

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 19 – NO. 39

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

Lake Pleasant Hosts Bash To Celebrate Fixed Bridge



Next Saturday the Lake Pleasant Village Association will throw a party for the reopened Bridge of Names, seen above after last October's windstorm.

By DAVID JAMES

LAKE PLEASANT – An unabashed wooden footbridge is a good bridge. When you use it, it allows you to get safely from end to end on the way to wherever you intend to go. On the proverbial other hand, a bashed wooden footbridge is a bad bridge. If you use it, it leads nowhere except to a plunge into the abyss of a scraggle-brushed valley, four stories below.

Late in the afternoon of October 7, 2020, this community's iconic Bridge of Names – 220 feet long, according to architectural drawings at the time of its construction in 1975 – was ravaged by a Windstorm from Hell which swept through Franklin County towns, causing severe property damage and widespread power outages which lasted for days.

That wooden walkway is the literal and symbolic connector, the centerpiece and unifier of two parts of Montague's youngest and smallest village, separated by a gorge left behind as the last North American Ice Age ended some

10,000 years ago.

Fortunately, time, a good plan, and money heal all bashed bridge wounds. Consequently, the Lake Pleasant Village Association (LPVA) will formally welcome the return of the Bridge of Names to a state of unabashedness with a celebration of gratitude and joy for the gifts of energy, effort, and labor of villagers – and the contributions of more than 200 well-wishing donors from near and far-flung places whose dollars have enabled restoration of the community landmark.

The celebratory event, titled Bridge Bash, is scheduled next Saturday, September 18 from 1 to 4 p.m. in Minnie E. Rutter Memorial Park, the village version of a town common.

Activities and attractions will include: a roving DJ sound-truck, games for young and old, raffles, tours, refreshments, including local orchard apples and bottled water, as well as an open invitation to pack a picnic lunch and bring a chair or blanket to spread upon the

see **BASH** page A5

While Some Towns Bring Masks Back, Others Wait

By JEFF SINGLETON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Last week a regional organization of small-town public health officials, the Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS), called for its member towns to return to mask mandates in response to the threat from the so-called "Delta variant" of the coronavirus. The variant has increased the number of positive COVID tests over the past month in the region and state. It also has infected some who have been fully vaccinated, although at a lower rate and with fewer dire consequences than the unvaccinated.

So far the two largest towns in the county, Montague and Greenfield, have not adopted a mandate.

CPHS regional health director Randy Crochier said his organization has distributed model language for a local mandate, which might vary from town to town. Crochier shared with the *Reporter* a version approved by the Leyden board of health. The document begins by emphasizing the spread of the Delta variant, and then requires that masks be worn at all times in "public indoor spaces," which include "restaurants, bars, offices, indoor performance and event venues, hotels and motels, gyms, fitness clubs, salons, places of worship."

Office employees in spaces protected by a barrier are exempt from wearing a mask when not interacting with the public.

Leyden's mandate does not specify any enforcement mechanism for monitoring compliance, or any penalties for non-compliance. "We don't expect to get in people's faces," said Crochier, noting that the regional board would be distributing signage that could be used by local businesses.

The health cooperative, part of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), provides services to sixteen Franklin County towns. Twelve – Ashfield, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leyden, Monroe, Rowe and Shelburne – share a health director, two part-time health agents, and a nursing program. Deerfield, Northfield, Conway, and Erving participate only in the nursing program, according to the FRCOG website.

An August 31 report by *CBS News* listed 24 cities and towns in the eastern part of the state, including Boston, with full or partial indoor mask mandates. Northampton issued such a mandate on August 9, and Amherst instated a similar order effective August 18.

Montague and Greenfield, the two largest towns in Franklin County, are not part of the health service, and their health boards have not voted to reimplement a mask mandate. The Greenfield board has recommended that individuals wear masks in public buildings and businesses regardless of their vaccination status. At its August 25 meeting

see **MASKS** page A3

Four Candidates to Meet In Final Week of Race

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE – The four candidates on the September 21 special election ballot to fill a seat on the selectboard vacated by Michael Nelson will join a forum next Thursday evening, September 16 via Zoom to air their perspectives. The forum, co-hosted by the *Montague Reporter* and Montague Community Television, will air live on Channel 17 and will be posted online for viewing during the final days of the race. (See the end of this article for more information.)

The candidates are Joanna Mae Boody, Mark Fairbrother, David Jensen, and Matt Lord. Two – Jensen and Fairbrother – have long histories at town hall; Jensen worked for decades as Montague's building inspector, and Fairbrother, among other committee work, sat on the selectboard from 2009 to 2015. Boody and Lord are both newer residents who have volunteered enthusiastically into public service, holding appointed positions on the school committee and planning board, respectively.

The *Reporter* spoke with the four candidates this week, interviewing them on a handful of topics in advance of next week's forum in hopes of introducing them, or in some cases re-introducing them, to our readers.

"I was very excited to put myself out there to be of service to the community," Boody said. "To see three other people who are willing to do the same makes me really happy.... I welcome joining the gentlemen in this election."

"When I read that Mike was leaving, it just seemed like a bolt out of the blue to me," said Fairbrother. "I know a lot of the players, and I've got a darn good idea how things work, so I decided this might be a time to throw my hat in and see what happens."

"I threw my name into the hat, or the ring, with no preconceived notion of who I was running against," said Jensen. "I'm curious to see where it comes out."

"It's nice that there's four people who decided to come out on this – it's sad, at the same time, that it had to be an open seat," said Lord. "I think everybody could do a good job, but I believe I have some experience

see **CANDIDATES** page A7



The four candidates on the September 21 ballot to fill a Montague selectboard seat, alphabetically, top to bottom: Joanna Mae Boody, Mark Fairbrother, David Jensen, and Matt Lord.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Police Dispatchers Get Raise; Detectives Hunt the Tagger

By MIKE JACKSON

The Montague selectboard, which normally meets Mondays, had planned to skip the week entirely to enjoy the Labor Day holiday, but pressing business brought two-thirds of the board back to town hall

for a short meeting Tuesday night.

A crisis of short staffing in the police dispatch department had prompted a proposal to increase wages in the department across the board immediately, outside of the town's regular annual budget process. With the opportunity of police brass in the meeting room, a second item was added to the agenda: the unsolved case of a vandal who has now twice damaged downtown storefronts.

"Back in March 2020 we had footage – but the person was dressed in all black, and there was really no visible feature to try and identify the person," police chief Chris Williams reported, adding that his department was investigating footage from the second spree in the early morning hours of September 1.

"I'm not sure if the town, or the Business Association, can offer any type of reward for information leading to an arrest," he suggested.

Chair Rich Kuklewicz asked

see **POLICE** page A4



Town officials suggested a reward fund might be set up to encourage this person's associates to turn them in to the police.

EARTH WORKS



The project to deliver Amherst drinking water to the Teamaddle Hill area of Leverett, where a number of houses have long been affected by toxic groundwater leaching from an old town dump, is now underway. Patricia Duffy, one of the affected residents, took this photo of the directional drilling rig which is being used to install pipes under a brook and bridge along East Leverett Road in Amherst. "I spoke with the engineer on Tuesday and he said that they were delayed a little because the bit for it broke on the hard ledge in that area of Doolittle Brook," she writes.

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The Montague Reporter

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Sotomayor's Dissent

Last week's 5-4 Supreme Court ruling in *Whole Women's Health v. Jackson*, which upholds a new Texas law authorizing private citizens to sue anyone who aids or abets an abortion after 6 weeks, has far-reaching consequences – immediately, for pregnant people in Texas seeking abortion, but also for its fundamental inversion of the rule of law in America. We hope that, whatever our readers' beliefs may be about abortion, they read dissenting justice Sonia Sotomayor's explanation of the latter. - Eds.

By HON. SONIA SOTOMAYOR

The Court's order is stunning. Presented with an application to enjoin a flagrantly unconstitutional law engineered to prohibit women from exercising their constitutional rights and evade judicial scrutiny, a majority of Justices have opted to bury their heads in the sand.

Last night, the Court silently acquiesced in a State's enactment of a law that flouts nearly 50 years of federal precedents. Today, the Court belatedly explains that it declined to grant relief because of procedural complexities of the State's own invention.

Because the Court's failure to act rewards tactics designed to avoid judicial review and inflicts significant harm on the applicants and on women seeking abortions in Texas, I dissent.

In May 2021, the Texas Legislature enacted S. B. 8 (the Act). The Act, which took effect statewide at midnight on September 1, makes it unlawful for physicians to perform abortions if they either detect cardiac activity in an embryo or fail to perform a test to detect such activity. This equates to a near-categorical ban on abortions beginning six weeks after a woman's last menstrual period, before many women realize they are pregnant, and months before fetal viability. According to the applicants, who are abortion providers and advocates in Texas, the Act immediately prohibits care for at least 85% of Texas abortion patients and will force many abortion clinics to close.

The Act is clearly unconstitutional under existing precedents. See, e.g., *June Medical Servs. L. L. C. v. Russo* (2020) (Roberts, C. J., concurring in judgment) (explaining that "the State may not impose an undue burden on the woman's ability to obtain an abortion" of a "nonviable fetus" (citing *Roe v. Wade* (1973), and *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pa. v. Casey* (1992))). The respondents do not even try to argue otherwise. Nor could they: No federal appellate court has upheld such a comprehensive prohibition on abortions before viability under current law.

The Texas Legislature was well aware of this binding precedent. To circumvent it, the Legislature took the extraordinary step of enlisting private citizens to do what the State could not.

The Act authorizes any private citizen to file a lawsuit against any person who provides an abortion in violation of the Act, "aids or abets" such an abortion (including by paying for it) regardless of whether they know the abortion is prohibited under the Act, or even intends to engage in such conduct.

Courts are required to enjoin the defendant from engaging in these actions in the future and to award the private-citizen plaintiff at least \$10,000 in "statutory damages" for each forbidden abortion performed or aided by the defendant. In effect, the Texas Legislature has deputized the State's citizens as bounty hunters, offering them cash prizes for civilly prosecuting their neighbors' medical procedures.

The Legislature fashioned this scheme because federal constitutional challenges to state laws ordinarily are brought against state officers who are in charge of enforcing the law. See, e.g., *Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy v. Stewart* (2011). By prohibiting state officers from enforcing the Act directly and relying instead on citizen bounty hunters, the Legislature sought to make it more complicated for federal courts to enjoin the Act on a statewide basis.

Taken together, the Act is a breathtaking act of defiance – of the Constitution, of this Court's precedents, and of the rights of women seeking abortions throughout Texas. But over six weeks after the applicants filed suit to prevent the Act from taking effect, a Fifth Circuit panel abruptly stayed all proceedings before the District Court and vacated a preliminary injunction hearing that was scheduled to begin on Monday.

The applicants requested emergency relief from this Court, but the Court said nothing. The Act took effect at midnight last night.

Today, the Court finally tells the Nation that it declined to act be-



With a crazed look in his eyes and wielding a very large wrench, Mike Muller of Montague Webworks returns to the 2021 Montague Soapbox Race as an official Soapbox Race Consultant.

Letters to the Editors



Candidate Introduction: Matt Lord

My name is Matt Lord, and I ask you to vote for me as Selectboard member on September 21 (or earlier by mail). Selectboard members provide an important service to our town, and I would enjoy focusing my interests on serving the town of Montague.

When my wife and I moved to Montague in 2017, we could see a

dream come true. We've been so happy to join a community that celebrates with pumpkin carving, community bonfires, Morris dancers, and paddling dugout canoes. The first of many dreams did come true when the installation of our garden, including a chicken moat, was complete. Since then, we have continued our work unfurling our dream, most importantly bringing a child into the world, but also continuing our planting, such as the beginning of an orchard.

Serving the town is another part of the dream.

As soon as we signed the purchase contract for our home, I delved into learning everything I could about Montague. I am used to researching new topics all the time, both professionally as an attorney, but also from volunteer work I have done as a community organizer and activist. I researched the title history on our home, read 19th-century descriptions of the town, and broke against my New England stereotype by warmly inviting neighbors over to dine and get to know them.

When I read in our hometown newspaper, the *Montague Reporter*, that the Planning Board was looking for a member, I joined in 2018, eager to use my experience in land use to help our town.

I am impressed with what I have learned about our town and my fellow community members. Perhaps most important for a Selectboard candidate, I've learned that our Town Hall staff, and all our town employees, work hard to create the wonderful place I'm lucky to call home.

Montague has many resources to call on to weather difficult times.

During the past decade, when many towns similar to Montague struggled and suffered, our residents persevered, leaning on old strengths as possible, and developing new talents as necessary. As a result, as a town and a community, we are in a good place to overcome new challenges.

My goal on Selectboard is to continue weaving the cultural, agricultural, industrial, and artistic resources of Montague to prepare for an uncertain future. This year Montague residents experienced severe flooding, and it could have seen worse were it not for a few near misses. Also, the distinction has drawn more clearly deeper between our neighbors who struggle to find housing, employment, and both physical and spiritual nourishment and those who have comfort and warmth in their everyday lives. Finally, despite over a year and a half, we haven't agreed on how to manage the threat of COVID-19 in our lives.

Our Selectboard cannot solve the overarching problems that will define our times. But I will actively engage with those issues as we decide how our town operates. Our focus now will echo for years, as Federal grants for coronavirus recovery and infrastructure investment represent generational amounts of funding.

Most importantly, I want to work with our community members, from every village and every perspective, to ensure Montague thrives for generations to come. We will not all agree on every topic, but as we find those places we do agree, we will become stronger.

Matt Lord
Montague Center

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**Compiled by
TROUBLE MANDESON**

This year’s theme of the **172nd Annual Franklin County Fair** is “It’s the Bee’s Knees.” The Fair kicks off with the Parade down Greenfield’s Main Street this Thursday, September 9, 5 p.m. The fairgrounds open Thursday at 3 p.m. and the fair runs through Sunday. Admission is \$7 to \$10, parking is \$5. Visit www.fcas.com for a schedule of events and to purchase tickets.

The Friends of Greenfield Dance invite you to **contra dance at an outdoor concert** with Alchemy, live at the Guiding Star Grange, 401 Chapman Street, Greenfield. This free event is Friday, September 10, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Rain date is Sunday, September 12.

The **Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse** are hosting a 175th birthday celebration marking the official reopening and the end of phase one construction. The event will be held indoors and outdoors with COVID guidelines in place. There will be “speechifying,” appetizers, drinks, and music from The Gaslight Tinkers, The Wendell Community Chorus, and a host of others.

This event is free to everyone and attendees are invited to bring photos, letters, and best wishes for the Wendell Community 2046 time capsule. It takes place on Saturday, September 11 from 2 to 6:30 p.m. with a rain date of Sunday, September 12. More information can be found at wendell-meetinghouse.org.

The **New England Equestrian Center** of Athol celebrates its 20th anniversary with activities for everyone. There will be demonstrations by equine therapists, dentists, and farriers, as well as music, a town-wide tag sale, and food trucks. This free event is this Saturday, September 11 at 802 New Sherborn Road in Athol. Visit www.neeca.org for more information.

Leslie Cerier, the “Organic Gourmet,” will be teaching an online Zoom cooking class, **Yom Kippur “Break-fast” Vegetarian Dinner**,

from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. this Sunday, September 12. The cost is \$30 per person, and children 9 to 12 may attend with a registered adult. Email leslie@lesliecerier.com and include the names of all attendees.

The Shea Theater and RiverCulture are hosting a **free outdoor family show at Peskeomskut Park**. Pack a picnic and bring your friends to see the “playfully jubilant and whimsical” Carrie Ferguson with The Rocking Puppies this Sunday, September 12 from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

The Pioneer Valley Youth Orchestra is holding an **Open Rehearsal** at Greenfield High School on September 12 from 5 to 6 p.m. There is a non-refundable \$25 audition fee, applied to tuition for students who are accepted. Register at pvsoc.org/youth-orchestra.

The **Pioneer Valley Symphony**, led by music director Tianhui Ng, announces its 2021-22 Season of Rebirth with a mix of virtual and live events. Visit www.pvsoc.org for information and a schedule of events.

The Sunday Sessions on the “Mesa Verde beach,” outdoors on Fiske Street in Greenfield, continue this Sunday, September 12 with a free **dance party in solidarity with anti-imperialist movements**. DJ team Temperature will be spinning salsa, cumbia, and reggaeton with pupusas, cocktails, and beer available for purchase. Funds raised will go to a commune in Venezuela and a trans-led organization in Colombia. Speakers begin at 5 p.m., with salsa lessons provided at 7 p.m.

Next Thursday, the Athol Bird & Nature Club will host a talk by horticulturist Denise Bennett of Maple Hill Nursery, giving **practical advice about “Climate and Gardens.”** The event will be held at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street, Athol from 7 to 9 p.m. on September 16.

The vocal jazz ensemble, the **Swing Set Jazz Singers**, are back with a concert at the Water Street Barn and Studio, 31 Water

Street, Shelburne Falls, next Friday, September 17, at 7 p.m. Visit swingsetsingers.com for more information on the group.

Join Musica Franklin, this year in partnership with RiverCulture, for the **Third Annual Fun Fest** at Peskeomskut Park in Turners Falls. The free event features music, hands-on activities, and general merriment. Explore an instrument petting zoo, make giant bubbles, and listen to music from Musica Franklin students, Viva Quetzal, and The Gaslight Tinkers on Saturday, September 18 from 1 to 5 p.m. Bring your own chair or blanket, socially distance, and wear masks if you are unvaccinated and when at the activity table.

The Bridge of Names is holding a **Bridge Bash** to celebrate the recent bridge repair. The event will have a live DJ, raffle, games, and refreshments. Bring a picnic to Rutter Park in Lake Pleasant on Saturday, September 18 from 1 to 4 p.m.

The **Montague Soapbox Derby** is seeking volunteers on race day in Unity Park, Sunday, September 19, to help set up the racetrack, check in racers, and more. This event is a fundraiser for the Montague parks and rec department. Check out montaguesoapboxderby.com for a list of pre-events, including a “Night Before the Race Hang Out” at the Voo on Saturday, September 18 at 7 p.m. Wear any previous year’s Montague Soapbox t-shirt and Mik Muller will give you a dollar towards any app or beverage of your choice.

In celebration of the restoration of the **1903 George W. Reed pipe organ**, the First Congregational Church, UCC at 429 Main Street in Ashfield will host an organ recital by Grant Moss on Sunday, September 19 at 3 p.m. Bring a chair or blanket for outdoor social distancing and a mask for indoors. Event information and rain date can be found at www.ashfielducc.org.

Beginning Monday, September 20, the **Turners Falls Water Department will begin shutting off water** to properties with water usage bills more than 90 days overdue. (Bills were mailed May 1 and due June 1.) Payments can be made at the water department office at 226 Millers Falls Road between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Payments must be in the form of check or cash, and a drop box is located to the left of the front door for payments after hours. Please call Suzanne at

(413) 863-4542 with any questions.

Join participants of all ages and abilities for the annual **Source to Sea Clean-up** at the Greenfield Swimming Area on Nash Mill Road, Saturday, September 25 at 9 a.m. Join DCR staff and volunteers for “hard work, real fun, and true impact” to clean up the Connecticut River and its tributaries. Return to the Swimming Area at 3 p.m. for lunch, camaraderie, and live music. To sign up or learn more, visit ctriver.org/our-work/source-to-sea-cleanup.

That same weekend, Friday, September 24, 3 p.m. through Sunday, September 26, residents of the Patch neighborhood in Turners Falls are holding a **Patch Litter Clean Up**. “Join with your neighbors in removing trash from our beautiful woods and trails,” they write. Meet at the corner of G and 10th streets; gloves and bags will be provided. More details to come at www.facebook.com/events/530814871514649.

The Athol Bird and Nature Club has put out a **call for nature calendar photos** for their 2022 calendar. “Believe it or not, the most difficult part of the project is having enough images to review that are appropriate for each month,” writes coordinator Ernie LeBlanc. “We usually have many for May through August, but not so many for the early spring, winter, and fall months. Furthermore, we typically have many bird and mammal images, but not so many plant, insect, reptile, amphibian, or other nature related subjects.” Landscape-oriented images are best; send images, or links, to dave@atholbirdclub.org. You may also want to join the Athol club on Fridays in September and October for **early birding with Jeff Johnstone** to look at local fall migrating birds. They meet at 7:30 a.m. Call to find out more and reserve your spot with Jeff at (978) 249-9052.

Tickets are now on sale for **Silverthorne Theater’s** 2021-2022 season. Season subscribers are offered several perks, including five dollars off the regular ticket price of a bonus show in December. The season begins on October 1 with *The Mystery of Irma Vep: A Penny Dreadful* at the Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center in Greenfield. Go to silverthornetheater.org/box_office to purchase tickets.

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MASKS from page A1

the board seemed on the verge of adopting a mandate but then decided to table the motion. The board is scheduled to meet next Monday, September 13 at 5 p.m.

As of this writing, the Montague health board has not formally voted to either recommend or mandate masks in local business establishments. The board of health meets next Wednesday, September 15 at 5 p.m.

Current mask policies in Montague vary. Town hall requires that all unvaccinated residents wear masks in the building, but there is no enforcement mechanism. The Council on Aging requires masks at the Gill-Montague senior center for those who are unvaccinated, and recommends them for those deemed “vulnerable,” in the words of director Roberta Potter. Library director Linda Hickman told the *Reporter* that her department “strongly suggests” that everyone wear a mask, in part due to the presence of large numbers of unvaccinated children.

Private businesses, too, find themselves facing

the decision individually. The Montague Bookmill and adjacent Lady Killigrew Café in Montague Center both require masks for all customers. Bookmill owner Susan Shilliday said that after a “brief moment in July” when masking was not required, the businesses decided to jointly reimpose the requirement in response to the Delta variant.

Shilliday told the *Reporter* that the bookstore “gets a lot of kids” and that she followed the advice of her son-in law, a virologist, in the decision. “He has been right every step of the way,” she said. While the Lady Killigrew has eliminated seating at its small bar, customers may eat and drink in the dining room and outside on the patio after ordering.

The Rendezvous restaurant in Turners Falls does not currently have a mask policy, although this *Reporter* saw numerous customers and staff wearing masks during a recent visit. “We would not be averse to the town adopting a mask mandate,” said co-owner Mark Wisniewski. “That would take some of the pressure off of us.”

The agenda for the Montague health board’s

September 15 meeting has not been published, and the department’s clerk, Anne Stuart, told the *Reporter* the meeting may need to be “pushed back” until the 22nd after public health director Daniel Wasiuk returns from vacation.

Newly elected Montague health board member Melanie Zamojski said she is “certain” the issue will be on the next agenda. “I am currently taking a wait-and-see position on the mandate,” she said. Zamojski said she personally favors wearing masks whatever one’s vaccination status, but that the local COVID case numbers “aren’t that bad.”

Stuart reported 20 “active cases” of COVID-19 in Montague in the two-week period from August 22 to September 4. Countywide, according to state data, the number of new cases rose from 43 to 60 to 67 during the last three weeks; town-level data is released Thursdays.

Zamojski also suggested that towns in the region need to try to get on the same page. “I’d like to see the various boards, including Montague, Greenfield, and those in the regional health service, talk to each other,” she said.



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POLICE from page A1

Williams if the graffiti was thought to be gang-related. “I think it’s one individual,” the chief replied.

John McNamara, Erin MacLean, and Oliver Miller, all owners of Avenue A buildings with glass now damaged twice by the tagger, joined the meeting.

“When these things happen, I hear from people, ‘well, this is Turners Falls,’” McNamara said. “That’s the wrong attitude.... It needs to be dealt with with the same seriousness as if it was on the Hill, or in Montague Center.”

“What is the timeline for this kind of investigation?” Miller asked. “How do we follow up, and what is our avenue of connecting with the people who are in charge?”

Williams said the new footage did not yield identifiable features. “I remember [town administrator] Steve Ellis once asked me if we should have more cameras in town, and I said I didn’t think people would want Big Brother watching them more closely than they already are. Maybe that’s another thought.... Our best resources are confidential informants that the detectives have.”

Kuklewicz said the town is looking into offering up a reward. “It’s not something that we really have discretionary funds to spend on,” he said, and suggested that a fund might be set up to reward tipsters. “These folks tend not to work in isolation, and like to let certain people in their own circles know that they’ve done this,” he added.

“The tools that we have in the downtown area are actually more, because of all the cameras,” said lieutenant Chris Bonnett. “We’re not going to comment on where those might be, for obvious reasons. But it’s actually far more time that gets invested into something that happens downtown, because there’s so much more to work with.”

McNamara asked whether downtown surveillance footage of the suspect could be made avail-

able to the public.

“During an ongoing investigation, that would definitely be exempt from public disclosure,” Bonnett told him.

“We’ve looked into what kind of cameras we’d get,” said MacLean, “because we don’t want to invest in something that’s not going to work. So you’re saying they have cameras, but that you can’t see anything?”

“Today’s cameras are very good in general,” Bonnett said. “But a lot of evidence turns into very little to go on, because I can watch you run away all day from behind, and there’s nothing in the world that will ever allow me to have anything that’s conclusive.”

“If someone was caught, there’s probably more than \$30,000 worth of damage,” McNamara said. “What kind of prosecution would that person be facing?”

“Each act of vandalism would be its own count of malicious destruction of property, or vandalism,” Bonnett replied. “The district attorney and probation would work out what restitution would be, or what it would look like.”

Dispatch Bump-Up

The selectboard then retreated into an executive session to discuss the town’s strategy with respect to collective bargaining, and re-emerged not long after to announce that the town had negotiated a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the National Association of Government Employees (NAGE), which represents the police dispatch workers.

“We have an issue in our public safety dispatch center with staffing,” Kuklewicz said. “It’s a problem that’s been ongoing for some time.” Neighboring towns, he explained, offer higher pay for dispatchers, so Montague has frequently invested in providing specialized training – at over \$20,000 per worker in cost to the town – only to soon lose the staff to other towns.

The department is fully staffed

at four, but currently only has two full-time dispatchers, and a third who is in training and must shadow a coworker.

“We run the risk of our dispatch center being closed,” Kuklewicz went on to explain. “Many people now call our regular line with things that are really 911 calls, and can be relatively seamlessly routed over to 911 and reacted to quickly.”

If the state assigns all Montague calls to an out-of-town dispatch center, he said, “that really presents what the board felt was a significant risk to the community from a response time to an incident.... If a gap in service were to occur and we lose 911, we know that it would be very difficult to reestablish.”

Under the negotiated arrangement, all dispatchers would be promoted from the “Grade B” to the “Grade D” rate scale under the union’s contract, resulting in wages “higher than some, lower than others” in comparison with surrounding towns.

“It brings us solidly into the middle of the road of competitiveness,” said Bonnett.

The MOA was approved unanimously by Kuklewicz and Chris Boutwell. Outgoing member Michael Nelson was not at the meeting.

Damage Assessment

The cost to the town of the emergency agreement was not discussed at Tuesday’s meeting, but town administrator Steve Ellis attended the finance committee meeting on Wednesday to discuss its impact.

The pay scale for Grade B under the town’s contract with NAGE ranges from \$18.26 to \$22.47 per hour, while Grade D runs from \$21.41 to \$26.34.

According to finance committee chair Jen Audley, Ellis estimated the impact to the town during the current fiscal year at about \$29,000. The dispatch department budget, which is separate from the rest of the police budget, will need

to be revised at town meeting.

“It’s unusual that the selectboard would decide to renegotiate with the union, make this decision in a two-week period of time, and then announce it,” Audley told the *Reporter*. “It is definitely not the way that we want to go about budgeting, or thinking about how to use the town’s resources, or compensating people. It undermines our budgeting process.”

While Audley said the logic of the decision “made sense” to her, and praised the dispatch staff for their “important and skillful work,” she expressed frustration over the decision process.

“This isn’t a one-time expense,” she said. “Every year we have a meeting with the dispatch [supervisor] and the police chief about the dispatch budget, and they talk about their upcoming needs and challenges. Every year we’ve noted that there’s a lot of turnover on the dispatch, there’s a lot of pressure on the overtime budget, a lot of time spent training.”

“The selectboard said that it’s a longstanding, well-known problem that our pay isn’t equal – that’s actually not something that has been raised. I wish that it had been, and I wish that we weren’t solving this in an emergency manner.”

The new agreement would apparently increase Montague’s dispatch budget from the \$310,291 approved by town meeting in the spring to nearly \$340,000.

“We do have free cash, but the town is committing to an increased pay scale indefinitely, and free cash doesn’t replenish itself,” said Audley. “We have to find the money from that somewhere, which will likely come from taxes.”

According to Audley, Ellis told the fin com that the town is currently considering October 14 or 16 to hold a special town meeting. The selectboard’s next meeting is scheduled for next Monday, September 13.



OP ED

Solar Energy? Yes! Deforestation? No!

By **BILL STUBBLEFIELD**

WENDELL – The latest climate report from the United Nation’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released last month raised the alarm over the accelerating climate emergency to the highest level yet.

A global average temperature rise of more than a dangerous 1.5°C is already locked in, whatever we do. Under all scenarios, we will likely cross this limit within the next decade or two. The only reasonable hope for a livable future is to act now to eliminate emissions of CO₂ from burning fossil fuels and to remove vast quantities from the atmosphere. If we do both – stop making things worse and start making them better – it is still possible to pull global temperature back to a relatively safe level after exceeding 1.5°C for a brief period.

Very large, immediate, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are essential. This requires a rapid switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy, including a dramatic build-out of solar power. At the same time, we must also protect our forests and other natural carbon sinks to the fullest extent we can, as these are the only means we currently have to capture and store carbon at any significant scale.

The IPCC reports that natural sinks alone are likely insufficient to stabilize the climate and that new technology will also be needed, but there is no doubt that failure to protect natural sinks will guarantee a more dangerous future.

Forests are also needed to address another global crisis we now face: the loss of biodiver-

sity at rates that far exceed those of the recent geological past. Forests are the coral reefs of the land in terms of the remarkable living diversity they support. Protecting them from further degradation is of critical importance for a well-functioning biosphere, and our own survival.

Astonishing amounts of energy reach the earth from the sun every day. It is estimated that covering a mere 0.3% of the land surface with solar arrays using existing technology could supply all the energy that humans now use. Given its location and variable weather, Massachusetts would need several times that much in order to be self-sufficient, but still only a small fraction of total land area.

We don’t have to give up forested land that sequesters carbon, nor the agricultural land that sustains us. The great bulk of our needs can be met with arrays installed on parking lots, south-facing roofs and walls, as well as land already degraded by landfills or industrial pollution. In fact, more than enough land is already occupied by the fossil fuel industry.

Some argue that replacing forests with solar arrays is a net positive for the climate because solar arrays decrease CO₂ emissions (through the reduced use of fossil fuels) by an amount that is larger than the amount that would have been removed from the atmosphere if the forest had been allowed to continue growing. But this is a misleading way to frame the problem.

For one thing, this advantage evaporates unless each additional increment of solar power is matched by an actual reduction in fossil fuel use. Merely increasing the supply does nothing

to reduce emissions. More importantly, emission reduction and CO₂ removal are both needed, so it is wrong to argue that one can replace the other. Trading off one necessity to gain another is like sacrificing your liver to save your heart.

A growing threat to forests in our region is the complete removal of forest cover to install ground-mounted solar arrays on an industrial scale. This unnecessary destruction is promoted by direct government subsidies that often end up in distant corporate coffers. It would be far better to use our limited tax dollars to help local communities become more resilient and better able to take care of themselves. Local individuals, businesses, and cooperatives deserve help to weather the tough times that surely lie ahead because of our inexcusably feeble response to the climate emergency.

Given the planetary crises that now confront us, climate mitigation and biodiversity protection are of critical importance. But deforestation results in the loss of many other benefits as well. Some of you may especially value the mental well-being and spiritual replenishment that forests provide, others the joys of experiencing nature through outdoor recreation, and still others the economic returns from an ongoing supply of wood products.

Whatever forest benefits matter most to you, they are all eroded by forest loss. Please join me in supporting a moratorium on large-scale solar installations at www.savemassforests.com/action-large-scale-solar.

Bill Stubblefield is a climate activist, trained biologist, and nature lover residing in Wendell.

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BASH from page A1
new-mown grass.
In case of rain, Bridge Bash will be Sunday, same time, same place.

A Near Tragedy
At approximately 4:40 p.m. on October 7, Scott D. Nickerson, 65, a licensed Building Contractor, who lives at 9 Denton Street, left his house for what he believed would be a reasonably routine walk to fetch his mail from the Lake Pleasant Post Office on the other side of the village. That trip, however, soon morphed into a near-death experience.
“As I walked down the street, I heard a clap of thunder,” Nickerson said in a video made the following day, “nothing too intimidating.” He also reported feeling a few drops of rain. Approaching the bridge blockhouse on the Denton side, he said, “I met a neighbor who told me I should hurry because the rain was coming. And I said, ‘You’re going the right way and I’m going the wrong way.’ Little did I know that those may have been the last words that I ever said.”



Bandage-nosed villager Scott Nickerson recounted his harrowing experience on the Bridge of Names in a post-storm video.

After he got his mail and began the return trip, the “rain picked up” and “the wind blew so hard” it was difficult to walk. So, Nickerson decided to stop at the Denton side blockhouse. “As I did, I watched in awe,” as a “pine tree – over 100 feet tall – snapped in half, hit the power lines, and broke a telephone pole. If I had continued walking it probably would have hit me.”
To play it safe, he sat down on the northeast lakeside bench to wait for the storm to pass. However, within seconds an oak tree, thick-trunked and heavy-branched, fell... crushing the blockhouse and taking out inches short of 34 feet of decking and picket guardrails. “If I had been sitting on the bench in the southeast corner,” Nickerson said, “I would have no doubt been killed.” That bench had been converted to instant rubble when the blockhouse collapsed.
The impact caused Nickerson to slide off the back end of the bench and fall upside down into a crevice at a 45-degree angle, with his head 11 or 12 feet below his previous sit-

ting position in the blockhouse. “My foot got pinned between two deck boards,” he said, but he managed to work it free. Then, “I rolled on my side, and leaned against the retaining wall until the wind died down.”
After the storm dissipated – which happened as quickly as it had materialized – Nickerson said, “I crawled out with just a few minor bruises and a cut on my nose. A lot of people say that this was a miracle... and maybe it was. I’m happy to be alive.”
Since the near-fatal experience, he has paid homage to the Greek god Aeolus, the King and the Keeper of the Winds, and has politely requested that nothing stronger than a stiff breeze ever be sent his way again. He has also had his lawyer prepare his first-ever will.

Homegrown Talents
The Village of Lake Pleasant – founded in 1874 and 166 residents strong, according to the 2010 US Census – is happy as well that its Bridge of Names is alive with the sound of foot traffic again. The LPVA drew on homegrown talent to organize and promote the thank-you-one-and-all Bridge Bash agenda.
Artist Lahri Bond designed a bridge logo for T-shirts and long-sleeve shirts being sold as a fundraiser, as well as the event poster. The musical Stewart family will provide DJ services with regional band member Andy functioning as Igor the Roadie for his nephew Killian, the DJ as young Dr. Frankenstein, while Killian performs with equipment belonging to his father, Brett, a professional DJ.
Sue Fontaine, a 25-year veteran event planner at Baystate Health Loyalty Programs (one for seniors and another for women, which focus on healthcare and wellness education and events) lent her expertise to scheduling. Linda Emond and Tricia Oates have organized raffles, crafts, can auctions, games for kids large and small, and the refreshment aspects of the celebratory event.

According to the constitution adopted during its incorporation in 1975, the LPVA is responsible “in perpetuity” for maintaining the Bridge of Names. Because the damage was so extensive, it has required massive funding to repair and reopen the walkway.
To accomplish that goal two primary fundraising efforts were initiated, according to LPVA treasurer Jackie Stein: a GoFundMe account, which yielded \$10,692 from 102 donors, and an in-person and mail donation campaign, which raised \$17,597 from another 100.
Benefit events were also held by the Mohawk Ramblers motorcycle club and the Independent Order of Scalpers; bingo parties were orchestrated in Rutter Park by Karlee and Dan Drumgool; crafts were auctioned; bridge pickets and logo shirts were sold. There have also been many in-kind donations of time, energy, labor, and supplies by village residents and regional busi-

ness and solo practitioner friends of “The Lake.”
Expenditures to date have been \$19,500 to primary contractor Dole Brothers of Shelburne Falls, plus \$1,756 for supplies, permits and specialty labor. Major expenditures remaining include restoration of electricity and resolution of lighting issues of kind and number, as well as the continued replacement of storm-damaged pickets.
Costs associated with these projects are anticipated to be greater than the income to date, so the LPVA plans to proceed apace with various fundraising projects.

Spirits of the Past
The Bridge of Names is the third incarnation of a wooden walkway connecting the two parts of Lake Pleasant. One side is known as the Bluffs, the original Spiritualist summer camp settlement in the early 1870s, and the other is called the Highlands, the subsequent suburb section of that burgeoning religious community.
The first bridge was constructed in 1888 by Frank Bickford, a builder responsible for a number of public projects, including the 600-seat temple of the New England Spiritualist Campmeeting Association, burned by an arsonist in 1955. That building was also used as a community library and secular meeting space. Bickford and his wife Anna were among the earliest residents of the village, and Anna was one of the earliest home mediums. She conducted small circles, also known as seances, primarily for family and friends, involving communication with departed souls still alive in the Great Beyond of the spirit world.

The Bickford bridge gave up its ghost in 1929. Minnie Rutter, a wealthy spiritualist from Utica, New York, owned a cottage in Lake Pleasant and donated money to build the second bridge in tribute to her son Frederick, who had been killed in an auto accident. The Fred Rutter Memorial Bridge lasted until the late 1950s, when it collapsed. The village was thereafter bridgeless for a decade and a half.
Enter, stage right... native son Robert B. Begg, Jr., a descendant of Scottish poet Robert Burns and himself a charismatic man, a dreamer and a doer. Retired from a military career with extensive construction experience, he had returned to Lake Pleasant and galvanized villagers to form the LPVA, as well as to become Bob Begg’s Bridge Brigade, first envisioning, then creating the Bridge of Names in 1975... the initial community improvement project which yet remains the LPVA’s crown jewel accomplishment.

David James is a longtime active member of the Lake Pleasant Village Association.
(According to the LPVA constitution, all residents of the village are members!)



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This Saturday: Meetinghouse Reopens, And Wendell Celebrates

By REPORTER STAFF

WENDELL – The historic Wendell Meetinghouse, a gathering space long owned by the town, is officially reopening after renovations by the Friends of the Meetinghouse, a non-profit that has long stewarded the building and earlier this year became its owner.
This Saturday, September 11, from 2 to 6:30 p.m., the Friends are hosting a “175th Birthday Celebration” to honor both the Meetinghouse itself, built in 1846, and the recent restoration and reopening.
Well-wishers will be offered food and drinks, speeches, and music from a local all-star lineup including Morning Star Chenven with the Wendell Community Chorus, Moonlight Davis, Carrie Ferguson, Court Dorsey, Abdou Sarr and Karen Copeland, leading drummers, and the Gaslight Tinkers.
While the building will be open for viewing, festivities will be held across the street on the north common due to COVID-19 safety protocols. The town has granted special one-day permission for beer and wine to be carried to the common and consumed there.
The Friends are also packing a time capsule, so feel free to bring “photos, letters, or best wishes for our neighbors.” It will be opened on the building’s bicentennial in 2046.
“You might choose to tell them what it’s like to be a Citizen of Wen-

dell and surrounds in 2021, or to describe the pandemic, or to share your concerns, hopes and best wishes for them and for the future of our town, whatever you like,” Court Dorsey wrote last week on the town listserv on behalf of the Friends. Paper and pens will be provided.
The Friends plan to continue with renovations of the building’s ceiling, stage, and interior. When complete, the building is intended to host performances, classes, exhibits, and spiritual events. The group also hopes to rent it out for social gatherings such as weddings.
At this stage, the building will be open for three seasons. Eventually, plans call for a heating and cooling system and a bathroom. The Friends group is open to all area residents who want to help steward the building as a community space.
Tours and discussion of the building’s history will begin at 2 p.m., and speeches and music at 3 p.m. At 3:30, the time capsule will officially be dedicated, followed by refreshments, entertaining, and dancing.
On the order of the board of health, anyone entering the building must wear a mask, and capacity is limited to 20 at a time. On the common, guests are asked to space households six feet apart, and remain 10 feet from the performers.
More information is available at www.wendell-meetinghouse.org. The rain date is this Sunday, September 12.

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Aquí se habla español

Esta es la página mensual en español del **Montague Reporter**. Aquí podrá encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana en el área, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias mundiales en español. Si quiere participar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a spanish@montaguereporter.org.



¡Gracias por todo, Great Falls!

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

GREENFIELD – Hace exactamente seis años y 2 meses que llegué a Turners Falls, ejem, quería decir Great Falls. Cuando llegué estaba emocionalmente destruida y encontré un lugar donde encontrarme a mí misma y poder sanarme.

Turners Falls hace seis años no era el mismo pueblo de ahora, en esencia, sigue pareciendo igual, pero algunas cosas han cambiado en los últimos años.

La elección de vivir en el centro del pueblo no fue por casualidad. Buscaba un sitio diferente, con vida, en el que poder pasear y ver gente en la calle y al mismo tiempo poder mirar hacia adentro y reconocermé a mí misma otra vez. Great Falls me sirvió para encontrar mis pedazos, pegarlos y reconstruirme de nuevo. Quedan las cicatrices, pero gracias a los lugares y gentes de Great Falls, ya no duelen. Debo agradecer en primer lugar a los dueños del apartamento que alquilamos, que confiaron en nosotros y nos alquilaron el apartamento, aun cuando ni mi pareja ni yo teníamos en ese momento un salario y veníamos con el tercer miembro de nuestra pequeña familia, una perra Border Collie, Ssoula. Ese tipo de buena gente no se encuentra fácilmente y desde aquí no puedo dejar de agradecerse.

La mayoría de los locales en la avenida hace seis años estaban vacíos o en mal estado, y poco a poco se han ido llenando de colores, de vida, de gente emprendedora que tiene ideas que quiere poner en práctica. Gente normal y corriente, no grandes multinacionales, que han traído sus proyectos a un pequeño lugar como Turners Falls y han conseguido atraer a gente de otros lugares y poner a Great Falls en el mapa.

Oliver Miller tiene mucho que ver en esta transformación, y es frecuente verlo trabajando en sus edificios, ya sea barriendo o reparando desperfectos. Y entre los establecimientos de Great Falls, echo mucho de menos la panadería, *2nd Street Bakery*, donde poder tomarme un café en su terraza con un trozo de tarta servido por Lynne Stanley siempre con sus palabras de ánimo para afrontar el día.

Ahora tenemos el fabuloso *The Upper Bend*, que tiene el mejor café de todo el oeste de Massachusetts y ha apostado por un menú pequeño y muy cuidado con productos de las granjas cercanas. Casi al lado hay



“Uno de mis lugares favoritos en Great Falls.”

un establecimiento que te transporta a un lugar mágico a caballo entre los escenarios de Broadway y las pequeñas mercaderías de mi ciudad natal, *Swanson's Fabrics*.

O si caminas un poco más por la avenida, puedes encontrar esa pieza *vintage* que llevas buscando desde hace años en *Buckingham Rabbits*, donde Alex ha reunido piezas tan heterogéneas como unas botas con brillantina con unos vaqueros Levis.

Y si lo tuyo es encontrar algo de otra época y darle una nueva vida, o cualquier otra pieza de artesanía, tenemos *The Loot*, con Erin y John siempre dispuestos a ayudarte a encontrar algo que ni siquiera sabías que existía.

Y *Fab*, en la calle segunda, propiedad del siempre orgulloso de sus raíces de Trinidad y Tobago, el fabuloso, Richie Richardson al que conocí en el show de moda que organizaba Chris Janke con la ropa olvidada en su lavandería, *Suzee's Third St. Laundry* y que tuvo lugar en el *Shea Theater*. Participé haciendo un vestido largo con algunas prendas olvidadas y no quiero olvidarme de Rachel que me enseñó a manejar una máquina de coser, ni de Anna Gyorgy y de Vanessa Query que hicieron de modelo para mi ropa. Después Richie ha montado sus propios desfiles ayudando a creadores afro-americanos a mostrar sus creaciones. Participar en sus desfiles fue muy divertido, aunque no tuviera ni idea de desfilar. Y hablando del Shea, ese pequeño teatro con el corazón de la ópera de

Milán, donde representé mi primera obra de Shakespeare en inglés y ahora con Monte Belmonte al frente es un maravilloso lugar abierto a la comunidad donde se organizan espectáculos de teatro, de música y funciones dobles de películas.

Y otro establecimiento que me robó el corazón desde el primer día fue *The Rendezvous* con su karaoke y su bingo abierto a todos, donde lo mismo podías encontrar a jovencitos góticos universitarios vestidos de negro, como a jubilados que esperaban cada semana al domingo por la noche poder cantar su canción favorita, y siempre la misma, en el karaoke.

No puedo olvidarme tampoco de la naturaleza que rodea Great Falls. Hay pocos lugares con una belleza tan serena y al mismo tiempo melancólica. Recuerdo ahora el valor terapéutico de pasear a lo largo del canal o por la orilla del río en Unity Park. Uno de los primeros eventos a los que asistí fue la ceremonia de reconciliación que se celebra cada año en Unity Park. Me pareció muy interesante que en un pueblo pequeño y, en teoría conservador, celebrase un festival de ese tipo.

Otro de mis parques favoritos es el del Discovery Center donde te puedes relajar debajo de un árbol, acudir al *Farmer's Market* cuando se celebraba allí, seguir los cuentos que se ponen en el parque en inglés y español, o entrar en el museo para ver los animales que viven en nuestro entorno o simplemente ver el canal a través de sus espléndidas ventanas.

Otra de mis actividades preferidas era llegar andando hasta el *Patch* y disfrutar a solamente en unos pocos minutos andando desde el centro de Great Falls de un baño refrescante en el río o simplemente pasear por el bosque que lo rodea. Es un espectáculo ver los patos, cisnes e incluso, a veces, garzas azules.

Recuerdo también el parque de esculturas que estaba en la calle tercera, donde ahora está el nuevo aparcamiento y cómo fue una de las primeras cosas que vi en Turners Falls y pensé que era muy bonito tener un lugar donde exponer el arte de la gente joven para empoderarlos.

Y hablando de gente joven, no debo obviar la gran labor que realizan *The Brick House* y *Catholic Ministries* creando lugares de discusión seguros para los miembros más débiles de la comunidad como jóvenes sin techo, madres solteras, víctimas de la violencia de género, y familias de bajos recursos.

Y por supuesto no puedo olvidarme de la gente que he conocido en estos años. Por supuesto agradecer todo a Nina y Mike, los editores de *The Montague Reporter*, que sin pensárselo dos veces me dieron la oportunidad de escribir una página en español. Poder escribir sobre lo qué pasaba en Montague me abrió las puertas de conocer a otras personas que hablan español en la comunidad como los propietarios de Cielito Lindo, Felipe, el zapatero de la avenida al que echamos mucho de menos, Jimena, Leticia, las hermanas de *Lady of Peace*, los miembros de la comunidad de La Mariposa organizada por Ya-Ping Douglass, y que querían aprender español para poder hablar con sus vecinos, los encantadores dueños de Santo Taco, Ivette y Eric, y Francia del *Rendezvous*.

Y tantos otros que no son hablantes nativos de español, pero que han hecho un impacto en mi vida, como Janel Nockleby, siempre con una sonrisa cuidando de las flores de Discovery Center o llevando a cabo actividades para niños y mayores cuando no está paseando a su perra. Y Denis, en su bicicleta roja diciendo adiós a todo el que se cruza con él. O Rick pilotando su silla de ruedas a toda velocidad avenida arriba abajo y saludando con su torrente de voz a todos los que encuentra a su paso.

A nuestro vecino Adriano, siempre paciente y tranquilo, arreglando las plantas cercanas a su edificio o fumando un pitillo al sol en uno de los bancos de la plaza. Suzanne LoManto que ha conseguido transformar el paisaje del pueblo y traer muchos espectáculos gratis después de esta pandemia tan oscura.

David, uno de los fundadores de este periódico, movilizandolo a la comunidad para mejorar nuestro ambiente. Annabel por sus esfuerzos con el mercado de los miércoles y por revitalizar las huertas comunes y a Peter que está poniendo en práctica sus estudios de arquitectura para mejorar el paisaje. Laura e Ian, miembros del *Town Meeting* que trabajan duro para conseguir mejoras sociales.

Y hablando del gobierno de la ciudad, agradecer siempre a Deb Bourbeau y Kate su cariño cuando visitaba la oficina y las galletas que daban a Ssoula.

Great Falls es un lugar maravilloso en el que he tenido un sentimiento de comunidad, he conocido a gente maravillosa que quiere cambiar las cosas por el bien común, y que busca mejorar el lugar en el que vive. Siempre estará en lo más profundo de mi corazón, y por todo esto: ¡Gracias por todo, Great Falls! ¡Hasta pronto!

• **Food Bank of Massachusetts** sigue ofreciendo alimentos gratis cada tercer miércoles de mes en el parking del Senior Center en Turners Falls cuya dirección es 62 5th Street. Por favor, asegúrense de traer sus propias bolsas, así como mascarillas. Este programa se realiza en alianza con FCCMP y Montague COA. Si tienen preguntas, contacten con *The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts* en el teléfono (413) 247-9738.

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CANDIDATES from page A1
working on issues that are going to be important for the town in the near future.”

Economic Development

We asked each candidate the same question on the topic of economic development: To what extent should the town’s focus be on attracting new people, whether as business owners or residents?

“I feel Montague is sometimes hesitant to bring in outsiders,” said Boody, who grew up in Pittsfield. “I think it’s important that we look to the businesses we already have here, and support them.... But I also think it’s important to draw in new businesses and keep bringing vibrant, exciting things to Turners Falls, and to Montague in general.”

Boody discussed new ventures opening in Millers Falls, her own village, and the town’s welcoming of the cannabis industry. As for new residents, “every municipality should focus on affordable housing for the people that we already have here,” she said.

“New people can bring in fresh ideas, and fresh outlooks on things,” said Fairbrother, who was born in town and attended Turners Falls High School.

As for businesses, he said, “my guess is the town is starting to run short of town-owned developable sites, so we just need to make it as business-friendly as we can, whether it’s tax incentives or something like that.”

“Government can present at least the face of cooperation,” Jensen said. “On the other hand, it shouldn’t be falling all over itself to capture a business that doesn’t really necessarily want to be here.... Economic development hinges on what the town is willing to invest, both in its government and its infrastructure. And we should be spending our money on improving the town’s assets, and not bribing business to come here and bail us out.”

Jensen pointed to long-term residents as an economic strength of the town. “Montague has been very conducive to propagating extended family, multi-generational ties – that’s one way we can count ourselves lucky,” he said, adding that after 40 years, “I’m still a transplant.”

“There’s a very wide set of economic bases here, and we have to integrate all of that to our strength,” said Lord. “We’re a town that has an agricultural base, that has a light-manufacturing industrial base, that has an arts and culture base – there are professionals here. It’s not about whether it’s new people, it’s about continuing the strengths that we have, and the variety, and developing those.”

School District

Another question addressed the Gill-Montague school district, and the relationship between the district and the town.

“I felt it was important to join the school committee when I heard the concerns that some town meeting members had,” said Boody, who was appointed this summer after a member stepped down. “I know that our schools are doing their very best.”

Boody said she is excited to discuss topics of equity and inclusion in the district, and to examine the data about why families choose their students out of the district – or into it. She cited the risk that Gill Elementary could close if the two towns weren’t joined in a district as reason

Selectboard Member Candidate Forum
Thursday, September 16 – 7 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting:
us02web.zoom.us/j/84855776463
Meeting ID: 848 5577 6463 Passcode: 267744

To dial in by telephone for audio: 1 (646) 558 8656

enough for the towns to remain partnered. “In the times that we’re in, in America, I don’t want to see public schools closing,” she explained.

“The school committee runs the schools, and town meeting passes or doesn’t pass the budget, so there’s not a lot of real leverage [from the selectboard],” Fairbrother said. “But you hope that everybody can work together constructively to make it a good experience, primarily for the students and the teachers, but for the town as a whole.”

Fairbrother said he was skeptical but open-minded about the benefits a new six-town district would bring. “If, when all the facts are in and everything’s said and done, that looks like the long term way we should go, I could see myself supporting it,” he said. “But right now I have to be convinced.”

“Are we getting the bang for the buck in the educational process that we should expect? I think there’s a general consensus that we can do better,” said Jensen.

“The schools are going through what has to be a very troubling time,” he said. “They’re losing enrollment, the population of children seems to be diminishing, and less enrollment means less state subsidy, which means bigger buildings.... The fixed costs aren’t gonna go away, and then that comes out of academics, among other things. The entire region is looking at the same problem.” Jensen added that he was “very curious” to see how the six-town feasibility talks develop.

“If we can have schools where families are excited to be sending their kids to the Gill-Montague school system, that would be great” said Lord. “I’d love to see that happen, and we’re going to work with the school committee and everybody in town.... I’d really like to see the school district be something that the town could be proud of.”

Reducing Police Calls

On the topic of the two police review committees that operated last year, the *Reporter* tried to ask the candidates whether they thought there was a role for town government in better addressing root social causes that can lead to emergency situations. Most focused in their answers on the more tangible idea that some emergency calls, once they are made, might be diverted toward policing alternatives.

Boody, who has a background in clinical psychology, praised the regional co-responder pilot program Montague police are participating in with Clinical Support Options. “I’d like to see more of it,” she said.

Boody cited Northampton’s effort to build a Department of Community Care, and Amherst’s CRESS program, as regional models for the town to look toward for developing more thorough policing alternatives.

“If I remember correctly from the reports, there was a recommendation about having more calls answered by non-uniformed, unarmed people, mental health professionals,” said Fairbrother. “If you can take some of the workload off the police department, and take stress off the citizenry, by finding other ways of dealing with issues before

they get to cruisers pulling into the neighborhood, that’s a good thing.”

Still, Fairbrother warned that trying to intervene too closely in upstream factors comes “up to the edge of the town’s place,” recommending better engagement of county, state, and federal resources for social issues. “I’m willing to listen,” he said, “if somebody comes forward with a genuine, detailed plan.”

“I would hope that the police become sensitive to the notion that they’re responding to some calls that are really not in their wheelhouse,” said Jensen. “When someone’s got their underpants on running down Fourth Street, maybe this isn’t a situation for a gun and a badge.”

Jensen echoed Fairbrother’s concern about the limits of what a town can provide to systemic problems. “The skateboard park, more hours at the library? The public parks getting lit later at night?” he asked. “I can think of a number of things that healthcare would help.”

“The ideal is that we have a community where people feel like they can ask for help, rather than become frustrated and lose control,” said Lord, calling for the town to “build a sense of community where folks feel accepted.”

Lord pointed to the town wood bank, and private efforts underway for basic needs distribution, as ways to foster inclusion.

What Would You Bring?

We also asked the candidates what they would bring from their experiences onto the selectboard, if elected, and how they might change the board’s dynamic.

“I consider myself to be someone who is an organizer and a local activist,” said Boody. “I’m not just involved in politics in Montague – I’m involved throughout Western Mass, throughout the state, and I even do what I can to take action at the federal level.”

As a former therapist and teacher, Boody said, “it’s important to always try to hear everyone, and try to make people feel heard.”

“There is a lack of diversity in general, I feel, in the administration at town hall,” she added. “I see three gentlemen, and I think with the diversity of being a different gender, I would bring a different perspective.”

“Well, I’ve got plenty of experience running the meeting,” said Fairbrother, recounting his role as chair of the selectboard and conservation commission. “Control and calmness stays on our side of the table.”

“I bring personality traits to the table that they may not currently have,” he added. “Sometimes, you get good people, who are hesitant to make waves.... When necessary, I’m not afraid to say no.”

Jensen discussed the culture of information-sharing among departments during his time working at town hall, and said he hoped it was continuing. “There’s nothing worse than when a department goes insular,” he said.

As for the current selectboard, Jensen said, “there seems to be only a modest amount of policy discussion amongst them, which indicates either they’ve been prepped by the town administrator on var-

ious issues, or they’re not getting the whole story.... That may be a boat I might rock a little bit.” “I’m looking forward to asking more questions,” said Lord, who stressed that as a new member, he would spend time learning the ropes.

“I think that there is a well-established pattern that has served Montague well, in terms of how operations have been going for at least the past few years that I’ve been in town, which has served it well,” he said. “Part of my goal in becoming a member of the selectboard, should that happen, is to try and add vision for what may be happening down the road, rather than what’s immediate.”

Event Details

The candidates’ forum will be held live via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Thursday, September 16. Login information is listed to the left on this page, and will be posted to the town website at *montague-ma.gov*. Montague cable subscribers can watch it live on Channel 17.

Mail-in voting is already underway, and new voter registration has closed. Mail-in ballots can be requested from the town clerk until next Wednesday. In-person voting on Tuesday the 21st will take place in all precincts from noon to 7 p.m. Further details are available on the town website.



LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on September 8 and September 15, 2011: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Regional Public Health System in Planning Stage

“Are you as safe eating out in Town X as Town Y?” asked Phoebe Walker rhetorically at the Gill selectboard meeting on Monday, September 12. “You are not. It’s a matter of whether there is a health agent in town.”

Walker used this example to illustrate the need for a more uniform delivery of public health services in Franklin County.

That’s something a group including representatives from the volunteer boards of health, health agents and selectboard members from 13 or 14 towns have been meeting for the past few months to discuss, and those meetings are moving in the direction of establishing one of the first regional public health delivery systems in Massachusetts – with a little help from the Obama administration’s hard-fought health care bill.

Walker told the selectboard she believes chances are good that Franklin County will be among the first areas in the state chosen to receive funding to set up a new way of delivering public health services on a regional basis – with credentialed agents offering everything from perc tests to food service inspections and public health nursing – to fee-paying member towns. Walker said the FRCOG had received a \$29,500 planning grant from the state to facilitate representatives from local boards of health to work together to plan for a regional district to deliver public health services.

Frances Crowe Arraigned For Trespassing at VY

Frances Crowe, 92, of Northampton, was arraigned on Tuesday, September 6, in Windham County Superior Court for peacefully blocking the gates at the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vernon on June 30.

Crowe has been arrested 14 times since December 2005 with other women from the Shut It

Down Affinity Group, who are mainly senior citizens from Vermont and western Massachusetts. This is the first time that the state has pressed charges against any of the women arrested. The previous 13 times, the Vermont state’s attorney dropped charges against the elderly trespassers.

But on Tuesday, Crowe pled innocent before Judge David Suttage in Windham County Superior Court to charges of unlawful mischief.

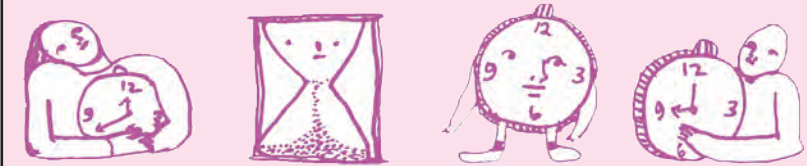
Before pleading innocent, Crowe said, “I have been working against nuclear weapons and nuclear power since 1945, as they are both extremely dangerous. I am not guilty of mischievous behavior. I am deadly serious about non-violently shutting down Vermont Yankee.”

East Leverett Trail System Will be Improved

While the Vermont National Guard was trucking in fill to pave “goat paths” to reach a dozen towns totally cut off by flash floods from Hurricane Irene, and towns in West County like Hawley, Charlemont and Shelburne Falls were dealing with multiple washed-out roads and bridges, towns on this side of the Connecticut River were largely spared from the final throes of the massive August 28 storm.

So it was that about a dozen nature enthusiasts trekked out to reconnoiter a trail through the 35-acre 4-H Forest and on to other conservation lands in Leverett on Monday afternoon, August 29, along the confluence of Doolittle and Roaring brooks, wearing flip flops or hiking boots – or the occasional leaking waders – with only a few swampy spots along the way, and a small pile of debris on a wooden footbridge in the East Leverett Meadow to mark the high water mark from the previous day’s rain.

The conservation commission teamed up with the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust for last week’s hike, in preparation for improvements to the trail system in East Leverett. The conservation commission recently received a \$10,500 grant from the Department of Conservation and Recreation to upgrade these trails, and to pay for the construction of a number of bridges over the perennial boggy spots along the way.



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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Surplus Items; Redundancy; Poor Connections; Marmoleum

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard continues to meet in person, masked, but for their September 1 meeting they moved to the meeting room in the town office building, which allows greater separation between people. At this meeting they granted the Friends of the Wendell meetinghouse a one-day license to serve beer or wine at the Friends' celebration and tour of renovations to the Meetinghouse.

The board said people may cross Center Street to the north common, town-owned land, with beer or wine and enjoy the food and music there. Friends member Court Dorsey assured board members that the server will have Training and Intervention Procedures for Servers (TIPS) certification and that there will be people peacefully maintaining order on the common. Alcohol is limited to two servings per person.

The celebration is scheduled for this Saturday, September 11 from 2 to 6 p.m. The rain date is September 12, late enough so the event will not interfere with Good Neighbors food distribution.

While the request was for the one day only, Dorsey said that it was conceivable the Friends would want to serve alcohol on other occasions. The Friends' vision for the completed building includes weddings and art showings.

Selectboard member Gillian Budine considered this one-time license acceptable, but said the selectboard should establish a formal procedure for the future.

Citizen Stephen Broll is planning a memorial gathering on the north common Sunday, October 3 and wants to rent the town hall also for

use of the bathrooms, and possibly the kitchen. He plans to have a 20-by 40-foot tent set up in case of rain, and he asked about use of the electricity from the box on the common.

In preparing to renovate Wendell's old police station into a substation for the Leverett/Wendell police force, building inspector and highway commission chair Phil Delorey and others emptied the building. They moved things that were neither trash nor confidential to a storage trailer at the WRATS to wait there for an auction.

The selectboard set Saturday, September 25, at 10 a.m. at the highway garage as a tentative date and place for that auction. Selectboard chair Dan Keller said he would be auctioneer after years of apprenticeship under Ted Lewis. Town coordinator Alisha Brouillet will contact other departments and have their surplus items there for the auction.

Municipal light plant manager Ray DiDonato met with the board to bring up the idea of adding some redundancy to the town's fiber-optic network. As a first step, Whip City Fiber can connect Wendell and New Salem so that either town can be served by the other if the direct service to the town's hut is interrupted.

Design for a more thorough redundancy circuit between Wendell and New Salem would cost \$8,000 per town, and if Shutesbury joins the group, the price per town would be \$5,000. He asked the selectboard to consider using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money to pay for some of the cost.

The enterprise fund that oversees Wendell's fiber-optic network has a good cash flow. If that continues, and after maintenance and

repair costs are established, the enterprise fund will consider paying off the debt, and possibly reducing user fees.

The office building has continuing issues with wifi connections. Robert Heller, one of the town's internet specialists, was in the room when the meeting opened, and read quietly while the meeting went through other business. When his turn to speak came, he said the router in the mechanic room has only residential-grade batteries, and that the building, being of commercial construction, may have metal studs or wire mesh in the walls. Either would limit the range of wifi.

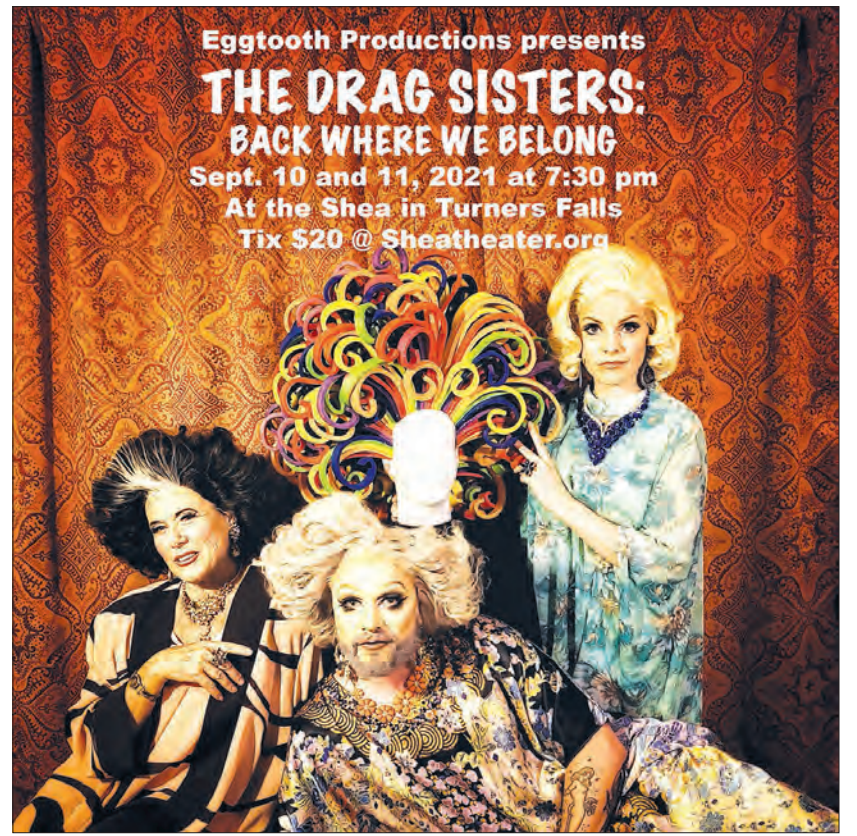
Heller suggested installing repeaters within the building to extend the range to all the offices. That would serve temporarily to avoid running wires through the crawl-space in the ceilings to routers in every office. Brouillet has a wired connection to her computer in the selectboard office, and has no problem with internet connection.

Brouillet said she has a Small Town Administrators of Massachusetts (STAM) meeting this Thursday, and will not be in the office.

Town custodian Eric Shufelt wants to refinish the floors in the town office building. He can do it best on a weekend when no one is in the building; Tax collector Penny Delorey has office hours on Saturdays, and would have to take a day off. Keller reminded other board members that the flooring is Marmoleum, and so needs a special finish.



Attention WENDELL residents! The *Montague Reporter* could really use some help covering the news from up there. Josh has been on the selectboard beat for something like 17 years and he never complains but we strongly suspect he'd like a hand. And there's so much more going on in your town we barely catch wind of! It's a great way to serve the community. Contact editor@montaguereporter.org.



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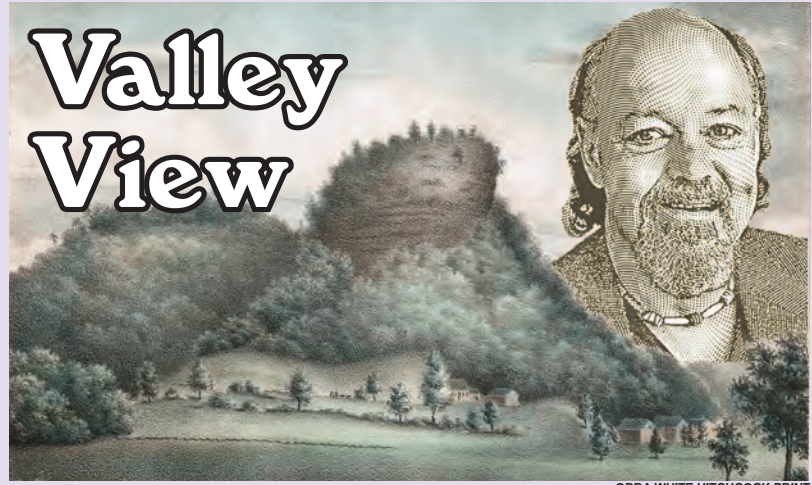
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FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER SEPTEMBER 9, 2021



By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – This all began with an email from a local environmentalist gadfly. He wanted to share a recent guest column he had written for the Northampton newspaper. What followed was a string of email correspondence between me and him and another writer still beating the dead horse called Connecticut River Atlantic salmon. The lively discussion stirred dormant memories from decades back, when I was a lonely critical voice in the toxic wilderness of Connecticut River Atlantic salmon restoration.

The memories hark back to my first years at the *Greenfield Recorder*, where I spent 40 years in the newsroom, 32 as sports editor and 37 writing a weekly outdoor column – *On the Trail* – that focused on hunting, fishing and nature wrapped in local history, and random musings. My *Recorder* years (1979 to 2018) bore witness to my marriage, the birth of two sons and grandsons, and the tragic death of my sons before the age of 30. A wild ride any way you slice it.

The *Recorder* was an afternoon paper when I started, with a Saturday-morning edition necessitating a Friday split shift with a barebones night production crew. The basement press rumbled and rolled daily at 11 a.m. Monday through Friday, and again at the stroke of midnight Saturday.

The departing Friday day shift and the incoming night crew exchanged pleasantries while passing in opposite directions through the doorway. At midnight Saturday, our skeleton crew would hear the press squeak and groan to a thunderous roar before grabbing a paper fresh off the press, sent upstairs on a hand elevator from the bowels of the plant. We’d quickly check for potential embarrassing headline errors, put the newsroom to bed, and scoot to the local bar for last call – a great way to wind down before heading home after another furious deadline crescendo.

During my early years in the 1980s and early ‘90s, I was still playing in men’s softball leagues from May through mid-October, fishing rivers and upland streams, hunting turkeys and deer, and wing-shooting pheasants, grouse, woodcock and even an occasion-

al duck bursting from a swampy brook before the steel-shot mandate took hold. That’s why I wrote an outdoor column. I was plugged into the scene, always curious and trying to gain an edge against prey; wanting to know its history, its habits, and the habitats it preferred. Plus, I’d track annual hunting harvests and fish migrations, fish and wildlife restoration projects, and local personal-interest hunting stories.

As a columnist, I was there for remarkably successful New England wild-turkey and black-bear restorations, and was later recognized and often criticized as a believer in cougar sightings, regardless of what the experts said. Then, of course, there was the Atlantic salmon restoration project, an expensive, high-priority state and federal boondoggle that never caught a break.

Some visionary fisheries biologists warned from the start that it was too late to bring salmon back to the Connecticut River. Sadly, they opined, that ship had sailed. But their opposition was ignored by gung-ho, altruistic colleagues they pejoratively referred to as “true believers.” Even worse, such opposing viewpoints were greeted with anger, and their voices of reason were kept under wraps. Plain and simple, their humble view was that salmon restoration here was doomed from the start, due to environmental and climatic factors beyond scientists’ control.

In the Field

Having grown up in this slice of the Connecticut Valley, where my DNA stains many a fertile floodplain, I was in the right place at the right time, so to speak, as an outdoor writer working for the newspaper of my parents, my grandparents, and their great-grandparents. Plus, I had vested interest in shad because I was learning to catch them with shiny objects attached to large, sharp hooks.

I was likewise interested in salmon, which would be the grandest of all freshwater gamefish in my place, if the restoration program succeeded. If salmon returned, the best places to fish for them would be major tributaries like the lower Deerfield River, which I knew intimately after years of crafting my trout-fishing skills there with see **VALLEY VIEW** page B4

Make Do or Do Without: Quilts From an Age of Thrift at the Discovery Center

By DONNA PETERSEN

TURNERS FALLS – A new gallery show in the Great Hall at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls on Avenue A is a woolly affair. Weaver Peggy Hart of Shelburne Falls has been fascinated by wool and its usage and history for years and has curated the gallery show from her collection of pieced Depression-era wool quilts. Generally, most folks would expect to see the colorful cotton patchwork quilts we are familiar with to adorn the walls. This is not that kind of experience!

Peggy Hart has been a weaver for decades, starting with hand weaving and then moving on to working on vintage industrial looms, producing custom lengths of wool fabric and blankets in her big red barn in Shelburne Falls. We talked at the Discovery Center as she was finishing hanging the quilts for the September 4 opening. “I’ve always been a weaver,”

Peggy revealed. That craft propelled her interest in old industrial looms and old mills. She spoke almost reverently of the material that clothed and warmed New Englanders and much of the world, and she wrote a book about it titled *Wool: Unraveling an American Story of Artisans and Innovators*, published in 2017 by Schiffer.

Peggy described the book as “a whirlwind story and history of wool production over four centuries in America.” She talked about how New England was “the epicenter of the industrial revolution and woolen mills were numerous,” and about the importance of the sheep that grew the wool, the production



This medallion-style quilt is part of the exhibit at the Discovery Center this month.

that fueled the economy, and of course the products that clothed and warmed the country.

The quilts in the show are of Depression-era vintage and Peggy, after seeing the quilts for sale, saw them as “a repository of fabric – that if I couldn’t find the fabric I wanted, perhaps I could in these old quilts.” So she began buying them and it became “partially a COVID project” she could work on at home.

The quilts are really more pieced than quilted and a feather stitch is used on most quilts to sew the pieces together. Peggy explained that there are “two groups of this type of quilt – the mill-sample quilt and the used-clothing quilt.” Mill samples

were smallish, square or rectangular pieces of the wool fabrics produced and sold by a mill; the samples were mostly “menswear fabric and so were often blues, grays and blacks.”

The other type of quilt was the used-clothing quilt, made of outgrown or raggedy clothing that was taken apart, cut up, and then pieced into whatever design the creator wanted. The ones at the show can look like a random “crazy quilt” or have a symmetrical design, and can be colorful, probably from women’s clothing, or use more somber colors from menswear.

During the Depression, women had to use whatever they could find see **QUILTS** page B6



By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – Years ago, two brothers bought five acres on the water in midcoast Maine. Their two cottages were at the end of a dirt road, with a full ocean view. For some time they were the only cottages in the area, until they began selling off pieces of the property as their taxes increased. We

were lucky enough to read their ad about a cottage rental, and drove down to see it.

Owl’s Head, Maine had a small general store where you could pick up any staples you forgot or ran short of. Brother Bill’s was the last spot on the road and we were fortunate to be able to rent the cottage next to the garage where Bill had his own apartment. For many years we kept returning to that cottage at Owl’s Head for our August vacation.

Bill was a taciturn Yankee of few words and a distinct accent who seemed to enjoy having us, both when it was me and my late husband Woody and later with my current partner Ken. Apparently anyone I

cared about met with Bill’s approval.

Bill loved the ocean and his spot nearby. He fed the birds and the local wild turkeys every day. Bill drove daily down to the local post office to pick up his mail, get the newspaper and any little items he needed. Once a week he drove down Route One to shop at the nearby grocery. He was not much of a chef and subsisted on frozen dinners and the occasional piece of fresh fish.

Bill was a man of few words, but he was a thinker. After my late husband Woody died, he said a few words to me: “It isn’t always easy, is it?” That was his poignant sympathy message.

see **GARDENER’S** page B3

THE GARDENER’S COMPANION

Back to Weeks Road



Dakin Humane Society Photo

Pet of the Week

“STREUSEL”

Meet Streusel! This sweet bun is looking for a new home to dote on him. Streusel should be the only rabbit, as he has been bullied and fought with another bun in the past. He enjoys exploring spaces and munching on wood chews, and like all rabbits, he loves snack time!

Streusel has been spending some time in foster care, and his foster mother says that he loves to explore

and get treats. He is very gentle and curious, and enjoys forehead rubs.

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

SEPTEMBER 13 THROUGH 17

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 9/13

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting & Crafts Circle

Tuesday 9/14

3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 9/15

9 a.m. Veterans' Agent Hours
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Bingo
1:30 p.m. Mobile Pantry

Thursday 9/16

10 a.m. Chair Yoga at GFDC
10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share
1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 9/17

10:15 a.m. Aerobics

11 a.m. Chair Exercise

ERVING

Erving Senior Center is open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Open for cards, coffee, and billiards. Fitness room also open. Exercise classes will be limited to 15 people per class.

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
10:30 a.m. Zumba Gold Floor

Tuesdays

9 a.m. Stretch & Sculpt
10:30 a.m. Line Dancing

Wednesdays

9 a.m. Chair Class
10:30 a.m. Zumba Gold Chair
11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursdays

9 a.m. Restore & Re-Emerge
10:30 a.m. GOOD for You

Fridays

9 a.m. Quilting Workshop

LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held on Zoom on Wednesdays. For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

Senior Grocery Hours

Big Y:

Senior hours from 7 to 8 a.m.

(413) 772-0435

Foster's:

Senior hours from 7 to 8 a.m.

(413) 773-1100

Green Fields Market:

Senior hours from 8 to 9 a.m. Monday-Saturday. Curbside pickup & delivery is available on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

(413) 773-9567

McCusker's Market:

Curbside pickup available from 10 to 11 a.m. Order by 1 p.m. for pickup the following day. Delivery available Monday to Friday. Email pickup@franklincommunity.coop

(413) 625-2548

Stop and Shop:

Senior hours from 6 to 7:30 a.m.

(413) 774-6096

Lorlynn Hofer Photo

Final Rattlesnake Gutter Market Of the Season is This Saturday

LEVERETT – The Leverett Village Co-op is celebrating the end of summer with the season's final Rattlesnake Gutter Second Saturdays Market on Saturday, September 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This summer series has created an atmosphere of community with arts, crafts, music, services, and entertainment for all ages.

Vendors at this final show will be selling handmade items including pottery, soap, sculpture, paintings, wooden bowls and spoons, woven fabrics, cards, jewelry, quilts, clothing and personalized-while-you-wait hand-painted t-shirts.

There will also be tool-sharpening, so bring your kitchen and garden tools! Tarot card readings, massage, and fine woodworking demonstrations with hand tools by Richard Hardie are also part of the fun.

Nonprofits in the lineup include YouthLine, which is selling African fabrics to raise funds to help provide educational opportunities for children in Malawi, Africa; and Smart Solar Shutesbury.

This month's music will be an Old-Time Music Jam. A core of local musicians on fiddles, mandolin, banjo, and bass are playing old-time Southern, New England and French-Canadian reels, jigs and waltzes. Joining them will be friends from the area with their

acoustic instruments. The Jam will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., with local DJ Brian Boyles keeping the groove when the band is not playing.

The Rattlesnake Gutter Second Saturdays Markets are held *outside* at Leverett Village Co-op, 180 Rattlesnake Gutter Road. There is no rain date. The Leverett Co-op welcomes all shoppers and offers stocked grocery shelves, bakery and deli items, fresh produce, beer, wine, and ice cream. Market attendees will find everything they need for picnic lunches on the park-like grounds.

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

Dakin Humane Society Photo

Sex Matters

a sex-positive health column

by STEPHANIE BAIRD

Northampton

NORTHAMPTON – I hope everyone, especially those who are Covid-vaccinated (thank you for thinking of others' health and safety!) had a wonderfully unleashed, wild, safe, pleasurable and sexual summer, especially before the Delta variant started swirling around. I am happy to report my summer was fruitful as well as fun. Lots of alone time with my spouse freed up my sexual brakes, netting much more lucky time. I don't know about other parents, but parenting can be a real bonk-blocker.

I also wrapped up writing my first professional book, *EMDR Therapy and Sexual Health: A Clinician's Guide*, coming out at the end of this year. I'll be pulling some topics from this book for various columns, starting with this month's column on... drumroll... the prostate. I will touch upon both prostate health and sexual pleasure elements today.

On the health side, when you hear the word "prostate" you may associate it with prostate cancer, if you associate prostate with anything at all. According to the CDC, prostate cancer, which refers to a wide range of cancers from very slow-growing to aggressive, is the fifth-leading cause of all cancer-related deaths in the US, and the second-leading among men. While some versions of prostate cancer are extremely slow growing over years and need no intervention because it is more likely such an individual will die of some other later-life ailment, other versions are terrifyingly quick and are best caught early so that the most effective treatments such as chemotherapy can be utilized.

The prostate, meaning "guard of the bladder," is located internally between the bladder and the root of the penis and is often compared in size to a walnut. It produces between 20% and 40% of the total seminal fluid. Seminal fluid allows sperm to travel from the testicles, through the urethra, and exit the penis, generally upon orgasm.

As people with prostates age, the

prostate increases in size, potentially reaching the size of a small peach for someone in their 70s or older. This enlargement, sometimes called Benign Prostate Hyperplasia (BPH), can negatively impact urogenital functioning, since the prostate encompasses the urethra, the tube where urine and semen flow on their way out of the body. Older folks may complain about a weak urine stream, a pesky frequent need to urinate, especially at night, and other annoying urination difficulties.

Prostatitis is another health concern that can arise and involves inflammation of the prostate. Although people might report pain in the penis, scrotum, urethra, lower back, and lower abdomen, other times there may be no obvious symptoms, painful or otherwise. Some prostatitis diagnoses are related to bacterial infections, while others seem to have no obvious point of origin.

If you or anyone you love is reporting discomfort in the prostate or its general vicinity, please seek medical assistance immediately. Unfortunately, too often people feel squeamish about bringing up sexual or reproductive concerns with medical professionals. Help pave the way for everyone by speaking directly, assertively, and without embarrassment about anything of concern in the sexual health department. After all, very few folks would be embarrassed to seek immediate help for a fractured toe or foot.

Now, on to the pleasure part. For folks who do not seem to be having any issues with their prostate, consider experimenting with careful stimulation. There are resources that extensively dive into prostate enjoyment, such as the books *The Ultimate Guide to Prostate Pleasure* by Charlie Glickman, *Anal Pleasure and Health: A Guide for Men and Women* by Jack Morin, PhD, and *The Guide to Getting it On* by Paul Joannides and Daerick Gross. Most instructions involve very carefully inserting a clean, smooth, or latex-gloved finger into

a very lubricated anus. Water-based lubrication is best. Take it slowly and gently to allow for a knuckle at a time to enter, pulling out and applying more lubrication at each interval, until the finger is fully inserted. Enough external stimulation should enable the sphincter to relax, allowing for easier insertion of the finger. Once fully inserted, feel for a lump, which is the prostate, near the penis' root. Now the finger can massage gently in circular motions, back and forth, or whatever feels sexually arousing. Stimulation of the penis can also occur during this time. It is vital to be gentle and well-lubricated throughout, as anal tissue is quite fragile and easily susceptible to tears. Absolutely avoid this kind of stimulation if hemorrhoids, cancer or bacterial infections are present. Release the finger very slowly when finished.

Some folks experience prostate orgasms from this type of internal stimulation, also known as "prostate milking." These orgasms appear to be accompanied by fluid from only the prostate gland – no sperm from the seminal vesicles. Additionally, some report prostate orgasms to feel stronger than penile orgasms, with more contractions and less refractory time. If there is squeamishness about anal exploration and play, some folks find that stimulation of the perineum, the external area between anus and base of the penis, can also produce enjoyable prostate orgasms.

If you have a prostate and have yet to chart this territory for yourself, you may be in for quite a pleasurable and eye-opening journey. Bring out the mapmaking materials and safely engage!

Stephanie Baird, LMHC is an OWL Facilitator, EMDR Consultant and Psychotherapist, certified in Advancing Clinical Excellence in Sexuality (ACES), and encourages her clients towards thriving sexual health. She welcomes feedback and suggestions at sexmatters@montaguereporter.org.

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GARDENER’S from page B1

The first year I went back to the cottage alone, he kept an eye on me. He was never intrusive, but always seemed to be making sure I was doing OK. One year I managed to sprain my ankle stepping down from the cottage to the ground. I wound up with my ankle in an elastic bandage and went on about my business.

Years later, I returned to the cottage with Ken, a new partner. Bill took him with unreserved welcome, too. They got along famously. Bill was truly easy. He was a warm and welcoming presence.

For years the schooners which

went out of Owl’s Head returned to Bill’s cove at the end of their week’s trip, dropped their sails and anchored for the night. We could watch the crew dive into the cold waters and swim out into the cold bay, then return for their night’s work. After some time they found a new spot to anchor. We missed them and their nightly arrivals.

Just as all things change, these things did too. Bill is gone now and buried in a veterans’ cemetery. The cottage was sold during his lifetime and left to his boys. Life moves on and things change. We miss



Surviving Breast Cancer

By Julie Cunningham

Part 7: Hello Ms. Delta

AMHERST – COVID-19 isn’t fun for anyone. It’s especially un-enjoyable when you’re a cancer patient attempting to navigate an already scary process of testing, treatment, and surgery. Everything, and I mean everything, is out of whack. Then here comes Ms. Delta, ready to visit all 10,000 of her closest friends in one weekend before she heads back to Alpha Delta Pi where she’s already super popular. All I’m saying is, if they had called it the George variant it would have set the right tone. George isn’t that social, and he doesn’t really want to hang out.

As a cancer patient, I’ve implemented what I call the “ten foot” rule: If I don’t work with you or live with you, or you’re not my doctor or a nurse, please stay a comfortable ten feet away from me. I know the CDC says six feet. I’d like an extra four. And I hate to admit it but there have been times that I’ve double masked. I am vaccinated and I did have the Alpha variant in March of 2020, but I just want to be careful. That’s how I feel.

I’m careful of my kid, too, although there’s only so much one can do for a child who is active and wants to be around his friends, which is what a healthy five-year-old should do. Will I vaccinate him when it’s approved for kids? Probably. But we are not there yet.

There is hope here. We are in the infancy of our time with COVID-19 and still learning. Throughout history, society has adjusted to new viruses and pandemics. Improvements in hygiene, healthy habits, and social awareness all make a difference. So does the vaccine. The vaccine makes a huge difference. The issue I have as a cancer patient is that I’m already stressed, so I’m not too excited about adding additional stress about COVID-19. I do what I can, but I can’t dwell on it or I’ll go crazy, because I can’t control what anyone else does in terms of their habits.

Joe Tractor, for example, might choose not to get the vaccine because he thinks there’s a chip hidden in the vaccine. He might choose to take horse dewormer if he gets COVID-19. That’s Joe Tractor’s choice. It may not be a choice I

would make, but I’m not Joe Tractor.

Betty Northampton might choose to wear three masks, wash her hands five times before leaving the house, keep a 20-foot distance between herself and others and someone might sneeze on her one day, and BAM. She’s got COVID-19, and Joe Tractor who lives in the middle of nowhere and avoids people doesn’t. So he can say the vaccine doesn’t work and the horse dewormer does work because he didn’t get COVID-19, but Betty Northampton did.

If you read the headline, “Woman Who Wears Three Masks Gets COVID-19, Man Who Takes Horse Dewormer Still Okay,” you’d think there was something to the horse dewormer thing. But really, Joe Tractor has less opportunity to be exposed to COVID-19. Betty Northampton is unlucky.

This is the plight of the media, and my personal pet peeve during a COVID-19 surge. Research and understanding is the key to success and the key to staying level-headed. So I do a lot of research, and I use it in my work at my job at *Franklin County Now*, but I also use it on a day-to-day basis in terms of how I evaluate the spaces I am in and the people around me during a COVID-19 surge.

If you don’t sneeze on me, I won’t sneeze on you. If you want to wear three masks or no masks, I’ve still got a safe ten feet of distance between us, so do whatever you want.

One last thing: Grocery delivery services are amazing. Why not have someone do the shopping for you or use curbside pickup? Many locally-owned grocery stores will do curbside pickup, so you can still support your mom and pop shops while protecting yourself and your family from COVID-19.

I can’t believe we didn’t think of this before COVID-19. It’s also really convenient, and adds a lot of time to my day in terms of not having to drive to the store and take time to pick everything out myself. Even locally-owned retail shops usually have a way for customers to either shop online or contact someone and make arrangements for COVID-19 safe protocols like curbside pickup.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Transformer Explosion; Glass Vandal; Mini-Bikes; Family Fisticuffs; Animal and Noise Complaints

Monday, 8/30

10:22 a.m. Maple Street caller reporting hard wired fire alarms going off but no obvious smoke. Referred to fire department.

1:18 p.m. Report of fire caused by branch on wires on Federal Street – Montague Center FD and Eversource attended.

1:49 p.m. Report of a possible drug deal by scooter driver on Fourth Street.

5:01 p.m. Caller from Hillside Road reporting black cat named Mercy has been missing for a week.

7:52 p.m. Third Street caller requested officer assistance regarding a dispute with neighbors over opossums.

9:14 p.m. call to assist in locating vehicle from Bernardston taken without permission. The vehicle is reported to be on Avenue C near Scotty’s. Vehicle located and towed by Koch’s.

10:12 p.m. Suspicious person reported walking around with a flashlight behind Food City.

10:46 p.m. Assistance provided to Bernardston PD at Hillcrest Homes attempting locate the driver of a vehicle taken without permission.

Tuesday, 8/31

8:05 a.m. Several calls regarding fire on power lines on Federal Street, and a possible roof fire. Montague Center FD and Eversource notified.

8:16 a.m. Complaint from a parent of preschool children about traffic, including another bus, passing a school bus on Unity Street with its flashers on, and calling the bus driver names.

9:18 a.m. L Street caller reporting a BMX bike stolen from their porch between 2:30 and 8 a.m. Bike has a bronze/gold frame and pink camo tires.

11:42 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street upset by a vehicle that parks in front of her building almost every morning, with a male driver she said sells drugs to a female resident. Officer advised, but noted the car is legally registered and legally parked.

12 noon. Complaint of abandoned vehicle on N Street. Owner is reportedly in jail. Officer advised that the car is legally registered and parked at this time.

1:45 p.m. Report of a car alarm going off in Great Falls Discovery Center parking lot. Attempts to contact the owner failed, but the caller advised that it sounds like the battery will die soon.

2:44 p.m. G Street caller is requesting a call back from the animal control officer regarding an alleged animal abuse issue. ACO will contact the caller.

3:23 p.m. Report of suspi-

cious white powder found at 253 Pharmacy – officer retrieved the item and brought to the station.

4:56 p.m. Greenfield PD requested a female officer to assist with a suspect search.

Wednesday, 9/1

12:33 a.m. Complaint of unwanted female visitor at the Crocker Building apartments. Officer on the scene, and the female has gone home.

7:54 a.m. A loud explosion was reported on Hillside Road, followed by a power outage. Caller suspects a blown transformer, but does not see any smoke or fire on power lines.

9:06 a.m. During a planned fire drill at Hillcrest Elementary School, it was determined there are technical issues with the school phone system that need to be resolved.

9:10 a.m. Multiple calls regarding glass vandalism on Avenue A. Locations included Honey & Wine, town hall, the Gill Mill, Buckingham Rabbits Vintage, Loot, the Shady Glen, and Subway.

10:03 a.m. Assistance requested to enter a residence at Keith Apartments following an incident of yelling and screaming. Turned out to be a female upset about cell phone issues.

11:45 a.m. Goats were reported running loose on Route 47 and Gunn Road. Officer was unable to locate the goats in question.

5:03 p.m. Walk-in to police department had found a loose dog in Greenfield, and was advised to leave at the Franklin County Animal Shelter. Staff members on site will assist.

7:08 p.m. Person walked in to the police department to report possible fraud, possibly by someone he knows. Referred to MA unemployment fraud hotline.

Thursday, 9/2

7:33 a.m. Disabled motor vehicle at Cross Street and Vladish Avenue was re-

portedly blocking traffic. Officer on scene advised that AAA is on the way.

9:39 a.m. Caller from Farren Avenue requested assistance to enter his rented room following accusations and threats by another resident. Officer mediated the situation.

9:48 a.m. White husky on the loose on Millers Falls Road near Coolidge. Not found by ACO, but later reported to be reunited with its owner.

9:59 a.m. Complaint of speeding vehicles on Turnpike Road during drop-off and pick-up times at the school.

10:45 a.m. Multiple interrupted 911 calls from Architectural Components on North Leverett Road. A person with a cut hand was driven by co-workers to the hospital for treatment.

11:57 a.m. Female drove into the station with concerns about being followed by male against whom a restraining order was recently filed. Male party served by party. A complaint about an unwanted call turned out to be a failed attempt to block the number.

3:27 p.m. Upset person called from Food City about a neighbor who kept getting in her face at the store. She reported he bothers her at the apartment, too. Caller was advised to report incidents as they occur, and notify her apartment manager about the issue.

3:51 p.m. Assistance rendered to the driver of a green Subaru near Cumberland Farms with the keys locked inside.

4:22 p.m. Caller requested a call back from the ACO regarding an aggressive dog complaint he wishes to make.

6:03 p.m. Multiple calls about a two car-accident with heavy debris at Unity and Park streets. FD and ambulance, notified and Rau’s called to tow both vehicles.

7:20 p.m. Anonymous

Third Street caller reported two young girls riding gas-powered mini-bikes in the parking lot and alley without safety equipment. Bikers not found by officer.

Friday 9/3

4:44 a.m. Turners Falls Road resident complained about loud yelling and door slamming from a neighboring apartment. Officer reported it was a phone argument, and advised the yeller to keep it down.

6:34 p.m. Caller was visiting his father on Central Street and found the back window to his vehicle had been smashed. Officer discovered a neighbor was mowing their lawn and a rock had been kicked out. Contact information to be shared between parties.

6:40 p.m. Report by officer of possible trespassing at the Turners Falls Water gate.

9:51 p.m. Erratic driver reported at Millers Falls Road by Turners Falls Road. Officers advised.

Saturday 9/4

12:26 a.m. Flashing lights at the corner of Turners Falls Road and Turnpike Road reported out of service. DPW notified.

1:09 a.m. Officer requested assistance from Greenfield PD for apprehension of a fleeing vehicle on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.

3:17 p.m. Complaint of a dog locked in hot car by Food City. Caller called back shortly thereafter to report the car had driven off.

7:50 p.m. Report of fisticuffs between a father and son on X Street. Officer mediated, and peace restored.

9:47 p.m. Caller reported a near head-on collision on Unity Street, followed by the crash of the other vehicle into a guard rail. Vehicle located on Central Street, and driver arrested.

9:54 p.m. G Street caller complained about neighbors playing very loud music all night. Neighbors advised of the complaint.

Montague Community Television News

Meetings and Festivals

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – MCTV’s recordings of the Montague town selectboard, Gill selectboard, and Gill-Montague Regional School District meetings are airing on Channel 17 and are available to view on the MCTV Vimeo page.

More clips from both the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival and the Barbès in the Woods concert will be posted and aired throughout the week!

You can find the recordings on the Vimeo Page linked to the MCTV website, montaguetv.org, under the tab “Videos.” Community members are welcome to submit their videos to be aired on Chan-

nel 17, as well as featured on the Vimeo page.

MCTV is always available to assist in local video production as well. Cameras, tripods, and lighting equipment are available for checkout, and filming and editing assistance can be provided.

The station is also looking to hire a producer to make Spanish-language content. Please email infomontaguetv@gmail.com with a resume to schedule an interview!

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

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VALLEY VIEW from page B1
live bait and artificials, spinning and fly tackle.

I knew all the hidden, double-ruled cart roads accessing the river’s secluded stretches, and I knew the deer runs snaking their way down vertical banks to the water. Those were the days before whitewater yahoos took over the lower Deerfield with their loud, obnoxious presence. Before them, the fishing was nirvanic, the atmosphere tranquil; after them, chaotic for anyone accustomed to the old ways.

During my first decade or so at the *Recorder*, I was a young man, working nights, with boundless energy. May and June daybreaks below the mouth of the South River were downright heavenly. I’d rise well before dawn, pack fishing gear into my Jeep Cherokee, and arrive at stream’s edge before the birds sang – a very special, reflective time of day. On the return home with my catch a few hours later, my South Deerfield neighbors were pouring their first cups of coffee.

My catch-and-release days came later, after my grandmother died. She loved trout, especially little brookies she’d batter and fry with home-fries, bacon and eggs in a black iron skillet. As for larger big-river trout, she’d bake them wrapped in aluminum foil or give them to her neighbor. Trout must have been in her East Colrain DNA, I suppose. Never asked. Didn’t think in those terms back then.

It was on the Deerfield River, fishing for trout in riffles racing toward deep pools, that I began to understand shad migration. Wearing polarized glasses, I’d catch their passing silver flashes heading upstream between me and the morning sun peeking over the steep eastern horizon. By accidentally hooking into a few on colorful streamers, I discovered they were fun to catch – on the average bigger, heavier, and stronger than trout.

Soon I was hooked, and found my

way to the most popular shad-fishing place in New England below the Holyoke Dam. I started on the South Hadley Falls side, where I learned it was safer to leave an unoccupied vehicle, and soon discovered the backdoor into the sparsely populated east bank of the tailrace pulling migratory fish into the Barrett Fish Lift, which transports them over the dam.

I’d cross the river shallows between the Holyoke Bridge and the dam, picking my way to an island and crossing it to “the other side” of the tailrace, which I’d have virtually to myself. Facing me from the opposite shore was a maddening, elbow-to-elbow crowd spending more time untangling crossed lines than fishing. Not for me. Same reason I stopped fishing the Willoughby River steelhead run in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom each spring.

I met commercial fly-tier Indian Al Niemiec there, and he showed me the way, telling me I could ignore the danger signs. We met by chance in the dirt parking lot not far from a riverside youth-baseball field and became fast friends. A veteran angler and Amherst College man from Chicopee, he showed me the secrets of catching shad with silver, willow-leaf, metal blades soldered to large hooks and fished with sink-tip flyline. In my experience, willow-leaf blades more than double the catch of those using ubiquitous shad darts.

Numbers Game

Curious about these anadromous fish streaming past me all day in schools and pods, I soon became even more interested in salmon. Wouldn’t it be great if *they* were running upriver in similar numbers? That’s when I started asking questions of the federal officials I routinely spoke to each spring when tracking weekly migration numbers and comparing them to previous years in my column.

The goal of the salmon-restoration project from the start was to

re-establish a large enough annual run to justify sportfishing. The obvious question was, what kind of numbers were we shooting for? Better still, how many salmon would have migrated up the Connecticut River annually before dams built in the late 18th and early 19th centuries blocked their path?

When the experts couldn’t answer that deep-history question, it seemed odd to me, perhaps even evasive. If we couldn’t quantify what used to be, how then could we set a reasonable modern-day goal? It made no sense.

As I kept gently pressing folks like Dr. Henry Boone at the Cronin National Fish Lab in Turners Falls and Micky Novak at the Sunderland National Salmon Station, it became clear to me that they had no answer and were insecure about it. It wasn’t their fault. There were no records, just fanciful tales that almost never lead to future successes. No, Martha, you couldn’t walk across tight river channels on the backs of salmon, no matter what the tales say.

When pinned down, Boone, whom I had met while he was still a UMass professor, tried to deflect my constant line of questioning by taking issue with my focus on raw numbers. The numbers didn’t matter, he scolded. We’d get there if we were patient and supportive. Cynicism, criticism and pessimism did no good. We needed to be positive, optimistic. The fish would come in time. We had to give the restoration program time to work.

Huh? Something was adding up. I was supposed to believe numbers don’t matter in a scientific experiment? Preposterous. How could any scribe with a sliver of pride or good sense accept that perspective, even between quotation marks? The problem was that most if not all did. So did I, likely more than once, before I saw the light.

The only way to protect my integrity and credibility was to investigate what I could find about histor-

ic and prehistoric shad and salmon runs. I began searching for data in town histories, 18th and 19th-century newspapers, and sparse records here and there in dusty old volumes. That way, I could get a handle on the status of historic salmon migration and thus figure out for myself realistic future goals in a modern, polluted world.

The journey for information led me through local-history rooms in many Connecticut Valley libraries, where, notebook in hand, I went through indexes of town histories written primarily between 1850 and 1910 to get a feel for the anadromous-fish scene. It was immediately clear to me that, although there were indeed spring salmon passing through our valley in colonial days and into the Federal Period, their numbers had been greatly exaggerated. Shad always outnumbered salmon by a wide margin on their annual upriver migration, and were thus the dominant spring fish.

Even Native Americans here before white Europeans arrived caught far more shad than salmon, viewing the latter as a welcome bonus when caught in weirs, traps, and nets situated along the river each spring.

Pie in the Sky

Eventually, as I continued researching and piecemealing out what I found in my column – much of which was contrary to what salmon-restoration officials wanted to hear – a few timid sources came forward, off the record, to admit I was on the right path. Then, one day in downtown Greenfield, a woman I didn’t know but would soon join on the Greenfield Historical Commission approached me with a bombshell. UMass anthropologist/archaeologist Catherine Carlson had written a 1992 doctoral dissertation that supported what I had been reporting. Based on examination of biological data gathered from more than 70 known Northeastern prehistoric fishing sites, she found little

evidence of salmon. *Very* little. The woman promptly snailmailed me a copy of Carlson’s academic journal article excerpting her dissertation. Salmon-restoration proponents knew of the report and were furiously working behind the scenes to discredit it and keep it from public view. It was the last thing they needed while trying to defend disappointing salmon returns in the news each spring. But word got out, and the damage was done.

OK, yes, it is indeed possible that Native American cosmology reserved a special place for salmon and disposed of their remains honorably, perhaps discarding them back into the rivers from which they were taken. Thus, the absence of remains in riverside refuse pits. It’s not out of the question. Such special treatment was the custom for bear remains left off the ground in trees. Why not salmon, king of the annual run?

Still, there is no tangible evidence that salmon runs ever approached the much larger shad runs in our Connecticut River, or in the Hudson River for that matter. That’s undisputable fact. The rest is history.

Twenty years after Carlson’s dissertation was published, and some 25 years after I started picking away at the topic the best I could – with abysmal annual salmon counts staggering into the 21st century’s second decade – the plug was mercifully pulled on restoration in 2012.

This year two salmon returned to a large tributary in Connecticut. Last year there were none. Not a one. Zero. Which is precisely what one can soon expect annually.

Some fisheries biologists knew it was a Hail Mary from the start. Few listened, and those who did were ostracized, criticized, and ridiculed as naysayers. But the true believers finally had to throw in the towel, raise the white flag, and retreat. They put up a good fight, and never got to sample that pie in the sky they savored.



MOVIE REVIEW

***Shang-Chi and the Legend of Ten Rings* (2021)**



By **MELISSA WLOSTOSKI**

GREENFIELD – I have seen a number of Marvel superhero movies. I have really liked the unique and

different ones: the *Antman* movies, *Captain Marvel*, and *Dr. Strange*. The latest one that I have seen and liked is *Shang-Chi and the Legend of Ten Rings*, which came to the Garden

Cinema on September 3. This movie had the same offbeat tone to it that the *Antman* movies had. The ten rings from the title are magical rings that an individual wears and can fight with. I haven’t really seen any of the other work Simu Liu, the actor who plays Shang-Chi, is in, though I have seen some of the work that actress Michelle Yeoh is in, which include some other films like this. Very fittingly, the Chinese sorcerer named Wong who appeared in *Dr. Strange* makes an appearance in this film, and later officially makes *Shang-Chi* a part of the Marvel universe. *Shang-Chi* is a very unique movie, like I said, and its main character comes from a unique background. His father is an ancient warrior who wielded these rings for about 100 years. That man ended up meeting Shang-Chi’s mother when he went

on a quest for more power – she was standing in front of a gateway for that power and defeated him in a fight. To the surprise of both, they fell in love. This is Shang-Chi’s origin story. He grows into a man who wishes to escape his past, which is connected to his parents. But obviously, he doesn’t – and this is where his best friend/sidekick learns he can fight very well. Shang-Chi and others clash with his father in an attempt to protect a mystical land that was home to his mother. This place, like other things you would expect to see in this kind of cinema about Asia, features mystical creatures. There is a computer-generated image of a reddish dragon in the film that I thought was very cool to look at – it’s just a perfect image of a dragon to have in the movie. While in this land with him,

Shang-Chi’s friend/sidekick learns she has reasonably good skills with a bow and arrow, which comes in handy in the movie’s final showdown. I should also mention that this movie has some humor to it as well, like the *Antman* movies. The news about the film before the premiere must have been promising to fans of the Marvel superhero movies, because a nice crowd of people showed up when I went to see it. I love Asian culture, and this movie gave me a great showing of that on screen. I can’t wait to see what they do for a sequel to this movie, and they have left a fair amount of room in the story for that to happen. It should also be interesting to see what kind of fit this superhero will make with the other ones, like Captain Marvel and Dr. Strange, and what their interactions will be like.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Zara Bode's Big Band*. \$. 5 p.m.
Gateway City Arts, Holyoke: *Hiss Golden Messenger*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
Millside Pond, Easthampton: *Adeline, Williamsburg Salsa Orchestra, Alex Asher Quartet*. Free. 5 p.m.
Iron Horse Music Hall, Northampton: *Dan Bern*. \$. 5:30 p.m.
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Drag Sisters: Back Where We Belong*, extravaganza by Eggtooth Productions. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Dead Beat*. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
Millside Pond, Easthampton: *Red Baraat, Sofia Rei, Albino Mbie*. Free. 5 p.m.
1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Christine Ohlman & Rebel Montez*. \$. 7:30 p.m.
Shea Theater, Turners Falls:

The Drag Sisters: Back Where We Belong, extravaganza by Eggtooth Productions. \$. 7:30 p.m.
10 Forward, Greenfield: *Travis Laplante/Jason Nazary duo, Jen Gelineau, Paul Flaherty/Jake Meginsky duo, Nat Baldwin*. Vax proof & mask up... because this show is sick (managing editor's choice). \$. 8 p.m.
Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Bella's Bartok*. \$. 8 p.m.
Gateway City Arts, Holyoke: *Mdou Moctar, Pure Adult*. \$. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Janet Evra*, jazz singer. \$. 1 p.m.
10 Forward at Mesa Beach, Greenfield: *Anti-Imperialist Dance Party*. Speakers at 5:30 p.m., salsa lessons at 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
Gateway City Arts, Holyoke: *Tank and the Bangas*. \$. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Thus Love, Carinae*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
10 Forward, Greenfield: *Home Body, Minivan, Bad Behavior DJs*. Vax proof & mask up. \$. 7:30 p.m.
Academy of Music, Northampton: *Darlingside*. \$. 7:30 p.m.
Gateway City Arts, Holyoke: *Yo La Tengo*. \$. 8 p.m.
Bishop's Lounge, Northampton: *Carinae, Fake Sisters, Clock Serum, DJ Quills*. \$. 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: 3rd Annual Fun Fest feat. *The Gaslight Tinkers, Viva Quetzal, Musica Franklin students*. Free. 1 p.m.
Three County Fair, Northampton: Concert for the Homeless feat. *Marcy Playground, Lit, The Motels*, and more. \$. 1 p.m.
Mount Toby Meeting, Leverett: *Paul Kaplan*, folk, \$. 2 p.m.
Palladium, Worcester: *Coheed & Cambria, The Used*. \$. 5 p.m.
Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Vimana*, jazz-rock. By donation. 7 p.m.
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield:

Rebelle, Simon White, The Equalites, DJ-Iganic. Reggae. \$. 7 p.m.
Calvin Theater, Northampton: *Julien Baker, Thao & the Get Down Stay Down*. \$. 7 p.m.
1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Keith Murphy & Becky Tracy*, French Canadian and Irish traditional. \$. 7:30 p.m.
10 Forward, Greenfield: *Nemesisister, Minivan, Model Home, PussyVision*. Vax proof & mask up. \$. 7:30 p.m.
Belltower Records, North Adams: *Taiwan Housing Project, Sky Furrows, Strange Fate*. \$. 8 p.m.
Brewbakers, Keene: *Pete Bernhard, The Huntress & Holder of Hands* (ex-Brown Bird). \$. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton: Arcadia Folk Festival feat. *Suzanne Vega, Lori McKenna, Chris Smither, Ladama*, and more. \$.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
Academy of Music, Northampton:

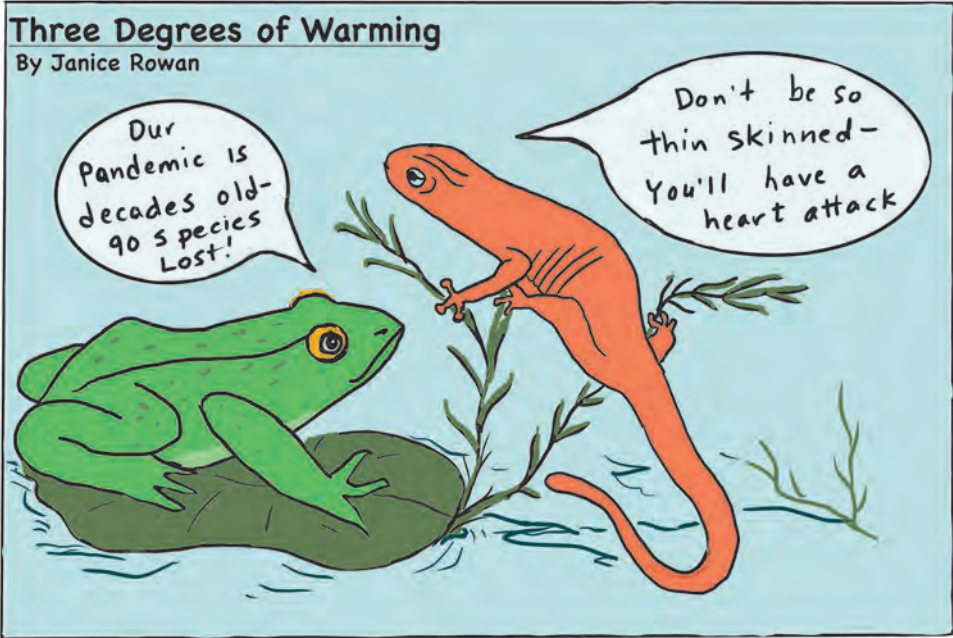
Dr. Dog, Bowerbirds. \$. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Shamarr Allen*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRI-SUN, SEPTEMBER 24-26
MASS MoCA, North Adams: FreshGrass Festival fest. *Dispatch, Sam Bush, Trombone Shorty, Bela Fleck*, many more.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Mad Agnes*, contemporary folksong. \$. 7:30 p.m.
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Christoph Irrniger Trio*, jazz. \$. 7:30 p.m.
Gateway City Arts, Holyoke: *The Mountain Goats*. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
Palladium, Worcester: *NOFX, The Mighty Mighty Bosstones, Pennywise*, more. \$. 12 p.m.
Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Shelley Roberts & Charlie Widmer*. 7 p.m.
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Big Al Anderson and the Floor Models*. The NRBQ guy. \$. 8 p.m.



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QUILTS from page B1

to create warmth for their families, and used the pieced samples or clothing sections and a warm filling or backing to provide that warmth. So they were not making fancy decorative pieces to be stored in a chest; these were utilitarian and functional. Peggy said she “looks at them as Whitman’s Sampler boxes of old fabrics.”

She compared the quilts in the show to the “Wagga” quilts of Australia, made in the same era. Peggy thought many of the quilts of this type seem to have been made in Ohio, the South, Texas, and the Midwest, but it is hard to attribute any names or specific locales to the quilts.

As we sat out in the Great Hall courtyard, we lamented the almost total loss of woolen mills in America. Woolrich, a woolen fabric producer since 1830, closed its doors in 2018, and many others are gone. A few remain, but people don’t wear wool clothing much anymore. And Peggy lamented that the museums that have quilt or textile collections don’t often show woolen quilts. “The Lowell Quilt Museum has none, while Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts has a few,” she stated.

As for Peggy’s own weavings, she works a lot with local sheep farmers and their wool and regularly goes to the New York Sheep and Wool Festival, held annually in Rhinebeck, New York. Peggy does sell her woven blankets, throws, and custom-weave wool cloth for people.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The quilts of the era were often pieced together from whatever was on hand.

You can find information on her website at www.blanketweave.com.

The quilt collection can be viewed at the Great Falls Discovery Center Great Hall from now until September 30. The hours are Wednesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. There will be a Gallery Talk about the show on Saturday,

September 18, at 11 a.m. and a “spin-in” from 12 to 3 p.m. If you have any interest in textiles, quilts, or just understanding a bit of American history better, the show should be an enjoyable visit with the handiwork of those who “made do” with the materials they could find during challenging times.



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Hazardous Waste Day!

FRANKLIN COUNTY – The Franklin County Solid Waste District will hold the 2021 household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, September 25 at GCC’s Main Campus and the Orange Transfer Station.

Residents and businesses must pre-register by September 17. Pre-registrations may be submitted at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html. Mail-in registration forms are available at participating town transfer stations and some town halls (while supplies last).

COVID protocols will be in place at the sites. Participants are required to wear a mask, remain in their vehicle, and place all waste in the trunk, rear cargo area, or truck bed.

Participants will be assigned an appointment time to bring wastes to the collection; an appointment time and instructions will be provided by mail after registration is processed.

The collection is free for residents of Athol, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Rowe, Royalston, Shelburne, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately. Barre and Sunderland residents must pay to participate. Space is limited.

Greenfield and Leyden residents are not eligible, and should call Greenfield DPW for info on disposal: (413) 772-1528.

Businesses located in any of the 26 participating towns may participate, but must pay for disposal costs. For business registration information, call (413) 772-2438.

This is an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items that should not be put in the trash, such as oil-based paints, stains, thinners, household cleaners, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, and other household chemicals. A more complete list of acceptable items is at www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html.

Batteries and mercury-containing items such as fluorescent light bulbs, thermometers, and thermostats will not be accepted at this collection. These items, which may contain mercury or heavy metals, should never be put in trash or recycling. Fluorescent bulbs, including compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), some types of batteries, and mercury items are accepted at municipal transfer stations. Handle carefully and hand to attendant. In addition, fluorescent light bulbs are accepted at Lowe’s Stores (all types of fluorescents), and Home Depot (CFLs only).

For more information, visit www.franklincountywastedistrict.org, or contact the District at info@franklincountywastedistrict.org or (413) 772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1(800)439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.

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