

# The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 1, 2023

## Senior Housing a Big Need, And Perhaps an Easier Sell

By SARAH ROBERTSON

**SUNDERLAND** – A growing number of people in Franklin County are considered senior citizens, and most say they want to spend the rest of their lives in a place that they know and love. Aging in place, as this is called, can be especially challenging in rural communities where the impairments of age make it harder to live independently – or affordably.

“Assistance with getting groceries, or assistance with laundry, or hands-on care: those are needs

we’re seeing increasing,” LifePath client services associate director Charity Day told the *Reporter*. “There’s always more we can do. You can never meet everyone’s needs all the time, unfortunately.”

LifePath, a nonprofit social-service organization that coordinates home care for seniors and disabled people, and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments expect to share a draft “action plan” to address seniors’ needs at a forum on June 22 at Greenfield Community College.

The plan is based on a survey of see **SENIOR** page A6

## Aid Clawback Fears Ease as Deal on Debt Takes Shape

By JEFF SINGLETON

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – As a compromise deal to raise the national debt limit appears to be nearing approval in Washington, local anxiety has abated that it will require towns to surrender to the federal government any pandemic relief aid not yet earmarked for spending.

According to assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey, \$1,274,081 of the funding Montague received under the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) provisions of the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act have been “encumbered” – legally assigned to be spent – and the other \$1,180,541 remains unencumbered.

The fear that these unencumbered funds might be “clawed back” to the federal coffers was raised in late February in a communication from US representative

see **CLAWBACK** page A4

## Turners Western Mass Champions Once Again



Turners Falls catcher Holly Meyers (left) and pitcher Madi Liimatainen celebrate after the final out in the Thunder's 8-1 win over the Hopkins Academy Golden Hawks at Westfield State University Tuesday night.

By MATT ROBINSON

TFHS 9 – Mount Everett 1  
TFHS 8 – Hopkins 1

**WESTFIELD** – This week, the Turners Falls Softball Thunder went two-and-oh in the Class D Western Mass tournament of the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference (PVIAC), defeating Mount Everett and Hopkins Academy by a combined score of 17 to 2 to reclaim the Western Mass crown – and putting an asterisk on the brand-new plaque at Gary Mullins Softball Field.

Across town, the Franklin Tech Softball Eagles bounced back from their loss in the PVIAC to win their first game in the Small Vocational tourney, which sent them back to the state finals in their own bid to repeat as state champions.

Also this week, the Boston Celtics... Well, let's not talk about that.

Last Thursday, Turners Falls defeated the Mount Everett Eagles 9 to 1 in the Class D semifinal round. After striking out the order in the top of the first inning, Madison Liimatainen led off with a stand-up double, Holly Meyers followed up with another double, and Blue went into the second inning leading 1-0.

Liimatainen kept the Birds off the base paths for the next two innings, and in the bottom of the third Powertown took control, scoring six runs off several base hits, a sac fly, and a triple by Madisyn Dietz.

Blue added to the lead in the fifth, piling on two more to make it a nine-run game.

By this time it was getting pretty see **SOFTBALL** page A5



All 33 units at Sanderson Place, which opened this month, are designated for seniors.

## Ancient Plains, Reborn in Careful Flames

By AMY BOREZO

**MONTAGUE** – Walking through a recently burned portion of the Montague Plains Wildlife Management area off of Lake Pleasant Road, I first notice the dense groups of charred pine saplings to the south, about five feet tall, with dead orange needles. Among the young saplings on the flat plain are towering, mature pines, at heights of about 50 to 60

feet, with masses of dark cones at their crowns and blackened scorch marks reaching up their trunks.

Looking to the north, I see an expanse of bare-branched shrubs, five or six feet in height, with their leaves dead and burned. Scattered in this sea of scrub oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*) are more of the towering pitch pines (*Pinus rigida*) with a few large oak trees here and there.

The bright sunlight, sandy soil, and visible sky of the Montague

Plains are uncommon sights within a nature preserve in Franklin County, where about 77% of land is forested and many conservation areas are densely wooded and shady. This unique habitat, an inland fire-influenced pine and oak barrens – one of the largest in the Northeastern US – has been deemed a high priority for the Commonwealth to restore, as it is home to more than 40 wildlife species considered to be of greatest conservation need in Massachusetts.

As I continue my walk through the Plains, I see other people on the trails and dirt roads. I stop to talk to a man walking two dogs, who tells me he comes here frequently. I ask him if he notices the effects of the apparent burns on the landscape over time, or knows the reasoning behind them. He remarks that he does see that different sections are burned at different times of year, and has some sense that it is for both wildlife and wildfire management, but does not know specific details. He adds that he appreciates this particular landscape with its sandy soil and open character, a

see **PLAINS** page A4



Last Monday, crews carried out a controlled burn of nine acres of scrub oak shrubland near Plains Road.

## State Law May Mitigate Wetlands Ruling

By JEFF SINGLETON

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Last Thursday, the US Supreme Court significantly narrowed the definition of wetlands that can be regulated by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the 1972 Clean Water Act. The Court's new criteria, following *Sackett v. EPA*, states that regulated wetlands must have a continuous “surface connection” to a body of water called a “water of the United States,” defined as “a relatively permanent body of water

connected to traditional interstate navigable waters.”

This technical policy rationale, supported by five of the court's nine justices, was hailed by conservatives as a victory over the federal regulatory bureaucracy. The ruling against the EPA was unanimous, but four justices signed concurring opinions that disagreed with the “surface connection” criteria.

“Republicans and industry groups embraced the decision as a blow against what they view as federal overreach and excessive

regulation,” *Fox News* reported. “‘Big win today at the US Supreme Court,’ said West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey, whose office led 26 states in filing an amicus brief supporting the Sacketts.”

But *Fox* also quoted Democratic Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer as tweeting: “This MAGA Supreme Court is continuing to erode our country's environmental laws. Make no mistake – this ruling will mean more polluted water, and more destruction of wetlands.”

see **WETLANDS** page A5

## FCTS Welding and Metal Students Save the Day!

By JERI MORAN

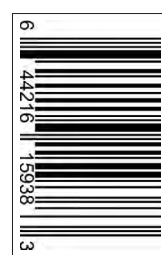
**TURNERS FALLS** – In 2021, just as the town of Montague was assuming ownership of Highland Cemetery on Millers Falls Road, a big wind storm came through and knocked down a huge old white pine, which took the beautiful metal archway over the drive along with it. The archway had wonderful

filigree work and had been there since the cemetery opened in the 1920s. It was one of the cemetery's two arches, one over each of the entrance driveways, and the Montague Cemetery Commission (MCC), who had just taken over management of the cemetery, really wanted to see it restored or replaced.

Here is where the Franklin see **WELDING** page A3



Students from Franklin County Technical School welding and metal fabrication program raise the newly wrought gate at Highland Cemetery.



### Though a Sparrow Is Small, It Still Has All the Organs

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"The Voice of the Villages"

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August 2002

## Letters to the Editors



# 'Montague Villages' Organizing Update

Word is spreading throughout the villages: a group of people have been meeting to form a neighbors-helping-neighbors organization, inspired by the national model that matches elders with volunteers who assist in small projects, offer transportation, home visits, and other tasks that allow elders to remain in their homes.

We have a name – Montague Villages! – and we will include all five villages that make up the town. The next meeting will be on Monday, June 5 at 1 p.m. at the fire station in Montague Center.

So far, about 50 people have attended at least one meeting, and many more stop me on the street to say they are interested. They want to be involved, and that is very good news. But before we can roll up our sleeves and match volunteers with elders needing help, a lot of organizational details must be covered. It's like sewing or cooking or building something – before you get to the creative part, you need to measure and cut, lay out the pieces, and follow the directions step by step.

Committees have been formed to address each step, and those committees need members. It is in these small committee meetings that the details of registering as a non-profit, outreach, fundraising, scope of services, governance and more will be coordinated. Many people have said that they don't like big meetings. If that's you, join a committee and work with others in a smaller group.

The Governance committee will look at organizational structure, bylaws, articles of organization, non-profit status, officers, and more. Current members include Leigh Rae, Susan Dorais, and Roy Rosenblatt.

The Membership and Outreach committee distributes information, organizes community meetings, distributes print materials and more to educate the community about the organization, and will eventually recruit members and volun-

teers. Current members are Helen Gibson-Ugucioni, Lynn Duggan, Eileen Marianni, Karen Latka, Lisa Enzer, and me.

The Finance committee creates a budget, assesses fiscal needs, and informs other committees about those needs. This committee will also look into possible funding sources. Roy Rosenblatt is the only member so far.

The Services committee will define the parameters of our services: i.e., if we offer rides, how far will a driver go? How do we define simple home repairs and more. Much of this can be gleaned by researching other village websites. Bev von Kries is the only member so far.

The IT committee will look at website options, database needs, and all aspects of technology that support village operations. So far, this committee has no members. Help!

The Communications committee will work with the Outreach committee to ensure that members of the group and the surrounding community are kept up-to-date on our progress. Current members are Lee Wicks and Helen Gibson-Ugucioni.

If you are willing to join a committee, contact me, at [wickswords@yahoo.com](mailto:wickswords@yahoo.com), or Helen Gibson-Ugucioni at [hlgibson@comcast.net](mailto:hlgibson@comcast.net), or let someone who is on that committee know that you are interested. And if you want to learn more, come to the meeting on June 5.

Meanwhile, know that we are moving forward, and that the process takes time. The "villages" groups in our surrounding towns took about two years to get up and running. It's a lot of work, and it's worth the effort. Once we begin operations, the town of Montague will have an invaluable resource: a network of members and volunteers who will open their hearts and share their skills to help elders feel safe in their homes.

**Lee Wicks**  
Montague Center



Andrew Ritchey of the Greenfield-based "anti-Prime" book supplier Massive Bookshop ([massivebookshop.com](http://massivebookshop.com)) gets ready to make a local delivery under the watchful eyes of a giant slug. Massive donates their surplus proceeds to various organizations they see as doing good works; in the first quarter of 2023, they were able to give \$3,130 to the Decarcerate Western Mass Bailout Project.

## Ridge Road Safety: A Chance for Input

If you go back and forth between Turners Falls and Greenfield via Turners Falls Road, you've likely had the traumatizing experience of narrowly avoiding an accident.

Whether you're driving a car and almost hit a pedestrian or cyclist, or you're a cyclist or pedestrian taking your life in your hands trying to get over the hill without a car hitting you, the heavily-used connector between the towns is wildly dangerous because of the speed of traffic and the lack of a shoulder, not to mention a dedicat-

ed bike/walking lane.

Because Turners Falls Road is in Greenfield, it's up to that town to apply for funding to make the road safe. The more people who register their concerns about the road, the more likely the issue will be made a priority.

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) has just published its draft 2024 transportation plan, and improving Turners Falls Road is listed as a priority item in Chapter 15. The public comment period for the plan closes

on Friday, June 16.

Please look at the plan on FRCOG's website and send your feedback to the Transportation Program Manager, Beth Giannini, at [Giannini@frcog.org](mailto:Giannini@frcog.org). Also, writing directly to the mayor of Greenfield and copying our state representatives is another way to document that the public is demanding that this issue be addressed before a tragedy occurs.

**Anne Jemas**  
Turners Falls

## Storage Opponents: 'Consume Less'

On Saturday, May 27, 100 people rallied on the banks of the Connecticut River in Northfield to demand an end to a 50-year attack that has left a "wounded river."

The event, sponsored by the year-old activist Connecticut River Defenders, was opened by Liz Santana Kiser, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Nipmuck Tribal Council. "Water is sacred," she explained, and a river cannot be replaced after devastation by a corporation.

The park location borders on the intake portion of FirstLight's Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage station (NMPS). That is where, at night and unobserved, 15,000 square feet a second of river water – and all the life in it – is "vacuumed" up to the reservoir atop Northfield Mountain, with four turbines' sucking action so powerful that it makes "a living river run backward."

Karl Meyer, environmental journalist opposed to FirstLight's effort to get Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approval for a 50-year license to continue its control of the River, explained how this Canadian corporation "uses virgin energy" to pump the water of life up the mountain, with 60% fracked gas as its energy source. The energy then produced is one-third less than that consumed, he said: "They have never produced a single watt."

What to do to remove the need for such an uneconomic and destructive project? Meyer remembered the words of famed ecologist Barry Commoner at a late-1970s anti-nuclear protest: "Consume less!"

A local leader of that movement, Deb Katz from the Citizens Awareness Network ([nukbusters.org](http://nukbusters.org)), gave dramatic calls for action. "It is our job to fight!" she



ANNA GYORGY PHOTO

said. "We are the only last hope to save the planet... we have to give up despair and hopelessness... That is our job, not to give up."

Other speakers included "The Little Mermaid," Annette Spaulding, who spoke of her 30 years' experience on an underwater rescue team, and the destruction of fish nests and habitats she had seen as the result of the manipulation of river waters.

Lawyer Sarah Matthews of the Western Mass Rights of Nature told of the global movement to give legal rights and standing to the animals, plants, and ecosystems that "are treated as our personal property."

Others urged coalitions and solidarity, and "the need to work together for all life."

Actions to take include sending letters to FERC and the Mass. Dept. of Environmental Protection. See [ctriverdefenders.org/upcoming-events/](http://ctriverdefenders.org/upcoming-events/) for details, addresses, and more information.

**Anna Gyorgy**  
Wendell

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

A **Teen Zine Club** starts up today, Thursday, June 1 between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. at the Brick House Community Resource Center in Turners Falls. Staff from the Montague Libraries will be assisting teens in making a zine of their own. No prior experience is needed, and snacks are provided.

Makers can hang out and meet other zine enthusiasts every Thursday afternoon through August 31. On June 22 the group will meet under the big tent at the Carnegie Library; all other gatherings will be at the Brick House at 24 Third Street.

The third annual **Unity Park Festival and Makers Market** will take place this Saturday, June 3 from 2 to 10 p.m. at Unity Park in Turners Falls. This free, day-long outdoor festival is for people who find joy in repurposing, recycling, rebuilding, and reimagining.

Local makers of useful art items will set up at Nova Motorcycle at 147 Second Street and there will be plenty of music, food trucks, skateboarding and family activities throughout the park. On the entertainment stage will be Sam Mulligan at 2:30 p.m., playing fun rock with Game Boys, Dave Richardson at 3:30 p.m. playing indie-folk music, and Groove Prophet from 6 to 10 p.m. doing covers of popular rock music.

This Saturday, June 3 at 8 p.m. **singer-songwriter Jenny Burtis** will perform with her band (Klon Koehler, bass; Geoff Rice, guitar; and Doug Plavin, drums) at the Montague Common Hall in Montague Center. The concert will feature songs from her newly released album, *Woodbird*, developed at open mics at the Rendezvous and St. Stan's and performed at the Shea Theater. The album was recorded at Next Level Studios in Turners Falls.

Friday and Saturday, June 2 and 3 at 7 p.m. the LAVA Center's **festival of new play readings** by local playwrights, "On the Boards," kicks off with *Interview with Archie* by John McDonnell Tierney. The play focuses on faith and dementia, as played out with two men of the cloth, one young and one old.

All plays in the series will be presented online for two weeks as well as the live performances at LAVA's Main Street, Greenfield location. For more information and tickets, visit [thelavacenter.org/on-the-boards](http://thelavacenter.org/on-the-boards).

Great Falls Creative Movement presents *Northern Lights*, a "kid-made" dance performance, this Sunday, June 4 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls. Members of the children's dance company Awesome Art in Motion will present an afternoon of original dances created by children in the program.

Cooking your own food is often a healthier option to getting take-out. On Monday, June 5 there will be a free talk at the Gill Montague Senior Center on **Creating the Best Meals for the Best Deals**. Presenter Grayson will discuss how to get the healthiest food for the lowest prices, and how to prepare food to avoid it going bad. You may also get your blood pressure checked during this presentation.

Learn about **Growing Up in Moores Corner in the Early-Mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century** next Thursday, June 8 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Moores Corner Schoolhouse Museum, 230 North Leverett Road, Leverett.

Longtime residents Hilda Towne Carey Williams, Charlotte Glazier Abbott, and Marcia LaClaire Sims will share their tales and adventures growing up in the rural village. There will also be a birthday celebration for Leverett's golden cane celebrity, Hilda Towne Carey Williams. The program is put together by the Leverett Historical Society.

**Thursdays at the Wendell Meetinghouse** is a new series running every Thursday evening in June at the meetinghouse on the town common. Next Thursday, June 8, at 7 p.m., Alistair MacMartin will lead an evening of storytelling and discussion called "How Did We Get Here." Share your story of how you ended up in Wendell at this gathering.

"Some stories are almost mystical – it was destiny, the universe conspired to make that happen," reads the description. "Others tell of an instant recognition, a sense of coming home, being drawn by

multiple forces. For those who were born and bred in Wendell, perhaps you know what lured your ancestors to Wendell and what kept you in the community." MacMartin hopes people will discover themes that tie their stories together.

Admission is free, with donations strongly encouraged; proceeds support the continued renovation of this historic structure. For more details about upcoming presentations, visit [wendellmeetinghouse.org](http://wendellmeetinghouse.org) or contact [court@crocker.com](mailto:court@crocker.com).

Cushman Library in Bernardston will hold a **Book & Bake Sale** on the first floor of Bernardston Town Hall, 38 Church Street, next Saturday and Sunday, June 10 and 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Items for sale include books and movies for all ages, and delicious homemade treats. All proceeds will be used to purchase new circulating materials for the library.

There's a new **Saturday Story Time**, starting next Saturday, June 10 at the Carnegie Library from 10 to 11 a.m. This weekly program is designed to jump-start early literacy skills for preschoolers. Meet at the Carnegie Library under the tent for stories, songs, and rhymes. Feel free to bring a blanket or chair to sit on.

The last Saturdays of June, July and August, the group will meet for a special Pop-Up Story Time at the Great Falls Farmers Market in Peskeomskut Park at the same time.

An **exhibit of Edvard Munch's** (1863-1944) work at the Clark Institute in Williamstown opens on Saturday, June 10. "Trembling Earth" features 75 objects, ranging from brilliantly-hued landscapes and three stunning self-portraits to an extensive selection of his innovative prints and drawings, including a lithograph of *The Scream*.

The exhibition includes more than 30 works from Munch's world-renowned collection, major pieces from other museums in the USA and Europe, and nearly 40 paintings, prints, and drawings from private collections, many of which are rarely exhibited. The Clark is the sole US venue for the exhibition, which is on view through October 15. There will be a free curator's lecture at 11 a.m. on the opening day.

**Franklin County Pride Day** is Saturday, June 10. The seventh annual Pride Day kicks off at noon with a parade in downtown Greenfield, proceeding down Federal Street to the Energy Park. A Pride Rally follows at the park, which includes live music and speeches, food trucks, and vendors.

A free screening of the Disney

movie *Luca* at the Garden Cinema at 10 a.m. will end just in time to see the parade arrive downtown. In the evening Hawks & Reed will host a Queer Prom from 7:30 p.m. to midnight, with music from Under-tow Brass Band (formerly the What Cheer? Brigade) and The B52.0s. "Dress to impress the Prom Court, and take a chance on winning the Crown!" reads the event description.

Franklin County Master Gardeners will present a **workshop on raised beds** for growing vegetables on Sunday, June 11 at 3 p.m. in the Great Hall at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls.

An information session about **developing a Village to Village organization** for older Montague residents will be held Tuesday, June 13 at 1 p.m. at the Gill Montague Senior Center. This new network aims to connect resources to support members aging in place in their own home as well as to reduce social isolation among older residents. The movement has spread since its beginning in Boston in 2001, with groups forming all over the US and several in Western Mass.

If you would like to learn more, or are interested in volunteering or helping the steering committee, you are welcome to join the conversation at this meeting or call Helen at (413) 658-8517.

A film about jazz drummer legend and former UMass professor **Max Roach** will premiere during the Northampton Jazz Festival on Thursday, June 15 at 7 p.m. at the Northampton Center for the Arts at 33 Hawley Street.

According to an event description, *Max Roach: The Drum Also Waltzes* "explores the life and music of Roach through his creative peaks, struggles and personal reinventions... [his] years of now-legendary achievement, deep personal struggle, and the price he paid for his outspoken views."

Sam Pollard, who co-directed and produced the film, will join NEPM *Jazz à la Mode* host Tom Reney in a question-and-answer session with audience members afterwards. Tickets are available at the door or at [northamptonjazzfest.org](http://northamptonjazzfest.org).

Green Fields Market will hold a celebration of all things local with a **Flavor Fair** outside the market on Friday, June 16 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. They will have samples of local foods and products, live music, kids activities, and more.

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JERI MORAN PHOTO

*Welding and Fabrication staff and students, just as they finished installing the archway.*

*Front row: Laynie Coates, Kasey Snow, and Kiera Baleno.*

*Back row: Mr. Stafford, James Pekarski, Devin Emond, Paul Petrin, Sovann Noeun, and Mr. Passiglia.*

**WELDING** from page A1

County Tech School, specifically the Welding and Metal Fabrication Program, entered the picture. Instructor John Passiglia agreed that his students could make a replacement and install it before this Memorial Day weekend.

And boy, did they – and with what wonderful results! The new arch is accurate in its detail, and it is beautiful.

The sophomore welding and fabrication class built the structure, and the junior welding and fabrication class did the installation, as the sophomores were not at school last week. Watching the installation was inspiring, as the students were so cooperative and professional in their work together.

Mr. Passiglia said that every part of the process was a teaching moment for him.

It was a reminder of how fortunate our community is in having such an amazing resource as FCTS.

If you are in the neighborhood, you should stop and see the wonderful new archway, which is the one on the right as you face the cemetery. Then, if you have a moment, you could drive straight back on that cemetery road and see the new Highland Woods, the first green burial area in Montague.

If you have any questions about it, or the cemetery in general, you can contact the MCC by making inquiries to Judith Lorei at [judithcemetery@gmail.com](mailto:judithcemetery@gmail.com) or Mary Kay Mattiace at [maiaia43@gmail.com](mailto:maiaia43@gmail.com).

Jeri Moran is a member of the Montague cemetery commission.



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## CLAWBACK from page A1

Jim McGovern, sparking a sudden rush for Montague to tie up the rest of its aid.

A preliminary plan was developed on March 13, when the town selectboard voted on priorities among a long list of projects. On April 24, as the debt ceiling debate heated up in Congress, the board reviewed a new plan which divided projects and proposed spending into five broad categories, allocating 10% to "unforeseen expenses."

Of the *Montague Reporter's* five main coverage towns, two – Gill and Leverett – have spent all of their ARPA aid money. Wendell town administrator Glenn Johnson-Mussad, immersed in "town meeting season," said he was unsure of his town's ARPA math, but wrote:

"We don't yet know exactly how the budget deal will affect our unspent and uncommitted COVID funds. We are hopeful that it won't impact us as the funds have been extremely useful for improving the Town's infrastructure and upgrading the Town Office's technology. The Selectboard is committed to using all the ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to benefit Wendell."

Erving town administrator Brian Smith was unable to provide comment by our press deadline.

As a compromise agreement to extend the

debt limit for two years, the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, shaped up last week, fears that it would include the rumored ARPA "clawback" eased. Michael Gleeson, legislative director and analyst for the National League of Cities, published an article last Thursday explaining that unspent state and local allocations were not expected to be recalled.

"Local leaders do not have to rush to obligate funds," Gleeson wrote. "Since the Treasury Department has already sent all SLFRF funds to local governments, those funds are already considered obligated for federal budgeting purposes as well as for the purposes of the negotiations – even if they have not been spent by your municipality."

This analysis, Gleeson wrote, was based on communication with Congressional and Treasury department staffers and policy documents released by the US Office of Management and Budget and Congressional Budget Office.

Montague town administrator Steve Ellis distributed Gleeson's article locally on Tuesday morning.

The *Reporter* asked Gleeson whether the lengthy list of rescinded funds in the preliminary Fiscal Responsibility Act had included unspent ARPA money.

"The Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 does

not rescind a dollar from local governments that received this money from the American Rescue Plan Act's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Program," he replied, "whether they have been spent by local governments already or not. The funds are obligated by virtue of the distribution from the US Department of Treasury to local governments."

This does not mean that the anticipated budget cuts, reforms, and increase in federal debt during the next two years will have no impact on residents of cities and towns in our area. A *New York Times* analysis says the bill extends work requirements on recipients of food assistance with no children at home to people aged 50 to 54, imposes cuts in non-military discretionary spending to FY'22 levels but increases military spending, and reduces IRS enforcement personnel, which the *Times* says could "eat into the tax collection agency's efforts to crack down on rich tax cheats."

Though opposed by significant groups of conservatives and progressives, the compromise bill passed the House on Wednesday evening by a 314 to 117 vote. Republicans voted 149 to 71 in favor of the bill, and Democrats 165 to 46. The Senate was expected to take it up this Thursday.

## PLAINS from page A1

contrast with other more densely-forested sites he frequents.

Later, I ask the same question of some residents of nearby Lake Pleasant. Will Szal says he noticed the most recent burns, but was not aware that they are part of a management plan aimed at preventing wildfire from spreading to his village, as well as preserving a rare habitat. "I saw the area was burned, but know almost nothing else about it," he says, adding that he "would love to know more."

MassWildlife, the state agency that manages the Plains, is tasked with communicating to residents and visitors about the plan, now in its third decade of implementation. The agency offers educational events about the Plains on occasion. Curious, I decide to find out more.

### Forged in Flame

Pitch pine and scrub oak are adapted to acidic, nutrient-poor and drought-prone sandy soils. They are also adapted to fire, a key element that maintains their habitat.

Fire reduces other competing tree species, while providing the right conditions for both pitch pine and scrub oak to rapidly rebound after fire passes through. Some pitch pine cones break open through exposure to fire, releasing seeds that root well in the newly-exposed mineral soil fire leaves in its wake. The low-growing, dense scrub oak, which grows faster and more vigorously after fire exposure, also helps to maintain the dominance of the pitch pine in the community.

If pitch pine stands become too dense, however, they are prone to wildfire as the dryness of the habitat and crown density can cause a difficult to control and rapidly spreading fire.

Scientists believe that ecosystems like the Plains are becoming increasingly important to maintaining animal food chains and pollination systems, which contribute to overall environmental health as land use change and climate change accelerate biodiversity loss worldwide.

### The Human Hand

Before European settlement, the pine and oak barrens on what is now the Montague Plains were developed by wildfire – and also,

according to scientific analysis of fossilized pollen and charcoal, by controlled fire. Fire was used by Indigenous people here as far back as 1,000 to 2,000 years, likely for a range of reasons, including increasing food production and improved mobility.

When European settlers arrived, they cleared most of the pitch pine-scrub oak communities on the Plains for agricultural use. After a majority of farms were abandoned in the mid-1800s, though, the oak and pine species began returning – and with them the danger of large unmanaged wildfires, like those that devastated Lake Pleasant in 1907 and 1955. Since 1939, over 100 wildfires have been reported on the Plains, according to a historic review by MassWildlife.

For much of the 20th century, fire suppression – creating fire breaks in an effort to contain wildfire, and extinguishing it whenever it breaks out – has been a major forest management tool throughout the US. As a result, many tree species that are adapted to fire have declined, along with the habitats they create for flora and fauna.

Suppressing wildfire also leads to denser forests and, if these are not frequently cleared of highly flammable fuel loads, creates areas paradoxically more prone to larger, and more damaging, fires.

The management plan for the Montague Plains began after the Commonwealth acquired a significant parcel of land in 1999 from the Quinnehtuk Corporation, a former power company that had become part of Northeast Utilities, adding to other parcels acquired by the state since 1908.

The plan developed by MassWildlife for the 1,800-acre "high priority" site includes both wildfire prevention and habitat restoration through mowing, forest thinning, and the return of an old tool: prescribed fire, the controlled application of fire by a team of experts under specified weather conditions.

### Hitting Targets

MassWildlife now works closely with local fire departments and specially trained burn crews to manage the area. It took some time to build this workforce up, and so the agency has had to periodically clear biomass by cutting to avoid wildfire,

but the plan's goal of 100 to 200 acres per year is now in effect. In 2022 the department managed five prescribed burns on the Plains, totalling 153 acres.

This April, MassWildlife and its partners completed a 64-acre prescribed fire in the pitch pine and oak woodland along Lake Pleasant Road, in the eastern section of the management area. On May 22 the weather and fuel conditions were right to conduct another burn on nine acres of mowed scrub oak shrublands near Plains Road.

Over time, after thinning the pitch pine and establishing more scrub-oak understory, the management plan calls for the Plains to move to a less frequent burn schedule. The desired future condition for this site, according to MassWildlife, is a "fire-adapted community of scattered overstory trees with a dense shrub-dominated understory." If the unique habitat is to remain, forestry experts say fire will always be needed to maintain it.

"In addition to wildlife habitat improvements, wildfire risk reduction was a major driver behind the work at Montague," MassWildlife habitat program manager Brian Hawthorne told the *Reporter*. "MassWildlife's wildfire prevention efforts at Montague Plains focus on reducing the likelihood of a catastrophic fire that could threaten adjacent homes. Fortunately, there has not been a large wildfire at Montague Plains since our habitat restoration work began. While that alone does not prove effectiveness, it is a good sign."

"Because of the management plan, the risk of difficult-to-contain wildfire in the crowns of trees on the Plains is much less likely," said Montague Center fire chief Dave Hansen. "If fire does break out, it is easier to manage, because areas prone to wildfire are now lower to the ground, more accessible to crews, and have reduced fuel loads."

And humans are not the only ones enjoying the results.

"Multiple biological surveys have shown that efforts to restore globally rare barrens habitat at Montague Plains are working," said Hawthorne. "There is now an abundance of barrens plants including wild lupine, New Jersey tea, scrub oak, and low-bush blue-

berry. Uncommon and rare moths, butterflies, native bees, birds, and reptiles – like the buck moth and whip-poor-will – are benefiting from this vibrant growth."

### New Threats

Forestry experts have recently turned their attention to a new and emerging threat to pitch pine and other hard pine forests in the Northeast. As annual temperatures increase, a small insect known as the southern pine beetle is spreading its typical geographic range northward. The beetle bores into a host tree and sends pheromone signals to other beetles to swarm the tree. The swarm creates a series of channels in the trunk that will eventually girdle or cut off nutrients to the whole tree, killing it within a matter of months.

According to a recent report on the North Atlantic Fire Science Exchange website, prescribed fire can help prevent destruction by the southern pine beetle.

"In the Northeast, dense, unmanaged pitch pine barrens provide the beetle with an appetizing meal," wrote University of Vermont field naturalist Sonya Kaufman. "In healthy, managed forests, populations are kept in check by a large network of invertebrate predators and woodpeckers that feed on larvae and adult beetles."

Hawthorne also pointed to the threat of the beetle.

"Southern Pine Beetle outbreaks have proven to be costly and devastating to dense pitch pine forests in New York and New Jersey," he said. "Although they were not detected at Montague Plains in the last round of sampling, they were found at 19 of 24 sites in Massachusetts. The inevitable arrival of Southern Pine Beetle has created a sense of urgency to manage highly susceptible forests and woodlands. Fortunately, at Montague we are somewhat ahead of the curve... The thinned areas of the Plains are highly resistant to infestation."

Hawthorne said he sees wildfire risk reduction, beetle resistance, and habitat restoration as compatible goals. "A healthy pine barrens ecosystem is resilient to disturbance and change," he said, "whereas an overgrown pine barrens is highly susceptible to many threats."

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**WETLANDS** from page A1

The *Montague Reporter* contacted conservation commissions – state-mandated local committees that oversee the implementation of wetlands regulations – but nearly all were unable to respond by our deadline, and most had not met since the court decision a week ago. Dorothy McGlincy, executive director of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions, sent us the following statement:

“The Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) is extremely disappointed (actually – we are sad and mad) about the Supreme Court’s *Sackett* decision.... In one fell swoop, this roughly cut in half the number of protected federal wetlands. We are thankful that here in Massachusetts, we have the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, one of the first such statutes in the world, along with more than 212 local wetland bylaws and ordinances that protect our state’s wetland resources. Thank goodness we have both state regulations and Home Rule requirements protecting wetlands in our state.”

The *Sackett* case involved a family that had purchased property near Priest Lake, Idaho, a navigable body of water near the Idaho-Washington border, and began filling in the lot to build a home without a permit. The EPA ruled that the couple had filled

a wetland near a ditch that intersected a creek that fed into the lake, and thus required federal permitting because of its impact on a “navigable water of the United States.”

The agency ordered the couple to restore the wetlands or risk a penalty of up to \$40,000 per day. The Sacketts challenged the ruling. The EPA prevailed in district and circuit courts, but not the Supreme Court – including in the opinions of its more liberal judges, albeit for radically different reasons.

The majority, adopting a rule promulgated by a previous court plurality opinion in *Rapanos v. United States* (2006) and by the Trump administration, rejected a regulation established under the Biden EPA that any wetland with a “significant nexus” to navigable water is covered under the Clean Water Act.

This opinion, penned by Justice Samuel Alito, stated that to be “adjacent” to a navigable water, a wetland must have a “continuous surface connection with that water, making it difficult to determine where the ‘water’ ends and the wetland begins.” Alito also argued that the EPA’s definition of “navigable water” is vague and changing over time, presenting challenges to citizens who may be fined for non-compliance.

The minority opinion, written by the generally conservative Justice Brett Kavanaugh, held that this

“continuous surface connection” test departs from the statutory text, from 45 years of consistent agency practice, and from this Court’s precedents.” Kavanaugh went on to argue that the majority confused the terms “adjacent” and “adjoining” found in the Clean Water Act.

“By narrowing the Act’s coverage of wetlands to only adjoining wetlands,” he warned, “the Court’s new test will leave some long-regulated adjacent wetlands no longer covered by the Clean Water Act, with significant repercussions for water quality and flood control throughout the United States.”

The town of Montague, for example, has embarked on a project to mitigate flooding on Montague City Road from wetlands that coincide with the path of a former transportation canal. The area has been deemed a “water of the United States” by the US Army Corps of Engineers, which will be permitting the project in coming months, according to assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey.

Justice Elena Kagan, in a separate opinion, argued that the Court had usurped the powers of Congress. Quoting her own words from a previous decision, she wrote that “[T]he Court substitutes its own ideas about policymaking for Congress’s. The Court will not allow the Clean [Water] Act to work as Congress instructed. The Court, rath-

**NOTICE of Public Comment Period**

The Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization will open a 21-day public review and comment period for **three transportation program documents**:

- Draft 2024 Franklin County Regional Transportation Plan
- Draft 2024 Unified Planning Work Program
- Draft Franklin 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #4

The draft documents are available for review on the FRCOG website at [www.frcog.org](http://www.frcog.org), or by calling (413) 774-3167 or emailing [Giannini@frcog.org](mailto:Giannini@frcog.org) to request copies. Comments on the draft documents will be accepted from Saturday, May 27 through Friday, June 16, 2023. Comments should be submitted in writing via email to [Giannini@frcog.org](mailto:Giannini@frcog.org) or by letter to: Beth Giannini, Transportation Program Manager, Franklin Regional Council of Governments, 12 Olive Street, Suite 2, Greenfield MA 01301.

er than Congress, will decide how much regulation is too much.”

“We obviously do not yet know how the New England Region of the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers will interpret and administer this ruling,” Wendell conservation commission chair Ward Smith told the *Reporter*. “Here in Massachusetts, we have a State Wetlands Protection Act and accompanying regulations that are relatively stringent with regards to wetland protection.”

Ward also pointed to his town’s wetlands bylaw and regulations, which he described as “even more restrictive,” and added that many other municipalities in the state have similar ordinances.

“That said,” he continued, “this could eliminate protection for many

isolated wetlands in those towns and cities that lack such a local wetlands bylaw or ordinance. There are some very important isolated wetlands, such as ‘vernal pools,’ that may not meet the flood storage criteria... in order to be jurisdictional under the State Act and Regulations.”

“Now more than ever – during more severe storms and droughts – we need to recognize that preserving our wetlands will protect our water resources as well as our fragile ecosystems,” McGlincy told the *Reporter*.

“MACC offers wetlands training to help conservation commissioners and others understand the importance of wetlands – I wonder if we should offer wetlands training to members of the Supreme Court?”



**SOFTBALL** from page A1

chilly, and some fans were hoping for a mercy win so they could go home. But it wasn’t in the cards: Everett scored a run in the sixth off a walk, a couple of steals, and a base hit.

The win sent Blue Thunder back to the Western Mass finals.

Liimatainen hit two singles and a double and registered two RBIs; Meyers had a single, a double, and an RBI; Morgan Dobias made two hits, including a double, and drove in two runs; Dietz clocked her triple and a single for three RBIs, and Janelle Massey, Marilyn Abarua, and Addison Talbot also had hits in the win.

On Tuesday, the Thunder rolled down to Westfield University for the Western Mass title game against the Hopkins Golden Hawks from Hadley.

It was very hot, and the sun was blazing. Turners has been in this position before. Many times. It showed as Powertown made some great plays throughout the game while Gold seemed to be a little star-struck.

After two ground outs and an outfield fly, Turners came to bat, and again drew first blood. Liimatainen, the leadoff, drew a walk, and Meyers again batted her home. Meyers was replaced by courtesy runner Abarua, who was knocked home by Cady Wozniak, and Blue increased the lead to 2-0.

In the second, Dietz struck out for what would have been the final out, but the ball passed by the catcher and she reached first base safely. This was all Powertown needed to mount a rally, and they scored three more runs off two base hits, two errors, and three steals.

The score remained 5-0 until the fourth, when it seemed that the Hawks scored their first run. The leadoff batter cracked a line-drive triple, and the next hit the ball to the warning track. The ball was expertly fielded, but the lead runner had already crossed the plate. However, it turned out that she had never tagged up. The ball was thrown to third and the run was negated, keeping Gold off the scoreboard.

In the sixth, Hopkins got that run

back, as two walks and a base hit made the score 5-1.

Not to be undone, Turners reciprocated with three more runs off a base hit, another error, and a sac fly. In the final inning, one Hawk reached on an error, but a high pop behind home and two K’s sealed the deal for Turners, and the Ladies in Blue won the Western Mass title for the 23rd time.

The plaque which will adorn Gary Mullins Field indicates that Coach Mullins has won 22 Western Mass titles – hopefully it’s not too late to edit the text.

Though the Western championship used to feed directly into the statewide semifinals, the PVIAC tournament is now separate. Turners is seeded third in the MIAA Division 5 bracket, and will host the winner of the game between Bristol County Aggie and Norfolk County Aggie in the statewide Round of 32 – date and location still TBA, as of press time.

*Greenfield 10 – FCTS 0*  
*FCTS 5 – Westfield Tech 2*

The Franklin Tech Softball Eagles were eliminated from the PVIAC Class C playoffs last Friday by the Green Wave of Greenfield.

In this game it seemed that it was Tech who were star-struck. All three batters in the first inning struck out, a harbinger of things to come. Green scored three runs off a home-plate steal, a passed ball, and an error.

Kylee Gamache smacked a base hit in the top of the second, but that’s all she wrote. With the exception of a Hannah Gilbert walk and a Kaitlin Trudeau fly-out, all the other Eagles struck out.

After the game, I polled some of the fans about the 20 strikeouts. One father, predictably, blamed the home plate ump, but the rest chalked it up to nerves.

Although Greenfield amassed 10 runs, Gilbert held her own in the circle, allowing only three hits and striking out five, but the combination of errors and walks doomed Franklin Tech and eliminated them



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS

Turners center fielder Mia Marigliano reels in an outfield smash for the second out in the fourth inning of Tuesday’s Western Mass Class D championship game.



Madi Liimatainen was masterful in the circle during the Thunder’s 8-1 win against Hopkins Academy Tuesday night. Liimatainen struck out eight, allowed two hits, enjoyed success at the plate, and earned the Gary Stacey MVP Award during the PVIAC Class D final.

from the PVIAC playoffs.

Tech bounced back on Memorial Day, defeating Westfield Technical Academy 5-2 in the Small Vocational state tournament.

For five innings, Tech kept their scoreless streak alive while also keeping West off the scorecard. In the bottom of the sixth, Kendra Campbell led off with a base hit, Jenna Petrowicz reached on an error, Kyra Goodell got a hit to load the bases – and Trudeau banged a stand-up double to clear the table.

They weren’t done, either: Lillian Ross advanced on a fielder’s choice, Gilbert got an RBI base hit, and Tech scored their fifth run on an error.

In the seventh, the Eagles let their

guard down, committing two rare errors and allowed Westfield to put two runs in the bank. However, Gilbert made all three outs on strikeouts.

Gilbert threw a complete game no-hitter, walking one batter and striking out 14. Offensively, it was a total team effort, with Campbell, Trudeau, Gilbert, Gianna DiSciullo, Keira Stevens, and Goodell all registering hits.

This Thursday, June 1, the Eagles defend their state vocational title at home against Tri-County RVT.

Tech is also seeded 11<sup>th</sup> in the MIAA Division 5 tournament, and will host the Bourne Canalmen (or Canalwomen?) this Sunday at 2 p.m.



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**SENIOR** from page A1

nearly 2,000 seniors across the region. Among the major gaps the survey identified were public transit, information about services, and affordable housing. Of the respondents, 92% indicated it was important to them to age in place, and half cited the cost of housing or the need for more accommodations as a reason they may have to leave their homes.

The Leverett Council on Aging recently expanded on the survey, hiring two local consultants to interview residents and their caretakers.

"Leverett elders need more aging-in-place support," the report concluded. "One informant cautioned that some seniors are afraid of losing their homes if they ask for help."

Of the 277 residents surveyed by LifePath, 24 agreed to be interviewed anonymously.

"Our roots are in the ground, in the garden here," said one respondent. "The question is, what do we have to do to be able to stay? Transportation is a huge part of it... Our kids are saying, 'OK, when are you going to get out of that big house?'"

Last fall, LifePath launched a program to pair people who own homes and are in need of help with those seeking housing. So far, the program has made only one full match, and it is looking for more participants. Day said clients in Orange, Buckland, Greenfield, and South Deerfield have offered to share their homes but have not been successfully matched with live-in aides.

"I would like to live in a center where I can see other people and have people cook for me, and not have to drive to a senior center," said another Leverett respondent. "That's where this part of the world does not have it all. I would have to move away if I wanted to do that."

**A Notable Gap**

"We need more affordable, accessible options for seniors across the region," said Alyssa Larose, director of housing development at the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHRA).

Seniors tend to have lower incomes than other adults, and Franklin County has a higher percentage of people aged 65 and older (22.4%) than the state as a whole (16.5%). That proportion is expected to increase in the coming years, Larose said, in a region already struggling to meet its seniors' needs.

"Part of the issue with housing in Franklin County is the mismatch be-

tween the existing housing stock and needs of seniors," FCRHRA director Gina Govoni told the *Reporter*. "Aging in place is more difficult in two-story homes in general, and the need for accessibility improvements exists even in many single-story homes where doorways need to be widened, showers need to be retrofitted, and flooring needs to be made consistent to avoid trip hazards."

The state's Home Modification Loan Program, which offers zero-interest loans of up to \$50,000 to make homes more accessible, can help in some cases, Govoni said. While other programs such as Meals on Wheels and the volunteer group Village Neighbors can help seniors age in place, the housing crisis is leaving them fewer places to do so.

In 2020, the need for housing in Franklin County exceeded the availability by over 1,232 units, according to the UMass Donahue Institute's "Greater Springfield Regional Housing Analysis." The study projected a shortfall of 2,296 housing units in the county by 2025 unless a large number of units are built quickly.

**A Drive for Care**

The town of Erving is hoping to build senior housing on Care Drive, on town-owned land behind the library and near the senior center. The town put the project out to bid in 2016, but received no offers. Mariah Kurtz, Erving's town planner and president of the board of directors for Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity, is working with the Massachusetts Housing Partnership to reissue a request for proposals this summer.

"Many folks want to stay in their community as they age," Kurtz told the *Reporter*, "but with New England's older housing stock it can be very challenging for them to modify their homes so they meet their mobility needs, keep up with maintenance, prevent social isolation, or travel to medical appointments."

The proposed project would be between 30 to 60 units, with a minimum of 35% subsidized and reserved for seniors earning under 60% of the area median income. The parcel, Kurtz noted, has access to public water and sewer systems and is walking distance from a bus stop.

"[I]t is incredibly hard for small rural towns to significantly add to their housing stock, which we desperately need," she said. "This is due in large part to a lack of public water and sewer, challenging terrain/ledge, and having a small number of housing developers in the area."

There are currently zero "affordable" housing units in Erving, as defined by Chapter 40B, a 1969 state law that allows developers to override zoning restrictions in municipalities where less than 10% of units meet this criterion. To reach the threshold, Kurtz said, the town would need 77 affordable units.

Habitat for Humanity plans to build six new homes on First Street in Turners Falls, thanks to a change to the zoning overlay district allowing for denser development.

"Montague and Buckland are examples of towns that have passed supportive zoning for housing in recent years," said Larose. "While changing the zoning does not mean development will automatically happen, it does lay the foundation to make it possible to build the housing the community needs."

Some communities, Larose said, are more apt to approve affordable housing if it is designated specifically for seniors.

"However, in some towns – especially those that have already been greatly impacted by the decline in school population – there is a better understanding of the need for housing that is affordable for young people and families," she added.

**Tackling the Crisis**

"It's evident that we're facing a housing crisis, not just here in Massachusetts but across the country," US representative Jim McGovern told a small crowd gathered last Friday outside a shuttered Athol school building. "This crisis disproportionately affects seniors and children, who are often excluded from other affordable housing communities."

McGovern was in town to announce he had secured \$1 million in federal funding to redevelop the former Riverbend-Bigelow Schools. The town of Athol has selected the developer NewVue Communities to renovate the schools into a mixed-income housing complex.

"We need that subsidy to keep the housing affordable," Dohan said. "We couldn't do condominiums with our financing... We're waiting to hear from state funding, so it's a little dependent on that."

When completed, the development would include 53 apartments, communal garden plots, and recreation spaces, according to Dohan. Certain historic elements of the schools, built in the early 20th century and closed in 2016, would be kept, and a separate structure be built specifically for senior housing.

**Tip of the week ...**

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"I'm positive this will have a lasting positive impact on our neighbors, friends, and families," said McGovern.

**Sanderson Place**

On the afternoon of May 19, FCRHRA hosted an opening ceremony at Sanderson Place, a new complex in Sunderland with views of Mount Sugarloaf. It took nine years to design and build the 33-unit assisted living facility for seniors who are capable of living on their own, with a little help.

"It's so wonderful to be in a community that supports affordable housing on so many levels," Govoni told attendees. "Having worked in other communities that were not as supportive, it makes a world of difference. It's what gives you properties like the one you're standing at right now."

All units in the North Main Street complex are considered "affordable"; tenants must be 62 or older, and make under a certain income level. Most of the units are single-bedroom apartments, with heat, hot water, and electricity included in the rent. Fourteen are rented to tenants with Section 8 vouchers. A LifePath employee serves onsite as a part-time coordinator to help residents access support services.

"Financing gets us to the point where we are today," said state representative Natalie Blais. "We need more funders to step up in the Commonwealth, public and private, to fund projects like this. It is not easy to make affordable housing projects

happen here in rural communities. Because of Gina's leadership, we made this happen today."

Sanderson Place's construction was funded largely by grants to Rural Development Inc., the FCRHRA's nonprofit arm. The Valley Community Development Corporation, the Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation, and Greenfield Savings Bank were among the project's early financiers.

"It's really complicated," said Greenfield Savings Bank president Thomas Meshako.

Lorin Starr, chair of the Sunderland town committee tasked with transforming the former family home into assisted living, called it a "long and arduous process." Delayed by the pandemic, construction began in March 2021 and was completed last August. Residents were selected by lottery, and the facility has been fully occupied since March.

"I'm an example of anyone in their senior years trying to age where you want to age, in your home," newly arrived resident Marie Blake told state and local officials.

Blake said she grew up and lived much of her life in Sunderland, but was forced to sell her home years ago due to health issues, and had moved out of town into a smaller, more manageable living situation.

"By luck and chance I was able to fill out the paperwork, qualify, and come here to live," Blake said through tears. "Everybody, every team that worked together on this – you have made me the happiest woman in the world."



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MAGGIE SADOWAY PHOTO

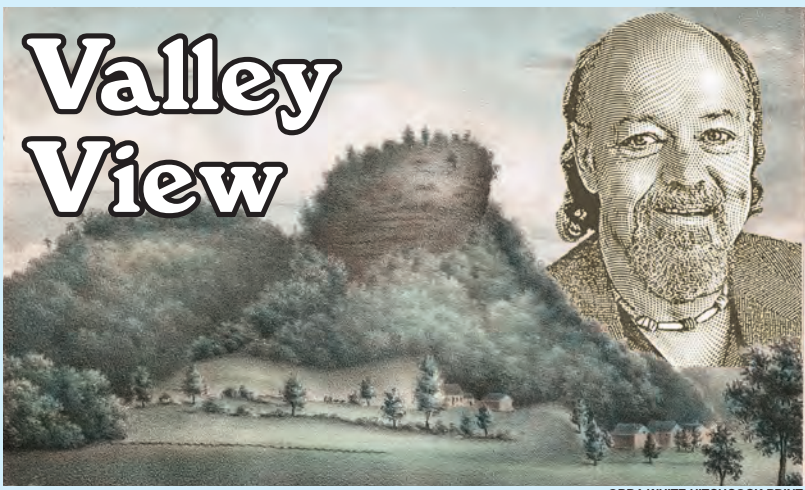
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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

JUNE 1, 2023

Above: Clear, sunny skies at the Great Falls Discovery Center.



ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK PRINT

By GARY SANDERSON

**GREENFIELD** – I enjoyed a fascinating spring turkey season without handling a gun.

Who needs one? Not me. Not now.

After many blissful decades of roaming through marsh, meadow, and high lonesome hardwood spines hunting fur, fish, and feathers, I'm now perfectly content as an elder observer. Whether touring the road on my daily daybreak rambles circling a neighborhood where wildlife sightings are common, or hiking a wooded trail, I stay alert to the sights and sounds of nature. I look. I listen. I evaluate. No need for a deafening roar and jarring recoil finale. To me, observation and analysis, stitched in introspection, is more than enough.

Take for example the recently-concluded, four-week, spring turkey season, during which I was thoroughly entertained by a gobbler I wasn't hunting. That's not surprising. Wild turkeys have fascinated me since they entered the local scene some six decades ago. Though younger folks accustomed to often seeing turkeys may find it difficult to fathom, I remember a day not long ago when there were none.

Hard to imagine, huh? But true.

Around 1960, when I was a boy, the turkey situation in my world was about to change. First, New York devised a plan that reintroduced turkeys to the Hudson Valley by capturing surplus Pennsylvania birds for release there. The initiative worked to perfection and set into motion a string of events that ultimately re-established a thriving, sustainable turkey population in New England as well.

As New York's turkey population grew and expanded, birds started crossing into southwestern Vermont, where state wildlife biologists wanted more. To meet that goal, Vermont forged a trap-and-release agreement with New York that paid immediate dividends. Then, with turkey populations rapidly spreading along our borders with New York and Vermont, birds inevitably started appearing in western Massachusetts habitat in Berkshire and northwestern Franklin counties – including border towns like Leyden, Colrain, Heath, and Rowe.

Enter bespectacled, professorial

MassWildlife biologist Jim Cardoza, who in 1969 became Massachusetts' first Turkey Project Leader. I got to know Cardoza well. We often discussed turkey-restoration on the phone or at events as he pulled the strings on his successful program, which has since the Seventies delivered us to our current status. The success story was a colorful feather in Cardoza's fedora, opposite the one saluting his similarly successful reign as state Bear Project Leader.

By the time Cardoza retired in 2009, a state that had zero turkeys when he joined MassWildlife now had them interfering with city traffic.

When Massachusetts spring turkey hunting was reborn in the spring of 1980, precious few permits were issued by lottery, and hunting was limited to a small swath of western Massachusetts. Back then, permits were tough to get, and turkeys were hard to find. Not anymore. Now wild turkeys are everywhere, including neighborhoods like mine, where I'm never surprised when a hen scoots through the backyard.

Before becoming a turkey hunter I was a turkey-restoration chronicler. I kept readers apprised of new measures enacted under a gold-standard management scheme, including trap-and-release programs aimed at populating eastern Massachusetts counties all the way to the tip of Cape Cod's final frontier. I also tracked and compared weekly and annual harvests along with writing many personal-interest stories for the local rag about turkey hunters. I still feel today like a beneficiary of the Cardoza team's masterful plan, despite deciding about a decade ago to retire my camo and lock down my shotgun.

I didn't stop hunting because the thrill was gone. Honestly, there is nothing quite like the heart-pounding process of calling an amorous tom to the gun from its daybreak roost. It's exhilarating. Exciting. Captivating. Many times I have articulated the experience to prospective hunters, informing them that if their blood doesn't boil to a gobbling turkey closing in fast and loud, they have no pulse.

Yet for me, the kill was never the greatest satisfaction, and it got see **VALLEY VIEW** page B8

## EXHIBITS

# Three Photographers Cross the River

By NINA ROSSI

**GREENFIELD** – Three photographers from Turners Falls are showing their work in Greenfield in June and July: Peter Monroe is exhibiting at 170 Main Street, and Paul Teeling and Anja Schütz have opened a gallery at 3.5 Osgood Street and are showing their own work as the first show there.

Peter Monroe's work consists primarily of street scenes shot in and around Turners Falls, Greenfield, and Queens, New York. A photo of the decaying former Olde Willow Restaurant was taken on the Mohawk Trail in Charlemont. Signs on buildings, both new and old, appear in several of Monroe's prints, and he has an interest in the beauty of time's distress, such as the large old "One Hour Cleaning" sign that used to advertise the laundromat at the west end of Main Street in Greenfield.

Monroe has worked digitally for the last ten years, and says that it took him a decade to adjust to working that way with a new camera. He oversees the color corrections on his photos over the shoulders of a technician rather than doing it himself because, as he says, "I'm in my 70s, and I can't learn anything new."



ROSSI PHOTO

The opening reception at TEOLOS gallery in Greenfield last Friday night was well-attended.

The show includes several beautiful shots of NYC at sunrise, streets flooded with golden light and dotted with glowing tail lights. Monroe spends a lot of time there, and feels he knows people in the neighborhood where he stays, some of whom have asked him to take their pictures. He has introduced a friend there to the *Montague Reporter* and has included a photo of her reading one in the show.

Monroe says his work follows a high-level "snap shot aesthetic" in his choice of casual scenes with a point-and-shoot flavor. "A little more thought goes into it than shooting from the hip," Monroe admits. "Snap Shot aesthetic" is the name for an un-Ansel Adams picture."

That said, the compositional choices are made with an artist's eye to color and form as well as the

see **PHOTOS** page B5



## A trip to Northern Alabama, and Muscle Shoals.

**SOUTH DEERFIELD** – In my last column I asked you, dear readers, to join me in crossing the Tofu Curtain and visiting Hampden County. Today I take an even bigger leap, inviting you all to journey

with me south of the Mason-Dixon line, to good old 'Bama.

I am just back from a week in northern Alabama, my fourth visit to the Heart of Dixie, and I had a blast! There are some things that

you can only do in this state. For instance, we visited a cemetery for only a certain dog breed, the coon hound. We toured the humble sound studios where legends laid down tracks and locals formed the session band called The Swampers. We spent time learning about the world's most famous deaf and blind person, Helen Keller, in her childhood home.

The massive Tennessee River, which some here call the "singing river," is an important part of the land here. Trophy bass fishing tournaments are a big draw – the weekend we were visiting, a 200-person college fishing tournament was on tap. Pickup trucks towing trailers took up an enormous amount of parking space near Pickwick Lake in Florence.

This part of Alabama was settled around 1805, and it is one of see **TRAVELS** page B4



HARTSHORNE PHOTO

A section of the mile-long Tom's Wall in Florence, Alabama.



# Pet of the Week



## “KIDANI”

Introducing Kidani, a wonderful feline companion seeking her next home where she can be the center of attention. Kidani's charming personality and beautiful coat make her a truly special cat. Kidani's biggest requirement is that she must be the only cat in her new home, or cohabitate with other cats who also are FIV+.

One of Kidani's favorite activities is being pampered with a

gentle brushing. With her long, lustrous fur, she appreciates the attention and grooming that keeps her looking her absolute best.

Interested in adopting? Animals at Dakin are currently available only in Springfield. 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).

## Senior Center Activities JUNE 5 THROUGH 9

### 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).

### ERVING

Open 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Open for cards, coffee, and snacks daily. Fitness room open daily.

Ask the Nurse and Blood Pressure Clinic is the first Tuesday of each month. Brown Bag is the first Thursday of each month. Veterans' Services are the first Wednesday of each month. For more information, please call (413) 423-3649.

### Monday 6/5

9 a.m. Interval  
10:15 a.m. Stretch & Infusion

### Tuesday 6/6

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

### Wednesday 6/7

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

### Thursday 6/8

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

### Friday 6/9

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

### WENDELL

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments. Senior Health Rides are available. Contact Jonathan von Ranson (978) 544-3758.

### 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 6/5

10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1 p.m. Kitchen Club

### Tuesday 6/6

9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Knitters

### 3 p.m. Tai Chi

### Wednesday 6/7

9 a.m. Veterans' Office Hours

### 10:15 a.m. Aerobics

11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo

### 4:15 p.m. Mat Yoga

### Thursday 6/8

9 a.m. Chair Yoga  
9 a.m. Cards & Games

### Friday 6/9

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

2 p.m. By the Seat of Your Dance

3:30 p.m. Mindfulness Meditation

# JUNE LIBRARY LISTING

## Montague Public Libraries

Turners Falls: Carnegie (413) 863-3214  
Montague Center (413) 367-2852  
Millers Falls (413) 659-3801

Erving Public Library (413) 423-3348  
Gill: Slate Library (413) 863-2591  
Leverett Public Library (413) 548-9220  
Northfield: Dickinson Library (413) 498-2455  
Wendell Free Library (978) 544-3559

## MONTAGUE

**All month:** *Art Exhibit*, Paintings by Kate Spencer, through July 12. Montague Center.

**All month:** *Grab & Go Bags*. Science: Popsicle stick catapult. Craft: DIY tic-tac-toe. Free kits at all branch locations while supplies last.

**Every Thursday:** *Playgroup*, guided and free play for preschoolers, older siblings welcome; Carnegie, under the tent, 10 a.m.; *Tine Zine Club*, snacks provided, at the Brick House, 2:30 p.m.

**Thursday, June 1:** *Travel Series*, Ann Marie Rocheleau's experience on the Camino Portugués, Montague Center, 6 p.m.

**Saturday, June 3:** *Used Book Sale*. Fiction, paperbacks, kids' books, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks. Hundreds of donations. Carnegie, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Every Tuesday:** *Game Day*. Board and card games. Carnegie, under the tent, 1 to 3 p.m.

**Every Wednesday:** *Story Time*. Join for stories and songs. Montague Center, 10 a.m.; *LEGOs on the Lawn*. Carnegie, 1 to 3 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 7:** *Concert Series*. Rosie Porter and the Neon Moons, classic country and honky-tonk. Montague Center front steps, 6 p.m.

**Thursday, June 8:** *Lemonade Social*, Millers Falls, 3 to 4 p.m.; *Book Club*, this month: Colm Toibin, *The Master*, Montague Center, 7 p.m.

**Every Saturday, starting June 10:** *Saturday Story Time*. Jump-start early literacy skills for preschoolers. Carnegie, under the tent, 10 a.m.

**Monday, June 12:** *Friends of MPL Meeting*. All welcome. Email [vgatvalley@gmail.com](mailto:vgatvalley@gmail.com) for info. Carnegie, 5:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 14:** *Concert Series*. Little House Blues, vintage Chicago blues and swing. Montague Center front steps, 6 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 21:** *Author Series*. Local author. Refreshments provided. Montague Center, 6 p.m.

**Friday, June 23:** *Youth Advisory Committee*. Bring your ideas and suggestions for teen library programming. Snacks provided. Carnegie, 4 p.m.

**Tuesday, June 27:** *Summer Reading Kickoff*. Music, activities, snacks. Carnegie, under the tent, 11 a.m.

## ERVING

**Thursday, June 1:** *Friends of the Library Meeting*. All wel-

come. 5:30 p.m.

**Sunday, June 4:** *Family Movie*. Community Room, 1 p.m.

**Monday, June 5:** *Teen Movie* for ages 11 to 19. Snacks provided. 3:30 p.m.

**Every Wednesday, through June 21:** *After-School Activities*. Ages 2 to 10 in the Children's Room; ages 11 to 19 in the Teen Room. 1:30 to 3 p.m.

**Sunday, June 11:** *Puzzle Swap*. 1 to 3 p.m.

**Sunday, June 18:** *Craft Day*. Make a seasonal craft. Materials provided, RSVP req. 1 p.m.

**Thursday, June 22:** *Renaissance Jukebox*. Lute concert, 16th century songs and covers of Taylor Swift, Dylan, and more. 5:30 p.m.

**Thursday, June 29:** *Book Club and Summer Reading Kickoff*. RSVP suggested for pizza party. 5:30 p.m.

## LEVERETT

**All Month:** *Art Exhibit*, wood cut, mono print, and collages by Anne Louise White; *Story Walks*, new story on the trail behind the library every Thursday.

**Every Thursday:** *Play Mahjongg*. Beginners welcome. 1:45 to 4 p.m.

**Every Saturday:** *Tai Chi*. Free classes, all welcome. Space limited, masks required. Call Dennis at (413) 367-9760 for info. Intermediate to advanced 10 a.m., beginners 11 a.m.

**Every Monday and Wednesday:** *Online Qigong*. Free, all welcome. See [leverettlibrary.org](http://leverettlibrary.org) or email [CommunityQigong@gmail.com](mailto:CommunityQigong@gmail.com) for info. 10:30 a.m.

**Every Wednesday:** *Playgroup*. For children ages 0 to 5 and their caregivers. Email [budine@erving.org](mailto:budine@erving.org) to RSVP. 10:30 a.m.

**Saturday, June 17:** *Summer Reading Kickoff*. Performance, High Flying Dogs. 1 p.m.

**Tuesday, June 27:** *Music on the Patio*, Masala Jazz. 6:30 p.m.

## NORTHFIELD

**Thursday, June 1:** *Spice Club pickup starts*, stop in for a sample and suggested recipes while supplies last, look for a new spice every month; *Library Trivia Night*. Four Star Farms Brewery, 6 p.m.

**Saturday, June 3:** *Puzzle Swap*. Dozens of new-to-you puzzles for kids and adults. For info email [friendsofdml01360@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdml01360@gmail.com). 10 to 11:30 a.m.

**Every Tuesday:** *Drop-in Knit-*

Weather, etc. sometimes causes changes in library events; you may want to call ahead to confirm events.

*ting*. Join fellow knitters and crocheters to chat and share projects. 6 to 8 p.m.

**Every Wednesday:** *Stories and Playtime*, for ages 0 to 5, 10 a.m.; *Open Tech Hours*, Pop in with your device for help on anything library-related, 1 to 3 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 7:** *Readers' Choice*. June 7: Ruta Sepetys, *Salt to the Sea*. Pick up a copy at the library. 10 a.m.

**Thursday, June 8:** *Environmental Awareness Group*: Greta Thunberg, *The Climate Book*. Pick up a copy at the library. 6:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, June 14:** *Readings Group*. June 14: Bring a poem or two to share, by any poet. 3 p.m.

**Saturday, June 17:** *Coffee Hour*. Dairy Farming, with Joel Fowler. 10 a.m.

**Saturday, June 24:** *Meet the Artist*. Kaylee Pernice, whose work is on display this month. 1:30 p.m.

**Thursday, June 29:** *Fireflies for Kids*, with MassAudubon. 5:30 p.m.

## WENDELL

**Every Friday:** *LEGO club*. Drop-in program for ages 5 and up with adult. 4 p.m.

**Every Saturday:** *StoryCraft*. Picture book read-aloud and connected craft. 10:30 a.m.

**Every Sunday:** *Yoga*. All levels, by sliding-scale donation. 10 a.m.

**Every Tuesday:** *Art Group*. 5 to 6:30 p.m.

**Every Wednesday:** *Playgroup*. 10 a.m.

**Thursdays, June 8 and 22:** *Fiber Arts / Mending Circle*. 6:30 p.m.

**Friday, June 9:** *Homeschool Hangout*, 10:30 a.m.; *Rep. Aaron Saunders office hours*, 2 p.m.

**Saturdays, June 10 and 24:** *Wendell Youth Group*. 1 p.m.

**Saturday, June 10:** *Come Build Boxville*: a cardboard community on the Common, across from the Library. 10 a.m. to noon. Rain date June 17.

**Tuesdays, June 13 and 20:** *Tech Help* by appointment. Email [wendell@cwmares.org](mailto:wendell@cwmares.org) to register.

**Saturday, June 24:** *Summer Reading Kickoff*. Concert by Carrie Ferguson. 10:30 a.m.

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Greenfield, MA 01301



# Sport Report: Pickleball!



RICH CARACIOLLO PHOTO

The tournament was a fundraiser for the Food Bank of Western MA.

By MIKE REDDING

**TURNERS FALLS** – Blistering slams and delicate dinks highlighted competitive play at the “Pickleball Day for the Food Bank” tournament at Turners Falls High School last Saturday. Competing on 14 courts, over 80 players raised \$2,117 and donated 201 pounds of food for the Food Bank of Western MA.

In the final of the hotly-contested Main Street Bar & Grille Open Division, the team of David Chaplin and Chris Malo outduelled Joe Harney and Myrt Jaquay 11 to 8.

Some of the best rallies of the day came in the Hope & Olive Mixed Doubles Division final, with Luke

Williams and Michaelann Denton prevailing over Craig Cullinane and Joellen Reino 11 to 5.

Round-robin play in the Cocina Lupita Over 55 Division featured the team of Anne Echevarria and Barbara Killeen sweeping the field with seven wins and no losses. The evenly-matched Real Pickles Fun Division went to the team of Irene Woods and Renee Lauriat.

Dozens of competitors distinguished themselves, but the Franklin Sports Prize wound up going to Joellen Reino, and Colin Hamill won the People’s Pint Prize.

*Mike Redding is fundraising chair of the Franklin County Pickleball Group.*



## CONCERT REVIEW

# Beetle 7 at the LAVA Center

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – The LAVA Center is another community art center in Greenfield. They have artwork there for people to see, and on occasion they have authors talking about their books. One or two times I believe these have been poetry books; Martin Espada is one of the individuals who has discussed their book of poems there.

In June, they will have some plays there. One is called *An Interview With Archie* by John McDonnell Tierney, which involves an archbishop who no longer believes in heaven meeting someone whose goal is to get into heaven. Another is called *Time in Tatters* by Silvia Martinez-Howard.

But when I went to the LAVA Center, on May 18, it was to see a band called Beetle 7 perform.

Beetle 7 is a band with four members, featuring a bass player named Leo Hwang, a sax player named Steve Koziol, a guitarist named Joel Paxton, and Kevin Smith on a tuba. Steve Koziol did a nice job of tuning a guitar, rather than his sax,

before the show. It was a unique one that he played well. He continued to do this as people arrived. He sounded very unique when he played the guitar, and he even sang a little as he played it, which was decent.

The bass player was decent as well. He sounded nicely on key with every note. In fact, he and Steve Koziol sounded like they were not missing a note when they played together. Steve sang a little again. I would call both of them very skillful on their respective instruments. At one point Steve played that guitar I mentioned in the same fashion that he did with the bass playing.

The other guitarist played nicely. It was on an electric guitar. The whole sounding-in-key thing continued when the electric guitarist got in on the act. At one point, it was just two guitars and the bass player making music together.

Each of the moments I mentioned was great to hear, and made for a good performance. I wanted to go to this to satisfy an itch I had to review a band. Now I can add Beetle 7 to the list of musical acts I have written about!

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

# Baby Foxes; Donuts; Pharmacy Hot Potato; Drums; Determined Shoplifter; Public Peeing; Loudspeaker

**Monday, 5/22**

9:04 a.m. Caller states she was getting ready to walk into the Plains and there was a Toyota Tacoma that stopped, waved, then moved and parked, and hasn't left. Doesn't feel comfortable at this time. Officer spoke to male party, who works with DCR and was in the wrong location for a controlled burn today. 12:30 p.m. Caller states she watched a man in a camouflage jacket walk from Food City to the park; he is now there with three other males, drinking beer. Officer advises alcohol is unopened, and male party is on his way home.

2:08 p.m. Caller from Montague Street states that a family of baby foxes is living under his back porch and he doesn't know what to do. Animal control advises to call MassWildlife. Wildlife advises there are volunteer specialists to help trap, but not remove or relocate, animals; they advise caller should contact pest control. Caller advised.

4:58 p.m. Caller from Franklin County Regional Housing Authority states that a male party is parked in their lot and they would like assistance in asking him to leave. Officer advised party to leave the lot and let him know where public lots are located.

5:25 p.m. Caller states that she was in a verbal altercation with a male party outside of the Shea Theater and then he smacked her in the face. Caller states that he took off on foot with a female party. Officer advises no physical contact made. Unable to locate.

7:19 p.m. Caller states that a silver Camry is speeding around doing donuts in the school parking lot on Griswold Street, and drove down the school walkway. Vehicle gone on arrival.

7:27 p.m. Officer conducting vehicle stop on Dunton Street; advises this is the party from the previous call. Parties advised of consequences. No damage to parking lot or lawn.

7:47 p.m. Caller states that he is a truck driver and he hit something while backing out at the Salvation Army; needs an officer to come witness.

**Tuesday, 5/23**

7:37 a.m. Caller states he and other employees are getting ready to open Greenfield Savings Bank,

and a party is sleeping in a car in the parking lot. Officer advised. Suspended license; licensed driver coming to take vehicle.

12:28 p.m. Caller states he went to CVS in Greenfield to pick up his medication, which is a controlled substance, and they had given it to another person. States he called Greenfield PD and they told him to call MPD because he lives in Montague. Called GPD and advised that this happened in Greenfield, so they need to assist the citizen with the pharmacy about this issue.

4:29 p.m. 911 caller from H Street reports her neighbor is burning household trash outside near her bushes. Transferred to Shelburne Control. Officers advised.

8:43 p.m. A 36-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a straight warrant.

9:41 p.m. 911 caller from G Street states that someone is playing drums very loudly in the barn near her backyard. Officer advised.

**Wednesday, 5/24**

10:25 a.m. 911 caller reporting two-car accident at Seventh Street and Avenue A; no injuries, but fluids are leaking. TFFD toned out by Shelburne Control.

2:39 p.m. Caller states that people are drinking in Peskeomskut Park and urinating in the woods. No open containers witnessed. Two males advised of complaint.

3:28 p.m. Officer received a call from Franklin County Technical School regarding a suspicious person parked at the school sleeping in a car. Officer advises party has left property.

6:02 p.m. 911 caller from Keith Apartments states that her neighbor is screaming and throwing items at the wall. Officer advises that there was noise and no one answered the door. They spoke with the caller; she will follow up with building management.

6:23 p.m. A 47-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a default warrant.

8:53 p.m. Caller stated that a late-model Chevy pickup with American flags on the back was excessively speeding, traveling south on L Street. Officers advised.

**Thursday, 5/25**

12:43 a.m. Caller reports discovering a deer that was struck on Federal Street. Caller states deer

is currently alive, lying near guardrail. Officer advises deer dead on arrival. MassDOT advised.

7:56 a.m. Caller states that on her security cameras there were two teenage-looking boys on her property at night and some damage was done to her front door. Took report.

9:31 a.m. Caller from Nouria concerned about a van sitting in their parking lot, running, but no driver visible. No issues; driver was sleeping while waiting to pick up the next client.

12:31 p.m. Caller states that the front door to a building on Avenue A has been damaged and the mailbox has been broken. Report taken.

2:14 p.m. Caller from Walgreens states that a customer attempted to steal stuff from the store and was threatening employees when they tried to stop her. Officer advises the female also went into Food City and shoplifted; he is taking reports for both incidents. Advised employee to call if female returns.

2:38 p.m. Officer on scene for a previous call was advised that the female went into Food City and shoplifted. Summons issued.

6:12 p.m. Caller from Food City reports that a female is back in the store shoplifting again; they would like her removed. Officer advises that he has seized stolen items from the female party and will return them to the store. Summons issued.

**Friday, 5/26**

9:59 a.m. A 33-year-old Turners Falls woman was arrested on a default warrant.

2 p.m. Caller states that a male is in Peskeomskut Park drinking alcohol and urinating on the rock wall. Officer advised. Male party gone on arrival.

4:59 p.m. Officer checking on a vehicle on Wendell Road with heavy-front end damage; seems to have been involved in an accident. Minor damage to Eversource pole right past Mormon Hollow. Control contacted to have officers check the address for the registered owner. Leverett PD advising they spoke to vehicle owner, who states it happened a few days ago, and that the accident happened after a tire blew out. Officer responding to owner's house to discuss further. Requesting Leverett PD return to residence.

Summons issued.

6:24 p.m. Caller from Montague City Road states that two dogs wandered into her yard; they have collars but no tags. Owners located; dogs given back.

8:39 p.m. 911 caller at Mayhew Steel Products states his parked car was hit. No injuries. Officer advises damage smaller than a dime. Report taken.

11 p.m. Caller states loud noise is coming from Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club. Officer advises wedding is over; people are leaving.

11:39 p.m. 911 caller reports he returned to his vehicle after he left it in the parking lot, and upon returning he noticed it had somehow rolled into the Salvation Army doorway. Caller states that glass from the building shattered and the door was damaged, but no damage to vehicle. Officer requesting keyholder be contacted; same responding from Northfield.

[Saturday 6/3 listings not provided to the Reporter.]

**Sunday, 5/28**

10:37 a.m. Caller from Vladish Avenue states that a bear comes at night, takes things off her deck, and smashes them. Wants ACO notified.

4:12 p.m. Caller states that the orange vehicle that has been driving erratically in the area recently has been speeding down Franklin Street back and forth for the last ten minutes. Officers checking area. Vehicle not present at owner's house. Officer spoke to a Bridge Street resident who advised that the car went through ten minutes ago. Officer sat there for a while and didn't see anything.

8:16 p.m. Caller from James Avenue states that he had a guitar for sale and let a party borrow it to test it out; the party now won't give it back. Caller given statement form; officer will follow up tomorrow.

9:37 p.m. Assisting Erving PD with a medical call. Northfield Ambulance transported one party to the hospital.

10:10 p.m. Caller states that a loud party is going on on Park Street; they are using a loudspeaker and a microphone. Officer spoke to a male party who stated they would stop using the loudspeaker and the party would be ending soon.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

# Canoe Concern; Sick Porcupine; Missing Chicks; Flagpole Fire

**Monday, 4/3**

11:14 a.m. Assisted citizen with VIN verification.

4:26 p.m. Caller asking for an officer to assist with traffic while he backs a truck in from Route 2.

4:50 p.m. Caller states they were "T-boned" at the intersection in front of the Gill Mill. No injury.

**Wednesday, 4/5**

9:15 a.m. Call from the French King Highway about a mailbox run over last night.

3:51 p.m. Caller from Mountain Road reporting an accident involving a van and articles on the owner's property. No injuries.

7:23 p.m. Civil issue on Main Road.

**Thursday, 4/6**

2:35 p.m. Apple Watch accidentally dialed 911 from Mountain Road.

7:26 p.m. Caller from Main Road struck a deer. Deer is alive but injured. Damage to vehicle.

**Friday, 4/7**

8:51 a.m. Parking complaint from the French King Highway and Trenholm Way. No parking on highway.

11:49 a.m. Unwanted person on Lamplighter Way.

4:38 p.m. Removed tree from the breakdown lane, French King Highway.

**Saturday, 4/8**

8:28 p.m. Caller from Lamplighter Way reports a red convertible brake-checked her.

**Monday, 4/10**

7:45 a.m. Assisted a citizen at the station.

**Wednesday, 4/12**

2:21 p.m. Call from West Gill and Main roads about low-hanging wire. Bus can't safely make it through.

**Thursday, 4/13**

4:12 p.m. Caller reporting a subject with a leaf blower is blowing leaves onto Route 2.

**Friday, 4/14**

12:19 a.m. 911 call, Main Road. Line silent. 10:36 a.m. Attempted to serve felony warrant on the French King Highway. Unable to locate.

2:38 p.m. Caller from Riverview Drive states that a male in

a red canoe by the dam appeared to be struggling. There are no buoys up. Caller is concerned the canoeist should not be by the water.

9:48 p.m. Assisted Greenfield PD, Bascom Road.

**Saturday, 4/15**

4:43 p.m. Caller from Pisgah Mountain Road reports a sick porcupine.

5:03 p.m. Officer requested on Mountain Road.

**Sunday, 4/16**

1:32 a.m. Welfare check requested. Caller is on scene with police.

2:03 p.m. Unattended brush fire on Mount Hermon Station Road. FD to check.

5:02 p.m. Assisted Montague PD on Third Street.

**Monday, 4/17**

1:45 p.m. Two-car accident on the French King Highway. No injuries.

10:26 p.m. 911 call from Highland Road; crackling and static on the line.

**Tuesday, 4/18**

9:35 a.m. Disabled vehicle, Main Road. Pushed off the roadway. AAA en route.

4 p.m. Served paperwork on Main Road.

4:20 p.m. Assisted citizen on Barton Cove Road.

**Thursday, 4/20**

12:55 p.m. Caller from the French King Highway states a yellow Labrador and a husky are loose and are running up Main Road toward the Spirit Shoppe.

1:13 p.m. Caller from the French King Highway is locked out of their car.

**Friday, 4/21**

12:51 p.m. Caller from Mountain Road reporting six chicks taken from a secure chicken coop.

1:04 p.m. Flagpole reported on fire, Main Road.

3:58 p.m. Disabled vehicle, French King Highway and Pisgah Mountain Road. Vehicle is in the breakdown lane with flashers on.

7:19 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with accident on Main Street. Caller report-

ing vehicle spun out on the side of the road. No injuries.

**Saturday, 4/22**

12:07 p.m. Vehicle repo notification on Main Road.

**Sunday, 4/23**

2:48 p.m. Caller from French King Highway requesting assistance unlocking her car. Access gained.

**Monday, 4/24**

9:57 a.m. Drill/testing on Lamplighter Way.

4:44 p.m. Transporting one from Main Road to Greenfield.

**Wednesday, 4/26**

3:45 p.m. Accidental 911 call from Pisgah Mountain Road.

**Thursday, 4/27**

7:48 p.m. Suspicious vehicle reported on Main Road, parked partially in the travel lane. Subject picking leeks roadside.

9:19 p.m. Four or five suspicious subjects reported on Walnut Street.

**Friday, 4/28**

7:14 a.m. Montague dispatch transferred a 911 cell caller from Riverview Drive. Caller is working there and misdialed.

10:41 a.m. Walk-in report from Main Road of missing firearm.

2:34 p.m. Caller reports a motorcycle, coming westbound from Dunkin Donuts, passed the caller on the right and is driving erratically.

7:18 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD serving warrant, Turners Falls Road.

8:13 p.m. Disabled vehicle, Northfield Road in Bernardston.

**Saturday, 4/29**

6:21 p.m. Suspicious vehicle reported on Main Road.

6:50 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with disturbance on Public Works Boulevard. A red Chevy Malibu pulled into the public works department and two males are outside rolling around.

10:33 p.m. Caller is concerned about a female leaning over the railing of the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.

**Sunday, 4/30**

5:51 p.m. Fire alarm, West Gill Road.

## TRAVELS from page B1

the places in the south where the infamous 1830s Trail of Tears took nearly 100,000 of the Cherokee, Creek, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Seminole people away to reservations in Oklahoma. The tale of these forced exits by native peoples leads to Tom Hendrix.

Tom is truly a legend in Florence, Alabama, because of his wall. It's called the Wichahpi Commemorative Stone Wall, commonly referred to as Tom's Wall or Telah-nay's Wall after Tom Hendrix's great-great-grandmother.

Hendrix started building the wall in 1983, and it is a mile long. It winds along in an intricate rustic style for yards and yards to an elegant circle in a five-acre woods that his family owns. He was inspired by his great-great-grandmother's story as a Yuchi Indian who returned to Alabama after being forced to leave during the Trail of Tears. Hendrix built it over 32 years, hauling eight million pounds of stone from the river to create the artistic arrangement.

### Dining and Music

You don't come down to northern Alabama for the food, because if you're health conscious or have strict standards, they will fail you. Gluten-what? Vegan-who?

Nope, the menu here is usually starch-heavy with an emphasis on fried. Fried is how nearly everything is cooked; desserts are often colossal, and salads very scarce. Oh, and most of the time food arrives on styrofoam plates and plastic utensils, accompanied by sweet tea or the house wine of the South.

But there are remarkable things to see, do, and hear down in northern Alabama. I got a chance to visit two legendary old time recording studios – the FAME Studio and the Muscle Shoals Sound Studios, which both really redefined American music in the '60s and '70s. The tours at these studios include deep dives into what happened there, the famous artists who recorded there, and the albums that resulted.

The walls of Muscle Shoals Sound Studios are lined with iconic LP records signed by members of The Swampers, the four-man backup band that played on so many seminal albums for famous singers and groups who came to the little town to record. Aretha Franklin, The Rolling Stones, Wilson Pickett, and Bob Seger were just some of the artists who loved these studios and laid down essential tracks while they were in town.

Music is big here in northern Alabama, and in the earliest part of the 20th century, nobody was bigger in the blues than W.C. Handy, the first person to write down the musical notes and lyrics for the blues. He's considered the man who started it all, and he was born right there in Florence.

Visiting his small and humble hometown shack was a revelation. Just look at who played the charac-



Top: This photo of Helen Keller and Dwight Eisenhower is one of the artifacts seen at Keller's home in Tuscumbia, Alabama. Above: At FAME Studio, visitors can learn about the epic Muscle Shoals sound and some of the famous recordings that took place there.

ters when they made the movie of his life story – Handy himself was played by Nat King Cole. His home contains much memorabilia and even a primitive instrument built of aluminum that is a vertical piano.

Another fun stop was an evening at the Alabama Music Hall of Fame in Tuscumbia, which counts Lionel Ritchie, Hank Williams, and Jimmie Rogers in its distinguished ranks. Ritchie is in there twice, because he was also in the Commodores.

### Historic Sites

One morning we stopped by a mansion out in the countryside called Belle Mont, a house perfectly restored in Jeffersonian Palladian style. Places like this perfectly symmetrical and elegant home at the end of a long curved driveway were built by enslaved peoples. I found people talking honestly in Alabama about both peoples in the region who have suffered, the Native Americans and the African Americans.

While we were in her hometown of Tuscumbia, we toured and listened to the amazing story of Helen Keller's life. Keller, the world's most famous blind and deaf person, grew up here, and you can visit the home where Annie Sullivan taught Helen right from wrong and helped her become one of the most influential people of America.

Helen's life is an inspiration, and if you are a fan of the wonderful movie *The Miracle Worker*, you

won't want to miss visiting Keller's home, where you can see the water pump from the scene when Sullivan spelled out the word for "water" on Keller's hand, and everything seemed to click in her mind.

We saw some funny things here, like the Rattlesnake Saloon, a restaurant built into a cave – you dine inside the cave while water drips off the edge. The food isn't remarkable, but the cave's vast overhang is a fun place for a meal, and the acoustics are pretty good when a band sets up.

Another highlight in Florence was a tour of the Rosenbaum House, a home built in 1940 by Frank Lloyd Wright. This is a real gem for anyone who studies and admires the famous architect. It's been kept up just like it looked when the family lived there in the '50s and '60s.

Northern Alabama doesn't get a lot of attention up north, yet it is filled with places that really grabbed me. Yes, it's not really where you will find a fantastic wine list, or healthy fresh vegetables, but pass the grits and enjoy the bacon in the Heart of Dixie.

Max Hartshorne, local travel editor, writes about traveling around our region and a little beyond. Max is the editor of GoNOMAD Travel and hosts the short-form GoNOMAD Travel Podcast, which can be heard at anchor.fm/max-hartshorne.

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**PHOTOS** from page B1

idea of story. Monroe likes to write about the pictures he takes, enjoying the process of finding words that expand upon these mundane scenes. "It's all about how I met them, who they are, the location, what's going on there, that kind of thing," he explains. He had not yet printed out the related texts for this show, so I didn't get a chance to read them, but he says there is "voluminous text" associated with each photograph – from four to 44 pages each, with many in the 10-to-15 page range. Because of his interest in putting words and images together, he says he is involved in putting together about eight different books of his photographs with text.

Readers can learn more about Monroe on his website, *nothing-matters.com*. ("Nothing matters" were the last words of Hollywood producer Louis B. Mayer, he explains.) Monroe's work at the Franklin Community Cooperative space at 170 Main is open by appointment only, although he does plan to have open hours during the Art Walk event in Greenfield from 5 to 8 p.m. on Friday, June 30. For other times, email him for an appointment at [estherwasmydog@yahoo.com](mailto:estherwasmydog@yahoo.com).

**Bearing Witness**

The new TEOLOS Gallery on Osgood Street had a very success-

ful opening reception last Friday, May 26. Owned by two Turners Falls photographers, Anja Schütz and Paul Teeling, the high-ceilinged gallery has been beautifully painted and provides plenty of wall space for exhibitions.

Photographs by Teeling and Schütz fill the walls currently, but they plan to host other artists' work in the future. The two will also use the space as a studio for making portraiture.

Teeling has completed a series called *Witness 2. Our Love*. He has a feeling for "spaces that men who have sex with men have found for themselves, where they could meet and connect," and has come to consider these as "sacred sexual spaces."

"Society has forced men to connect with each other underground," Teeling explains to the *Reporter*. "This is something that has existed for a very very long time, because men had to hide their sexuality, and hide their attraction to men. The Tuileries in Paris have been cruising spots for 500-plus years, for instance, and I have come to believe that these spaces have become kind of sacred spaces."

These are places one has to walk to, climb to, take a boat to – out-of-the-way places where men can just be themselves. "And it's not just about having sex," added Teeling. "There's a lot of socializing going on there."

On one visit to a special river site in Vermont, Teeling recalls being invited to an impromptu cocktail hour: "We were grilling and having cocktails, and I spent the whole evening with a generation of men who were older than me, which is always lovely, because there really aren't very many of those men around."

The images in *Witness 2. Our Love* are closeups of a distressed steel barrier under a dock on the Provincetown bay, placed to hold back sand. Salt air and seawater have left their mark, eating through blue paint, and graffiti leaves trails across the colorful, textural surface as well. Here and there, there are streaks left by fingers.

"I could see these incredible colors, these incredible patterns that were created by nature, and created by men," Teeling says. "I'm registering decades of time in this space, and I'm kind of fascinated with that idea of animate or inanimate objects representing or absorbing time."

**Rooms Full of Lighting**

While I did not get the chance to talk with Anja Schütz over the holiday weekend, I enjoyed the portraits that she put up in her half of the show, and was intrigued by them.

A triptych hanging on a free-standing wall in the middle of the gallery held *Variations on Eve*, portraits in three lovely arched frames, like those of a vanity table. A seated man accepts a bloody heart in the middle picture, and two women on either side hold more traditional apples, with drops of blood dotting the floor in each. Light pink crushed velvet cloth spills over one side of the chair against a grey backdrop, lit by atmospheric lighting reminiscent of Renaissance paintings.

The other portraits in the show are group portraits of the Grammy-award-winning vocal band Roomful of Teeth. These have the feel of narrative paintings, with references to Renaissance art, but there are anachronistic twists to these historical roots. Schütz employs a delicious sense of humor within the portraits, using megaphones and other props to make ironic visual commentary within the intimate interior scenes employing chiaroscuro effects.

Looking through her website at [anjashutz.com](http://anjashutz.com) you can see the range of Schütz's work in still life, portraiture, and design. You may remember the "Grab Him by the Ballot" project, in which she photographed over 200 nude women holding ballots over their crotches, with the text *#grabhimbytheballot* superimposed over their breasts, in protest of Donald Trump's bragging about sexually assaulting women. The project went online during the 2016 election and is still viewable on her website.

The third partner in TEOLOS is writer, podcaster, and educational consultant Jamie Berger, Schütz's husband. He has said he intends to incorporate literary events as part of the gallery's offerings.

TEOLOS Gallery, located at 3.5 Osgood Street, is open on Saturday and Sunday afternoons or by appointment, which can be made at [www.teolos.art](http://www.teolos.art).

TEOLOS, by the way, stands for "The Effect Of Light On Silver," the chemistry of sun and silver which led to the invention of photography in the early 19th century.

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PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF THE ARTISTS

Top: The Franklin County Survival Center in Turners Falls, captured in a photograph by Peter Monroe.  
Above: Closeup of a distressed steel barrier under a Provincetown dock, one of the photographs in Paul Teeling's series *Witness 2. Our Love*.

**EXHIBITS**

**Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls:** *Visions of the Connecticut River Valley*, work from regional artists featuring the nature of the river. Through June 30.

**Rendezvous, Turners Falls:** *Crapo Tarot*. Tarot cards designed by Trish Crapo. Reception with three-card readings on Sunday, June 11 from 3 to 5 p.m.

**Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts and Arts:** *Fiberistas: Fiber Connections*, work by eight fiber artists. Through June. Reception this Sunday, June 4, from 2 to 4 p.m.

**Goose Divine Energy, Greenfield:** *Topographies and Other Surface Tensions*. Dr. Adhi Two Owls explores the surfaces of natural forms. Through June 15.

**Artspace Gallery, Greenfield:** *Mike and Ike's*, work by Kyle Compton-Burch, Timothy Glover, Aubree Guilbault, and August Etzel. Through June 2.

**TEOLOS Gallery, Greenfield:** *Anja Schütz and Paul Teeling*, fine art photography. Through August.

**170 Main Street, Greenfield:** *Peter Monroe*, fine art photography. Make an appointment to view the exhibit by emailing [estherwasmydog@yahoo.com](mailto:estherwasmydog@yahoo.com). Through July.

**LAVA Center, Greenfield:** *The Sky is Falling*, mixed media and assemblage by Tom Swetland. Through June. Reception this Saturday, June 3, from 3 to 6 p.m.

**Looky Here, Greenfield:** *Live Portraiture by Julia Shirar*. Sign up to be painted on Thursdays in June and July! Email [julia@juliashirar.com](mailto:julia@juliashirar.com) for an appointment. Subjects will be given a reproduction of their portrait to keep. Closing reception on Friday, July 28.

**Leverett Library:** *Anne White*. Paintings and more. Through June.

**Wendell Free Library:** *Watercolor Landscapes*, new paintings by Christine Teixeira. Through June 30.

**Montague Center Library:** *Mt. Toby Paintings*, by Kate Spencer. Through July 14. Reception Monday, June 5 from 5 to 7 p.m.

**Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls:** *Apricity*, photographs by Carin Teresa. *The Worlds Below Us*, paintings by Rosa Beryl. Through June 26.

**Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls:** *Beyond the Rainbow*, art and craft by member artists. Through June.

**Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield:** *Regional Photography Show* by New England photographers. Through July 2.

**Jewish Community of Amherst:** *The Art of Collage*, mixed-media collage by Micha Archer. Through July 28.

**Gallery A3, Amherst:** *Emily Dickinson's Ghosts*, accordion books and photographs by Laura Holland, with oil paintings and sculpture by Nancy Meagher, inspired by Emily Dickinson. Through July 1. Reception this Thursday, June 1, from 5 to 8 p.m.

**Club George, Northampton:** *Spirit Hall*, soft sculpture creations by Jacqueline Strauss, a.k.a. Jezaculear. Through June 10.

**Anchor House of Artists, Northampton:** *Eden*, David Moriarty's sculpture and paintings; *Leslie Dahlqvist*, new artworks; *Mama Data*, multimedia by Christina Balch; *Labor*, group show about labor in mothering and parenting. Through June. Reception next Friday, June 9, from 5 to 8 p.m.

**Gallery in the Woods, Brattleboro:** *William H. Hays*, reduction woodcut and linocut prints. Through June. Reception during Art Walk this Friday, June 2, from 5 to 8 p.m.

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## The Time Has Come for Heat Pumps

By SPENCER SHORKEY

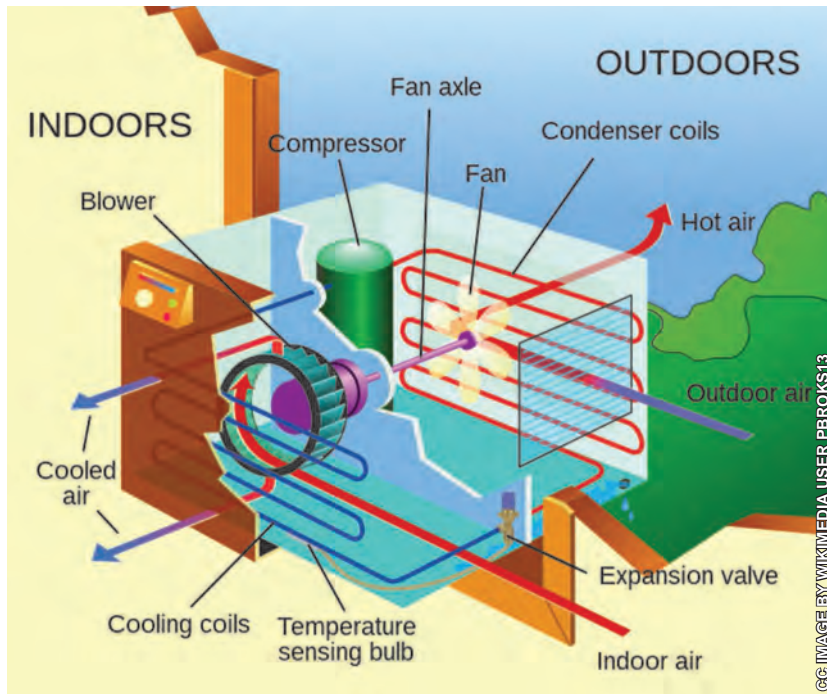
**MILLERS FALLS** – The air molecules that we breathe are all moving pretty fast, with average speeds of over a thousand miles per hour at room temperature. These molecules move randomly in all directions, frequently colliding with surfaces and other air molecules; a single air molecule experiences billions of collisions per second.

First formulated by Benoît Paul Émile Clapeyron in 1834, the ideal gas law and its many derivatives enable accurate modeling of properties of gases. The general gas equation defined by this law works out so that the temperature of an ideal gas equals its pressure times its volume, divided by the number of molecules involved as well as by a figure known as the Boltzmann constant.

At the standard temperature and pressure – roughly room temperature at sea level, which is 20° C (68° F) and 1 atmosphere respectively – air has a density of about 24 sextillion (10<sup>21</sup>) molecules per liter, or about 4 millimolar in chemistry notation. This works out to an average distance between molecules of under a hundred nanometers.

Anyone who has ever rapidly dispensed a container of compressed gas, a can of spray paint for example, may have noticed that the can gets colder as its contents are emptied. As the can's pressure decreases, in other words, its temperature decreases. This makes sense considering that temperature and pressure are directly correlated in the general gas equation.

A heat pump is a machine which compresses a gas – also known in this context as a refrigerant – in cycles so that the refrigerant alternates between a hotter compressed state and a cooler decompressed state. By configuring such a system with a “source” to extract heat from and a “sink” to release it into,



A diagram of a standard household air-conditioning unit.

these machines can transport heat in a useful way.

An old-school window-mounted air conditioner works by putting hot, compressed refrigerant in contact with outside air and cool, decompressed refrigerant in contact with indoor air, effectively cooling a house's interior by transporting the heat outside. On the hot side the refrigerant has been compressed at over 10 atmospheres of pressure, whereas on the colder side it is at less than 1 atmosphere.

More recently, heat-pump water heaters have been devised that do a similar task, with the twist that the heat is released into hot water for household use. These heaters are remarkably efficient compared to older, electric-resistive water heaters, using four times less electricity under ideal conditions to generate the same amount of hot water.

The newest generation of heat pumps are powerful enough to heat a house through the winter months, and are conveniently reversible, so the same system can cool the house in summer months. This makes heat

pumps a great investment for home modernization and energy savings. Heat pumps are essential for replacing fossil-fuel heating systems. To encourage their adoption, the federal government offers a tax credit for up to 30% of system cost, and in the state of Massachusetts there are huge rebates and interest free loans to help cover the installation costs through the MassSave program.

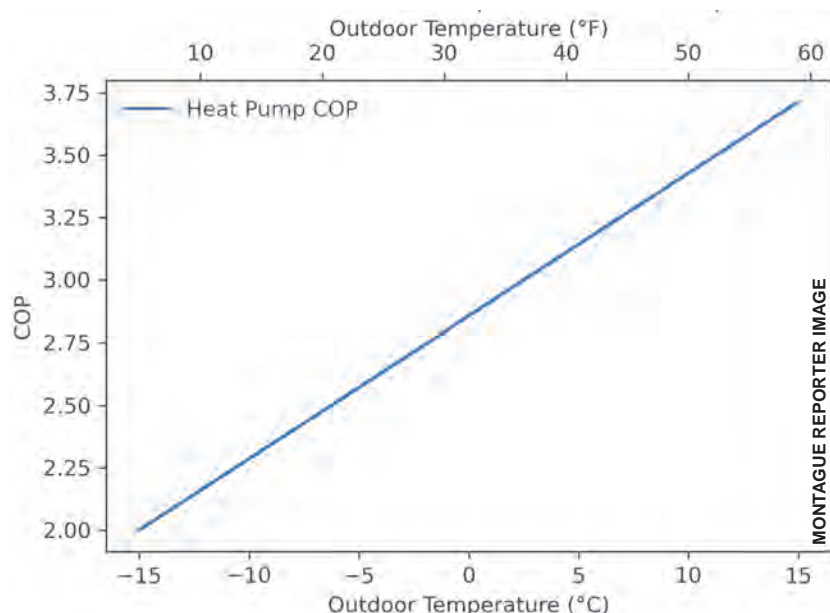
In terms of heat pumps, the coefficient of performance (COP) is a metric that tells us the ratio of how much thermal energy a heat pump returns compared to how much electrical-mechanical energy is needed to operate it. This can also be thought of as how much less energy is used to generate the same amount of heat as an electric-resistive heater.

Air-source heat pumps (ASHP) for home heating yield a COP of between 2 and 4, depending on the outdoor temperature, as shown in the accompanying figure. Since ASHPs are extracting heat from the air, their performance gets weaker as the temperature difference gets wider, and the COP will be as low as 2 at outdoor temperatures of -15° C (5° F).

Ground-source heat pumps (GSHP) are more efficient than ASHPs for home heating, since the deep ground wells from which they extract heat do not get as cold as the air above. While GSHPs are more efficient overall for heating and cooling, ASHPs require substantially less planning and upfront cost to install.

Heat pump devices can also be used to save energy on clothes drying, and simplify the whole laundry process by combining the washer and dryer into a single unit that doesn't even require hot air venting.

In the future, we may even see heat pumps being used to more efficiently heat ovens for cooking,



The roughly estimated coefficient of performance (COP), at different temperatures, of a typical modern air-source heat pump.

## MEDICINE

## Rabies... and You?

By CATHERINE DODDS, MD

**TURNERS FALLS** – Every summer, at least one patient of mine has a rabies scare that comes to my attention. Rabies is extremely rare in the US, with only two or three cases in the entire country each year on average.

Only mammals can be infected with the rabies virus. Bats, raccoons, skunks, and canines – dogs, foxes, coyotes, and wolves – are the most frequent sources of human infections. Summer tends to be the peak for rabies, as warm weather and outdoor activities increase the chance of us coming into contact with these infected wild animals.

In the US, pet dogs and cats are routinely vaccinated against rabies, and are almost never the cause of rabies infection. In developing countries, in contrast, feral dogs are responsible for 90% of rabies infections.

When an animal infected with rabies bites or scratches you, the virus passes from their saliva to your muscle tissue. From there, rabies makes its way along your nerves to your brain. This is a slow journey, with the virus spreading only about 5 to 10 cm (no more than 4 inches) per day. For this reason, symptoms of rabies begin one to three months, or in rare cases even years, after the exposure.

Most exposures will not result in infection, but the risk is higher if the exposure was a bite that pierced the skin, rather than a lick on already-broken skin or a scratch; if the bite occurred directly to exposed skin, not through clothing; if the bite was closer to the brain (the head and neck are high-risk areas); and if the bitten person has a weakened immune system.

So why do I get at least one message every year about rabies? Why does our public health system track every possible case, and require all pets to be vaccinated?

Because, if it's not prevented, rabies nearly always results in death.

The initial symptoms of rabies

are similar to many other viral illnesses, including low-grade fever, chills, muscle aches, weakness, fatigue, loss of appetite, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, and headache. Once a person has any single symptom of rabies, it is no longer treatable.

Within one week after these first symptoms, rabies reaches the brain to cause encephalitis. The symptoms at this stage are mainly due to severe muscle spasms – coughing, choking, vomiting, avoiding drinking water due to spasms in the throat, and tensed muscles in the face and neck. As the rabies virus continues to infect the brain, it can cause agitation, confusion, fluctuations in body temperature, sweating, and drooling. The majority of patients at this point fall into a coma and die of rabies within two weeks.

So far, this sounds terrible, right? No wonder I get at least one call about rabies every year.

What can you do about rabies?

- Clean any animal bite or scratch immediately with soap and water.

- If the animal is a pet, it should be confined and observed for 10 days. Any illness during that time should be evaluated by a veterinarian and reported to the local public health department.

- If the animal is a stray or wild animal, the animal should be caught, euthanized, and tested for rabies as soon as possible.

- If you are concerned you may have been exposed to rabies, contact your healthcare provider. Post-exposure prophylaxis is key for preventing rabies. Rabies prophylaxis is generally done in emergency room settings following a standard protocol, including a dose of antibodies (rabies immune globulin) and four doses of rabies vaccine during a 14-day period

- Make sure all pets are up to date with vaccinations and avoid contact with wild animals, particularly ones that seem to be behaving abnormally or aggressively.

though only a few proofs of concept have been developed, and no commercial products are available at this time. A heat-pump oven could simultaneously provide heat for cooking while cooling the kitchen air, which could be pretty handy on a hot day or in overheated commercial kitchens.

For those excited by the prospects of heat pump appliances in lowering energy costs and eliminating fossil-fuel emissions, I encourage you to explore the MassSave

website: [www.masssave.com/en/residential/rebates-and-incentives](http://www.masssave.com/en/residential/rebates-and-incentives). Heat pump water heaters, clothes washers, and home heating systems each have generous rebates and financing options, and will save you money in the long run.

The summer is a great time to plan heating system upgrades, with the winter still many months away. Don't hesitate to learn more about how heat pumps can modernize your residence and decarbonize your lifestyle!

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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## THURSDAY, JUNE 1

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Justin Rowland. Free. 9 p.m.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 2

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Drew Paton. Free. 6:30 p.m. *AT and the Fantasy Suites*, Bryan Gillig, Shea Mowat. Free. 9:30 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene NH: *Winter pills, Tiger Saw*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Paper City Picture Show, Douse the Glims, Hoonah*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club: *Josh Levangie & Los Pistoleros*. Free. 8 p.m.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 3

Guilford Fairgrounds, Guilford, VT: *Field Day* feat. *Inner Wave, Lady Lamb, Sunflower Bean, Thus Love, Gift, Topsy, Carinae*, more. \$ 12 p.m.

Unity Park, Turners Falls: *Unity Fest* feat. *Groove Prophet, Sam Mulligan, Dave Richardson*. Free. 2 p.m.

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Freestone or Ooze* feat. *Ralph White, Allysen Callery, Low Radio, Frozen Corn, Junk Orbit, Donkey No No, Reti-*

*cence*, many more. Continues at the Voo. Free. 2 p.m.

Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Rosie Porter & the Neon Moons*. Free. 5 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Feminine Aggression, Nemesister, Valley Gals, Nyla Styck*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ralph White, Donkey No No, Holy Oakes, Federico Balducci, Bev Ketch, Ricky Spider, Baldwin/Signore duo, Wes Buckley*. Free. 8 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Jenny Burtis*, record release event. \$ 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Baba Comandant and the Mandingo Band, Sunburned Hand of the Man*. \$ 8 p.m.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 4

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Frozen Corn, Allysen Callery, Nolan Family Band, Karen Zanes, Cosmic Ray, Brian Dolzani, Low Radio, Junk Orbis, Lys Guillorn*. Free. 12 p.m.

Lower Falls House Concerts, Greenfield: *Abbie Gardner & Marc Douglas Berardo*. Email [Lfhconcerts@gmail.com](mailto:Lfhconcerts@gmail.com) for address. \$ 3 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *DJs Dolores, Aoife, Padel, Pinky Promise*, outdoors, free, 5:30 p.m.;

*pleasure coffin, ex-heir, blag hammer*, indoors, \$ 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Rocco Desgres, Michael Ontkean, Jess Beck*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *François J. Bonnet* performs Éline Radigue. \$ 8 p.m.

## MONDAY, JUNE 5

Tree House Brewing, South Deerfield: *Deer Tick, Rafay Rashid*. \$ 7 p.m.

Cold Spring Hollow, Belchertown: *RAWL, Unguent, Liam K.W.* \$ 8 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7

Montague Center Library: *Rosie Porter & the Neon Moons*. Free, outdoors. 6 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Deep Seize, Loops for Pearl*. Free. 8:30 p.m.

## THURSDAY, JUNE 8

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Leo Kottke*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Shemekia Copeland*. \$ 8 p.m.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 9

The Drake, Amherst: *Sun Ra Arkestra*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Start Making Sense*, Talking Heads tribute. \$ 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Jeanines, Luxor Rentals, OOF*.

\$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Chris Goudreau, Anni Abigail, The Leafies You Gave Me, Aaron Noble & The Clones*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Liturg, HIRS Collective*. \$ 8 p.m.

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Eavesdrop, Cloudbelly*. \$ 8 p.m.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 10

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Iris DeMent, Ana Egge*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Queer prom with Undertow Brass Band, The B-52.0s*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Samirah Evans*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Grange Hall, Williamsburg: *Quitapenas, DJ Bongohead*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Mary Gauthier*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

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

## SUNDAY, JUNE 11

Lunder Center, Williamstown: *Willie Lane, Wes Buckley*. Free. 5 p.m.

## MONDAY, JUNE 12

Bombyx Center, Florence: *An Evening with Rickie Lee Jones*. \$ 7 p.m.

## TUESDAY, JUNE 13

Tree House Brewing, S. Deerfield: *Joan Osborne*. \$ 8 p.m.

looking forward...

## THURSDAY, JUNE 15

Montague Village Store, Montague Center: *Big Destiny*. Free. 5:30 p.m.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 16

Mt. Toby Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Joe Jenks*. \$ 7 p.m.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 17

The Drake, Amherst: *Mal Devisa*. \$ 8 p.m.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 23

Tanglewood, Lenox: *Steve Miller Band, Bruce Hornsby*. \$ 7 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Vieux Farka Touré*. \$ 7 p.m.

## SATURDAY, JULY 1

Holyoke Media, Holyoke: *Flywheel* presents *Sensor Ghost, Perennial*. \$ 8 p.m.

## THURSDAY, JULY 6

Tree House Brewing Company, South Deerfield: *They Might Be Giants*. \$ 7 p.m.

## SUNDAY, JULY 23

Antenna Cloud Farm, Gill: *Sam Amidon*. \$ 7 p.m.

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Jimmy Dale Gilmore, Dave Alvin, Dead Rock West*. \$ 8 p.m.

## COMICS and PUZZLE

JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION



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**VALLEY VIEW** from page B1

old. Why kill such a beautiful creature? My wife won't eat wild fish, fowl, or game, and I ain't hungry.

Nonetheless, I still enjoy observing turkeys and studying their seasonal patterns. I love to hear the coffee-shop chatter about a dozen longbeards in one winter flock; or mixed flocks exceeding 60 in number feeding through the deer woods; or big, dominant, springtime toms strutting their stuff for the ladies in someone's backyard. It's nature. It's magical. I never tire of watching, listening, and learning.

Which brings us to a neighborhood boss gobbler that captured my fancy this spring – a garrulous tom that brightened the first leg of my daily daybreak romp around the neighborhood. That bird sounded off at the same time every day, rain or shine, warm or cold, windy or calm. He was boisterous in sounding off from various, overnight, side-hill roosts overlooking his fertile meadow and wetland mix.

The commotion began a good two weeks before the season opened on April 24 and continued non-stop through the final week. Like clockwork, he'd deliver his first muffled gobble soon after my sneakers hit the pavement, then many more before I got out of earshot.

He was consistent, for sure, but his distant calls were tough to pinpoint from the road. Too far. I could have easily solved that problem by cutting the distance in half with a pre-dawn walk through the mead-

ow. Then I could have marked him, set up in a strategic spot, and called him to me if that was my goal. It wasn't. I was content just listening – an art that ripens with age.

I had been listening to that bird's throaty daybreak gobbles for more than a week when a neighbor called to chat. Toward the end of our rambling conversation, he reported a sighting the previous evening of a gobbler for the ages, beard dangling to the ground, all puffed up and fanned out for a backyard harem of nine hens.

I told him I wasn't surprised. I had been listening to that bird every morning for more than a week. I knew he was a good one, not to mention an easy target if I wanted to take him. He was, in my humble opinion, ripe for the picking.

His rambunctious gobbling continued right through the final week of the season, when it started to diminish. The mating season was winding down as hens tended nestful of eggs. Finally, not a peep on the final day or since. Poor devil. With his favorite activity in the rearview, his harem was unavailable. Oh well. That's life, Big Boy.

To this day, I have not laid eyes on that gobbler, but he taught me something. The lesson learned was that unfavorable weather doesn't shut down dominant toms' gobbling. Experience had told me that there was more noise from the roost on clear than cloudy mornings, especially following prolonged spring rain that tended in my experience to

shut them down.

I always felt most confident as a hunter on the first clear morning following rain, figuring the toms would gobble their fool heads off to greet clear skies offering optimal range.

Now I know that's not true – at least not for the boss gobbler I monitored this spring. It surprised me to hear him gobble a couple of times the morning I got caught in a sudden downpour that drenched me to the bone. Even on that stormy morning, with big, heavy, saturating drops pouring down, he was determined to establish his presence.

It surprised me. During my hunting days, I had low expectations in rainy weather. In fact, I recall many silent mornings in wet woods – even when I was doing everything in my power to initiate a gobble with a variety of owl hoots, crow calls, and plaintive hen yelps and clucks. Even desperate fly-down cackles couldn't get a response.

Back then, my rule of thumb was to stay home in rainy weather and be there on the first clear morning when lustful gobblers would fill the air with or without my inducements. Were I still hunting, given what I witnessed this spring, I'd tweak my strategy a tad. Wet weather would not discourage me. I know now that, when hunting a king of the mountain like the bird I encountered this spring, he'll gobble in a hurricane.

It took me a long time to figure that out. Too long. Stern old schoolmarm Sentience set me straight.



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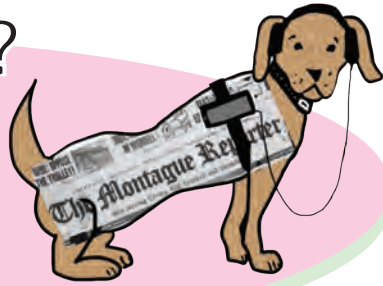
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