

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 20 – NO. 21

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 7, 2022

Dem Caucus Endorses Godin for Moderator, Burek for Health Board



HIGGINS PHOTO

About 20 gathered Tuesday to determine who would appear on the townwide ballot.

By JERRI HIGGINS

TURNERS FALLS – Voters and Democratic candidates for Montague town offices gathered Tuesday evening in the Town Hall annex meeting room for a Democratic Committee caucus meeting to make the party’s endorsements for this spring’s town election. Committee chair Mark Wisniewski presided over the event.

Ray Godin was the only candidate for Montague’s town moderator present at the caucus. The

office became vacant in February with the death of Chris Collins, who had served as moderator since May 2018. Before that, Godin had held the office for over 20 years before announcing his retirement in 2018. As no one had turned in nomination papers through the town clerk’s office, the Democratic caucus nominee will be the only name on the ballot.

“Ray, I thought you were never going to do this again,” quipped Turners Falls resident Jean Hebden to Godin.

see CAUCUS page A4

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Town May Join PFAS Suit

By JEFF SINGLETON

The town of Montague may be joining litigation against the manufacturers of PFAS chemicals in order to help pay for the cost of testing and mitigation of the toxins if they appear in the town’s sewage system.

At Monday’s selectboard meeting the board approved an agreement with the law firm Napoli Shkolnik to be part of a suit which includes as many as 600 other litigants, “primarily water and wastewater utilities,” according to Harold Naughton, one of the firm’s managing partners, who presented the agreement to the board.

The acronym PFAS – which

stands for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances – refers to a large group of chemicals used in manufacturing that have been linked to liver damage, increased cancer risk, and damage to the immune system.

Elevated levels have recently been detected in wells in North Leverett and at the Swift River School in New Salem. PFAS was also discovered in a product called Anvil 10+10, used by the state in its aerial mosquito spraying program.

Water pollution control facility superintendent Chelsea Little portrayed the proposed agreement with Napoli Shkolnik as “proactive,” rather than a response to immediate

see MONTAGUE page A5

Spring Sports, Too, Return

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – The Franklin Tech and Turners Fall high schools kicked off the 2022 spring sports season this week. Each school fields their own baseball and softball teams, but they combine for girls’ and boys’ tennis and track.

The Franklin Tech track boys won their opening meet last Friday against Mohawk. This is huge – I don’t ever remember a Turners track team beating Mohawk.

On Monday the state champion Turners Falls Softball Thunder played their first game since topping

see SPORTS page A4



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners Falls pitcher Madi Liimatainen sends the beat to Smith Academy’s Amanda Novak as the Thunder notch a 9-3 win in Blue’s season opener at TFHS.

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wendell to Join Health Region; Awarded Paltry Drug Settlement

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Board of health chair Barbara Craddock met the Wendell selectboard as its March 30 opened, asking that Wendell join the North Quabbin Health Initiative. Wendell would be joining in the middle of the three-year grant that pays for the program, so for the next year and a half there would be no cost to the town.

The program makes a regional contact-tracing staff member available, gives Wendell’s board of health access to regional health news, and makes the town eligible for further grants.

The board accepted the initiative with a unanimous vote. Selectboard member Gillian Budine said, “We can review [our membership] in a year and half.”

Selectboard chair Dan Keller said he signed documents so that Wendell can get its part of an opioid class-action settlement. Budine said that Wendell’s share is “a whopping \$2,209, spread out from 2022 to 2038.” She asked whether the paperwork is worth it.

The money may be forwarded to an appropriate organization, or used to help people and families in town affected by the opioid crisis.

Citizen Laurel Facey asked for and received the selectboard’s support for an annual town meeting warrant article voicing the town’s support for S.1557, a bill in the state senate that would add a “Fair Share Amendment” to the state constitution.

The amendment would add a 4% tax on annual income over \$1 million, adjusted for inflation. The

see WENDELL page A8

Northfield Board Cited Again for OML Violation In Solar Hearing

By JEFF SINGLETON

For the second time in six months, the Northfield planning board has been cited for a violation of the state’s open meeting law by the state attorney general’s (AG) Office. The violations, the result of complaints by board member Joe Graveline, involve the minutes of a four-hour February 18, 2021 public hearing on a set of adjacent solar projects on agricultural land.

The projects, proposed by the company BlueWave Solar, and intended to integrate continued use of the land for agriculture with solar arrays. Critics have argued that the project takes “highly productive” agricultural land out of production, and would encourage similar “industrial solar” on future land.

In May 2021, the planning board approved three special permits for

see NORTHFIELD page A6

ENDLESS WORRIES

Worm Warning Issued



IAN TAPSCOTT PHOTO

An invasive jumping worm found recently on the Patch in Turners Falls.

By ANNABEL LEVINE

TURNERS FALLS – Next Thursday, the Montague conservation commission will be hearing a presentation on a growing threat to local gardeners, farmers, and stewards of our local forests: the jumping worm (*Amyntas spp.*).

Montague Center resident Paul Lipke found these worms on his property last year, and says that upon speaking with his gardener neighbors, he found he wasn’t the only one. His subsequent research led him to get the topic on the conservation commission’s agenda to

raise awareness to both the town government and to local residents. Lipke has invited Annise Dobson, a researcher from Yale, to give a presentation on the topic.

If any readers are interested and have any questions, the meeting – from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the town hall meeting room, and via Zoom – is open to the public.

The jumping worm, also known as a snake worm, has been making its presence known in our area as well as across the Northeast and Midwest. Unlike our familiar earthworm, whose existence is lauded

see WORMS page A7

Lakota Delegation Reviews Library’s Looted Artifacts



LARRY BUELL PHOTO

Left to right: Andre Strong Bear Heart Gaines and Fred Freeman were among the members of the Nipmuc Nation present at a dinner reception at the Unitarian church in Petersham on Wednesday to support Oglala Lakota Chief Henry Red Cloud and Lanny Horse with the Horn, Manny Iron Hawk, and Renee Fasthorse-Iron Hawk of the Cheyenne River Sioux in their demand for repatriation of items scavenged from victims of the 1890 massacre at Wounded Knee, held in a private collection at the Woods Memorial Library in Barre.

By DAVID DETMOLD

BARRE, MA – A famous photograph of the Miniconjou Lakota Chief Spotted Elk’s body lying twisted in the snow at Wounded Knee shows him with a blanket wrapped around his head.

George Trager took the photograph, one among a series of albumen prints he made in the aftermath of the massacre that took place in South Dakota on December 29, 1890. Trager sold those photos to

soldiers, newspaper editors, and tourists along with artifacts scavenged from the bodies of the dead.

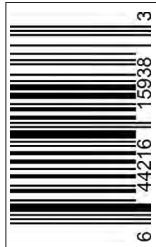
Chief Henry Red Cloud, the great-great-grandson of the famous Oglala war chief who had invited Spotted Elk to take refuge with him on Pine Ridge in 1890, traveled from South Dakota on Wednesday, April 6, to view and reclaim for the Lakota some of the objects and human remains stripped from the bodies of his slain kindred at

see LAKOTA page A6

Check Out This Week’s Giant Ten-Page MoRe Section!

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The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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August 2002

Why Not GroCo?

Reader Ed Hines of Wendell Center came across this gem in a trip through the Greenfield Gazette and Courier. This item, dated June 24, 1872, is a topical song written for the occasion of a church picnic in Millers Falls.

Why is this piece so entertaining? Something about the earnest enthusiasm for marketing one's newly-forming neighborhood, which is recognizable in our own times, together with the rather abject backdrop (stumps and shanties!) and the heavy focus on whether the people there are drinking.

Okay, the joke is always less funny when you explain it, but we're glad this was not only written and performed, but also submitted for publication in the local paper and archived for centuries of posterity.

Don't forget about that aspect of the local newspaper, dear readers: we're creating an historic record. Send in your letters and photos, take out Happy Birthday ads for your friends, try your hand at writing the news – and remember that someone the year 2172 may one day read it and laugh out loud or cringe.

(Thanks to Ed for the clipping!)

Millers Falls.
The Methodist Society held a Strawberry Festival Wednesday evening, June 19. Delegations from Turners Falls, Orange, Northfield, &c., were present and had a merry time. Receipts about \$150. The accompanying song written for the occasion by Mrs. E. E. Conant, was sung:

PROGRESSION OF MILLERS.
Meeting houses we have none,
But Ministers two in number.
It isn't because we lack for means
That our church is in the lumber.
Turners Falls has three or four;
We've none; O, what a pity!
We've talents here, and money, too—
Enough to build a city—a small one.

CHORUS:—
Millers Falls, Millers Falls,
Is growing and progressing;
The Backus Vise, the Bit Brace Works,
And the Carriage Shop are thriving.

Three years ago you very well know
This place was called Grout's Corner;
But now 'tis changed to Millers Falls—
The noble, grand reformer.
To worship then we had to go
To the Hotel—that's no matter;
Oh now we go where the stumps did grow,
And the shanties thick as spatter.

The Postoffice, where now you go,
Was the Depot of Grout's Corner,
Where Nobles, Lords and Kings have thronged
To view and reconnoitre.
They said this place would surely grow
In spite of all creation;
The time has come, with lots of fun;
O, what a speculation!

The only fault some have to find,
We can't sell rum nor whiskey;
We have no cider, gin, beer, ale,
Not a thing to make us tipsy;
We are Good Templars, nearly all;
We love good sparkling water;
We love the cause of Christ, you know;
We love good trade and barter.

Dear friends, I'll bid you all good night;
My song is nearly ended.
I will not rhyme too much this time,
For fear you'll all be wearied.
We thank you kindly for your aid;
Shall we forget? Oh, never.
May the grace of Christ and the love of God
Be with you all forever.

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Steve Valeski stands behind the bar at the Pioneer Valley Brewery in Turners Falls, which he opened on December 2, 2020. The brewery will soon be adding Sunday hours, and the food trucks will start showing up in a month or so, enlivening the outdoor area between the pub and Nova Motorcycles.

Letters to the Editors



Stoler: Health Board Should Do More

Dear Montague Voters:

Our annual town election will take place on Tuesday, May 17 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. While town elections often see low voter turnout, I would like to encourage you to come to the polls and cast your vote.

I am running for a seat on the Board of Health. I have lived in Turners Falls for 19 years, and raised two children here. I have been a town meeting member for the past three years and have wanted to participate more actively in town operations, which I now have time to do.

I am passionate about community health, having worked in this field for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments since arriving in this area. I work with the Communities That Care Coalition (CTC), which focuses on youth health and well-being in our region. I am also involved in chronic disease prevention through addressing community-level risk factors such as access to physical activity and healthy food, as well as regional Age-friendly efforts.

I would like to contribute to Montague being a place where the healthiest choices are the easiest choices for all people in the community, and which attracts a diverse population because everyone feels welcome.

I have been attending Board of Health meetings over the past few months, and am aware of the issues the BOH and Health Director currently address. Much of the Board's work revolves around supporting and guiding the health director, and addressing issues like dog droppings, mosquito control, COVID testing, and health code issues.

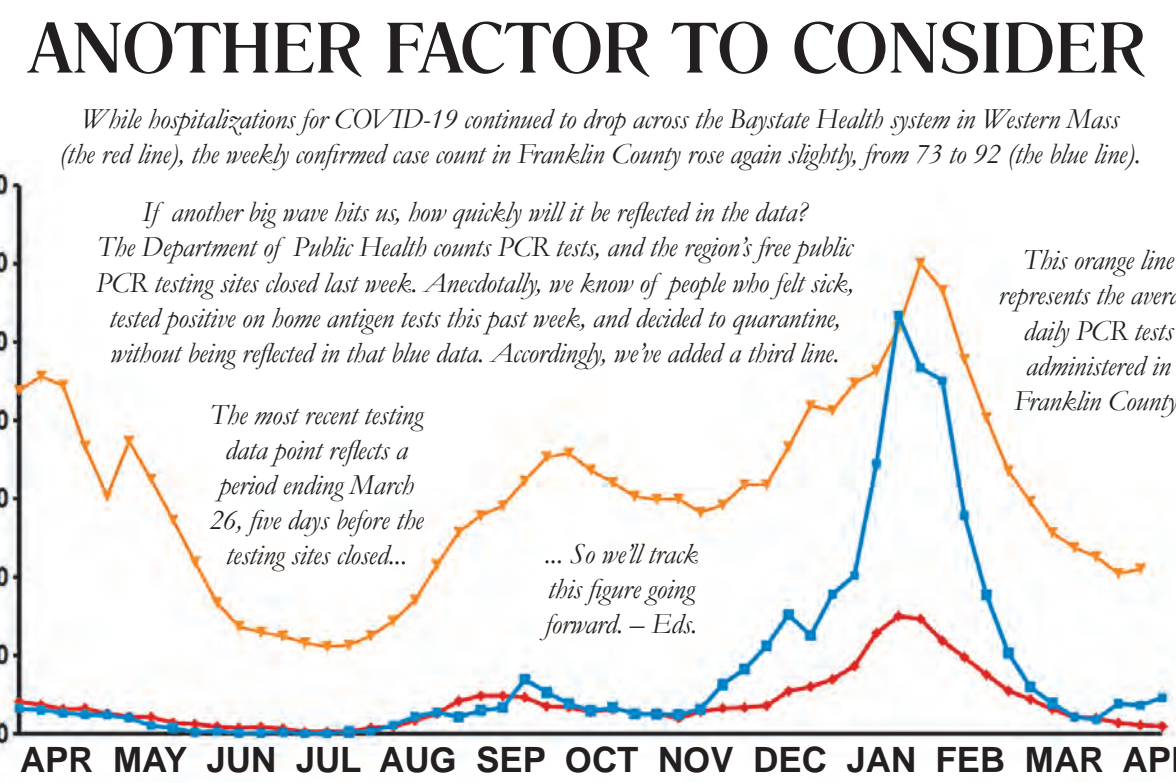
I am ready for those aspects of the work, and I hope that my experience can be useful to broaden what the Board of Health does for the community, and connect it with other community efforts that impact health.

I am also interested in encouraging others to run for town offices and otherwise participate in town decision-making, and would especially like to reach out to young people and others in the community whose voices are not regularly heard in these spaces.

I would love to have your vote for Board of Health! If you cannot vote for me, please vote for someone. Democracy works when we all participate.

Sincerely,

Rachel Stoler
Turners Falls



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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

During the month of April, enjoy a **Spring Poetry Walk** through downtown Greenfield, courtesy of the Greenfield Public Library. Ten different poems that celebrate spring, hope, and community are mounted downtown. You can download the Poetry Walk map at www.greenfeildpubliclibrary.org or pick up a copy at the library.

Tonight, April 7, at 7:30 p.m., Talya Kingston's play *Port of Entry* will be read at the LAVA Center in Greenfield, as part of Silverthorne Theater's **Thursday play reading series**. According to the event description, the play takes place at a small airport, where a woman arriving from the Middle East the day after the Muslim ban came into effect engages with airport security.

Gardening volunteers are needed for a **plant rescue and planter clean-up** on Avenue A in Turners Falls from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. this Saturday, April 9. Meet in front of the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, to remove the perennials in the planter there. The plants will be moved into other beds on the Avenue. Bring gardening tools!

A rain date is scheduled for the same time on Sunday, April 10. Event changes will be listed at www.riverculture.org and on the RiverCulture Facebook page. This plant rescue is in preparation for the next sidewalk improvement project, scheduled to begin on Monday.

The **Nolumbeka Project** sent notice of two events this weekend. "Indigenous Voices in the Berkshires," this Saturday, April 9 at 1 p.m., will be a Zoom webinar with Nipuck cultural stewards Liz Coldwind Santana-Kiser and Andre Strongbearheart Gaines, Jr.

The second event is "Stories of the Land," a day on the farm with Abenaki storyteller Jesse Bruchac, Sunday April 10, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. at the Hampshire College Farm Center in Amherst. Visit nolumbekaproject.org for details.

You're in for a treat if you're into urine recycling! The **Rich Earth Institute** is hosting their Urine Donor Kick-Off at the Vermont Jazz Center this Saturday, April 9, from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

"Join us to celebrate a decade of reclaiming urine as a resource – for clean rivers and fertile farms!" reads the event description. "We will be featuring readings from prominent Vermont poets on peecycling and related themes, in addition to the Piss-off Awards ceremony and updates about Rich Earth's work." RSVP to media@richearthinstitute.org. Snacks and drinks will be provided; masks must be worn when not eating or drinking. Visit richearthinstitute.org to learn more about the Institute.

On Tuesday, April 12 from 1 to 3 p.m., **Great Falls Books Through Bars** is teaming up with a community center in Holyoke run by the Wildflower Alliance to host a book-packing event. The event

will take place at 199 High Street in Holyoke, and there are no sign-ups required. At this event, they will be responding to letters from incarcerated people and packaging pre-selected bundles of books. Masks are required.

The Great Falls Discovery Center is hiring! Do you know someone who loves working outside and helping historic buildings shine? The "Laborer II" position focuses mostly on landscaping and building maintenance, which might not be obvious in the job description online. Potential candidates should contact the center with any questions about the position or the application process: (413) 863-3221.

What's going on for **Earth Day**? The climate mitigation group Western Mass Extinction Rebellion is planning a "Vigil for Truth" at Pulaske Park in Northampton at 6:30 p.m. on April 22, inviting attendees to hold space for "what we love about the world we share, what we worry about for our collective future, and what we dedicate our action to in the year to come." Look for the event page on Facebook.

Slate Roof Press announces its **Annual Poetry Chapbook Contest**. The winner will receive the 2022 Elyse Wolf Prize of \$500 and will become an active member of the press. This year's contest focuses on writers from western Massachusetts and southern Vermont. To submit, you must reside in Franklin, Hampshire, Hampden, Worcester, and Berkshire counties in Massachusetts or Windham County, Vermont.

They are taking submissions from May 1 to June 15. For more information, see www.slateroofpress.com.

The **Greater Commonwealth Virtual School** announces that they are opening a brick-and-mor-

tar support center for students. The Hadley Support Center will be open for middle and high school students, and offers mindfulness exercises and healthy living and self-discipline programs.

The Center will be located at 1 Mill Valley Road in Hadley. This will provide a place for students with special needs or with IEPs to receive assistance towards independent learning. The school hopes to attract a diverse student body and serve a wider range of students by offering blended learning – a combination of virtual learning and real-time support – at the new facility.

If you read our reprint of Ariel Jones' *Learning to Fly Fish* articles and felt inspired to try the sport yourself, contact Adventure East in Sunderland and mark the calendar for their **Intro to Fly Fishing** series, which begins May 16.

This five-week class, taught by veteran fisherman John "Burnsie" Burns, includes two sessions on knot tying and casting, and three wading in the Deerfield River. The Deerfield Fly Shop is the official course supplier. Adventure East also offers trail running, forest bathing, vernal pool exploration, and a full moon hike in April; there are fees for all these programs. Find out more at adventureeast.com.

Golf teams are needed for the Colrain Veterans Memorial Fund tournament at the Thomas Memorial Golf and Country Club in Turners Falls on Saturday, May 7 at 9 a.m. The event is a four-person scramble, \$260 per team, with free hotdogs, cash prizes, and raffles for golfers on the course.

The fundraiser is aimed towards completing the Colrain Veterans War Memorial. To sign up, call (413) 863-8003.

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Left: Jamie Fuller puts the styrofoam she brought to the Montague transfer station last Saturday into a bag with help from volunteer Tamara Kaplan. Both are residents of Montague Center. Last weekend was the first of four experimental styrofoam recycling days – the next are April 9, 16, and 23 – organized by Drawdown Montague. Organizer Kate O’Kane reports that the group filled nearly a third of a shipping container on the first day.

Right: A Montague Center honeybee finds an early spring meal in blooming crocuses. Thanks to reader Sally Pick for the photo!

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CAUCUS from page A1

"I wasn't going to do this again," said Godin. "I probably should have made that clear to the rest of you guys. I am still the moderator at the fire district in town - I'm in my last term there - and I really did not plan on doing this again. Unfortunately, Chris passed, and this is not the kind of job you can jump right into."

"Hopefully we will find somebody who will be willing to run at the end of this two-year term and get them up to speed over the next year, maybe two."

Besides Godin, Tuesday's caucus ballot included Christopher Boutwell for selectman, Debra Bourbeau for town clerk, Eileen Seymour for treasurer/tax collector, Margot Malachows-



Kathleen Burek, one of four candidates for the board of health this spring and the only one to formally seek the Democratic endorsement, said she would help keep Turners Falls a lovely town to attract people.

ki and Will Quale for library trustees, and John Murphy for Soldiers' Memorial trustee.

Four candidates have filed papers with the town clerk for a three-year board of health seat. None had requested a spot on Tuesday's ballot, but one, Kathleen Burek, attended the meeting and sought the endorsement.

Burek gave a statement to the 20 or so people present about why she was running.

"A lot of you I know from various things that I have been involved in," she began. "The board of health interests me because I think Turners Falls is a very lovely town, which we need to keep lovely to attract people to come here."

Burek lives with her husband in Montague Center where they raised four children. She spoke about her work as a medical receptionist for many years at Kaiser Permanente in Greenfield, and as a school bus driver. She has served for several years as Montague's animal inspector.

Burek said she believes that Montague would benefit from her as a board of health member, and that she has an "easy time talking to people - whoever they are, or whatever they are doing."

Rachel Stoler, also a candidate for board of health, came to observe the caucus process and vote. Because her political affiliation is Unenrolled, she could not be endorsed by the caucus, but her name will appear on the town election ballot. Unenrolled voters may vote, but not run, in the caucus.

Stoler told the *Reporter* that she believes it is important to serve her community, and was interested in a seat on the board of health because of her work in community health here and in Mali, West Africa. She is the Community Health Program manager for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG). Through FRCOG's Partnership For Youth, Stoler co-coordinates the Communities That Care Coalition and coordinates the Mass in Motion program, both of which promote youth health



Ray Godin said he was willing to return to serve another two-year term as Montague town moderator, and help his eventual successor get "up to speed."

and well-being; she also represents FRCOG in the racial justice program, Welcoming and Belonging Franklin County.

No candidates were on the caucus ballot for assessor, tree warden, or parks and recreation commissioner.

Incumbents filed papers with town clerk Deb Bourbeau for the assessor and tree warden position, but parks and rec will appear as a blank line on May's election ballot.

"The results are in," announced Wisnews-ki shortly after Tuesday's voting closed. "Deb Bourbeau won every single position."

After the laughter died down, Wisnews-ki said that every candidate on the ballot, as well as Burek as a write-in, had been endorsed by the Montague Democratic Committee.



SPORTS from page A1

off their perfect, 18-and-0 2021 season, and the hybrid boys' tennis team opened its season against Hampden Charter school.

On Tuesday, while Tech and Turners battled one another on the baseball diamond, the Franklin Tech Softball Eagles trounced Hampden Charter 23-0.

Boys Track

FCTS 80 - Mohawk 58

On Friday, April 1, the Franklin Tech Eagles bested the Mohawk Warriors 80-58. Although Mohawk swept the relays, the Tech Boys took most of the individual events and out-threw them in the field.

Brody Williams won the shot put and javelin and placed second in the discus, while teammate Grayson Rollins took home the gold in the discus.

Brayden McCord jumped past everybody in the long jump and triple jump, and also took first place in the 100m dash. Owen La-Valley (pole vault and 400m hurdles) and Landen Hardy (200m and 110m hurdles) also took first place in two events.

The Eagles get back on the track next Friday in a road meet against Greenfield.

Softball

TFHS 9 - Smith Academy 3
TFHS 7 - Athol 7
FCTS 23 - Hampden Charter 0

The Turners Falls Softball Thunder played their home opener against the Purple Falcons of Smith Academy on Monday. Turners scored their first run of the season in the second inning off a Cady Wozniak home run. Two more runs crossed the plate in that inning for a 3-0 lead.

Blue plastered on five more runs before the Birds scored their first run. Smith scored two runs in that

fifth inning and another in the bottom of the seventh, but it wasn't enough, and Turners won their first game of the '22 season 9-3. Olivia Stafford also parked a homer in the win.

Then on Tuesday, Turners traveled to Athol and tied Da Bears 7-7.

Madison Liimatainen pitched all eight innings for Powertown, giving up five hits, walking nine, and striking out 15. She went 3-for-4 at the plate including a two-RBI triple. Emily Young and Paige Sulda also hit triples, and Cady Wozniak went 2-for-4 with a double.

The Blue Ladies will travel to Hadley this Friday to take on the Golden Hawks of Hopkins Academy.

The Franklin Tech Softball Eagles defeated the Hampden Charter School of Science on Tuesday, in almost perfect fashion.

In the circle, Lauren Ross and

Hannah Gilbert combined for a no-hit shutout, while their fielders committed no errors. The only thing that prevented the perfect game was a lone walk.

Offensively, six different Eagles hit for extra bases. Lauren Ross, Gianna DiSciullo, and Lillian Day hit doubles, Hannah Gilbert hit a double and a triple, Cordelia Guerin hit a triple, and Kristine Given banged a home run.

The Eagles play their first road game against the Lee Wildcats this Thursday.

Boys Tennis

Hampden Charter 4 - TFHS 1

"We only have five players," Coach Touloumtzis told me during Monday's match. "Four today."

With only four players, Turners was forced to forfeit two matches.

Blue's lone win came on the first singles court, where Mike Boyle came back from a first-set loss and outlasted his opponent in a third-set tiebreaker, 5-7, 6-2, 10-8.

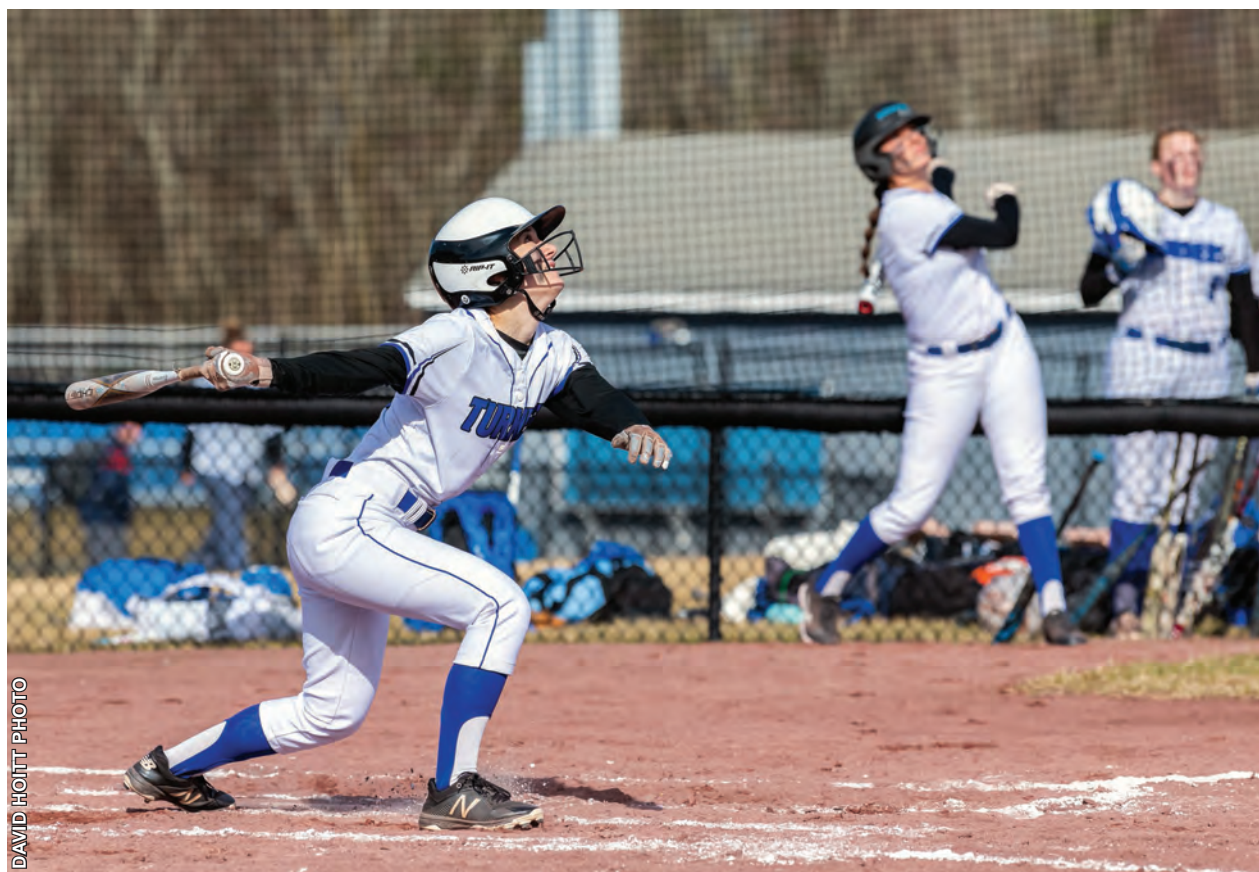
Kristopher Pacuna dropped second singles, and Jacob Reich and Dane Lupien were swept in first doubles.

Baseball

TFHS 3 - FCTS 2

On Tuesday, the Turners Falls Baseball Thunder avenged last season's loss to Franklin Tech in a hard fought 3-2 win over at Tech's ball field. It was their first victory in almost two years!

Turners hosts the Mohawk Trail Warriors this Thursday, and on Friday, Tech goes for their first home win against Smith Academy.



DAVID HOIT PHOTO

TFHS senior Paige Sulda slams a double during Monday's season-opening home win against Smith Academy.

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MONTAGUE from page A1

testing requirements by state and federal regulators.

In an email to the *Reporter*, Little wrote that though there is no current limit to PFAS in wastewater plants’ effluent or sludge, “because it is on the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA]’s road map... it is likely there will be limits set that we will have to meet for new permits in the future.”

Little said the Montague plant is currently required to test its outgoing sludge for PFAS each quarter for the state Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), and expects a federal reporting requirement will include influent, effluent, and sludge.

“It’s important to understand that wastewater facilities are not the polluters,” she wrote. “We just unfortunately have to deal with what’s been released into the environment. That’s where the recovery program comes in.”

Little added that she wants to “make sure we protect the quality of our sludge” from such chemicals, given plans for a pilot sludge-composting program.

Naughton began his presentation by saying that the litigation was not a “class action” lawsuit, but rather a “multi-district litigation case” (MDLC), which he later defined as a suit involving multiple, diverse litigants. Unlike a class action suit, the consolidation of litigants in an MDLC is under control of a special court called the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation, which has assigned the PFAS cases to a district court in Charleston, South Carolina.

The agreement the board approved with Napoli Shkolnik says the firm “is prepared to investigate the PFAS, 1,4-Dioxane, or any emerging unregulated contaminant of the groundwater on behalf of the town of Montague... If it is determined there are actionable claims... Napoli Shkolnik shall bring suit on behalf of town of Montague.”

Naughton did not speculate on a timeline for a ruling by the court. He said that the lawsuit and other legal work would come at “no cost” to the town, unless it receives funds in a settlement. The retainer agreement stipulates that the town will pay a “contingent fee” of up to 25% percent of the settlement if there is one.

Selectboard member Matt Lord noted that the retainer agreement had been favorably reviewed by Montague’s regular counsel, KP Law.

“My bad,” said Naughton. “We have partnered with KP Law to take these cases off their plate because of our specialty.”

Continuing on wastewater issues, the selectboard approved a series of complex and somewhat confusing motions regarding an application for an “Asset Management Grant” from MassDEP.

“Ultimately,” town administrator Steve Ellis explained, the grant would provide \$150,000 for a “comprehensive study” of the sewer collection system, primarily in Turners Falls and Millers Falls.

The board also approved a request by Little for the use of public property for a “drive-through celebration” at the sewer plant on Earth Day, April 22, from 1 to 2 p.m. Little said this is the second year of the event, which will include a viewing of a new mural outside the administration building.

Redder Tape

The selectboard voted to place 34 articles on the May 7 annual town meeting warrant, and made recommendations for funding sources for all of the “money articles.”

There was some confusion over whether the board had voted to officially endorse the articles, or simply place them on the warrant. Town administrator Steve Ellis told the *Reporter* that the board “may have an opportunity at next week’s meeting” to vote to recommend specific articles.”

Public works superintendent Tom Bergeron urged the board not to remove or reduce Article 15, a request he had made for \$100,000 for a “discretionary” fund to finance purchases of DPW equipment that may be necessary in an emergency or at a significant cost savings.

The finance committee and the selectboard had both recommended at previous meetings that the amount be reduced to \$50,000. Bergeron argued that those recommendations had been voted earlier in the fiscal year, when he was conserving funds for needed purchases and seemed flush with the previous year’s appropriation.

Board members indicated on Monday that they were hesitant to change their recommendation in the absence of a discussion with the fin com, but the \$100,000 number Bergeron requested remained on the warrant.

In a discussion of “town meeting logistics,” Ellis asked if the board had “nailed down our comfort” with holding the meeting, scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on May 7, in the auditorium of the Turners Falls High School.

The board seem to still have comfort with the idea, but chair Rich Kuklewicz advocated “expanding the area” where town meeting members may sit, which would presumably reduce the area allocated to the general public.

Ellis said that he thought there would be “relatively few visitors,” so “we could put the red tape further back.”

Dryer River

Ellis gave the board an update on the negotiations with the FirstLight power company concerning the long-term licenses from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for its “projects” including the Turners Falls dam and power canal, Northfield Mountain, and the portions of the Connecticut River that feed them.

Settlement talks concerning the license renewal have involved at least five towns along the river and a number of state and federal departments, as well as conservation and recreational interest groups.

Ellis said the town had expected a comprehensive conclusion to the settlement talks with a “decision date on or about June 30,” but that some of the company’s preliminary agreements with stakeholders, when published, have included “substantial disagreements” with each other – particularly those involving the preferred level of “flow” of water below the Turners Falls dam.

Ellis said the flow level was assumed to be targeted at 500 cubic feet per minute in the agreement that Montague has signed, but a subsequent agreement proposed that the flow in the summer would generally be half that. This has caused dis-

agreement among both recreational and environmental interests.

Ellis noted that the Montague selectboard has not taken any position on the “preferred level of flow,” having focused on recreational access and other improvements on the edge of the Connecticut River. He said FirstLight has requested to FERC that the negotiations be allowed to extend through the summer to allow them to resolve these issues, which would mean the selectboard would not need to “weigh in” on the license “on a rushed basis” this spring.

Development

The board voted to “express interest” in a multi-town grant application to the state for a consultant to help the town develop “human-centric mobility-oriented neighborhoods” at “underutilized properties in town,” according to town planner Walter Ramsey.

Ramsey mentioned the former Griswold Mill and Farren Care Center sites as examples. Other towns collaborating on the grant are Greenfield, Orange, Erving, Deerfield and Whately.

Ellis reported that the town had received a bid of \$17,950 to install a mini-split heating system in the Montague Center Library and use the current furnace as a back-up.

He said that the bid was “within the budget” and planned to bring a contract with the bidder, Jamrog HVAC and Plumbing, back to the board to sign “within the next two meetings.”

Other Business

A request by library director Caitlin Kelley to transfer \$3,500 from the town’s “community development discretionary unallocated fund” to the “community development library outdoor facilities fund,” so she can rent a tent for summer programming, was approved.

The board also approved a grant application from the library to the state for an inventory of the town’s historical records, and a request for the use of public property for a puppet show at Peskeompskut Park on August 5.

The board endorsed a permit for the RPM (“Rock, Punk and Metal”) music festival at the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club from September 2 to 4, and a request for the use of public property for the annual Newt Gilbert little league opening day parade at 11 a.m. on Sunday, April 24. The parade will proceed from Turners Falls High School west along Turnpike Road and then take a right on Montague Street to the baseball fields.

The board appointed Bob Austin to the tree advisory committee, Robert Steinberg to the Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation, and Matt Lord to the planning board.

An invitation from the Gill-Montague school district for a representative from one of the two member towns to participate in collective bargaining with school staff was discussed by the board. No candidate for that job was identified, however.

The board retired to executive sessions to review minutes from a previous executive session and discuss collective bargaining strategy. The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be on April 11 at 6:30 p.m.



The Brick House is seeking people to host classes, workshops, or events this spring

The Brick House Community Resource Center is looking for folks interested in offering community classes, workshops, and events this May and June.

We can offer small stipends and material fees, thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of Western Mass.

This is a great way to get introduced to our space and start a new class!

If you would like to offer something or want more information please get in touch by April 18th.

Email us at: space@brickhousecommunity.org

MONTAGUE PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
40R SMART GROWTH ZONING OVERLAY DISTRICT
Tuesday, April 12, 2022 6:30 PM

The Montague Planning Board will hold a public hearing to consider a petition to amend the Montague Zoning Bylaws to adopt a Smart Growth Overlay District pursuant to MGL Ch40R. The district is intended to incentivize the creation of new housing units in Turners Falls by permitting dense development wherein at least 25% of units are affordable. The district includes two subdistricts: A) Griswold Mill, comprising 11 and 15 Power Street parcels 03-0-027 and 03-0-089, and B) First Street, comprising parcels 04-0-0031 and 04-0-0024.

The meeting will be held at the Town Hall second floor meeting room, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA with a remote participation option. Meeting login instruction as well as the map and text of the proposed zoning amendment is available for review at www.montague-ma.gov/calendar.

Ron Sicard, Chair

Volunteer Opportunity
MONTAGUE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Town of Montague has two openings on its Finance Committee! One is available immediately, and the other as of July 1, 2022. The Finance Committee is an advisory group comprised of seven residents who are involved in the development of the Town’s annual budget and other matters related to the town’s finances and fiscal health. Serving on this committee is a great opportunity for a person who wants to learn about municipal finance and local government. The current vacancies are for a 3-year term that ends in 2025 and a two year term that ends in 2024.

The Finance Committee meets on Wednesday evenings; weekly from January-May and as needed at other times of the year. These meetings are open to the public, and we encourage potential candidates to attend a few before submitting a letter of interest to the Finance Committee and the Town Moderator at Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

Members of the committee welcome questions, and would be happy to talk with you about what the role entails. For more information, visit the Finance Committee’s pages on www.montague-ma.gov, and contact the committee members listed there.

The Town of Montague is an equal opportunity provider and employer, and strongly encourages candidates from diverse social and economic backgrounds.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
MONTAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In accordance with the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act, MGL Ch. 131, §40, the Montague Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, 2022 to consider **Notice of Intent #2022-01 filed by William Brule for construction of a single family home in the buffer zone of wetlands.** The work will occur on West Chestnut Hill Road at Assessors Map 52 Lot 71.

The hearing will be held in the upstairs meeting room at Montague Town Hall, One Avenue A. Alternately, the public can participate via ZOOM. Meeting login information and filing is available for review at www.montague-ma.gov/calendar.

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE
MONTAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In accordance with the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act, MGL Ch. 131, §40, the Montague Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting to review the following Request for Determination of Applicability at 6:45 p.m. on Thursday April 14, 2022: RDA #2022-01 filed by **NSTAR Electric Company d/b/a Eversource Energy** to conduct invasive plant management within jurisdictional resource areas. The work is located along the Eversource 312 Line right-of-way on the Montague Plains. The hearing will be held in the upstairs meeting room at Montague Town Hall, One Avenue A. Alternatively, the public can participate via ZOOM. Meeting login information and filing is available for review at www.montague-ma.gov/calendar.

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NORTHFIELD from page A1
the project.

The first citation by the AG’s office, in response to a complaint Graveline filed last December, found that the minutes of the February hearing had failed to summarize responses from BlueWave and members of the planning board to questions from the general public. Those minutes were subsequently revised by the planning board.

In a second complaint to the AG, Graveline claimed that while the revised minutes summarized responses to public comments, they did not clearly identify which members of the board had spoken.

The AG’s response stated that this was not a requirement under the open meeting law. “The minutes do not need to identify each

speaker, so long as a member of the public can read the minutes and understand from the summary the nature of the discussion,” the opinion reads.

However, in reviewing the revised minutes, the AG found that one member of the planning board, Tammy Pelletier, was listed as “present” when she had not appeared as present in the original draft minutes. The AG also found that, “although not specifically raised in the original complaint,” the vote to end the meeting was not taken by a roll call, as required at virtual meetings.

The March 22 opinion requires the board to further amend the minutes of last year’s public hearing, and ends on an ominous note: “We also order the Board’s immediate

and future compliance with the law’s requirements, and we caution that similar future violations could be considered evidence of intent to violate the law.”

The AG’s open meeting law guide defines an “intentional violation,” which could lead to a fine of up to \$1,000, as “an act or omission by a public body or public body member in knowing violation of the Open Meeting Law...”

Janet Sinclair of Shelburne Falls, a co-founder of the environmental group Save Massachusetts Forests, which has been critical of dual-use solar projects, suggested to the *Reporter* that the latest determination may render the permits invalid. “[F]or a Planning Board member to vote, they had to be present for the hearing,” she argued.

Planning board chair Steve Seredynski told us that without Pelletier voting, he did not believe there would have been sufficient votes to approve the special permits.

However, Seredynski challenged the AG’s finding, saying that Pelletier had, in fact, attended nearly all of the February 18 hearing:

“Tammy Pelletier arrived at the meeting approximately 15 minutes after the meeting started. She was there just as Rich Ricco from Field Engineering was about to discuss the proposed solar project. She was there for the entire 4 hour meeting and lawfully voted for the solar project. This has been documented and will be sent to the AG office.”

According to an obscure state law known as the “Mullin Rule,” cities and towns can approve a lo-

cal ordinance to allow members of certain boards to vote on matters as long as they have viewed a tape or transcript of a public hearing they have missed.

However, Northfield had not adopted such a rule when the planning board issued special permits in May 2021, and a town meeting in December voted down a proposal to adopt one.

Seredynski noted that the planning board’s approval of permits for the BlueWave projects has been challenged in state superior court by an abutter and the environmental group RESTORE: The North Woods.

“We made our decision, and have spent the last year defending the decision,” he told the *Reporter*.



LAKOTA from page A1

Wounded Knee that are kept at the Woods Memorial Library in Barre, Massachusetts. They have been on display there for the past 130 years.

Chief Henry Red Cloud, who is also descended from a survivor of the massacre, told the story of how the corpse of Spotted Elk came to have a blanket wrapped around his head in that searing image.

“You’ll see a cloth draped over his head,” he said. “Before they took the photo, while he laid there dead in the snow, they cut his hair. They scalped him... and took that as a souvenir. Before they took the photo they covered it with a cloth. That [scalp lock] ended up over in Barre.”

In 1999, a descendant of Spotted Elk named Leonard Little Finger came to Barre and retrieved his great-great-grandfather’s scalp, which he brought back to South Dakota for a “Releasing of the Spirit” ceremony.

But Chief Red Cloud, at an afternoon press conference held at the Barre town hall, speaking to a crowd of more than 120 people who had turned out to support the Lakotas’ repatriation claims for the Wounded Knee artifacts, said he estimated that more than 100 items – including more human remains – are still kept on display in the small, privately held museum upstairs at the Barre library.

Scavenging the Dead

How these objects – beaded moccasins, children’s dolls, a Ghost Dance shirt with a bullet hole in the sternum, turtle-shaped amulets known as *cekpognaka* which contain umbilical cords, sacred pipes carved in the shape of what the Lakota believe to be the original pipe given to them by the White Buffalo Calf Woman in time immemorial – came to be housed in a locked collection in the upper floor of the Woods Memorial Library in Barre, 1727 miles away from the killing field in Wounded Knee, is a story that has perhaps grown in the telling over these past 132 years.

But the general outline of events, from sources as disparate as the *New York Times* and Ojibwe activist Winona LaDuke, tells a story of entrepreneurial grave-robbing that took place even *before* the frozen bodies of hundreds of slain Lakota men, women, and children were uncereemoniously dumped into a mass grave the army had dug into a hillside just north of the killing field.

That was the same hillside where the 7th Cavalry mounted four Hotchkiss mountain guns on that bitterly cold morning in 1890, and began lobbing 50-pound exploding shells at a rate of two per minute into the melee below.

There, on the open field, Spotted Elk’s band of some 300 Miniconjou, mostly women and children, were camped under a white flag of truce. With them were 38 Hunkpapa Lakota who had fled south from Bull Head to join the Miniconjou after the assassination of Tatanka Iayatoke / Sitting Bull on December 15.

Together they had journeyed over 250 miles from Takini, on Cherry Creek, at the confluence of the south branch of the Chey-

enne River, through the Badlands in bitter winter weather, before finally encountering and surrendering to Major Samuel Whitside and his troops at Porcupine, five miles north of Wounded Knee, on December 28.

Whitside treated Spotted Elk for severe pneumonia – the aging chief was coughing blood from his lungs – before force-marching the entire band to Wounded Knee, where more troops under Colonel James Forsyth disarmed and surrounded them on three sides of the field.

With a nearly circular line of fire, and the Hotchkiss guns raining down shells indiscriminately, the 7th Cavalry lost 31 men, primarily to friendly fire, in the process of

postcards. Advertisements said they were ‘Just the thing to send to your friends back east.’”

Winona LaDuke, in her 2016 book *Recovering the Sacred*, quotes renowned Lakota journalist Avis Little Eagle on the aftermath of the massacre:

“Cavalry vultures circling around the people they had just murdered, stealing their finest possessions, going as far as cutting off the foot of a murdered infant, for its beautiful handmade moccasin. Such ghoulish items as skeletal remains, scalps and clothing stripped from bodies that lay on icy killing fields of Wounded Knee are on display for curious gawkers at museums and historical societies across the country.”

General Nelson Miles, overall commander of the US Armed Forces in the Missouri District, including the Dakotas and Wounded Knee, wrote in 1891: “Wholesale massacre occurred and I have never heard of a more brutal, cold-blooded massacre than that at Wounded Knee. About 200 women and children were killed and wounded; women with little children on their backs, and small children who were powder burned by the men who killed them being so near as to burn the flesh and clothing with the powder of their guns, and nursing babes with five bullet holes through them....”



GEORGE TRAGER PHOTO

In this infamous photograph of Miniconjon Lakota chief Spotted Elk’s body taken in the aftermath the Wounded Knee massacre, a blanket has been wrapped around his head – likely because his scalp had been removed. It ended up at the library in Barre, Massachusetts. His scalp was repatriated in 1999, but other human remains remain in the library’s collection.

slaughtering approximately 300 Lakota men, women, and children.

Following the three-day blizzard that descended on Wounded Knee on the evening of the massacre, the army hired local ranchers to gather up the corpses that lay strewn about the killing field and piled against the banks of the crooked ravine of *Čhaŋkpé Ópi Wakpála*, Wounded Knee Creek. Mounted troopers had pursued survivors of the initial onslaught miles onto the plain, leaving bodies scattered to the south and east.

According to Mark Hirsch, an historian working for the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, prior to interring the bodies of the Lakota in the mass grave, looters stripped the bodies of their possessions, which they then sold to collectors and museums. Before the bodies were gathered, he wrote, “Photographers canvassed the corpse-ridden fields, and sold their photos as

Murky Provenance

The *New York Times* reported in 1993 that the cache of items scavenged from the killing field at Wounded Knee and donated to the Barre Library Association was “the largest single group of artifacts known to exist from the incident at Wounded Knee.”

The *Times* continued: “The donor, Frank Root, is said to have bought many of the items from a contractor in charge of clearing the killing field....”

Frank Root was a “farm boy from a local Barre family,” as one member of the Library Association described him on Wednesday. He purchased the Wounded Knee artifacts and took them on tour as curiosities in Boston and other Eastern cities, before donating them to the Library Association in his home town in either 1892 or 1893, just a year or two after the massacre.

But no one catalogued the donated items at

the time. Now, 130 years later, there is confusion as to which items in the Woods Memorial Library came from Wounded Knee.

The collection, housed in locked wooden cabinets in a narrow, poorly lit room on the second floor of the 135-year old building, is displayed hodgepodge among collections of stuffed birds, minerals, old coins, and other artifacts of varying epochs and provenance.

The board of the Barre Library Association on Wednesday unanimously expressed willingness to return Wounded Knee artifacts to their tribes of origin. Library Association president Ann Meilus shared that her own ancestors had “come from a place where we also suffered a horrible tragedy.” She said her grandparents escaped from massacres at the hands of the Cossacks.

Manny Four Hawks, a descendant of a survivor of Wounded Knee, drew parallels with the mass graves being discovered now in Ukraine, and asked when humanity would learn the lessons of Wounded Knee.

However, Meilus said only six items in the Barre are clearly labeled as deriving from Wounded Knee, and she cast doubt on the ease with which even these few items’ tribal origins could be determined.

The 1990 Native American Graves Repatriation Act requires any institution that receives federal funds to adhere to the federal law requiring the repatriation Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony. Founded in 1885, the Barre Library Association is a declared 501(c)3 nonprofit that relies on private donations to support the Woods Memorial Library, a public institution, according to the Association’s website.

Whether the Association has ever received federal funds, and whether it has recently complied with state and federal regulations governing 501(c)3s, including the filing of annual reports, are matters of present dispute.

In 2021, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced a consultative process with Native tribes to update the cumbersome process of repatriation, in part by streamlining the process of determining which tribe of origin particular items of cultural patrimony rightfully belong to.

Despite the good will expressed on Wednesday by both the visiting Lakota and the Library Association board members, the potential for a long, drawn-out process of repatriation looms, as it has since the *New York Times* first reported 29 years ago on the willingness of the Association to return items taken from the massacre at Wounded Knee.

Renee Fasthorse-Iron Hawk, a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux who traveled to Barre with her husband Manny, spoke with members of the Library Association at a private meeting held after the visiting Lakota were allowed to view the collected artifacts.

“I hope this day is seen as a day of reconciliation between Lakota and *Wašiču* / White people. I’m happy for that,” she said, speaking slowly and controlling her emotion with difficulty. “I’m also sad that our relatives’ remains were here for so long.”



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THE SPIRIT SHOPPE

WORMS from page A1

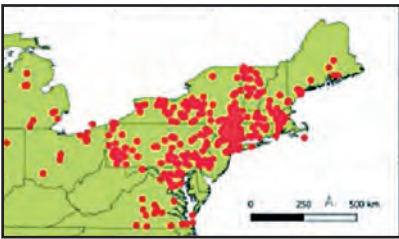
and encouraged as part of a healthy local ecosystem, the voracious eating habits of this newcomer to the neighborhood could have debilitating effects.

Jumping worms live in the top layer of the soil, and eat as much organic matter as they can. After a while, the worms will have devoured so much of the organic material in the area that the soil left is crumbly and unable to retain water.

In time, the soil can lose its ability to successfully foster life and filter water.

The jumping worms are here, so now the question we must ask is: What can someone do to help tend their land and keep it thriving? There are no treatments for an infestation, so the consensus amongst experts is that the current best practice for dealing with the jumping worm is prevention if you don't have them, and maintenance if you do.

One reason their spread is so difficult to tackle is that while the adults grow to be very large by the



A map indicating the worms' progress, from data shared at iMapInvasives.

height of summer, their cocoons are smaller than poppy seeds. They can be transported in the tread of your shoe, in the pot of the plant you bought from the nursery, or in the pot of the transplant from your neighbor's yard, and they can successfully overwinter in our climate.

Recommendations for preventing the spread of the cocoons include only giving and acquiring bare-root plants – plants transported without any soil around their roots – and giving your soles, tires, and tools a wash after gardening, especially if you are going to take a walk in one of our local forests!

Cocoons can also be spread in mulch or compost. Cocoons can't

survive sustained heat, though, so if you can heat your pile up to at least 104 degrees for at least three days, it should kill them. Using a plastic covering in a sunny spot for a few hot days should do the trick.

Where the worms have established a wormhold, though, the only current treatment is maintenance. Learn to recognize them, and then kill them when you find them.

How does one distinguish between a jumping worm from its friendlier earthworm cousin? The most obvious and immediate tell is that these worms live in the top layer of organic matter, and writhe and "jump" when disturbed, hence their name. An earthworm does not move with such vigor.

Next, you can take a look at the worm's *clitellum*, or the ring around its body. A jumping worm's clitellum is white and goes all the way around its body, while an earthworm's is more pink and does not go all the way round, instead looking rather like a saddle.

Once you've positively identified the worm as a jumping worm, it's time to commit vermicide.

Recommendations include submerging worms in a bucket of soapy water or sealing them in a plastic bag. Anglers are warned against using these worms for bait and unintentionally spreading them in the process. For those thinking about trying to feed them to chickens or other backyard fowl, anecdotal evidence from local folks seem to suggest that chickens don't like them, either.

Jumping worms are not the only transplants that have come to town and are spreading. Japanese Knotweed, Oriental Bittersweet, Multiflora Rose, and Garlic Mustard, among others, all have thriving colonies in different parts of town.

We reached out to Montague town planner Walter Ramsey to ask if the town has taken any steps to address this aspect of public land management.

Ramsey responded that the town does not currently have a program to combat invasive species. However, the conservation commission will condition approvals on a landowner's plan to manage invasives, and they do hear items on the topic at their meetings.

Ramsey also noted that major landholders in town, such as Eversource, FirstLight, and the state Division of Fish and Wildlife, have all taken up their own projects to address invasive plants. At the same April 14 meeting, Eversource will be proposing an invasive management plan for the Montague Plains.



TOM POTTERFIELD PHOTO UNDER CC LICENSE

The invasive earthworm *Amyntas agrestis*.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Just Roots Re-Opens Executive Search

GREENFIELD – The search begins for a new executive director for local food justice organization and community farm Just Roots.

Just Roots went through a similar search in 2021 following the announcement of the departure of longtime executive director Jessica O'Neill. That search resulted in a great pool of candidates, lessons learned, and the appointment of interim executive director Cathy Wirth. The board, Wirth, and Just Roots leadership will work together this spring to seek out the organization's next leader. The search re-opened on March 25, and priority will be given to candidates who apply by April 25.

Wirth, a long-time food system advocate, is working remotely from her new home in North Carolina. "The Just Roots Executive Director position is an incredible leadership opportunity for someone in Massachusetts who is interested in working both locally and statewide

at the intersection of food systems and public health," she said. "The position provides the chance for someone to lead a grassroots organization at a time of great growth, to continue to scale a local food distribution model that has been built from the ground up by an incredible community and an unparalleled team, and to take the Just Roots home campus to the next level."

2021 was the first time Just Roots went through an extensive leadership search, and provided an opportunity to work toward centering equity and inclusion in its work.

"We've experienced significant organizational growth, have scaled the Just Roots Food is Medicine CSA model to a statewide program, have expanded our on-site and online food and nature education, and are working on the development of a new barn center," said associate director Rochelle Bellin. "This is a very exciting time at Just Roots."

TOWN OF ERVING RECREATION COMMISSION
HIRING for SUMMER PARK COUNSELORS

Are you looking for a fulfilling summer job? Do you enjoy interacting with children? Then look no further, the ERVING SUMMER PARK PROGRAM is the place for you! We are currently seeking Summer Park Counselors to join our 2022 team.

Requirements:

- Must be at least 16 years of age
- Energetic, Punctual, Responsible, Cooperative, Flexible, Creative, and have experience with children
- Counselor/childcare experience not required, but preferred
- Lifeguard certification is a PLUS! (potential for certification reimbursement)
- Training/ planning begins in May. Summer Park Season runs July 11 - August 12

This position is a seasonal employment opportunity. This position and the Town's ability to operate the Summer Park Program are subject to restrictions of any State of Emergency issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as well as the Town of Erving related to COVID-19. The position description is available online. Applications can be completed by visiting www.erving-ma.gov/employment.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Preference is given to applications received by April 30, 2022. A CORI check will be performed on the successful candidate. The Town of Erving is a drug-free workplace. The Town of Erving is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

Questions can be sent to careers@erving-ma.gov.

LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on April 5, 2012: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Unity Park Improvements
Break Ground on Monday

The Montague parks and recreation department announced with great fanfare this week that the long-awaited groundbreaking for Phase I of the Unity Park improvement project will begin on Monday, April 9.

Phase I improvements will include a new playground, refurbished landscaping, and repaved parking near the field house, which will once again be the year-round home for the parks and recreation department.

Big Changes at Sirum

Sirum's annual open house was again a huge success, with folks flocking in like the sparrows to Capistrano. The same generous spread of food greeted them, but this year they were also greeted by the CEO of McCormick USA, who shook the hand of every person as they came through the line.

Family owned and operated, the Sirum Equipment Company in Montague will, no doubt, overcome the obstacle of having their John Deere franchise terminated in June. Despite Sirum's remarkable success and solid reputation, John Deere seems to have other priorities, which can only mean inconvenience for farmers.

When asked how the change will affect customers, Ed Sirum said, "We'll continue to offer John Deere parts and service to our customers, and when the farmer decides to buy a new tractor, we'll take his John Deere tractor or equipment in trade."

Tractor and engine manufacture are an international business with many ties between companies. In recent years, there have been shake-ups and mergers of manufacturers of farm tractors.

Sirum said all medium-sized tractors, including John Deere,

are now manufactured overseas in India, Japan, Korea and Germany. More factories in China and Russia are under construction for the manufacture of tractors for export. Only the big John Deere tractors are made in the US, and these use parts made abroad.

This coming week, Ed Sirum is bringing McCormick tractors to several area farms where customers expressed interest at the open house. There will be demonstrations and an opportunity for farmers to try out the tractors themselves under field conditions.

Erving: Plenty of Interest
In Former Senior Center

The toss-up over who gets to move into the former home of the Erving senior center got a new contestant this week when Roseann Martoccia, executive director of the Franklin County Home Care Corporation, dropped by to inspect the space. Martoccia is looking to find a more central location to install propane ovens, sinks, coolers, and refrigerators to heat meals for Meals on Wheels. Orange, where FCHCC currently heats up the precooked meals, is too far east to conveniently serve all its clients, Martoccia told town administrator Tom Sharp this week.

But the first floor of the former elementary school on Pleasant Street, which the senior center vacated in December when they moved to their new 1,750-square-foot quarters off of Northfield Road, has more than one party interested in moving in.

The Erving Library, jammed into a small cinderblock building next door on Moore Street, is seeking funding from the state Board of Library Commissioners to renovate the old school's first floor to turn it into an inviting space for a new, expanded library.

The town recreation department and the emergency planning department have both expressed interest in occupying the space, in a bid to get out of their cramped closets in the basement of town hall.



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WENDELL from page A1

The amendment would add a 4% tax on annual income over \$1 million, adjusted for inflation. The proposal would generate an estimated \$2 billion in revenue, to be spent on education and transportation infrastructure.

Town Buildings

Board members agreed to take care of two maintenance issues on town property, repairing peeling paint on the office building and clearing brush around the town hall.

The office building has a recurring problem where a roof valley directs rainwater onto the ground and it splashes up on the wall. It has been repainted before, but Keller said the Hardie board behind it should be replaced before the next painting. It is not a simple job.

Selectboard member Laurie DiDonato thought that job might fit into assistant town engineer Alistair MacMartin’s job description, if he can fit the work into his schedule.

Budine said she walked around the building with MacMartin and found more places where roof runoff has damaged the paint. Keller’s thought was that those places can just be repainted.

The building’s plan avoided annual gutter cleaning by not having gutters. Instead, rainwater falls from the roof edge to the ground, filters down to a perimeter drain, and is directed under the parking lot downhill towards what is now the community garden.

Tom Chaisson said he could clear the brush around the town hall, including nine-foot-tall thorn bushes and saplings five inches in diameter, for \$400.

The work is necessary before the town hall can be painted, as would be authorized on the special town meeting warrant. Chaisson is aware of the narrow band of town-owned property around the town hall and of the abutter’s concerns; she should be notified before any work is done.

Money for both projects can come from the town building maintenance fund. If that account has been depleted, it can come from the finance committee reserve fund after a fin com vote.

Updating Technology

Town coordinator Glenn Johnson-Mussad confirmed and elaborated on what Budine reported at



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an earlier meeting, that the region is not ready for uniting IT services.

According to the UMass Boston Collins Center, states of readiness vary too much among towns, with Wendell being behind in the age of its computers and software. One security advantage Wendell has is that the variety of hardware and lack of a town-wide network may make hacking into the town’s systems more difficult.

The Collins Center can guide Wendell towards a short-term IT specialist to help the town move its systems towards modern standards and increase cybersecurity. The Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA), Wendell’s insurance source, offers cybersecurity insurance.

The plan to move the town’s phone lines from Verizon to the Ooma fiber-optic system is complicated by several factors.

The single fiber-optic connection to the highway garage/fire station does not allow two phone numbers, which is what the two departments have and use. It is possible to leave one phone number

with Verizon and move the other to voice-over internet.

DiDonato suggested that this should be the fire department’s number, because there is a time lag while a phone number moves from Verizon’s line to Ooma’s, but fire captain Asa DeRoode is eager for the fire station to have an Ooma connection because it would allow notifications to be sent directly to firefighters’ phones.

The town clerk sometimes needs to send documents by fax, and clerk Anna Wetherby’s fax machine uses a Verizon land line. She said she will keep her land line fax machine.

The library also uses a fax, and Whip City can provide and install equipment there.

Open Seats

While she was at the meeting, Wetherby listed some of the vacancies among Wendell boards.

Seal LaMadeleine and Mary Thomas accepted temporary appointments to the planning board, but neither took out nomination papers for the May election, and neither is interested in a long-term po-

sition. They could get write-in votes, but can refuse the position if elected.

Anna Seeger is not running for assessor, leaving Martha Senn as Wendell’s sole member of the board of assessors, a job which Keller described as increasingly arcane. Regional Resource Group (RRG), the town’s assessing firm, can take over the entire process and eliminate the need for elected assessors, but it would cost the town.

Seeger attended the meeting to discuss a property-line disagreement on Checkerberry Lane. No involved citizen came, but Seeger said RRG and a firm it works with, Cartographic Associates Inc. (CAI), can work towards a solution.

The board of health is losing one member just after it gained a clerk.

Wetherby mentioned some others, and said she would send board members a complete list of town department vacancies.

Other Business

Reporting back from a Mahar school committee budget meeting, Budine said Wendell pays the foundation assessment, based on

the number of students the town *could* send to Mahar, 41, and not the number of students who actually go to school there, 30.

“We are paying for a slot,” said Keller.

The difference is \$78,949, and brings Wendell’s assessment to \$560,428. Wendell pays a second time for students who attend other schools such as Franklin County Technical School.

Budine said that fin com chair Doug Tanner was not surprised by those numbers, and feels the town can handle it.

Johnson-Mussad announced his plan go to the Massachusetts Municipal Association meeting in Easthampton this Saturday, April 9, and invited selectboard members to join him. The town will pay for mileage and the \$35 fee.

The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be Thursday, April 14, avoiding both the April 6 special town meeting and Wednesday, April 13, when Johnson-Mussad is committed to attending the Greenfield school committee meeting.



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Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*

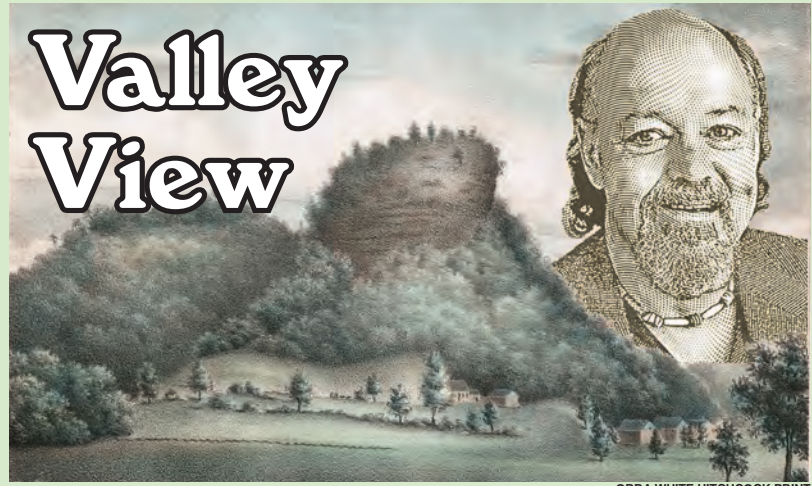


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FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER APRIL 7, 2022



By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – Perhaps the best-kept secret in the world of late-Pleistocene archaeology today is the work of independent researcher Dr. Richard Michael Gramly of North Andover, a 75-year-old Harvard Ph.D. hopelessly mired in his old ways learned from masters of their field during the late Sixties and Seventies.

What “Mike” Gramly does best is excavate and interpret sites. More importantly, he then promptly publishes his findings in the public domain. He identifies all of the above as lost arts in the field to which he has dedicated his life’s work.

With Gramly, there are no secrets, no whispers in the dark shadows. He believes he was placed on this planet and educated by some of the best to make discoveries and share his findings. This separates him from cultural-resource managers he criticizes for their secretive postures. Unlike them, Gramly does not live in fear that his published work will pinpoint important sites and promote “looting” by collectors who sell artifacts in an active marketplace dominated by three-day-weekend shows and eBay.

Take a look someday at the Native American artifacts for sale in cyberspace. Many of Gramly’s scholarly friends routinely peruse these offerings and are upset to find well-known stone weapons and tools that have been culled from important, de-emphasized museum collections for sale to the highest bidder.

But that’s a discussion for another day, one that has absolutely nothing to do with Gramly’s current passion. These days, he’s focused on North American human interactions with ancient proboscideans (mastodons and mammoths), a topic that’s captured worldwide attention from scholars who study the peopling our planet.

What Gramly has uncovered right here in North America – in the Northeast and Great Lakes country – is astounding, yet hidden in plain sight and unrecognized. He has put the hands of Clovis hunters all over previously curated remains of extinct mastodons believed to have died of “natural” causes. Experts have for decades believed that these early

elephants died by getting trapped in mucky graves seeking water during the Ice Age melt some 13,000 calendar years ago.

A Familiar Crew

Gramly’s current fascination began in 2014, when he caught wind of an auction that stirred his inquisitive juices. After a Middletown, New York farmer had exposed skeletal mastodon remains while digging a bog with a backhoe on his property, the *in situ* excavation rights were on the auction block. The resourceful Gramly decided to go for it, reaching out to a couple of friends who ponied up just under \$25,000 for the winning bid. With it, they secured for Gramly exclusive rights to a site now known in archaeological circles as Bowser Road.

A few months later, in the fall of 2014, Gramly and a familiar crew – comprised mostly of members from the American Society for Amateur Archaeology, which he founded some 30 years ago – were on the scene, recovering the remarkably preserved bones of a 13,000-year-old beast.

It takes not only field experience but an open and creative mind as well to oversee and accurately interpret what is unearthed at such a site. Gramly meets all the standards with aplomb. Plus, when he forms a new hypothesis that he knows conventional, knee-jerk professionals will challenge, he only grows more determined to prove his point.

The reason Paleolithic researchers have found it difficult to associate ancient proboscidean graveyards with human predation is that stone artifacts are rarely found at such sites, and even when a random stone tool or weapon does come to light, they cannot rule out the possibility that it’s an unrelated, coincidental drop. Thus, human hunting has been routinely doubted.

Gramly questioned such conclusions. Was it not a fool’s errand to attribute bone fields containing the remains of many mastodons to the stupidity of ancient beasts getting stuck in the mud while seeking water? Really? An intelligent animal that needs great volumes of water, falling prey to mud? It made little sense to Gramly.

see **VALLEY VIEW** page B6

NOTES FROM THE HEARTFELT CAFE
BY TROUBLE MANDESON

GREENFIELD – My Hawaiian holiday was a bust, in terms of a true food adventure. I was jungle remote on the Big Island and far from retail establishments. I enjoyed meals with my friend peppered with one visit to the grocery store, food sold from people’s yards, and lots of fruit smoothies that seemed to be available in even the tiniest venues.

I did enjoy eating some traditional dishes like *lauau*, tender chunks of pork and butterfish wrapped in



Musubi, which is fried spam, avocado, and rice wrapped in nori seaweed, can be purchased at Hawaiian convenience stores much like a hot dog at 7-Eleven.

green leaves; *poké* bowls of raw salmon and ahi tuna over rice; and even eggs Benedict made with the local specialty, roasted *kalua* pork, and a Hollandaise sauce made with passionfruit juice, or *lilikoi*, rather than lemon.

I visited a farmers market to buy local honey, macadamia nuts, Hawaiian sea salt, roasted cocoa and coffee beans, and to drink sweet coconut milk from a freshly macheted coconut. While in Honolulu, I ate musubi for lunch, a sushi-like, seaweed-wrapped rice bundle with fried Spam. So good that I brought home a can of Teriyaki Spam, and I am considering devoting my next column to Spam, Spam, SPAM, SPAM...

With that said about the sparse dining opportunities on my travels, I’ll turn your attention now to another food-related topic that carries with it some wonderful news about a very deserving community organization in Franklin County, one that is near and dear to my heart. This should give some nourishment for heart and soul.

I’m referring to Greenfield’s beloved Stone Soup Café, the Saturday pay-what-you-can non-profit venue run by a small staff, a ton of volunteers, and the dynamic,



Chef Kirsten at the Stone Soup Café, with cookies for Valentines Day.

never-say-never, executive director and chef, Kirsten Levitt. Or, Chef Kirsten. Or “Kettle,” as I like to call her.

I’m “Pot,” by the way – you know the old saying. Both of us are known for doing multiple jobs and gigs at once, often running from one activity to another, so one day when I called her on it, she responded with the age-old “pot calling the kettle black” and from then on, the nicknames stuck. (Yes, I’ve even made us tee shirts.)

see **HEARTFELT** page B5

GAME REVIEW

FromSoftware Gets (Slightly) Less Hardcore

By W. KAIZEN

AMHERST – *Elden Ring*, the new sword ‘n’ sorcery video game by Japanese company FromSoftware, has sold well over twelve million copies since they released it at the end of February. This is a remarkable figure not only because it already puts the game, which retails for \$59.99, halfway toward cracking the list of the all-time best-selling video games, but because the game is so hard to play.

Elden Ring is the latest release in a series of video games that began over a decade ago with *Demon’s Souls* and *Dark Souls*, two cult video games whose mechanics were so obtuse, and whose bosses so difficult, that people began calling them “masocore games,” as in masochistically hardcore, to describe how difficult they were.

In the lead-up to its release, Hidetaka Miyazaki, the designer behind the series and now head of FromSoftware, said that *Elden Ring* would be the most approachable



Once discovered, any rest point in Elden Ring can be returned to.

game he’s made. While that may be true, I would have thought that *Elden Ring* is still spicy enough to scare off so many new players.

Elden Ring is an action role playing game (RPG) where you play a character – based on familiar fantasy archetypes – who travels through a strange, elaborately rendered world fighting monsters. Its main gameplay loop consists of

killing monsters, which gives you points that you can use to level up various statistics that give your character different abilities. The abilities you choose determines your style of gameplay.

One of *Elden Ring*’s biggest pre-release selling points was the involvement of *Game of Thrones* author George R.R. Martin, who

see **ELDEN RING** page B10

Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

“NENA”

Nena is a real couch potato pittie, looking for her next home. Her previous family says she is a good listener, and loves to cuddle and play. She is house trained and has lived with other animals including dogs and cats. Her preferred family would be adults and possibly older kids, as little kids make her nervous. She can be shy when first meeting people but quickly comes out of her shell.

If you’ve had bully breeds in the past, please tell us about them in your application! Interested in adopting? Nena’s adoption fee is \$550. 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

APRIL 11 THROUGH 15

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 Jonathan von Ranson at (978) 544-3758 to set up a ride.

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.

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. Coffee and tea is available during open hours. 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 4/11

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Potluck Lunch
1 p.m. Knitting & Needlecrafts Circle

Tuesday 4/12

12 p.m. Tuesday Morning Knitters
1 p.m. Chair Yoga
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 4/13

Foot Clinic By Appointment

4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 4/14

1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 4/15

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

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Sex Matters

a sex-positive health column

by STEPHANIE BAIRD

GRANBY – April is Sexual Trauma Awareness Month. Since I continue to hold social justice and activism values close to my heart, I devote my April columns to this topic. I am a trauma therapist first and foremost, due to the widespread sexual traumatization I continue to encounter in my work as a psychotherapist. The statistics persist that one in five ciswomen and up to one in ten cismen have been sexually abused as kids, and that one in two transgender folks report experiencing sexual trauma at some point in their lives, and perhaps even as high as 66%, according to the Office for Victims of Crime. Most people who seek out counseling services have a history of sexual trauma, and most survivors knew their assailants. I have been grateful to add sexual health to my practice in the last few years, and to be gaining enough experience and expertise to author this monthly column, as well as to recently publish a book devoted to integrating EMDR therapy and sexual health, *EMDR Therapy and Sexual Health: A Clinician’s Guide* (Springer Publishing, 2021).

Let’s take a closer look at how folks can heal from sexual trauma like abuse, molestation, and assault, so that they are able to go on to enjoy a fabulously pleasurable and empowered sexual life. While there is no “one size fits all” answer, I can offer some general guidelines. Trauma-informed psychotherapy is integral, and EMDR therapy is a 30-plus year old evidence-based method to efficiently and quickly accelerate a survivor’s adaptive healing from PTSD. Before I learned how to provide EMDR Therapy in 2009, I provided good old-fashioned supportive talk therapy. With EMDR, twice the healing often happens in half the time. It’s like turbo-charged therapy on steroids. EMDR involves reprocessing stuck traumatic memories with bilateral stimulation, often through eye movements. Back-and-forth horizontal eye movement appears to desensitize traumatic memories, reducing emotional distress and memory vividness while simultaneously activating the adaptive information processing system and taxing the working memory. This process helps bridge the traumatic memory with more adaptive and healing information. I help clients work through emotions, body sensations, and negative thoughts to eventually arrive at newly integrated positive thoughts, such as “I am safe now, I have choices, I deserve respect and pleasure.” With all trauma clients, I spend time providing resources and skills before we even touch upon their trauma history. Some of the skills clients learn include visual imagery techniques like storing their trauma in a mental “container” between sessions, or envisioning a calm place, which can help bring their bodies back to baseline. We also try to identify resourceful and supportive people, animals, and nature elements to assist with providing strength, courage, or encouragement. Sometimes in working with adult clients who experienced sexual abuse as a minor, we need to do some “parts of self” work, where we get to know all their inner wounded kid parts – infant, child, pre-teen, teen – before beginning trauma treatment. I try to help us figure out the neglected, rejected, terrified, sad, angry, acting out, and/or repulsed parts that may hold pieces of their traumatic history, and may inadvertently be sabotaging treatment progress.

Each of these stuck or wounded parts needs to be identified, acknowledged, and encouraged to rewrite their job description into simply being a kid at which-ever developmental stage the part got “stuck.” We also work on completing any developmental tasks they haven’t yet had a chance to complete. If we are doing this kind of parts work or ego-state

work, I help my client develop a “healing circle” composed of a Nurturer, a Protector, and a Spiritual Adult Self. These exercises are inspired by Shirley Jean Schmidt’s book, *Developmental Needs Meeting Strategy* (DNMS Publishing, 2009). We can then ask these competent adult parts to assist with helping the younger parts feel soothed and cared for so that they may let go of their burdens and engage in appropriate child play such as building a treehouse, coloring, playing with pets, and other activities. This is often a very powerful part of therapy as the client begins to see how their extensive skills can help them work through what were seemingly insurmountable symptoms and blockages. I also spend a fair amount of time providing psychoeducation (much of which has shown up in this column), directing folks to books and other resources, giving them permission to bring up and explore sexual concerns, and validating their right to experience a pleasurable and healthy sex life. One important concept I tell every single trauma client about is *arousal concordance* versus *arousal non-concordance*.

Arousal concordance is when a person feels aroused physically and reports a strong penile or clitoral erection and/or noticeable vaginal lubrication, and also mentally desires to engage in the sexual activity. An example would be someone with an erection who feels aroused and excited and is enthusiastic about engaging in sexual activity. Non-concordance is when the physical and mental elements do not correspond. For example, there is “sexually relevant” stimulation, such as their lover is doing a strip tease for them, but the person reports no sexual response or interest. My clients often report confusion or shame if their body appears to respond to abusive sexual stimulation, because the body naturally interprets the information as sexually relevant. They sometimes believe – or are told by perpetrators – that they *want* that sexual activity because of a bodily response (i.e. “you have an erection” or “you are wet”... therefore “you want this”). Conversely, established consensual partners can notice a lack of signs of arousal, and therefore question whether the partner is really “turned on.” All of these non-concordant situations can create shame and confusion, and can be addressed with validating physiological psychoeducation. Just like when we can automatically cry while cutting onions, our bodies can respond with erections and engorgement or other signs when presented with a sexual situation or stimulus, even if it is mentally and emotionally unwanted. Lastly, sending children through evidence-based sex ed programs such as OWL, starting in kindergarten, can intervene at the level of prevention, and teach children how to recognize and avoid inappropriate sexual intentions, and how to get help. As a generally erotophobic society, we have a long way to go to improve prevention efforts around sexual abuse and assault. If you or a loved one are suffering from the fallout of sexual trauma, please seek treatment. You deserve the right to be free from trauma symptoms and, more than that, to enjoy an empowered and pleasurable sexual life.

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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TV REVIEW

9-1-1 (FOX Network)

By MELISSA WLOSTOKSI

GREENFIELD – The TV series *9-1-1* on Fox is entering its fifth season of being on the air. It’s a show about the lives of first responders and some of the things they see on their jobs.

One of the cops that is a part of this is played by Angela Bassett. Her character is called Athena. This show apparently does a really interesting job when it comes to creative writing. I mean, some of what they see may not happen in real life at all, although, I have enjoyed some of the origin stories of how some of these characters came to be who they are.

One more thing that is maybe not realistic is them having some of the major disasters they had on this show. But those events made for some very interesting storylines to watch. A few to put on a list are a tsunami, a blackout, a huge train crash, a dam break, and an earthquake.

The show is supposed to be located in Los Angeles, so with some of that – like a blackout, an earthquake, and a train crash – seem like things that are possible to happen and would happen in Los Angeles, while the other stuff doesn’t seem that likely.



I also feel that way with some of the other things these people encounter on their jobs in this show. A guy who gets caught breaking into his own house, and getting the cops called on him, seems possible, while when they encounter a woman who has somehow gone blind, and another whose skin turns blue, is not as likely to me.

But again, this makes for some very interesting storylines to see on TV. (And you won’t believe how the woman who went blind got to be that way!) While some of *9-1-1* may not be realistic, it seems to have made the show be very popular with its audience.



Surviving Breast Cancer

By Julie Cunningham

Part 22: Regaining My Voice

AMHERST – It’s worth noting that I didn’t do very well in school. I have a learning disability that impacts my ability to spell when I am writing by hand, and I didn’t really take to math all that well.

I did do better when computers became the norm. I’m old enough that I started school when computers were just starting to be a normal everyday part of school, but young enough that when I was in high school everything was typed and printed. I remember writing 20-page essays in high school and college and 100-page documents in law school. I can’t even believe I wrote a 100-page law essay, but I did, for a class called International Law.

All of this schooling, all of this work, was supposed to somehow prepare me for the real world. Looking back as a cancer survivor, I think it just delayed the real world. Not one class prepared me for the weight and fear of being a cancer patient.

I actually think school might have done the opposite. While I was taught how to read and write and solve math problems, I think my experience at school did the opposite of strengthening my resolve and emotional health. There were a few moments in particular that stood out, but lately one moment has been on my mind as a defining one. I believe this was a moment when I could have been encouraged to be a strong, independent female but instead I was brought down. Way, way down.

I was in fourth grade, though I won’t say which school I attended. I had observed something in our class room – I can’t remember what – and I wrote about it in our class journal. We all kept a journal, and we wrote down each day what we had experienced in class. The teacher would read it and send back.

On this day I wrote about what I had wit-

nessed as an unfair moment. There was a competition of some sort, but I felt like there was some favoritism. When I wrote about it in my journal, my teacher called my parents. At the time I felt humiliated and confused. Now I know that it was the teacher who handled it poorly. Honestly, if I could go back and give that teacher a piece of my mind, I would.

That was the first moment that I was silenced as a woman. That silence stuck with me, and I believe I only recently found my voice. I found it when I looked into the future and didn’t know what it held. I decided I was going to say what I thought and what I felt from then on no matter what anyone thought of me, or no matter how many attempts to silence me I faced.

Now, I don’t hold back. If I have something to say, I say it. If someone gets mad or angry or upset, it doesn’t impact me much. I honestly care more about saying what needs to be said than about upsetting someone, or being accused of being mean or hurtful. I see the act of caring about someone as being completely honest with them, and not about protecting their feelings.

I see femininity as insightful and meaningful. But in that moment in school so long ago, I believe the lesson was meant to be, “Sit still and accept what you are given. Be silent. Be accepting. Be accommodating. But whatever you do, don’t speak up.”

That was the lesson. What a horrible lesson to teach a young girl. I hope that now a young girl speaking up in her classroom about a strong observation won’t be silenced the way I was silenced. I hope we have come a little farther now in our assessment of what a young woman should be. It’s been about 30 years since I was in elementary school. Is 30 years enough? How long is enough time to expect change?

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Migratory Lurker; Peeling Out; Stolen Tools; Disruption and Hole on Central Street; ATV Fire; Unfounded Suspicions; Loud Bass

Monday, 3/28

7:52 a.m. Report of assaults at Unity Park that occurred last Wednesday. Advised of options.

7:38 p.m. Caller states she is locked behind the gate on Migratory Way; states she thought it was open until dusk. Officer advised.

Tuesday, 3/29

5:58 a.m. Caller states there is a two-car accident at Bridge and East Main Streets. No injuries; no fluids. Officer advised. Requesting tow for at least one vehicle.

5:43 p.m. Gill PD requesting an officer check the area by the water on East Mineral Road for pedestrians and see if they saw anything relating to an incident that Gill PD is responding to. Officer advises he spoke to a party on the beach who reports hearing gunshots and a car peeling out approximately 24 minutes ago. Gill PD advised.

7:45 p.m. Message left in general mailbox; caller would like it on record that a group of kids are

going into the laundry room of a Fourth Street building and destroying things.

Wednesday, 3/30

7:25 a.m. Caller from Carlisle Avenue states that somebody went into his unlocked vehicle overnight and stole some tools, including a table saw and a set of drills. Report taken.

3:54 p.m. Caller from Walnut Street states that a silver car with no plates on it has been parked in the area for about three days. Officer reports vehicle is off the road in a parking lot; was able to run VIN and locate registration.

4:36 p.m. A 55-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a straight warrant.

8:01 p.m. Unwanted person on East Main Street. Peace restored; parties advised of options.

8:56 p.m. Caller from Central Street states her neighbor is playing his music and disrupting her. Referred to an officer.

9:40 p.m. Caller reports two-car accident on Avenue A; one vehicle left the scene; unknown direction of travel. Caller reports no injuries. Officer advises both vehicles are on scene. Report taken.

Thursday, 3/31

9:13 a.m. 911 misdial received from a repair worker doing maintenance on the gas pump canopy at FL Roberts. Confirmed misdial.

10:29 a.m. Animal control officer called and advised that he addressed the previous complaint about the dogs on N Street with the dogs’ owner. He will contact the original caller and advise him of what is going to be happening.

12:02 p.m. A 42-year-old Montague man was arrested on a straight warrant.

4:13 p.m. Trespass notice received for female on Randall Road; served in hand by Sheriff’s Department on 9/24/2021.

6:33 p.m. Caller states he was taking a walk at St. Anne’s Cemetery and noticed a number of grave-stones that appear to have been vandalized; caller states it is the area heading towards the maintenance shed. Officer unable to locate any vandalism.

8:25 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street states neighbor’s house might be on fire; she can smell burning plastic from next door. Nobody is answering when they knock at the door. Control contacted to dispatch fire. No active fire; woodburner was plugged in. FD on scene.

9:34 p.m. Caller from Ave-

nue C states that someone smashed her windshield within the last twenty minutes or so. Report taken.

Friday, 4/1

12:24 a.m. Cashier at FL Roberts reports there is a 13-year-old in the store who states she has nowhere to go. Caller advises female cannot stay in store. DCF contacted per officer; they are working on a placement for the female; suggest female be brought to the station due to the length of time it might take for them to locate a place for her to stay. Officer transporting juvenile to PD. DCF arrived at station to take custody of juvenile.

7:48 a.m. Multiple callers reporting a large hole in the road on Central Street, approximately three or four feet in diameter. DPW notified and responding. PD responding.

10:28 a.m. Caller states that he struck another vehicle in the Third Street parking lot and would like help finding the owner. Officer attempting to make contact with owner of other vehicle. Owners exchanged information.

11:26 a.m. Caller states that there are two bikes lying in the area where work was done to the eroding hillside on Millers Falls Road. Bikes located; may belong to people hiking in the area.

1:26 p.m. Detail officer reporting a minor accident involving a truck and a trailer on Third Street. Truck and trailer moved to First Street parking lot. 2:51 p.m. Caller from Connecticut River Liquor and Wine states that a female with a Jamaican accent was yelling and spilling things in the store. She was asked to leave several times but would not. Female finally left. Caller advised to call right away if she returns.

3:40 p.m. Caller reporting truck on Turners Falls-Gill Bridge with two black flags hanging down with offensive writing on the back; truck was speeding and sounds like it has a bad muffler. Shelburne Control advised.

4:40 p.m. Caller from Salvation Army reporting a female party in the store yelling and screaming. AMR requested but unavailable. CSO also unavailable. Officer providing courtesy transport to Greenfield.

5:07 p.m. Caller reporting that two kids were throwing rocks over the fence and in the road on Fourth Street. All units tied up. Officer advises that he checked the area.

7:35 p.m. Disturbance on South Prospect Street. Caller advised of options. Officers will be on lookout for involved party.

8:27 p.m. Caller reporting minor accident near Element Brewery; no injuries. Vehicle towed. Citation issued.

11:09 p.m. Caller from Randall Road reports hearing noises outside her house. Area search negative.

Saturday, 4/2

3:58 p.m. Out with fire department by the high tension wires on Wendell Road for an ATV fire. Officer advises they were unable to get the gate unlocked to get the cruiser up, but FD has all the information to give to Eversource, and the fire is extinguished.

10:34 p.m. Report of suspicious person on Randall Road. Referred to an officer.

Sunday, 4/3

2:10 a.m. Officer out with vehicles at Ja’Duke Center for the Performing Arts. Officer advises vehicles were from individuals that were watching a show earlier and are leaving now after visiting friends at a house.

5:31 a.m. Report of suspicious person on Randall Road. Area search negative.

6:23 a.m. Report of suspicious person on Randall Road. Area search negative.

3:35 p.m. Reading PD requesting check of a Montague address to try to make contact with a female party. RPD has a missing male party who was supposed to have gone on a date with the involved female last night, and he has not been heard from since that time. Officer advises apartment is vacant. Landlord of property will try to get a hold of party’s new landlord and advise them to try to contact her and/or contact the police department.

5:02 p.m. Caller reporting two-vehicle accident at Unity and Prospect Streets. Caller reports chest pain; unknown injuries for second vehicle. Shelburne Control contacted for EMS. Raus’s requested for one vehicle. One operator issued verbal warning for speed.

8:09 p.m. Caller reporting a loud bass coming from a vehicle by the basketball courts at Unity Park. Officer advises there is one vehicle in the parking lot which appears to have someone sleeping in it; will attempt to wake them up. Officer advises female party stated she had an argument with her husband and just needed a rest for a little bit.

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Ainsworth at Large: A Florida Odyssey, Part II

By CHIP AINSWORTH

NORTHFIELD – Most days in Tequesta I kept notes, some as simple as, “A beach day. Dogs, kites, little kids making sand castles and old men playing bocce...” Walked four miles to the Juno Beach pier...

One evening at the Publix plaza I stepped around three men coming out of McCarthy’s Pub and recognized Bill Parcells. The former Giants and Patriots coach lives in Admirals Cove, a “haven for yachtsmen and golfers” where the average market price for a waterfront home is \$8.6 million.

Bobby Orr and Joe Namath both live in Tequesta. Orr’s son Brent owns a dog grooming service called Paws 4 Play in a plaza near Palm Beach Ice Cream, where the scooper said Joe Willie’s favorite flavor is rocky road.

Every day I clung to the solitude and natural beauty of Jonathan Dickinson State Park, read newspapers, and plowed through *American Dirt*, Jeanine Cummins’ best-seller about a middle-class Mexican mother and her eight-year-old son who are on the run from a cartel boss. The book humanizes migrants and changed my opinion of what’s happening on the border.

In Delray Beach, the Murder on the Beach Mystery Bookstore will close next week. “I can’t do in-person author events,” manager Joanne Sinchuk told the *Sun Sentinel*. “People are not coming in, business is down two-thirds.”

In Jupiter, a mayoral candidate and political neophyte named Ilan Kaufer paid a New York ad agency \$40,000 to produce his television ads. The job pays \$22,000 a year, so go figure. Kaufer was soundly beaten by a longtime city council member.

Florida wildlife workers are feeding starving manatees. Pollution has killed the seagrass they need to survive. The massive and gentle mammals can grow to 13 feet and weigh almost two tons. In Titusville, they devoured 3,000 pounds of lettuce in one day.

The South Florida news story that won’t go away is the high-speed passenger train service called Brightline. Service began six years ago, and as of February, its locomotives had killed 111 people from Miami to West Palm Beach.

Some were suicides, but impatience is the primary reason drivers are getting killed and maimed. These bright yellow beasts go 80 mph, and by the time they’ve steered around the crossing gate the train is barreling down on them.

“What your car does to a water bottle, a train does to your car,” said Florida Dept. of Transportation spokesman Brad Thoburn.

Slow-moving gopher tortoises are also in jeopardy. In 2021, the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission issued 400 permits for 4,779 gopher tortoises to be relocated, but developers would rather pay the fines that are as low as \$500. The *Palm Beach Post* reported that Atlanta-based PulteGroup paid \$13,790 in fines for “annihilating” 22 burrows in Marion County.

Iguana hunting has become a popular sport in South Florida. These long green lizards look like monsters from a 1950s horror flick.

During cold snaps they drop out of trees like coconuts.

There’s no bag limit, and BB guns skirt firearm laws. The *Sun Sentinel* showed a Florida man holding a three-foot goner by the tail in one hand, and his air rifle in the other. Iguanas are said to taste better if the meat is boiled for several hours.

One day my smartphone’s internet service crashed. The SIM card needed to be replaced, and I went to a Verizon store on PGA Boulevard and sat next to an elderly couple. Her name was Jane. “I’m Dick,” he said. “Dick and Jane.”

The conversation turned to Vladimir Putin’s invasion of Ukraine, and Senator Lindsey Graham’s suggestion his own people should shoot him. “That’s what I said,” agreed Jane. “Click, bang, but I was told in no uncertain terms at Bible study that is not the answer.”

A Sunny Place for Shady People

The saying has been attributed to Graham Greene, Elmore Leonard, and Somerset Maugham, men of another era, for Florida has long been known to attract shysters. It is the hold-onto-your-wallet state.

One day I drove back to the park to retrieve some stuff I’d left against a fence near a picnic pavilion. No great loss, but worth a return trip for the folding director’s chair and black gym bag with my thermos and rain slicker inside it.

It was gone though, and the only person in sight was a disc jockey setting up for an outdoor wedding.

When I asked if he’d seen anybody take it he said, “Yeah, I did. A guy in a motor home got out and took it.”

“It was a Pulse,” he added.

“A what?”

“The camper. It was a Pulse.” In other words, a Dodge van with a camper attached to it.

It would be easy to identify the chair, forest green with DEERFIELD in white lettering across the back. If it was in the park I’d find it.

I rented a Schwinn cruiser from the small convenience store next to the river and went looking for a Pulse camper. The park has spaces for over 100 campers and RVs and I passed Winnebagos, Coachmen and Airstreams but nary a Pulse.

I was ready to give up when I glanced back at a rundown camper and saw PULSE written over the driver’s cab. Three chairs were lined up against the vehicle’s right side, including the green chair with DEERFIELD on the back.

For all I knew the guy was inside cooking meth, so before Walter or Jesse jumped out shooting I pedaled over to the ranger station. When they heard it was parked in Lot 72 they looked at each other and smiled. “We know who he is,” said a ranger with a red beard and the rising sun tattooed on his inner forearm. “The game warden wants to talk to him. He’s been dumping trash.”

The guy was older and bigger than I’d imagined he’d be, and had eagles and anchors tattooed on his arms.

He walked up and stuck out his hand. “I’m Lou,” he said.

I ignored him, pointed to the camper and said, “I want my chair.”

“I was just holding it for ya,” he said while I tossed it in the back seat.

Where’s a game warden when you need one? Not here and not now, I thought, as the gray/green patrol truck parked next to the camper. Lou stepped toward him but the cop raised his finger and said, “I’m gonna talk to him first.”

This guy was all business. He was round, bald, and had his sunglasses parked on his forehead. After I explained what had happened he said, “If you drove off and left it, it’s not robbery.”

“I know it’s not robbery, but it’s my chair and I came to get it.”

“Do you have the chair now?” he asked.

“Yes.”

“Let me see it,” he said, and I pointed to the back seat.

Officer Obie peered into my car and returned to his patrol truck. While he was away I decided to make peace with Lou and shook his hand.

“Where’s my bag?” I asked.

“Your bag?” he said.

“Yeah. The black bag with my thermos and stuff.”

“The other guy took it,” said Lou. “What other guy?”

“The disc jockey. I took the chair, he wanted the bag.”

The Un-Greening of Gainesville

Gas prices went up more than a dollar during my stay. At a Mobil station near the Martin County line a worker was filling up a half dozen gas cans on the truck’s tailgate.

“Stockpiling?” I asked.

“Lawn service,” he said. “It’s killing me.”

I set out for Gainesville and tried to avoid Orlando, but that’s like trying to get through northwest Georgia without getting sucked into Atlanta.

North of Orlando, developers had uprooted what were once orange groves that in springtime emitted a delightful fragrance. Now it was a giant sprawl of mud and excavators, a transformation into cookie-cutter homes and manmade ponds created solely for realtors to claim they were selling waterfront property.

The dividing line between coasts begins when billboards appear for Tom & Jerry Airboat Rides and legal help from an attorney and former University of Florida football player who bills himself as a “Real Gator Lawyer.”

Gainesville was once a bucolic college town with lush greenery and plenty of open space, but now it’s a burgeoning grid of traffic lights and strip malls. Whatever’s left of the blooming bougainvillea, cow pastures, and trees draped in Spanish moss are doomed to be bulldozed into oblivion.

My friends Crosby and Deborah Hunt live far enough west not to be bothered by the creeping development. They put me up in their “Baseball Room” where for two nights I slept amongst bookcases filled with baseball tomes written by Roger Angell, Robert Creamer, Roger Kahn, and other scholarly authors.

The Long Ride Home

Crosby and I watched Florida beat Seton Hall, 16-4, in the Gators’ new \$30 million ballpark, and the next morning I left for home.

Along the way I stopped at a citrus stand a few miles south of Geor-



Top: Bocce at Jupiter Beach.

Above left: *Sweet Lou* said he took the author’s chair because he saw him drive off. When it was spotted against his camper he explained, “I was just holding it for ya!”

Above right: A Brightline locomotive waiting in Jonathan Dickinson State Park. The high-speed passenger trains have become notorious for slamming into cars at crossings.

Below: The Florida Ballpark, the home of the University of Florida baseball team, cost \$35 million to build, seats 4,700, and holds up to 2,300 on the berm.

gia and bought oranges and grapefruit to bring home, and in Virginia I bought peanuts and peanut brittle at the Good Earth Peanut Company a few miles off of Exit 4.

On long drives a sort of sensory deprivation kicks in, but not like the days when country music and religion were the only radio options and there wasn’t a Dunkin Donuts from Richmond to Jacksonville. Now we have the internet and satellite radio, EZ Pass eliminates the backups at toll booths, and GPS navigates us around traffic jams.

At the Country Inn in Wilson, North Carolina, I lugged nine quarter-bushels of oranges and grapefruit

up three flights of stairs. “You don’t want orange popsicles when you get home,” the store clerk warned me.

The next day I saw the Washington Monument, Pentagon, and Capitol Dome from the interstate, and got a good look at Yankee Stadium after I took the wrong exit.

The final hundred miles on I-84 through Waterbury into Hartford onto I-91 were exhausting. I got home at 7 p.m. and it took two hours to unpack. The trip lasted 20 days and had put 4,100 miles on the odometer. I was grateful that the Subaru Legacy had completed it without trouble, and patted the hood like I was patting a horse.

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The Montague City Rambler: Spring and Government

By LILITH WOLINSKY

MONTAGUE CITY – Early April. Not quite through with COVID, although there are pretend-ers. I have traveled to Colorado five times in the last ten months, and am weary with even the thought of another plane ride, another week on a sofa, and the backlog of work from my departure awaiting my return. Still, my mother’s safety and happiness matters more to me than almost anything, and fly again I will, as heart or limb requires.

With the warmer weather and peeping buds, longer days, and the change in light from gray to yellow, ideas and energy, too, are rising. Many are still thinking about health and illness, and working to incorporate the multiple changes, inner and out, brought about by the pandemic. Relief efforts have shifted away from the individual – stimulus funds, eviction moratoriums, and extended unemployment – to the distribution of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) monies via local government, and needs big and small are being considered for an influx of cash.

Thinking about government in the United States has been disturbing over the last few years. Voting is central to our democracy, and yet laws making voting difficult have been enacted across the land in the name of preserving it. On the local level, voting has not been under attack, but other difficulties with representative government have shown themselves vis-à-vis governance meetings where members of the public are allotted time to express their ideas and concerns, which leaders then feel free to ignore, plowing ahead as though their constituents have not spoken at all.

Certainly, not every idea can be implemented or perhaps even seriously entertained, but the imperiousness with which deliberation is on occasion withheld – leaders hewing to their own desires – brings to mind scepters and crowns. Too, these snubs are not universally distributed, but most often reserved for the younger, female members of the crowd, and withheld when elder males with stentorian voices are comfortably expounding.

Given this dynamic, it is easy to surmise why participation in local government can be hard to attain. Watching local leaders interrupt,

disregard, or silence members of the community stirs fear even in bystanders watching or listening from afar. At the same time, it is true that this community is ours and our ideas, energies, and commitments are vital to ensuring that it continues in health. More vital still, if we wish for our towns to reflect our own values – be it advocating for housing for those most in need, abundant art in public places, libraries as a cornerstone of civic engagement, and/or the preservation of structures and landscapes which anchor and support us as we navigate life’s travails.

As a citizen committed to participation, I still often dread getting up and speaking in front of others. I too, have been interrupted, ignored, subtly and not-so-subtly mocked, and have left public meetings feeling uncertain and at times ashamed of my ideas, or my fervor, as if caring deeply about what happens to my village, town, or world is a character defect, a blemish to keep hidden away.

At the same time, I have had my ideas taken up by others with nary so much as a word given in credit, and been mansplained to more times than I can count on all digits, the “everyday sexism” as Laura Bates names it, so interwoven into daily life as to be almost invisible, although women and girls everywhere feel the effects rather profoundly.

I do not subject myself to these slights because I like it. I subject myself to these slights, the cumulation of which is wearing at least, and almost too much to bear on other occasions, because I have seen that my voice can, in fact, make a difference, particularly when joined by others, but even when a single call.

I encourage my town-mates to do whatever is possible within the complexity of their own lives to assist our town in becoming more inclusive.

It is the availability of ARPA funds, whether applicable or not, that got me thinking that if women are disproportionately unable to participate in governance because of the demands of child/eldercare and the duties of home, lower wages, higher incidences of poverty, et al., perhaps a program which addresses this disparity head-on by cultivating and compensating female leaders could be enacted to pierce the masculine perspective which now dominates our town.

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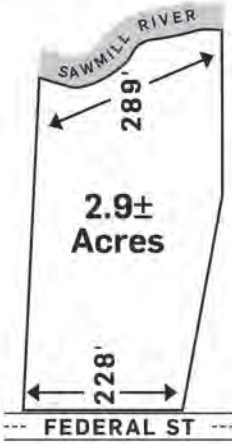


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HEARTFELT from page B1

Chef Kirsten has been the full-time executive director at Stone Soup Café since 2019, and it has flourished under her tireless leadership. Although still working out of the Unitarian Church basement, Levitt’s dream for years has been to buy a building and outfit it with a full kitchen, including a teaching kitchen, dining rooms, and space for community events.

“I have spread that dream around like peanut butter on a good piece of toast,” says Levitt, and while she still doesn’t have the funds to buy her building, she does now have the means to follow another dream. Thanks to being awarded a Massachusetts Community Empowerment and Reinvestment Grant through the Baker-Polito administration, she will realize her dream of opening the Stone Soup Culinary Institute, with a pilot program beginning this May.

The grant’s aim is to help build economic opportunities in areas where widespread poverty and high rates of incarceration in underrepresented populations are the reality. For the Stone Soup Culinary Institute, it means fully funding the first cohort of six to eight people for a 12-week training, the first and only of its kind within 35 miles of Greenfield.

Stone Soup Café continues to serve 450 to 500 meals each and every Saturday, including throughout the COVID pandemic, without missing a beat. Patrons who order

meals may also shop at the Really Free Store, an emergency food pantry offering canned and dry goods, dairy, produce, and personal care items.

There are many random acts of kindness happening at Stone Soup Café. Spontaneous giveaways and generous gestures are not unfamiliar. Drive by on any Saturday and witness the thought-provoking signs and pop-up art posted outside for patrons to engage in, and stop in to witness the kind words and welcoming acceptance of every community member who shows up.

Just this past Saturday I perpetrated a random act of kindness myself by giving away 25 pairs of warm, well-made, and cushioned Darn Tough Socks from Vermont. I was funded by another non-profit called *randomacts.org* and I knew that the Café was the perfect venue for this subversive act of radical kindness. But I digress...

With referrals from the Recovery Project, the Opioid Task Force, and the Franklin County Sheriff’s Kimball House and Re-Entry Program, the first training cohort of the Institute will attend in-person classes for four days a week with a fifth day of practicum experience, interning either at the Café or a partner restaurant in the area.

Participants will learn the fundamentals of cooking, including knife techniques and culinary math and measurements. They will receive



The author gives away socks at Café.

professional coaching, development, and resume building, as well as earning a food handler’s license, ServSafe certification, job skills, industry connections, and references for securing jobs in the hard-hit food industry.

Stone Soup board president Whitney Robbins says she is excited to formalize “the job training, the culture building, and the world changing that we’ve been doing informally for years.” Many volunteers over the years have learned invaluable kitchen skills while working at the Café, and now this formal training program will provide candidates for job openings with certified skills that are ready to go.

Anyone who is interested in the program is asked to agree to certain terms to participate. These include maintaining a professional attitude, having a willingness to learn, honoring the commitment to show up, and having an interest in a new career in the culinary arts. If you are interested in learning more about the program or would like to apply, email admin@thestonesoupcafe.org for more information.

Trouble lives in Greenfield with Wifey and Mama Catt Elliott and manages the office part-time for a nearby farm. She loves to talk, read, write, garden/farm, cook, and make art.



MANDESON PHOTOS

Lanlan: delicate butterfish and pork wrapped in green leaves, served over a poké bowl, on Trouble’s Hawaiian holiday.


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VALLEY VIEW from page B1

Furthermore, Gramly couldn't comprehend the narrow-minded view that absence of stone artifacts precluded human involvement. Did not ancient man also create bone, antler, and ivory tools, which appear in the archaeological record, and wooden tools that do not? To Gramly, the mired-in-the-mud verdict bordered on preposterous. Old World hunters killed proboscideans with primitive tools for ages – why not ancient North American hunters?

Reopening Cabinets

During the Bowser Road dig, Gramly's curiosity was stirred by clustered broken rib bones, to which he at first paid little attention. Bones lying in a marsh for 13,000 years do, after all, decompose and break over time.

But then it occurred to him that there seemed to be too many, and that they were *all* broken. Upon closer inspection, he could see evidence that the rib bones had been worked, indicating to him that they were artifacts crafted by human hands. He put on his thinking cap and came up with a theory related to hunter-gatherers paying ceremonial homage to their fallen prey.

Gramly was soon convinced that what he was dealing with were spear-throwers (*atlatls*), fashioned by Clovis hunters and ritually broken into many pieces during the butchering process. Old weapons had been sacrificed in respect to the fallen beast whose fresh ribs could be fashioned into replacements.

Then Gramly started finding evidence of larger bones that had been used for tool handles and shafts, and who knew what else? He was convinced that these bone artifacts explained the absence of stone tools in mastodon bone fields: Clovis hunters were using other suitable materials from which to craft important tools, weapons, and other useful objects.

To support his argument, Gramly knew he must examine existing evidence in mastodon collections long ago recovered and curated in North American museums. He knew of more than 20 repositories, and suspected he'd discover other previously unidentified rib-bone *atlatl* relics.

His first stop was the Museum of Science in Buffalo, New York, which housed an extensive mastodon collection from the iconic Hiscock Site along the shores of Lake Ontario in upstate New York. Having been a curator there in the 1980s, he knew both the collection and the site, where he had hands-on experience digging a drained pond basin.

It didn't take long for Gramly to strike gold in Buffalo, where he spent nearly a month examining a vast collection that existed out of sight, out of mind in protective metal Lane cabinets. He was not surprised to find identical broken rib-bone *atlatls*, not to mention other interesting discoveries, including antler Y-sticks with effigy carvings, bone tools and objects, tooth ornaments and even a tooth tool, along with tusk ivory and, yes, human remains of two individuals that have to this day not been radiocarbon-dated.

Also in the mix, all within spitting distance of human remains, were the skeletal remains of a dog. Could it have been the grave of a Clovis hunter – maybe even a shaman, killed on the hunt?

Gramly first thought the Y-sticks were the remains of a shaman's headdress. Now he's leaning more toward the top and bottom ends of a ceremonial staff. Yes, perhaps that of a shaman, but not necessarily so, and very difficult to decipher.

Another key discovery involved the ivory components of the Hiscock collection: some large, some medium, some small; some intact, others fragmentary. Gramly had handled several examples in the same couple of drawers, indicating to him that they had been collected from the same adjacent features. Then, on top of the cabinet, he discovered the largest example of them all, an ivory tusk too long to fit in a drawer.

The long object immediately captured his attention. He could see it had been worked, somehow cut in half lengthwise, a challenging task indeed with primitive Clovis cutting tools.

Although another researcher had already loosely identified the object as some sort of digging tool, the more Gramly studied it, the more it screamed "sled runner" to him.

Could he be dealing with a previously undetected Clovis sled burial, complete with a sacrificed sled dog to transport the corpse's soul on a complicated journey through the Underworld to the Milky Way?

If so, it would be the world's earliest sled burial on record. Not even in the Old World has such a burial dating back to Paleoindians been uncovered.

Around the World

The story gets better. This past autumn a friend of Gramly's from Kentucky was visiting the Blue Licks Battlefield Museum only to find a mastodon tusk collected from the Ohio River-side site in 1897. Upon closer inspection he could see that, like the Hiscock specimen he had seen in photos, it had been cut in half lengthwise to create a flat surface – very likely another ivory sled runner associated with a Clovis burial.

Tragic human mortality at the site of perilous Clovis mastodon kills would not have been rare, given the extreme difficulty of bringing down such a large, powerful beast with primitive weapons.

Gramly traveled to the Kentucky museum and confirmed that, indeed, the Blue Licks specimen is another ivory sled runner crafted from mastodon tusk. Now that researchers know what to look for, future sled runners will almost certainly be found, perhaps even by Gramly reviewing existing repositories of curated mastodon remains.

Plus, there's another important hat in the ring. Gramly long ago pulled in respected world-religion guru James B. Harrod, who jumped into the project when Gramly was examining the Hiscock collection. The more eyes the better for such an undertaking, and thus far the venerable Harrod has identified portable stone rock art while making other valuable observations about materials gathered at the New York site.

Also, Harrod has already documented seven Old World sled burials from Siberia and East Asia and three others from the New World, all from the current Holocene epoch. The North American examples come from Inuit and Algonquian indigenous cultures in New-



Figure 14 of Gramly's forthcoming article in L'Anthropologie shows a tusk, with vestiges of red ochre, from the Lower Blue Lick site, shorter than the long one found at Hiscock, but which he believes was also a sled runner.

foundland and Labrador as well as the upper Great Lakes.

Ancient customs and spiritual practices die hard. If people were burying hunters with their sleds and working dogs 5,000 to 8,000 years ago, isn't there good reason to believe that the mortuary practice may have been carried down from a much earlier day? Anthropologists tend to agree that a worldwide population of the world's earliest hunter-gatherers shared a remarkably similar cosmos, one that differed little from that of rare, indigenous jungle cultures surviving today in the threatened Amazonian rain forest and elsewhere.

Gramly put the world on notice about his exciting new paradigm last year by publishing *Late Pleistocene proboscidean ivory artifacts*

from the Hiscock Site, N.Y., in the prestigious French journal *L'Anthropologie*.

Wait until his new book expanding upon the topic hits the street in the coming months. Gramly and Harrod are collaborating on a work about North American human interaction with proboscideans that promises to rock to anthropological world. As the climate warms and the Arctic permafrost melts, the book will open the gates for exciting new discoveries.

This baby belongs to none other than Dr. Richard Michael Gramly – a confident archaeologist and self-styled iconoclast who never has, and never will, fear swimming against the current. A strong swimmer, the man welcomes the challenge.



Montague Community Television News

Meetings Outnumbered

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – This week, the concerts outnumber the meetings!

Check the MCTV Vimeo page or Channel 17 for a new film by Atticus Belmonte. Atticus has produced a compilation of scenes from Patch Production's immersive production of *The Phantom of the Opera*, which was performed at the Shea Theater. This version of the classic opera is set in the early 1960s and uses music from the period.

We also have two new videos up from the "Mud Season" festival at the Shea. You can find recordings of BigFut as well as the Dave Bulley Band on our page. And don't miss "A Garden Song," music and lyrics from Carlos W. Anderson and Johnny Earl, who dedicated their video to peace in Ukraine.

As for meetings, we have up-to-date Gill selectboard, Montague selectboard, and Montague finance committee meetings.

All videos are available on our Vimeo page, which can be found linked to montaguetv.org under the tab "Videos." All community members are welcome to submit their videos to be aired on Channel 17, as well as featured on 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.

MCTV is still looking for board members, so if you would like to stop in for a meeting, even just to check the vibe, email infomontaguetv@gmail.com for a link to the Zoom! The next meeting is coming up on April 21.

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.

EXHIBITS

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Watershed Moments*. Paintings by Joanne Belair of scenes along the Connecticut River. Through April.

Artspace, Greenfield: *Franklin County Annual Teen Art Show*. Through April.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Desi Lowit*, drawings and paintings. Through April.

Hawks & Reed Ballroom, Greenfield: *Submerged*, an oceanic art odyssey by mother and son artists Nina Rossi and Jon Bander. Mixed media, soft sculpture, paintings, welded metal sculpture, and ceramic works. April 15 through June 15.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *In the Moment*, pastel paintings by Ruth Rinar. Also, *Imaginary Worlds* by Elsie Sturtevant, pastel images, April 1 to 26. Reception for both shows on Sunday, April 10, 3 p.m.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield: *From Fields to Table II*, an

exhibit celebrating farms, farmers, and the food they produce. Through April 24.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Redemption*, dagueerotypes of enslaved people re-imagined in enamel and compassion by Jennifer Davis Carey. Through May 2.

Shelburne Arts Coop Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Longing for Green*, artisan members' work focusing on a theme of the unfurling renewal of the season. Through April.

Local Art Gallery, Mill District, Amherst: *Diane Nevinsmith*, selected watercolors. Through June.

Greenfield Savings Bank, Amherst: *History in the Making*, hooked rugs and wall hangings. Chris Pellerin learned to hook rugs using a traditional method thought to have originated in the Canadian Maritime Provinces, where her French Acadian ancestors were from. The rugs range in style from floral to landscape, abstract to realistic, Art Nou-

veau inspired to original designs. Through May.

Augusta Savage Gallery, UMass Amherst: *Kabu MBII is NOLDA*. Large-scale paintings created as a response to social, political, and world events. Through April 27.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Diane Steingart: Twenty-Three Pieces*, paintings and mixed media. Through April 30.

Anchor House of Artists, Northampton: *Collage: Departures and Adaptations*, work by Louise Laplante and Nan Fleming; *Drawing with Light*: photographs by Bill Arnold; *World War Four*, paintings by Charles Miller; *Color Skip*: paintings by Peter Mishkin. Through April. Reception for all this Friday, April 8, at 6 p.m.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro: Work by M. Carmen Lane, Roberto Visani, Yvette Molina, Mildred Beltré Martinez, Sachiko Akiyama, Louisa Chase, and Anne Spalter. Information at www.brattleboromuseum.org.

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Interview by TROY CURRY
and J. BURKETT

TURNERS FALLS — Federico Balducci is a guitarist from the Springfield, Mass. area. Federico’s works can’t be easily summed up: he is definitely exploring his own path in music, and one can hear so many eclectic, almost sentimental sounds in it. This is music that offers a step inside an intimate and unique dream-world — you could mention other artists like Brian Eno, Luke Ferrari, INA GRM, or even Jaco Pastorius, but he is on his own orbit for sure.

Check him out ASAP! He plays in the Valley at times, at places like Epsilon Spires in Brattleboro or Mystery Train in Amherst, and many of his recordings are on his Bandcamp page.

MMM: Hi Federico! So, you have some new releases out. Do you want to talk about them?

FB: Yes — thanks for the opportunity. Last year I released a live album with a free jazz trio, with Brian Kastan on bass and Mike Pride on drums. It was supposed to be a one-off thing, but we developed such good chemistry that we are plan-

ning to go into the studio later this month to record a full-length album.

Also this year, I released an album inspired by the book written by Selma Fraiberg (*The Magic Years*). Fascinating stuff related to early childhood and explaining how the mind of a child works. The book has a chapter that explores the concept of fables, which inspired the title of my album.

In addition to that album, I have a few more releases pending. I believe that the silver lining of this situation (the pandemic) is that I have been able to compose and record a lot of material that I will slowly release this year.

MMM: Do you have any early music memories to share?

FB: I have a few music memories that have a special place in my heart. The first one has to do with the first time I heard — and saw — a performance of the opera *L’elisir d’amore* by Gaetano Donizetti. I believe I was seven at the time, and I was mesmerized by it. It just created such a lasting impression on me.

Another one is related to how I felt after hearing the album *Undercurrent* by Bill Evans and Jim Hall for the first time. I wasn’t even playing

guitar at the time, but it created this whole new perspective of how much “magic” can two musicians create.

In addition to that, I have a lot of memories from seeing my favorite artists live: Bill Frisell, Vic Juris, Jim Hall, Allan Holdsworth, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Pat Martino. The exciting part of those memories is that I got to see their “human side” after their performances. That created a lasting impression on me.

MMM: How did you arrive at your way of playing? Do you only play guitar?

FB: My journey into the guitar was interesting, because I started playing trombone in a school band. I would say that I was OK, I was not very passionate, but I was able to do my part. During one of the rehearsals, the band leader asked me if I wanted to switch to bass, so I gave it a go. So from bass, the progression to the guitar seemed like the natural thing to do. I already worked out the technique part, so I just needed to adapt all that to the new instrument.

I must say that making that switch changed my life; it gave me a sense of “identity” and “belonging” that I didn’t get from playing the trombone.

As part of my training in composition, I had to learn a few other instruments — piano and a bunch of other string instruments.

MMM: Are you influenced by other musicians, albums, authors?

FB: I am. Due to the nature of my composition process, I tend to seek inspiration in various ways. My creative process starts with defining a concept. I start with a concept because I need to develop a structure that will guide the process from start to finish. There is always something new to learn. Once I identify a topic that I’m interested in exploring, I try to find a way to adapt it to music.

Most of my works are inspired by different aspects, be it poetry, literature, sculptures, theater, cinema, etc. Relating the work to a concept helps me remember how beautiful or complicated the whole process was.

I guess I’ll answer that question by narrowing each down to a top ten:

Artists, top ten: Pierre Boulez; Bill Frisell; Astor Piazzolla; Erik Satie; Kaija Saariaho; Toru Takemitsu; Gérard Grisey; Tristan Murail; Phill Niblock; Olivier Messiaen.

Albums, top ten: *Undercurrent* by Bill Evans and Jim Hall; *Euphoria Morning* by Chris Cornell; *Crack the Sky* by Mastodon; *What’s It All About* by Pat Metheny; *The Power to Believe* by King Crimson; *Splendor and Misery* by clipping.; *Diorama* by Silverchair; *Touch Three* by Phill Niblock; *Ahí Vamos* by Gustavo Cerati; and *With Dave Holland and Elvin Jones* by Bill Frisell.

Authors, top ten: Adam Phillips; Alex Garland; Federico Garcia Lorca; Gabor Mate; Isaac Asimov; Sebastian Dubinsky; Maurice Merleau-Ponty; Aldous Huxley; Alan Watts; Fyodor Dostoevsky.

MMM: What do you like most about western Mass?

FB: The convenience of getting to other places, like for example Boston, Connecticut, New York, or even Canada.

Plus, the richness of scenes in the area. Western Mass has a great mix of indie, experimental, and jazz that you don’t get from anywhere else, with the exception of New York. This is great, both when planning tours and seeing live acts.

MMM: Any stories about playing shows, recording, touring?

FB: I have a fair share of fantastic and horror stories, so I’ll give you one for every category.

Shows, amazing story: Seeing Bajofondo in a small venue in Bos-

ton. Such an amazing and intimate experience.

Shows, horror story: Seeing shows at the Mohegan Sun — worst experience ever. I remember seeing Godspeed You! Black Emperor when they were on tour with NIN. It’s sad because I really love that band, but that venue ruined the experience completely.

Recording, amazing story: During the recording of an album with the West Trio (*Gentle Aggression*), we decided to invite a noise artist, Nico Tracy, to record an album similar to Naked City’s first album. It was such a perfect moment where everything lined up. The interesting part is that it was the first time we played with the noise artist, so what could have been a disaster worked out beautifully.

Recording, horror story: I went into the studio to record an album with a rock band that is no longer active. Once we started the session, the singer decided that he wanted to “experiment” and do things differently. Long story short, we end up losing a lot of money from those sessions.

Touring, amazing story: I remember the second show I played in Canada, in Montreal. Such a beautiful vibe. I did a duo with a trombone player, and it was one of those gigs where everything is perfect: the sound, the vibe, the audience response.

Touring, horror story: I was playing a set at a venue in Albany, and it was the worst experience of my life. It was a bar, and they had football on some of the TVs, so the audience wasn’t into my playing; the sound guy kept playing music over my set. It was a total disaster.

MMM: Any new releases, or live shows, in the works?

FB: Yes, a lot more music is coming up during this year. I try to release a new album or two every month. As far as live shows, I have a few gigs in April.

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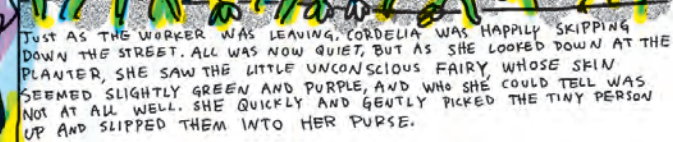
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



THURSDAY, APRIL 7

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Andréa Schiavelli & Frances Chang, El-lie McAfee Hahn*. \$. 8 p.m.
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Guerilla Toss, Zebu!* \$. 8:30 p.m.
Calvin Theater, Northampton: *The Magnetic Fields*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

Palladium, Worcester: *Rise Against, Pennywise*. \$. 7 p.m.
Bombyx Center, Florence: *Les Filles de Illighadad, Alash Ensemble, and Garth Stevenson*. \$. 7 p.m.
10 Forward, Greenfield: *Colby Nathan, Mesmers, Sandy Bailey, Mibble*. \$. 8 p.m.
Stone Church, Brattleboro: *The Suitcase Junket, Philip B. Price*. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Rosie Porter*. 4 p.m.
10 Forward, Greenfield: Fund-raiser for Touch the Sky feat. *prune, Cat's Cradle, Lucie R, Heartballoon, angelfish*. \$. 7 p.m.
Bombyx Center, Florence: *Lido Pimienta, Combo Chimbata*. \$. 8 p.m.
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Start Making Sense*, Talking Heads tribute. \$. 8 p.m.
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Bitch, Zoe Lemos*. \$. 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Sam Fermin, Brooke Annibale*. \$. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Keystone Revisited*, feat. *Tony Saunders, Zach Nugent*, etc. \$. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Kali Malone, Stephen O'Malley*. \$. 7 p.m.
10 Forward, Greenfield: *Glenn Jones, Willie Lane/Wednesday Knudsen Duo*. \$. 8 p.m.
Academy of Music, Northampton: *Cowboy Junkies*. \$. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Glenn Jones, Vic Rawlings*. \$. 8 p.m.
Bombyx Center, Florence: *Club d'Elf* featuring *John Medeski*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Giraffes? Giraffes!* \$. 8 p.m.
10 Forward, Greenfield: *Spirit Sprinkler*, new age night feat. *Aqua Vida*. \$. 8 p.m.
Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Thus Love, Guy Ferrari, Roost*. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

Mount Toby Friends Meeting-

house, Leverett: *Jesse Palidovsky, Ben Tousley*. \$. 7:30 p.m.
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Mad Professor and Friends*. \$. 8:30 p.m.
Parlor Room, Northampton: *Cloudbelly*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Godspeed You Black Emperor*. \$. 8 p.m.
Nova Arts, Keene: *Giraffes? Giraffes!, Ava Mendoza*. \$. 7 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 18

Nova Arts, Keene: *Come, J. Mascis*. \$. 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

Colonial Theater, Keene: *Melissa Etheridge*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Dead Collective, Grateful Dead* tribute. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Echoes of Floyd*, Pink Floyd tribute. \$. 8 p.m.
Bombyx Center, Florence: *Juana Molina*. \$. 8 p.m.
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Onyx*. \$. 6:30 p.m.
Academy of Music, Northampton: *Aimee Mann*. \$. 8 p.m.
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Private Island*, ambient multimedia performance art, gin. 10 p.m.

SAT-SUN, APRIL 23-24

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Mas Grass* festival feat. *Leon Trout, Mila Baby, 3 The Hard Way, Rhythm Incorporated, Tuff Riddim*, and many more \$. See kotvibes.com for lineup and info.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The New American Banjo Festival* feat. *Michael Nix, Aaron Jonah Lewis*. \$. 7 p.m.
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Harvest & Rust*, Neil Young tribute. \$. 7 p.m.

Latchis Theater, Brattleboro: *Don MacLean*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Janis Ian*. \$. 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

Academy of Music, Northampton: *The Zombies*. \$. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

The Drake, Amherst: *Regina Carter*. \$. 7 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Hot Tuna Acoustic*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

The Drake, Amherst: *Gili Yalo & the Anbessa Orchestra*. \$. 7 p.m.
Latchis Theater, Brattleboro: *Livingston Taylor*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

Majestic Saloon, Northampton:

The Third, Cloudbelly, Father Hotepe. \$. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Professor Louie and the Crowmatix*. The Band tribute. \$. 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Loudon Wainwright III*. \$. 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Bella's Bartok, DiTrani Bros, Moon Hollow*. \$. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 1

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Quiet Houses, Sedagive, V as in Victor*. \$. 6:30 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Nova One, Home Body*. \$. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 5

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Suzzy Roche, Lucy Wainwright Roche*. \$. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 6

The Drake, Amherst: *Vapors of Morphine*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Whalom Park, No Lens*. \$. 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 7

Space Ballroom, Hamden, CT: *Deerhoof, Editrix*. \$. 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Nickodemus, Gabrielle Poso Duo, DJ Bongohead*. \$. 8 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 9

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Eye-hategod, Come to Grief, Escuela Grind*. \$. 8 p.m.

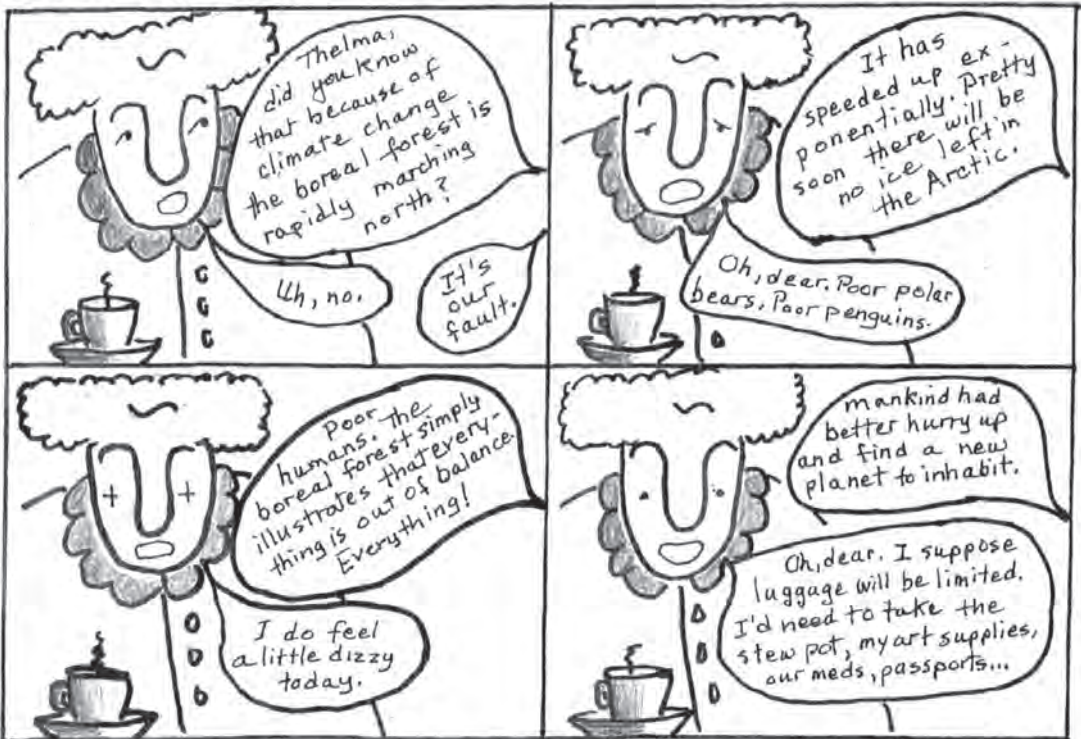


Three Degrees of Warming
By Janice Rowan



OVER THE HILL

Carolyn Clark



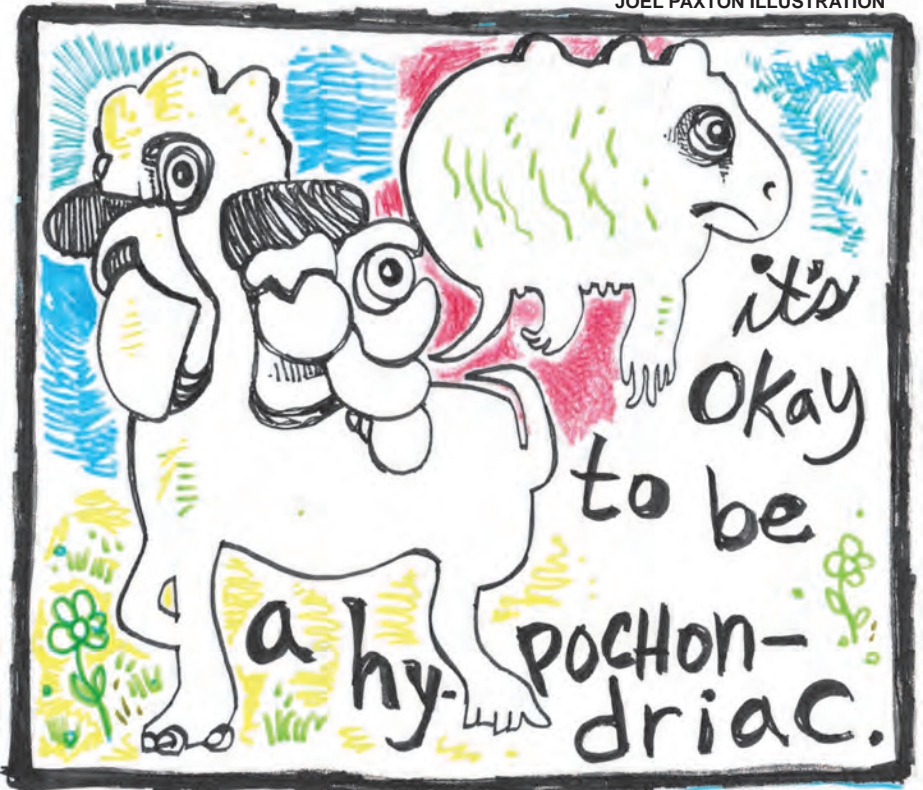
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