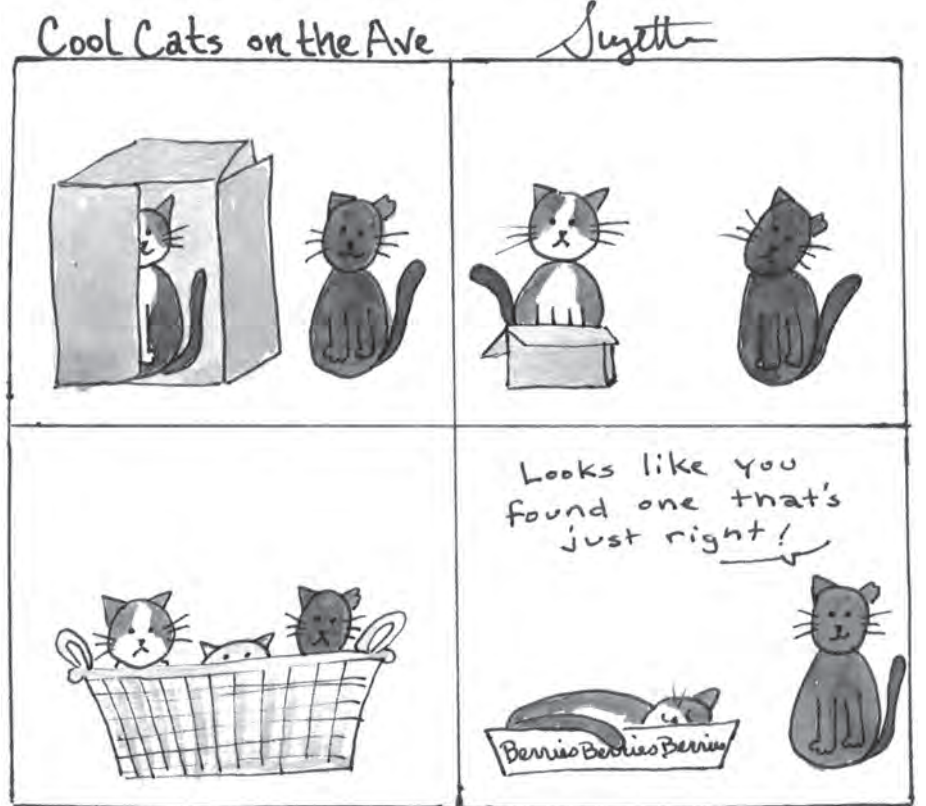
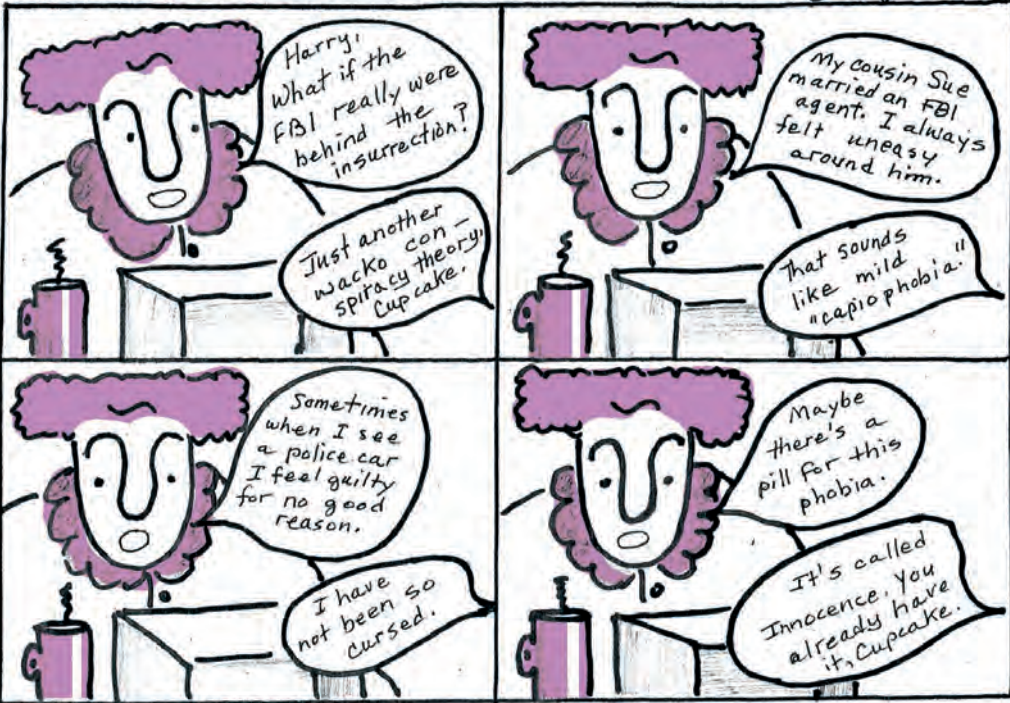
Center Street, Montague Center: *Barbès in the Woods* feat. *Liraz, Son Rompe Pera, Kaleta & Super Yamba, Los Cumpleanos, Bigyuki, Arooj Aftab*, and more. \$. See barbesinthewoods.com for more information.

JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION



OVER THE HILL

Carolyn Clark



Three Degrees of Warming

By Janice Rowan



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RAMBLER from page B1

my mother was my father from that point forward, and while one could reasonably argue she shouldn't be held to any standard, she was perhaps not well suited to the role. She came of age in the '50s and was taught in accordance with the times that a man would be financially responsible for her, and this expectation was not released lightly. She had built a tower of dreams on that foundation, and the lack of those resources caused her tower to come crashing down just as five pairs of tiny hands were reaching for her own.

I continue my attempts to accompany her from afar, mostly via telephone, as her brain is ravaged by a disease which consumes what she

has held most dear – her identity as an attorney, and her unparalleled skill as a knitter; her love of books, learning, music, cultural difference, animals (but especially cats), a good meal and a better dessert. Her love of color and refined sense of the absurd are still present, and she can still connect with any stranger, if she so chooses, although this deep capacity is diminishing. Too, she still carries pride mixed with pain about the complex relationships she has had with her daughters.

Intensely private, her personal philosophy has always been a confounding mix of childlike magical realism interlaced with the darkest and most shocking of pessimisms. Her library quite literally cost her her home,

and included books on a wide range of topics: the "Secret Jews" of New Mexico; early feminist politics; the Mormon Trail; the intrigue of the papacy; all things knitting; Mandarin; mental illness; tatting; veganism and the many uses of aquafaba; Yiddish literature; gender and sexuality – just to name a few. No subject was too great or too small for her laser focus.

Sometimes, in moments of clarity, she realizes what she's losing, and she'll call me crying. "My brain" she'll say, or "I can't speak," referring to her worsening aphasia.

And when she questions out loud if her life has been of value, I remind her of the people she taught; of the migrant farm work-

ers she represented as they fought for life-affirming conditions (they were, after all, living in tin shacks, in hot fields, with babies on their backs, while planes flew low overhead, spraying something made by Monsanto, or a sister organization); and of the addicted babies she had a particular knack for soothing when they awakened in the middle of the night, mewling and alone, on the dimly lit hospital unit where she volunteered.

She has always been, and still is, intermittently kind and sharp, and the grief I feel about losing her, my only parent, synapse by synapse, surprises me with its unyielding acuity.

Into the quiet of my yard, with the flowers and the birds, I go.



RIVERBOAT DISPATCH

Ancient Depths

By **GALEN HUCKINS**

BARTON COVE – On a rainy afternoon the paddlewheel riverboat Channel Princess pulled into Barton Cove. The water here is very shallow outside the channel, and we have to be careful to avoid the mudbanks and underwater stumps. In the past we've had to break out the long poles in terrain like this, but we manage to tuck into a cove before another round of downpours.

Our first visitors are some of the beavers from a nearby lodge that ply to and fro at the mouth of the cove. They can be seen coming and going every night, sometimes two or three at once. We haven't seen them fell any trees yet, but their handiwork can be seen along the bank of the river.

When we go to drop our anchor, the line runs through our hands for a long time as it settles down to the muddy bottom below.

It turns out we're floating over a surprisingly deep divot in the rock underneath us. The peninsula of land currently occupied by the Barton Cove Campground once held back

the whole river, letting the water through only over a single precipice. That waterfall carved out a "plunge pool" beneath it over thousands of years. Now the water has cut through a different section of the peninsula called "The Narrows," which is the current path of the Connecticut River, but the plunge pools here and over near the entrance to the campground have remained.

We make a short foray onto land with our rowboat to investigate the rocks of the peninsula where dinosaur tracks were cut out for study, and other dinosaur tracks can supposedly still be made out. We don't see any dinosaur tracks, but we do see some vultures, and decide that will satisfy us for now.

It's raining hard and when we arrive back at the riverboat we are drenched head to toe. Some heavy winds are coming in. It's time to throw out our storm anchor and watch it disappear, settling deep on the riverbed below.



You can follow the riverboat and its travels at www.riversignal.com.



HUCKINS PHOTO

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