

# The Montague Reporter

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST 11, 2022

## THE BIG PICTURE

### ‘It’s Continued to Feel Like Making Music Is The Way’



Singer-songwriter Will Oldham, a.k.a. Bonnie Prince Billy, in Keene in 2018. A small New England tour brings him to the Shea Theater next Monday.

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – Will Oldham’s music, much of it published under the moniker Bonnie Prince Billy, might not be for everyone, but it is near dead center of the American indie-rock canon, and his fans are many and fawning. Critics and music journalists gravitate toward him, as journalists do any royalty, their desire only inflamed by his efforts to dodge the limelight and focus on his work.

Oldham tagged along with an older brother in the Louisville, Kentucky underground scene, photographed bands that would become legendary long after they broke up, played a teen preacher in a John Sayles movie about class struggle in the coalfields, dropped out of college to form a band of his own.

Palace put out raw, dirgey and muttering music that evoked an alternate-timeline American folk past, and repeat listeners often felt his songs, weird and frail and starkly honest, stood up with some of the best songs there are. They ended up on the notoriously messy 1994 Lollapalooza tour, sharing a side stage with bands like the Flaming Lips and the Pharcyde, and found a longterm home on the Midwest indie label Drag City.

Reborn near the turn of the millennium as the bearded and austere Bonnie Prince Billy, Oldham’s fame-shirking luck ran dry when Johnny Cash recorded his song “I See a Darkness,” and even brought him in to sing background. He seems to have made the most of the situation since then, gathering up his own favorite collaborators and putting out an endless stream of often little-heralded releases.

Oldham is now 52, lives back home in Louisville and is a family man. He is no longer rude to reporters, possibly because the music industry is too broken for them to pose a threat. And next Monday, his avoidance of the high road of fame and fortune bring him all the way to the Shea Theater in Turners Falls.

The show is part of a low-key, six-night tour with Footings, a band whose founder Eric Gagne first brought Oldham up to play the annual Thing in the Spring festival in Peterborough, New Hampshire. The Rendezvous crew was responsible for making the Shea booking. No one involved exactly needed promotion, a relief for this reporter, but “Oldham is doing interviews” was too interesting to pass up.

Bonnie Prince Billy was an uncannily normal guy on the phone, see **BIG PICTURE** page A6

## WENDELL SELECTBOARD

### Feds Ask Town To Return Aid Funding Spent On Hazard Pay

By JOSH HEINEMANN

At their August 3 meeting, the Wendell selectboard learned from town coordinator Glenn Johnson-Mussad that the town is being told to return federal CARES Act money – not just the amount that has not been spent, but money Wendell spent following guidelines as they were understood at the time, namely to combat the spread of COVID-19.

The town used the relief funds to give a pay increase to town workers whose jobs entail exposure to the public, including first responders, the road crew, and WRATS workers. The federal guidelines for hazardous-duty pay were refined to allow only responders going into a situation where COVID infection was known to be present.

Wendell is being told to return the money used to cover the hazard pay, a total of \$13,905.

Finance committee chair Doug Tanner objected, saying the rules were tightened after the money was delivered and spent. He said he thought there could be a small-town exemption, and that since no deadline was given for the payback, the town should object.

Treasurer Carolyn Manley said the town made the payments in good faith, following the rules as they were understood.

Selectboard chair Laurie DiDonato said that if Tanner and Manley see **WENDELL** page A8

## MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

### Residents Speak Up About A Downtown Crime ‘Uptick’

By JEFF SINGLETON

A large contingent of downtown Turners Falls residents attended Monday’s meeting of the Montague selectboard to complain of a significant “uptick in vandalism” and other crimes in the neighborhood.

One Third Street resident, Kelley Jewell, described “young children running into our building and dumping laundry detergent on things,” stealing items off porches, and a “dog kidnapping.”

Oliver Miller, who also lives on Third Street and is a landlord with “about 30 units” downtown,

said an intruder had attempted to enter his building at night, a tenant had been “verbally assaulted,” and “disturbing racist remarks” were written on his building. He said many downtown residents have been discussing concerns about “harassment, vandalism, drug dealing, and slashed tires.”

A property owner on Avenue A, Edite Cunha, said she had lived in Turners for over 15 years and “never had the kind of experience I have had this summer.” In addition to items being stolen from her garden and car, Cunha said, there has been see **MONTAGUE** page A9



Persistent vandalism is only the most visible aspect of what Montague police confirm has been a significant increase in illegal incidents in the village in recent months.

### Fish Farm Receives Notice Of Wastewater Violation

By SARAH ROBERTSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – Great Falls Aquaculture, LLC received a violation notice from the town of Montague for discharging too much solid matter – largely fish poop, algae, bacteria, and other biological materials – in the wastewater it sends to the town’s treatment plant.

A public notice of “significant noncompliance” was posted to the

town website on August 2. It explained that over an eight-month period, from October 2021 to May 2022, the company had exceeded the level of “total suspended solids” permitted in the treated waste it sent to the Montague Clean Water Facility (CWF).

“We really don’t have a good reason for why it was particularly high during that time,” Spencer Gowan, general manager of Great see **FISH** page A5

## GILL SELECTBOARD

### Dump Truck Expected Soon; Concerns Over Speeders

By JERRI HIGGINS

Highway department surplus equipment, early voting action plans, and concerns about fast traffic topped Gill’s selectboard agenda last Monday, August 1.

Highway boss John Miner was unanimously approved to declare a 14-foot Tarco sander and a 2009 Sterling dump truck as surplus equipment, and have them auctioned off along with three stone boxes previously declared as surplus.

The department’s 2022 International dump truck, which had been ordered from Allegiance Trucks in West Springfield in July 2021, had an original expected delivery of December 2021, but it was delayed due to supply chain issues. Miner

said the truck is now being “upfitted” at Bart Truck Equipment, LLC in Springfield, and that he hopes to have it “sometime this month.”

Miner told the selectboard he was under a time constraint to either trade in the 2009 Sterling at Bart Truck Equipment for \$6,000, or have it put up for bid for \$6,500 through Auctions International, Inc., based in East Aurora, New York.

“If we do not get \$6,500,” said Miner, “then we just trade the truck in. It will cost us \$30 to post the vehicle, and \$5 for each item [that is not a vehicle].”

The Tarco sander had been purchased for \$9,000 as an emergency measure once it was clear that the International dump truck would not

see **GILL** page A8

## MONTAGUE CENTER

Montague’s selectboard held an extra meeting on August 3 – a Wednesday – devoted almost entirely to a public hearing to respond to complaints that a dog owned by a Meadow Road resident had bitten and threatened neighbors.

Dog hearings, as they are called, are heavily regulated by state statute (Chapter 140), so the town’s attorney, Greg Corbo of the firm KP Law, virtually ran the meeting. A variety of local officials were also present, including animal control officer Calin Giurgiu, animal inspector Kathy Burek, town clerk Deb Bourbeau, and police chief Chris Williams.

Corbo explained that the goal of the hearing was to decide whether the pet in question is a dangerous or nuisance dog, as defined by state law, and if so determine what “remedies” should be imposed by the selectboard on its owner. This was selectboard member Matt Lord’s

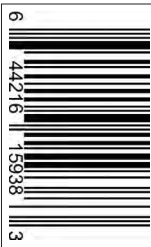
see **DOG** page A10

## A NEW EMPTINESS



“Seven ash trees were lost to the emerald ash borer infestation,” a tree committee sign on a surviving tree explains of the new empty space in Peskeumskut Park. “The Town of Montague hopes to save the remaining public ash trees on Avenue A and elsewhere with the use of trunk-injected, short cycle pesticides.”

**SUMMER SCHEDULE**  
**VOL. 20 #37: AUGUST 25**  
**VOL. 20 #38: SEPTEMBER 8**  
**THEN BACK TO WEEKLY!**



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# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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August 2002

## Boosting Diemands

Recent dialogue on the Wendell listserv deserves to be heard by our broader region. We hope it's OK to repost these messages, and have removed names! – Eds.

Hi, neighbors. No surprise, given the road closing at the bottom of Mormon Hollow Road. I've heard that business at the Diemand Farm Store is down 65%. The expect that road will be closed until early November, so the loss they are facing is near catastrophic. Folks, this valuable, cherished small business needs your support. If there is something you would ordinarily purchase from the store on your way from here to there but with the closing are obviously not going by anymore, could/would you consider going out of your way now and then and buy something there?

I will certainly make an effort to do so whenever I can over the next few months. I hope others can and will do the same. Thanks for considering this. (By the way, the Diemands did not ask me to post this, I'm just doing it because I heard about the level of their revenue losses, and I thought it would be good to let people know how much they need our support.)

– D.

Thanks for posting this. This has been on my mind too, and will be trying to get there to stock up. Diemand Farm always steps up to support our town, and we should be doing the same for them. But according to the notice... posted a couple days ago, Bridge Street in Erving will be closed August 17 and 18, which will make access even more difficult, i.e. no access off Rt. 2 onto Farley Road on those days.

You can also support Diemand Farm by buying their products at other retail locations, like our own Wendell Country Store or Quabbin Harvest Food Co-op in Orange (and probably others that I'm not as aware of). That way you spread your support over more than one valued and hard-working local food business and help expand the retail/wholesale linkages that make up a strong local food economy!

– C.

Another option is to consider buying gift cards from Diemand Farms. They can be purchased in the store or over the phone at (978) 544-3806. Gift card revenue often helps float a business through a tough time.

– S.

We go 2-3 times a month. I'd be happy to try and remember to post and ask if anyone wants or needs anything on the day we go.

– S.

The only way you can access the farm is by taking Farley Road from its intersection with Wendell Depot Road. And from Old Farley Road off Route 2, except for the two days that the town of Erving will be closing that access point next week. I believe that is 8/16 and 8/17.

This is a really difficult situation for the Diemand Farm.

– P.

Regarding the closure, I can mention that it is in fact possible to reach Diemand Farm from the west if you're willing to take a short three minute hike. The town has just recently built a pedestrian bridge over the gap, so if you stop and park next to the construction site on the west side, you can walk across the bridge, through some woods, and then reach Diemand Farm... I've already been using this for my regular visitations and purchasing of tasty turkey salad sandwiches. I find it to be an enjoyable walk too!

A few caveats:

1. This trek does involve a short but somewhat steep uphill climb without stairs, so be aware if that is an issue for you.
2. The last time I was using the bridge... there was a sign indicating it wasn't for public use. I'm not sure why the sign is there, since the bridge seemed complete and I don't think it was meant exclusively for private use. Hopefully I'm not being naughty by using it anyway, or recommending it to any of you.
3. I'm not sure if there are any issues with people parking on the side of the road near the construction site. Obviously don't block anyone's driveway or interfere with the construction.

If anyone can speak to these issues, please do. If it turns out that recommending people use this bridge or park near the construction site is in bad form, then I'll retract this forthwith. My motivations are purely in trying to support Diemand Farm and offering people options.

– B.

Thank you to everyone for your kind words. It is truly heartwarming to read your messages and know that you're concerned. While we knew about the road



Henry Stephenson-Ryan makes a purchase from Micah Stebbins on a recent afternoon at the Montague Village Store.

## Letters to the Editors

### Disgust

On behalf of many local community members it is an embarrassment that your paper wasted the space to publish "Chip on your shoulder" Ainsworth's article. Such type will not help your paper but on the contrary will only ensure others drop local subscriptions. Sad that you have nothing more news worthy than a disgruntled writer dissecting a Town Meeting of elected volunteers trying to provide a service to his community.

Disgusting print!

Bob Henry  
Northfield

closure beforehand, we had no idea of the financial impact that it would have on our farm.

My grandparents, Al and Elsie, started the farm back in 1936 and I feel it's a privilege to continue their legacy. To hear your words though shows me that we are not in this alone. Hard times are inevitable, but I know that we will weather this storm together. My grandparents would be so pleased by everyone's support, as we are.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

– Tessa White-Diemand

You can support your local businesses at Old Home Day [August 13]. The Farm will be serving Smoked turkey legs, black bean quinoa salad (cold), smoked mac and cheese, cornbread and cold drinks and more! Santo Taco food truck and Sum Kim Bop food truck will also be there. Come hungry!

– K.

### West Across the Atlantic

Like David Brule (*West Along the River*, July 28, 2022), I too don't get around much anymore. I live in Worcester – a city in England that's been around for two thousand years, as far as we know. Some of our citizens came to Massachusetts in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and incorporated a city here, though of course the Nipmuc people had already been living there for perhaps as long as people had lived in Worcester, England.

The mug in my kitchen cupboard says "I come from Worcester," and I don't let on that I got it in Worcester, Massachusetts. However, I prefer further west, and the town of Montague.

Every summer since the turn of the millennium I've come to western Massachusetts, starting with Northampton and then, for the last twenty years or so, Montague. In COVID lockdowns I've been stuck back home in Worcester, England, but this year at last I was able once again to come west across the Atlantic, and back to Montague.

Don't look for me this summer in Worcester Cathedral, musing over the tomb of bad King John who was forced to sign the Magna Carta in 1215 and allow a parliament of barons. Or the tomb of Prince Arthur, the one-time heir to the throne of England. Had Arthur not died young in 1502, we would never have had his younger brother as King Henry VIII, and a lot else besides. When the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Prince Arthur's burial was re-enacted in Worcester Cathedral, I missed it – I was enjoying summer in Montague!

Don't look for me this summer by the Glover's Needle sculpture in

Worcester, or the Royal Worcester Porcelain museum – both celebrating the two principal industries of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. And don't look for me in the Talbot Inn outside Worcester, sampling a pint of the beers "This," "That," or "The Other" beneath the hops hanging from the rafters.

I'll be in Millers Falls, trying ginger beer in Element's pub or breakfast at the Whistle Stop Café, or walking back over the railway bridge where the long freight trains go rumbling through the night; a cosy sound in the darkness.

Don't look for me on the Malvern Hills, looking down at Worcester in one direction and towards Wales in the other – look instead on Mount Sugarloaf, or hanging out at the Book Mill near Montague Center, or having an ice cream in Turners Falls or a walk by Lake Pleasant. I might even be struggling to get from Montague City to Turners Falls and taking a detour where the bridge is closed.

David Brule takes inspiration from the poet Billy Collins about staying at home. My muse remains Robert Frost, who lived for a while in England, just over 100 years ago, in Gloucestershire, the next county to my Worcestershire home. While he was there, Frost went walking with fellow poet Edward Thomas and wrote "The Road Not Taken," partly for him.

However, I don't listen to Frost's advice, and every summer I come back to Montague to take the road *more* travelled by – and that has indeed, made all the difference!

Stephen Kukureka  
Worcester, England

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

The Carnegie Library in Turners Falls is presenting **Zoom workshops on genealogy**. The first, “Intro to Genealogy: Using Periodicals in Your Search,” is tonight, Thursday August 11, from 6 to 7 p.m. You will learn about the major scholarly journals that every genealogist should be familiar with, and how to search.

The next workshop will cover how to do research using the websites *AncestryLibrary.com* and *FamilySearch.org*. These are the first two programs most people start with. Ancestry’s library edition is free at most public libraries, and FamilySearch is provided for free by the Church of Latter Day Saints.

Email [librarydirector@montague-ma.gov](mailto:librarydirector@montague-ma.gov) or call (413) 863-3214 to get the links for these programs.

This Friday, August 12 marks another **Great Falls Coffeehouse concert** at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls. Trio Mambo will play high energy Latin jazz and mambo magic with piano, bass, and congas starting at 7 p.m. Refreshments are available. There is a sliding scale, and your donations all support educational programming at the Center.

The LAVA Center in Greenfield presents an **ensemble reading** from Richard Wayne Horton’s book *A Long Moment in the South* on August 12 and 13 at 7 p.m. Four actors portray two dozen characters who populate the rural edges of Texarkana in the 1950s.

The Leverett Village Co-op’s **Second Saturdays Artisans Market** returns this Saturday, August 13 from noon to 4 p.m. Vendors will be selling sustainable fashion, original paintings, jewelry, quilted items, plants, herbal products, and much

more. There will also be massage therapy and tarot readings.

The public is invited to bring acoustic instruments to an Old Time Music Jam between 12:30 and 2:30 p.m., and DJ Brian Boyles will spin records. YouthLine will be selling Malawi crafts to raise funds for Malawi children’s school fees.

I will be at that Artisans’ Market with a table full of *Montague Reporter* tote bags, coffee mugs, collections of our special Historical Editions, copies of the latest paper, subscription information, and something new: **aprons printed with our newspaper!**

These handcrafted, unisex BBQ aprons have two patch pockets, and are sewn right in Turners Falls by volunteer seamsters. The cotton material was printed by the Spoonflower company in Durham, North Carolina. (If you have seen me in my *MoRe* dress, you know that the printing is excellent and very legible – I have found people “reading my dress” on subways and buses!)

Bring your checkbook to the market and get one of these aprons as a “thank you” for making a \$100 donation to our non-profit community newspaper.

This Saturday, August 13 is also **Wendell Old Home Days**, on the town common. It’s described as a “community gathering featuring music, friends, food, vendors, exhibits, fun and games!” The event kicks off with a parade at 11 a.m.

You can help **Great Falls Books Through Bars** prepare for the move to their new location on Fourth Street this Saturday, August 13 from noon to 4 p.m. at 111 Avenue A, Turners Falls. They need help packing books in their former space. Doors will be open, but ev-

everyone is asked to wear a mask.

The group is also looking for shelving for their new space. If you have any to donate, email [gfbbooksthroughbars@riseup.net](mailto:gfbbooksthroughbars@riseup.net).

Organizers in Western Mass are holding their second annual **Honoring the Land Rally** on Saturday, August 13 at Peskeomskut Park in Turners Falls from 2 to 6 p.m. This free, rain-or-shine event hopes to bring awareness of the threat to our land and water by inappropriately-sited large scale solar projects.

Speakers at the rally will include Karl Meyer, Bill Stubblefield, Fred “the Farmer” Beddall, and Gloria Caballero-Roca. Music will be provided by Joe Graveline, Tom Neilson and the Bruce Katz Band. Hosted by Concerned Citizens of Franklin County, Save Massachusetts Forests, Save the Pine Barrens, and the Community Land and Water Coalition.

**Margaret and the Giant opens at the Ja’Duke Theater** in Turners Falls this weekend, with shows on Friday and Saturday, August 12 and 13 at 6 p.m. and Sunday, August 14 at 2 p.m. This show is the third of the Fairy House series, an original musical trilogy written by Ja’Duke charter member Judith Dean Kulp.

The show announcement says, “Bring out the whole family for this show, and why not come dressed to the nines in fairy costumes, pirate costumes, or any woodland creature!” Tickets can be purchased online at *JaDukeTheater.com*.

Come **enjoy Historic Deerfield for free** on Wednesday, August 17. In partnership with the Highland Street Foundation, you can enjoy free admission to the museum and visit the museum’s historic houses, watch demonstrations, and participate in hands-on activities and crafts.

The **Brick House Teen Center is open!** There are programs during August, Mondays through Thursdays, from 1 to 4 p.m. Contact Megan for more information at [mrichardson@brickhouseccrc.org](mailto:mrichardson@brickhouseccrc.org), or look over the schedule at *brickhousecommunity.org*.

The Brick House has also scheduled a **Back-to-School Bash and Backpack Give-Away** for middle and high schoolers next Wednesday, August 17, from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at the Resource Center at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls. The backpacks will be stuffed with pencils, notebooks, calculators, and more, and there will be music, and food from Cocina Lupita.

Everything is free and first-come, first-served. Contact [mrichardson@brickhouseccrc.org](mailto:mrichardson@brickhouseccrc.org) for more information. Bring the whole family out and enjoy this event!

**The Brattleboro Retreat is hiring** “behavioral health technicians,” with informational interviews being scheduled on August 17 between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. The minimum starting wage is now \$18.50 with a night differential of \$4.25, and sign-on bonuses of \$1,000 for the day shift and \$2,000 for the night. If this interests you, contact [bizteam@masshiredhcareers.org](mailto:bizteam@masshiredhcareers.org) or call (413) 774-4361 to set up an interview.

The **Montague Center Library Local Authors Series** continues next Wednesday August 17, with local author – and frequent contributor to this paper – Lee Wicks. Wicks will

read from *Muriel and the Grocer’s Daughter: A Memoir* and discuss her work between 6 and 7 p.m. at the library. There will be refreshments.

**Montague Old Home Days is not taking place on August 20**, when the annual Mug Race happens. A traditional Old Home Days is being planned for early October.

The 5k Mug Race begins at 8:30 a.m., and there will be a tag and clothing sale from 8 to 11:30 a.m. at the Montague Congregational Church at 4 North Street with lots of household items, books, tools and wooden outdoor items.

The Falls Farm will also set up a vegetable stand, and there will be a fiddling event around 10 a.m.

The Hitchcock Center is offering a **Fall Birding Course** with Scott Sumner for a group of 15 observers. The course will consist of ten field trips to various locations in the Connecticut River Valley, plus three coastal areas. The class runs August 20 through December 3. There is sliding-scale pricing; find out more at [info@hitchcockcenter.org](mailto:info@hitchcockcenter.org).

There are two free workshops in connection with **Leonore Alaniz’s botanical art exhibit** at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. Alaniz will demonstrate vegetable printing on Saturday, August 20 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. She demonstrates a technique that makes visible the anatomy of plant parts by covering them with printing ink and pressing them onto paper or fabric.

For adults interested in this creative process, an intergenerational hands-on activity will be held Saturday, August 27 from 2 to 4 p.m. All ages are invited to print up to one hour and design a personal “Veggie Mandala” on fabric with vegetable parts or medicinal weeds. The resulting flag will be yours to take home. Printing inks are non-toxic, and all materials will be provided. Call (413) 863-3221 to reserve a spot.

The Third Annual **Montague Elks Veterans Car Show** takes place on Sunday, August 21 from 12 to 4 p.m. They invite all years, makes, and models of cars and trucks. All proceeds benefit the Elks’ veterans committee, as well as the Leeds Veteran Hospital. They will serve hot dogs, hamburgers, and sausage grinders, and will have beer and soda for sale. DJ Bobby C will be there, spinning some tunes, at One Elk Avenue in Turners Falls.

**Do It Now!** comes to Peskeomskut Park Sunday, August 21 at 2 p.m. The group features Paul Richmond with spoken word, John Sheldon on guitar, and Tony Vacca on percussion. Bring a blanket or chair to sit on. Food from Santo Taco will be available for purchase.

This summer, state **senator Jo Comerford’s team is on the road**, collecting images they can use to help their colleagues in the legislature get to know our communities better. They are looking for suggestions from people who live in the district they serve, which includes many towns and cities in Franklin County and the North Quabbin.

If you have a suggestion, the form at [tinyurl.com/jofaveplace](http://tinyurl.com/jofaveplace) is an easy way to share it.

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Erving Elementary School  
28 Northfield Road  
Pizza starting at 6:15 p.m.  
Presentation & discussion  
will begin promptly at 7 p.m.  
Join Erving officials and local  
partners for a short presentation  
on the status of the IP Mill,  
and roundtable discussions on  
what is next for the complex.  
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**TURNERS FALLS** – Joanne Koch Potee departed this life on August 7, 2022.

Rich in years, blessed with a large family and many friends, she enjoyed each day and lived with energy, humor, and generosity of spirit.

The last twenty years were especially happy as her three daughters and seven of her eleven grandchildren lived within a half hour's drive. Joanne was able to watch her daughters realize their potential and attended many school plays, concerts, and dances in which her grandchildren performed.

Joanne was born in Boston to Richard Felix Koch and Sonya Koretnor (*née* Kesselman) Koch on November 10, 1932. Her childhood was spent in Cambridge and she was graduated in 1950 from the Winsor School in Boston, where she was awarded the Nora Saltonstall scholarship for a year's study in France. In Paris, she took voice lessons from Yvonne Brothier of the Opera Comique and studied drawing and painting at the Académie Julian. She also acted in

## OBITUARY

# Joanne Koch Potee

### 11/10/1932 – 8/7/2022

the American Theatre and directed the Christmas play at the American Cathedral.

During her teenage years, Joanne performed in the Boston Summer Theatre and at the Brattle Repertory theatre in Cambridge, where she appeared in *Major Barbara* and *Boy Meets Girl*.

Upon her return from Paris, Joanne attended Radcliffe College for two years. After a hiatus of six years, during which she was married and lived in Frankfurt, Germany and Chennai (then known as Madras), India, she returned to complete her studies. She was a member of the class of Harvard College 1963 and was graduated *cum laude*. Her honors thesis had as its subject the role of the servant in French comedy from 1660 to 1715.

From 1964 to 1983, Joanne resided in Petersham, Massachusetts. Joanne thought of these years as the most fulfilling and creative of her life. She raised five of her six children in that small village. The big house on Main Street was filled with her children and their friends during these years.

Joanne and her close friend, Rosalie Cheney Fiske, wrote *The Bread Baker's Manual*, which was illustrated by another close friend, Barbara Sleigh Ellis, of Athol. The

book was published in 1978 and was selected as the book of the month by the Cooking and Crafts Book of the Month Club as well as chosen by the R.T. French Company as one of the outstanding specialty cookbooks of the year.

In addition, Joanne began to research, write, and perform monologues; a total of seven in all, of which "Mrs. Alcott Remembers" was the favorite of her audiences and the one she enjoyed the most. One of the last performances was at Deerfield Academy as a fundraiser for one of the organizations of which she was a member.

While living in Petersham, Joanne taught school and for 30 years worked at Danco in West Hatfield. She enjoyed sales and helping her customers. She retired at the age of eighty, as she believed one should work as long as possible and be a contributing member of the community in which one lives.

She had six children: Nicholas R. Koch of Minneapolis, MN; Rigo Schmelzer (Linda) of Bloomington, IL; Jenny Potee (Mike Yohan) of New Salem, MA; Deborah Potee (Rich Fitzgerald) of Northfield, MA; and Ruth Potee (Stephen Martin) of Northfield, MA. She was pre-deceased by her son, Charles Potee, in 1991. She is survived by her



one sister, Lisa Fajardo (Salvador) of Vestal, NY and by many adored nieces and nephews. She was able to stay in her beautiful house on the Hill thanks to the devotion of her housemate, David Blair.

Joanne had eleven grandchildren, seven granddaughters and four grandsons, and one great-granddaughter of whom she was inordinately proud and delighted in seeing whenever possible: Emma Steiner, Charlie Schmelzer, Laura Koch, Elliot Koch, Nate Hurwitz, Tessa Yohan, Vivi Potee, Juliette Potee, Ben Potee, Ella Potee, and Jane Potee.

A celebration of her life will take place at the First Church of Deerfield at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 13. Masks must be worn at the behest of the family and the church. Those who wish to make a gift in her memory may do so to the First Church of Deerfield or the Pocumtuck Memorial Museum of Deerfield.

The family would like to thank Pioneer Valley Hospice and Dr. Gump from Valley Medical Group for the excellent care provided.

## AT LARGE

# The State of the Town, Pt. II

By CHIPAINSWORTH

**NORTHFIELD** – It took more than a decade of scouting and shouting, but it's a near-certainty that Northfield's new fire station will be built on a 23-acre parcel of woods and wetlands north of the town library. "We've been looking for a long, long time, and when that property became available, it checked all the boxes," said Northfield fire chief Skip Dunnell. "It's centrally located, it fits the lay of the land, and it's long overdue."

The town purchased the land in May from Ed Snow for \$170,000, which according to my calculator comes to \$7,930 an acre. Considering how the selectboard handles the taxpayers' money, no wonder the Kiwanis Club offered to sell its 6.25-acre park to the town.

The "safety complex" will also include a police station, ambulance bay, and parking lot. "They're not going to build a big ugly cement box," promised town administrator Andrea Llamas. "It's going to be less visible than what some people think."

This final parcel of undeveloped land on Main Street is a jumble of maple trees, sap tubing, survey flagging, and dense undergrowth. The Mill Brook flows through a broken dam toward the river, and a wooden sign that says "Ned McGowan Memorial Bridge" marks the spot of a long-gone crossing.

Dunnell disputed a report that the construction cost from start to finish will be \$13.04 million. "The numbers floating around aren't accurate," he said. "Once we decide on the design, we'll know the cost. If we can do the apparatus bay in the back with pre-built metal, we won't get hit with the high labor cost to build the damn thing."

If somehow the location falls through, the land will become a permanent nature preserve.

"I've always thought the Beehive would be a perfect spot," said selectboard member Alex Meisner.

A Northfield town employee concurred: "I've said that for years. No one wants to hear



The Main Street parcel includes a bridge sign.

it, though."

The Beehive is a dilapidated four-story apartment house next to the fire station, owned by an absentee landlord. The town could take it by eminent domain, but the tenants would need to be relocated to suitable living quarters.

Asked when he expected groundbreaking to happen Dunnell said, "Best case scenario? A year from now."

### Update on the Crash

The Northwestern District Attorney's office has released more information regarding the May 29 accident in East Northfield. Shortly after 1 p.m., nine motorcyclists from the Connecticut chapter of the Red Knights International Motorcycle Club were traveling northbound past Thomas Aquinas College when a Lincoln SUV driven by 32-year-old Ryan O'Farrell veered into their lane.

The ensuing collision toppled five Harley Davidsons and caused serious injuries to five women and three men. "They are all still very much dealing with their injuries," said communications director Laurie Loisel of the DA's office.

While retired Montague police chief Ray Zukowski was helping Northfield police officer John Cowan apply tourniquets to two of the victims, one of the unscathed motorcyclists went after O'Farrell. "I got in between them and

calmly said, 'If you cause [trouble], it's going to take others besides me to stop you, and they're trying to save the injured,'" said Zukowski. "He said he was sorry, that he was a fire chief and was really upset."

A Franklin County grand jury indicted O'Farrell on multiple charges including five counts of assault and battery by means of a dangerous weapon causing serious bodily injury, five counts of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs resulting in serious bodily injury, and two counts of endangerment of a child by means of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs.

District attorney David Sullivan assigned chief trial counsel Jeremy Bucci to the case. O'Farrell's attorney is Alan Rubin of the Committee for Public Counsel Services.

"An arraignment date has not yet been scheduled," said Loisel.

### Numbers Game

The Pioneer Valley Regional School system is losing students. According to PVRs documents, 19 will be entering this year's freshman class, while 31 are transferring to Franklin County Tech and three to NMH. That means 64% of last year's eighth-grade class is leaving.

It's an ongoing crisis. Of the 569 eighth graders enrolled in the last eight years, 251 transferred. The vast majority – 183 – went to Tech.

Now in her first official year as the full-time superintendent, Patricia Kinsella says the barometer of her success will be measured by how well she stops the hemorrhaging.

"Boston's Mayor Menino said to judge his administration on how well the schools did," Kinsella wrote in an email. "In hindsight, not his best idea, but I'll go ahead and say the same thing: Judge my leadership by how we do with keeping 8th graders in the school over the next few years."

Chip Ainsworth writes sports for the Recorder and news and opinion, including this column, for the Reporter. He lives in Northfield.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

East-West Bike Connector; Cleaning Up the Laws

By KATIE NOLAN

At the August 1 Erving select-board meeting, town clerk Richard Newton presented a new draft version of town bylaws, analyzed and codified by the consulting firm General Code, LLC. After the bylaw revisions are reviewed by the board and presented at public hearings, voters will need to decide whether to accept them at a town meeting.

General Code has organized all of Erving’s bylaws into chapters based on subject matter, and made recommendations for revisions, clarifications, additions, and deletions. For instance, the company noticed that the person responsible for inspecting buildings was referred to in various bylaws as the “building inspector,” the “inspector of buildings,” and the “building commissioner.” They recommended using only one title.

The company also found some bylaws lack enforcement clauses, making them toothless. In some instances, the stated fines were not in accordance with the state attorney general’s guidelines, and the company recommended changing these.

The board spent an hour and a half of their two-hour meeting reviewing General Code’s recommendations,

and plans to review more of them at its next meeting on August 15.

Invigoration

The board signed the warrant for the September 6 primary election. Newton noted that he had received over 100 applications for mail-in ballots, which he called “a significant increase.” He observed that for primary elections in the past, there are sometimes fewer than 100 Erving residents voting overall.

“If convenience increases participation, I’m all for it,” commented selectboard chair Jacob Smith.

Exercise

The board supported town planning assistant Mariah Kurtz in pursuing grant funding for a shared-use path from Farley to Erving through the Wendell State Forest. Although most of the path would be on the Wendell side of the Millers River, Kurtz told the board it would serve Erving residents.

Most of the path’s proposed layout is currently shown as a hiking, skiing, and snowmobiling trail on Department of Conservation and Recreation maps. Ultimately, the shared-use path could be part of a regional bicycle trail connecting Athol and Montague.

Other Business

The board voted to approve spending \$2,500 toward shared legal services, in concert with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and the towns of Gill, Northfield, and Montague, for the review of settlement agreements with FirstLight Power and the company’s relicensing process with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The contract for constructing the Poplar Mountain conservation area parking lot was awarded to Johnson Asphalt Paving, LLC of Northfield, for its \$35,514.50 bid.

The board awarded a three-year Public Educational and Government (PEG) television services contract to Bernardston-Northfield Community Television, Inc. for its \$43,500 bid.

The board set the water use rate for the 2023 fiscal year at \$5.25 per thousand gallons.

The electric vehicle charging rate at town-owned charging stations, meanwhile, was set at 35 cents per kilowatt-hour, a five-cent increase.

The board dissolved the former police officer screening committee and established a new committee, which will include selectboard member William Bembury, police chief Robert Holst, and highway superintendent Glenn McCrory.

Water Use, Swimming Restricted Amid Heat

By REPORTER STAFF

The Connecticut River valley is now in a “Level 3 Critical Drought,” following an intense multi-day heatwave that has prompted increased water use restrictions across the state.

The Turners Falls water department, which serves most residents in Montague, has called for a voluntary water use restriction. The department’s wesbite advises its customers that outdoor water use should be limited to before 9 a.m. or after 5 p.m.

“At the present time our water supply shows no imminent sign of being at risk,” the website read as of press time. “We will continue to monitor water levels and will advise if further conservation measures are needed.”

On Wednesday, the city of Greenfield upgraded an existing water use restriction to include all nonessential outdoor water use, around the clock. The ban will be enforced by fines of \$50 for the first infraction, and \$100 for each subsequent offense. The earlier ban, which began in mid-July, had only applied to half the city’s homes, alternating based on the time of day and odd- and even-numbered houses.

“Unfortunately, one rain event is not going to get us out of this situation and we must tighten our mandatory water-use restrictions,” Greenfield public works director Marlo Warner said in a press release. “We’ve been politely reminding people about restrictions to this point, but given the circumstances, warnings and fines are the next step.”

The city is currently drawing all its water from the Green River, currently at its lowest level ob-

served in years, and from the Mill-Brook wellfield, which is showing “signs of stress” according to the announcement.

The towns of Orange and Shelburne are also under mandatory water use restrictions. According to the National Weather Service, Franklin County received an average of 2.74 inches of rain in July, which is about 1.5 inches below normal. The state uses a five-tiered system to classify droughts, ranging from “abnormally dry” to “moderate,” “severe,” “extreme,” and “emergency” drought.

Meanwhile, low water levels and high temperatures are causing spikes in bacteria at some local swimming holes. Barton Cove is currently unsafe for swimming or boating due to high levels of *E. coli*, according to water quality monitoring by the Connecticut River Conservancy.

The Greenfield board of health closed the Green River public swimming area on July 26 after a resident reported having contracted the diarrheal disease cryptosporidiosis after swimming there. The water later tested positive for the bacteria cryptosporidium, as well as giardia and *E. coli* and has been closed ever since.

As of Wednesday, Lake Mattawa in Orange is closed to swimming after the board of health reported high levels of *E. coli*, and a small pond behind Pine Brook Camp in Shutesbury is still closed to swimmers for the same reason.

Though Laurel Lake in Erving was closed for a week in the beginning of July due to high bacteria levels, it has since reopened. According to the Connecticut River Conservancy data, most sections of the Connecticut River in our area remain safe for boating and swimming.

FISH from page A1

Falls Aquaculture, told the *Reporter*. “It goes up and down depending on what’s going on with algal growth and bacterial growth.”

Great Falls Aquaculture operates an indoor fish farm at the industrial park near the Turners Fall airport, owned from 2004 to 2018 by Australis Aquaculture, where they grow a type of southeast Asian sea bass called barramundi.

“They live in tanks where we recirculate water, so we don’t have to use as much,” Gowan explained. The farm uses biological filtration with beneficial bacteria to keep the tank water clean, as well as a traditional pretreatment system to remove solid waste. The company has two permits: one to discharge clean water back into the Connecticut River, and another to discharge fish sludge into the town sewer system.

The recent violation was related to the waste sent to Montague’s CWF. It qualified as “significant noncompliance” because in more than two-thirds of the samples taken during a six-month period, the estimated weight of solid material exceeded that allowed under the agreement with the town.

Attempts to reach CWF superintendent Chelsey Little were unsuccessful as of press time.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires municipalities to publish the names of all industrial users found to be in “significant” noncompliance with their permits. Towns may also investigate instances of noncompliance with additional oversight and testing.

For years three Montague companies had industrial discharge permits: the paper company Elseeck, later known as Southworth and PaperLogic; Australis Aquaculture; and Lightlife Foods, a manufacturer of vegetarian food products also located in the airport

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

LEVERETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Leverett Conservation Commission, in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c.131 §40), will hold a public meeting on August 15, 2022 beginning at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom (link and info available at <https://leverett.ma.us>) to review an RDA submitted by Friends of North Leverett Sawmill for **routine dam maintenance at Slarrow Sawmill** at the corner of Cave Hill Road and North Leverett Road. The application is on file and is available for public inspection in the Conservation Commission Office on Mondays and Thursdays 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. or by appointment at (413) 548-1022 ext. 3.

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Applications will be accepted until August 31, 2022 or until the position is filled. Please see our full job description at [leverettcoop.com/employment-opportunities/](https://leverettcoop.com/employment-opportunities/). We offer competitive wages and a benefits package. The Leverett Village Co-op values excellence and diversity in hiring and is an equal opportunity employer (EOE).

industrial park. Southworth terminated its Turners Falls operations suddenly in August 2017, and the absence of both its wastewater and its fees have had repercussions at the CWF; now only Lightlife and Great Falls Aquaculture remain.

Late last year, Lightlife paid a \$252,000 settlement to the EPA after the waste it sent into the town’s sewer system was discovered to be extremely acidic. The installation of new pretreatment technology in February 2021 remedied the years-long problem.

Gowan described the waste Great Falls Aquaculture sends to the town as “very liquidy,” typically containing about 1% to 2% suspended solids. In the past, some of the nutrient-rich mixture was distributed to local farmers as fertilizer.

Australis intended to contribute all of the fish sludge to local farmers when the facility first opened, but the program was scrapped after the odor of fermented gases from a 200,000-gallon sludge storage silo caused widespread public complaint. Since 2007 the waste has ended up mostly in the town sewer.

Gowan said Great Falls Aquaculture is again pursuing ways to reuse the sludge rather than sending it to the CWF: the company recently sold biosolids to a farm in Illinois with success, and fertilizer made of ground fish bones and other biological material to other plac-

es closer to home.

The EPA, meanwhile, sets limits on the suspended-solid content of sludge industrial users may send to municipal plants.

“From what I understand, it doesn’t matter if Montague says they want to take it and press it through their machine and make some money off it,” he said. “It’s an EPA thing.”

For now, Great Falls Aquaculture is working with the CWF to bring its sludge into compliance. “We’re working on a couple different ways to deal with the extra suspended solids,” Gowan said. “We’ve been in contact with Chelsey at the treatment plant, and we’re not in an adversarial relationship with them.”

Potential solutions include changing the filtration process to produce thicker wastewater and then trucking it to the town plant, or investing in a screw press like the one the CWF uses to produce a thicker sludge “cake” on site. However, Gowan said both options would require significant capital investment.

“We have more tanks we want to bring online in the future,” Gowan added. “If we want to increase production, we will have more solids to deal with.... It’s something we’re going to deal with, and we’re going to fix. We don’t want to be a burden for them at their plant.”



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**BIG PICTURE** from page A1  
and we talked for a lot longer than the page space. The transcript has been reordered and edited for clarity, besides being abridged.

**MR:** *I saw you, not the most recent time you were up at Peterborough, but I think maybe the time before that. Is that how you know Eric, and how this all came together?*

**WO:** The one with Iris Dement? I’m pretty sure the first time we actually met was up at that, yeah, and then the more recent one. And we just started to talk about what else we could potentially do. On some levels, we consider this trial run for future more ambitious prospects, but we’re focusing on it also just being, ideally, a wonderful trip on its own.

**MR:** *A nice little kind-of-backwoods-New England thing. I was just looking at the dates – you’re playing in Maine with Asa Irons!*

**WO:** I know! We’re moving out of a workspace here, and just a few days ago I found a CD-R that he or somebody sent me maybe 15 or 20 years ago of his songs. They’re so good....

**MR:** *Have you kept tabs on that Maine scene?*

**WO:** I have not... When we were up there we played the Maritime Museum, north of Portland, and went to an amazing record store and I bought a number of records on a Maine label. I listen to Tom Kovacevic’s record – I wish there were more, but I could probably just keep listening to that record until the end of time and not discover everything inside of it.

**MR:** *Oh, yeah, he’s great! I’m always curious about talking to musicians who come through: like, what else is going on out there?*

**WO:** What else is going on out here? [Laughs.] Out in the world?

**MR:** *Yeah, out in the world! I mean, everyone’s been a little weighted down with COVID. What’s this time been like in the Southeast?*

**WO:** It’s been different ways. I guess about last June [Matt Sweeney and I] started playing shows as Superwolves. We started in California, then did a few small runs in different places and we were able to connect with audiences, and able to connect with other musicians, share the bill with folks. It’s been a wonderful time of rediscovery over the past year.

**MR:** *What’s your plan up here?Are you, like, touring one album?*

**WO:** Well, the past couple years have been very productive, because the days had been more dependable, definitely, during first year and a half of our COVID experience, and dependability equals productivity in my world.

There’s a record that I put out that was a cassette-only release, and then when the cassette ran out the label started selling CD-Rs, it’s a record called *High and High and Mighty* on Haha Institute Cassettes. It’s funny because no one will have heard it, but in my mind we’re sort of touring it.

And then there’s a group of songs that I’ve performed live called *Old, Hard, and Marvelous*. We performed them at MASS MoCA maybe a month and a half ago, and also in Chicago... I think about them as *like* a record, but it may or may not ever exist as a record; it may only exist as live performances.

Then there’s a new group of songs that will be recorded hopefully by the end of the year – that is something that I haven’t done in the past, ever, but I’ll be playing unrecorded songs.

... Last night I played with my friend Nathan Salzburg, and we played a song off the *Superwolves* record, and I also did a cover from the series of 20 cover songs that Bill Callahan and I did over the course of lockdown, the Silver Jews song “Wild Kindness.” I think we’re going to do that one on this tour as well.

So we’re sort of touring, you know, five or six new records!

**MR:** *You say “we” – do you have a band?*

**WO:** My original thought was that I was going to do it solo, and then Eric suggested that Footings and I join forces, so probably half the set will be with Footings and half will be solo. Eric and Fuchsia from Footings came

down to Kentucky a couple weeks ago, and we rehearsed tons of songs.

**MR:** *What are you looking for in touring, at this point?*

**WO:** So many things. Because we’ve expanded the musical experience so that it’s this collaborative thing with Footings, that’s going to make that a significant part of what the trip is about. A minus of my longevity, and what could be termed my success in this line of work, is that things that I appreciate, like direct access to people in various cities, is restricted somewhat....

So, I get to spend time with Gagne and Footings, and Asa Irons, and Myriam Gendron. I get to talk to people about music, and witness how people experience music, in different ways than I do on lots of tours. Because on lot of tours, you might have to play a venue that’s owned by one of these corporations, and the people that you talk to about music aren’t really that interesting to talk to about music. They don’t pay attention to music, I guess.

But then also the time of year, and having short drives around, gives us a better opportunity to take in everything: what people are doing up there, and what it’s like to be there, as opposed to just driving through a place. And because I have this group of songs that I’m intending to record and I’m circling every single day, I think until they’re recorded I’ll continue to be modifying them, probably.

And then there’s bottom line: because of the way music is distributed, it’s very challenging to make a living from recorded music, so unfortunately it’s sort of crucial to get out and play just in order to function. So just looking at it looking at our bottom line is is a big part of it.

**MR:** *I saw that some of what you had, at one point, let go up on Spotify is now down?*

**WO:** Yeah. I think we took it down towards the end of the year last year, maybe November.

I can’t remember what the last straw was, but it was just kind of this feeling, you know, waking up every day and feeling gross for participating in that. It just seems horrific, that organization and what they do to music, and to listeners. I feel like they’re pathetic shepherds of music, and the way people use it is problematic.

I don’t want it to bug me, but you know, I think everyone knows now how bad it is, and yet people still use it. And it sometimes feels depressing and insulting when people say, “Why isn’t your music on Spotify?” It’s just like – why should it be? Give me a reason it should be. So you can listen to it quote-unquote for free? That’s not a good enough reason, give me another one. There is no other one. It’s a terrible company, and it does terrible things to music, and to musicians, and to listeners.

**MR:** *I imagine there was a period of time where you had to square with the fact that way more people were going to know who you were. Who did you get the tips from, for how to navigate that and still be a person you want to be? Who do you look up to?*

**WO:** It’s picking and choosing the behaviors of people, because nobody’s a 100% good example for any of us to follow.

In music, I was fortunate to grow up with these figures populating my landscape, people like Ian MacKaye or Steve Albini or Glenn Danzig or Mike Watt or Byron Coley, who helped and continue in many ways to help provide little maps, little blueprints for ways to act and behave professionally.

And then countless personal ones – like my dad. I don’t understand what he did, he was some sort of a lawyer, but I understand how he approached his work. He did it in such a way where he had an inner compass, rather than respond when people say, “Well, you should do this because this is what we want to do.” If it didn’t make sense, then he didn’t do it....

I was also very fortunate to have that intersection with the musical life of Johnny Cash, 20 years ago. Someone turned me on to a new documentary about these two French volcanologists who died doing what they love – they got swallowed by a volcano together, a man and woman, married – and it was such an interesting movie I was trying to find other things



the woman who made it made, and she was involved with making this short Netflix documentary called *Tricky Dick and the Man In Black*, about Johnny Cash being invited to and then performing the Nixon White House.

It’s fast-paced and flashy, as modern docs tend to be, but the ultimate story arc seems to be about Johnny Cash’s creative process and his selection of material, and responding to many different aspects of the situation, what it called for artistically and creatively. And in the end he writes a song, because he had this audience, and I think he was honored by the idea that he was invited to the White House to play and his family could come, but at the end of the day he felt he needed to create a song and sing a song to these people because he had the opportunity to. And he wrote a song that had to sting, for certain people in the audience.

And I like that, you know? Johnny Cash is somebody who... It’d be hard to find a better example of how to behave, when confronted with some of the challenges that creating mass-produced media present.

**MR:** *You’ve always [made music with] different collaborators, but I think a lot of listeners associate you with being a pretty solo voice. At this point you’re in such a position to pick and choose... Are you motivated by collaboration?*

**WO:** Yeah. I pretty much always have been, for one reason or another. I think this is probably common with a fair swath of creatives, or makers, or however you deem people who do this kind of thing: There was a fair amount of lack of connection and isolation, when I was a child, so I connected deeply with these cultural artifacts that were records. To some extent books and movies as well, but but really digging deep into records.

And then finding, through the Louisville music community, that through music you could connect with other people, whether it’s just talking about records or listening to records or going to shows – I didn’t play music as a teenager, but I took pictures, my dad taught me photography, so I took pictures at band practices and shows and things like that. And I was a part of this community.

And it’s continued to feel like making music is the way. Because I have stunted social skills, which I think will just go with me to my grave for the most part, and have a relatively introverted tendency, but a desperate need to connect and communicate with other people. Making music is sending messages out, putting messages in a bottle, but active collaboration is the real sustenance. The real nourishment is having these back-and-forths that are rarely language-based, they’re based on so much else. People bringing their histories together and bringing their ambitions together, and learning to collaborate and learning to compromise, and learning to see things or hear things through other people.

So it’s pretty much always been the reason to make music – to reach out and connect – and collaboration is either the beginning or the end of that. When I played by myself live, which for the most part I haven’t done for the past 30 years, I had to learn – about eight years

ago I did maybe a year of playing by myself, and thinking “okay, well, in this instance the audience is the rest of the ensemble. And so I have to feel what everyone’s feeling, and listen to what everyone’s listening to and hearing, and try to check this ride over the course of each individual show.”

If you’re by yourself, you also have more opportunity for feeling and sensing the energy than if you’re flying through, or making a lot of noise. Because the vibrations created by a sound system can dominate the vibrations coming from the people in the hall.

And, back to the people that I take cues from: There was a period of time, wrestling with modern forms of listening and discovery and distribution, where I made maybe five records of other people’s music. A Merle Haggard record, a Susanna Wallumrød record, a Mekons record, an Everly Brothers record, and then we did a tour of this Kevin Coyne / Dagmar Krause record, *Babble....* The singer Angel Olsen and I formed a band called the Babblers, and we just played *Babble*. We did it as an opening act for a Bonnie Prince Billy tour, but the Bonnie Prince Billy tour was just the excuse to play the *Babble* record....

Diving into people who I feel are doing things I want to do, or feel a kinship towards the direction that I feel the music is supposed to be bringing the listener. A lot of those people, there’s not a lot of quality information about how they work and how they live, so probably the best thing anyway would have been to just dig into the music they made and try to reverse-engineer it in hopes of gleanng something of how and why they do what they do.

**MR:** *I read an interview from 2008 where you were talking about “Bonnie Prince Billy” in terms of staying in character, even for a whole tour. That was 10 years in... 24 years in, is that still the deal for you?*

**WO:** It is. And it’s something – I married relatively late in life, six or seven years ago, and I’m a dad, so keeping tabs on Will Oldham’s consciousness is kind of more crucial. And I find that the most successful shows are ones where I have a tenuous grasp on Will Oldham’s reality, and it’s harder to get there just because I need to be able to check back in and be a husband and be a dad.

But it still does – for example, last night we played played this [flood relief] benefit, and played a five-song set, amongst something like five acts. And walking around, there was a spirit of trying to draw attention to what’s happening in eastern Kentucky, so there’s lots of colleagues and friends and family there. And for my money, it’s gonna take away from the musical experience, because now my energy is dispersed. It’s fine, but ideally, I can have an hour or two before the set, an hour or two after the set, just to think about the right and wrong of the world as being based on....

On some levels, it’s just a practical thing, where the music works best with no distractions. And I define it, partly just to help myself understand it, by saying it’s a consciousness or a persona, the Bonnie Prince Billy. Because Will Oldham doesn’t play music. He rehearses, but he doesn’t perform.

**MR:** *Was there more “Will Oldham” during early COVID?*

**WO:** Well, that was wonderful, because no, it was easier to fuse things because we were so isolated. And our daughter was pretty much pre-language; in March of 2020 she was a little over a year old. So where my brain has to go in order to interact with our world was limited, significantly, and that allowed for a huge chunk of that to be directed towards the logic or illogic of music and songs.

**MR:** *There’s a single-mom friend of mine who lives on our block, where this theater also is, who has a friend who’s been trying to get her to go see you play for years and years and has never been able to go. And she’s just super psyched that she can just get a babysitter for like two hours and go. She told me to say thank you, and I promised I would.*

**WO:** That’s great! [Laughs] I’m glad. Our babysitter game is severely lacking.



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# Aquí se habla español

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



## Gente de Franklin County: Janel Nockleby

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

**TURNERS FALLS** – Si ustedes han paseado cerca del puente que une Turners con Gill, habrán visto un edificio de color rojo, y si han entrado dentro, quizás les suene la cara de la foto de este artículo. Si nunca han estado allí, pero recorren cada día la avenida o el centro de Turners también habrán tenido ocasión de ver a la persona a la que hoy dedico mi sección de Gente de Franklin County. Siempre lleva una sonrisa en su cara, y a veces va acompañada de su peluda compañera de cuatro patas, Suzee.

Ella es Janel Nockleby, nuestra heroína sin capa de este mes, pero a menudo vestida con su uniforme verde de guardabosque.

Quedé con Janel en el Rendezvous en su día libre para hacerle esta entrevista. Llega sonriendo como siempre y saludando genuinamente a todos los que están en el restaurante. Janel tiene una energía especial que contagia al lugar donde se encuentra.



Janel durante la entrevista en el Rendezvous.

### Biografía

Janel nació en Salem, Oregón y aunque vivió en muchos lugares durante su infancia, me dice que lo que más recuerda de aquellos años era cuando vivía en un suburbio de Portland, OR. Estudió en la Universidad de Oregón en Eugene y se graduó en Historia y español.

Como muchos de nosotros, con veinte años y recién terminada la licenciatura, no sabía muy bien qué camino tomar. En ese momento, muchos de sus amigos trabajaban con empleos relacionados con las computadoras y sabían mucho sobre tecnología. Así es como motivada por ellos, decidió empezar a trabajar en ese campo en Seattle. Tenía que dar apoyo a clientes que tenían páginas webs y necesitaban ayuda para mantenerlas en buena forma.

Era un trabajo de oficina, y aunque Janel no sabía mucho sobre tecnología, este era un trabajo en el que aprendió a solucionar problemas y buscar la mejor forma de salir de un entuerto. Vivía en Seattle, una ciudad cara, pero con muchas cosas para hacer.

### Su afición: La poesía

El trabajo le daba tiempo también para perseguir su sueño: escribir. Y este sueño es el que le hizo precisamente llegar al oeste de Massachusetts.

En Seattle había un lugar llamado Hugo House que se dedicaba a dar clases y talleres de escritura. Uno de esos talleres fue impartido por una profesora de UMass en Amherst que le metió a Janel la idea en la cabeza de que debería realizar un Master en Escritura Creativa. Nuestra protagonista nunca había pensado en obtener un posgrado, pero tanto insistió la profesora que solicitó una plaza en UMass y

fue aceptada en UMass allá por el año 2005.

Antes de ese año, Janel había estado en la costa este solamente para una boda en DC, pero nunca había estado en Massachusetts. No conocía a nadie, aunque le gustaba la idea de visitar un lugar donde habían vivido personas que escribieron poesía, su verdadera pasión como Robert Frost o Emily Dickinson.

### Massachusetts

Decidió visitar la universidad en la primavera antes del inicio de las clases y dudaba acerca del lugar donde iba a vivir. Sabía que no quería vivir en Amherst con los estudiantes de licenciatura, y no estaba segura acerca de Northampton puesto que le parecía caro.

En el departamento de Escritura creativa en UMass se publicaban anuncios de alquileres y vio que había un apartamento disponible en el centro de Turners al lado de la lavandería, que alquilaba alguien que más tarde sería su amigo, Chris Janke. Lo vio y pensó que ese era el sitio que estaba buscando, así que se lo quedó.

Janel fue muy valiente al mudarse a un lugar pequeño, alejado del campus universitario y en el que no conocía absolutamente a nadie. Me cuenta que Turners en aquellos años era bastante diferente, no existía el Rendezvous, ni tampoco estaban las tiendas y cafés que tenemos ahora en la avenida, aún así me dice que había algo en el pueblo que lo hacía muy apetecible, después de vivir en Seattle, Turners tenía un encanto especial.

Por supuesto la forma de vida era muy diferente entre una gran ciudad en la otra costa y un pequeño pueblo en oeste rural de Massachusetts. Janel no tenía que enfrentarse cada día al tráfico de Seattle y el

ritmo de vida cotidiano era mucho más tranquilo.

Otra cosa que fue muy importante para Janel en cuanto a tomar la decisión de vivir aquí, fue el acceso a la naturaleza, la belleza del paisaje de Nueva Inglaterra, los pueblos de alrededor de Turners que eran muy antiguos en comparación con Seattle. Janel me dice que la gente era muy simpática y agradable. Empezó a hacerse amiga de aquellos que tenían perros, y le gustaba cuidar de estos cuando sus humanos se iban fuera.

Janel añade que hay muchas diferencias culturales entre Oregón y Massachusetts. Por ejemplo, que la gente parece más amigable y abierta al principio en Oregón, y es más difícil que la gente se abra en Massachusetts, pero una vez que esto pasa son amigos fieles y te dan una amistad verdadera.

### Great Falls Discovery Center

En el segundo año de Master recibió también una beca para enseñar como forma de compensar los gastos de tasas universitarias. Así es como Janel empezó a enseñar escritura a estudiantes de primer año en UMass. Tiene muy buenos recuerdos de esos años enseñando y tomando contacto con el mundo educativo, que le ha servido de alguna forma en su trabajo en el Discovery Center, ya que ahora recibe visitantes a los que debe enseñar el museo, plantear actividades educativas y mostrar el mundo natural que nos rodea.

Janel había pensado en volver a Oregón cuando terminase el Master, pero una vez en Turners, le era muy dejar el lugar. Empezó a buscar un trabajo para poder ayudarse económicamente y supo a través de una amiga que buscaban a alguien que tuviese un título académico en el

Great Falls Discovery Center.

Es así como empezó a trabajar en este lugar, al principio solamente durante los veranos. Sus estudios de geografía e historia le sirven a menudo para explicar conceptos a los visitantes y realizar actividades con los más pequeños. Se le hacía raro al principio que los habitantes de Massachusetts llamasen montañas a lo que, para ella, viniendo del oeste, eran solamente colinas.

Como el trabajo al inicio era solamente durante el verano, realizó otros trabajos como ayudar a personas que necesitaban completar sus impuestos y darles consejos sobre ello. Trabajó también en la tienda que tenían Eileen Dowd y Jack Nelson en la realizaban inscripciones en piedra o cerámica.

Janel también participa ahora mismo en Town Meeting de Montague. Es un puesto elegido por votación y es algo que ya había hecho antes pero que había dejado debido a su trabajo. Ahora ha decidido volver a hacerlo ya que considera que el proceso es muy interesante y muy diferente de las formas de gobierno en su estado natal. Está impresionada con las preguntas y el interés de la gente participante y como tienen diferentes opiniones, pero están dispuestos a conocer las de los otros. Janel in-

vita a los habitantes de Montague a que participen en ello porque es muy importante conocer qué está pasando en nuestros pueblos y no quita demasiado tiempo en cuanto a reuniones y preparación.

Janel forma también de la Comisión Histórica de Montague. Este cometido si necesita un poco más de tiempo. La comisión se ocupa de los edificios históricos que se deben conservar y qué debe hacerse en ellos debido a su importancia histórica. Se dedican a evaluar con ayuda de expertos el año del edificio, qué es lo que queda en pie, qué debe conservarse y cómo, etc.

Por último, Janel quiere invitar desde estas líneas a conocer el Great Falls Discovery Center, donde hay aire acondicionado en verano y calefacción en invierno. El edificio posee unas bonitas vistas y espacio para relajarse.

Hay programas para niños y adultos, con historias y actividades con el mundo natural como protagonista, por ejemplo, conocer las mariposas que son autóctonas de esta área. También hay explicaciones sobre la cuenca del río Connecticut y cómo podemos protegerla de la contaminación.

Si reconocen a Janel después de leer este artículo, salúdenla! Estará encantada de contestar en español.

## Nuevas organizaciones sin ánimo de lucro

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

**TURNERS FALLS** – Todos ustedes recordaran la panadería y pastelería que estaba en la calle Cuarta de Turners Falls, aunque se llamase *Panadería de la Calle Segunda* debido a su localización anterior, y que llevaba cerrada unos años, justo desde el inicio de la pandemia. Ese edificio ha sido comprado y tiene como nuevos inquilinos a tres organizaciones sin ánimo de lucro que compartirán el espacio y que van a traer mucha nueva energía a esa zona del centro, al **104 de 4th Street**.

La primera de ellas es **The Pioneer Valley Workers Center**. Es una organización que se ocupa de cuestiones relacionadas con la inmigración y lucha por los derechos sindicales y de los trabajadores en esta parte del río Connecticut. Van a destinar esta nueva localización a una oficina y a un lugar de almacenaje de alimentos para su despensa mensual que se realizará en esta nueva sede.

Si quieren conocer más información acerca de esta actividad u otras relacionadas con los trabajadores, pueden escribir a [pvworkerscenter@gmail.com](mailto:pvworkerscenter@gmail.com). La segunda de las organi-

zaciones que se muda al 104 de 4th Street es **Great Falls Books Through Bars**. Es una organización que antes se encontraba en la sede de La Mariposa y está formada por voluntarios que reciben, seleccionan y envían libros a personas que se encuentran encarceladas en prisiones de todo el país.

Se reúnen un sábado al mes y cualquier persona es bienvenida a este lugar para realizar donaciones de libros o para echar una mano en la selección y empaquetado de los libros. Si quieren saber más, pueden escribir a [gfbbooksthroughbars@riseup.net](mailto:gfbbooksthroughbars@riseup.net).

Por último, la tercera organización que compartirá edificio en el 104 de 4th Street es **The Finders Collective**. Es una tienda en la que los artículos son gratis y cualquier miembro de la comunidad está invitado a tomar lo que necesite y también a dejar lo que crea que puede ser útil para otros.

Disponen de una computadora para uso comunitario, libros, semillas para compartir, herramientas, etc. Si quieren colaborar de alguna forma u obtener más información, pueden escribir a [finders@riseup.net](mailto:finders@riseup.net).

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## TOWN OF GILL BOARD OF HEALTH

A Public Hearing will be held by the Gill Board of Health at the Town Hall, 325 Main Road, Gill, MA, on August 16, 2022 at 5:15 p.m. to consider adopting a regulation entitled “Regulation to Ensure the Sanitary and Safe Operation of Marijuana Establishments and the Sale of Marijuana.”

Among its provisions the regulation, if adopted, establishes twenty-one as the minimum legal sales age, and requires an annual Marijuana Operating Permit from the Board of Health for the sale, cultivation, or other commercial distribution of marijuana. The regulation also provides for twice yearly compliance inspections of marijuana establishments and penalties for violating the regulations. The proposed regulation is available for inspection on the Town’s website [www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org) and at the Town Hall offices during business hours.

Jeff Blomstedt, Chair  
Gill Board of Health

GILL from page A1

be delivered last December. Asked by selectboard member Greg Snedeker what the auction reserve should be for the sander, Miner said he would put \$8,000, “so it costs us \$1,000 for the year.”

“You could not have rented one for that price?” asked selectboard member Randy Crochier. “No,” replied Miner.

### The Fast and the Furious

The selectboard received an email from a resident with concerns about traffic speed on Mountain Road, requesting that the board consider lowering the speed limit from the current 40 mph to 25 or 30 mph.

Town administrator Ray Purington provided the board with a traffic data recording sheet that detailed travel speeds taken by the police department over three days in the area of 32 Mountain Road. “It is not a complete study,” he said, “but it is quick information for tonight’s meeting.”

The study, taken July 22 through July 24, showed that 85% of vehicles traveled 41 mph or less, in both directions on the road. Purington said that the road has an unposted speed limit of 40 mph, but the resident described regular speeds on the road “in excess of 50 mph,” and said that the road “has been a raceway for years now that it is paved all the way over the top.”

Purington said he would ask the police department to run the study for a longer period of time for more in-depth road speed statistics, but added that MassDOT typically uses the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile of recorded speeds on a road when deciding on speed limit changes.

The state may also consider other factors, such as disabled residents, blind driveways, or thick settlement, in lowering speed limits.

### Early Voting

“The new vote-by-mail statutes,” town clerk Doreen Stevens told the selectboard, “says that in order to limit your early voting hours – which I want to – your selectboard will need to vote to do so at a public

meeting held no later than 20 days before the early voting begins.”

Stevens said that an early voting schedule for the state primary election on September 6, and state midterms on November 8, was necessary to help her complete her regular clerk duties.

“I am all in favor of early voting and vote-by-mail, but also it is an unfunded mandate,” said Crochier on a question of election worker help during early voting. “This is costing these little towns a lot of money, either just in money to pay an election worker to come in, or in the time to a part-time town clerk, who now has to take at least some weekend hours.”

For the state primary election, Stevens was approved for four extra hours for early voting on Saturday, August 27, and two hours per day beginning Monday, August 29 through Thursday, September 1.

For the midterms, there will be four hours of early voting on Saturday, October 22 and Saturday, October 29, and two hours per day of early voting Mondays through Thursdays, October 24 through 27 and October 31 through November 3.

Though the town hall is closed Fridays and Sundays, Stevens said residents could make an appointment with her office for early voting on three Fridays: September 2 for the primary, and October 28 and November 4 for the midterm. Early voting will take place on the second floor of the town hall; more information is available on the town’s website.

### Other Business

The fire department was approved for \$1,870 plus freight costs for a replacement intake valve on their Engine 2.

“The one we have on there now has a crank handle up on top,” fire chief Gene Beaubien told the selectboard, “and it is getting very hard to open and close when there is pressure against it. We tried lubing it up, but it is just time for a new one.”

Christopher Hample was approved as a firefighter through June 2023, contingent upon passing a

medical evaluation.

The Franklin County Sheriff’s Office (FCSO) regional dog shelter and animal control services were unanimously renewed through the 2025 fiscal year, after some discussion on the discrepancy between a \$20 boarding fee residents would be required to pay per day if their dog is brought to the FCSO regional dog shelter by the animal control officer, versus up to \$50 a day for law enforcement involvement in boarding an animal at the regional dog shelter.

“It is the sheriff’s office [who sets the fee],” said Purington. “It is their ball; they get to set the rules for using the ball. I will get the answers and report back.”

A regional household hazardous waste collection event will take place Saturday, September 24 at Greenfield Community College’s main campus and the Orange transfer station.

The annual Wheeling for Healing bike riders were unanimously approved to use the safety complex for a water stop on Sunday, August 21, from approximately 9 to 11 a.m.

COVID-19 vaccination booster clinics are being offered Tuesday, August 23 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Federal Street Elementary School in Greenfield and Friday, August 26 from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Deerfield Elementary. Registration is required through the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) website: [frcog.org/COVID/](http://frcog.org/COVID/).

Crochier, in his capacity as the regional health director at the Co-operative Public Health Service, told the selectboard that more COVID-19 booster clinics should be added soon and would be listed on the FRCOG website.

Crochier also told the board of a Cooperative Public Health Service plan to have nurses offer flu vaccines at walk-in wellness clinics in multiple towns rather than setting up flu-shot clinics this year. He said the town would get more information soon on when and where those sites will be available for residents to receive their annual flu shots.



“Now that it is paved all the way over the top,” Mountain Road, which starts and ends on Main Road, has reportedly become a “raceway.” Town staff are currently studying driver speed on the road, a prerequisite to lowering a speed limit.

WENDELL from page A1

want to take the energy to fight, or at least delay payment, there may be no punishment.

Selectboard member Gillian Budine said it is unfair to expect the town to comply with rules before they are spelled out or made clear. Tanner said the amount is close to half the town’s building maintenance account, and that it is worth some effort to try to hold on to.

Citizen Kathy Becker added that Wendell was an active participant in opposing the spread of COVID-19 in its first and least-understood months, and should not be punished for actions taken in good faith. The town and its people, she said, went beyond caring for themselves and made masks that were given out for free, without question, not only to townspeople but to residents of neighboring towns.

### Old Home Day

Becker described plans for Old Home Day, scheduled to return Saturday, August 13, after a two-year COVID-related break. Longtime organizer Karen Copeland is out of town, and a group has organized themselves to bring Old Home Day back with a different emphasis.

The music will be lower-key and located in a corner of the common, and a children’s play area will be in another corner. There will be a parade, and afterward a fire engine will park at the south side of the common, along with a large piece of road equipment for people to explore, with supervision.

Becker asked for police to hold traffic for the parade, to provide a vehicle in the parade, and to stay for a while for an open house at the renovated police station. She also asked if the police station bathroom could be kept open for handicap accessibility. All this was approved.

She also asked if the north common could be used for parking, and was told to seek input from tree warden Cliff Dornbush to avoid compacting soil over delicate roots.

### Projects, Road Closures

Johnson-Mussad relayed an announcement from Erving that, weather permitting, Bridge Street will be closed August 17 and 18 to allow for borings that will help engineering for projected bridge work. Budine suggested using the CodeRED alert system closer to the date to warn residents of the closing.

Tanner presented a spreadsheet of town projects, their status, and their authorized or potential funding sources. He said American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money should be spent first whenever possible, and the spending and funding is still fluid.

A culvert replacement on Mormon Hollow Road has started, with

money coming from storm damage relief funds and Chapter 90 savings. The Kentfield Road bridge is being replaced simultaneously with money from the state small-bridge repair fund and Chapter 90 money, or possibly the ARPA State and Local Recovery Fund (SLRF).

Project coordinator Phil Delorey reported on the physical side of ongoing town projects. Mormon Hollow Road is closed, with a trench 100 feet long and 40 feet deep. The project is scheduled to be done in early November, but the road will reopen sooner if the new culvert is delivered sooner. Delorey said he allowed himself the fun of building private stairs and a walkway for Diemand Farm workers and family members.

Davenport Construction has widened the stretch of Kentfield Road between the bridge over Whetstone Brook and New Salem Road so they could have a machine on both sides of the old rotting bridge while they remove it.

Work on the police station is up to date, with delays caused by a mini-split unit that has not arrived yet, and a garage door back-ordered ten weeks. Budine asked about the handicap-accessible bathroom for Old Home Day, and Delorey agreed for at least an hour open house, with assurance that the office would remain locked.

The library perimeter has a buried stone drain covered by particle filtering cloth, but that stone perimeter is two feet out from the building, so runoff from the roof falls between it and the cellar walls, and water comes into the building. Delorey suggested installing gutters.

Materials are in place for repair of the highway barn roof, but work is being held off. “Who wants to work on a metal roof in August?” he said.

### Other Business

The board authorized Tanner and Budine to sign an agreement with Entre Technologies for computer services and maintenance. The total cost is still to be determined, and will depend on how many email addresses are needed. Tanner estimated 50 to 60, and said it should cost less than \$10,000. There is still some confusion between which service costs are one-time and which are recurring.

Johnson-Mussad said a realtor asked him whether a property for sale next to the common is in a historic district, and what it might entail if so. The houses around the common are indeed considered part of a historic district. Selectboard member Dan Keller, familiar with the house, said it is prime real estate and it is worth having the town look at it.

The selectboard chose 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12 for a special town meeting inside the town hall.



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MONTAGUE from page A1

“what looks like drug activity to me on a couple of corners.”

“Some of us are afraid,” Cunha added.

A fourth resident, Maureen McNamara, described a group regularly “hanging out” at the end of her street, one of whom attempted to trip her as she walked by with her small dog. “Had I fallen, I would have lost my little dog,” she told the board. “I’m totally uncomfortable with it.”

The main request of most of the speakers was an increase in police presence through “community policing,” or more officers walking the beat on foot. The Fourth Street resident called for “greater community policing presence for a few weeks during the summer vacation,” and was seconded by most of those present.

Several speakers told the board that they had seen an increased police presence in recent weeks. Lieutenant Christopher Bonnett told the *Reporter* that the department has spent over 100 hours investigating incident reports in Turners, which had increased significantly over the past quarter. “We know who they are,” said Bonnett.

But increased community policing in downtown Turners did not appear to be on the agenda.

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz said he had spoken to police chief Chris Williams about an “expanded presence” in the late afternoon and evening hours, when most of the incidents have taken place, but added, “I don’t know that a long-term solution is more police. I’m not sure that’s really going to solve it... but I think a conversation and community effort is what we need to work through.”

“I’ve spoken to school officials, and to the extent that some younger kids have been identified, there is a consensus across various agencies that there’s a need for some type of intervention,” said town administrator Steve Ellis. “It may not speak to all of the things that residents have outlined tonight, but it is something that is very much on the mind of people in public safety and education.”

Bonnett told the *Reporter* that he did not think the problem could be solved by “more overtime in the police budget.”

Theater Zapped

The town-owned Shea Theater, Ellis told the board, was struck by lightning the previous Friday night, and the theater’s fire alarm system was damaged. Ellis said this was a problem the public works department and the theater’s operator, the Shea Theater Arts Center, “are very engaged in.”

At his request the board voted to transfer \$2,000 from the community development discretionary unallocated fund to “top off” the depleted Shea Theater maintenance account.

Ellis reported on two earmarks inserted into the state budget by representative Natalie Blais and senator Joanne Comerford for Montague projects. One was \$100,000 to help fund a generator at the CWF, and the other was \$50,000 for roof repairs.

Ellis said Comerford had also “nested” a large appropriation for Montague streetscape improvements within an economic development bond bill, but that it had arrived on the Governor’s desk too

late. “There is no economic development bill at this time,” he said.

The town administrator also told the board that the federal government had altered the procurement rules for projects funded under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), allowing communities to be guided only by state laws. “It sounds like just a technical bulletin,” he said, “but it matters a lot, in terms of the town’s ability to execute projects.”

Wastewater Testing

Montague board of health member Melanie Zamojski reported on the latest data on positive COVID tests, gathered by an epidemiologist hired under a grant-funded regional collaboration. She showed a chart dating from the beginning of 2022, and reported that the numbers were “slightly up” for the week ending August 4. This may reflect the new BA5 variant, she said, which evades vaccines at a higher rate but may be less lethal.

Zamojski said the four-town collaboration – which also includes Greenfield, Deerfield, and Sunderland – has been discussing another variant which may arrive in late September. “I think this is going to be a cycling thing, with a new variant as it goes,” she said.

Selectboard member Matt Lord asked if the collaboration was monitoring COVID levels at local wastewater treatment plants. Zamojski said that the group had been using Greenfield’s test results, but that Montague’s Clean Water Facility (CWF) would also begin testing this Thursday.

Chelsey Little, superintendent of the facility, held up a test kit for the camera.

Plans Underway

Town planner Walter Ramsey reported on the progress of a number of grant-funded projects, beginning with the Montague Comprehensive Plan, which he said was in an initial “goal-setting and community visioning phase,” with a community survey underway now through September. “We have 400 responses,” Ramsey said, “but we want more.”

The second phase of the program will be funded by a state Municipal Vulnerability Grant, which requires that proposals to address climate change be integrated into every chapter of the Plan. Ramsey said the grant will also pay stipends for “citizen advisors,” and provide food and daycare at events. The board authorized the grant contract.

Turning his attention to projects funded with state Green Communities money, Ramsey said LED lighting at the Second Street parking lot, lighting upgrades at the Millers Falls library, and upgrades at the Clean Water Facility (CWF) have been completed.

However, projects for mini-split heat pumps at the CWF and Millers Falls library are on hold, because the electric company Eversource has changed its incentive policy, and the cost of mini-splits has increased. The board agreed to move forward with finding more funding for the library project, and will ask Little to discuss funding mechanisms for the one at her facility.

Ramsey announced that Montague had received a grant from the state Department of Transportation to design a new “small bridge” over Goddard Brook on Swamp Road. Repair or replacement of that

bridge, he said, would have to be “aligned” with other nearby projects in Montague Center.

Ramsey reported on several brownfield projects, addressing environmental hazards at former industrial or commercial sites. He said the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has agreed to conduct a Phase 2 environmental assessment at 11 Power Street, the site of the former Railroad Salvage building, which the EPA has razed. The agency also agreed to Phase 1 and 2 assessments of a First Street parking lot recently rezoned for affordable housing.

Finally, Ramsey updated the board on the reallocation of funds from the canceled Fifth Street pedestrian bridge project to improvements around Canal Street. He said new curbing and sidewalks were being installed on Canal Street up to Third Street, and sidewalk extensions down to Seventh Street had been “green-lighted.”

Endless Elections

The board approved a warrant, presented by town clerk Deb Bourbeau, for state primary elections on Tuesday, September 6. The ballot includes party candidates for a range of statewide offices, including governor, lieutenant governor, and attorney general, as well as for Montague’s representative in the US Congress and its state representative and senator. Candidates for Franklin County sheriff and the Northwestern district attorney will also be elected.

In-person voting will take place between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. on September 6. Precinct 1 will vote at the Montague Center fire station, Precinct 5 at the senior center on Fifth Street in downtown Turners Falls, and the rest of the town – Precincts 2, 3, 4, and 6 – at the Franklin County Technical School in the industrial park. The voter registration deadline is August 27.

Bourbeau told the board that postcards were mailed to registered voters in July which they can send back to request early-voting ballots. “They’ve been coming in in droves,” she said. “Good job!” She also said “in-person” early voting will be held for a week beginning on August 27, in the annex behind town hall.

Kuklewicz asked Bourbeau whether, with the different methods of voting, “all the checks and balances... still as rigorous as they always have been?”

“They’re even more rigorous now,” she responded. “After 2020, we have a lot more in place to make sure everything is on the up and up.”

Authorized Recreation

Parks and recreation department Jon Dobosz requested a permit for the use of public property at First Street on September 18, for the annual Soap Box Derby, and a permit in Montague Center on October 8, for the annual Sawmill River Run. Both requests were approved.

Dobosz noted that the soapbox race was revived last year, “after about a seven-year hiatus.” Ellis, who volunteered at the 2021 derby, called it a “fun, crazy, event.”

The Sawmill run has traditionally been held on New Year’s Day, but has been moved. “Holding a road race in the early winter is rather nerve-wracking,” Dobosz explained. “You never know what you are going to get... We’re kicking

the tires, and if it looks as though it’s not as successful, then we’ll just switch it back.”

Other Business

Acting as the personnel board, the selectboard appointed Adam Kleeberg as lead operator at the CWF, Rebecca Sabelawski to the board of assessors, and Ramsey to serve on the Franklin Regional Planning Board.

The board authorized three payments to the Berkshire Design Group for bidding and construction oversight for different elements of the ongoing Avenue A streetscape project. The payments are funded by com-

munity development block grants.

The meeting ended with an unplanned discussion of how to replace the door at the front of the upstairs meeting room, which now leads to an out-of-code and an unnecessary fire escape. Board members rejected a proposal to fill in the space with a large “weird window,” deemed less expensive by an architect, and opted for an alternative consistent with the building’s architecture.

The board retired to an executive session to discuss collective bargaining. The next scheduled board meeting will be on August 22.



LOOKING BACK:  
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

*Here's the way it was on August 9, 2012: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.*

Williams Out, Dodge In  
As Acting Police Chief

In a choreographed move that met with the unanimous approval of the selectboard, Montague lost and gained an acting police chief in the space of a few hours on Monday, July 30. Chris Williams, who had served as Montague’s acting chief for just seven months, since longtime department veteran Ray Zukowski stepped down as chief on November 26 of last year, told the selectboard last week, “I’ve realized the position is not for me.”

But waiting in the wings was Sergeant Charles “Chip” Dodge, whose third try at becoming chief proved to be a charm, at least on a temporary basis, as he stepped up to the post the same night Williams stepped down.

“How many times did you get interviewed for this position?” board member Pat Allen asked Dodge lightly.

“As many times as it takes,” replied Dodge, who later thanked the board for appointing him acting chief, and said he was looking forward to working with them.

Williams said that when the results of his Civil Service police chief exam came back, and he had failed to pass, he actually felt relieved. “I’ve been taking stock for a couple of months,” said Williams, who added he missed the active-duty police work he had been able to perform, at least half the time, in addition to his prior administrative duties as staff sergeant. Williams will now return to the staff sergeant position, and said he is glad to “step aside and let those who are interested go forward,” in applying for the position of permanent chief.

Dodge said last week he would definitely apply for the permanent chief position. During his interview for the acting chief position last November, Dodge had been considered an equally strong contender for the job.

The board made it clear then, despite the blemish on Dodge’s personnel record from an off-duty

altercation with another patrolman, Joe Yuki, in May of 2000 – which left Dodge with a cut lip, extensive damage to his private vehicle, and a demotion from sergeant to patrolman after he had urged an investigating officer to keep the matter private – that the board would have been willing to promote Dodge to acting chief then had it not been for the fact that Williams, as staff sergeant, held the higher rank.

Window Job Still Incomplete  
At Leverett Elementary

There are just about 20 days left before school starts at Leverett Elementary School, and the window replacement project is going anything but smoothly.

The Green Repair project, meant to tighten up energy use in the original 50-year old section of the brick schoolhouse, was budgeted at \$564,249, with about 50% of the cost to be paid for by the Massachusetts School Building Authority from money provided by the Obama administration’s stimulus bill.

In order to qualify for state matching funds, the town of Leverett had to agree to submit to certain project guidelines, including hiring an architect from a small pool of candidates mainly based in Boston. The town ended up drawing Boston-based firm DiMarinisi and Wolfe.

After first sizing the replacement windows inaccurately, then failing to notice that the windows being replaced had no true structural support above them to adequately support the school roof, DiMarinisi and Wolfe would be unlikely to be hired again by the town to design a dog house, much less to repair its elementary school.

The selectboard called an emergency meeting with the fin com on August 8, after chair Rich Brazeau spent much of the last two weeks, with the help of former school maintenance man John Kuczek, troubleshooting the troubled project, working with county building inspector Jim Cerone and project manager Brian Laroche to devise a last-minute structural fix to keep the roof from collapsing when the new windows are finally installed.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Looking Forward to Fall

By MIKE JACKSON

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – The regional school committee met remotely, somewhat briefly, and with a scant quorum Tuesday night, with five members including the newly appointed Montague representative Brooke Martineau. Before the public was invited onto the Zoom, a long executive session was held to discuss bargaining with the teachers’ union.

Superintendent Brian Beck reported that the state education commissioner had met earlier that day with all the superintendents to let them know that as the school year begins, COVID-19 guidance will be the same as when the last year ended – masks mostly optional, except in health offices and for staff and students returning from quarantine.

“There’s no longer state funding, or programs, for pool testing or rapid testing,” Beck added, “and there’s no longer state funding for PPE, and school districts will no longer be required to report cases to the Department of Education un-

less there’s a concern about a cluster or an outbreak.”

(The state Department of Public Health recently stopped reporting positive cases on a daily basis, and shifted its weekly reporting from Wednesdays to Thursdays and thus after the publication of this newspaper. As of August 4, countywide weekly COVID cases stood at 76 and 96, as compared with 6 and 22 exactly one year earlier.)

Scheduled vaccine clinics have been canceled, as “the sponsoring agency” was understaffed.

The committee approved warrants, and briefly heard about meals (they will be free, though prices need to be set in case students go for seconds) and busing (again, no intra-district bus will transport Montague kids to Gill Elementary), and approved warrants.

Beck said the proposal to rename the high school athletic field for coach Gary Mullins should receive a public hearing in late September or early October, and not “hidden in a poorly-attended summer school committee meeting.”

**DOG** from page A1

first dog hearing, but chair Rich Kuklewicz and member Chris Boutwell were veterans of the process. It took an hour and fifteen minutes.

Chief Williams began with a report on a complaint received on May 24 and an investigation by several officers in his department. The complainant, resident Megan Seymour, stated that while walking her dog past 11 Meadow Road, she had been attacked and knocked down by a canine coming from the yard of that address. “The owner of that dog did not come forward to assist me,” she reported to police dispatch.

The police arrived on the scene and were told by Nancy Pike that the dog, a “pit bull mix named Titan” owned by her son Jason Pike, had gotten loose while she was tying him to a cable run.

Williams said Ms. Pike was unable to provide any documentation or tags for the dog, and Bourbeau said she had no record of the dog being licensed as required. “He’s not even in my database,” she said. She said the owner had come into her office “about half an hour ago” to register the dog, but this was not

possible because the animal had not had its rabies shot.

Williams said the police log reported previous calls about the same address in September 2021, April 2022, and June 14, 2022. Burek, the animal inspector, reported that a neighbor was bitten in the arm last December while delivering groceries. Burek said Pike was required to quarantine the dog, and advised to vaccinate him, but that “apparently there is no record of that.”

Testimony followed from neighbor Ron Rodman about his encounters with Titan and his owner. He complained about threatening behavior from Titan. “I’ve been told that I shouldn’t walk the dog by there,” he added.

“I don’t think it’s the dog’s fault,” Rodman said. “He just needs to be trained and put in the backyard, not so close to the road.”

Chief Williams noted that he did not walk his own dog near 11 Meadow Road, due to Titan.

The next phase of the hearing featured owner Jason Pike, who said he had just bought “a bunch of fencing” to contain the dog, because “I don’t want him on the road,

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and don’t want him barking all the time.” Pike said he had not been aware of the license and rabies vaccine requirements, “but I am now.”

“I want to respect everybody, and respect their wishes,” he said. “Titan is not really a dangerous dog – I’ve got a four-year-old niece who rides around on his back like a horse.”

Pike was asked about the December incident in which the neighbor delivering groceries was reportedly bitten. Pike responded that he had been at work at the time, but believed that when the front door was opened and the neighbor handed over the groceries, “[Titan] jumped through.”

In response to a question from Corbo, Pike said that the fence he was in the process of building was temporary, but that he was “going to make it permanent.”

The board then moved to a discussion of whether Titan was a dangerous or nuisance dog.

Kuklewicz read the statute, which defines a dangerous dog as one that “without justification” attacks a person or animal, causing injury or death, or that “behaves in a manner that a reasonable person would believe poses an unjustified imminent threat of physical injury or death to a person or domestic or owned animal.”

Nuisance dogs are defined by excessive, disruptive barking or by threatening or attacking a person or livestock in a way that doesn’t constitute a “grossly disproportionate reaction under the circumstances.”

In the end, the board ruled that Titan was a dangerous dog, but did not discuss the most serious potential consequence of this status – having him put down.

Instead, they required Pike to keep him in a fenced-in enclosure in the backyard, inspected by the animal control officer; provide proof of a \$100,000 insurance policy within 30 calendar days; restrain and muzzle the dog whenever he is walked; and vaccinate and license the dog within five business days. If Titan takes a training program, the muzzling requirement may be lifted in six months.

The vote on these requirements was unanimous.

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Above: The mighty Sawmill.

## Common Hall Friends Group Raises Funds for Improvements

By LEE WICKS

**MONTAGUE CENTER** – First the good news: the Montague Common Hall in Montague Center, originally built in 1834 as a Unitarian church and then used for many years as the home of the Montague Grange, has emerged from the COVID shutdown with a fresh coat of paint, newly finished floors, window repairs that make heating the hall more efficient, and a new sewer line. The building looks beautiful, and attending a recent Mohawk Trail Concert there felt like going home.

Chris Wise, president of the board of directors for the Friends of the Montague Common Hall, says he is especially grateful to Mark Mariani and Sol Lakey for the exterior painting, Josh Lively of Lively Builders for the window renovation, and Larry and Carolyn Manley of L&F Construction for replacing the old sewer line which had crumbled.

Now, the bad news: Though L&F did the sewer line for a good price, and all the restoration work was necessary, “the Common Hall bank account is almost empty,” says Wise.

“Our average rental income



WICKS PHOTO

The front of the Common Hall, with new paint and scaffolding.

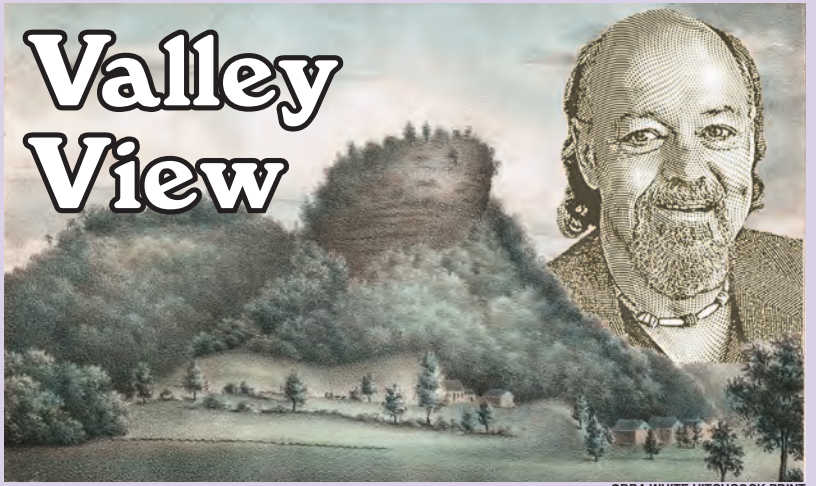
dropped by almost two-thirds when COVID hit, from an average of \$8,200 a year to about \$2,600,” he explains. “That’s in addition to the loss of income from the Mutton & Mead Medieval Festival annual donation *in lieu of* rent, which is a void that hasn’t been filled.”

In addition, he says, “Inflation has increased our costs, and our insurance company just informed us that

they are dropping us. We’re hoping to get a new policy, but it will likely be even more expensive, because insurance has skyrocketed for older structures that have seen dramatic drop-offs in usage. It’s time to replenish funds for ongoing expenses.”

The community has been supportive in the past, says Wise, and he hopes people will step forward

see **HALL** page B6



ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK PRINT

By GARY SANDERSON

**GREENFIELD** – It occurred two years before I was born: a Saturday-morning plane crash that exploded on impact in bucolic Mason, New Hampshire, instantly killing four prominent South Deerfield townsmen and shaking the village to its core.

The date was July 28, 1951, the time about 9:30 a.m., visibility poor in foggy rain.

The crash made the national news wires. Photos of the twisted wreckage appeared on the front page of newspapers throughout the land, especially in the Northeast. Today, it has faded from the collective memory, even in South Deerfield – except for a few 80- and 90-somethings like Patricia McEnerney Kelleher, then a young woman living in town. She remembers it well.

“The town seemed to stand still,” she said. “We were numb.”

The victims, closer in age to my grandfather than my father, had departed for Boston from the Turners Falls Airport the previous afternoon in pilot Delmer M. Jewett, Jr.’s private, four-passenger, single-engine Ryan Navion plane. Their destination was Fenway Park, for a Friday night Red Sox game vs. the Cleveland Indians, won by the visitors, 3-2, on a ninth-inning run.

Although they planned to return home that night, stormy weather moved in soon after Indians righthander Bob Lemmon closed out his complete-game win, and Jewett didn’t want chance night flight. He called home to report they’d spend the night in Boston and return in the morning. That’s the last anyone heard from them. About halfway home the pilot got disoriented in a cloud bank and crashed into a mix of trees and fields some 15 miles north of Fitchburg.

Accompanying Jewett, 43, who had owned the plane for about three years, was his 79-year-old father, Delmer, Sr., 52-year-old South Deerfield postmaster and former police chief Edward J. Redmond, and downtown pharmacist Hollis D. Billings, 50. The victims’ ages varied in breaking-news accounts, but are reported here according to birth dates published in obituaries.

The Jewetts owned what was known around town as the “Pickle Shop” – that is, D.M. Jewett Cor-

poration and Oxford Pickle Works, the official name prominently displayed on the plane. The company was founded as Sugarloaf Pickles in 1896 by Delmer Sr.’s father, Alvord Austin Jewett (1838-1905), a decorated Civil War veteran buried in the Brookside Cemetery.

The Jewett family came to Bloody Brook, now South Deerfield, from Templeton in the mid-1780s, and by the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century had established a large “downtown” presence on both sides of the county road from Deerfield to Hatfield, now South Main Street. Patriarch Enoch Jewett (1739-1813) and his son Reuben first appear as Deerfield taxpayers in 1786, when development was burgeoning on the south end of town, between Elm Street and the Whately line.

By the 1850s, the Jewett family had split into branches from Reuben – one associated with the Pickle Shop, another with the first Mount Sugarloaf summit house and a large North Mill River farm. The summit-house family was headed by Dwight Jewett (1812-1909), and his son-in-law, Granville Wardwell, built the first Sugarloaf structure during the Civil War.

Delmer M. Jewett, Sr. was a semi-retired pickle company president at the time of the crash, and had lost his wife about a year earlier. He left a son Dana in South Deerfield, a daughter in Houston, Texas, and six grandchildren.

The pilot, Delmer, Jr., was the company vice president, manager, and treasurer. He left a wife and two daughters. Delmer, Jr., was born and raised in South Deerfield, where he had been a selectman and president of the Rotary Club before moving to Northfield, where he owned a large cucumber farm. He had been a licensed pilot for 10 years, and bought the plane in 1948 for travel to a sister pickle plant in Paris, Maine.

Hollis Billings, the pharmacist, was born in Northfield to a family with deep Connecticut Valley roots in Sunderland, Hatfield, Conway, and South Deerfield. He left a wife, son, and daughter – not to mention another gaping hole on the downtown business scene. Just four months before the crash that claimed his life, downtown South Deerfield had lost its centerpiece see **VALLEY VIEW** page B2



## In Traverse City, a Lake is an Ocean

**SOUTH DEERFIELD** – To most *Reporter* readers who live in New England, there is no mistaking what it means to be at the beach. To us, the beach is always a right turn: it’s to the east, and it’s the Cape,

the Maine Coast, or the expensive beaches of tiny Rhode Island.

But how about a beach on a lake? A really big lake, an ocean-esque lake.

That’s what I found when I

visited one of the most popular small towns in the Midwest: Traverse City, Michigan. And I realized that for many Americans, big Lake Michigan offers just the same charm, nostalgia, and sand that we get from our beautiful ocean beaches in the Northeast.

On my visit to Traverse City, or “TC,” I met a woman in a hot tub who was playing hookie by escaping north to TC from her boring sales job in Grand Rapids that weekday. People love to escape to TC; it’s a generational thing that keeps Michiganders coming back.

“I’ve been coming up here since I was a kid – and as an adult, whenever I can, I drive up to enjoy time with family in this city. It’s the best!” she asserted. She told me about the famous Leland blue rocks she finds in the lake, that are a byproduct of iron ore

see **TRAVELS** page B5



COURTESY OF TRAVERSE CITY TOURISM

An aerial view of Traverse City, located on Lake Michigan.



# Pet of the Week



## “Max”

Max is a sweet, scruffy little bundle. He loves to go for walks, play with toys, and nap on his dog bed or on the couch with his family. His family described him as a super loving dog who really likes going for car rides - he even knows the word “ride”! They also said that he is house trained and happy to meet new people. Max has no

experience with cats or other dogs. Interested in adopting Max? His adoption fee is \$550. Animals at Dakin are available only in Springfield currently. Contact adoption staff at [springfield@dakinhumane.org](mailto:springfield@dakinhumane.org) and include your name and phone number. For more information, call (413) 781-4000 or visit [www.dakinhumane.org](http://www.dakinhumane.org).

**VALLEY VIEW** from page B1 when the stately Bloody Brook Inn, diagonally across the common from the drugstore, was destroyed by fire. The Redmond family was relatively new in town. World War I veteran Edward Redmond, born and educated in Westfield and previously a patrolman on the Palmer police force, came to town as the newly appointed police chief in 1928. In 1943, he left that job to become South Deerfield’s postmaster. A member of St. James Catholic Church, Redmond brought a large Irish family to town. He left a wife and six children, the two youngest of whom, son Richard and daughter Jane, are alive today. “I remember that day like it happened yesterday,” said 83-year-old Richard Redmond. “I was only 12 when I lost my dad.” As it played out, Redmond’s father and Billings were the victims of a simple twist of fate. They had accepted last-minute invitations to the Red Sox game after police chief James Rosenthal and auto dealer Guy Hosley, Sr., declined due to previous commitments. The crash was witnessed by many Mason, New Hampshire residents who reported hearing the plane circling in distress before emerging from a 100-foot ceiling on a fatal downward trajectory that could not be corrected. Others heard a loud,

distant explosion. A woman said she thought the plane was going to land on her home as it passed close overhead, shearing off treetops before crashing to earth and exploding. The New Hampshire Aeronautics Commission attributed the tragedy to pilot error. An inexperienced instrument pilot, Jewett, Jr. got disoriented in a dense cloud bank, took a steep dive, and perished. No one was sure whether he had been aiming for the airport in Keene, New Hampshire or Turners Falls. Friends who had flown with Jewett praised him as a careful and conscientious pilot, and his plane did have instrument-flying technology for blind flying without sight lines to the horizon. But his instrument-flying experience was limited and, without visual reference to the ground, he succumbed to the fates. An experienced local pilot who today owns a small plane provided insight to me about the dangers of blind, instrument-flight through cloud banks, which he admitted avoiding at all costs. Faced with such perilous conditions, he said he opts to go around cloud banks, even if he must travel 100 miles out of his way. “To get through cloud banks, you have to totally trust your instruments,” he said. “You don’t want to get disoriented and experience vertigo.”

He said he has been in the cockpit with sophisticated pilots who won’t even look out the windshield when navigating through cloud banks, focusing exclusively on the instrument panel. He compared it to trusting a compass to get out of the woods. The golden rule is never to doubt your compass or instrument panel. Jewett must have seen a favorable weather report before taking off that morning from Boston’s Logan International Airport. Investigators speculated that when he encountered the cloud bank, he incorrectly interpreted it as a small, localized patch and immediately got in over his head. The pilot was identified by officials who went to the crash site. The other three victims were later identified by Francis Redmond and Dana Jewett, who traveled to the scene from South Deerfield. Activity in South Deerfield came to a complete standstill for the funerals on Tuesday, July 31, 1951. Town offices, stores, and other businesses were closed to allow friends and neighbors to pay their final respects to four community leaders. The four tragic victims were literally here today, gone tomorrow – leaving their grief-stricken Deerfield village in a state of shock.



## Sex Matters

a sex-positive health column

by STEPHANIE BAIRD

**TURNERS FALLS** – Welcome back, dear readers, to the continuation of our interview with local sexpert Yana Tallon-Hicks, author of a brand new book due out on August 16: *Hot and Unbothered: How to Think About, Talk About, and Have the Sex You Really Want* (HarperCollins, 2022). In this second half we focus more on the content of the book and sex-positive culture in general. Run out now and grab a copy from your local independent bookseller, or even Barnes & Noble.

**SB:** *What are some important messages/insights overall in this book?*

**YTH:** To me, of course, it’s all important. But the book is definitely thick, so I’ll point out some of my favorite concepts including overcoming sexual imposter syndrome, how to create an authentic mood for sex, why we should abandon “compromise is key” for a more conscious compromise model when navigating desire discrepancies, and how exactly to figure out and communicate your deepest sexual wants and needs.

**SB:** *Can you share a couple examples of practical skills folks can learn from this book?*

**YTH:** Yes! My original Yes/No/Maybe list – beautifully illustrated

by Rebeca Soto – is a great tool for discovering and communicating your desires and interests to your partners, and even just to yourself. Readers will also learn how to overcome common barriers to exciting, pleasurable sex such as internalized negative narratives about the sexual self and the cultural myth of “the classic mood” for sex.

There are also tons of practical worksheets in the book that will help bring complex therapy theories, such as differentiation and attachment theory, easily into real life. People will also walk away with more confidence around both saying and hearing “No” and repairing boundary ruptures or mistakes.

**SB:** *If you could recommend only one or two other modern self-help sex-related books, what would they be?*

**YTH:** I always recommend *Come As You Are* by Emily Nagoski to my clients, and I also love *The State of Affairs* by Esther Perel. *Polysecure* by Jessica Fern is also great.

**SB:** *Any favorite sex-positive novels, TV shows, or films you can recommend?*

**YTH:** Netflix is just bursting with sex-positive programming these days, which really makes me feel like “the kids are alright.” *Heartstopper*, *Sex Education*, and *The Principles of Pleasure* are some of my recent favorites. I also really enjoyed HBO’s *Sort Of* and *Insecure*.

**SB:** *Who are your sexual health heroes/mentors?*

**YTH:** I am so lucky to have so many powerhouse sex educators

and sexuality professionals in my network. A few that stand out in my personal and professional journey include Carol Queen, Jiz Lee, Shine Louise Houston, Esther Perel, Emily Nagoski, Tristan Taormino, and adrienne maree brown.

**SB:** *Now that you might have a bit of free time again for yourself, what types of activities and self-care do you enjoy?*

**YTH:** Publishing is a funny journey. All told, I’ve been working on the book for about four years, so there was a little editing lull for a bit, and now we are in full-tilt book-release and publicity mode.

It’s been a busy and exciting time! When I’m not doing podcasts or in-print interviews or working with my amazing therapy clients, I’m chasing my toddler all over Western Mass, doing yoga in my living room, walking in the woods, or weeding my garden. I’m hoping to get to the beach this summer, too.

**SB:** *What local bookstores can folks buy your book from?*

**YTH:** Oh My Sensuality Shop in Northampton, your local bookseller, online, and if people go to my website at [yanatallonhicks.com/preorder](http://yanatallonhicks.com/preorder) there are a variety of links where people can buy the book – really, anywhere you buy books!

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](mailto:sexmatters@montaguereporter.org).

## Senior Center Activities AUGUST 15 THROUGH 26

### WENDELL

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. Foot care clinic is held monthly. For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 2, or [coa@leverett.ma.us](mailto: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. For more information please call 863-9357.

### Monday 8/15

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

### Tuesday 8/16

No Classes  
**Wednesday 8/17**  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1:30 p.m. Parking Lot Pantry  
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

### Thursday 8/18

1 p.m. Cards & Games  
**Friday 8/19**

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

### Monday 8/22

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

### Tuesday 8/23

No Classes  
**Wednesday 8/24**  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

### Thursday 8/25

1 p.m. Cards & Games  
**Friday 8/26**

10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
12 p.m. Pizza Party

### ERVING

Erving Senior Center is open 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Open for cards, coffee, and snacks daily. Fitness room open daily. Erving van services available (must call 24hrs in advance for a ride). For more information, please call (413) 423-3649.

### Monday 8/15

9 a.m. Interval  
10:15 a.m. Seated Workout

### Tuesday 8/16

9 a.m. Good for U  
10 a.m. Line Dancing

### Wednesday 8/17

9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact  
10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
11:30 a.m. Bingo

### Thursday 8/18

9 a.m. Core & Balance  
10 a.m. Barre Fusion

### Friday 8/19

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew  
**Monday 8/22**

9 a.m. Interval  
10:15 a.m. Seated Workout

### Tuesday 8/23

9 a.m. Good for U

10 a.m. Line Dancing  
**Wednesday 8/24**  
9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact  
10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
11:30 a.m. Bingo  
**Thursday 8/25**  
9 a.m. Core & Balance  
10 a.m. Barre Fusion  
**Friday 8/26**  
9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

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By CASEY WAIT

**TURNERS FALLS** – Hello friends, long time, no see! Due to our summer publishing schedule, I didn’t write a column last month. July happened to be Disability Pride Month, and since I missed it, I figured I’d dedicate this missive to perhaps the newest cohort of the disabled community – the estimated 7.7 to 23 million Americans who have developed Long COVID.

A press release published on August 3 by the US Department of Health and Human Services states: “People with Long COVID have disease symptoms [debilitating fatigue, brain fog, heart issues, orthostatic intolerance, and more] that persist for weeks or months after acute COVID-19 infection.”

We do not yet know the proportion of COVID Long-haulers who will experience only temporary disability, versus those who will deal with some level of chronic illness for the rest of their lives. This condition can occur in people who had no known health issues previous to COVID-19, as well as in people with preexisting comorbidities, like me.

If you, dear reader, are among the many newly disabled – I’m so sorry. Your life likely will never be the same. You may never fully recover the level of health you had before encountering this virus. But you absolutely can still lead a full and meaningful life.

And, you are not alone. The disability justice community welcomes you and will fight with you to demand you get the care you need and deserve. In that spirit, I’d like to offer some words of (non-medical) advice that may help you as you navigate this new phase of your life.

Firstly – and this is important – because Long COVID is such a new condition, beware any doctor, herbalist, naturopath, or rando on the internet who promises you a cure. Until we know much more about this condition, there will be no “weird trick for kicking Long COVID.” You may be told to try a certain diet, exercise program, or supplement regimen. At best these “cures” will do very little, and at worst they could make your condition worse. If it is accessible to you, work with a primary care provider, and check in with them before starting any new health initiative.

And for the love of all that is holy: slam the door on anyone who in any way says you brought this on yourself. Whether they blame your diet, your weight, your past lives, or your soul’s journey – victim blaming is never cool. Illness is not a punishment or spiritual quest. People get sick, and often we won’t ever know why. Period.

Next, *find community*. Illness can be incredibly isolating, even more so during a pandemic. Luckily, the disability community has always been

skilled at building connections while stuck in bed. The internet has made it possible for people to hang out, swap stories and advice, collaborate on projects, and do life-saving mutual aid work together who may previously have only found others like them in hospital wards. There are Facebook groups, blogs, and Discord servers full of chronically ill and disabled people enriching each other’s lives and combating loneliness.

My chosen disability home is a Discord server run by the Death Panel Podcast. They post in the show notes of each of their episodes inviting listeners to the server – feel free to join if you feel called!

Kinship can also be found in the work of disabled activists, writers, artists, and scholars. When I was first delving into the world of disability justice and trying to decide if and how I fit, a friend sent me a recording of a lecture given by artist, musician, and writer Johanna Hedva. The video was titled “My Body Is a Prison of Pain so I Want to Leave It Like a Mystic But I Also Love It & Want it to Matter Politically.” (Do yourself a favor and look it up – it’s on Vimeo.)

That talk resonated with me deeply. Hedva gave me a new language to understand myself and my experience. In a world where the sick and disabled are silenced and made invisible, there are few things more powerful than feeling seen and heard in the presence and words of another.

Last Hot Tip: grieve. It’s not glamorous or fun or a one-time thing, but grieving your experience – the pain, the fear, the isolation, the anger, the loss of certainty – is essential to moving forward in this new life. You may recover fully, given time. You may not. It’s impossible to know. Try, as much as possible, to stick to the present moment and know you have your whole life to process this experience.

As much as I love the life I have diligently built for myself since becoming ill, I still get bowled over by grief. I’ve written before that I don’t think I’ll ever be done processing the decline of my health. You may not either. And that sucks – but it’s okay.

The number of those living with Long COVID will continue to rise, especially as the pandemic goes on without meaningful intervention. The best way we can honor the sick and newly disabled people of this world is to continue to fight for a robust and intersectional response to COVID-19. Please check out the work of the incredible advocacy group, The People’s CDC. Subscribe to their weekly “weather reports” for updates on the virus and find ways to get involved in their work. Their website is [www.PeoplesCDC.org](http://www.PeoplesCDC.org).

To my fellow Long-Haulers: Solidarity, sickos!

With love and rage,

*Your Sick Friend*

## Cabbage Thrown; Tags Drawn; Machete Brandished; Drunks Drive; Female Will Be Keeping The Marijuana

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

**Monday, 7/25**

9:05 a.m. Caller from Eleventh Street reports that her van was tagged last night with a Sharpie. Investigated.

9:13 a.m. Repossession of vehicle on Federal Street.

10:34 a.m. 911 caller from North Taylor Hill Road advising there is a snake in her house, currently under a box cover. Animal control officer advised.

10:34 a.m. Caller reports discovering a dead dog in the water off Gatehouse Drive. ACO advised.

2:07 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street observed a “fancy white car” pull up and exchange something with a female.

4:43 p.m. Caller reports that an alarm is going off; it can be heard from the Third Street alleyway, but not from Fourth Street. Officer advises that the sound is coming from a 15-foot dumpster that is full of trash; unable to locate the object it is coming from.

7:02 p.m. Caller from Park Street states that her neighbor keeps putting a chair in front of her driveway on the tree belt. Caller keeps giving it back to her, but it is happening continuously. Caller states the neighbor is difficult and will not speak to her to try to resolve the issue. Officer advises situation currently mediated; parties advised of options.

9:44 p.m. Officer advised individuals in a vehicle parked at Railroad Salvage that they are not allowed to be at that location.

**Tuesday, 7/26**

8:37 a.m. Caller reports that the sign outside of Greenfield Savings Bank was tagged.

12 p.m. Property owner from Third Street reports that someone broke into the building overnight and vandalized the laundry room. Extra overnight patrols requested.

12:24 p.m. Report of a group of people hanging out at Avenue A and Fourth Street spitting and swearing.

2:06 p.m. Caller from Federal Street reports that a male threatened to come to his house and slash his tires.

4:12 p.m. Following a vehicle stop at the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge, a 23-year-old Greenfield woman with three active warrants was arrested.

4:16 p.m. Caller from East Main Street stated that an unknown male party with a motorcycle is sitting at the picnic table drinking nips. Officer spoke with party, who stated that he was meeting people there and that they should be there within the half hour.

**Wednesday, 7/27**

12:51 p.m. Building on Third Street entered and chair smashed either overnight or this morning.

12:53 p.m. Amazon package with book stolen from Greenfield Road sometime after 9:30 last night.

1:04 p.m. Graffiti painted on back of Avenue A apartment building.

2:15 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports that a male in a white vehicle stopped to talk to someone and “in my opinion, they are exchanging drugs.” Referred to an officer.

8:38 p.m. 911 caller from Bridge Street stated that a group of five or six kids is causing a disturbance; they slashed his tires and were punching walls. They are now out back on the trampoline. Officer advises kids were no longer there. Second officer out with three individuals matching description provided by caller. All three involved parties Mirandized via card. One male juvenile was arrested on two active warrants.

**Thursday, 7/28**

8:33 a.m. Following a 911 call reporting a disturbance on Turners Falls Road, an adult male was arrested.

11:57 a.m. Caller states that a man named Brent is near the Black Cow Burger Bar bothering people for money again. Party moved along.

12:19 p.m. Caller from Farnen Avenue advising of ongoing threats and harassment from another tenant.

7:12 p.m. Caller reports that a manhole cover is missing on the corner at the top of the hill on Seventh Street. Unfounded.

8:19 p.m. Following a vehicle stop at Kells Road and Main Street, an adult female was arrested.

**Friday, 7/29**

9:52 a.m. 911 caller reporting disturbance between male and female in Eleventh Street alleyway. Peace restored.

10:18 a.m. Caller would like it on record that another package went missing from her porch on Greenfield Road this morning.

**Saturday, 7/30**

9:10 p.m. Caller from Randall Road stated that her neighbor was looking in her window. Officer advised.

10:01 p.m. Caller from Randall Road stated that the neighbor was looking in her window again as soon as the officer drove away. Officer stated that as he was pulling up, the neighbor was pulling in as well; he spoke to them, and they have not been home. Caller advised.

10:13 p.m. 911 caller stated that she was camping at Barton Cove and could hear loud music coming from across the river, possibly at the Turners Falls Rod & Gun club or even a boat. Unfounded.

11:02 p.m. Shelburne Control advises they received a

call from a female reporting a boat idling near the peninsula of Barton Cove. Officer could not see or hear a boat, but did hear music across the way.

**Sunday, 7/31**

6:02 a.m. Caller from Craig Avenue reports his vehicle was gone through this morning around 5 a.m.; he has the individual on tape from his Ring doorbell. Nothing believed to have been taken. Investigated.

6:33 a.m. Caller from Third Street reports someone left a jar of marijuana on her doorstep. Caller advises she has taken it inside. Female will be keeping the marijuana.

12:53 p.m. Caller reports being harassed by a lady in a black dress at Unity Park. Caller was being rude and was not happy when the involved female spoke to him about it. Situation mediated.

6:48 p.m. Caller reports that a female keeps harassing him on Bridge Street.

7:24 p.m. Party into station to report that a male keeps harassing her every time she is on Bridge Street and threatening to put her son in jail.

11:57 p.m. 911 caller from L Street reports hearing someone toss rocks at her windows roughly ten minutes ago. Officer spoke with caller’s husband, who advised noise happened twice and people ran down the alleyway the first time it occurred. During a check of the area, cabbage was located in the alleyway. Officer will remain in the area for a bit.

**Monday, 8/1**

1:30 a.m. Caller reports that as she was leaving work, she noticed people take off running and observed that the stoop of Between the Uprights was spray painted. Officer drove by business and did not observe any spray paint/graffiti.

**Tuesday, 8/2**

8:01 a.m. 911 caller from K Street reporting that she went to leave for work and there is a male party in her car believed to be sleeping. A 20-year-old Millers Falls man was arrested and charged with breaking and entering into a motor vehicle; person under 21 in possession of liquor; and trespassing. 11 a.m. Report of fight between men over a bicycle at Family Dollar, possibly becoming physical. Investigated.

1:51 p.m. Caller reporting a fight between two males on Avenue A near Swanson’s. Received second call from one of the involved parties advising he was assaulted by the other male. Received third call from other male party, who advised this was an issue with the other

male’s driving and stated he was almost hit by the male who cut him off; he believes the male is intoxicated. Investigated.

3:49 p.m. Multiple calls reporting black truck crashed into barriers and trees on Canal Street and did damage to property. A 53-year-old Greenfield man was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor; driving as to endanger; leaving the scene of property damage; improper operation of a motor vehicle; operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration; uninsured motor vehicle; unregistered motor vehicle; and possessing an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

6:02 p.m. Caller from Highland School Apartments reporting a raccoon stuck in the dumpster. Caller called back stating that he rescued the raccoon.

**Wednesday, 8/3**

5:46 p.m. Caller states that his son’s fishing poles and nets were stolen from Cabot Camp. Referred to an officer.

5:58 p.m. Caller from L Street states that her neighbor is power-washing his truck and causing a disturbance. Referred to an officer. Caller called back stating the neighbor is still outside power-washing the truck and it has been going on for about six hours.

7:12 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street states he has been harassed by a male who is not supposed to be in town or the building, and he just walked up to the caller’s front door. One party detained and Mirandized. Juvenile has left for the night.

**Thursday, 8/4**

9:29 a.m. Officer checking on some type of disturbance between two males and one female. Involved parties do not want to give any information.

10:57 a.m. Officers checking on a disturbance in progress at Peskeomskut Park. Parties separated. One involved male appears intoxicated.

**Friday, 8/5**

1:10 p.m. Caller from Fifth Street states that a sinkhole just appeared outside his house. DPW foreman notified.

3:11 p.m. 911 caller stated that a male in a gray Toyota Tacoma was yelling at him and tried running him over. Involved male party walked into station to report the argument with the caller.

6:52 p.m. Caller reporting ongoing harassment issue with some kids on Bridge Street; a group of them are gathered in and around the apartment building. Caller stated that it appeared that one of them had a long

see MPD next page

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MPD from page B3

kitchen knife on him. Officer advises group of juveniles was gone on arrival. 7:51 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street reports that there are six or seven juveniles on his front step and he feels threatened. Officer advised that when he pulled up to the location, the caller had a machete in his hand. Officer advised caller he could not have that out. No juveniles on scene when officer arrived, but two showed up while he was there and began harassing the caller. Incident was broken up by officer and mother of one of the juveniles. Caller advised of options. **Saturday, 8/6** 8:51 a.m. Caller has been calling multiple times a day over multiple weeks about a cat in Lake Pleasant. Complaint has been investigated by officers and ACO multiple times

and determined to be a non-issue. Officer spoke with adults at residence and advised them of the complaint. 10:07 p.m. Caller from Kingsley Avenue reports a vehicle struck his friend's car, which was parked, and the involved vehicle appears to be trying to leave the area. A 65-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor, third offense; negligent operation of a motor vehicle; and operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license. **Sunday, 8/7** 12:40 a.m. Caller believes someone may be in her house, but is unsure; she may also have been dreaming she heard a noise. Officer checked house; nobody around. 12:56 a.m. Shelburne Control transferred caller who reports that he is being chased

by people he doesn't know and has been ever since he has been on the highway. Caller pulled into Cumberland Farms, where an officer was located. Involved vehicle came back as a stolen vehicle out of Palmer. Monson PD contacted. Vehicle brought to station and picked up by owner. Summons issued for larceny of a motor vehicle and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. 9:22 a.m. Report of a male walking on Avenue A between the Creemee and the salon causing a disturbance, screaming and banging his cane on things. Subject located near Between the Uprights. Officer requisition Clinical & Support Options to respond if available. They will have the clinician reach out to follow up when she comes on duty.



# Surviving Breast Cancer

By Julie Cunningham

## Part 27: The Worst Word

**AMHERST** – The word Cancer is one of the worst words in the English language. It can have so many meanings, and be so powerful and significant. The word Cancer is a life-changing word – I will never forget the phone call when I heard the word. “It’s Cancer.” What a life-altering experience. We should all play the lottery the day we find out we have Cancer, because I firmly believe that everything has an equal and opposite reaction. I believe if you have Cancer, you’re going to find an equal and opposite positive.

For me, that positive has been strength. I’ve become stronger and I’ve discovered parts of myself I never thought I would dive into. Recently I dyed my hair a completely different color. I went from espresso brown to a red auburn. If I could show myself in 2019 to me now, I wouldn’t recognize myself. Three years ago I was breaking up with my boyfriend, starting a new job, and thinking my biggest problem was getting my hair to be flat on a hot, humid day.

I’ve also rediscovered my love for running, and I run up and down Mount Skinner every day in the early morning, before it gets hot. Three years ago I was still telling

everyone I would never run again because I wore myself out running along the Charles River in Boston every day, dodging tourists and geese. It was my only connection to nature; I would run and run and run along the Charles River until my feet hurt, surrounded by people on vacation and people with their significant others and people with their kids. I will confess, it was in those moments that I knew I was an introvert and I would never be happy in the city surrounded by people. So I quit running, because it reminded me of feeling uncomfortable.

I had just gotten back into running when I was diagnosed. After a year off, I can’t get enough of it.

Some things haven’t changed. I still feel connected to Franklin County in a way that I don’t feel connected to any other area of Massachusetts. I think Franklin County is a special place because it feels like a community. The traditions haven’t died like they have in other parts of the state. The farms haven’t all been sold for developments, the businesses haven’t sold out to strip malls and large chain retail stores and restaurants. You can find hidden gems like Historic Deerfield and Magic Wings. You can shop at Foster’s, or eat at

Main Street Bar and Grille.

The uniqueness of each town in Franklin County feeds my curiosity, and I want to learn as much as I can about all of them. The history of the area is like a puzzle. Sometimes I wish I could take the feeling of being a part of Franklin County and package it for the individuals who live and work in Boston and say “Here. This is what it is supposed to feel like. This is what it is supposed to look like.”

In Boston I was surrounded by strangers who never knew me and didn’t want to. Everyone wanted to get to work, do their job, and go home. There were too many people to worry about getting to know anyone. Plus, it wasn’t street smart to get to know anyone who wasn’t in your immediate circle.

I met so many people in passing I will never talk to again. People I’ve worked with, people I went to school with, people I met at the library or at a bar. I met people on the sidewalk and people in the taxi cab and I can’t remember any of their names. I can remember, however, how it felt to step into my job at Historic Deerfield in 2015 when no one else would take a chance on a pregnant woman. I finally felt safe.

I’ve also become tougher. There was a version of me that existed that would never confront anyone. I was a people pleaser: I wanted to make friends, play nice, and I wanted everyone to like me. Now, I want to be respected. I don’t need people to like me, and I’ve grown a better backbone. I believe a large part of my new backbone comes from those long summer months in 2021 wishing and hoping for the end of what felt like an endless treatment, but also knowing I was standing up to the ultimate threat: I stood up to Cancer.

The word Cancer is one of the worst words in the English language. But for me, the word has brought hope. It has brought strength. It has brought meaningful change. It’s what brought me here, and here is exactly the correct place for me.

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thinking to myself and wondering how it was possible for a wooden instrument about 30 inches tall to project music to over 3,700 people.

This day is a memory I will never forget. I still have my admission ticket in my bedroom. The next thing on my bucket list is to see the 2Cellos in performance.

This wraps up my column on the cello. It was super fun writing and learning about the history of the cello. I am possibly going to be in the Pioneer Valley Symphony Youth Orchestra this year, and it would just be so cool if I am.

Next time I will be learning and writing about the James Webb Space Telescope. You may have heard about it before, or even seen the stunning photographs it is taking in space. I will be talking about the making, use, and many other facts about the telescope. I can’t wait.

### Montague Community Television News

## Cloud, Heights, Homelands

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** – The Antenna Cloud Farm of Gill hosted a Music Walk throughout Turners Falls on July 5, and it will be forever remembered in the MCTV Vimeo archive alongside the legendary Most Wuthering Heights Day, which took place in Greenfield on July 30.

Soon we will be sharing our footage from the beautiful 9th Annual Pocumtuck Homelands Festival, which took place on August 6 and 7. Until then, feel free to catch up on all of the local town meetings, such as the Montague selectboard meetings and a dog hearing, the Gill

selectboard meeting, and the Montague planning board meeting on the Canal District Plan.

All community members are welcome to submit their videos, and MCTV is always available to assist in local video production as well. Cameras, tripods, and lighting equipment are available for check-out, and filming and editing assistance can be provided.

And remember, MCTV is still looking for board members!

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 [infomontaguety@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguety@gmail.com).

### FROM A TEEN'S POINT OF VIEW

## The Cello

By FINTAN ANDREW JONES

**MONTAGUE** – In today’s column I will be talking about the cello. I have been playing this instrument since I was in third grade, 8 years old. I was still at the Discovery School at Four Corners in Greenfield. I have continued to practice and play the cello for just about five years.

I am going to start off with a little bit of the history of the cello. If you don’t know, a cello is a four-stringed wooden instrument and it comes with a bow that makes the strings vibrate to create music.

A super duper long time ago, in the ancient times, the idea of stringed instruments was just coming about. This was where the history of the cello begins. Paintings from the 13th century depicted early forms of the violin. At this time, the cello was known as the *viola da gamba* (meaning “leg”) because you hold it between your legs. Moving 300 years into the future, during the mid-16th century, the violin makers started to make cellos, increasing the cello’s popularity. The cello design was solidified in the 17th century.

We can credit a man named Antonio Stradivari for the creation of the modern-day cello design and size. He was the first to start making this design. His cellos are now sold for over \$6 million. Some can even be auctioned off for much more than that – the most expensive one sold for over \$20 million! There are only 63 of his cellos left in the world today.

To wrap up the cello’s history: In 2022, the cello has not only remained a beautiful classical instrument, but has also made its way into its own rock genre. Some of the most popular people who have put the cello into this unlikely genre are Luka Šulić and Stjepan Hauser, who form a group called 2Cellos.

To start off, 2Cellos are awesome. They do cello rock covers and occa-

sionally write their own songs. Both of them were born in Croatia. They met in their teen years when their parents enrolled them in a cello master class in Pula, Croatia. They both studied at the Academy of Music in Zagreb, the capital of Croatia.

In 2011 their career really took off after they posted their cover of “Smooth Criminal” on YouTube and it became super-popular quickly. They signed to record with Sony Masterworks, and finished their first album in May 2011. Now, they have won over six major awards, one of which was “Best Musician of the Year” in 2014. One day I hope to see them perform live. This may be a little tricky, because they mostly tour in Europe.

Now on to Yo-Yo Ma.

Yo-Yo Ma, an American cellist born in Paris, France, was a prodigy from the beginning. He started doing cello performances at the age of four and a half, and he graduated from Juilliard School and Harvard University.

Yo-Yo Ma currently owns three cellos. The first is a 2003 Moes & Moes cello. His second is a 1712 Davidoff Stradivarius cello. Yes, this was one of the 63 Stradivarius that sell for millions of dollars today. It would make sense that he owns one of these exquisite instruments – I mean, he is the best cello player to ever live! His third and final cello is a 1733 Montagnana cello, worth over \$2.5 million! Ma mostly uses this cello for performances.

Here is the best part... about eight and a half months ago I went to Hartford, Connecticut to see Yo-Yo Ma. Over the course of two hours he talked about how truth, trust, and service connects us all. He explained how in some years he was traveling and touring 267 days of the year.

In the end, he played probably the most well-known cello piece ever, Bach’s *Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major*: I bet you would know this song if you heard it. It was amazing! I kept

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# FACES & PLACES



**GREENFIELD & GILL** – Our photo correspondent Joe R. Parzych reported on the scenes of two accidents last week.

Last Wednesday, a Mack dump truck full of gravel rolled over on Route 2 westbound, just beyond the rotary (above).

And last Thursday was a one-vehicle

accident at the Wagon Wheel restaurant in Gill, when a car (below) snapped a phone pole on Route 2 (above right).

“People heard a big boom,” Joe reports of the Gill accident, “and the power went out. Some people got hurt, but they were okay and talking. The police, fire department, and EMTs were there on the scene.”

JOE R. PARZYCH PHOTOS

## TRAVELS from page B1

mining and make pretty jewelry. She described TC as having everything she loves: great wines, a pretty lake to swim in, and people who are down-to-earth and real. She also told me what they affectionately call tourists in this tourist-centric town: “Fudgies.”

Horizon Books and Cafe is the only bookseller I’ve ever heard of that’s open seven days a week from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m.! Talk about full service – those hours would put even corporate titans like Barnes and Noble to shame.

Every July, Traverse City’s population swells during the National Cherry Festival, where the locally grown Montmorency and Balaton tart cherries are celebrated with parades, fireworks, pie-eating contests, and music. The town is famous for harvesting the most cherries in the US. You can find everything cherry at a local store that’s made cherries famous called the Cherry Republic, founded in 1989 by Bob Sutherland.

The lakeshore is a busy place during the summer months, with many other concerts and festivals. The Bijou on the Bay theater shows art films right on the lake. Next to the lake is the Boardman River, perfect for kayaking, and there is also an eight-mile bike trail that’s plowed for winter use. The waterfront has thousands of boat slips for locals and for seasonal visitors. A new bike and hiking trail around Boardman Lake was just completed in 2022.

### Lay of the Land

Traverse City is located in northern Michigan, about four hours to the west and north of Detroit and about 107 miles south of the Upper Peninsula – known here as the UP – which is famous for its mosquitoes, harsh winter weather, and overall desolation. There are now 17 direct flights to TC from places like Dallas, Florida, New York, and Arizona. This lakeside town is beloved by its summer residents and many go up there for vacations

and holidays.

The city has a population of about 15,000 which is larger during the summer. Many of the summer residents stay in summer cottages along the shoreline of the Bay and Lake Michigan.

Two narrow peninsulas jut out into the lake: to the right is Old Mission, and to the left is the wider and larger Leelanau peninsula.

The city was named in the top 10 places to retire in the US by TripAdvisor, and in 2009, it earned accolades as the number-two small town travel destination in the US.

On our first day during my November visit, as snow squalls blew a light dusting of snow over the road, I joined longtime resident Michael Norton to see the small village where he lives, Old Mission. Here you can find a tidy beach and the remains of an 1800s mission, along with nine wineries whose vines line the narrow road. Cherry orchards are everywhere. On the Leelanau Peninsula, there are more than 40 more wineries.

Hiking along a snowy path, even in November with the requisite long johns and sturdy hats and jackets, was comfortable, and the silence was therapeutic... just the sounds of footfalls and nothing in view as our eyes swept across the vast view of the lake, the dunes,

and the distant islands. Magical!

**Sleeping Bear Dunes**

As we headed north on the Leelanau peninsula, winding along the Manitou Trail #M-22, the road veered close to the lakeshore and we entered the green area on the map that denotes a national park. Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore had record attendance both of the last two years, with so many people looking to get out into the open and enjoy a safe vacation spot.

These dunes are a highlight of any visit here – a tremendous series of sand dunes and dramatic cliffs, plunging down from a high point to the lake’s shore. The dunes on one side are bald because the greenery has been blown away by cascading sands, and then it evolves into forestland.

Out in the lake, you can see the two uninhabited islands, North and South Manitou, that in the 1800s had small towns and were settled. Today, these islands are a great place for hiking and picnicking, and are served by a seasonal ferry that departs from Leland, north of the park.

Though dune-climbing is discouraged in the park, there is a spot about 50 yards wide where people are encouraged to climb up, and some do it with sleds to slide down on the slick sand. Be



Along the walkway at the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Traverse City, Michigan.

warned, though, it’s higher up than it looks, and the ride down can be pretty bumpy.

**Fishtown**

To an easterner like me, it was fascinating to learn about the history of fishing on the Great Lakes, and a place to see the treasures taken from the lake can be found in Fishtown, an area of the small village of Leland. Sportfishermen can catch salmon, chub, lake trout, and whitefish here, and during the season this village is bustling with people taking the ferry to the islands or buying smoked fish and fresh fish at the market. In a stream that runs just behind Carlson’s fish market, you can see salmon swimming upstream for the annual spawn.

“Everyone has their own recipe for whitefish dip,” my local acquaintance Michael told me. “It’s a local tradition. In recent years the chub and whitefish harvests haven’t been as plentiful as in the past, but there is hope to see a rebound with the continuing restrictions.”

### Downtown Traverse

While TC is a cold place for much of the year, during the spring and summer locals and tourists enjoy many concerts and festivals along the long riverfront facing Lake Michigan. The downtown is a throwback to when people would actually shop in a busy main street and not the mall. Traverse City has locally-owned boutiques, the already mentioned three-story Horizon Books, and many other clothing, cookware, and specialty shops, along with dozens of restaurants, cafés, and breweries.

I was pleased to find a camera store full of knowledgeable photo experts, and a shop called Momentum Outfitters, that offers unbelievably cheap prices on outerwear such as fleece jackets. I stocked up on four delightfully warm vests and jackets for a total of just \$32! Some of the culinary highlights of the city are sushi at Red Ginger on Front Street, and the friendly Jolly Pumpkin, out on the peninsula,

## WEBSITES

- Tourism website  
[traversecity.com](http://traversecity.com)
- National Cherry Festival  
[cherryfestival.org](http://cherryfestival.org)
- Cherry Store  
[cherryrepublic.com](http://cherryrepublic.com)
- Fishery  
[carlsonsfishery.com](http://carlsonsfishery.com)
- Outdoor Clothing  
[momentumoutfitters.com](http://momentumoutfitters.com)
- Red Ginger Restaurant  
[eatatginger.com](http://eatatginger.com)
- Brewery  
[jollypumpkin.com](http://jollypumpkin.com)
- Farm Restaurant  
[farmclubtc.com](http://farmclubtc.com)

where we sampled their delicious version of whitefish dip and their sour Belgian beers, which take a little getting used to. They also distill all manner of hard liquors, and their location with a view of the lake on Old Mission Peninsula can’t be beat.

*Bon Appétit Magazine* identified TC as a Foodie Town due to the vibrant farm-to-table culture and many classically-trained chefs. At the Farm Club, you can literally see the produce growing right in front of their restaurant. (Can’t get any fresher than that.) For breakfast or lunch, the Grand Traverse Pie Company has two locations in town, plus more than 13 others around the region. Their cherry pie and their chicken pot pie come highly recommended!

Local travel editor Max Hartsorne writes about traveling around our region, and a little beyond. Max is the editor of GoNOMAD Travel, a website published since 2000 in South Deerfield. Find him online at [www.gonomad.com](http://www.gonomad.com).



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HALL from page B1

again. Dances, weddings, yoga classes, performances, readings, community open mic nights, and more have brought people together in this serene and beautiful space. The 34 Main Street building is sometimes mistaken for a town-owned building, but it is not, and none of its maintenance comes from town funds. It is all supported by rental income, donations, and grants.

Wise says the Friends of the Common Hall have a goal of raising \$10,000 in order to qualify for a \$10,000 matching gift offered by an anonymous donor.



WICKS PHOTOS

The dance hall has a small stage and a maple dance floor.

“Our best source of income is donations from the community, especially our Sustaining Members,” says Wise. “They deserve a big shout-out for sticking with us and providing a small but steady income that covers a lot of our basic monthly expenses, like electricity, plowing, and lawn care.”

Over the past few years, a combination of donations and rental income has allowed the board to make enormous strides in maintaining the 1834 neo-Gothic structure across from the Montague Center common, now standing white and shining with its coat of fresh paint.

“In the last five years,” Wise says, “we have replaced the entire roof, stabilized and weather sealed the cupola, insulated the exterior walls and ceiling, and renovated all the large windows. We have replaced all of the basement windows, refinished the maple dance floor in the main room, painted the entire exterior, and upgraded the electricity for the stage.”

Whew! That’s a lot of care, and well worth it to those who have been inside the Common Hall and treasure its atmosphere and historic significance.

At this point, Wise says no specific fundraising events have been planned, but as COVID restrictions lift, people are renting the space again. This summer, two Mohawk Trail Concerts came to the Hall; there’s a Monday night fiddle group; and poet and neighbor Paul Mariani gave a reading from his new book, *All That Will be New*.

There’s a calendar on the website, [www.montaguecommonhall.org](http://www.montaguecommonhall.org), and also an explanation of the rental fees. They are modest, which should be encouraging to anyone who is thinking about using the Hall for an event.

If you have enjoyed events at the Common Hall, have thought about using the space for a wedding, fam-



Chris Wise, president of the board of directors of the Friends of the Common Hall, at the Hall’s front door.

ily reunion or any celebration, or simply appreciate having this beautifully restored building in the center of the village, Wise hopes you will make a tax-deductible donation. Gifts of any size are welcome. They can be made at the donation page at [www.montaguecommonhall.org](http://www.montaguecommonhall.org), or by sending a check to PO Box 223, Montague, MA 01351.

In addition to making a donation, Wise says, “there’s a job for anyone willing to pitch in. A

sampling from the big list: raking leaves, trimming shrubs, cleaning, more cleaning, window-washing, minor miscellaneous repairs, paperwork of various sorts, decision-making large and small, and – in a big way – fundraising.”

The list of improvements to be made is not yet complete. There’s a lot more to do, including improving accessibility and energy efficiency. But, as Wise says, “with your help, we can do it!”



# EXHIBITS

**Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls:** *Let Food Be Your Medicine*. Leonore Alaniz’ imprints capture the anatomy and life force of edible plants, which grow wild and are cultivated in local farms. Includes works by other artists and poets. Reception this Saturday, August 13, from 12 to 4 p.m.

**Rendezvous, Turners Falls:** *Everything Can Be Fixed*. Abstract multimedia works by Turners Falls resident Susan Blauner. A portion of sales benefit Ukrainian relief organizations.

**GCTV Studios, Greenfield:** *Alternative Abstracts*, Drew Hutchinson paintings. Through September.

**LAVA Center, Greenfield.** *Why I Stand*, statements, video, and banners about and by participants in weekly vigils on the Greenfield town common. Curated by the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice. *The UK Farm Belt*, observational stories and photographs of life in East Sussex after lockdown by Alfonso Neal. Both through August.

**Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett:** *All of the Things*, paintings by Susan Valentine. Through August 28.

**Looky Here, Greenfield:** *Smoky Puddle*, works by Cathy Wusocki and Wayne Hopkins. Through August 27.

**Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro:** *Unseen Rhythms*.

Jude Danielson presents quilted textiles that navigate the realm between pure color perception and recognizable form. Through August.

**Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield:** *DVAA Members Exhibit*, through September 18.

**Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls:** *Lisa Beskin*, underwater photography; *Julie Crabtree*, embroidered scenes inspired by the Bridge of Flowers. Through August.

**Shelburne Arts Coop Gallery, Shelburne Falls:** *Flights of Fancy*. Paintings, photography, mixed media by member artists. Through August.

**Mill District, Amherst:** *Valley Artist Portraits*. Isabella Dellolio photographed 20 local artists for a project putting their portraits on Valley Bike kiosks. Through August in the windows of District businesses.

**Gallery A3, Amherst:** *Seventh Annual Juried Show*. Featuring art by 41 artists. Through August.

**Anchor House of Artists, Northampton:** *Jules Jones*, mixed media paintings; *Dean Nimmer*, abstract paintings. Through August. Reception this Friday, August 12 at 6 p.m.

**Brattleboro Museum & Art Center:** *Felt Experience*, group show of felt artists. Also exhibiting: Beth Galston, Frank Jackson, Mie Yim, Nebizun, Roberley Bell, and Oasa Duverney. Through October 10. [www.brattleboromuseum.org](http://www.brattleboromuseum.org).

## EVENT PREVIEW

# Beatles Reflections

**NEW SALEM** – The New Salem Public Library presents “A Cultural and Historical Reflection of the 1960s Through the Music of the Beatles” next Tuesday, August 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the library community room. Fran Hart, founding member of the Beatles tribute band 4EverFab, presents this multimedia program that highlights the influence the Beatles had on world culture, particularly during the 1960s.

Their music established a new standard, and their influence in other cultural areas was undeniable. They influenced hairstyles. They set new trends in fashion. They spoke out against things they saw as wrong. They were irreverent. They evolved greatly, despite

being in the spotlight as a group for fewer than ten years.

This presentation features live acoustic music and audience sing-alongs, coupled with rare audio and video clips. The audience is involved right from the start with “All My Loving” – the first song played on that historic night in February 1964 when Ed Sullivan introduced the Beatles to America.

Travel back in time to get a brief overview of the band’s beginnings, highlighting the major milestones during the group’s formation. Explore the importance of the Ed Sullivan show and sing all the songs played that evening. Then continue with the major Beatle events of the mid-to-late-60s and discuss how



MONTAGUE REPORTER ILLUSTRATION

these events exerted influence on others, particularly young people.

This hour-long presentation is suitable for all ages. The Beatles have fans in every generation, and their songs are beloved by all. For more information about Fran Hart, go to [www.franhart.com](http://www.franhart.com).

For more information about the event, contact the New Salem Public library at (978) 544-6334 or [n\\_salem@cwmars.org](mailto:n_salem@cwmars.org).

## MOVIE REVIEW

# Thirteen Lives (2022)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – I’ve told you I like historical dramas as some of my favorite movies. Another genre I like is movies based on true-life stories.

*Thirteen Lives* is the true story of a cave rescue that was done in 2008 of 13 boys in Thailand. The boys were trapped for 18 days. Incredibly, people managed to pump the water out of the caves the boys were exploring and got all of them out.

Ron Howard is the individual who made this movie, and it’s not the first time he has done a movie about a true story. One other movie of his was about a Depression-era boxer nicknamed Cinderella Man who became a champion.

Another movie that I have seen that was like this incredible event was *The 33* (2015), which was about Chilean miners who all survived being trapped underground for nearly two months. *The 33* is a good comparison to make with this movie, because the story in *Thirteen Lives* is called “the world’s greatest rescue.” People from several countries joined together to help the boys.

This movie, which premiered on Amazon Prime, stars Colin Farrell, Viggo Mortensen, and Joel Edgerton as divers who got involved in the rescue. These actors are all ones I know reasonably well.

At first, we learn exactly how worldwide the rescue effort was; volunteers showed up from Japan, China, Australia, and England to help get the boys out of those caves. Two of the rescuers were from England, and were called in by the governor of Thailand. On Day Two of the event, people started just showing up to help out. Some didn’t even have to be asked to come help, like a water engineer from China.

Obviously, some of the individuals came because there was no time to waste, as water was filling up the caves. Another amazing reason was



that people from all over wanted to help save the boys. People from Thailand attempting the rescue was of course amazing, but this many people coming from all over the world was incredible, because that level of banding together to help other individuals is very rare. This is another reason why the comparison to *The 33* is a good one – I believe the level of human beings coming together happened to help those miners, too. A specific example of how amazing the people of Thailand were during this event was when they came up with a way to remove some of the water from the cave, even though the cost of getting the water out was flooding some farmers’ crops. The farmers allowed this in order to give the boys a chance, which is not an easy thing to do – a fair amount of people might not be able to sacrifice their livelihood, but they did.

The camera angles this movie used to show the audience what it was like to dive back and forth into the caves were well done. The actual diving into those caves must have been a very hard job, even for the best divers involved. The crazy idea to save these kids’ lives, and the timing of the rescue, are two ways this movie shows that these people pulled off a miracle.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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## FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

Stearns Square, Springfield: *Springfield Jazz and Roots Festival*. Free. 5 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Station to Station*, with DJ MentalDrift. Free. 6 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Lakou Mizik*. Haiti benefit. \$ 6 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Bloomsday, Carinae, Thus Love, Goldsetter*. \$ 8 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Wet Tuna, Liam Grant*. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Capadonna* (Wu-Tang Clan), *Sensi Allstar Live Band*. \$ 8 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Galvanizer*. 8:30 p.m.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

Stearns Square, Springfield: *Springfield Jazz and Roots Festival*. Free. 12:30 p.m.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Courtney Barnett, Lucy Dacus, Men I Trust, Faye Webster, Bartees Strange, The Beths, Hana Vu*. \$ 10 a.m.

Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Rosie Porter & The Neon Moons*. Free. 4 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Moving Day, Yarrow Skoblow, Emilia Benoit*. 7 p.m.

Look Park, Northampton: *Mary Chapin Carpenter, Erin Rae*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Brothers Project*, Allmans tribute. \$ 8 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Woody and the Rebel Alliance, Wheel Out*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Temperature*, dance party. \$ 10 p.m.

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

Nova Arts, Keene, NH: *Bonnie Prince Billy, Myriam Gendron, Footings, Party of the Sun*. \$ 5 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Melissa Ferrick, Alice Howe*. \$ 7 p.m.

## MONDAY, AUGUST 15

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Bonnie Prince Billy, Footings, A.P.I.E.* \$ 8 p.m.

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 16

Look Park, Northampton: *Elvis Costello & the Imposters, Nick Lowe & Los Straitjackets*. \$ 7 p.m.

ets. \$ 7 p.m.

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Shovels & Rope, Tré Burt*. \$ 8 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17

Look Park, Northampton: *Punch Brothers, Watchhouse* feat. Sarah Jarosz. \$ 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wes Brown*. 8 p.m.

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 18

10 Forward, Greenfield: John Waters double feature screening, *Female Trouble* and *Desperate Living*. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Zack Nugent Band*. \$ 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Kenny Roby, Aisha Burns*. \$ 8 p.m.

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 19

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Ben Prestage, Eric Phelps*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Meridian Brothers*. \$ 8 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *TapRoots, The Lost Tribe, Jose Gonzales and Banda Criolla*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Vimana*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *The Greys, Space Junk* is

Forever. \$ 8 p.m.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 20

Charlemont Fairgrounds: *Charlemont Reggae Festival*. \$ 1 p.m.

Mount Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Tony Vacca*. \$ 4 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club: *The Electric Carnival, Linsey and the Llamas*. 6 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Hearts & Bones: The Music of Paul Simon*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Olivia Neid*. 9:30 p.m.

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

Peskeumskut Park, Turners Falls: *Do It Now!* Free. 2 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Dead Harrison, Cetragore, Indus Valley Kinds, Moon Tomb*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24

Look Park, Northampton: *Indigo Girls, Bitch*. \$ 7 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Albino Mbie*. \$ 7 p.m.

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Fellswater*. \$ 7 p.m.

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

Nova Arts, Keene, NH: *Jessica Moss, Ka Baird, Christina*

Wright-Ivanova. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Heirloom Music Festival*. \$ 8 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Lauren Balthrop, Violet Bell, Golden Shoals*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Queer Dance Party*. \$ 9 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Originate, DJ Rorzor, Jocelyn Silver*. \$ 10 p.m.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

Palladium, Worcester: *Anthrax, Black Label Society, Hatebreed, Municipal Waste*, many more. \$ 2 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Muddy Ruckus*. \$ 7 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *"Trade Secrets," with the Guerrilla Girls' Frida Kahlo*. \$ 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bryan Bielanski*. 9:30 p.m.

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 30

Colonial Theater, Keene, NH: *Lucinda Williams and Her Band*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Built to Spill, Blood Lemon*. \$ 8 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31

Bombyx Center, Northampton: *Fanna-fi-Allah*. \$ 7 p.m.



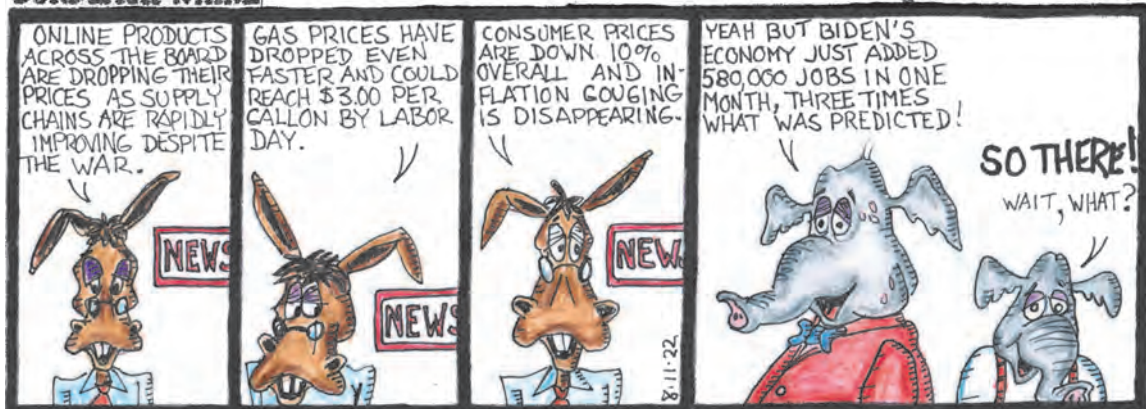
## Three Degrees of Warming

By Janice Rowan



## BORDEAUX WHINE

by denis f. bordeaux



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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Get Ready for the Races

**TURNERS FALLS** – The Sixth Annual Montague Soapbox Races will again be held in Turners Falls on the Unity Park hill. All past racers are invited to register for the 2022 competition.

Race day is Sunday, September 18 at noon.

Registration is open now. There will be no same-day registration – you must register in advance. The deadline is Sunday, September 11.

In addition to earning \$2,500 for the Montague Parks and Recreation department last year, thanks in part to primary sponsor Greenfield Savings Bank, 41 racers went down the hill. Some breaking speed records – 37 mph was recorded for the first time – and there were some spectacular (soft) crashes, as well as amazing cart designs. One of the crowd favorites was a red cardboard octopus submarine, complete with flailing tentacles and port windows.

All carts must be hand-built,

and anyone from 8- to 80-years-old can race. This year there is a new Adult Semi-Pro category (in addition to Kids, Teens and Adults) for those adults who build serious speed carts and want their own special speed prize.

The popularity of the event, and the sport itself, is evident in the distances people will drive to race their carts. Racers come from as far away as New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, New York State, and of course, Vermont and New Hampshire.

The Montague Soapbox Races are organized by the Montague Recreation Department as a fundraiser for their programming and equipment. If you are interested in going down the hill, volunteering, or helping fund this unique event, visit the race website, where you can find the full schedule and forms to register your cart or your intention to sponsor or volunteer at [www.montaguesoapboxraces.com](http://www.montaguesoapboxraces.com).

CALL FOR ARTISTS!

for our second wrapping paper edition

By REPORTER STAFF

People have probably been wrapping up presents in the very attractive pages of our eye-catching little newspaper for many years. In 2020, we decided to make those packages look even cooler by inviting seven local artists to design pages to be used exclusively as recyclable and unique wrapping paper. The project also became a fundraiser for our little independent, non-profit newspaper.

During Thanksgiving week, when we normally skip publication, that year we printed the Wrapping Paper Edition. Thanks to sales of this special issue, we were able to raise nearly \$4,000 toward the newspaper's operation.

We are happy to announce a call for artists for another Wrapping Paper Edition for 2022. We are seeking seven artists from the Western Mass region to design wrapping paper pages this summer.

Each artist will be given the space of two full adjacent pages for their design, making a double page measuring approximately 20 by 22 inches. You may design in full color, black and white, or fifty shades of (G-rated) gray. Tattoo artists, comic illustrators, graffiti specialists, painters, street sketchers, kids, photographers, geometry nerds, type designers – all are encouraged to send us ideas for a wrapping paper!

We are lucky to be able to offer a stipend to each artist thanks to the generosity of an anonymous

donor, plus contributions from the Montague, Wendell, and Gill Cultural Councils. In addition to the fame and good karma of being featured in this project, each selected artist will receive \$200. Plus, we'll award five artists ten copies of the Wrapping Paper Edition for their personal use!

Sales of this limited-run Wrapping Paper Edition will be available between Thanksgiving and the end of December, in local stores and online, at the special price of \$5 each or five for \$20. Totally recyclable, original, locally designed and printed... what could be better than a gift wrapped in our paper?

Artists and designers, please send your contact information and a proposal for a unique wrapping paper design, along with up to three samples of finished work that represents your style (.jpegs please), to [features@montaguereporter.org](mailto:features@montaguereporter.org) with "Wrap" in the subject line. You have about two more weeks to cogitate on this, because proposals are due September 1.

Selected artists will be contacted on Monday, September 12. You will then have the rest of September and October to get your design finished for us.

For more information about the project, please contact features editor Nina Rossi at (413) 834-8800 or the above email address. And if you are a shop or business owner who would like to sell copies of the Wrapping Paper Edition, please get in touch!

MONTAGUE



Top: Alistair MacMartin relaxes at "the easternmost campground in the US, in Lubec, Maine, on my way back from a bike tour of Newfoundland."

REPORTER



Left: William Hays and Nina Rossi, this paper's features editor, escaped briefly to Lunenburg, Nova Scotia.

ON THE

Right: At Edinburgh Castle during a "whirlwind tour of Scotland," Charlie Choleva thinks of home.



Left: "I don't get a paper paper anymore," writes Janet Masucci, who made it all the way to Rome last month. Fair enough! Here she is waiting in line at the Vatican.

Going away this summer? Take us with you! Send photos to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

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