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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 26, 2023

SPEEDY RECOVERY



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

"We got here quick enough that we think it'll be all right," a Montague DPW employee named Jason told the Reporter on Wednesday afternoon as he and two coworkers – Dan and Al – worked to restore this Fifth Street tree to an upright position. The men said it appeared that a driver may have mistakenly driven forward, rather than in reverse, from a nearby parking spot.

UMass Study Urges Town to Identify Viable Sites for Solar

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – The Montague energy committee met Wednesday night with a very full agenda, which included updates on a variety of planned or possible energy-saving projects, primarily funded by grants, and possible revisions of the local building code to require more energy-efficient construction. But the main topic on the published agenda was a draft "Community Solar Action Plan," prepared for the town this summer by Victoria Haskins and Caroline Williams, students at the UMass Amherst Clean Energy Extension program.

The draft includes a summary of 249 responses to a survey issued last spring.

"Montague residents," the researchers found, "are highly supportive of solar development on previously disturbed and developed sites, while supporting little or no development of agricultural land and natural, undeveloped spaces."

One goal of the study was to calculate how much new solar generation would be needed to make the town self-sufficient, and to help the state meet its targets for renewable energy. The analysis concluded that the former would require "roughly 150 MW of solar capacity" – roughly 8.5 times the town's current capacity – and that by "exploring additional solar development" the town could reach 160 MW.

The draft plan, which was based on a template or "toolkit" developed

see **STUDY** page A5

Wendell Rallies Against Battery Storage Project



ROBERTSON PHOTO

Wendell planning board member Molly Doody addresses the Meetinghouse audience.

By SARAH ROBERTSON

WENDELL – Around 50 people gathered at the Wendell Meetinghouse Tuesday night for a spirited public meeting about a large energy storage facility proposed on Wendell Depot Road. A group calling itself the "No Assaultin' Battery Storage Citizens Committee" hosted the event, billed as an information session and discussion on ways to stop the project.

Lowell-based solar developer New Leaf Energy is petitioning the state Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to consider the project as a public utility, which would exempt its siting from Wendell's zoning bylaws. It is one of five major energy storage projects currently being considered in Massachusetts.

"If the New Leaf energy storage project is approved in Wendell, that approval will literally pave the way for New Leaf to do the same thing in other places – the places that people call home," open space

committee chair Dan Leahy told the audience. "The bar is very high, in my opinion. We will need to reach decision-makers at the highest levels in state government."

Four presenters took turns talking about the project, then turned the microphone over to the audience for a general discussion.

"We are asked, out here in western Mass, to make such sacrifices for the more urban areas of the state," said planning board chair Molly Doody. "And I'm just tired of it."

Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse president Court Dorsey compared the project to the state's past efforts to construct a section of Route 2 through Bear Mountain, and the Kinder Morgan company's plans to build a natural gas pipeline through the county, both defeated.

The project, which New Leaf filed with the DPU under its subsidiary Wendell Energy Storage 1, LLC, would require clearing 11 acres of privately-owned forest.

see **BATTERY** page A6

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Town Hall Leaning Toward Taxing Under Limit Again

By JEFF SINGLETON

"Each year Carolyn and I work through a process where I mostly levy my petty demands on her, and she does most of the hard work," Montague town administrator Steve Ellis told the selectboard at its Monday meeting. Ellis was referring to town accountant Carolyn Olsen, who attended the virtual meeting, and had developed with Ellis preliminary revenue estimates for the

next fiscal year's budget.

So the Montague fiscal year 2025 budget process, which will culminate in a budget to be voted on at next May's annual town meeting, has begun. Ellis explained that preliminary revenue estimates would be needed by November both by town departments developing their budgets and by the Gill-Montague regional school district, which needs to know the

see **MONTAGUE** page A8

GILL SELECTBOARD

Pols Pleased By Pending PILOT Pact

By KATE SAVAGE

The biggest topic of discussion at Monday's Gill selectboard meeting was a resolution to a years'-long tax dispute between the town and solar company Kearsarge Energy. Kearsarge, which calls itself "New England's fastest-growing renewable energy project development, finance, and renewable asset owner," owns and operates a solar array on Main Road on land leased from the Northfield Mount Hermon School.

After years of lawsuits and negotiation, both the town and the company are signaling a willingness to sign a new agreement regarding payments *in lieu* of taxes (PILOT).

see **GILL** page A5

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Future Gutter Maintenance Plans Murky

By GEORGE BRACE

Trustees of the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust appeared at Leverett's selectboard meeting Tuesday night to discuss erosion and maintenance issues in the town-owned Rattlesnake Gutter conservation area. The selectboard also began forming a committee to study a proposed gift of a different piece of land for the creation of a town forest, and signed the warrant for a special town meeting on Tuesday, November 14.

Gutter trustees Steve Weiss and Eva Gibavic suggested officially discontinuing Rattlesnake Gutter Road as a "county road" in order for it to meet eligibility requirements for

see **LEVERETT** page A7

High School Sports Week: It's Raining Tournaments!

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – PVIAC volleyball playoffs commenced this week, with both Turners High and Franklin Tech advancing into the semifinals. The Tech girls' soccer team concluded their regular season on a high note, beating Renaissance and earning a spot in the playoffs.

There's a meme floating around the waves. A bright yellow sun is smiling at a sleeping cloud. "Wake up! It's the weekend." The cloud begins to rain.

Well, the rains came early. From Friday morning to Saturday over-

night, it came down in buckets, forcing the postponement of some very important intracference duels.

Mother Nature would not let Tech football or field hockey, both vying for conference championships, play on Friday. Instead, their games were postponed while the fields were drained.

Field Hockey

FCTS 3 – Belchertown 0

FCTS 5 – Mahar 0

FCTS 5 – Mohawk 1

Because Friday's match was rained out, the field hockey team had

see **SPORTS** page A4



DAVID HOIT PHOTO

Anne Kolodziej (left), a Turners Falls student on the Franklin Tech co-op soccer team, competes against Renaissance School defender Jocelyn Pena during Monday's game.

Rag Shag Parade Summons Shai-Hulud

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The Montague Reporter

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Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August 2002

Local Action Calling for Ceasefire Now

Greenfield stand out: *Saturday, October 28, 10 to 11 a.m.*

Where: *The green by Court Square, behind the Farmers Market*

"We will gather and hold signs as cars go by, to be a clear visible protest. All invited to join! Please consider making a sign and joining us to support local Jews, Palestinians, and allies in calling for a ceasefire in Gaza now."

OBITUARY

Leslie P. Brown

5/30/1945 – 10/15/2023

TURNERS FALLS – Leslie P. Brown of 17 Poplar Street, Montague City passed away peacefully at her home Sunday, October 15. Her loving life partner Ken Trask faithfully took care of her during her short illness. Leslie is survived by Ken and by her sister and brother-in-law Charlotte and Roger Williams, of Fairlee, Vermont, her nephew Peter Williams of New York, New York, her niece and niece-in-law Ruth and Grace Williams

of Vergennes, Vermont, her niece and nephew-in-law Elizabeth and Sean Richard, and her grand-nephew Carter Richard, of Canaan, New Hampshire.

Leslie was born May 30, 1945, in Libertyville, Illinois, to Hartley Pfeil, formerly of Greenfield, and Barbara Babcock Pfeil, formerly of Brattleboro, Vermont. In 1963 she graduated from Northfield School for Girls, where her parents were teachers, and then received a BA from Middlebury College in 1967.

She taught middle school English for 20 years at Bement School in Deerfield. In the early 1990s she began a career at Franklin County Technical School, and she retired in 2011 from her position as director of the FCTS Special Education

Department, where she is remembered fondly by co-workers, students, and parents.

In 1976 Leslie was married to Woodbridge (Woody) Brown, a longtime resident of the Greenfield area. The couple enjoyed a wonderful life together until Woody's death in 2006. Then in November of 2010 Leslie met Ken Trask, longtime resident of Turners Falls. Ken and "Lili," as he called her, happily became life partners.

They traveled widely and often, and enjoyed Tai chi, Red Sox baseball, gardening, long walks, and each other's loving company for almost 13 years.

Leslie will be remembered fondly by the community as a sympathetic, civic-minded, caring and loving individual. She was always open to hearing others' opinions, while standing firmly by her own convictions.

Rest well, Leslie/Lili! We will miss you.

A Celebration of Life is planned for Sunday, November 12 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Loyal Order of Moose, 20 School Street, Greenfield. Donations in Leslie's honor are suggested to Overlook Visiting Nurse Association, 474 Main Street #3, in Greenfield.



The editors add:

From April 2006 to April 2022, Leslie was also the author of our regular column The Gardener's Companion.

Leslie's husband Woody had been the first chair of our Board of Directors, and had written an earlier column named The Persistent Gardener. Leslie launched her own column a month after Woody's death, and followed him onto our Board as well, serving from 2009 until 2014.

Leslie was a stalwart supporter of our little newspaper and a wonderful member of our extended community. She will be missed.



Sweet Phoenix: just opened in the 106 Avenue A storefront in Turners Falls, next to the Upper Bend café and brunchonette. Danielle Marie has stocked her pop-up store with antiques, vintage home goods, art, and handmade upcycled wares, and will be open Wednesdays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., until sometime in January. She says she would love to continue her business elsewhere in Turners Falls after that, if she can find a location.

Letter to the Editors

Honor a Different Eunice

I am petitioning the city of Greenfield, Massachusetts to change the name of Eunice Williams Drive to Eunice Williams Drive.

As I'm sure you know, Eunice Williams Drive is home to the pumping station, a man-made waterfall dam, one house, and the Eunice Williams Covered Bridge, the only covered bridge in Greenfield.

The covered bridge and the road were named after a woman, Eunice Williams, who was killed during a forced march in 1704 led by French soldiers and mostly Mohawk and Abenaki Indians. There is a monument on the site, written by her husband, about the "bloodthirsty savage" who "slew her with his hatchet at one stroke."

While it is tragic that a woman was murdered, we don't traditionally name streets after tragedies.

And while it is true she was slain with a single stroke (at least that's what the people who witnessed it reported (not including her husband, who was waiting for them at the top of the hill)), this was not a malicious or bloodthirsty action. Rather, this was a professional team of soldiers moving a large group of people to Canada quickly, so that they could be used by the French as hostages (to free a pirate (not joking)) in their active war with England being fought in the colonies, specifically the Massachusetts Bay Colony (Queen Anne's War).

Eunice had just given birth six weeks earlier and witnessed the baby being killed back at their home in Deerfield, along with one of their two slaves (did I mention they kept slaves in Deerfield in the 1700s?)... The witnesses say she wasn't keeping up.

These Indians and French soldiers were tasked with getting as many people over to Québec as they could as quickly as possible... a slow, grieving woman probably wasn't worth the lost time to them, and they made a cruel decision.

So – instead of naming the place for a tragedy compounded by generations of hate against Native peo-

ples for their savagery, perhaps we should name it for someone from a similar era who may provide a better, more honorable, and more realistic view of the people and the time we venerate. In this we could use Eunice Williams, the daughter of Eunice Sr., known as the "unredeemed captive."

The younger Eunice was 7 years old on the day her family was taken on that march. She was never delivered to the French to barter with. Instead she was given, as a sort of reward, to one of the Mohawk families that participated in the raid.

Eunice was raised by this family. Now, please don't be confused and think because she was raised by Indians that she was somehow more wild or rugged or backwards than any of the Europeans living in the colonies at this time – in fact, she was raised in a Catholic mission fort, and even went to church very regularly.

Her dad was not nearly as upset that she was with "savages" as he was that she believed in the Pope. He tried the remainder of his life to Redeem her and return her to her Puritanical salvation. But remember how Puritans treated women? Yeah, she passed on the offers – she married and had two kids and lots of grandchildren, and died at 89 years old.

The younger Eunice was stolen from her family, which is a tragedy in itself, but she was redeemed by a family that loved her and gave her choices and opportunities she never would have had as a daughter in Puritan Deerfield in the 1700s. Daughter Eunice's story has more meaning, more reality, and more hope than Mother Eunice's story and it is the one I think we should be celebrating on beautiful fall days as we drive past the monument to murder and confused hate across a bucolic New England landscape.

And, best of all – nobody would need to update their address with the Post Office!

**Chris Joseph
Greenfield**

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

A fundraiser for the **Stone Soup Café** will be held in the ballroom at Hawks & Reed tonight, Thursday, October 26, at 6:30 p.m. The nonprofit community kitchen at the All Souls Church in Greenfield provides weekly free or low-cost meals to the public, as well as on-the-job training in culinary arts, hospitality, and guest relations.

Their efforts will be celebrated with live jazz music by Jason Robinson on saxophone, Gary Fieldman on percussion, Wes Brown on bass, and Matan Rubinstein on piano. Light cuisine will be provided by Stone Soup, with a full bar available. Tickets are available on a sliding scale, \$15 to \$30, at hawksandreed.com or at the door.

The public is invited to attend Greenfield Community College's **Community Chorus** performances at the college's main building in Greenfield.

This Friday, October 27, there will be an informal fall concert from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. in the Sloan Theater. The program includes a variety of music from the Renaissance to the present in several languages.

The chorus is conducted by Margery Heins, who directed the college's previous choral ensemble, the GCC Chorus, from the fall of 2001 until 2020. The group's accompanist is Meg Reilly, pianist and organist. Anyone interested in singing next semester is welcome to contact Heins at heins@gcc.mass.edu; second-semester rehearsals begin in February.

Misused prescription drugs are often obtained from home medicine cabinets, and medications that are flushed down the toilet or tossed in the trash can pollute wa-

ter sources and soil.

This Saturday, October 28 is **Prescription Drug Take-Back Day**. You can drop off your unused prescriptions from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at police departments in Deerfield, Leverett, Montague, and Sunderland.

Greenfield, Orange, Athol, and Buckland police departments have permanent drop boxes available all year long, as do some pharmacies and hospitals. Nearly 70,000 pounds have been collected locally in drop boxes since 2011.

The National Spiritual Alliance will host a **Psychic Fair** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. this Saturday, October 28, at Thompson Temple, 2 Montague Avenue in Lake Pleasant. To register for a session, visit spiritualallianceusa.org/calendar.

Stop by and say "hi" at the *Montague Reporter's* table at the **Leverett Village Co-Op's Harvest Festival** this Sunday, October 29 from noon to 4 p.m. The MR podcast team of Sarah Brown-Anson and Stella Silbert will be there creating an audio diary, as well as myself, and we'll have some tote bags, wrapping paper, and historical editions for sale.

The Co-Op event also has food, music, horse-drawn wagon rides, pumpkin decorating, crafts, and other fun stuff to do and see.

Join a conversation hosted by LifePath about the **loneliness epidemic** and its impact on Franklin County residents at a gathering at GCC next Monday, October 30, from 4 to 5 p.m., or on Zoom Thursday, November 9, from 6 to 7 p.m. The GCC event will be held in Core 201. Find the Zoom link at tinyurl.com/alonehere.

Calling all trick-or-treaters:

Show off your costumes before the Rag Shag Parade on Tuesday, October 31 between 3 and 5 p.m. on Avenue A in Turners Falls. Local businesses and organizations will invite costumed youngsters into their workplaces with sweet rewards throughout downtown Turners Falls. Look for a bright Halloween-themed hanging displayed in storefront windows or doors as the welcome sign. There are locations from the Town Hall down the Avenue to Cumberland Farms.

Make your way down the Avenue to the Rag Shag Parade, which will gather in the Food City parking lot at 5 p.m. Adults are encouraged to dress up and accompany their youngsters, and prizes will be given for costumes.

The Art Garden in Shelburne Falls put out a **call for art** for its first intergenerational community exhibit since the pandemic started. The exhibit is titled *Curiouser & Curiouser*, and they are looking for art in any medium that expresses curiosity, wonder, and amazement.

Pieces are due at the Shelburne Falls arts center on November 1, and there's no fee to participate. There is a limit of one piece per person. An opening reception will be held Saturday, November 4 from 6 to 8 p.m. Find out more at theartgarden.org.

The LAVA Center's second "Write Nov," a **month-long writing series** with daily writing time, mini-workshops, and literary events, is right around the corner. November is the month for writing, and the LAVA Center provides open writing time in their café each day, with prompts from hosts if you need them, as well as workshops.

Quiet writing is scheduled for Mondays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 3 p.m. For those who prefer to write within a hubbub, the times are Tuesdays from 4 to 6 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays from 5 to 8 p.m., and Saturdays from noon to 3 p.m.

For a full schedule of Write Nov events, visit thelavacenter.org. An open mic for writers to share what they wrote during November will be held Friday, December 6 at 8 p.m.

The Montague Public Libraries invite you to a **"Tea Rex" Party** with special guest Dinoman at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls next Friday, November 3 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. There will be large inflatable dinosaurs, and kids can learn about real ones during the free, fun, and informative program. No registration is required, and refreshments will be served.

Children ages 5 to 12 and families can try **traditional Chinese paper cutting** at the Discovery Center from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. next Saturday, November 4; teens and adults can attend a 1 to 2:30 p.m. session.

Zhonghe (Elena) Li, a Cambridge multi-media artist who specializes in traditional Chinese paper cutting art and watercolors, will teach the history of this art and some basic techniques. Participants will be guided to use templates of some of the many animals that live in the watershed of the Connecticut River. Meet in the Great Hall for these free workshops.

MassHire is holding a special **in-person job fair** in honor of Veterans' Month on Tuesday, November 7 at the Career Center on Munson Street in Greenfield. Veterans will have a special early entry at 9:30 a.m., with the general public invited to attend at 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Chris Demars from the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Service office will be there to answer any questions about federal and state veterans benefits. For a list of participating employers and further information, see masshirefhcareers.org.

The **Parent Child+** program has a few more openings for families in Wendell, New Salem, Erving, and Leverett. Parent Child+ is a home-visiting program for families with children 18 months to three years old, helping prepare them for school success through play with free books and toys that the family gets to keep.

For more information, contact Nicole at Valuing Our Children at (978) 249-8467.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

TOWN OF ERVING
CALL FOR ART
 \$12,000 grant opportunity

Looking for artists to create a sculpture with natural materials on the library lawn for Summer 2024.

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CLARIFICATIONS/CORRECTIONS

Fish Clarifications, Fish Corrections

By SARAH ROBERTSON

TURNERS FALLS – US Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Ken Sprankle contacted the *Reporter* with several corrections and clarifications after our publication of an article quoting him about renewed efforts to help migratory fish populations (October 19, *New Coalition to Extend Work on Fish Passage*, Page A1).

The piece chronicled the work of the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission, which refocused its efforts on all migratory fish in 2012, and will soon be replaced by the Connecticut River Migratory Fish Restoration Cooperative (CRMFRFC).

First, Sprankle said the shift in the agency's strategy from stocking more mature salmon "smolts" to younger "fry" is not considered a factor in its failure to restore salmon to the Connecticut River. Changing marine conditions due to climate change is the sole cause for the decline, Sprankle maintains, and the change in stocking strategy happened to coincide with a dramatic decline in salmon return rates in 1995.

"The shift in strategy was based on our research that showed a 10 times greater re-

turn rate for fry- versus smolt-stocked fish, and that was a fact based on good research and science," Sprankle said. "We made these management strategy changes that were in fact the right thing to do – it was no question. Then there were climate change effects that became more pronounced and detectable in the 1990s and 2000s."

Second, power companies such as FirstLight and Great River Hydro are not official members of these fish restoration cooperatives, but are rather counted as "partners" that the government agencies communicate with regularly.

"We get a lot of flak from a small minority that we're working in cahoots with the power company," Sprankle said. "I don't care what the power companies think about how we manage the fish population of this river."

As part of the cooperative, Fish and Wildlife develops fish passage metrics and management plans, which the hydropower companies review, comment on, and should ultimately follow.

"We pick and choose when it's appropriate and not appropriate to bring in commercial users of the river, because

they're there and we have to deal with them," Sprankle added.

Researchers at the Conte Lab in Turners Falls provide information that informs these management plans, but do not develop the plans themselves, as our article implied.

Finally, the most recent chair of the Salmon Commission left his role as the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's bureau chief for natural resources last month, thus ending his service as chair. Heads of each state's Fish and Wildlife Service will designate one member of the "public" to serve on the newly formed CRMFRFC, Sprankle said, and Andy Fisk has been selected in his new role as a director of the nonprofit American Rivers.

While the CRMFRFC has not yet named a chair, Sprankle said, it expects to do so at its first meeting, to be scheduled in January. Readers seeking more information about this upcoming public meeting, or about ongoing efforts to restore migratory fish populations in the Connecticut River watershed, may contact him at Ken_Sprankle@fws.gov.

ANNOUNCEMENT

'People Vs. Pipeline'

NORTHFIELD – The Northfield Oral History Project of the 350th Anniversary program will present a multimedia production, *The People vs. The Pipeline*, at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 12 at 105 Main Street in Northfield.

The event is free, and there is plenty of onsite parking.

The People vs. The Pipeline is the story of the strategies and actions between 2014 and 2016, as told by the participants, that helped stop the Northeast Direct (NED) gas pipeline proposed for the region by the Kinder Morgan company subsidiary Tennessee Gas. Originating in the Pennsylvania gas fields, the pipeline was intended to traverse New York State, a number of Massachusetts towns, and part of New Hampshire. Compressor stations were to be sited along the way; one was planned for Northfield.

The production features the voices of local citizens, elected officials, and tribal representatives, and efforts by local and state government; oral testimonies are interspersed with photographs and video of public hearings, demonstrations, and other activities undertaken to highlight the threat to communities along the path.

Using testimonies, music, and humor, the pipeline story brings the 350th Anniversary toward its close. The Anniversary continues with a December 2 concert by Da Camera Singers, a marionette performance of *Cinderella* and the Magic Wings butterfly exhibit on December 16, and a townwide luminaria December 31. For more information contact Joan and Steve Stoia at (413) 835-1269 or northfield350news@gmail.com, or visit northfield350.org.

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SPORTS from page A1

to play Belchertown on Sunday. Coming into the game, the Eagles had one loss – against Belchertown. Since then they have been on the outside of the County Conference championship looking in.

This week Franklin had a chance to steal half of the title: they just had to beat Belchertown, Mohawk, and Mahar. Because of the postponement, though, they had to play all three conference games in three days.

On Sunday afternoon they faced off against the conference-leading Orioles. For Belchertown it was a chance to cement their conference title. Because navy-blue jerseys resemble black ones, the players wore colored vests. Tech was draped in home white, while Belchertown wore orange.

The game was tightly officiated. Right from the get-go, the judges took control. A penalty was called on Orange, and Tech was awarded a stroke.

Not a good idea: Hannah Gilbert slapped it into the net, and Franklin took the lead, and the momentum – until the end of the period. In the waning minutes of the first quarter, Belchertown ran fierce attacks into the White circle. Tech did everything they could to prevent the score, including committing infractions. As the end of the period neared, the Eagles committed six fouls in a row, and Orange was given six corner attempts.

The clock ticked down, and the coaches yelled out the time remaining, until the horn blasted and the ball was cleared.

At the end of the next quarter, Tech was knocking at the door. A corner was called as the horn sounded. With the clock off, Tech needed to keep the ball inside the circle while the Orioles did their utmost to knock it out of the arc. The attempt failed, but a defensive infraction was called again and Tech got one more try. Belchertown deflected the ball and the half ended with Tech still leading by one goal.

In the third period Orange was in front of the net, threatening to score. But Franklin intercepted a deflection and took possession. The ball was immediately passed deep along the near sideline. Kate Trudeau raced to it and found herself one-on-one against the goalkeeper. She put the ball in the net.

The Eagles would score their third goal early in the fourth. The players were all bunched up inside the Orange circle. A scrum ensued, and Meredith Bistrek caromed it in.

Throughout the game the officials were handing out verbal warnings, but by the fourth they were done with that. A green card was called, and Tech lost a player. There is no penalty box in field hockey, so she had to sit down by the scorekeepers' table.

Belchertown couldn't take advantage of the power play, and after they received a green card themselves, both teams were a player down. The Home Birds were unable to take advantage of their own brief power play, and soon both teams were up to full strength.

As the clock ticked down, both coaches again began announcing the time, trying to motivate their players. Franklin transitioned into their prevent defense: every time they broke up a Belchertown attack, they cleared the ball deep into Orange territory, until the final horn sounded.

The Sticking Eagles couldn't rest on their laurels. They finished 1 and 1 against the Orioles, but needed to win their next two contests to claim a share of the title.

On Monday they got on the bus and shut out Mahar 5-0, and they got back on it on Tuesday to beat Mohawk 5-1. The wins leave them with a 15-1-1 regular-season record, and a share of the conference title.

Girls' Soccer

FCTS 7 – Renaissance 1
Mount Greylock 4 – FCTS 0

On Monday the Franklin Tech Co-op Eagles defeated Renaissance Phoenix 7-1. Before the game, coach Jason Butynski said he was not sure if his team would qualify for the postseason. "It all depends on the Athol game," he explained. "If we win and Athol wins, they will edge us out by a few percentage points."

Franklin did indeed win their game on Monday while Athol tied in theirs, making for a very interesting post-season in girls' high school soccer.

The Phoenix, who had just lost to the Eagles down in Springfield, did not rise from the ashes as their namesake did. Instead we saw a



DAVID HOULT PHOTO

Mia Marigliano, a Franklin Tech Eagle athlete and Turners Falls High School student, traps the ball during the Eagles' 7-1 win over the visiting Renaissance School. Marigliano scored twice during the Eagles' 10th seasonal win.

series of Tech attacks against the Renaissance defense. The Eagles occasionally kicked one past the goalie, but it wasn't just the forward players who defeated Renaissance – the visitors had difficulty getting the ball past Tech's middle players, who simply intercepted the kicks and passed them to the wings.

When the score reached 5-nil, Butynski emptied his bench.

Anne Kolodziej drew first blood early in the game: Ripley Dresser passed her the ball, and she kicked it in. The other six goals were scored by Ella Kolodziej, Mia Marigliano (assisted by Sofia Moreno), Kyra Goodell (by Elise Wolfe,) and Anne Kolodziej three more times, assisted twice by Marigliano and once by Goodell.

The Kicking Eagles saw their dream of a Western Mass championship go up in flames on Wednesday up in Williamstown, where they lost to Mount Greylock 4-0.

Volleyball

TFHS 3 – Pioneer 0
FCTS 3 – SICS 0
TFHS 3 – Mohawk 0

The Turners Falls volleyball team beat the Pioneer Black Panthers 3-0 on Monday, in the Class D PVIAC quarterfinals. I went to this game from the soccer game.

It was not unexpected that Turners would sweep the Black Panthers. The crowd in the gym was more subdued, but they made their voices known as Blue scored two or three points for each one the Cats scored.

Early in the first game Pioneer trailed 8-2, and that's as close as they would come. The Thunder took the first game by 14 points, and the second was even more lopsided – Black could only score seven points in their loss. In the deciding game Blue again won by double digits, 25-14.

Taylor Greene gave 22 assists and had seven kills, two aces, and four digs; Madi Liimatainen made 13 kills, six aces, and two digs; Janelle Massey shot six kills and four aces; and Maddie Dietz finished with six aces and eight digs.

On Wednesday, shortly before press time, the Blue Thunder defeated the Mohawk Trail Warriors 3-0 to advance to the PVIAC Western Mass Class D championship game. They head down to West Springfield this Saturday to challenge the top-seeded Lee Wildcats for the title.

The Tech Eagles, competing in Class C, hosted the Springfield International Charter School Bulldogs on Monday. The games were rife with scorching serves, wrist taps, and opposite-side spikes. But in the end, Tech was too much for

the Bulldogs.

In the first game, the Eagles took a substantial lead, but the Bulls came charging back, narrowing the gap to 24-21 before Tech shut the door.

Franklin took another large lead in the second, but this time Springfield couldn't mount a comeback and Tech won it going away, 25-15. The Eagles won the last game 25-20 to sweep the series and to earn their spot in the semifinals.

Lea Chapman finished with four aces, 10 kills, and two blocks; Shelby O'Leary three aces, a kill, six digs, and 13 assists; Jenna Petrovich six digs, one assist, and a block; Emma Petersen four aces, a kill, and three digs; and Brooke Smith an ace and six kills.

The Tech team travels up the trail this Thursday to challenge Mount Greylock in the second round of the Class C playoffs. Win or lose, the Spiking Eagles will then play in the Small Vocational tournament on Saturday.

Football

Ware 20 – FCTS 0

On Monday the visiting Ware Football Indians shut down the prolific Franklin Tech offense to capture the Intercounty North Title.

The Eagles made some early mistakes, and Ware took full advantage. On the first play of the game an open receiver dropped the ball. Ware took possession, and scored a touchdown. Another dropped ball on Tech's second drive stalled the Eagles, and Ware scored another TD to go up 14-0 with 4:15 to go in the first quarter.

The Eagles' defense settled down and kept the game winnable for most of the contest, only allowing one more score. For most of the game, Landen Hardy shot through the gaps. He ended with 15 total tackles, blocking a punt and an extra point. Shaun Turner made 12 tackles and blocked two passes, Zaydrien Alamed made a sack, Camryn Laster caused a fumble, and Wyatt Whitman recovered it.

Offensively, the Indians kept Josiah Little in check. He managed to grind out nine yards on nine carries, and caught a pass for four yards. With Ware keying on Little, the running game had to rely on QB Gabriel Tomasi, who gained 67 yards on 11 keepers and made six completions for another 49 yards. Jet Bastarache ran twice for 24 yards, Cameren Candelaria made four catches for 36, Ethan Smarr carried the ball once, and made a catch and Maxon Brunette returned a kickoff 10 yards.

The Eagles face their last regular-season foe this Friday as they travel to Orange to challenge the Mahar Senators.




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STUDY from page A1

by the Clean Energy Extension, points to roughly 11 MW of potential development on town property, 15 MW on commercial and farm roofs, and 37 MW at private residences.

The rest would mostly need to come from large, ground-mounted arrays. The draft recommends the town reach out to owners of already “disturbed” non-wooded and non-agricultural land to ascertain their interest in solar development. Specific areas – the southern part of Route 63, east of Millers Falls, and Montague City – are identified in the report.

The report also suggests that the town consider revising its bylaws to clarify the regulation of parking canopies, allow medium-scale solar “by right,” and expand the areas where large-scale arrays are allowed beyond industrial and historic-industrial zones – while both strengthening provisions against clearing woodlands, and permitting some forest clearing with “off-site compensatory mitigation.”

The next steps, as of the summer, were for this draft to be reviewed by the town’s solar planning committee and energy committee, then by other boards including the planning board and selectboard, and then presented to a community forum for more input. “These review processes are expected to result in revisions which will improve the clarity, content, and implementation of the plan,” it reads.

“It is a living document that is going to change as we move forward,” Montague energy committee co-chair Sally Pick told the *Reporter* this week.

Discussion at Wednesday’s energy committee meeting focused exclusively on an abbreviated summary of the plan – consisting

mainly of bullet points – and how to bring other town boards into the conversation. The committee had already discussed the document at multiple meetings.

Member Ariel Elan, who attends most Montague selectboard meetings, said the committee should go to these boards with a clear game plan for the future. “Here is what we want, and this is what it is,” she said.

“Well, Pam is shaking her head, and I am too,” said Pick, referring to fellow committee member Pam Hanold. “We are trying to figure out how to be a conduit for this information.” Pick added that she had recently approached the planning board with “specific asks,” without a great deal of success.

Hanold said that the conservation commission, which was on the list of committees that should be engaged on the solar issue, was concerned almost exclusively with wetlands. Elan pointed out that local con coms had engaged with broader issues during the public debate a decade ago over the proposed natural gas pipeline.

Hanold stressed the role of the Commonwealth in directing local communities to make policy changes. “I can’t imagine this is going to happen without the state doing something,” she said.

Pick responded that the solar plan developed by the UMass extension was intended as a “tool.” “It’s not the state shoving something down our throats,” she said. She then added that the legislature may soon pass “another climate bill,” and that Montague’s state senator Jo Comerford was proposing legislation to promote solar canopies in parking areas.

“I don’t mean to be the skunk at the garden party,” said Hanold, “but I don’t know any other country that has not been influenced by

state policy.”

Several times Pick cited a study commissioned by the state Department of Energy Resources that estimated that sufficient developable sites exist to meet the Commonwealth’s aggressive emissions reduction goals by the 2050s. The study by Synapse Energy, which used data from the Massachusetts Interactive Property Map to rate every parcel of land in the state, estimated that 152 gigawatts (GW) of electricity generation could be sited on “highly suitable” land without disturbing agriculture or woodlands. The report estimates that the state would only require between 27 and 34 GW to reach its climate goals.

However, the same report warns that these numbers “are estimates and are not intended to provide exact amounts of solar that can be built in a specific location. The purpose of this analysis is to be a source of information for policymakers, developers, communities, and other stakeholders; readers should not interpret it as instruction or recommendations about specific locations where solar should be built, or what kind of solar should be built at those locations.”

Toward the end of the meeting Pick suggested that committee members email “feedback” about the summary document to her by November 10. A community forum soliciting public input about the UMass report will likely be held at a future date.



Tip of the week ...

Autumn brings various road hazards, such as slippery leaves, earlier sunsets and later sunrises. Additionally, watch out for moose, which can weigh as much as 800 pounds and may be on the move during mating season. Drive with caution.



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TOWN OF MONTAGUE Notice of Intent to apply for an EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant

The Town of Montague Selectboard intends to submit a proposal for an EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant to conduct cleanup activities at the vacant mill at **20 Canal Road** in Turners Falls (Former Strathmore Mill).

A public information session will be held as part of the Selectboard meeting on **Monday, November 6 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Montague Town Hall Second Floor Meeting Room, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA to receive public comment and to discuss the draft proposal. Public comments may also be submitted via email to assistant.townadmin@montague-ma.gov no later than Wednesday, November 8 at 4:00 p.m. Copies of the draft grant application will be available on or before October 27 at www.montague-ma.gov.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Dogs, Wallets, Common Courtesy Continually Lost

Friday, 9/1

4:32 p.m. Caller advises that two people are in the field metal detecting, West Gill and Main roads.

5:39 p.m. Possible vehicle fire, French King Highway.

Saturday, 9/2

12:11 a.m. Caller from River Road reports his car alarm went off 30 minutes ago; believes someone was attempting to get into it.

12:17 p.m. Complaint of trailer blocking Dole Road.

Sunday, 9/3

9:13 a.m. Party reported lying on the side of Route 2.

6:58 p.m. Caller from Center Road advises his small Labrador took off.

Monday, 9/4

5:52 a.m. CO hazard, Memorial Grove Road.

5:32 p.m. Suspicious party, Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.

Tuesday, 9/5

11:28 a.m. Meals on Wheels requesting a welfare check, Main Road.

4:55 p.m. Caller advises a female is slumped over the wheel at a gas pump with her vehicle running.

Wednesday, 9/6

1:39 p.m. Served warrant with multiple state police

service attempts, Mountain Road. One in custody.

Thursday, 9/7

8:50 p.m. Removed shoe and clothing from the French King Highway. Possibly fell out of a boat.

Saturday, 9/9

9:47 a.m. Welfare check for Bernardston PD, Northfield Road.

Monday, 9/11

9:57 a.m. Suspicious white sedan, Barton Cove Road.

6:28 p.m. Missing dog reported, Center Road.

Tuesday, 9/12

8:16 a.m. River Road caller reports a small dog with no tags on her lawn.

4:07 p.m. Caller from the French King Highway reports an unknown male party who has been on her father’s property for the last 20 minutes.

4:38 p.m. Mountain Road caller advises her Golden Retriever is missing.

Thursday, 9/14

7:19 p.m. Loose black Labrador mix dog, Main Road. No collar, appears skittish.

Friday, 9/15

9:03 a.m. A blue vehicle with no plate has been pulled in to the wood line

off Center Road for a couple days. Suspicious.

12:50 p.m. Black dog loose on Main Road with no collar; appears disoriented.

2:23 p.m. Detail officer believes he has a school bus Greenfield PD was looking for; requests a marked unit.

Saturday, 9/16

3:10 p.m. Wallet reported lost or stolen, Boyle Road.

5:54 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with a disturbance on Keith Street.

8:26 p.m. Minivan vs. deer, Route 2. Human uninjured.

Monday, 9/18

7:11 a.m. Suspicious vehicle, French King Highway. Party taking a nap and will be moving along shortly.

8:13 a.m. Call about a small black car with unknown plate all over the road near NMH. Unable to locate.

Tuesday, 9/19

4:01 p.m. Caller reported a car going 2 mph in a construction zone, French King Highway. Operator swore at him and started taking pictures of him.

5:49 p.m. Wallet dropped off from Center Road.

5:51 p.m. Loose dog, Main Road. Finder attempting to

make contact with owner.

Friday, 9/22

10:48 a.m. MassDOT reported a hit-and-run at the Gill lights yesterday morning. A tractor trailer struck the guardrail and proceeded into Turners Falls.

1:16 p.m. Pickup reported speeding, Hoe Shop Road.

10:18 p.m. Caller advises her neighbor stole her cat.

Sunday, 9/24

6:22 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with past B&E.

Tuesday, 9/26

3:16 p.m. Assisted Montague PD, Turners Falls and Millers Falls roads.

Wednesday, 9/27

4:34 p.m. Caller reporting a sporty red car with a loud engine constantly speeding on Dole Road.

Friday, 9/29

3:17 p.m. Caller reporting a suspicious male going door-to-door trying to sell solar, Grist Mill Road.

5:40 p.m. 911 caller, concerned about solicitor.

11:23 p.m. Noise complaint, Riverview Drive; neighbor is having a party.

Saturday, 9/30

2:10 p.m. Lost wallet reported.

GILL from page A1

“We’re coming to almost the same conclusion – the same payments – and we spent years having negotiations,” said selectboard member Greg Snedeker.

The conflict grew out of ambiguity over how Massachusetts towns may tax solar companies. The town first made a PILOT agreement for the array in 2016 with its then-owner, a company called Borrego Solar Systems, Inc.

Town administrator Ray Purington explained the agreement was “supposed to provide continuity and predictability of revenue for the town of tax obligation for Borrego,” and to eliminate state Appellate Tax Board (ATB) disputes.

“It was supposed to simplify things,” said selectboard member Charles Garbiel, a statement followed by a burst of laughter from the other members.

When Borrego sold the operation to Kearsarge shortly thereafter, the new company disputed whether the PILOT applied to them.

“The original solar tax exemption laws were intended to make residential solar tax-exempt for 20 years, a way to encourage people to put solar on their property,” Purington told the *Reporter*. “But because of the way the law was written, lawyers were arguing it applied to all solar.”

Kearsarge has two cases pending before the ATB, disputing taxes for both real estate and personal property. But Purington told the *Reporter* that state law had recently been changed to “make just about all residential solar exempt, and about all

commercial solar taxable.”

“The new PILOT that we’re recommending the town approve is written in compliance with the new legislation,” he said.

Under the new agreement, Kearsarge would pay around \$16,000 a year in taxes, said Purington. The payment would increase by 2.5% each year for the next 20 years, and the company would drop its ATB appeals.

The selectboard voted to recommend signing the agreement, contingent upon the board of assessors receiving an acceptable settlement document. After that, the agreement will need to be approved by a special town meeting, which the selectboard scheduled for Monday, November 27.

Purington discussed adding two other articles to the special town meeting. The first, a “financial housekeeping article,” would cancel out authorization for debt on projects that were completed without needing to use the full authorized amount.

The second would authorize an expansion of the sewer commission. The town’s three selectboard members currently make up the full sewer commission, but both they and sewer users in the Riverside neighborhood have expressed interest in adding members.

The final warrant for the special town meeting will be decided at the next selectboard meeting.

Other Business

After Garbiel suggested a game of “rock, paper, scissors” to choose the unlucky person forced to attend

more meetings, selectboard chair Randy Crochier conceded that he would join a new regional committee. Along with fire chief Gene Geaubien, Crochier will represent Gill on a task force addressing regional emergency medical services.

Gill and three other towns rely on ambulance services from the town of Northfield, but a recent study found the department needed more resources for staffing, capital planning, and organizational structure. The task

force will work toward creating recommendations for addressing these deficiencies.

The selectboard accepted a grant of just under \$20,000 for the Gill police department from the National Highway Traffic Safety Fund. Purington said this money could pay for portable breath test machines, and potentially another speed-feedback sign.

Purington warned that a fifth case of West Nile Virus had been found

in a human in Massachusetts this year, with an exposure likely from Hampden County. Crochier added that Deerfield officials had recently found a mosquito with the virus.

“We’re quickly approaching the weather that will kill off all these mosquitoes,” said Purington, “but it’s still the time to be alert to protecting yourself.”

Brian Dew was appointed as a firefighter through June 2024.



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BATTERY from page A1

A total of 780 lithium-phosphate ion batteries would be assembled into 30 chains, each attached to an electrical inverter. Each would be equipped with systems for heating and cooling, as well as chemicals for fire suppression.

According to company filings, the facility would also include a paved access road, be surrounded by a 25-foot wall as a sound barrier, and be illuminated at all times. It would have the capacity to provide 105 megawatts (MW) of energy to the electrical grid for up to four hours.

"We have an all-volunteer fire department," Doody said. "There's no water involved to put these fires out – it's all chemical. The chemical runoff, where does it go? Nobody has answers for us."

Last year the state attorney general's office struck down a provision of Wendell's brand-new solar energy bylaw that would have prohibited all standalone battery storage projects. Because these facilities are associated with solar energy distribution, the attorney general's office argued, they are protected from "unreasonable" regulation under a section of state law known as the Dover Amendment.

The Wendell planning board is working with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to rewrite the town's energy bylaws to justify regulating battery storage projects on the basis of protecting public health.

Precious & Unique

Bill Stubblefield, a biologist and member of the Wendell State Forest Alliance environmental activist group, said that pressure to meet the state's goal of "net zero" carbon emissions by 2050 could explain why regulators are giving special preference to electric infrastructure projects.

"It's a question of democracy, of how these decisions are made," Stubblefield said. "We really face a meta-crisis as a species. It's a unique time in human history – things are breaking down, things are changing. We have an enormous effort ahead of us. Thinking through how our towns fit into the world that is emerging is a critical part of this."

"The state seeing these projects as so related to solar is why they're allowed to go through the DPU process in the first place," Doody said. "It is difficult to feel optimistic about that updated bylaw and what it can do, when institutions like the DPU let these corporations steamroll and bypass our bylaws entirely."

Doody told attendees that last Friday she received a long-awaited update from New Leaf representative Eric Weinstein. "He confirmed that things are moving very slowly at the DPU," she said. "It's frustrating in some ways, because bureaucracy is like this, but I also find it reassuring that we haven't been missing opportunities to be involved with the case yet."



Anna Gyorgy, a member of the No Assaultin' Battery group, discussed strategy.

Leahy said that while the project may be legal, it threatens the ecology of a significant swath of forest. The development would touch one of the largest contiguous areas of forest in southern New England, he explained, adjacent to Mass Audubon's Whetstone Woods wildlife sanctuary and 146 acres of critical wetland habitat.

"This is really a spectacular wetland, and in fact such a large, undisturbed wetland is rare in the Commonwealth," Leahy said. "This is precious, and unique."

The facility would also be built over an aquifer identified as "possibly the most promising groundwater supply for the town," he said.

In previous communications

with the Reporter, Weinstein noted that the proposed project site is not identified as "priority" habitat by state environmental agencies, and that the facility would be located "upland" relative to the wetlands.

On Tuesday Leahy said the wetlands were close enough that the site was otherwise undevelopable. "It would not be economically feasible to put a house back there," he said. The conservation commission has denied New Leaf a permit under the town's wetlands bylaws, also citing the effect the noise and light pollution could have on local wildlife.

"Collectively we have done our work over the past 50 years to help create the Wendell that we love," Leahy told the audience, standing

before maps showing the town's open space plan. "Tonight we continue that effort."

Someone's Backyard

A representative of Borrego Energy first contacted the Wendell planning board about the energy storage project in 2020. Last year Energy Capital Partners, a New Jersey-headquartered private equity investment firm, acquired the company and rebranded it as New Leaf Energy. Standing at the microphone Tuesday night, Doody said New Leaf is valued at \$44 billion.

"I have no reason to trust these companies at all," she said. "These projects are bought and sold over and over, so no one has accountability."

According to Stubblefield, original plans for the battery project were scaled up based on advice from state officials who said the project must reach a 100-MW threshold in order to qualify as a public utility.

"The mission of the DPU is to ensure that consumers' rights are protected, and utility companies are providing the most reliable service at the lowest cost possible," Leahy said. "They're not an environmental agency."

Board of health member James Frank argued that large energy-storage facilities should be built on already degraded or developed land, and that residents should contact state legislators, or the company itself, to express concerns about the project.

"If we are to achieve fossil fuel independence, maybe batteries are an important part," Frank said. "If they need to be somewhere, somebody is going to have to bite the bullet and have batteries on their land."

Leahy responded, saying town officials had asked New Leaf whether it had considered alternative sites. "They basically didn't answer the question," he said. "They said 'No, that's the best site.'"

Rather than expanding electrical infrastructure to meet the rapidly growing needs associated with a transition away from fossil fuels, some attendees said the priority should be on reducing energy consumption outright.

"We need to rethink how we're going to live on this planet – shrink the human footprint, use degraded areas," Leahy said. "And [it's] the same thing with solar."

"We're not NIMBYs – we're not saying put this somewhere else," said resident Nina Keller. "It's the lifestyle: more, faster, bigger... That's a consideration for us all. What can we do with less?"

Members of the No Assaultin' Battery Citizens Committee said they are working on a petition about battery siting that they hope to circulate statewide. In the meantime they encouraged attendees to write to the governor and Wendell's state legislators to stop the project, coordinate with other environmental agencies, and invite New Leaf representatives to a meeting.

The meeting was punctuated by applause for each speaker, and ended with a brainstorming session and singalong. Playing banjo, Dorsey sang a song about the proposed storage facility, titled "So Say the Green Green Trees," which he said he had written that afternoon.

"Out in the woods are the green, green trees," Dorsey sang. "A laughing breeze, and a home for bees / I hear them all singing happily / There is no battery..."

**NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD**

Town to Utilize Information Superhighway

By JOSH HEINEMANN

At the Wendell selectboard's October 18 meeting, selectboard member Gillian Budine said Wendell's new website was running. Its format is easier to use than the old one, and it has a forum for feedback.

The plan is to make this website the town's official posting place, but maintain paper postings on the bulletin board outside the town office building. A town meeting vote already approved that change, but it will take time.

Town clerk Anna Wetherby said a change of town posting place needs approval by the attorney general. The town must submit its procedures for posting, and wait about six weeks for the approval to come back.

Until then, anyone posting meeting agendas on the bulletin board is asked to send a copy to the website committee to put online. Only a few people will be able to post directly to the site, as it is not possible to isolate a person's access to the part of the website relevant to their posting.

In other news, the website committee is losing members and can use volunteers. Robert Heller is staying on it, and said he will make any changes to postings that are needed; Wetherby will then post them to the site.

Swift River School Water

Over the course of several meetings in the spring with New Salem, the Wendell selectboard agreed the towns would evenly split the cost of installing PFAS filters on the drinking water system at Swift River School. Former selectboard member Dan Keller and former finance committee chair Doug Tanner both said they thought drilling a new well would be a better choice.

The state Department of Environmental Protection wanted students to have water free of PFAS faster than would happen with siting, drilling, and connecting a new well – especially given that there would be no guarantee the new well would be free of PFAS – and pressured the towns to install a filtration system.

The New Salem selectboard also favored a filter, and the Wendell board consented on the condition that the idea of a replacement well is kept open.

The new filtration system, under the direction of engineering firm Tighe & Bond, was supposed to be working by September, then October. Now the hope is for November. Plumbing problems came in the way. The school is still providing students with bottled water, an expense and environmental impact that principal Kelly Sullivan hopes to end.

Selectboard chair Laurie DiDonato asked who the town's liaison with MassDEP and Tighe & Bond is. "We can always drill a new well," she said.

Budine said she would meet with Sullivan for an update, and the board decided to ask a Tighe & Bond representative to come to their next meeting.

Wetherby noted that the next school committee meeting is on November 2.

WRATS Redemption

One day after a strategy meeting with Franklin County Solid Waste Management district executive director Jan Ameen, citizens Tom Mangan and Shawn Jarrett met the selectboard to continue their effort to restore the townwide collection of deposit beverage containers, with proceeds going to the Good Neighbors food pantry.

Jarrett described the process in Northfield, where one main volunteer, with helpers, sorts deposit containers in an eight-by-ten-foot shed. Town staff is not involved. The volunteer and helpers then take the containers to the Ruggeri's redemption center in Greenfield. Workers at Ruggeri's said they would be happy to cut a check to Good Neighbors.

Jarrett said she thought Wendell would require two to four volunteers to run a similar program. She said she had identified six places at the WRATS where a shed like Northfield's could be located, one of which would fit in with road commission plans. She added that some surprising ideas had come up at the previous day's meeting, not all of them legal, and that she is putting together a proposal.

Mangan said he thought that at least one precondition set by the road commission – that no town employee can volunteer at his or her place of employment without permission from the personnel director – is not legal.

Wetherby said Massachusetts law forbids

an employee from volunteering in the same location where he or she is employed. Jarrett said the redeemable volunteer would not be a WRATS employee.

Expense Looming

Town coordinator Glenn Johnson-Mussad said Wendell's accounting software is scheduled to stop at the end of the fiscal year. FRCOG has the software license until then, and Wendell has been paying \$750 a year for its use. New software will cost the town \$9,583 per year, with an annual cloud-use fee of \$3,150, and a one-time sign-up fee of \$7,350.

Budine said FRCOG accountants are used to the present software and might not want to continue if they have to use the replacement, so Wendell might lose its accountant. She said the FRCOG program has already lost towns.

Johnson-Mussad said FRCOG director of regional services Bob Dean has suggested collective procurement might get towns a better deal than they would get working alone with the software provider. Help might be available through FRCOG's direct local technical assistance (DLTA) programs.

Wendell might hold off on one of its two Community Compact grant applications to leave room for help with this unanticipated expense.

Budine mentioned that Community Compact grants, if approved, are awarded until money runs out for the year, and suggested that Wendell should still apply for one to help with capital expense planning.

Budine said she had emailed the software provider used by Sunderland. Treasurer Carolyn Manley suggested contacting Wendell's town auditor, Tom Scanlon. Johnson-Mussad said he would see if Dean could convince the software firm to delay this sudden cost increase.

The topic was put on the agenda for Wendell's October 25 money managers meeting.

Other Business

The board voted to allow Wendell's FY'22 and FY'23 overpayments for police services from Leverett to be used to pay its shortfall for FY'24.

Robert Leet was appointed to the town's Council on Aging.

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LEVERETT from page A1

grants to repair flooding damage which are available for “trails,” but not for “roads.”

A lengthy discussion then ensued about who would be responsible – the town, or the Trust – for maintaining the historic hiking and recreation route under different scenarios.

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis said she had received an estimate that the cost of discontinuing a county road was “generally less than \$1,000,” but maintenance questions dominated the discussion.

“The town has to take some responsibility for its maintenance,” said Weiss, suggesting that the highway department should maintain the road, or trail, going forward. In recent years the town has left the work largely to the Trust.

Weiss said the issue should be looked at in a broader context, calling Rattlesnake Gutter “a major asset of Leverett” and “part of the identity of this town.” He argued that “the most important thing” was to “figure out a way to keep it viable and useful for the people of Leverett.”

Others commented on a lack of clarity if the old road’s status is changed. “Is it a road? Is it a trail? It feels gray to me, and that doesn’t feel right,” said resident Isaiah Robison.

Silas Ball, who identified himself with a grin as a resident of “Nawth” Leverett, agreed that the area is an important asset, but questioned the legality of the highway department using state-funded equipment and employees to maintain the road if it becomes a trail.

“There are other trails that are just trails, that wash out when it rains,” he noted. “If it becomes a trail, that’s what it should become – a trail... If grants are given to it for maintenance, great... but I don’t think we should be using town time or equipment to take care of it.”

The board agreed to look into the entire matter further and continue the discussion at a future meeting.

Town Forest

Weiss and Robison also shared their thoughts on the formation of an exploratory committee to study whether or not the town should accept a gift of wooded land for the purpose of creating a “town forest.” The pair shared a list of questions they had drafted to ask landowner Bruce Spencer in order to gain information so the town could explore the idea “on a good, sound, path.”

Selectboard chair Tom Hankinson thanked the duo for their work and said it would be helpful. He reported that the board was also in the process of forming an *ad hoc* exploratory committee on the subject.

“Give us 30 days – we’ll have the group assigned, assembled, and at least one meeting,” said Hankinson, who predicted the group would emerge with “some kind of a game plan” to answer questions needed to make a recommendation

as to whether the offer should go onto the annual town meeting warrant next spring.

Hankinson said that the committee already had several volunteers, but that it was “not an exclusive group,” and interested parties were welcome to join.

Bridge Dominates STM Warrant

The board signed the warrant for a special town meeting to be held Tuesday, November 14 at 7 p.m. at Leverett Elementary School.

Of the 17 articles to be voted on, 14 have to do with the creation of small easements through takings, and the delineation of roadways, related to the upcoming state-funded repair of the Millers Road Bridge. While the state is funding the repairs, the town is responsible for facilitating the easements and ensuring the affected roadways and properties are properly defined.

The other articles would allocate \$8,000 from the Community Preservation Fund to the Leverett Historical Society, to cover half the cost of a “systems replacement plan” for the Moore’s Corner Schoolhouse; use another \$81,000 in Community Preservation funding to permanently conserve land on Depot Road, along with authorizing a conservation restriction; and allow existing wooden posts and a wooden bench installed on the recreation field in dedication to a deceased student to be replaced with permanent stone fixtures.

Policing Wendell

McGinnis reported that the state had notified the town that minor accounting changes were necessary for the Leverett-Wendell joint policing budget. She gave a brief overview of the budget process thus far. The joint policing agreement has now been in effect for three years. The state found that Wendell apparently overpaid for the first two, but is showing a small deficit for the third.

The agreement was recently amended to make cost assessments “more concrete,” McGinnis said, explaining that the call volume from each town will be reviewed each year, and assessments to the towns calculated on a three-year rolling average. She said she expected the process to be “easier and cleaner” going forward.

Robison commented that it was “important” that the time estimates logged for each call be accurate.

Resident Tim Shores agreed, and suggested that the tracking of time and costs could be improved.

Jed Proujansky also agreed that there was room for improvement, and said he had met with Leverett police chief Scott Minckler earlier in the day for a “preliminary” discussion about getting more “nuanced” data without creating a burden on officers’ time.

On a general note, McGinnis said, she’d received “no com-

plaints” about the arrangement thus far.

Patricia Duffy, the Leverett selectboard member appointed to the Leverett-Wendell advisory police services oversight committee, said that Wendell residents were “delighted” with the service provided by the Leverett department, and that chief Minckler was received “very well” last year at Wendell town meeting.

Putney Road

The board discussed an invoice for \$1,103 the town received from a homeowner’s association on Putney Road asking for payment for a portion of a \$16,558 private road paving project.

“This is the first time that we have been billed for work done on any of the private roads,” McGinnis noted.

Selectboard member Melissa Colbert added that the town was not involved in the paving project, and that it didn’t feel good to receive the invoice “out of the blue.”

Hankinson said several reasons were given for the bill, including an approximately 3/5-acre parcel of undeveloped land the town owns adjacent to the road, but multiple questions were raised on the basis for the bill.

The board decided to write back saying they didn’t understand the rationale for the invoice, and inviting the homeowners’ association to come to a meeting and explain it.

Other Business

The selectboard approved a contract to hire the Center for Program Evaluation at UMass Amherst for research into hiring a “service navigator” for seniors, contingent on the Council On Aging meeting with the consultant and approving the arrangement.

The board decided to meet again with two neighbors on Cave Hill Road regarding a complaint of dogs barking. The complainant followed up on the status of a board-ordered effort to quiet the involved dogs, saying that there had been improvement in the last 60 days but that the problem persists.

The board agreed to speak with both parties and possibly then schedule another follow-up report. Members again referenced the need for Leverett to hire an animal control officer.

The board continued an earlier discussion about the availability of printed copies of the town newsletter, and other ways to make it more easily available to seniors and others if necessary. McGinnis said an offer to hand-deliver copies to residents this year had no takers.

The board re-appointed members to the Leverett Cultural Council, as well as three backup snow plow and emergency workers.

Isaiah Robison reported that the capital planning committee is running low on members.



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

Here’s the way it was on October 14, 2013: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

More Room on the Bridge

Getting across the Turners Falls-Gill bridge soon will not only be easier for motorists. Bikers, those using wheelchairs, and pedestrians may also be pleased with the widening of the bridge’s sidewalk.

The new sidewalk was designed to be safer, with fewer obstacles for those not in cars, according to a MassDOT engineer. It will be five and a half feet wide. The old one was four feet. Two wheelchairs, going in opposite directions, will have plenty of clearance.

Leverett Solar Bylaws

“Everything was going smooth-

ly,” said town administrator Margie McGinnis, describing progress on the town’s planned \$98,650 photovoltaic project, to be built on the sloping land between the elementary school and the public safety complex... “until we ran into the solar bylaw.”

The town’s recently-enacted solar bylaw prohibits photovoltaic installations larger than 10 kilowatts in a rural village zone. The land along Montague Road, like most lots that have frontage on town roads, lies in a rural village zone.

Marijuana Zoning Bylaws

After a lengthy discussion, the Montague planning board on October 22 unanimously approved wording for new zoning bylaws regulating where within the town a registered marijuana dispensary can be located.

20 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on October 23, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Wendell Finds Extra Cash

Unlike many area towns, Wendell found itself in the position of having an excess of state funds after completing the ’04 budget at annual town meeting this year. The finance committee reckoned that state aid came back \$42,000 higher than estimated.

A series of proposals for spending the difference were put before voters at a special town meeting on October 22. Along with the 11 monetary articles unanimously approved by the 50 voters in attendance was a proposal to fund

Sudden Tree-House

High winds wreaked havoc all around Franklin County on October 15. Barbara Nadeau was away at work when a gust blew an old maple onto her house. “When I got home, the place was dark,” said Nadeau. The electricity was off, and a tree limb had knocked a hole in the roof of her bedroom and hall. Insulation was scattered and the wind had continued to howl through the hole, blowing debris everywhere.

“I stayed at an \$80 a night motel – leaf season rates,” said Nadeau. “I didn’t have renters’ insurance.”

150 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on October 22, 1873: News from the Turners Falls Reporter’s archive.

Local Matters

The river is all free for boating now.

Hickory nuts are very plentiful this fall.

The hydrant on L street looks like the monument on Bunker Hill.

The spur of rock which shuts Fourth street off from the Avenue is being rapidly cleft for the public convenience.

John Short, with a number of workmen, commenced laying brick for the Colle building this morning.

Mr. Holden has set up the second billiard table in the Farren House.

The very sudden rise of water gave the rivermen a good deal of anxiety about their logs. The big boom at Mount Tom was carried away yesterday forenoon, and the

Sunderland bridge stood in great danger, one pier being carried away.

In the darkness and rain, on Sunday evening as they were coming from Church, several young ladies tumbled into a deep mud-puddle near the Avenue, and had to be fished out by some very attentive young men who had left the road and followed the Lane.

Mr. J.D. Farwell, hydrostatic engineer, having attained a depth of 900 feet with the artesian well at the Montague Paper Mill without gaining more water than was struck at 200 feet, it has been decided to suspend boring for the present. Mr. Farwell returns to his home in Pennsylvania, and will be greatly missed by the host of friends he has made in this place.

The foliage which a few days ago was all aglare in prismatic hues so blended that Nature defied the artist to imitate her, has now lost its brilliancy, and all vegetation wears a quiet, subdued aspect, in its brown robes.



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MONTAGUE from page A1
 “affordable assessment,” the amount the town calculates it can allocate to fund that district’s budget.

The Franklin County Technical School administration distributes its estimated assessments to member towns later in the budget process.

At Monday’s meeting Ellis presented three scenarios, based on assumptions of current revenue and making different decisions about the town’s “excess capacity” – the amount it taxes below the level of total taxation, primarily on property, calculated as allowable by the state Department of Revenue.

As Ellis has previously pointed out, the choice to leave a larger amount of excess capacity means less money for local budgets – including the town operating budget and assessments for the school districts – but it creates lower tax bills, as well as more flexibility to meet future spending needs. Montague began assuming excess capacity four years ago, Ellis said.

All the estimates Ellis presented assumed a total allowable tax levy of approximately \$22.6 million, according to Olsen. For FY’24, the current year, the levy limit was about \$21.9 million, and the town decided to collect \$20.8 million.

To put this revenue in a budgetary context, Montague’s operating budget for FY’24 came in just under \$12 million, while its Gill-Montague school district assessment was approximately \$11.8 million. (The difference was covered by other sources, including state aid and non-property-tax “local receipts.”)

The first scenario Ellis presented for the next fiscal year would leave an excess untaxed capacity of \$1,149,954. This would allow an estimated 3.8% increase in the town budget, and a 3.5% increase in the school district assessment.

Leaving a higher level of untaxed capacity, \$1,426,294, would allow a town budget increase of 2.5% and a school assessment increase of 2.39%. The third scenario, leaving only \$1,030,000, would allow a town increase of 4.35% and a school increase of 4.02%.

Ellis said Olsen had estimated this last scenario would produce an affordable school assessment equal to the “historical average,” though the figure has varied a great deal from year to year.

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz said he supported the medium-range

option, though he also found the third, giving more tax money to the town and school district, appealing. “I’m worried about us being able to maintain the ability to not have us tax to the limit,” he said. “So the more discretion we pay these years might stretch that...”

The other selectboard members, Chris Boutwell and Matt Lord, both agreed. Although no formal vote was taken, the first scenario will be sent on to town departments and the school district for planning purposes this season.

Happy With Tech Support

Ellis proposed that the town extend its current contract for internet technology support with the firm Suzer IT for another year.

“We’ve accomplished a tremendous amount in the time they have been working with us,” Ellis said, noting that Montague decided to seek IT support provided from an outside vendor after previously providing the service in-house.

“They’ve got a great on-site rep who is here a full day each week,” he said, adding that Suzer’s team has developed a strong cyber-security program, works with the town to procure equipment with “no mark-up,” and provides project managers to assist the town with larger challenges on an “ad hoc basis.”

Ellis said the town could “forego” the usual bidding process because Suzer is already under contract, and is on a state Operational Services Division (OSD) list of vetted contractors. He said the current contract with the company of \$33,000 per year is an “extraordinary value,” and that the projected contract for next fiscal, which the town had expected would double, may be as low as \$45,000.

The board agreed to allow Ellis and executive assistant Wendy Bogusz to move forward with the OSD procurement process and negotiate a contract with Suzer, which Ellis said would be for a year.

DPW Contract Changes

The board discussed a draft agreement with the United Electrical Workers union, which could have implications for future town budgets. The memorandum of agreement (MOA) has multiple elements, all involving Department of Public Works (DPW) employees.

The first part of the agreement creates a “truck driver/laborer in training” position at the DPW, which

would allow the department to hire a worker who has not yet completed the training for a Commercial Drivers License, as required by state law. Ellis said new state requirements for CDL training have made it more difficult to fill the crew. The MOA would allow the town to employ a worker without a CDL for six months at a lower pay scale before sending them to training.

The second part would add responsibilities to the existing “lead heavy equipment operator” position. This lead operator would have more responsibilities at job sites, and would see an increase in their pay. The third element would address problems hiring for a janitor’s position by allowing the town to temporarily hire an “outside vendor” to do the work.

The final element of the MOA would increase the allowance for work clothing at the DPW, bringing it into parity with the town’s Clean Water Facility. Superintendent Tom Bergeron emphasized that the increase would allow his crew to purchase work boots.

The board voted to “endorse and sign the intended MOA.” There was no discussion of the agreement’s potential budgetary impact.

Rightly Owed

Another proposal reviewed by the selectboard in its role as the town personnel board was a request by treasurer Eileen Seymour for an article on the winter special town meeting warrant for “out-of-grade pay” for work performed last fiscal year in her office by Charlene Langenback. Langenback filled in for Seymour when she was on medical leave in January and, according to town policy, should have been paid at a higher grade.

Seymour said she was only informed of the rule in September, and that town meeting would need to approve the payment since it was from a previous fiscal year. “It’s my own fault,” Seymour said. “I was not aware of this... and Charlene, it’s never come up, so I don’t think it was on her radar either.”

The board agreed to place the \$1,973.89 bill on the winter warrant when it is developed later this year.

Other Business

At the request of town planner Maureen Pollock, the board approved a \$29,000 contract with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to enhance “equity”

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by better integrating “vulnerable populations” into the public input process of its Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program, which addresses climate change. The contract is funded by a state grant.

Another contract, for \$5,850 for crack sealing and line stripping at the Unity Park parking lot, awarded to Johnson Asphalt Paving, LLC, was executed by the board.

The board approved a request from the war memorial committee for “assembly,” for the annual Halloween Rag Shag Parade next Tuesday, October 31. The paraders will assemble at 5 p.m. at the Aubuchon parking lot across from the war memorial and walk down Avenue A to the Discovery Center.

Boutwell noted that the war memorial committee took over organizing the Halloween parade after the local Veterans of Foreign Wars, its previous sponsor, “closed.”

Toward the end of the meeting there was a brief discussion of the first annual Falls Fest, scheduled for the previous Saturday, which was canceled due to rain. Ellis said he had met with the organizing committee the previous Wednesday, and they determined they would have been “upside-down financially” had they decided to proceed in foul weather.

The plan is to reschedule the event for next year. “They learned more in the last three months of planning than they did in the first six months of conceptualization,” Ellis said. He asked if the board was “comfortable” granting an extension on the town’s \$12,000 allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the event. Board members expressed approval.

The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 30.

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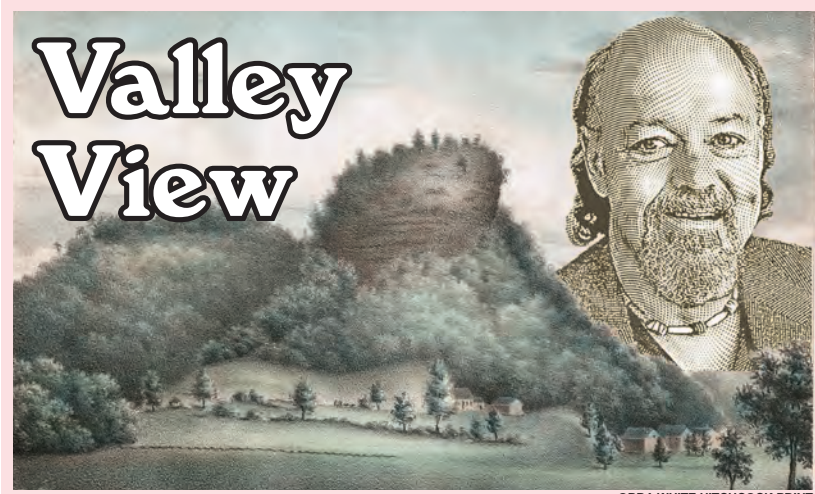
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Valley View

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – Midweek, early evening, front-yard burning bushes are displaying a light, peaceful autumn crimson that's brightening by the day.

My wife Joey is watching local news in the west parlor when she hears the familiar audible alert for an incoming text. It's longtime friend Debbie, from Cohasset. Debbie wonders if we'd like to join her for the weekend in upstate New York, at her posh home on the shoreline of Lake George's picturesque Dark Bay.

Hmmmm? Tempting.

Joey rises from her chair and walks through the wing to see what I think. I'm watching *The Beat With Ari Melber* in another parlor as she approaches through the dining room. She breaks the threshold and says, "Honey, Debbie just invited us to Lake George for the weekend. Would you be interested?"

"Sure. Why not?" was my kneejerk answer. "We can hit the road Friday morning."

"OK. Let me check with her."

The answer from Cohasset was yes. A midday Friday arrival would be perfect. Debbie planned to arrive on Thursday night. She proposed taking her boat to the south shore restaurant across the bay in Lake George Village for lunch?

Sounded good. We'd see what Friday brought.

You'd have to know the property to understand the generous offer. My arm never needs twisting for a trip to Lake George – the colonial, and before that Indigenous, inland gateway to the St. Lawrence Seaway. There kindred, starlit spirits lurk to the relaxing call of common loons accompanied by the soothing percussion of short, quiet waves lapping the midnight shore.

I was psyched. The acreage where Debbie's family compound sits was once owned by President Teddy Roosevelt's New York City sportsmen's club. Now situated in a privileged world folks like me can only visit, it's a hop, skip, and jump across the water to the curling peninsula on which Red Sox owner John Henry's palatial vacation home lies. You ought to get a look at that place. Judging

from the staging assembled across the front, it's about the get a new addition, maybe a spacious porch facing the water and mountains to the north.

The weather forecast looked great – all the makings for a glorious weekend in place. Hey, maybe we'd even find flaming foliage somewhere along the way, its peak running late after an exceptionally wet summer.

Anticipation of the trip immediately set my cranial wheels awhirl. I have rich ancestral connections dating back to the early colonial period in the upper Hudson Valley, as well as the foreboding yet stunningly beautiful Lake George-Lake Champlain corridor. I immediately dug into my library to accurately refresh my personal connections, just in case the topic came up in conversation or we visited an historic site where accurate data would come in handy.

The Connecticut Valley, and especially the Deerfield-Hatfield area, sent many soldiers, scouts, and militia to the Lakes George/Champlain theater from the final days of King Philip's War (1675-78) right through to the War of 1812. Most intense around Lake George were the decades of the 1740s and 1750s, when the Hatfield-Deerfield Williams family not only commanded but also supplied a "Line of Forts" protecting western Massachusetts' northern border from Northfield to North Adams. The same family connections also spilled into Stockbridge, the upper Hudson Valley, and, yes, Lake George, where Ephraim Williams, Jr. met his maker at the infamous September 8, 1755 Bloody Morning Scout ambush, a Battle of Lake George component.

That ambush site was near where we were staying, in the neighborhood of Fort William Henry, which was under construction at the time and occupied in November 1755.

The first historic English penetration up Lake George – which flows south to north – occurred following a September 19, 1677 Indian attack on Hatfield during which 21 captives were taken north to Canada. Among the hostages were the wives and children of well-known Hatfield scout see **VALLEY VIEW** page B8

Above: Silver grass or zebra grass (*Miscanthus sinensis*) along Migratory Way in the Patch stretches toward a cool, sunny sky.

Porches of Montague, Part 1: Humans A Montague Police Log Retrospective

Compiled by EMILY ALLING

Illustrations by NINA ROSSI

Thursday, 6/13/13

11:53 p.m. Caller reported that a man rang her doorbell and asked if he could get a ride downtown. When told no, he asked if he could spend the night on the porch.

Saturday, 7/27/13

9:30 p.m. Two highly inebriated subjects were reported shooting a flare gun off the porch of an apartment building.

Saturday, 9/14/13

3:31 p.m. Report of a group of kids on a porch playing "loud, gross music" and smoking marijuana.

Friday, 4/25/14

12:04 a.m. Possibly intoxicated male observed on second-floor porch making verbal threats and setting off fireworks from porch.

Friday, 5/2/14

5:48 p.m. Complaint regarding a group of people hanging out on caller's porch, drinking and smoking marijuana. Caller stated that one of the males got into a gold Cadillac and was "smoking a fattie."

Monday, 6/30/14

12:55 a.m. Caller witnessed

a male subject attempting to sell Italian shoes, fake flowers, and other items from a baby carriage earlier in the evening. Caller claims that a friend reported these items stolen from her own porch and posted a photo of the subject, who the caller recognized, on Facebook.

Tuesday, 9/9/14

7:58 p.m. 911 caller reports that she shares a porch with her neighbor and that he has placed a toolbox under her table. She would like it removed, but she does not want to ask him to remove it.



Tuesday, 8/5/14

4:17 p.m. Report of shirtless white male on the porch of an apartment building growling and jumping up and down.

Friday, 8/15/14

1:24 p.m. Report of a subject screaming vulgar and offensive things from his back porch since 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, 9/13/14

4:57 p.m. Caller reports that the tenant on the top floor porch of an apartment building is using a charcoal grill and that the flames are getting high.

5:23 p.m. Landlord requesting that an officer respond to his building, where a tenant was reporting a

barbecue on the porch.

Wednesday, 10/14/15

9:06 p.m. Caller reports that a female party is out on the back porch, intoxicated and babbling and yelling.

Thursday, 12/17/15

7:32 a.m. Caller reports that a female just knocked at her door and advised that she had witnessed a male party attempting to steal the caller's porch furniture. Caller is not missing any furniture, and perceived the female herself as "being off, possibly on something." Caller called back to report that this female is now in the dumpster of a nearby house. Officer spoke to female party, who was located in a construction dumpster. He advised she seemed her normal self.

Saturday, 1/30/16

7:25 p.m. Caller wants on record that a female party was sitting on the front porch with her phone. Caller feels that due to the pattern of short meetings or exchanges, the female will soon be meeting see **POLICE** page B8



Medford, Oregon: The heart of the Rogue.



Wizard Island in the middle of Crater Lake near Medford.

SOUTH DEERFIELD – In early October I got a chance to visit southern Oregon and came away with distinct memories of places that are unlike anything you will find in the Northeast. Crater Lake and Table Rock are two truly striking sights, and they're both near the city of Medford, Oregon, about 30 miles north of the California border.

My fall visit to this city of about 76,000 on the Rogue River also took me to a few of the 70 wineries that surround it. The city is also the home of Harry & David, the company that has been mailing fresh fruit and growing acres of pears and peaches here since 1934. Today it is one of the biggest employers in the region.

see **TRAVELS** page B5

Pet of the Week



MAGGIE SADOWAY PHOTO

“ROCCO & JULIET”

Patch correspondent Maggie Sadoway writes: “No need to invest in a home security system when Rocco (left) and Juliet are on duty. Sun or snow, they go in and out an upstairs window directly onto the roof of the one-story addition. Sometimes they just enjoy the sunshine, the birds, and the chattering squirrels in the nearby tree – or lounge indoors in a too small basket.”

Want your pet featured? Email a photo and information about them to jae@montaguereporter.org.

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

Senior Center Activities OCTOBER 30 TO NOVEMBER 3

WENDELL

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments.

For Senior Health Rides, contact Jonathan von Ranson at (978) 544-3758.

ERVING

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

For more information, please call (413) 423-3649.

Monday 10/30

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

Tuesday 10/31

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

Wednesday 11/1

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

Thursday 11/2

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

Friday 11/3

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

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. Covid test

kits are available. You can pick a kit up any time during open hours.

Lunch available Tuesday through Thursday. Coffee and tea available all the time. For more information please call 863-9357.

Monday 10/30

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
10:30 a.m. Oak Tree Yoga

Tuesday 10/31

9 a.m. Zumba Lite
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 11/1

9 a.m. VA Agent
9:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
4:15 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 11/2

9 a.m. Chair Yoga
9 a.m. MSW Help
(by appointment)

10:30 a.m. Brown Bag
1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 11/3

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
2 p.m. Chair Dance

LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held on Wednesdays at 10 a.m., hybrid, at the town hall and on Zoom. Foot care clinic is held monthly.

For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 2, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

MR Wrapping Paper Edition: Artist Profile #4

By REPORTER STAFF

This summer we invited people to submit design proposals for a special Wrapping Paper Edition, to be printed in November. This fundraiser for the *Montague Reporter* will feature full-color designs printed on double pages of newsprint, meant to wrap presents in. Seven of these pages will feature the work of local artists chosen from dozens of entries we received.

We are so excited to bring these wonderful designs to life in this special edition, which will go to press in the third week of November!

The team of **Sam Guerin and Kelley Jewel** submitted a design of little drawings covering the page, things like macaroni noodles, planets, file cabinets, feathers, and other objects. We asked each artist to answer the same three questions:



MR: What would you want your wrapping paper to say, and feel like, for the person it is being gifted to?

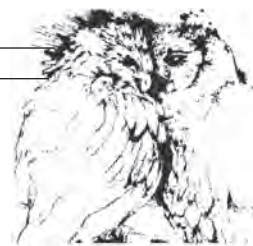
KJ & SG: We'd like our wrapping paper to invoke in folks a kind of childlike whimsy, the joy of holidays, and the memories that come with them.

MR: What gifts would you want to receive wrapped in your paper?

KJ & SG: We'd like to receive a box of cat toys, preferably the ones that jingle when you shake the box.

MR: What other gifts have newspapers given you over the years?

KJ & SG: Newspapers give us a link to the present and artifacts that we can treasure until the paper turns yellow. When we read the *Reporter*, we feel more connected with our community, and when we take clippings and stash them away in boxes of keepsakes, we're able to preserve that feeling in perpetuity.



Sex Matters

a sex-positive health column

by STEPHANIE BAIRD

SOUTH HADLEY— In 2020 I developed a specific EMDR therapy resource to help increase positive experiences of sexuality. Emily Nagoski's 2016 TED talk, “Confidence and Joy are the Keys to a Great Sex Life,” inspired this resource. Other therapy concepts influenced it as well. I am excited to share it more widely through this column, and hope it proves helpful. Please write in and let me know.

The goal of my resource, called “Enhancing a Joyful and Confident Sexual Self,” is to provide ourselves with an opportunity to recognize and experience a positive sexual moment. Many humans, especially folks with trauma histories or those who have been negatively impacted by our frequently erotophobic culture, do not spend much time prioritizing or focusing on their sexual health and pleasure. Experiencing this resource is a chance to slow down and allow one's neural networks to bathe in positive associations in order to enhance a joyful sexual self.

The first step involves understanding Nagoski's key concept: “Confidence is knowing what is true about your body. Joy is loving what is true about your body.”

She suggests two activities that can help build body confidence. One option is to look at yourself in the mirror every day and write down everything you like. She suggests being as close to nude as is comfortable, and starting the list from anything you like. This could be your eyelashes, your ears, your feet, or even your fingernails. The hope is that doing this activity daily will increase the things you like about yourself.

The second option is to spend two minutes a day in a visualization activity. Use meditation, gentle yoga, breathing, or thoughts of a calm place or soothing activity to enter a calm state of mind and body. Once there, “shine a beacon of kindness and compassion through the door” that opens to your authentic sexual self, and begin to explore what you notice with compassion and curiosity.

Keep building daily on either option until the activity feels effortless.

For those wishing to explore my expanded resource, wait until you have a few minutes of quiet pri-

vacy, and follow these steps when you are ready. (You may want to have a trusted person read the instructions to you so that you can focus on the exercise.)

Think of a time when you had a completely positive sexual encounter with yourself or someone else. If no such encounter exists yet, you can think of a positive moment in your sexual or affectional fantasy life, or a different moment when you felt particularly confident – perhaps with work, sports and athletics, movement, or a creative activity such as drawing or music. You can even think of something positive you've seen or read.

See if your memory or idea embodies most of the following skills, thoughts, feelings, and body sensations: With this memory or idea do you feel grounded and present, affirmed and consenting, open to new and positive ways of interacting? Do you feel in touch with your needs and able to express them clearly? Are you in touch with pleasant physical sensations or smells? Do you feel deserving of giving and receiving pleasure, and confident in your abilities?

If this memory or idea works well, write it down on a sheet of paper. Notice the physical sensations that go along with this moment or idea, and write those down as well.

What image, symbol, sensation, or concept can represent this positive moment? Give it a simple cue word or phrase to remember it by, and, write that down next to the descriptions you just jotted down.

Now develop a “positive cognition” (PC), or thought, that can be linked with this image. Some examples are: “I'm worthy of pleasure. I'm safe as I pursue pleasure. I enjoy connection. I radiate joy.” Add this PC to the sheet of paper.

What positive emotion are you noticing for yourself? Where and how is that emotion showing up in the body? Write that down.

Read again through each of the qualities and skills you listed earlier. Hold your PC with your image or cue word, along with each quality or skill. Let each quality strengthen for a few moments before moving on to the next one.

To strengthen your PC you can

slowly tap your feet, back and forth, about eight taps in total. If you prefer you can cross your arms and tap each opposite shoulder. (This is called “butterfly tapping.”) Tapping slowly can help strengthen a positive thought, feeling, or body sensation.

Continue to check in to see how true the PC is feeling, tapping slowly, about eight times each set, until your PC feels completely true.

Now imagine or visualize a desired future encounter, whether with yourself or someone else. Take a moment to develop the setting, determine the romantic or sexual activities, etc. How true is your PC as you imagine this scenario? If your PC is feeling very true, take some deep, slow breaths, staying with the scenario for half a minute or so, breathing in the positive words and sensations.

This last step provides an opportunity for further insight. When you came up with this positive moment, what good things were happening in your life at the time to help set the stage? What sexual “accelerators” were present at the time, and what helped reduce any sexual “brakes”?

One person who has followed these steps told me they noticed a more effortless and satisfying sexual encounter with their partner. Another ciswoman noticed that her PC, “I deserve pleasure,” popped into her mind during her next sexual encounter with her husband, with an orgasm following soon after.

Readers, give this a whirl, and let me know how it goes. Did this resource help enhance your sexual confidence and joy? Did it apply your accelerator and increase your interest in sexual activity?

And while we are at it, I'd love some feedback as to what else you would like to read about as I start my fifth year writing this column.

Stephanie Baird, LMHC is an OWL Facilitator, an EMDR consultant and psychotherapist, certified in Advancing Clinical Excellence in Sexuality (ACES), author of EMDR Therapy and Sexual Health: A Clinician's Guide (2023), and encourages her clients towards thriving sexual health. She welcomes feedback and suggestions at sexmatters@montaguereporter.org.

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FROM A TEEN'S POINT OF VIEW

Bananas: A History

By FINTAN ANDREW JONES

MONTAGUE – A couple of weeks ago, I was taking notes on a video for my Human Geography class. They used bananas as examples of how things interconnect with each other and how they affect everyone around them. The video explained how they turned from a luxury to a common fruit that is mostly grown in one country and imported to the US.

I was fascinated by all that could come from a fruit, and I thought it would be a great thing to learn more about. Without further ado, the history of bananas.

Bananas were originally from Asia and the Middle East. In the 1500s and the 1600s people brought them to the rest of the world and banana plantations started popping up. Unlike today, bananas were a delicacy back then. You could only get them in specific places, and their price would be very high. Today, you can walk into any grocery store and find them for very cheap.

Lorenzo Dow Baker was the first person to bring bananas to Massachusetts. After he saw them catching on, he established the Boston Fruit Company. While Baker was doing this work, another company caught on and started to import bananas to the US, too. This company was called the Tropical Trading Company and Transport Company.

In the 1890s there was a big project to make transporting goods faster by connecting Costa Rica with the US using train tracks. Studies showed that once bananas arrived in New Orleans, the whole city started to prosper more and grow exponentially. This came at a cost, though – both companies that paid for the railway to be built were in substantial debt. The two companies merged to get out of debt and become more successful.

The newly founded United Fruit Company started buying big pieces of land in Central and South America. This company did not just focus on bananas, as their name suggests. By 1900 the United Fruit Company was in control of 80% of the US market.

They did not use this power in the most ethical ways, though. They convinced the US government to put pressure on the countries who were growing these bananas. The company started calling these coun-

tries “Banana Republics” and forced them to grow more and more bananas. With these government ties the United Fruit Company did not pay taxes for importing these bananas.

I would like to talk about the “Banana Massacre.” This all started when the Guatemalan plantation workers demanded better working conditions from the United Fruit Company. There were nine demands from the workers. The first ones talked about how there needed to be more transparency with the worker hiring process. The next few were about how there needed to be more workplace safety efforts. Three were specifically intended to raise the minimum wage and have people pay them every other week, and with money instead of coupons.

When the United Fruit Company refused to accommodate all of these, the “Banana Massacre” started. The strikers were running through the streets and the government decided to call in the military to detain them or even kill them. They put people on the roofs of buildings with machine guns with the intent to kill anyone that was getting out of hand. Lots of people died, and this all happened because of the banana trading industry and the people who operated it.

The Guatemalan president, Jacobo Árbenz, wanted to tax them, and this angered a lot of people. He wanted to give the land owned by all the big American companies back to the poor farmers who were being forced to work on it. There was a military-backed coup in Guatemala, and Jacobo Árbenz was overthrown before his official resignation in 1954.

In the end, the United Fruit Company eventually morphed into Chiquita – a name you see on a lot of bananas. The company still holds 44% of the banana market. They imported 2.3 billion (with a B) pounds of bananas into the US last year.

All of this information came after I saw one little factoid in AP Human Geography. Researching this has really been fun, and I hope you liked reading it, too.

If you have been reading my stuff for a long time you know that I have written about the Rubik's Cube in the past. I gave a brief overview of the cube, and briefly mentioned speedcubing. I have recently been attending speedcubing competitions, and that is what I want to dedicate a full column to in my next column.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG
Known Bus Stop Stood At; Guy Evicted; Cat Run Over; Swagtron Snagged; Black Wig Donned; Clerk Assaulted**Monday, 10/16**

8:03 a.m. DPW supervisor requesting PD respond to observe a large amount of property being stored near the bandshell at Peskeompskut Park by a homeless person. Involved male was not at the park when officers arrived but was located at a nearby convenience store. Male was advised of the issue and stated he would move his belongings. Officer also provided male a copy of the town bylaw regarding sleeping in public parks.

8:19 a.m. 911 caller from Turners Falls Road reporting her neighbor was abusing his dog and then was aggressive towards her when she confronted him. Advised of options.

11:27 a.m. Caller states that three men who seem suspicious are standing on the corner of Millers Falls Road and Industrial Boulevard, and that one of them had a “sleeve” that looks like it could hold a machete or something similar. Area checked; no one located. Area is a known bus stop.

2:46 p.m. School resource officer advising of a strong odor of marijuana in the air around Franklin County Technical School.

3:11 p.m. Caller states she just left a property on J Street that she manages and while driving home, noticed that her car has been shot by a pellet gun. Believes it was by a known male who is upset at being evicted. Caller states the vehicle is no longer driveable because a pellet went through the radiator. Received second call from housing manager, who stated that she had gotten a call about the vandalized vehicle and was also advised by some tenants that the male was there with a pellet gun and very upset about the eviction that occurred on Friday; he is reportedly threatening them with the pellet gun. Officer advises that the officers spoke to a couple of residents and didn't hear anything. Also spoke to the involved party, who denied

that anything happened.

Tuesday, 10/17

4:50 a.m. 911 caller reports that a motorcycle hit a deer on Turners Falls Road near the airport. Operator up and walking around. Second caller reporting male party struck a deer; unknown injuries, but he is walking. Shelburne Control contacted for FD, AMR. Officer requesting a tow for motorcycle. Motorcycle owner transported to hospital in a personal vehicle. DPW contacted and advised to pick up deceased deer.

9:44 a.m. Following a vehicle stop on Sixth Street, a 32-year-old Greenfield man was arrested on a default warrant.

1:38 p.m. Animal control officer advises he stopped on N Street for a follow-up but got no answer at the door.

2:18 p.m. Manager from auto service store advises that around 10:20 a.m., one of his delivery drivers hit a parked car on Seventh Street. He could not locate the vehicle owner, so he left the scene. Manager will call back with plate info of their truck.

2:30 p.m. Officers located a female with an active warrant while patrolling in the area of G and Eleventh streets. A 24-year-old Turners Falls woman was arrested on a straight warrant.

7:22 p.m. Caller states there is a homeless man with a grocery cart by the air pump at Nouria who is begging people for money. Area checked by officer. Private property.

Wednesday, 10/18

11:55 a.m. Caller from Eleventh Street states someone was speeding this morning and ran over her cat and killed it. Would like area monitored. Officers advised.

1:21 p.m. 911 caller from Fourth Street states someone cut the lock off her black e-bike and stole it. Caller advises the bike says “Swagtron” on it. Report taken.

5:53 p.m. Caller states his employee sent him a picture of a man standing outside Turners Falls Pizza House begging people for money. There is an active no trespass order in place. Male party gone upon officer's arrival.

Thursday, 10/19

7:57 a.m. Caller states that there are loose chickens, geese, and turkeys all over Turnpike Road causing a hazard; some are dead in the road. Officer reports no answer at door. A couple of birds in the front yard; none in the road at this time. A note was left explaining the situation.

1:12 p.m. Caller from Seventh Street states their vehicle was hit at some point

and a note was left; damage was extensive. Officer was able to contact person who left note and obtain their information to make a report. Related to previous call.

2:37 p.m. 911 caller from Avenue A states they are doing a cooking demonstration and they set the fire alarm off and now it won't turn off. Transferred to Control.

3:16 p.m. Caller from Food City requesting that the male sleeping outside of the store be moved along. Officer advises party gone on arrival.

Friday, 10/20

7:24 a.m. Caller from Bridge Street states the upstairs neighbor has been banging and screaming “I'll kill you” for the past 15 minutes. Knocked several times on doors and windows; no answer. Caller states this is an ongoing incident; party is not yelling at anyone in particular; this is a common occurrence. Caller advised complaints are logged documents management can request.

8 a.m. Caller states that there are loose chickens, geese, and turkeys all over Turnpike Road causing a hazard. Officer advises nothing in road at this time; birds are in the back and side yards. Copy of call printed for ACO.

9:33 a.m. ACO attempted to make contact with homeowner on Turnpike Road regarding loose animals in the roadway. Unable to make contact at this time.

10:09 a.m. School resource officer advising a car spun out off the road and into the tree area in front of the tech school. He is responding and requesting an additional officer. SRO advises tire blew out and driver overcorrected. Husband will come and change tire. Car off road.

2:48 p.m. Caller from Third Street states that her neighbors are moving out of the house and leaving trash all over the lawn, including furniture that they have no intentions of taking with them. Caller denies knowing parties' names. When asked her name, caller stated she wanted to remain anonymous. Referred to an officer.

4:15 p.m. Caller from Avenue A states that a female party is walking around the building with a long black wig on, yelling. Referred to an officer.

5:51 p.m. Caller states that there are two large trash bags in the roadway in front of the Turners Falls Post Office. Officer advises that the trash is in the middle of the road. DPW contacted. Officer found a name and contacted the involved party, who was unaware of the trash and

stated that the landlord is responsible for removing trash. Officer spoke to landlord, who stated he took the trash to Greenfield and realized when he got there that his tailgate was open.

Saturday, 10/21

2:03 p.m. Nouria employee states she was assaulted by a customer who is not allowed in the store. Caller would just like the incident on record for now. Officer advised caller of trespass options.

10:30 p.m. Caller states that two dogs are running around on East Main Street. He is unable to bring them to the shelter. Officer advises dogs were brought to shelter.

10:31 p.m. 911 caller reporting wires down at Court Square; unknown if tree or pole down. Caller states there is a fire in the middle of the road. Control contacted to dispatch fire. Eversource on scene.

10:55 p.m. Caller states he was parked on K Street and had a Chromebook taken off his front seat about an hour ago. Caller will attempt to get GPS location; unknown if there are any cameras in the area. Caller states vehicle is a silver Volkswagen Beetle. Caller states his iPad was stolen about 40 minutes ago and advises his phone is indicating that his iPad is somewhere in Northfield. Advised caller we would log it.

Sunday, 10/22

4:50 a.m. E-911 call from N Street transferred by Greenfield PD. Lots of yelling and screaming while attempting to get info. Reports of assault and property damage. Officer spoke with caller, who does not want any charges pressed. Officer located other involved parties, who also do not want to press charges or need any assistance.

11:16 a.m. Business owner on Millers Falls Road states that a police officer allowed a person to park their truck that is having mechanical trouble in their driveway, which is private property. She was not asked if this is OK, and she wants the truck removed immediately. Officer states truck was supposed to be moved by now and approves the towing of the vehicle. Vehicle towed by Byrne's.

2:42 p.m. First of two calls reporting dirt bikes riding up and down Randall Wood Drive very fast. Area checked; unable to locate.

4:59 p.m. 911 caller reporting black smoke coming out of chimney on Turners Falls Road. No smoke inside residence. Referred to other agency.

7:36 p.m. Caller reporting smell of gas outside in a Seventh Street parking lot. Shelburne Control advised.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Bookstore to Hold Grand Re-Opening

GREENFIELD – On November 4, Roundabout Books will reopen its doors in a newly expanded and renovated bookstore at 85 Pierce Street, formerly home to soap and popcorn-ball factories. The new store features two floors of browsing, with new and vintage books on the main level, 88 shelves of used books on the upper level, and a dedicated children's room in the farmhouse-style building that was the original Diamond Electric Soap Factory.

The store will resume daily operation from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Its grand re-opening will be celebrated throughout the weekend of the 4th and 5th with special guests.


On Saturday the 4th, Holyoke Hummus will serve from their food truck throughout the day, complimentary tea will be served, and the store will raffle t-shirts with its new logo. At 2 p.m., eight-year-old magician George the Great will

perform in the children's room. On Sunday the 5th at 2 p.m., Tracy Grammer and Jim Henry will perform a concert in the fully accessible upstairs event space, for a \$20 suggested donation.

Bill Pennington of Bill's Home Repair, who led the renovations, will be on site through the weekend to discuss the project. The adaptive reuse focused on accessibility and environmental sustainability. The entrance now features an accessibility ramp and wide French doors, and the upper level can be reached by an accessible lift, supported by crowdfunding and a state Biz-M-Power grant.

Roundabout also added insulation, windows, a new roof, and air-based heat pumps, with assistance from the Center for Ecological Technology and Berkshire Gas and awards from the USDA and Williams College Community Climate Fund, and plans to add solar panels and passive-solar.

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You Should Probably Be Using a VPN.

By RYNE HAGER

TURNERS FALLS – Privacy is a difficult subject to make attractive or appealing for people, even though its benefits are otherwise pretty clear. There's a whole reason we have curtains on our windows and party phone lines have gone away: It's not that we necessarily have something to hide, just that we don't always want to share *everything*.

But there are times when privacy and security conveniently overlap, and security is easier to understand as a clear absence of "bad things happening." Whether or not the fear of security is a better motivator for you than the hope of privacy, I recommend you strongly consider using a VPN basically every time you go online.

(Before I dive more deeply this is a column I have to caveat: My day job is working for a company in the privacy tech space, and some of that company's products use and promote VPNs. But neither I nor that company are tied to any of the services or products mentioned here, and neither will profit from their use.)

You've probably heard of what a VPN is, and I've likely mentioned the subject in passing at least once or twice in this column, but here's a short explanation.

A VPN, or *virtual private network*, encrypts all your online traffic – the stuff your device sends out to the internet, and the stuff the internet sends back down to your device – and routes it through a remote server. Metaphorically, it's kind of like a mail forwarding system: all your digital "mail" has an extra hop to make before it gets to you, or before you send it out.

But unlike a letter, which is usually sent in plain text that anyone between you and the recipient can read, a VPN adds a layer of encryption. This prevents anyone who handles it from taking a peek – the "letter" in this case is all scrambled up, but you and the recipient both know how to read it. Metaphorically, this means the mail carrier, the postal office, and the drivers of the cars, or trucks, or planes carrying it are all unable to read the message while it's in transit. A VPN makes sure that your data, both incoming and outgoing, can't be read by anyone on your local network, your ISP, or any of the other infrastructure be-

tween you and that VPN server.

This might sound like overkill. After all, you can probably trust Comcast or Verizon or your home's Wi-Fi network, right?

Well, that trust might be a little misplaced. Most ISPs have discovered that reselling customer data is actually a big money-maker, and they're more than happy to sell what insights they can gather from your data to marketing firms or data brokers. These companies use it for a range of things, from increasing the targeting and effectiveness of advertising to market research and even other, less scrupulous uses.

And this isn't paranoia. In 2021 the Federal Trade Commission published a detailed study describing exactly what ISPs know about customers and how that data is used for third-party marketing, concluding outright that "several ISPs in our study gather and use data in ways consumers do not expect and could cause them harm."

Your home Wi-Fi is also a bigger concern than you might otherwise think. A lot of the devices you have at home, like outdated smart-home devices or old phones, aren't getting updates anymore, and sit on the other side of many of your network's security mechanisms. If they're vulnerable and compromised in an attack, that leaves them perfectly poised to sit and listen on your local network for any potentially valuable information.

And if you're using a public Wi-Fi access point at a café, plane, or hotel, you don't have any idea what sort of devices might be waiting and listening for account credentials or other personal data.

Simply speaking, it's tough to be sure your connection is truly private, whether it's at home or on the go. And with many of us using that connection for things like online banking, personal communications, photo storage, and all sorts of other pretty important things, it's probably worth just a little effort to ensure it's private and secure.

You might think of VPNs as "those things on YouTube that sponsor all the videos," an idea that clearly implies most VPN services cost money. But you can actually run your own VPN for free – or, at a minimum, very cheaply. It's a slightly more technical operation than many of my readers here will

probably be comfortable with, and it imposes its own added responsibility, too: You will need to manage the system, and keep it up to date. But if that sounds like the sort of adventure you'd enjoy, Google is your friend, as there are tons of guides out there for setting up your own VPN on a home server or through a cloud provider like Linode.

For most of the rest of us, coughing up the dough for a VPN may be worth it and they do run pretty cheap, though not all VPN providers are created equal. Many "free" VPNs are about as bad as not using one, as some of those log and resell your data just the same, and they're frequently in the news for being hacked. The best published detailed privacy policies that are worth reading before you pay for them. You'll want to find one that doesn't log any data and is subject to public audits. I typically recommend Proton VPN and Mullvad as good examples of the sort of policies you should look for.

Although I said you should skip most free VPNs, there is at least one exception. Sometimes products or services you pay for come with "free" access to a VPN. Google Fi, for example, a mobile virtual network operator run by Google which uses T-Mobile, and that subscription includes a VPN. Google One storage (used by Gmail, Google Photos, Drive, etc.) also includes VPN access. And Apple has a feature called Privacy Relay for the iPhone that is available to iCloud+ subscribers. Though it doesn't offer all the same benefits as a VPN, it is similar.

Data privacy is a growing concern for both digital rights activists and legislators – one of those perfect examples of an industry growing faster than it can be regulated. Many practices we consider commonplace today when it comes to tracking and reselling customer data will be illegal in the coming years. Between now and then, tools like VPNs can help reduce our exposure, giving us at least a small bit of much-needed control in our digital lives.

For more questions about consumer technology, how gadgets work, or which doodad to buy if you need X, Y, and Z, shoot Ryne an email at deviceadvice@montaguereporter.org.

Montague Community Television News

Hot Show: Elder Honored

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – The Wendell Meetinghouse has held the second celebration in its series, "Honoring Our Elders." In this series, community members learn about the elders in Wendell and are given an opportunity to share memories and gratitude.

A recording from the October 12 event celebrates the "icon and trailblazer" Dorthie, the oldest resident of Wendell at 94 years old. Dor is a peace activist, psychologist, and environmentalist who has been arrested five times for protesting. She was pivotal in the creation of Accessibility Alternative, which conserved Wendell forest lands while providing land for women to build homes on.

Meanwhile at the Montague Center Library, the writer Richie Davis was celebrated in the "Local Author Series." Davis, a retired reporter from the *Greenfield Recorder*, has compiled some of his stories from the paper into a new book which he

shared with the community on October 18 – and forever more on the MCTV Vimeo page. There you can also find the most recent Montague and Gill selectboard meetings.

All community members are welcome to submit their videos to be aired on Channel 9, and featured on the MCTV Vimeo page. If you have any ideas for films, MCTV is always available to assist in local video production as well. Cameras, tripods, and lighting equipment are available for checkout, and filming and editing assistance can be provided.

And if you're looking for more ways to get involved, consider joining the MCTV Board. If you would like to stop in for a meeting, even just to check the vibe, email infomontaguetv@gmail.com for a link to the Zoom.

Contact us at (413) 863-9200 or infomontaguetv@gmail.com, follow us on Facebook, or find us on Instagram @[montaguecommunitytv](https://www.instagram.com/montaguecommunitytv). Find videos and more on our website, montaguetv.org.

SCENE REPORT

A Ghostly Gallery For Vintage Days

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – In Greenfield there is now an annual Vintage Days Festival, which I believe features vintage things that include trolley rides to certain stores. The dates of this year's second Vintage Days were October 13 to 15.

It also features a couple of things, especially for Halloween, connected to Cara Finch's gallery on Main Street, the Finch Gallery. She's an artist whom I am very familiar with, and whom I am a big fan of. I also believe other people feel the same way because she opened another gallery to her name in Greenfield.

She was involved with some "ghostly" walking tours as one of these events, featuring ghost stories and strange facts and history. The Franklin Community Coop did something special for Halloween, which was painting pumpkins and faces alongside live music. Finch also did something in the place where her gallery was which she called the "Haunted Gallery," and I went through it.

A greeter was outside on the street trying to get people to come into the gallery, which I am sure people enjoyed, and another greeter was dressed up for Halloween at the door. It was basically made up like a haunted house, which it did look like for the most part. It was nicely done.

However, Finch seemed to have made some new art pieces, in what I



Spooky art by Cara Finch.

would definitely call her style of art, especially for Halloween and the haunted gallery. This made it rather unique, like a haunted house/gallery.

One piece that I really liked was of a blueish woman, and had a cross in it. Another piece that I believe was of her style and for Halloween was named "Resistance Is Not Enough." Some of those pieces had figures present in them that could be said to resemble ghosts, which made them a good fit for the Haunted Gallery.

I enjoyed what I saw at the Haunted Gallery, as well as the spooky music I heard, which was also a part of it. If Cara Finch wanted to make her art feel like part of a haunted house of some kind, she did so in all of the right places, and with all the right pieces.

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TRAVELS from page B1

Medford has been attracting more and more transplants from Caliestate prices as they buy vineyards, farms, and ranches. The locals eye those California plates warily, but there is still a whole lot of open land out here, and I was told that the very rich are mostly interested in buying hillside homes on very large lots that keep their fame and wealth under wraps.

Jobs here are plentiful and the rate of homelessness is far below the teeming centers of Portland and Seattle – though you still see it here sometimes, as you do in most cities in 2023.

Natural Wonders

But back to Crater Lake National Park: Damn, that's quite a sight. We drove the winding roads north two hours from Medford to the park. The lake was formed 7,700 years ago when a volcano left a basin in the place where a mountain peak once stood. Over the centuries it has been filled with rain and snow. The lake is six miles across at its widest and 1,943 feet deep at its deepest point – the deepest lake in the United States!

The cerulean blue of that water is stunning, and on the day we visited it looked more impressive surrounded by a morning snowfall, covering the shore and delighting the visitors who had never before thrown a snowball. But the snowfall made driving around the rim a bit hazardous, and some of the roads were closed because of it.

The park is a massive 183,224 acres, and it stays open year-round. You'll be completely out of the cellular phone service area, but who cares? It costs \$35 for a car to enter the park, but you can use your National Parks Pass here, too. That costs \$80 annually, or for seniors, \$20 a year – or \$80 for lifetime!

On our way back from the lake, we took a few detours to some impressive waterfalls that line the

roads in Rogue River Gorge, and we had views of a few of the snow-covered peaks like Mount Abraham and over the border in California, Mount Shasta.

The other natural highlight we got to explore are the Table Rocks, two dramatic mesas that tower over the city. Upper and Lower Table Rock are massive plateaus you can climb up to on an easy path, and up top the views all around are stunning. At one point in time airplanes used to land up here on this rocky mesa; today it's just grassland and volcanic rock with cliffs on all four sides.

The Town of Medford

It's an interesting thing asking the locals about Medford. Many of the local people we met prefer their small towns like Jacksonville and Ashland over the city. With just a small downtown footprint, everything else is pretty spread out, but the city wants to encourage locals to come into town.

On the weekend we visited, the Rogue Festival was taking place in a small park downtown. A local cover band pumped out some pretty decent versions of The Eagles' greatest hits, and many of the local wineries set up tasting tables to sample their vintages and dozens of stalls offered eclectic wares, food, and jewelry. Food trucks completed the scene.

Much of the city, including the well-kept and clean hotel where we stayed, Compass by Margaritaville, is located away from the center, along busy roads lined with familiar chain stores and big Harry & David warehouses. Much new development is happening here, including four new hotels which are set to open at the city's airport and in the downtown in 2024.

Wine and Dine

Dining is a highlight of Medford. It started with one of the best breakfast dishes I've ever been served at Over Easy, located downtown. Their Cajun shrimp toast, with peas, avocado, two eggs, and pea shoots, was just about heaven. This place, like a few others we visited, has a fun vibe, relaxed and easy, and the food really was great.

A big part of what brings people to Medford is the huge variety of wineries all up and down the Rogue Valley. They've been organized into "wine trails," making it easy to visit several during an afternoon. Our guides told us that the sweet spot seems to be three vineyards, because at each one there will be five or six wines to taste. And all of this is made easier when you take advantage of

the two tour operators, Wine Hopper and Bravo Outings, who drive you there and wait while you imbibe.

Though it's not a reflection of which one is better, I did really like the choice of DANCIN Vineyards in nearby Jacksonville, 12 miles from Medford. It was named for the two owners, Dan and Cindy, and their *motif* is a ballerina – all of their varietals bear labels with different dance poses.

Approaching the vineyard, you have a long sweep of vines and in the middle, the pale orange tasting room with its terra-cotta roof and outdoor tables. It makes a perfect spot for lunch, and their flatbreads and a large *charcuterie* board hit the spot.

One day we set out to have some high-adrenaline fun, and for this we headed to Rogue Valley Zipline, a true bonding experience as anyone who's ziplined will attest. The course took us up and down five different ziplines, and for each ride we were asked to coin a new nickname. Up on the platforms, the rides got longer with each stage, and the views of Table Rock and the rolling hills were gorgeous.

After saying goodbye to our new friends from the three-hour zip tour, we drove a short way to another winery, Del Rio Vineyards. We were told by marketing assistant Lena Freeman that the place is a little bit haunted. That would be because of Hattie, the resident ghost, who the French winemaker and others swear makes her presence known regularly.

This winery in nearby Gold Hill, Oregon is the largest vineyard in the region, producing grapes on 460 acres, and they produce wine for many other local vineyards. In the cute backyard of the tasting room, they set up a low table, kind of like something you'd see in the Middle East, complete with carpet, pillows, and a groaning *charcuterie* board to accompany their crisp whites and flavorful reds.

These two wineries are great examples of why wine tours are so popular in this part of Oregon. Combine the beauty around you with the fine fruit of the grape and a board of snacks, and what more could you ask for?

Oh, a sober driver to take us home – Wine Hopper has that covered!

Max Hartshorne, a 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 you can hear at anchor.fm/max-hartshorne.



The view on top of Lower Table Rock, 2,300 feet above sea level.



A memorable breakfast of shrimp, sausage, and veggies with eggs on avocado toast at Over Easy in Medford.



Guests can enjoy this wine-tasting spread at the Del Rio winery in Gold Hill.

WEBSITES

City of Medford
TravelMedford.org

Crater Lake National Park
nps.gov/crla/index.htm

Wineries in Medford
travelmedford.org/wine

Wine Hopper Tours
winehoppertour.com

Southern Oregon
southernoregon.com

EXHIBITS

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lisa Beskin*, underwater photography. Through December.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Migrations Exhibit and Day of the Dead Altar*. Colorful works depict scenes integral to village life, Mayan culture, and the history of Lake Atitlan in Guatemala. Through November 30.

Montague Center Library: *Jamie Fuller*, mixed media, through November 15.

Rhodes Art Center, Northfield Mount Hermon, Gill: *Torrents*, sculpture and drawings by NMH alum and Hampshire professor emeritus Bill Brayton of Conway. Through November 17.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: *Megan Sward*, guest ceramics artist, through October.

Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts and Arts: *Susan Valentine*, paintings, through October 29.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield: *Fall Into Fiber*, presenting the work of 16 regional fiber artists. Through November 5.

Artspace, Greenfield: *Yikes*, oil paintings and immersive installations by Chloe Torri, through this Friday, October 27.

South Gallery, GCC: *Less Like a March, More Like a Polka*, abstract paintings, totemic sculpture, and installation by Emily Noelle Lambert. Through November 3.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Breakfast Kingdom*, new multimedia

work by Wishbone Zoë (Zosia Kochanski). Through November 24. Reception this Friday, October 27 from 5 to 8 p.m.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Portraits: a Lyrical Eye*, photographs by Gerard McGovern, through October.

MD Local Gallery, North Amherst: *Amherst Plein Air Society*, paintings of the Sweet Alice Conservation Area. A portion of sales benefits the Kestrel Land Trust. Through November 12.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Regeneration: Things that Fall at Our Feet*, found-object artwork by Sue Katz and Rebecca Muller. Through October 28. *Expressions from Nature: Past and Present*, landscape paintings

by Janet Winston. November 2 through December 2. Opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. next Thursday, November 2.

Art in the Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Totz*, Christin Couture's portraits of children play on Victorian conventions. By appointment at redtidebluefire@gmail.com.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Local Color*, members' exhibit celebrating the colors of autumn, through October. *MEOW*, a humorous collection of cats by Nina Rossi, November 1 through 20; reception Sunday, November 5 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *On the Land*, paintings by Charles Malzenski, November 3 through December 31.

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is seeking writers to cover local committee meetings!

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Aquí se habla español

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



Gente de Franklin County: Jimena de Pareja

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

TURNERS FALLS – Esta semana traigo a esta sección a una persona a la que llevó tiempo queriendo entrevistar, pero por unas cosas o por otras, nuestras agendas no cuadraban.

Conozco a Jimena desde casi mi primer año en Turners Falls, ya que ella fue una de las primeras personas que conocí en las reuniones de la comunidad latina que se organizaban en la escuela con la intención de solventar las necesidades de la comunidad latina en Franklin County.

Si usted habla español, e incluso si no lo habla, seguro que conoce a Jimena y la habrá visto trabajando con la comunidad latina en el centro del pueblo.

Biografía

Jimena nació en Quito, Ecuador. En Ecuador, Jimena estudió en la Universidad Católica del Ecuador y se graduó a los 22 años en Matemáticas y Física. Trabajó como profesora de estas materias en el Colegio San Gabriel de Quito.

Se casó a los 29 años en Ecuador con el que había sido su primer novio. Se conocieron cuando él tenía 16 años y ella solamente 14. Se volvieron a encontrar años después, cuando él había regresado de los Estados Unidos a Ecuador. Durante este tiempo su ahora esposo se había casado con otra persona y divorciado posteriormente, y había obtenido la ciudadanía estadounidense.

En el año 2000, Jimena y Byron decidieron volver juntos a los Estados Unidos. Así es como llegaron a Turners Falls, a la misma casa en la que ahora viven ya que la han comprado, y que antes alquilaban. Al principio las cosas no fueron fáciles para Jimena ya que no había tantos hispanos en la comunidad como ahora. Jimena en aquellos años no hablaba inglés y le fue difícil integrarse en la comunidad.

Empezó a trabajar y a estudiar en Greenfield Community College, donde pasó por todo el programa de Inglés como Segunda Lengua, y después continuó estudiando otras clases más avanzadas como psicología y educación ya que aspiraba a certificarse como profesora.

En el 2005 se quedó embarazada de su primer hijo, y en 2007 tuvo un segundo varón: Ricky y Mario. Jimena y su esposo decidieron que ella se quedaría en casa cuidando a los niños y él trabajaría fuera. Jimena me puntualiza que para ella era muy importante que sus hijos hablaran español ya que eso les va a abrir puertas y facilitar el acceso a un mejor trabajo.

Jimena me dice que ella no quiere volver a vivir a Ecuador. Hace dieciséis que no visita su país.

Me explica esta intención contándome un relato de cómo la vida

te puede cambiar todos los planes. Ella pensaba en el 2005 que no podía tener hijos ya que había intentado muchos tratamientos sin resultado. Cuando los médicos le dijeron que no se podía hacer nada, Jimena y Byron decidieron empezar a ahorrar para comprar una casa en su país y la jubilación y así volver algún día a Ecuador. Y cuando ya no se

empezó su estrecha relación con la comunidad latina en el área.

En ese cambio de roles, sus hijos empezaron a ir a la escuela. Ya conocía a muchas familias, pero la escuela creó un nuevo vínculo ya que muchas de las familias latinas con niños en edad escolar son familias que trabajan como agricultores. Jimena conoce a la mayoría de los

cargo de ellos, ya fuera para jugar o para ayudarles a hacer las tareas. Los padres no podían ayudar a los niños por falta de tiempo ya que pasaban gran parte del tiempo trabajando y luego estudiando inglés, o cuando los niños se hacen mayores ya que las tareas de la escuela resultan más complicadas.

Los profesores contactan directamente con Jimena para que después de las clases pueda ayudarles en las tareas que necesiten. En este tiempo los padres y madres de familia pueden continuar con sus clases de inglés y cuando ya tienen un nivel suficiente certificarse en otros campos como por ejemplo la elaboración de comidas o estudiar para la licencia de conducir.

Jimena me dice que durante todos estos años ha tratado que no solamente los hijos tengan buenos resultados académicos, sino también que los padres estén bien, que se encuentren cómodos en la medida de lo posible. Entre los estudiantes que se han graduado en estos años del bachillerato en GMRSD, algunos ya están en la universidad. Esto es un ejemplo para sus hermanos menores y para la familia.

Jimena es responsable también de organizar las reuniones de la escuela con las familias hispanas. Me dice que para todas las familias es muy importante la educación de sus hijos ya que saben que el futuro bienestar depende de ello.

Los latinos saben que en sus países la escuela es un privilegio que no todos pueden tener y por ello están muy agradecidos por la educación que reciben sus hijos. A las familias hispanas, dice Jimena, les gusta involucrarse en las actividades educativas de sus hijos, y asisten a todos los eventos y reuniones, así como a las actividades extraescolares como eventos deportivos. Jimena intenta hacer ver a las familias que es muy importante que los niños sientan el apoyo de sus padres para seguir estudiando.

Los hijos de estas familias de agricultores deben madurar temprano ya que muchos de ellos cuando pueden hacerlo por edad, van a trabajar durante los veranos a las granjas de la comarca. Y así consiguen el permiso de trabajo que deben solicitar cada dos años.

El acceso a la universidad no es fácil para la comunidad latina en el área porque es muy caro si no calificas para becas y ayudas, así que muchas familias deciden empezar un negocio propio en campos como la construcción, jardinería, limpieza de nieve, etc.

Otros que han nacido aquí, van a la universidad si consiguen becas. Esto puede ayudar a sus padres en el momento que ellos consigan un trabajo y así solicitar la reagrupación familiar.

Jimena empezó a trabajar con el distrito escolar en el año 2012

como tutora para niños que hablaban español y acababan de llegar a Estados Unidos. Después empezó a trabajar como asistente de profesora en la escuela elemental y después como profesora de español. Ahora mismo trabaja como enlace de familias para GMRSD.

La descripción de su trabajo es muy amplia: hace las traducciones para las familias que no hablan español, les ayuda con los papeles para solicitar el seguro médico, a encontrar vivienda, enseres para la casa, etc.

Todas las mañanas Jimena recibe la lista con la asistencia a la escuela y Jimena se pone en contacto con los padres para saber si están enfermos o tienen una cita médica. Les ayuda también a conseguir las diferentes vacunas que son obligatorias en Massachusetts. Muchas veces los padres no saben cómo pueden solicitar todas las ayudas por problemas con la lengua.

Un problema grave es el acceso a la vivienda ya que el gobierno no da ayudas a las personas que no tienen seguridad social, y para la asistencia para pagar el gas o la electricidad.

Hace poco Jimena ha sacado su certificado de traductora oficial y esto es muy positivo ya que puede traducir y firmar todas las solicitudes para obtener la licencia de manejar que requiere un proceso complicado de papeleo. Jimena traduce los formularios y les enseña a usar la computadora.

Jimena añade que la posibilidad de conseguir la licencia de manejar ha solucionado en gran parte el problema del transporte.

Franklin County

Jimena me cuenta que solamente en el distrito escolar de Gill-Montague hay 82 familias de origen hispano. Ella conoce a todas las familias personalmente.

Le preguntó que cómo cree que Franklin County acoge a la comunidad latina y me contesta que en algunas áreas las personas hispanas no son bien vistas, ya que los estadounidenses no quieren que sus barrios se llenen de personas latinas, aunque esto no sucede en el centro de Turners.

Cree que la mayoría de los hispanos prefieren vivir en Turners y no en Greenfield porque allí hay más problemas de racismo. Muchas personas recelan de los latinos por lo que leen en la prensa, aunque la mayoría de la comunidad latina en Franklin County, que es inmigrante y no estadounidense, quiere pasar desapercibida y no tener problemas legales de ningún tipo.

Jimena me dice también que siempre en Franklin County siempre hay buenos corazones que ayudan con donaciones como por ejemplo material deportivo para los estudiantes y que le encanta la comunidad en Turners Falls.



Jimena de Pareja, con algunas de las niñas del programa.

esperaba, se quedó embarazada, y todos sus planes cambiaron. El dinero ahorrado para volver, se dedicó a sus hijos y a ahorrar para comprar una casa en Estados Unidos.

Jimena me dice que el futuro de sus hijos está aquí y por lo tanto el suyo también. Me reconoce con pena que es difícil volver a su país y que allí no hay trabajo y por lo tanto no hay una esperanza laboral para sus hijos.

Su Trabajo

Jimena empezó a trabajar con la comunidad latina ya que su esposo trabajaba en el Centro de Salud comunitario en Greenfield y ella le ayudaba. Inesperadamente Byron sufrió un accidente y tuvo que dejar de trabajar. Así es como Jimena empezó a trabajar a tiempo completo para sostener a su familia ya que su esposo no pudo volver al trabajo. Jimena se hizo cargo del programa de agricultores, y así

niños desde que nacieron.

Jimena me cuenta que el programa de agricultores en Massachusetts es excelente porque cubre el seguro de salud a todas las personas que hayan trabajado al menos dos semanas en un período de dos años, y no importa el estado migratorio que tengan. Muchas de estas familias no hablan bien inglés y necesitan ayuda para resolver los problemas de cada día como las citas médicas, petición de ayudas y beneficios, etc.

Jimena también empezó a trabajar en Montague Catholic Social Ministries y vio la necesidad de las familias que no disponían de las herramientas necesarias para solicitar ayudas, primero por la falta de conocimiento del idioma y segundo por no saber exactamente a dónde dirigirse.

Jimena se dio cuenta también que durante el tiempo en que los padres asistían a clases de inglés después del trabajo, los niños necesitaban que alguien se hiciera

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *ArtSalon*. By donation. 6:30 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Xiu Xiu, Thus Love*. \$ 7 p.m.

Steakback Outhouse, Brattleboro: *The Old Fashioneds, The Slide Grinders, Forty Drop Few*. \$ 6 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Sam Grisman Project*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Mister Brilliant*. No cover. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: Two-Step Night with *Les Taiauts*, live country karaoke with the *Honky-Tonk Angels*. No cover. 7 p.m.

Pierces Hall, Putney, VT: Halloween show with "System of a Clown," "Fleetwood Mac," "Talking Heads," "Arthur Russell," many more. \$ 7 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Livingston Taylor, Kemp Harris*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hutghi's at the Nook, Westfield: *PWRUP, Film and Gender, Hell Beach, Robbery*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Misty Blues*. \$ 8 p.m.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Mind*

Left Body. \$ 8 p.m.

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Hiss Golden Messenger, Sylvie*. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Bombtrack, Rage Against the Machine* tribute. \$ 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

Mystery Train, Amherst: Free-stone or Ooze feat. *Witch Crystals, Dan Gay, Pudding Band, Primitive Accumulation, Rare Geese, Neomach*. Free. 5 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Little House Blues*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *The Wonder Yearz*. No cover. 7 p.m.

Institute for Musical Arts, Goshen: *Kimaya Diggs*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jimmy Just Quit*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Neon Wave, New Wave '80s monster bash*. \$ 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Lightning Bolt, Fred Cracklin*. \$ 8 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: Halloween show with "Wire," "The Cramps," "The G-Gos," DJs. \$ 8 p.m.

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Max Creek*. \$ 8 p.m.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Michelle*. \$ 8 p.m.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket:

Home Body. \$ 8:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Halloween show with "The Hives" (Perennial), "Josie & the Pussycats," "Sebadoh." \$ 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

Mystery Train, Amherst: Free-stone or Ooze feat. *Brian Dolzani, Fugue State, Samara Lubelski, Sunburned Hand of the Man, Federico Balducci, Dark Master*. Free. 5 p.m.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: Screening, *Night of the Living Dead* (1968), with discussion to follow. No cover. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: Screenings, *Return of the Living Dead* (1985) and *Night of the Demons* (1988). No cover. 7 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Landowner, The Leafies You Gave Me, Hedgewitch*. \$ 8 p.m.

Hutghi's at the Nook, Westfield: *Baba Commandant & the Mandingo Band, Junk Orbit*. \$ 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

Bookends, Florence: Halloween show with "Daniel Johnston," "Fleetwood Mac," "Lana Del Rey," "The Scott Pilgrim Soundtrack," "Silver Jews." \$ 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Symphony Hall, Springfield: *Bob Dylan*. \$ 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Sundub*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Darlin'* (Wendy Eisenberg trio), *Hollow Deck*. No cover. 7 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Gary Higgins, Glenn Jones, Liam Grant*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Legend, Journey* tribute. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Leon Trout, Whalom Park*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Gaslight Tinkers, Jatoba*. \$ 8 p.m.

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Handsom Dick Manitoba, Claudia Malibu*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Clark Art Institute, Williamstown: *Miriam Elhajli, Tendai Muparutsa*. \$ 7 p.m.

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *B.C.U.C., DeeJay Theory*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Dead Street Dreamers, Red Herrings, WarGraves, The Flems*. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Chris Goudreau, Tony Batey, The Maladaptive, Frost Heaves & Hales*. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Screening, *Pink Floyd Live at Pompeii* (1972). \$ 5 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6

The Drake, Amherst: *Dinosaur Jr*. \$ 8 p.m.

looking forward...

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Nova Arts, Keene: *Ruth Garbus Trio, Joseph Allred*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club: *Little House Blues*. No cover. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Institute for the Musical Arts, Goshen: *Bridget St. John, Norma Dream*. \$ 7 p.m.

No Fun, Troy, NY: *Screaming Females, Dazy, Sunbloc*. \$ 7 p.m.

Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT: *Tool*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

Palladium, Worcester: *Fishbone, GZA*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Toubab Krewe*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Mount Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Claudia Schmidt & Sally Rogers*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Pharcyde*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

Daily Operation, Easthampton: *Armand Hammer*, special guests. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Mephiskapheles, The Prozacs, Threat Level Burgundy, Green Street Fiends*. \$ 8 p.m.



Carolyn Clark



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POLICE from B1



someone and then returning to the third floor with the attached male.

Tuesday, 7/5/16

5:06 p.m. Caller reports observing a male attempting to enter a residence on Eleventh Street; he seemed not to have any luck, and went over a porch railing and entered a window next door.

Sunday, 9/4/16

10:05 a.m. Caller reports that someone stole her double jogging stroller from her porch, and left an older single stroller there instead.

Saturday, 6/24/17

5:04 a.m. Caller states that an intoxicated male has been banging on her door all night. Caller just went on porch to see what he wanted, and he threw a shopping cart at her.

Monday, 10/9/17

6:30 p.m. Caller requesting to report theft of a car axle that was being stored in her unlocked, shared, enclosed porch.

Tuesday, 10/31/17

12:32 a.m. Caller reporting that his upstairs neighbor was pouring some sort of liquid onto his porch.

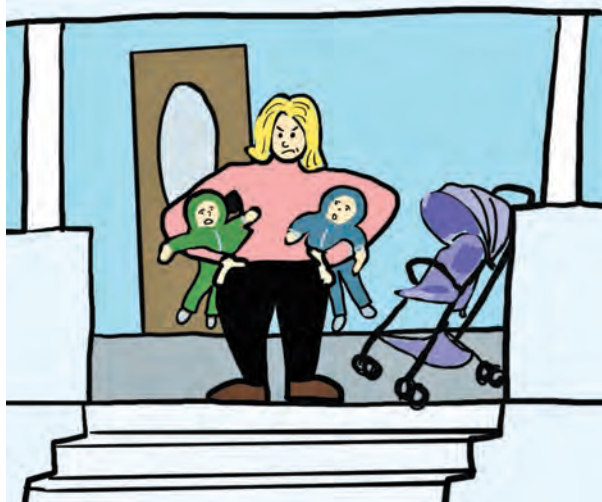
Tuesday, 11/7/17

1:22 p.m. Caller reports that the third-floor tenant is stomping and jumping in his apartment. Officer spoke with tenant, who advised that he was dancing. After clearing, the officer was flagged down by the caller advising that tenant is now outside on porch screaming. Officer observed tenant on porch smoking a cigarette, not

screaming or stomping.

Saturday, 1/20/18

10:14 a.m. Caller advises that someone has recently been stealing cigarette butts out of an ashtray on her porch.



Sunday, 5/20/18

12:31 p.m. Caller reports that the subject of a previous call just returned and is yelling from the porch. Officer advising that male is an invited guest to this location, and was on the porch "freestyle" rapping.

Tuesday, 6/19/18

7:04 p.m. Caller advising that her next-door neighbor is urinating off his back porch into the alley. Caller believes he is intoxicated.

Saturday, 9/8/18

10:30 p.m. Caller complaining of red pasta sauce being splashed all over her door, and a bed that she is storing on her porch being sliced and covered in the same red sauce.

Tuesday, 4/23/19

11:30 p.m. Caller reporting that parties are playing guitar and violin on

a second-floor porch on Avenue A and disturbing the peace.

Monday, 6/3/19

7:29 a.m. Caller states that she had just gone back into her house after getting her mail when she heard a woman run up onto her porch yelling at her and banging on the door. Woman then took the trash bag that was on the porch, spread the trash all over the porch and yard, and took her trash can lid before walking toward a house nearby.

Saturday, 5/2/20

1:20 p.m. Report of unwanted female sitting on caller's front porch rocking back and forth, possibly waiting for another tenant upstairs. On arrival, party was crying and

eating ice cream, but advised she is OK.

Wednesday, 7/15/20

1:39 p.m. Caller reporting that someone has cut the Christmas lights on her porch on two separate occasions.

Friday, 9/4/20

11:49 p.m. Caller states that there are kids playing ping pong and drinking beer across the street on the porch with the win-

dows open.

Wednesday, 11/17/21

8:31 p.m. Caller reporting that a male who does not live in the building is sitting on his porch. Caller asked what the party was doing, and he stated that he was "keeping busy."

Friday, 6/3/22

11:57 p.m. Caller states she was on her screen porch and heard a male on the phone comment, "Are you sure I am breaking into the right house?"

Thursday, 8/11/22

10:50 a.m. Caller states that a young male let himself into her screened-in porch and was speaking in a very pushy manner.

Wednesday, 9/21/22

4 p.m. Caller states there is a group of punks on the porch being loud and yelling using cuss words.

Monday, 11/21/22

9:52 p.m. 911 caller requesting officer as her neighbor is banging on the walls and screaming. Involved party threw milk all over the porch of the apartment complex.

Thursday, 12/22/22

11:02 p.m. Caller states his Amazon package containing cough drops was stolen off the back porch.

Tuesday, 2/1/23

11:38 a.m. Caller states that her boyfriend went outside to sit on the back porch last night around 10:30 p.m., and when she went out to check on him a few minutes later, he was gone. Caller called back to say he is home now and seems OK.

Saturday, 4/22/23

7:12 a.m. Caller reports his neighbor is building something on his porch. The pounding noise woke him.



VALLEY VIEW from page B1

Benjamin Waite (often spelled "Wait") and neighbor Stephen Jennings, who became the first Englishmen to paddle the Lake George-Lake Champlain water route to Canada. Their mission was to find their way there, negotiate the release of their families, and bring them home.

When they reached Albany, after much official maneuvering, Waite and Jennings secured the assistance of a Mohawk warrior, who delivered them through deep snow to Lake George's frigid southern shore on December 10. There the Native warrior equipped them with a canoe and sketched out the Lake George-Lake Champlain route to Canada on a piece of birchbark before bidding them *adieux*.

The Hatfield adventurers made it to Lake Champlain on December 16 and reached the Canadian frontier around January 6. In Quebec they negotiated the release of 17 surviving captives and were homeward bound on May 2, 1678. By May 23 they had reached Albany, where they rested while awaiting the arrival of a Hatfield escort team to help them home.

As my eighth-great-grandfather, Brave Benjamin Waite gives me English roots that grow no deeper in the Lake George/Lake Champlain corridor. In my world that's a spiritual connection – one that pales in comparison to that of Native Americans who greeted Europeans to this continent, and even to the Frenchmen who had beat the English to these North Country lakes by about 70 years.

Waite is one of many genealogical links that I and many other locals with early Connecticut Valley lineage share with Lake George colonials. They start with Waite and Jennings, continue with early 18th-century woodsmen and scouts like Captain Martin Kellogg, and intensify during the mid-18th century with the likes of Martin Severance, Agrippa Wells, and Moses Harvey, to name only a few.

On their heels came a new breed of pugnacious Scots-Irishmen who marched with (Robert) Rogers' Rangers, and whose families populated inland New Hampshire and the earliest Colrain and Pelham settlements. Many soldiers from old, established Connecticut Valley families joined these Rangers

and stayed with them right through to the conclusion in 1763 of the Seven Years' War, which ended some 75 years of the so-called French and Indian Wars.

Today these colonial warriors, saluted for their rugged individualism, hatred of Red Coats, and healthy mistrust in government, lie in their final resting places, their graves marked by simple slate stones in our oldest burial grounds. Many of them were known soon after the Revolution for rejecting Federalism, which they saw as a breeding-ground for a new American aristocracy, and supporting Shays' Rebellion.

I'm thankful that an evening text and trip to Lake George opened an old historical vein that loves to bleed, and brought me back to a place where my earliest North American ancestors braved the storm of colonial war. I'm also thankful that this exploration led me to new, exciting information about an early Bloody Brook (South Deerfield) settler named William Anderson, who has for decades been a fascination of mine.

Anderson is said by Deerfield historian George Sheldon to have arrived on these shores as a Scottish soldier under British General James Abercrombie (1706-81), who arrived in 1757. Abercrombie's claim to shame was his defeat as commanding officer at the siege of Fort Carillon, later Ticonderoga. There, on July 8, 1758, despite leading nearly 16,000 soldiers who greatly outnumbered the French, he suffered a humiliating defeat he would never live down, losing more than 2,000 soldiers in the process.

Anderson, a survivor, returned to Carillon a year later, this time under Lord Jeffery Amherst, who defeated the French and captured the fort. Five years later, according to Sheldon, the soldier from Dunfermline, Scotland, was settled at "the Old Anderson Place" in Bloody Brook, which may be so. Thus far, however, despite diligent searches, I have been unable to pin down the location.

Fresh genealogical information indicating that Anderson's given surname was "Jansson," not Anderson, may help me solve the vexing mystery.

Then again, maybe not.



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