

# The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 11, 2024

## MOON DIMS SUN



Bethany, Jay, Kable (seated), and baby Avalyn Demers were among the hundreds who watched Monday's partial solar eclipse from the lawn of the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. "This is my first ever time," said Kable, who wore a homemade moon-and-sun-themed mask with safety glasses installed.



As the new moon began to block the edge of the sun, visitor services supervisor Janel Nockleby showed Catherine and Emily Cuff a neat trick: projecting the shrinking crescents of sunlight through the holes in a colander. "The goal of this was to provide a free and safe experience to park visitors and families," Nockleby told the Reporter; the event was advertised on the state Department of Conservation and Recreation website. "Free parking in Turners Falls, free safety glasses, a big open field..." Organizers distributed 254 pairs of eclipse-viewing glasses, she said, estimating that an additional 100 to 200 people stopped by.



Muskan, Shabina, and Idris said they had been looking for an open space to view the eclipse and found the Turners Falls event online, and hadn't run into bad traffic on their drive up from West Springfield. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime event," said Idris.



Reader Ann Ferguson sent photos from a smaller viewing party on the lawn of the Leverett Village Co-Op. In Montague and Leverett, the sun was only about 95% eclipsed by the moon, resulting in strange shadows and a few minutes of quiet dimness. Many local residents drove north to Vermont and upstate New York, seeking instead to experience the total eclipse. (See Page A5 for more coverage.)

### MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## New Methods Of Calculating Sewer Bills May Be On Horizon

By JEFF SINGLETON

Monday night was a historic night at the Montague selectboard meeting as the board approved all requested sewer bill abatements, as proposed by Clean Water Facility (CWF) superintendent Chelsey Little, for the first time in recent memory. The reductions in ten biannual sewer bills has helped raise questions about how those bills are calculated, which, Little told this newspaper, will be up for reconsideration soon.

At the April 8 meeting the board also reviewed lengthy lists of CWF projects and grant proposals, along with a five-year capital plan, and approved an annual town meeting warrant of 25 articles.

The basis for the abatement decisions is the town's formula for calculating sewer bills, which takes each customer's water usage the previous winter and multiplies it by a rate adopted each October. Winter water usage, as reported by the water departments – there are two in Montague – is used because summer usage would be heavily influenced by the watering of lawns, which does not correlate well with sewer usage.

This means that the "first half" bills covering the period of July through December 2024 are based on multiplying water usage from October 2022 through March 2023 by

see MONTAGUE page A8

### LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

## Board Seeking To Clarify Rules For Meeting Participation

By GEORGE BRACE

At their meeting on Tuesday, Leverett's selectboard reviewed the articles to be voted on by residents at the annual town meeting later this month, and discussed updating the protocols for public participation at its own meetings.

The warrant for the Saturday, April 27 town meeting includes the overall town budget and numerous articles appropriating funds for purposes not included in the budget, directing the activities of town bodies, and authorizing town departments to enter into various agreements. It also includes a resolution concerning the war in Gaza.

Two articles address the Amherst Regional School District's request for an 8.2% budget increase for FY'25. One would amend the agreement among the four towns in the district, replacing the maximum annual increase in each town's assessment from 4% to 8.2%; the second would add an additional

see LEVERETT page A5

### GILL SELECTBOARD

## Town Declines Old House

By MIKE JACKSON

The house at 19 Boyle Road, bequeathed last fall to the town of Gill by the late Renee Jenkins, will remain with her heirs after a vote Monday night by the selectboard to "unequivocally renounce and disclaim" the town's interest in the property.

The board's unanimous decision came despite the news that an abutter with a longstanding bound-

ary dispute, Jenkins's neighbor Sue Kramer, had officially withdrawn an earlier request that the town flip her the gifted lot.

"To me it's really a trap," said Bob Perry of West Gill Road, a member of the historical commission who emphasized that he was commenting in a personal capacity. "I don't know if you can even make a donation if the thing that you're donating, it's see GILL page A6

## School Closing Up Shop, Leaving Riverside Building



After this semester the school will no longer operate in the Riverside Municipal Building.

By JEFF SINGLETON

GILL – Hattie Adastra, the director of the Four Winds School in the Riverside neighborhood, opened the front door and invited me in to the building. "I'll be with you in a few minutes, take a look around," she said, returning to a classroom to work with students on their morning projects.

This was not exactly your typical

middle school – Adastra had bare feet – but with maps, art, books, and several large fossilized rocks created 200 million years ago crowding the hallway there appeared to be the opportunity for a lot of active learning.

When Adastra returned from her teaching duties, she gave me a quick tour of the hall and of the school's two rooms, one she called the "main classroom" and the other

see FOUR WINDS page A4

## Tech Support for Seniors Tip of the Service Iceberg



Franklin County Technical School students Theo Shanahan of Orange (left) and Danielle Walker of Vermont (right) help a patron at the Gill-Montague senior center.

By LEE WICKS

TURNERS FALLS – These days we're awash in bad news about teens who reportedly lack focus and ambition as they stare at their little screens, playing violent video games. This stereotype doesn't hold up if you take a close look at some of the teens in our community.

When I went to the Gill-Montague senior center to meet some

of the students from the Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) who are participating in the digital equity program, I encountered soft-spoken, serious young people who were delighted to be helping older adults. They said they appreciated the opportunity to practice the professional skills they were learning at school.

Theo Shanahan from Orange was see TECH page A4

### Everything's Old News By Thursday Anyway

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# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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August 2002

## 30: The Pipe

When Stubb had departed, Ahab stood for a while leaning over the bulwarks; and then, as had been usual with him of late, calling a sailor of the watch, he sent him below for his ivory stool, and also his pipe. Lighting the pipe at the binnacle lamp and planting the stool on the weather side of the deck, he sat and smoked.

In old Norse times, the thrones of the sea-loving Danish kings were fabricated, saith tradition, of the tusks of the narwhale. How could one look at Ahab then, seated on that tripod of bones, without be-thinking him of the royalty it symbolized? For a Khan of the plank, and a king of the sea, and a great lord of Leviathans was Ahab.

Some moments passed, during which the thick vapor came from his mouth in quick and constant puffs, which blew back again into

his face. "How now," he soliloquized at last, withdrawing the tube, "this smoking no longer soothes. Oh, my pipe! hard must it go with me if thy charm be gone! Here have I been unconsciously toiling, not pleasuring – aye, and ignorantly smoking to windward all the while; to windward, and with such nervous whiffs, as if, like the dying whale, my final jets were the strongest and fullest of trouble. What business have I with this pipe? This thing that is meant for serenity, to send up mild white vapors among mild white hairs, not among torn iron-grey locks like mine. I'll smoke no more –"

He tossed the still lighted pipe into the sea. The fire hissed in the waves; the same instant the ship shot by the bubble the sinking pipe made. With slouched hat, Ahab lurchingly paced the planks.

## Coalition Rallies Against Large-Scale Storage

On Saturday, April 20, the Solar Rollers, a hardy group of bicycle activists whose first ride in May 1978 from Leverett, MA to Seabrook, NH protested the construction of twin nuclear reactors in Seabrook, will reunite 45 years later for a Connecticut River Earth Day Ride from Greenfield to Northfield, calling for the permanent shutdown of FirstLight's Northfield Mountain pumped hydro station.

They won't be alone.

Inviting all interested to join them, the Solar Roller bicycle riders will depart from a send-off rally on the Greenfield Town Common from 9 to 10 a.m., then be greeted by a rally of local supporters at the riverside next to Unity Park in Montague at 11 a.m.

From there, the ride continues on to the Northfield Riverview Picnic Area (144 Pine Meadow Road, Northfield), where the Rollers and friends will be welcomed by supporters for a 1 p.m. rally.

At noon, a procession of walkers will join the action, starting at Cabot Camp beneath the French King Bridge and following River Road to the Riverview Picnic Area next to the river intake of the pumped storage station.

"This facility could never be licensed today," said Solar Roller David Detmold, of Montague. "Northfield Mountain pumps the Connecticut River backwards for three miles each night, killing fish and all life

forms in the river, in order to release that water from an upper reservoir at times of peak demand and peak profit. Northfield Mountain kills millions of fish and pumps millions of dollars out of our local economy each year for the sole benefit of FirstLight's owner, a Canadian pension firm, PSP Investments. Northfield Mountain consumes more power than it produces every day it operates. For the health of our river, Northfield Mountain should be shut down immediately."

Along with lead organizers Connecticut River Defenders (*ctriverdefenders.org*), supporters of the Solar Roller River Ride include Wendell's No Assault & Batteries (*NABUnited.org*), working against a proposed 100-megawatt electric battery storage project in Wendell, and residents of Shutesbury and Amherst opposing massive clear-cutting of forests for industrial solar installations.

Court Dorsey from Wendell's NAB said: "We reject corporate energy projects that destroy our environment and endanger local resources – and populations – for private profit. We say, 'No false climate solutions. Let's talk about safer alternatives.'"

The rain date for the bicycle ride, walking procession, and rallies will be Sunday, April 21.

**Gary Seldon, Greenfield Connecticut River Defenders**



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Culinary instructor Mitarbo Kelly oversees Hunter Pratt's lunch prep in the Franklin County Technical School kitchen. The school's Apprentice Restaurant is open to the public for lunch on Wednesdays and Thursdays, and serves breakfast on Fridays.

## Letters to the Editors

### Dog Walkers, Beware!

Ours is a pleasant neighborhood. Except when it isn't.

The other day while I was walking with Kobi on "The Hill," a van pulled up next to us and the irate driver accused me of failing to pick up Kobi's poops which, the driver said, were next to his fence.

The fact is that I have never, ever failed to take Kobi's poops home with me, even when in the woods! I even showed this angry man what I had dangling in its bag from my carryall.

"Well, you may have picked it up this time," he shouted, "but I have you on camera and I'm having a DNA test done!" (Camera? DNA? Really?)

My reply went unheard as he sped off, which is just as well.

It ruffles to be so conscientious and still be accused of someone else's misdeeds by someone so beside himself with rage. His reaction, even had I been guilty, was out of all proportion to what was surely simply an annoying and unhygienic situation, one that happens occasionally on my own lawn as well.

I tried to remember that we are sometimes scapegoats for what is very wrong in another's life, even when we feel the injustice of it. But the news is full of the increasing lack of civility in this country, and I am ashamed to admit that I immediately linked this coronary candidate to a certain political party. But I did. So sue me.

And, dog walkers, please pick up the poop. We are all blamed when you don't.

**Lyn Clark Turners Falls**

### Cries of Wonder, Delight

A howl of pain, an orgasmic moan, a startled gasp: three visceral, unlearned human sounds. Apparently there is at least one more: the involuntary cry of wonder and delight humans make when our lunar neighbor obliterates our source of life.

Many hundreds of people, relaxed and uncrowded in a wide open field, were playing cards, lining up patiently for the three porta-potties, sharing telescopes, drinking the craft beer of the hosting brewery, exclaiming at the audacity of my companion's sequin-covered Mardi Gras shirt.

And then I heard it: a little girl's high-pitched shriek, "I SEE IT! It's happening! Look, everyone, it's happening!" Will she remember this moment and revel in totality again when she'll be around 24 in 2044?

It was my first, and probably my last, dive into midday darkness. Of course I had read all the descriptions of what I was about to see: gob-smacking, life-changing, awe-inspiring. As one of the least spiritual or

religious people you'll ever meet, I wondered, perplexed.

So, no, those aren't the words I would use to describe the next two minutes. But I was absolutely unprepared for the tears that flooded my eyes at the exact moment of totality. With my sight-saving glasses removed, I leaned back to brace myself against the car, and retreated far within myself to just look – and feel.

Feel what? I'm not sure. Maybe a kinship with vast numbers of fellow human beings throughout millennia. Maybe a powerful sense that the universe works as it should.

I set aside the why and the how to simply notice my enormous appreciation for the randomness of being alive coupled with the gift of consciousness and the privilege of understanding what was happening. And to simply experience what for me was a deep and inexplicable peace.

**Maggie Sadoway Turners Falls**

## Smith Calls Out ASBMB

According to the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, in describing the Socratic Method of Inquiry, "The process is not unlike the preparation, review, response and revision of a scientific manuscript. The goal of the Socratic method is to strip away illogical, inconsistent, irrelevant and unsupported claims and ideas, thereby revealing truth."

No, the Socratic Method is most certainly not this. The Socratic Method pertains to philosophy

alone, and has no bearing on scientific inquiry.

The "Society" knows this fully well. They are conflating science and philosophy, using the double negative "not unlike" as a consciously constructed way of opening the door to pseudo-science which is acceptable and legal. This is *always* part of a developing, illegitimate and criminal authoritarian regime.

**Kevin J. Smith Greenfield**

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

The corner storefront space at 102 Avenue A in downtown Turners Falls, recently vacated by Buckingham Rabbits Vintage, is getting ready to open as a new art gallery and shop called **Waterway Arts**.

A link on the gallery's Instagram page @waterway\_arts leads to an application for artists and crafters to apply to the gallery, either as consignors or to rent wall and shelf space. Apply to the first round by May 1 at [tinyurl.com/waterway-art](http://tinyurl.com/waterway-art).

The **Greenfield Community College Community Chorus** will present a full performance called "Of Seasons and Singing" this Friday, April 12, at 7:30 p.m. at Saints James and Andrew Church in Greenfield. Margery Heins will conduct, and Meg Reilly will accompany at the piano.

The program includes madrigals and rounds about the pleasures of singing as well as other music on the subject. This is the group's first hour-length concert. Admission is free, with donations welcome.

Experience award-winning **authors and musicians, puppetry, circus performances** on an outdoor stage, and hours of fun for all ages as "Meltdown: The River's Family Music and Book Bash" returns for the second year in a row to Hawks & Reed and the Greenfield common from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. this Saturday, April 13.

This annual family event sponsored by the radio station WRSI is free, and this year features music from The Rockin' Puppies, the Deedle Deedle Dees, Marsha and

the Positrons, and readings from locally and nationally-recognized storytellers like Mk Smith Despres, Molly B. Burnham, Kaliis Smith, and Hannah Moushabeck.

Offerings include crafting workshops by Annaleah Moon Studios, a book fair with the Imaginary Bookshop, and gymnasts from SHOW Circus Studio, who will perform at Court Square all day.

Food will be available from Mohawk Falafel and Shawarma, Vegan Pizza Land, and Cocina Lupita, with frozen treats by Bart's Ice Cream and Crooked Stick Pops. For more information, visit [rivermeltdown.com](http://rivermeltdown.com).

The **Montague Common Hall Open Mic** returns this Saturday, April 13 with a program titled "Echoes of David Kaynor."

Fiddlers Susan Conger and Rebecca Weiss, mandolinist Mike Reddig, and pianist Becky Hollingsworth will perform a remembrance of Kaynor, a longtime Montague resident and fiddler and dance caller who passed away in 2021. Enjoy double fiddle harmonies à la Kaynor. Friends and musical associates are invited to come up and join the featured performers.

The evening also includes the usual open mic performances, with signup beginning at 6:15 p.m. The event runs from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., and donations are encouraged.

Next Wednesday, April 17 at 4 p.m., **Sheryl Faye will appear as Queen Elizabeth II** at the Montague Center library.

The announcement reads, "In her one-woman shows Faye immerses the audience in a multimedia learning experience that captivates

viewers and sparks their interest to explore more. Join us for scones, cucumber sandwiches, and a visit with royalty!" The show is free.

Learn about reptile species from four different continents, find out what makes each one unique, and meet some lizards! The New Salem Public Library will present **The Reptile Nook's World of Lizards** with master herpetologist Jessica Decoteau next Thursday, April 18, at 4 p.m.

This program will last approximately 75 minutes, and is suitable for families with school-aged children, tweens, teens, and adults.

Discover how Eastern European immigrant families influenced and enhanced life in the Connecticut River Valley at a family craft event next Friday, April 19 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls. Join Helena Alves and Patty Solomon from the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association to **explore pysanky egg painting and paper cutting designs**. You can even dress up in period costumes and take a selfie!

All ages are welcome. Meet in the Great Hall.

The state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) will hold a **Park Service Day** at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls on Saturday, April 20 from 10 a.m. to noon. Lend a hand with clean up duties around the grounds of the center. Bring water and snacks, and meet at the main entrance. Register at [mass.gov/info-details/dcr-park-serve-day](http://mass.gov/info-details/dcr-park-serve-day). For ages 6 and up.

The Montague Elks Lodge in Turners Falls will hold a **Pancake Breakfast** on Sunday, April 21 from 8 to 11 a.m. for the benefit of the Friends of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter. The cost is \$10 per adult, \$7 per child.

The Aubuchon store in Turners Falls is also fundraising for the dog shelter during the month of April: round up your purchases to the

nearest dollar to benefit the shelter.

On the weekend of April 20 and 21, a special showing of **oil paintings of figs** by Susan Valentine will be on view at Leverett Crafts & Arts from 1 to 6 p.m. each day. The realist painter was inspired by the figs at Dancing Bear Farm in Leyden for the work in this new series. Preview the work at [susanvalentine.art](http://susanvalentine.art).

**Write your own obituary** with Trouble Mandeson on Tuesday, April 23 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Greenfield YMCA social room. "Your obituary can be serious, humorous, even snarky. There aren't any hard and fast rules," Mandeson writes. She has served as a hospice volunteer for nearly 20 years and also writes the monthly Heartfelt Café food column for the *Montague Reporter*. The workshop costs \$10.

The 33rd annual **Poet's Seat Poetry event** is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the Greenfield Public Library. Finalists from the three categories (adult, youth ages 12 to 14, and youth ages 15 to 18) will read their winning submissions, and finalists and prizes will be announced.

This contest draws poets from across Franklin County, and the adult winner takes home the Poet's Seat chair for a year. Refreshments will be provided by the Stoneleigh Burnham School.

Learn about how engineering, forestry, wildlife and aquatic biology, carpentry, mowing and snowplowing come together to protect the water supply of over three million people in Massachusetts. The New Salem Public Library will present the **Quabbin Reservoir & Watershed Protection Program** on Tuesday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m. Maria Beiter-Tucker of the Massachusetts Division of Water Supply and Protection will talk about watershed protection, and DCR's role.

Send your local briefs to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

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OP ED

# A Plea On Behalf of the People of Gaza

By GURUJIMA

**LEVERETT** – The Gaza Committee of the Village of Light Ashram, located in Leverett, is sponsoring the following Resolution for consideration by Leverett's Town Meeting on April 27. We invite Leverett residents to support this resolution, and urge residents of other communities to consider expressing themselves in similar ways.

**Resolution:**

We come before the Annual Town Meeting in the hope that now is the time that we, as a town, can support a resolution for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza in order to end the killing of innocents, and to provide for the basic needs of the people of Gaza. While recognizing the right of Israel to defend itself and to exist in safety, we wish to support the creation of an alternative to further decimation of the Gazan people.

We propose that Leverett follow the examples of Somerville, Cambridge, and Medford in eastern Massachusetts, of Greenfield, Am-

herst, and Northampton in western Massachusetts, and of more than 70 cities across the country in relation to this resolution. Outlined below are some of the reasons why an immediate and permanent ceasefire is needed, and a cessation of Israel's intention to continue its warfare in Gaza. In making this proposal we are expressing our desire to not be silent nor complicit in witnessing the great harm being done to a people through actions that are justified by the "right to self-defense," but for which this right could be expressed in other less catastrophic ways. We believe that an alternative can be found to continued violence.

*Why An Immediate and Permanent Cease Fire is Needed:*

1. One quarter of the population in Gaza is now starving and the rest are suffering from deep hunger, and yet food and medical supplies are still being withheld at the borders, and those supplies that do get through cannot reach all the people in need because of repetitive bombing of thoroughfares.

2. More than eighty percent of the world's population living in famine

areas is now located in Gaza.

3. Of the more than thirty thousand people now noted as deceased as a result of Israel's actions, nearly half of them are children.

4. More than sixty percent of the homes of Gazans have been totally destroyed, and 1.9 million people have been displaced, with most having no place to return to.

5. Clean drinking water is now almost inaccessible, or accessible only with great difficulty. Disease is rampant and is being promoted in this way.

6. Hospitals have been destroyed and medical supplies have disappeared so that pregnant women who have complex deliveries do not have emergency medical treatment available, and those with wounds to portions of their body due to the bombing, must undergo surgery without anesthesia.

In the presence of such great harm that is being enacted toward a people as a whole, we feel compelled to take a stand and say that these actions are against life itself, and against the furtherance of life for the Palestinian people. We must

take this stand as a result of the promptings of our hearts and conscience, and ask that the Town of Leverett consider taking this stand as well. Moral accountability requires this of us, lest, through our silence, we give tacit support to that which must not go unaddressed. Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Leverett, Massachusetts, proposes to the Biden Administration that this Administration take a strong moral and humanitarian stand in favor of an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza. While recognizing the right of Israel to defend itself and to exist in safety, we wish to see an end to the killing of innocents and the creation of an alternative to further decimation of the Gazan people.

*GurujiMa is the Teacher for the Village of Light Ashram, the residence of Light Omega. You can read more about the ashram and Light Omega at [www.lightomega.org](http://www.lightomega.org). For further information, contact [ashram@villageoflight.org](mailto:ashram@villageoflight.org) or (413) 253-8901.*

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### TECH from page A1

helping someone learn how to use her iPad. "It makes me happy to help people stay in touch with family," he said, "and share news and pictures."

I watched students take apart a computer, locate a dead battery, check all connections, and more. Two showed a woman how to operate a notebook, and then wrote all the directions out in case she needed to reference them when she got home.

They were caring, professional and kind.

When I visited the Northfield senior center, director Colleen Letourneau showed me the raised planters that students from the tech school had built near their outdoor pavilion, and described a recent cooking demonstration from students in the school's Culinary Arts program. The culinary students also practice their skills at the Bernardston senior center.

According to the FCTS annual report, the Culinary Arts program gave a presentation on crêpes for the Northfield senior center, and provided a holiday luncheon for the Montague Housing Authority.

They served the Erving Ladies' Red Hat Society for a Valentine's Day luncheon, created ice carvings for the annual Winter Festival in Greenfield, and hosted the annual Chamber of Commerce breakfast, a regional school resource officers' breakfast, the Superintendents' Award Dinner, the Light Up the Fairgrounds breakfast, and the annual National Honor Society's luncheon.

And they run the Apprentice Restaurant on the tech school campus. Want to sample their cooking? Go to [www.fcts.us/apps/pages/Culinary\\_Menu](http://www.fcts.us/apps/pages/Culinary_Menu) and make a reservation for breakfast or lunch. The menu is tempting, and the prices are reasonable.

And while you are on the website, check out the photos of the different shops.

"We currently have 13 shops, with the new Aviation shop coming on next year," Cyndi Bussey, M.Ed., instructor of programming and web design at FCTS, told me, "and community service is an important aspect of them all."

A list of all of FCTS's service initiatives would be too lengthy for this



Franklin Tech programming and web design instructor Cyndi Bussey (top) and student Matthew Richards of Turners Falls help out at the senior center last month.

column, though they merit stories of their own. For now, I'm concentrating on direct services for older adults. I hope readers remember these students and their good work when daily news leads to despair or a conversation about young people becomes negative. These young people are all over Franklin County, lending a hand and making a difference:

- The Programming and Web Design students working with the Montague senior center helped to develop a website for the UCC Church in Conway. One student is also working with the First Congregational Church in Ashfield, and coordinates the video and audio for their online services.
- The Landscaping and Horticultural

department worked with the town of Shelburne in the consultation and design of a pocket park, the Source to Sea annual cleanup, tree planting at the Franklin County Fairgrounds, beautification design projects, and fence repair.

They made wreaths for the Conway covered bridge, worked at the Shelburne Hills Cemetery for fall cleanup, consulted on design for Veteran's Memorial in Pelham and the Peskeomskut Park signage in Turners Falls, and planted trees in the villages of South Deerfield and Turners Falls.

Elsewhere in Montague, they are working with the planning department on the Millers Falls trail modification.

- Students from the Welding

### FOUR WINDS from page A1

a "quiet room." Each Four Winds student develops a learning plan every two weeks, in consultation with the teacher, and is evaluated at the end of that period to see if they have achieved their goals.

The two classrooms, like the hall, are filled with art and books. There is a list of poetry by the writer Jack Kerouac on one bulletin board and a curtain that, when pulled aside, reveals a blackboard with drawings by alumni.

The Four Winds School, which has been offering "alternative education" to sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders from the region for 24 years, will be closing at the end of this school year due to declining enrollment. Adastra confirmed that at its peak the school averaged just over a dozen students, but that since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic enrollment, never robust, had fallen by half. This reporter counted seven students in the two classrooms.

Retaining students has never been easy. According to the Four Winds website the school started in a single room at Memorial Hall in Old Deerfield, with two students. While there is a small baseball field on its grounds, it does not offer sports, though Adastra noted that many of the students take advantage of youth leagues and other opportunities in the region. For years the school was staffed by a director and a teacher, but this year she has been covering both roles.

Riverside is a national historic district, and the building, constructed in 1926, is a former elementary school. In fact, the two-volume *History of Gill* indicates that the neighborhood, which grew in population when the

village of Turners Falls was created in the late 19th century, was probably the location of one-room elementary schools dating back as far as the late 18th century.

The "Riverside School," as the current building was called, closed in 1974, with its elementary students moving to the consolidated school on Boyle Road, which had opened in 1956. According to the *History*, there was a good deal of controversy over the school's closure – and over the transfer of the building from the school committee's care to that of the selectboard.

Gill town administrator Ray Purington, who provides staff support to the selectboard, and Kit Carpenter, the chair of the Gill historical commission, told us that no plans have yet been discussed by their committees for use of the spaces being vacated by Four Winds. The building also contains a museum under the control of the historical commission, currently open only by appointment, and a small office used by the neighborhood water district.

"At this point it's just an acknowledgment that Four Winds is leaving, and we need to have more discussion of what comes next," said Purington.

I asked Adastra about helping students plan for the transition to new schools, either public or private, next year. She told us that she generally distributed information and consulted with eighth-grade students and their parents each year about their options in the region. "Now I am going to have to do it for all the students," she said.

And how are students reacting to the news that the school will close this year? "Kids are sad," Adastra said, "and they hang around more than they used to."

program repaired the iron gate at Highland Cemetery in Millers Falls. They are also making a bench to be located at the French King Bridge in Erving, and are in discussion with the High Street Cemetery in Greenfield to restore their gates.

- The Health Technology program has run public blood pressure clinics and a nail clinic at the Erving senior center, volunteered at the Arbors and Regal Care in Greenfield, collected items for a hygiene drive, worked at the Ja'Duke preschool observing child development and the creation of activities, and helped serve holiday meals at the Stone Soup Café in Greenfield.

- The Cosmetology program continues to provide services for residents of the Poet's Seat nursing home, Linda Manor, the Quabbin Valley Nursing Home, and the Bernardston senior center.

That's an impressive list, and it only partially covers all the services. Everyone worries about taxes – especially older adults living on fixed incomes – so it is great to know that FCTS is growing, educating, and helping towns save money.

According to the annual report, these shop programs saved towns an estimated \$100,000. "FCTS has the advantage of utilizing vocational students and licensed instructors from carpentry, electrical, plumbing, landscaping, and advanced precision machining to provide maintenance and repairs to the school grounds and facility," the report says, "saving member towns tens of thousands of dollars annually. And FCTS has received more than \$6.2 million in grants over the last six years without using tax dollars from member communities."

I didn't start out wanting to write a PR piece about the tech school – I went to the Gill Montague senior center to observe a few students in action, and they captured my interest. After living in Montague for more than 30 years, I still didn't realize the scope of FCTS. Now I have a better idea.

What an amazing resource for everyone, especially older adults who sometimes need help – and hope. These young people are providing both.



### ANNOUNCEMENT

## Meetinghouse Event Honors Everett Ricketts

**WENDELL** – Next Tuesday, April 16 at 6:15 pm, Gail Mason will convene the first event in the Wendell Meetinghouse's 2024 "Honoring Local Elders" series. April's honoree is Everett Ricketts, former Wendell Fire Chief, scout leader, and committed community volunteer.

Community members are invited to come and share stories, memories, and appreciations of Ricketts' many contributions to local communities and the region. The event is free and open to the public. After expenses, all donations will go to the Meetinghouse to support renovations and programming.

For more information on the event, contact Gail at [rushingwaters01@gmail.com](mailto:rushingwaters01@gmail.com). For information on the Meetinghouse and its programming, contact Court Dorseley at [courtcdorseley@gmail.com](mailto:courtcdorseley@gmail.com) or see [www.wendellmeetinghouse.org](http://www.wendellmeetinghouse.org).

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**LEVERETT** from page A1

\$64,721 in tax money to what is already included in the town budget, resulting in the 8.2% increase.

Another article would transfer \$11,000 from the town's free cash account to continue a mosquito surveillance program. Board member Melissa Colbert said this program began three years ago, partly in response to Leverett not being allowed to "opt out" of potential aerial pesticide spraying by the state.

Colbert added that while no mosquito-borne viruses had been found to date, she felt it "would be better to know" of a threat and "deal with it appropriately than to not know." While the future of pesticide spraying and towns' ability to opt out was unclear, she said, data from the program could give the town "fuel to push back" if necessary.

Board member Patricia Duffy said that the fact that the diseases in question affect an older demographic more harshly was a good reason for Leverett to support the article.

Chair Tom Hankinson said he had come to the same conclusions.

Other articles spending from free cash included \$6,500 for assessing software; \$4,853 to resolve a deficit in the police department's "bullet-proof vest account"; \$5,000 for a new copier at the town hall; \$5,930 for new rain gutters on the library; \$4,500 to fund assessments of historical properties; and \$41,000 toward the town's capital plan.

Another article requests \$85,000 from the stabilization fund to refurbish a highway department dump truck, and several others pertain to the use of Community Preservation Act revenue.

The warrant includes a resolution calling on the Biden administration to "take a strong moral and humanitarian stand in favor of an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza."

After making minor revisions to the draft warrant, the board approved it, as well as funding for childcare at town meeting.

**Fair Vs. Efficient**

Responding to concerns some residents have expressed about fairness, the selectboard discussed updating its own meeting protocols. Members expressed a desire to promote participation while remaining able to get their work done efficiently.

An outline of the revised policies was posted on the agenda, defining when public comment would be allowed and how it would be conducted. The proposed guidelines included a two-minute limit on comments and only allowing each resident to speak once on each agenda item.

"People are concerned that the selectboard wants to be strict with this," Duffy began, "but I think the opposite is true." She said dialog with residents is "really helpful," but that at times "a little guidance helps move things along." She also said these boundaries might be stated less "stringently" than in the draft guidelines.

Resident Carol Heim said she felt Leverett is a very democratic community, and that she highly values the amount of public participation it allows, but pointed out that under the state open meeting law the selectboard has the authority to decline public comment entirely. She said she had been surprised to learn this was the case, and suggested that it should be "put right out front," as others might not be aware of it.

Heim and others objected to a proposed change limiting discussion of "business" items to board members, and said she hopes the current practice of recognizing speakers at the chair's discretion during the meeting's "business" and "appointment" sections will continue.

Colbert said the board had heard residents' complaints that the current protocol was unclear, and the revisions were an attempt to rectify this while improving the board's ability to do its work. Leverett had a "very different practice" than most towns, she added, allowing for "the most open, the most public comment, during all parts of the meeting" out of 10 similar towns she looked at, but at times the board has difficulty accomplishing its business.

Hankinson commented that there was sometimes a "delicate balance" between stopping discussion and allowing it to go on, but that he "would rather it go too long than not long enough."

North Leverett resident Silas Ball asked why letters to the selectboard were not read as part of the meeting. Duffy responded that if the board were required to read them aloud, the practice could be used as harassment. She gave the example of someone sending in 50 letters. Residents, she added, could request that their letters be read.

Ball asked if copies of the letters could be made available at the meetings. Duffy responded that this would be unduly burdensome on town hall staff – giving another example, she said some mail involves documents 1,000 pages long – but again added that copies could be made available upon request.

Ball said the deadline of 11 a.m. Wednesday for items to be included on the following Tuesday's agenda "seemed like a stretch."

"It is," responded Hankinson, but "we have to live with it, too. We have the same problem – it's frustrating."

Hankinson said some of the suggestions made during Tuesday's discussion would be taken into account and that a new draft would be reviewed at the next meeting.

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**TOWN OF LEVERETT  
INVITATION FOR BIDS**

**Public Safety Complex and Library Parking Lots Paving**

The Town of Leverett is seeking bids for the final grading and paving of the municipal parking lots located at 75 and 95 Montague Road in Leverett. Bid documents and specifications are available by emailing [townadministrator@leverett.ma.us](mailto:townadministrator@leverett.ma.us). Sealed bids, plainly marked "PSC and Library Parking Areas Paving" will be accepted until May 1, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

There will be a **mandatory pre-bid meeting on Friday, April 19 at 10:00 a.m.** beginning in the parking lot at 95 Montague Road.

The contract will be awarded based on the estimated quantities provided times the price submitted. The vendor whose total is lowest for the combination of all items will be awarded unless the Town has a legitimate reason to not award to the low bidder.

The Town of Leverett reserves the right to reject any and all bids in whole or in part, and to waive irregularities and informalities, when at its sole discretion it is deemed to be in the best interest of the Town and to the extent permitted by law.

**Other Business**

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis informed the selectboard that a public survey was being created as an initial step in creating a joint digital equity plan with the town of Shutesbury. The purpose is to identify gaps in access to technology. McGinnis said part of the study would be evaluating the town website.

The board declared a list of unused items from town departments as surplus, allowing them to be claimed by other departments, sold at auction, or left at the transfer station.

The board also signed several taking documents related to the Millers Road bridge project.

The Leverett Community Builders group is sponsoring an Earth Day cleanup next Saturday, April 20. Volunteers will clean up neighborhood trash throughout Leverett and pile it on the roadside for transport by the highway department to the transfer station.

Fire chief Brian Cook and the town nurse are sponsoring a Narcan training event to be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 25 at the safety complex.

**FACES & PLACES**



"I have not ever been in a place that I could see an eclipse," Greenfield resident Dave Lewis told the Reporter. "And I'm 80. So I figure I'm saving these [glasses], 'cause in 20 years I'm going to be 100!"



ANN FERGUSON PHOTO

Left: Here's what the eclipse looked like at its peak to the naked eye – or at least to the camera – in Leverett.



JARED PEARSON IMAGE

Above: Jared Pearson of Wendell drove to about an hour north of Burlington, Vermont to catch the totality, which he filmed using a RED Komodo digital cinema camera with a 400mm lens. He shared this still frame with the Reporter.



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

"We live in Greenfield, but this is a nice open spot," said Sharon Roth, "and we like Turners.... We had debated going north. I sort of love that it's the eclipse that's grabbed everyone's attention, and not some stupid superstar. It's a natural event." "Considering we haven't heard much about the moon or anything in literally decades," Rich Roth added.



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Morning Star Chenven (left) and Moonlight Davis (right) rode to Turners for the event in electric-assisted recumbent bicycles. "This is my first ride on this kind of bike," Chenven said.

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MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

Project File No. 612982

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Bridge Replacement, Church Street over Keyup Brook project in Erving, MA.

WHEN: Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Erving - Bridge Replacement, Church Street over Keyup Brook project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** Church Street provides a connector from Route 2 to the south to North Street to the north. Church Street is a major collector with an existing speed limit of 25 mph. The existing roadway consists of 10 foot lanes with no shoulders and a 5-foot sidewalk to the west side of Church Street. There are no existing bike lanes at the roadway. The purpose of this project is to replace the existing bridge at Church Street Bridge over Keyup Brook which is in poor condition and has been reduced to one lane of traffic. Church Street is a small rural roadway with no areas within the existing right-of-ways to expand the street design to incorporate bike lanes or an additional sidewalk. The Town has no long-term plans (next 15 years) to construct sidewalks or bicycle facilities along the east side of North Street, the north side of Church Street or along either side of Highland Avenue.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Town is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to [MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 612982. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or post-marked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g. interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices, and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email ([MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us)). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult-to-arrange services including sign-language, CART, or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This hearing will be hosted, or a cancellation announcement posted, on the internet at [www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events).

JONATHAN GULLIVER  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEY, P.E.  
CHIEF ENGINEER

GILL from page A1

questionable that you even own it.”

“There’s a good percentage of the property that I think ownership comes into question,” said select-board chair Randy Crochier. “My feeling is that the property lines are not very clearly delineated.”

Though the house in question sits on 0.11 acres and the adjacent parcel is 15.11 acres – at least according to FY’23 assessment data – a small strip of disputed backyard may determine whether the latter includes enough frontage along the adjacent Cross Road for a buildable home lot.

Nevertheless, Kramer “said the town need not look into this any further,” town administrator Ray Purington reported, “and that she can hear all of us saying *phew*.”

Historical commission chair Kit Carpenter addressed a comment board member Greg Snedeker made at the previous meeting. “I noted that it was printed that the historical commission felt there was no historic value in the house,” she said. “That has a perfectly reasonable meaning, but I also wanted to emphasize that there’s a lot of history and value in the house, and the site.”

Carpenter said the commissioners have asked Jenkins’ survivors if they may videotape the house for their files. “We do, as a commission, plan to make some kind of tribute to the site,” she said, “and that includes the families who have been there.”

“This has a property issue that’s been kicked down the road for 150 years – or less – but it’s been left unresolved, and it seems to me that it’s getting dumped in Gill’s lap to re-

solve it,” Perry argued. “That’s not our business – that’s land court.”

Board member Charles Garbiel made a motion to disclaim the property, to “let the next of kin figure all that out.” The board voted unanimously to endorse a prepared legal disclaimer of the town’s “right, title, and interest in” the attempted gift.

**Town and Gown**

That teapot having been drained of its tempest, the selectboard turned to other matters, including a request by the Northfield Mount Hermon School to have Mount Hermon Road – the primary entrance and exit between its campus and Gill’s Main Road – discontinued as a public road.

“The school had concluded its recent campus security drills and analysis,” Purington explained. “One of the recommendations that came from the consultants out of that is the ability to control vehicular access to the campus is an important part of campus security in today’s world.”

As Mount Hermon Road is a county road, the request bypasses the town and will go to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, acting as county commissioners once did, though Purington noted that “the Council would be looking to the selectboard for some type of input.”

“If you were of a mind to want some kind of non-binding referendum from town meeting,” he added, “uh, today would be the day to decide that.”

The board discussed the pros and cons of the idea. Snedeker said he imagined the school would install gates and close them at night, and

Crochier said it might provide the fire department with emergency access via a “swipe or punch pad.”

“If it’s ever permanently closed,” Crochier said, “then people aren’t gonna be using Main Road. They’re not gonna go by Gill Tavern, they’re not gonna go by Uppingil, they won’t go by Danny [Flagg]’s farmstand.... Their new route goes up West Gill Road.”

The board gave Purington the nod to put an article about the closure on the annual town meeting warrant.

**Other Business**

The selectboard unanimously approved sending a request to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to recognize Gill as an intervenor in the final steps of FirstLight Power’s hydropower license renewals.

The town has already signed away its right to dispute the company’s proposed public recreation investments, and in signing the recreation settlement also waived its rights to dispute a separate settlement over river flows and fish passage.

The board unanimously approved buy orders locking in prices for diesel fuel and heating oil next year, and renewed the seasonal liquor license held by the Schuetzen Verein club.

This Saturday, April 13, anyone needing to get rid of a gun can exchange it for money between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at the Greenfield police station.

The following Saturday, April 20, the Gravestone Girls will give a presentation about the town’s cemeteries at 1 p.m. at the town hall.



## High School Sports Week: Turners and Tech Bats Show No Mercy

By MATT ROBINSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – After a freak ice storm, an earthquake, and a solar eclipse, the softball teams from Franklin Tech and Turners Falls High School finally hit the diamond. Since the eclipse both teams have been flying high, with consecutive double-digit wins for both teams.

The Turners Falls baseball team, meanwhile, evened their record courtesy of Athol’s late-game errors, and the Turners hybrid boys’ tennis team was stymied by the Christian Eagles.

**Softball**

*FCTS 12 – Wahconah 4*

The venue for Franklin Tech’s softball opener on Monday was changed – the diamond in Dalton was still hurting from weather-related damage, so the Wahconah Warriors came to Tech. The game started about 4:45 p.m., just as the eclipse was waning.

The first inning of the season went well for the Lady Birds as they shut down the Warriors’ top batters. In the bottom of the first, pitcher Hannah Gilbert cracked a line drive to the wall. Two runners scored, and Gilbert took third on the throw. Kylee Gamache came up next and batted Gilbert home, Gamache scored on an error, and after one complete Tech was on top 4-0.

In the second inning, two of the first three Eagle batters struck out, but it wasn’t enough: Kaitlin Trudeau hit a single, advanced on an error, and was batted home by Gilbert. Gamache then knocked in Gilbert, Kyra Goodell hit a triple, Goodell was batted home by Cordelia Guerin to make it 8-zip.

That’s when I headed to Turners High School to watch the Hopkins game.

In the circle, Gilbert allowed four runs on six hits and struck out 13 batters. At the plate she helped herself to three hits, including a double, and ended with three RBIs. Trudeau and Gamache had two hits apiece while Guerin, Gianna DiSciullo, Goodell, and Lilianna Inman each had one.

*TFHS 12 – Hopkins 0*

I arrived at the Turners/Hopkins game in the bottom of the second inning. By then the score was 3-0, Turners pitching phenom Madison Liimatainen had already amassed five strikeouts, and the sun was round again.

Turners added two more runs in the second, and Liimatainen struck out five more batters in the next two innings.

In the home fourth, Addison Talbot reached on an error and Mia Marigliano clocked a double to send her home. McKenzie Stafford then knocked in courtesy runner, Madison Dietz, to make it 8-0.

Thunder packed on three more runs in the fifth and another crossed the plate in the sixth, making the score 12-0, which mercifully ended the game.

Talbot (4), Liimatainen and Marigliano (3 each), Dietz, Holly Myers, and Autumn Thornton (2 each), and Marilyn Abarna and Anne Kolodziej (1 each) all hit for Blue, with Marigliano hitting two doubles and Liimatainen and Abarna shooting triples.

Liimatainen threw a one-hit shutout, walking three batters and striking out 16.

*TFHS 22 – Northampton 2*

The next day, the Thunder Ladies went down to Northampton to challenge the Blue Devils. Because of the enrollment discrepancy – 202 versus 849 – logic would have it that the bigger school would rout the smaller school, but it wasn’t the case. When the mercy rule kicked in in the fifth, Northampton was down by 20 runs.

The interesting part about this game is that Turners’ ace, Liimatainen, only pitched one inning. Seventh-grader Autumn Thornton took on pitching duties in the second inning. She struck out 10 players over five innings, allowing four hits, four walks, and two earned runs.

Thornton had three hits of her own at the plate, including a double, and batted in two runs.

Though she only pitched a single inning, Liimatainen was very active at the plate, racking up six hits, six RBIs, three doubles, and a home run. Kolodziej (2) and Marigliano, Myers, Dietz, Talbot, Abarna, and Ivy Lopez (1 each) all had hits for Powertown.

*FCTS 19 – Athol 3*

On Wednesday the Franklin Tech Eagles headed east to decimate the Athol Red Bears, 19-3.

Franklin hit a staggering 10 extra-base hits, scoring in every single inning. There was no need to play a complete game – after they piled on eight runs in the sixth, the mercy rule stopped the game.

Guerin, Trudeau, Gilbert, DiSciullo, Shelby O’Leary, Emma Petersen, and Alison George all hit doubles, Gamache hit two, and Trudeau hit a three-bagger. Gilbert allowed three runs on three hits, gave nine

bases on balls, and whiffed 16 Bears.

This Friday the Eagles welcome the Mohawk Trail Warriors on the home field.

*TFHS 19 – Frontier 0*

Meanwhile on Wednesday, the Turners ladies were down in South Deerfield, where they shut out the Frontier Red Hawks in yet another mercy-shortened contest.

This one was pretty much decided in the first inning, as 10 runs crossed the plate before the Hawks got their first at-bat. Blue scored eight more times in the third and put the cherry on the sundae in the fourth when their 19th run crossed the plate.

Frontier had one more chance to narrow the gap in the fifth inning, but Turners kept them off the board and the game was called early.

Seven Turners batters hit safely in this game, with Liimatainen hitting a double and a home run and Marigliano cracking a double. In the circle, Liimatainen scattered three hits, gave three walks, and K’d 14.

Blue Thunder hopes to get a little revenge for the state championship loss against their cross-river rivals when they visit Greenfield this Friday.

**Boys’ Tennis**

*Pioneer Christian 5 – TFHS 0*

On Tuesday the Turners Falls tennis team was out-swung by the Pioneer Valley Christian Eagles, 5-love. I watched the first sets before heading to the baseball game, and when I left, the Eagles were blanking Thunder on every court except first and second singles.

In first singles Mike Boyle, who won two games in the first

set, dropped the second extended set 7(7)-6(3). On the second court Noah Kolodziej won three games in the first set and two in the second, but likewise dropped his match 2-0.

John Carmichael was shut out 6-0, 6-0 in third singles while Vaughn LaValley and Mario Pareja dropped first doubles by the same scores. In the second doubles match, Max Briere and Lucas Black were blanked in the first set but they won two games in the second.

This Friday, the Boys in Blue welcome the Pope Francis Purple Cardinals.

**Baseball**

*TFHS 3 – Athol 2*

I got to the baseball diamond in the third inning on Tuesday and learned that Athol had just hit a two-run homer, giving the Red Bears a 2-nothing cushion. It didn’t look good for Blue, as Athol kept getting runners on base.

But while the Turners defense bent, it did not break, and going into the last half of the final inning the team was still only down by two runs. With their backs against the wall, the Thunder rallied, scoring three runs to steal the game 3-2 and evening their record to 1-1.

Although Turners only had four singles – from Dylon Richardson (2), Alex Quezada, and Joey Mosca – it was Athol’s five errors which led the Thunder to the winners bracket.

Mosca pitched six innings. He walked two, struck out eight, and allowed two earned runs.

Richardson came on in the seventh inning and shut the door, walking one batter, striking one out, and earning the honors as the game’s winning pitcher.

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## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# Town to Vote on Raw Battery Bylaw; Wayward War Memorial Will Return

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Retired police officer and California resident Jim Gillio Zoomed to the Wendell selectboard's April 3 meeting to offer the town a World War II memorial. Gillio said he had found it in disrepair on Facebook Marketplace, and contacted the owner in Arizona. He then learned there are five Wendells in the United States, and contacted them all.

In Wendell, North Carolina, Deans Eastman, the advisor to the secretary of natural and cultural resources, researched the legible names on the memorial and told Gillio the memorial was from Wendell, Massachusetts.

Gillio shared a photograph of the memorial with this meeting by emailing it to town coordinator Glenn Johnson-Mussad, who shared the screen. Selectboard members recognized some of the names from millwheel memorial on the north common.

The memorial's present owner said she will not sell it, but plans to donate it instead, and Gillio said he planned to restore it and ship it to the town without asking any compensation.

Board members agreed to accept the gift, and said they thought it might go well either at the front of the town hall, or with the Historical Society. They thought Ed Hines may be able to discover how it may have traveled across the country.

## Battery Proposal

With edits aimed at making it look less like a zoning bylaw, town counsel returned the bylaw on energy storage facilities proposed by No Assault & Batteries (NAB) in time for the April 3 meeting.

Speaking as a representative of NAB, Anna Gyorgy said she had passed this edited version on to the NAB's own legal advisors, who considered it so watered down it is almost meaningless.

"We believe a town should be able to stop something so out of scale," she said, referring to Wendell's low population, limited infrastructure, and relatively low electricity consumption, as compared with a proposed 105-MW lithium-ion storage system. "We hoped the selectboard would support our position."

Gyorgy said the state is definitely moving in the direction of overruling local jurisdictions on siting these large energy projects, but she cited a Harvard Forest study arguing that locating such large projects on forested or agricultural land should stop.

Gyorgy argued that given the fact that even the watered-down version of the bylaw might not be accepted by the state, town meeting should vote on the original. Other NAB members have decided to get the required signatures to put the original version on the warrant for the May 1 special town meeting.

Selectboard member Gillian Budine reminded those present that the discussion at the selectboard's March 20 meeting had leaned toward submitting both the original proposal and the lawyer-modified version to the special town meeting. Selectboard chair Laurie Di-

Donato said she thought this might be problematic.

The board ultimately agreed to have the original proposal on the special town meeting warrant, assuming NAB and people who agree with them collect the necessary signatures. Gyorgy said she hoped for 100 by Monday, well over the number required.

**Anna Gyorgy argued that given the fact that even the watered-down version of the bylaw might not be accepted by the state, town meeting should vote on the original.**

State senator Jo Comerford said it is urgent for the bylaw to be put in place soon.

A request for a failsafe review of the recent large battery proposal sent by Comerford and state representative Aaron Saunders to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) office was rejected because it lacked the 10 required signatures. NAB members and sympathizers have agreed to collect signatures for that request along with those needed for the special town meeting warrant.

DiDonato said these should be submitted on Monday the 8th.

## State Water?

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) plans to study the feasibility of supplying drinking water to towns within the Quabbin Reservoir watershed, including Wendell.

On March 21 MWRA director of environmental and regulatory affairs Colleen Rizzi contacted Wendell asking the town to identify its needs, municipal buildings that have public water, new customer capacity, water infrastructure, possible surface and groundwater sources, and issues. The email asked for these documents by April 5. MWRA had scheduled meetings for April 5, 8, and 12, at a still-undecided location somewhere within the watershed.

Selectboard member Paul Doud said he might be able to attend the Monday meeting. Budine mentioned the PFAS situation at Swift River School as a concern to raise.

## Bosses and Bins

Phil Delorey, the town's project manager, said ground has been broken behind the town office building to make room for two open-top containers – one for construction debris, one for metals – so that users will not have to climb stairs to put their waste in. This work, he said, will use up the end of the landfill capping earmark.

Delorey said he expects to get help estimating the amount of extra fill needed to establish the final slope behind the former landfill, and with that, a cost estimate for completing the project of capping it. He said the state has been agreeable with Wendell's pace on that project.

Erving has major work planned for its side of the Farley bridge, De-

lorey said, starting April 8 and lasting four months. The bridge will be closed during that time.

Delorey reported that a former Wendell road crew worker quit and went to New Salem, where he got an \$8 per hour pay raise, part of which came with a promotion to road boss. If Wendell's road boss had gone to New Salem as road boss, he would have gotten a \$4 raise.

Delorey said the empty shelves visible behind him on the meeting's Zoom connection demonstrated his retirement as building inspector. Justin Gale is now the inspector for Wendell and Warwick. He sent an email to Wendell's alternate inspector asking if he intends to continue in that role.

## Public Kitchen

The town hall kitchen committee has made it clear that it does not want to be responsible for the whole town hall. The town coordinator currently oversees town hall rentals, and the kitchen coordinator oversees kitchen rentals.

Sarah Wilson, the present kitchen coordinator, said she is willing to simplify that situation and oversee both town hall and kitchen rentals. Johnson-Mussad suggested increasing the revolving fund for kitchen rentals to allow pay for Wilson.

Tables and chairs are also available at the building for townspeople to rent. Johnson-Mussad said the rental rates, 20 cents a day for a chair and \$2 a day for a table, are "pretty silly." Budine said they sometimes come back damaged, and it might be time to stop offering the service. Johnson-Mussad said he was willing to drop this occasional responsibility.

The cost of replacing the remaining old and rusty town hall chairs is close to \$1,000. After some discussion of which account that money may come from, board members decided to wait before ordering more chairs and a dolly. Repurposing money from another account would require a town meeting vote.

## Other Business

Johnson-Mussad recommended that the selectboard take a fresh look at the one-day liquor licenses it grants, and said the town could be held liable for what is done with them. Any server must understand and follow the rules of the state Alcohol Beverages Control Commission (ABCC).

DiDonato said she thought the home wine-maker granted a one-day license held a Training for Intervention Procedures (TIPS) certification, but was not sure about the servers at non-profit fundraisers.

Johnson-Mussad said he had received an email about a restored mural at the back of the town hall stage. Budine thought it worth checking what fire chief Joe Cuneo thinks about it hanging there.

Librarian Miriam Warner advised board members that on Monday, April 15 a small number of citizens plan to restore the small garden space by the playground that has gone wild. Anchor plants will be dug in, labeled, and mulched with wood chips so mowers know to let them grow.

## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on April 10, 2014: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

### Spirited Q&A in Montague

"You're here for permission to do survey work on town lands," Montague selectboard chair Mark Fairbrother admonished Allen Fore of Kinder Morgan in regard to a proposed 250-mile natural gas pipeline through the area. In February, the selectboard refused permission to survey a parcel of town-owned land. Fore's presentation was followed by an animated Q&A session in which a majority at the packed meeting expressed opposition to the project.

But several union members said they hoped the project would come about – the company has claimed that 3,000 jobs would be created.

"I'm pro-union, and I'm pro-jobs, but I'm against this because I don't think it's sustainable," said

Peter Hudyma of Montague. "I think we should be working for jobs, but sustainable jobs."

When the last of the crowd had left, all three board members sat grinning. No one had moved to change the February decision, and for now the town's official non-cooperation will continue.

### Budget Frustration in Leverett

What began as a routine exercise in reviewing the Leverett budget turned into a heated back and forth about the growing burden of property taxes in a graying community where opportunities for young families to get a foothold are few, and where declining school enrollments have not lowered school spending.

"Leverett is getting to the point where a person who retires cannot afford to live here," said lifelong Hemenway Road resident Richie Roberts.

## 20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on April 8, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

### Montague Landfill Contestants

The Montague selectboard meeting took on a game show air this week as competing landfill contestants bid each other up and told the audience what they had waiting behind their respective doors.

This was in part due to GCTV opening their Crocker Studios to

allow PowerPoint presentations to be broadcast to home viewers, but it was the three contestants who really made it a show: Meg Morris, Energy Answers Corp.; Ted Skrypek, South Boston Port Transfer; and Pat Hannon, Mass Environmental Strategies/Global Environmental Strategies.

Whoever is finally chosen, their offerings will have to cover roughly \$375,000 in designing and permitting the town's new landfill site.

## 150 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on April 8, 1874: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

### Local Matters

Easter was very fully observed here.

Riverside has made the addition of several families the past week.

The large ferry boat began its trips yesterday.

Starbuck & Co. have commenced the manufacture of tin hats.

Fred Park of Riverside, with a murderous weapon in the form of a shot gun, destroyed the vital powers of a very voracious malacopterygious fresh-water fish, a member of the family *Esox lucius* of Linnaeus – weight 31-4 lbs – one day the past week.

B.N. Farren, Esq., contemplates an extended European tour. While he will carry with him the best wishes of all our people, there will still be many regrets that we are to lose his genial presence and spirited enterprise. Everybody loves Mr. Farren, and his return will be hailed with delight. *Bon voyage.*

The firemen's parade on Fast Day looked very well indeed, and

the execution of both engine and men was splendid. The Company ran 300 yards, laid 200 feet of hose and had water from the branch pipe in 1 min 1 sec. Second trial, 1 m. 10 sec. There is not water enough to supply the engine in the Second street hydrant. This will be remedied.

The man who invents or introduces an artificial light that in any measure compensates for the loss of daylight in work like that of a printing office, is a benefactor, and just so we regard the inventor of the Standard Tubular Argand Lamp, Capt. George Pierce, Jr., of Greenfield was thoughtful enough to send one of these to our desk, and we are more than grateful to him for the kindness. Our work is the most delicate, often straining our eyes to a painful degree, but with the new lamp we are charmed. After reading four hours, on the finest type, we pronounce it perfect. There is no gas in our town, and very little in our county, hence the need of a good light is sadly felt. Our readers are assured, on honor, that it is the nearest approach to the light of gas we have yet seen. Steady, brilliant, and soft.



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**MONTAGUE** from page A1

the rate issued in October 2023. The second-half bill then uses both the same usage and rates.

Four possible reasons for abatements – or bill reductions – are listed in an application which must be submitted to the town within 30 days of receipt of the bill: a billing error, including incorrect gallowage from the water district; an unoccupied building; metered water not discharged into the sewer system; or winter readings significantly higher than summer months.

One problem is that high usage over a given winter due to leaks which have since been fixed, or which never sent water into the sewer system, could cause inappropriately higher bills, particularly for the second billing period. These factors were involved in the majority of bills proposed for reduction by Little, who said she generally bases her recommendations by checking customers' three-year average water usage.

Little told the *Reporter* that she is advocating simplifying the sewer bill formula as part of an overall review of the town's sewer rates in the coming months.

**Room for Improvement**

In other CWF news, Little announced that she had called the state Department of Labor Standards (DLS) to request a safety inspection, which was performed in late February. "They didn't find any imminent dangers, which is good," she said. "We did have 20 hazards which were identified on their site visit, and all of those are in the serious category."

Little said these ranged from the lack of a written confined space entry policy to deteriorated ladders and concrete to safety training with the fire department. The problems identified in the report appeared to need to be addressed by May 3, but Little told the *Reporter* that DLS only needs a response by that date with a timeline to address the issues.

She also said the inspection revealed relatively low levels of hydrogen sulfide in the operations building, where new ventilation and dehumidifying equipment has recently been installed.

Little then presented a lengthy list of "ongoing projects" at varying stages of completion. "I actually use it more as a cheat sheet for myself to go back and look at," she said. The list included four pump station upgrades, a replacement of the plant's main generator, new screw pumps that transfer wastewater from primary to secondary treatment, a feasibility study for a composting or drying facility, and a sign about the CWF on the nearby bike path.

Little noted that the screw pump project, partially funded by a federal Department of Agriculture grant, may significantly increase in cost due to a federal requirement that the materials for the project all be made in the United States. The project is planned to go out to bid this fall.

She also reviewed the monthly data on the treated effluent the plant discharges into the Connecticut River. "Everything has been going well with treatment," she said, but noted that April marks the beginning of "chlorination season," which is "always a little bit stressful for us."

Finally, Little reported on a discharge of partially treated wastewater into the river from the facility's blending tank. The March 7 event lasted an hour and 20 minutes, she said, and released 12,000 gallons into the river.

Public works superintendent Tom Bergeron, who followed Little on the agenda, also noted that there had been a "combined sewer overflow" (CSO) of 8,201 gallons of untreated sewage into the river near the plant on March 23. There was no similar overflow into the river at the CSO outlet near the Patch during the recent rains, he said.

Bergeron said he had been in contact with the Franklin County Regional Housing and Rehabilitation Authority (FCRHRA), which administers the town's community development block grants, and which may be able to provide his department with a ground radar in order to locate a broken pipe in Millers Falls suspected of allowing large amounts of groundwater to enter that village's sewer system.

"I'm pulling it all out [to] find this pipe, and anything else we need in that area," he said. "I just don't want to dig up Route 63, but if we have to, that's what we're going to do."

**Wish Lists**

It was a night of long lists, and assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey shared a list of 16 grants that town officials are "thinking of applying for." These included \$500,000 from the state One Stop Rural Development Fund for replacing traffic lights on Avenue A, a similar amount from the state's small bridge program to replace a small bridge on Swamp Road in Montague Center, and up to \$500,000 for traffic-calming measures in three village centers.

The board favored delaying the traffic signal project and instead pursuing a Rural Development Fund grant this year to demolish a blighted building on Unity Street and construct an affordable home in collaboration with Rural Development, Inc., an FCRHRA-affiliated entity.

Ramsey announced that the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) had agreed to fund a second environmental assessment of the soil under the First Street parking lot, across from the town hall. The land is in the process of being sold to Habitat For Humanity for five units of affordable housing, but previous borings found contaminated "urban fill" under the lot. The EPA's assessment will help the town "build a scope and budget of what remediation is required."

He also announced that he and the capital improvements commit-

tee had updated Montague's five-year capital improvements plan, beginning with articles on this year's town meeting warrant. Although he did not discuss the latest version of this plan in detail, he said that it featured "a more robust version of vehicles in the fleet."

**May the Fourth...**

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz read all 24 articles for the May 4 annual town meeting aloud, and they were approved for posting and mailing to town meeting members.

The warrant includes the operating budgets for all town departments, the budgets of the CWF and town airport, and assessments from the Gill-Montague Regional and Franklin County Technical school districts. It also contains 13 articles allocating money for capital purchases.

The board declined to make changes in the already-approved motions for the articles that contain funding sources and will be voted on from the town meeting floor.

**Other Business**

Acting as the personnel board, the selectboard appointed Joshua Anderson as Montague's representative to the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Services District advisory board.

Concerning finding a replacement for Bergeron, who will retire from the DPW at the end of June, Ramsey proposed rewriting the position's job description by the end of June. He reported that the application for the assistant town administrator is open, and that the hiring committee has already received 10 applications. A "first look" at these will be taken on April 18.

The board approved a request from Kyle Cogswell of the Newt Guilbault Community Baseball League for the use of public property for its annual spring parade on April 21, and another from town planner Maureen Pollock to close the Third Street alley temporarily on the afternoon of April 22 for the filming of a music video.

Pollock proposed that the board appropriate \$3,296 from COVID-19 relief funds to purchase 10 bike racks, at least three of which would be installed in downtown Turners Falls. The board approved this request, as well as a request from the Franklin Regional Transit Authority to install a bike repair station on Third Street. Pollock said there will be more discussion about installing racks in other villages.

Finally, Pollock reported that the committee overseeing the painting of a mural on the northeast side of the Shea Theater has received 354 applications from muralists. Once the winning muralist is chosen, they are to create a design based on public input at "listening sessions" and input from the steering committee.

The next selectboard meeting will be held Monday, April 22.

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Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*



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APRIL 11, 2024

Above: More space cadets at the Great Falls Discovery Center lawn on Monday.



## Unearthing the Archives The Fisher Museum Dioramas At Harvard Forest

By Charlotte Kohlmann



KOHLMANN PHOTO

The Fisher Museum in Petersham is affiliated with Harvard Forest.

**PETERSHAM** – One of the oldest experimental research forests in the country, established in 1907, is located just 30 miles east of Turners Falls. Owned by Harvard University, the Fisher Museum and Harvard Forest in Petersham is part museum, part archive, and part 4,000-acre living laboratory.

The “idea that human history was even important to forests’ succession, and the forest story, is the Harvard Forest contribution to science,” Harvard Forest education outreach director Clarisse Hart, the Museum’s manager and a scientist herself, tells me. “This was a new thought for the field.”

Environmental conservation only recently became a popular concern. Four hundred years ago, 96% of the New England landscape was covered in dense, thick old-growth forest. Millions of pine, beech, maple, birch, chestnut, ash, and oak, many two to three feet in diameter, thrived here.

Beginning in the late 17th century these trees were cleared, cut, and burned for industrialization and intensive farming purposes, and today some of these species are

see **UNEARTHING** page B4

## THEATER REVIEW

### A Late Winter Night’s Dream at the Shea

*The eye of man hath not heard, the ear of man hath not seen, man’s hand is not able to taste, his tongue to conceive, nor his heart to report, what my dream was.*

Bottom: Act IV, Scene I

*Methought I was enamored of an ass.*  
Titania: Act IV, Scene I

By DAVID DETMOLD

**TURNERS FALLS** – After reading Jeff Singleton’s excellent preview (“A Most Rare Vision”) in last week’s *Reporter*, methought I’d best get my ass on over to the Shea to catch the Montague Shakespeare Festival’s marvelous *Midsummer Night’s Dream*.

T’was a most rare and wonderful vision of compressed rehearsal blessed by professional direction and inspired stagecraft, infusing the Bard’s classic play on the plights of love with a thoroughly modern, Montague sensibility. The result was magic – of the kind only live theater, danced to its outermost edge, can summon – casting

a caul of wonder about our astonished eyes so that all could hear the music of the spheres, eclipsing our vision like muted thunder.

The local cast – leavened by a ringer, the magisterial Maggie O’Connor Moore as Puck, “swifter than arrow” from Alabama flown –

had a mere ten days to pull the entire production together, and how they did! Fiona Ross, of the Royal Shakespeare Society, alighted in our woods from England to direct the ensemble through bog and bush, brake and bower, conducting

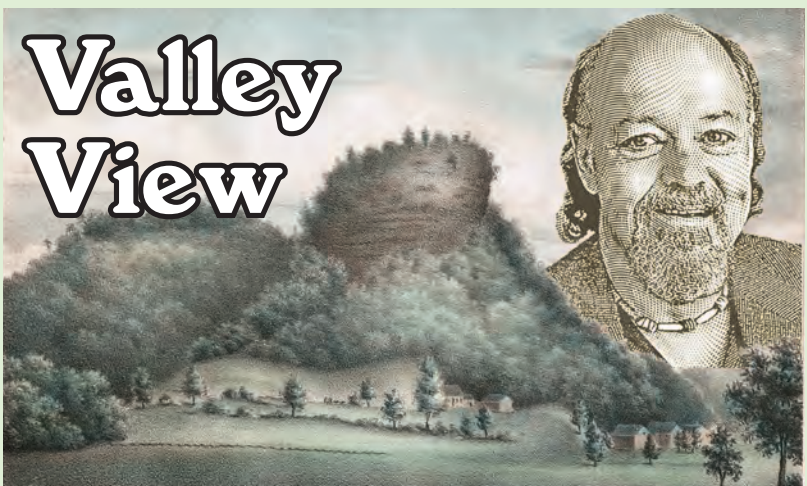
see **DREAM** page B2



COURTESY OF THE MONTAGUE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

*“The course of love never did run true.” This truth was marvelously portrayed by (left to right) Alan Michael Wilt as Thisbe; Jessica Knox as “The Wall”; and Ashley Kramer as Pyramus in Shakespeare’s play-within-the-play The Tragedy of Pyramus and Thisbe at the Shea. (Wait – who is that peeking out from Thisbe’s skirts? Why, it’s Maggie O’Connor Moore, as Puck!)*

## Valley View



ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK PRINT

### Yes, Pointing Downstream!

By GARY SANDERSON

**GREENFIELD** – I spoke too soon about ancient Indian weirs in the neighborhood. So, with new information in hand about the stone fishing structures, a follow-up’s in order.

My last column questioned the curious (to me) design, and thus the functionality, of two extant, manmade, downstream-pointed weirs on the lower Westfield and uppermost Chicopee rivers. Little did I know that recent research has been done on a similar structure closer to my doorstep.

Reader Michael Bosworth alerted me to this fact in a March 30 email query wondering if “the Indian dam on the Ashuelot River in Swanzey, New Hampshire was another example?” Accompanying his question was a reference to Page 50 of Robert G. Goodby’s 2021 book, *A Deep Presence: 13,000 Years of Native American History*, which I had not heard of.

I immediately went online, learned that Goodby is a respected Franklin Pierce College anthropology professor and contract archaeologist, and ordered his book, which had not arrived in the mail before deadline. It’s based on more than 30 years of New England archaeological field work – at least 10 of them (2002-12) on the Swanzey site. After an exchange of emails Goodby sent me his 2014 site report, co-authored by Sarah Tremblay and Edward Bouras: *The Swanzey Fish Dam: A Large Precontact Native American Stone Structure in Southeastern New Hampshire*.

This 19-page report and its three-page bibliography shed new light on Indian weirs and indigenous fishing practices in the Eastern Woodlands. Finally, important information that was elusive at best the last I explored the topic some 35 years ago. The most helpful source I could find back then was Hilary Stewart’s liberally illustrated *Indian Fishing: Early Methods of the Northwest Coast*. Although the indigenous people she featured lived on the other side of the continent and fished for different but related species, I figured their practices couldn’t have differed greatly

from their Northeastern kin, and still believe that to be the case.

One significant difference on this side of the continent seems to have been common use of downstream-pointed weirs to harvest upstream-migrating anadromous fish on spring spawning runs to their natal streams.

“What?” I thought. “Upstream-swimming fish on spawning runs first confronted by an abrupt point, rather than the inviting, wide-open mouth of a V funneling them into a narrow trap?”

It made no sense based on what I had previously learned about Indian weirs pointing in the same direction as fish migrations and sketched in Stewart’s book. So, I questioned late-19th-century historian and former Whately pastor J.H. Temple, who, in his comprehensive histories of North Brookfield and Palmer, described slightly different fishing practices on downstream-pointed weirs.

Which is not to say that Eastern Woodlands people *never* built the upstream-pointed weirs preferred by their West Coast brothers. Just that on Connecticut River tributaries and others up and down North America east of the mighty Mississippi, upstream-pointing weirs or dams spanning the entire width of streams were widely used to harvest migrating fish. These stone structures built across streams forced fish toward narrow man-made shoreline channels in which they were easily harvested by net, spear, and arrow.

The Swanzey Fish Dam was such a structure, as were the previously mentioned shore-to-shore weirs or dams on the lower Westfield and uppermost Chicopee rivers. Recent research accelerated during the final quarter of the 20th century has uncovered similar structures begging for additional study. The closest sites to us are in Connecticut, on the Housatonic River and the Bashan Lake outflow in East Haddam, while others are known to exist in Maine’s Kennebec River watershed.

Who knows where else these ancient riverbed fishing structures will turn up now that they are on archaeologists’ radar?

see **VALLEY VIEW** page B8

# Pet of the Week



DAKIN HUMANE SOCIETY PHOTO

## 'PEONY'

Meet Peony, the petite and playful feline ready to charm her way into your heart!

This mysterious beauty was brought in as a stray, so her past remains a secret. However, her love for wand toys and her stealthy stalking skills suggest she's quite the adventure. Peony's curious nature is matched only by her loud purr and her enthusiasm for greeting people. She is enjoying time in foster care

where she likes to sleep on the bed.

While Peony adores affection, she has some quirks around handling. Peony is searching for an adopter who can appreciate her whims and respect her need for autonomy.

If you're ready to adopt, you can come in during open adoption hours Tuesdays through Saturdays, 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call (413) 781-4000 or visit [www.dakinhumane.org](http://www.dakinhumane.org).

**DREAM** from page B1

them to weave the stuff of legend on our humble stage.

Bannisher Shea himself would have been proud to have raised the curtain on't. Indeed I thought I heard him smiling in the wings.

What local treasure we possess, not only in the Shea, with enough seats for every day of the year to sit in awe, but also in local talent, the raw mechanicals who pass by us on the street each day, each harboring an inner Olivier or Bernhardt.

Imagine yourself sitting there with a huddled mass of actors strewn about the apron before you, still as stones, asleep. The stage is set with ladders and street barricades borrowed from the highway department; a glowing moon the size of Lake Pleasant depending from the backdrop. A hush descends. You doze. You dream. A shopping cart appears.

But never in this dream could you anticipate the performance itself, the punk-inflected pogo dance, the intricate warp and weft of finely patterned speech, the high-flown sentiment, the gutter comedy, the glowing orbs passed to and fro balanced lightly in the players' hands, the passionate avowals of besotted love between the Queen of Fairies and a donkey-headed weaver.

Haven't we all fallen in love like that?

Special mention must be made of each and every actor and their achievements, but I have forgotten all their names and everything they said except, "Follow."

Yet in the distance, each doth shine! So let's recall them all and sing their praises here.

And why-hee, why-hee, why not start with Bottom?

Ashley Kramer played him to a fare-thee-well, all bluster, bray and boastful charm in opening scenes, humbled to modesty once Puck's magic has rendered him asinine, and his haugh-hee, haugh-hee, haughter has been whittled down a peg by love.

Among the other Mechanicals,

Alan Michael Wilt stood out in the savory role of Peter Quince, a bashful maestro who directs the bawdy play within the play, the tragedy of Pyramus and Thisbe: two lovers separated by a naughty wall. The wall herself was played with comedic genius by Jessica Knox.

Among the principals, Marina Goldman showed her mettle as a straight-laced Theseus, delivering such lines to her bride-to-be Hippolyta as, "I woo'ed thee with my sword / And won thy love," with *sang-froid* and even a dash of chivalry.

Annie Kidwell and K. Adler brought the heat to their amorous encounters as Hermia and Lysander, especially when they escape the deadly rule of Athens to the wild woods, where "One turf shall serve as pillow for us both / One heart, one bed, two bosoms, and one troth." Zounds!

Kudos to Myka Plunkett for her portrayal of the unfortunate Demetrius, rarely in love with the right person at the right time. She plunked down on stage with just 24 hours' notice, replacing an ailing cast member and pulling off her role with aplomb.

In the woods, Marcus Neverson ruled as Oberon. His verbal acrobatics were outmatched only by his physical pyrotechnics, cartwheeling stage right for an amazing ex-ent as the play began. We must see more of him.

Same goes for Lori Holmes Clark, who was more than Oberon's equal as his counterpart Titania, pacing the stage like a pantheress, or striking a languorous pose in her musk-rose bower.

Yet outshining all the stars amid the brilliance of their individual performances, and somehow managing to lend even more sparkle to the luster of their stellar ensemble was the Shea's own manager, Linda Tardif. Escaping from the box office for once to set her talents loose upon the boards, Tardif was a revelation. As Helena, her every gesture, every smirk, each

raised eyebrow and arch utterance held the audience in her thrall, where we groveled like spaniels and begged for more.

John Bechtold was the lighting designer; Connor Roberge, Wynn MacKenzie, and Robbie Moore handled sound and light for all performances. They worked energetically and seamlessly to help bring this festival together.

Wait! Have I forgotten Puck? How could I?

Sly, she wormed her way into our minds from first appearance, hiding something. Something she showed us in Act III with her explosive song, "Up and down, up and down, I will lead them up and down..." Her tightly wired frame leapt skyward as if she wore springs on her sneakers. "I am feared in field and town." Yes!

She saved her biggest reveal for the end. Her parting speech, granted her by Shakespeare, betrayed her perfect mastery of her craft. She smiled only slightly, to let us know she was in on the secret.

*If we shadows have offended*

*Think but this and all is mended:*

*That you have but slumbered here*

*While these visions did appear...*

When you waken from a sleep induced by anesthesia, you feel sick at heart and stomach, as though a portion of your life had been removed.

But when you waken from a sleep induced by synesthesia, that delightful derangement of the senses brought on by a synchronicity of prosody and stagecraft, shrewd lighting, deft sound and dance production and sheer pluck, you feel uplifted and changed.

Then you stumble out into the icy brick night of downtown Montague in a kind of fever, in which nothing is lost, yet nothing is quite what it seems: like winter dissolving into spring, like love, like dreams.

For this, we have the Shea, and the players of the Montague Shakespeare Workshop, to thank.



## Senior Center Activities APRIL 15 THROUGH 19

### 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, please contact Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

### 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](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us).

### GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lunch available Tuesdays through Thursdays. For more information please call 863-9357.

### Monday 4/15

10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
6 p.m. Cemetery Commission

### Tuesday 4/16

9:30 a.m. Tuesday Knitters  
10 a.m. Zumba Lite  
10:45 a.m. Chair Yoga  
11 a.m. Money Matters

### 3 p.m. Tai Chi

### Wednesday 4/17

9 a.m. Veterans' Help Hours

10:15 a.m. Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Outdoor Yoga

11 a.m. Chair Exercise

11:45 a.m. Friends Meeting

12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo

1 p.m. Food Pantry

4:15 p.m. Mat Yoga

### Thursday 4/18

9 a.m. Senior Help Hours

by Appointment

10 a.m. Montague Villages

Meeting

1 p.m. Pitch

### Friday 4/19

10:15 Aerobics

11 a.m. Chair Exercise

2 p.m. Chair Dance

### ERVING

Open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Daily snacks and coffee. Fitness room and pool table open.

### Monday 4/15

Closed.

### Tuesday 4/16

9 a.m. Good For U Workout

10 a.m. Line Dancing

11 a.m. Social Stringers

### Wednesday 4/17

9 a.m. Strength & Conditioning

10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics

### Thursday 4/18

9 a.m. Barre Fusion

10 a.m. Pilates Flow

### Friday 4/19

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

## EXHIBITS

**Rendezvous, Turners Falls:** *Rivers of Franklin County*, geology-inspired, map-based art by Joe Kopera, through April 15.

**LOOT, Turners Falls:** *Auto Partitas*, twelve little trios of mixed-media works inspired by automotive parts, by Nina Rossi. Through April.

**Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls:** *New Roots in River Banks*, an exhibit on Polish and other Eastern European immigration stories and their contributions in the Connecticut River Valley. Through April 28.

**Sawmill River Arts, Montague:** *Sara Casilio*, paintings on Duralar, through April. Reception this Saturday, April 13 from 3 to 5 p.m.

**Wendell Free Library, Wendell:** *Karie Neal*, paintings and mixed media artwork depicting animals, flowers, landscapes, and birds. Through April.

**Greenfield Library, Greenfield:** *ServiceNet Community Art Exhibit*. Paintings, photogra-

phy, and other art works by more than 20 artists from the ServiceNet community. Through May, with a reception on Wednesday, May 1 from 1 to 4 p.m.

**LAVA Center, Greenfield:** *Pauline Star*, photography exhibit. Through April, with a reception today, Thursday, April 11 at 5 p.m.

**Looky Here, Greenfield:** *Inside, Outside*, paintings by Emily Giamari. Through May. Reception Friday, April 26, from 5 to 8 p.m.

**Artspace, Greenfield:** *Divinites*, mixed-media by Jules Jones referencing medieval themes and the divine feminine. Through April 26.

**Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett:** *Bill & Dianne Dolan*, painting and pottery, through April; pop-up exhibit, *Dancing Bear Farm Fig Paintings* by Susan Valentine, on April 20 and 21 only.

**Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield:** *Fourth Annual Photography Show*, juried exhibit. Through April 14.

**Gallery A3, Amherst:** *Defining Space*, paintings by Karen Iglehart and Janet Winston,

through April.

**Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls:** *Local Color, Local Light*, oil and gouache paintings by Ashfield artist Ken Condon. Through April.

**Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne:** *Lou Wallach: Photographs*, black-and-white images of the natural world, through April 28.

**Watermark Gallery, Shelburne Falls:** *Grand Opening*, innovative work by Andrew Sovjani, Jan Morier, Christine Kaiser, Cynthia Consentino, and Laurie Goddard.

**Arts Bank, Shelburne Falls:** *Volcanix II*, Christin Couture's woodcuts on Pellon fabric of the Popocatepetl volcano. By chance or appointment: [redtinebluefire@gmail.com](mailto:redtinebluefire@gmail.com).

**A.P.E. Gallery, Northampton:** *The Elephant Vanishes: Full Circle*, translations of jazz compositions into visual art by Allen Fowler, with an interactive component for audience response. Through April 14, with a reception this Friday, April 12 from 5 to 8 p.m.

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TELEVISION

Star Trek: Discovery, Season 5

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI



GREENFIELD – I am not a fan of Indiana Jones movies, but I know they ended up being very popular. It seems searching for a mysterious treasure, like Indiana Jones does, is what Star Trek: Discovery is doing for Season 5.

This leads them to introduce a couple of new characters, and bring back a few for this season, in a way that makes this work well for the storyline. One new character is Rayner, a Starfleet captain who could be called an old warhorse, played by Callum Keith Rennie. Then there are two characters who could be called "Bonnie and Clyde" types, played by Eve Harlow and Elias Toufexis.

These new characters bring some cool interactions to the screen, especially since the type of work they used to do is what brings Cleveland Booker back onto the scene to help, and makes it so he stays around. Tilly, another crew member who left to be a teacher, gets back on the Discovery in a similar fashion to how Booker does, which works for the storyline as well.

Captain Saru is leaving the USS Discovery to be an ambassador, which means Rayner continues to be part of things, because he is asked to be Number One to Burnham, who is now Captain. This is especially good since he was after these two at one point.

But what is really cool is that a huge part of the story of a Star Trek: The Next Generation episode called "The Chase" is incorporated into

the season. It fits quite perfectly.

Burnham doesn't exactly work the greatest with Rayner, but she thinks he's a decent captain, so it will be something to see as to how well things go with him in his new position.

The same goes for the interactions between the character played by Eve Harlow – the Bonnie of the duo – and Booker. An interesting tidbit is that besides Booker's background being helpful with this criminal duo, he has some personal familiarity with her, and some things are revealed that should mean a flood of cool interactions to come in this season.

The third thing to see that should be good is what everyone will encounter in the search for the treasure. One thing is a head that seems to come to life. There should be one heck of a chase especially since the criminals know they stumbled upon something very valuable.

The Season 5 premiere was a back-to-back double episode. The upcoming "season preview" at the end shows that it will be like trying to find the Ark of the Covenant, too. It seems like we will be watching a season-long version of "The Chase."

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Good Bin Nicked; Cowboy Creep; One More Snowstorm; Pitbull Distro; Going Into the Road; No Earthquake Calls

Monday, 4/1

11:17 a.m. Caller from Bridge Street states that the downstairs neighbor is banging on walls and ceilings again. Advised of options.

12:31 p.m. Caller from Central Street would like it on record that someone came onto her closed-in porch and stole one of her good recycling bins.

4:43 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street states the party downstairs is banging the walls and yelling "Please help me." Caller states this is the first time the party has asked for help. Officer advises quiet upon arrival. Involved party would not come to the door. Officer remained on scene for approximately 20 minutes; nothing heard.

6:44 p.m. Caller states that there is a lot of smoke in the Bridge Street area and it smells like burning plastic. Control contacted to dispatch TFFD. Control advises that a cooking fire permit was issued today for the involved location.

10:03 p.m. Control advising that TFFD is requesting PD assistance with a medical call; a patient is being difficult. Services rendered.

Tuesday, 4/2

1:33 p.m. Caller from Third Street states that a man came into her house this morning and stole one of her phones. Not as reported.

3 p.m. Report of suspicious person walking their dog by the port-a-potties at Hillcrest Elementary School. Male party is lost, waiting for his ride to come pick him up.

3:07 p.m. Caller states that people inside of a car in a Fourth Street parking lot are actively using drugs and that they are throwing used needles outside the car windows into the driveway. He would like them removed from the property. Officer checked area and there were no signs of drug activity on the ground. Second officer has vehicle stopped in the parking lot of Greenfield Savings Bank. Parties in vehicle advised that if any trash is found, they will be charged. Officer advises search negative at this time.

Wednesday, 4/3

5:35 a.m. 911 caller from Fourth Street reports that the downstairs neighbors are having an active dispute; can hear yelling and items being thrown around; believes it is physical. Advises this has been going on for 30 minutes. Officer advises he spoke with both parties and was advised that they were in a verbal altercation and that nothing physical occurred. 8:46 a.m. Caller states that a male with a cowboy hat in a truck with NH plates was taking pictures of her and her kids. Referred to

an officer.

9:28 a.m. Party into station to report concerns about a male attempting to break into the Moltenbrey Property again. Referred to an officer.

10:57 a.m. Caller reporting two hypodermic needles on the side of the woods near the power lines off Letourneau Way; advised they are among a pile of trash she found. Unable to locate. Officer asks that caller meet him there if she calls back to show him the exact area; states there is a lot of trash among the power lines.

7:56 p.m. Caller states that there are two cars parked on the wrong side of the road on Seventh Street by Park Street, making it very hard to get out of her driveway. Caller reports she was almost hit. Referred to an officer.

Thursday, 4/4

2:50 a.m. DPW contacted to respond and clean up streets in Turners Falls due to slick road conditions.

8:48 a.m. 911 call reporting two-vehicle accident at Warner Street and Montague City Road. No injuries. Airbag deployment. Fluids leaking. Both vehicles able to be driven away. Report taken.

9:17 a.m. 911 call reporting single-car accident on Industrial Boulevard. No injuries, smoke, flames, or fluids leaking. Some damage to a cement part of the roadway. DPW advised. Tow truck on scene.

10:07 a.m. Caller from Avenue A states he's being threatened by the woman who lives across from him. He would like to discuss with an officer. Advised of options.

11:15 a.m. Greenfield PD requesting assistance with ongoing fight between two parties on Wells Street; all of their officers are involved in a standoff. GPD advising up to seven parties involved at this time. Deerfield also responding. Officers out with MSP.

11:56 a.m. Anonymous report that a male party who is no longer allowed to own dogs keeps getting pitbulls and giving them to homeless people or abusing them. Advised caller to

contact animal control officer. Copy of call printed.

2:23 p.m. 911 caller from Kostanski Square states that a male party wearing a red sweatshirt and black sweatpants keeps going into the road. People are trying to help him get onto the sidewalk, and he keeps going into the road. Party gone upon officer's arrival.

Friday, 4/5

5:31 p.m. Caller from Main Street states that there was a white vehicle with front-end damage parked outside of her residence; there was a male party inside who looked like he was nodding off. When he saw her, the driver took off towards Turners Falls. Services rendered.

8:11 p.m. Caller states that every day around dusk a male party with two small children walk in Unity Park with flashlights; they are there for approximately an hour, then they leave. Referred to an officer.

9:58 p.m. First of two reports of a disturbance on Central Street. One party highly intoxicated and picked up by her brother, who will take responsibility for her tonight. Peace restored.

Saturday, 4/6

10:45 a.m. Caller from Keith Apartments states that someone tried to kick in his neighbor's door and possibly his door as well. Unsure when damage occurred. Could have been up to a week ago. Investigated.

6:39 p.m. Caller from J Street states that someone broke into the box for payments and two personal checks were stolen. Referred to an officer.

Sunday, 4/7

10:46 a.m. Alarm company reporting front door alarm sounding at Harvey's on Avenue A. Front door was open; officers believe the door was not closed properly. Building checked; all clear.

Monday, 4/8

12:02 a.m. Caller from K Street advises he noticed on his camera system a male party with a flashlight walking up and down in the vicinity of his house. Caller states male walked past his house then returned from the other way. Caller advises this occurred at 10:07 p.m. Male has not been seen since, but caller thinks it is odd. Advised caller we would log call.



the one I never tried before. - Mae West  
2/15/24: Winter is not a season, it's an occupation. - Sinclair Lewis  
2/22/24: If you're not careful, the newspapers will have you hating the people who are being oppressed. - Malcolm X  
2/29/24: Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana. - Groucho Marx

to hold back the flood of fear. - MLK  
1/25/24: Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. - Marianne Williamson  
2/1/24: One certain effect of war is to diminish freedom of expression. - Howard Zinn  
2/8/24: Between two evils, I always pick

CRYPTOJAM ANSWERS (NOVEMBER-FEBRUARY):  
11/2/23: For every complex problem there is an answer that is clear, simple, and wrong. - H.L. Mencken  
11/9/23: Different strokes for different folks... We got to live together. - Sly and the Family Stone  
11/16/23: Wisdom is oftentimes nearer when we stoop than when we soar. - William Wordsworth  
11/30/23: Friendships are discovered rather than made. - Harriet Beecher Stone  
12/7/23: America's health care system is neither healthy, caring, nor a system. - Walter Cronkite  
12/14/23: Better to sleep with a sober cannibal than a drunk- en Christian. - Herman Melville  
12/21/23: Never interrupt your enemy when he is making a mistake. - Napoleon Bonaparte  
1/4/24: I always wanted to be somebody, but now I realize I should have been more specific. - Lily Tomlin  
1/11/24: Nationalism is an infantile disease. It is the measles of mankind. - Albert Einstein  
1/18/24: We must build dikes of courage

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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## UNEARTHING from page B1

endangered or, in the case of the original chestnuts, extinct.

This completely changed the landscape, and went hand in hand with the violent erasure and near-erasure of Native populations, including the local Nipmuc and Pocumtuk peoples, who were not only on the land for thousands of years but also integral forest managers and stewards to these tall giants.

The forests have yet to recover their full ecological diversity and extent of growth. According to a report from *Wildlands, Woodlands, Farmlands & Communities*, in which Harvard Forest is a partner, while 81% of New England is forested, only 3.3% of it has been permanently protected as wildlands. There is still a lot of progress and outreach to consider, but the extent to which New England's forests have recaptured parts of their pre-colonial abundance is a great environmental comeback story for the world to take note of.

To help illustrate the history of European settlers' impact on these forests, the Fisher Museum created 23 meticulously handcrafted dioramas depicting centuries of New England forestry. Between 1931 and 1941, it took artists at the Cambridge studios of Guernsey and Pitman thousands of hours to construct these dioramas. They used copper,

gesso, paint, wax, molten solder, asparagus fern, sheet metal, and battens, and later covered them with arsenic as a preservative against rot and insect infestation.

The studios even documented every stage of the process in 16mm film, which can be viewed on the Harvard Forest YouTube channel in three parts: [youtu.be/exc5qVF6e4Y](https://youtu.be/exc5qVF6e4Y).

In sequential order, the dioramas on display portray what medieval forests looked like; how colonization impacted the landscape starting in 1700; and examples of management efforts to promote regrowth after deforestation.

These visual recreations in miniature are, in essence, non-verbal time capsules. They feature painted landscape backdrops; development of farmland; miniature figurines of real-life scientists and wild animals hidden for viewers to spot; and copper-made trees, each with intricate leaves correlating with the shape of their real-life species.

One of the things about these dioramas that Hart says she strives to overcome is that, "if the snapshots here don't reflect who you are as a person, or your own history, it is hard to then access what is going on.... I try to make it about, what questions do visitors have, and what trajectories are they noticing in these dioramas?"



*This diorama shows a Central New England forest circa 1700, before European settlement.*

Hart says she is looking to pivot the Fisher Museum and Harvard Forest away from the framing that this colonial degradation was the only way the forests of today were shaped. Though this was important, she wants to combine it into a wider narrative that includes the thousands of years indigenous people have stewarded the land.

"It was actually them who created the framework that allowed for our forests to thrive," Hart says. The forests didn't just come back magically, either, she says – there was an older infrastructure built into the land that has "allowed nature to be more resilient, even to human destruction."

"I hope that people will start to see forests didn't sort of begin with this big change that colonists brought," Hart explains. "Forests began with their own evolution, and then 12,000 years of human beings living with them."

A 24-foot panoramic photograph installed alongside a Fisher Museum wall in 2022 depicts the east branch of the Swift River, located on the homeland of Nipmuc people, which happens to be part of the current-day Harvard Forest. This project was made by a partnership between Nia Holley of the Hassanamisco Nipmuc Band, artist Roberto Mighty, and Hart. The Nipmuc are known as the "fresh water" people, and Hart says Holley wanted "no past or present included in this photograph – instead she wanted to use this opportunity to just think about the land."

Another modern addition is a digitally-constructed LIDAR scan of Harvard Forest research sites, created by Peter Boucher in the Schaaf Lab at UMass-Boston and exhibited along another gallery wall on a touchscreen monitor. It was made using a machine that emits pulsed light waves into its environment, which then bounce off every object in the space and return back to the sensor. These distances are calculated and the process is repeated millions of times per second, creating a real-time three-dimensional map.

This intimate and exact mock-up of a space, showing Hart's predecessor David Foster sitting on a boulder in the forest, is today's pixelated response to the dioramas made almost 100 years ago.

As for what's next for the team, Hart says that "for the kinds of conversations we want

to have, technology felt like the right thing to incorporate at the museum." There are hopes, if certain grant funding is approved, to install three to four tablet touchscreens in proximity to the dioramas.

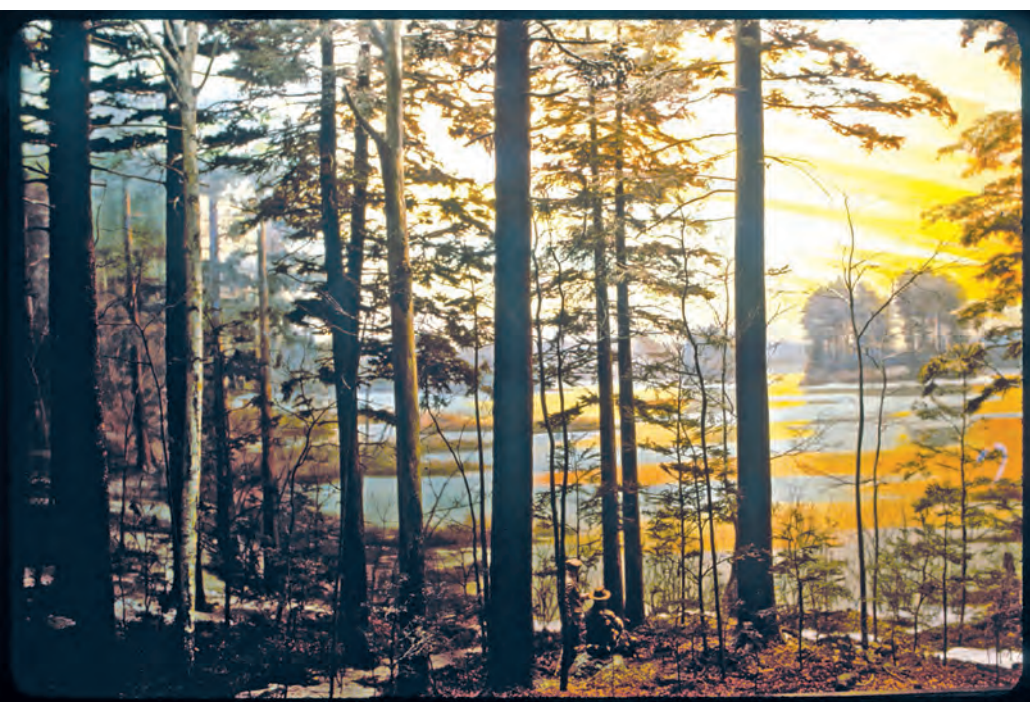
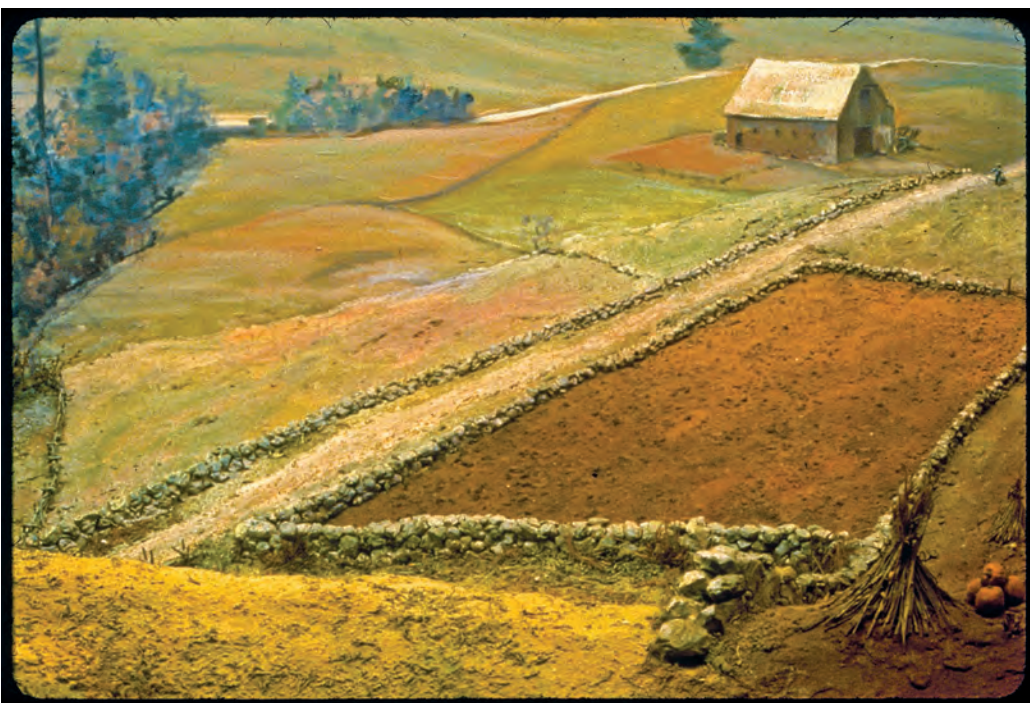
These interactive devices would provide more context and further information about the scenes the dioramas feature, including interviews with Nipmuc people; highlighted species that have been culturally important to them over time; footage from the forest of featured species; and imagery of people filled back into the dioramas' environments. This embrace of 21st-century technology provides the museum with a chance to fill in the blanks of history.

Dioramas, as physical embodiments of the past, have the ability to help us reinterpret it. A diorama is not an "archive" in the traditional sense. Now that the art of making dioramas has decreased in popularity, they may be seen more as anachronistic historical documents than what they were intended to be – visual scientific references.

There's something inherently valuable about the tactile sensory experience of interacting with physical objects such as these dioramas. Though they may be an obsolete technology, they compel the observer to actively imagine filling in the gaps. This engagement with the imagination is reminiscent of the way older civilizations have used storytelling and art to convey beliefs. Though newer technologies such as virtual reality may have superseded this requirement to use our imagination, the reality they present is only one pixel deep, and limits real-world interactions and human touch.

The dioramas at the Fisher Museum are reminders of how humans' impact on forests can last for centuries, and can help convey – in a way that feels strikingly material – the risks created by further deforestation today.

*The Fisher Museum is located at 324 North Main Street, Petersham. It operates year round Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and from May 6 to November 12, Saturdays and Sundays from 12 to 4 p.m. To see digital copies of the dioramas themselves, or learn more about the Harvard Forest and their archive, visit [harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/fisher-museum](https://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/fisher-museum).*



IMAGES COURTESY OF THE FISHER MUSEUM

*Top left: The Height of Agriculture in Diorama, showing conditions circa 1830.*

*Middle left: This diorama is the only one in the collection to reference to a real place. It depicts the small stand of old-growth forest that sits along the coastline of Harvard Pond in Petersham, a nine-minute drive from the Museum. We highly suggest, if you visit the museum, to allot time for a walk along the Harvard Pond trail. The area survived human disturbance because it is at the base of a rocky slope – settlers stayed away from clearing it because of this.*

*Lower left: A demonstration model shows the stages of diorama construction. As David Foster and John O'Keefe write in their 2007 book *New England Forests Through Time*: "The trees are made of copper wires twisted together to form the branches and then the long ends are bound together by wrapping wire around them to form the smooth trunk. This technique developed by Guernsey and Piman specifically for these models closely mimics the structural development of actual trees, and is a major factor contributing to the realism of the models. Careful attention by the artists to tree-growth form allows most of the trees to be identified to species by their branching pattern even without leaves."*

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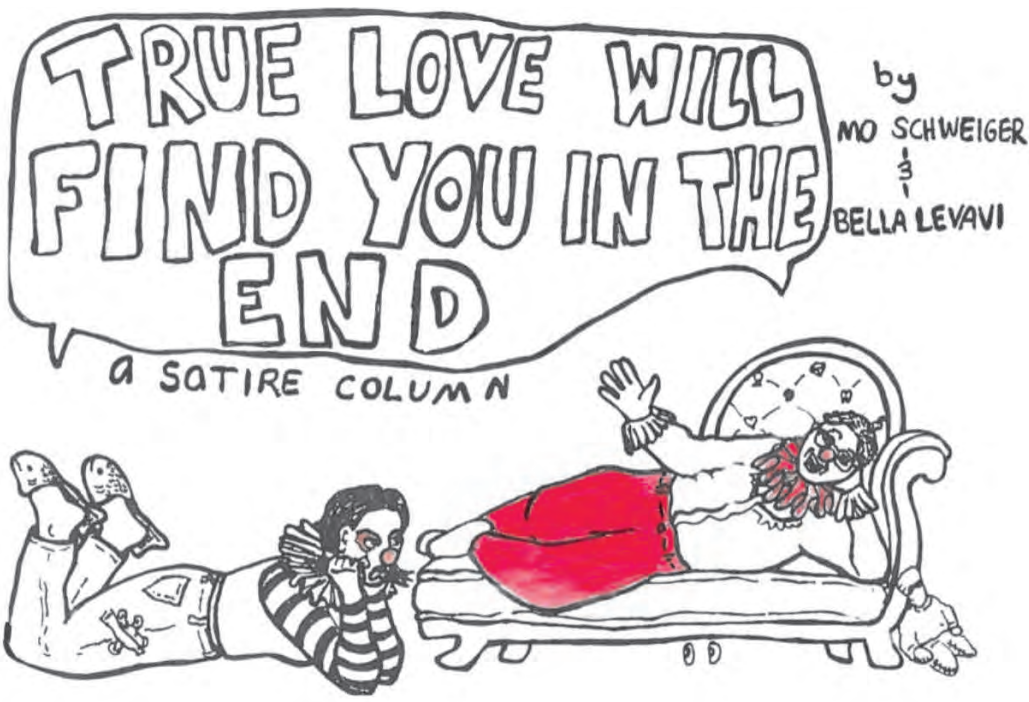


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## Bulbs and Breakups: How to Survive the Spring

By MANDY MÜDBALLS

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – The ice is melting, and so are all of the relationships that blossomed during cuffing season. It’s hard to embrace the joy of the springtime when your lover flies out the window as soon as you can open it. The cozy comforts that you and your partner cultivated throughout the winter to shield you from seasonal affective disorder are no longer necessary, and so they have decided that your relationship isn’t either.

This might feel like the end of the world: who are you going to go with to your secret ramp foraging spot? I know this allium-induced apocalyptic scenario well, because this time last year I was a victim of the great decoupling that occurs every year in the Spring.

If you are like me and struggling to sew your heart back together even with an abundance of extremely affordable scraps and materials from Swanson’s Fabrics, keep reading and I’ll tell you how I got rid of the breakup season blues last Spring in hopes that it helps you get back into the Franklin County dating pool, too. God knows we need you!

People say that ritual is important when you’re in a period of change (and when your heart and also your back feel like they got stabbed by the extremely dull knives that your ex got from the free store).

I decided to take a cue from my good friend AC Donrac who knows a thing or two about ritual and heartbreak, and join them in waking up to watch the sunrise every single morning and then getting hypnotized to remember the first time we saw light. Ultimately, all I saw at the hypnotist was the office cat crunching down on the skillfully-arranged crystals like a bag of Cheetos, but it worked for AC, who says that being born feels like going down the world’s tightest waterslide.

Maybe it didn’t work for me because I was a C-section baby, or maybe because I couldn’t stop thinking about when my ex and I went to the Franklin County Fair and they got hypnotized into acting like a chicken, which led them to flying the coop, chickening out of our relationship after pecking all of my flaws to shreds.

And chickens are *my* thing – they aren’t even a member of the Greenfield Chicken Collective!

I considered that maybe I needed to use my body for something other than contra dancing with my longstanding former dance partner at the Guiding Star Grange to shake them from my system. Despite a total lack of experience, I decided to build a steam room using wood I found in a different forest from the one that I used to hike in with my ex.

Though I worked on it for the better part of six months, I am totally unable to use it because sitting in the complete darkness (I didn’t know how to build a window) leaves me with nothing to do other than think about my broken heart. But my friends love it and started a sociocratic collective in my backyard. I did

get democratically elected to be kicked out of the steam room Signal groupchat because my “sadness was bringing down the vibrational frequencies of the whole space,” but at least my backyard became a place where other people can take their crushes on dates.

Since both rituals and extreme temperatures didn’t help my plight by themselves, I thought I would combine the two and see if there would be a synergistic reaction. I started cold-plunging in the river every single day, until it stopped being a cold plunge and turned into a nice swim, which I was *not* interested in. (And which happened to coincide with when they started charging cover at the Green River Swimming and Recreation Area.)

I guess it wasn’t a true ritual because I couldn’t do it every single day due to frequent sewage overflows into the river, but not being able to feel my feet briefly helped me not feel my heavy heart as well.

Business started booming at my steam room, which empowered me to open a second nonsense business: an art collective at 205 Main Street in Greenfield, the site of the former Benny’s Organic Market. Its layout, a shallow hallway with massive windows, is perfect for a zero-capital anarcho-structuralist Instagram hype community 401(c)3 business. Naturally, a vicious rumor got started that it’s just a front for AirBnBs. I reached out to the owner of the space (myself) for a comment, and Müdballs declined to respond.

On the one-year anniversary of my *beshert* and I untying the knot, leaving me to trip on my own shoestring, I took myself to one of our favorite spots: Poet’s Seat Tower. There I made the pilgrimage to our old tags, and made use of all of the skills that I have acquired through communing with visitors at the art collective to cover all the poorly-crafted phalluses we had made together with hyperrealistic, to-scale renderings.

One year and one month after this whole ordeal, and I can confidently say that any advice that I can give you pales in comparison to that of the late great Carrie Bradshaw: the only thing that can help you get over a relationship is time, and that amount of time is exactly half of the length of the relationship.

Now, one year and one month after my ex dumped me on my birthday for the second year in a row to go hike the Pacific Crest Trail and become a woman, I am perfectly content in my situation and have built a lot of cool stuff and a successful Airbnb business – sorry, I mean art collective. I barely even think about her anymore, even when I make eggs using the non-Teflon hydrophobic non-stick pan she backhandedly gave me for Chanukah.

If I can leave you with anything, let it be this: enjoy the Spring weather – everything is ephemeral including heartbreak.

True Love Will Find You In The End (TLWIFYITE),

Mandy Müdballs

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

## Geocache Raises Alarm; Social Security Stolen; App Workers Seem High; Skunk Seems Sick

**Friday, 3/1**

9:18 a.m. Dole Road caller looking to file a fraud/scam report.

11:40 a.m. Medical emergency, French King Highway.

11:52 a.m. Caller reporting a gray Civic driving all over the road westbound, French King Highway.

**Saturday, 3/2**

9:21 a.m. Medical emergency on Boyle Road.

**Sunday, 3/3**

9:32 a.m. Medical emergency on Boyle Road.

**Tuesday, 3/5**

10:43 a.m. Assisted another agency on probation visit, Main Road.

4:41 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD on Shedd Road.

**Wednesday, 3/6**

2:18 a.m. Medical emergency on River Road.

1:59 p.m. Vandalized vehicle on Main Road.

2:20 p.m. Subject arrested on outstanding warrant, Main Road.

2:50 p.m. Past dog bite reported, West Gill Road.

**Thursday, 3/7**

8:24 a.m. Fire alarm on Elm Street.

12:13 p.m. Minor two-car accident in a French King Highway parking lot, no injuries.

3:26 p.m. CSO follow-up in Northfield, East Street.

8:31 p.m. Fire alarm on Mountain Road.

**Friday, 3/8**

12:54 a.m. Fire alarm on Elm Street.

2:11 p.m. Welfare check on Center Road.

5:10 p.m. Multiple calls about a car vs. motorcycle accident with injuries on the French King Highway.

**Saturday, 3/9**

1:07 p.m. Assisted resident at station with a fingerprint background check.

5:02 p.m. Assisted citizen on Main Road.

**Sunday, 3/10**

11:48 a.m. Suspicious item in the woods, near Boyle and Center roads, reported by resident. Discovered to be a geocache, and not hazardous.

**Monday, 3/11**

11:47 a.m. Caller states a large tree limb is blocking one travel lane, Boyle Road.

**Wednesday, 3/13**

12:12 p.m. Abandoned 911 call from Main Road. On callback, found to be related to a past disturbance. Officer responded.

5:42 p.m. Threat reported on

West Gill Road.

**Thursday, 3/14**

1:54 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with 911 call, Reynolds Street.

**Friday, 3/15**

10:27 p.m. Caller advises vehicle is disabled on Route 10. Looking for assistance.

11:35 a.m. 911 call from Walnut Street. Assisted a resident with phone issues.

12:46 p.m. Boyle Road caller looking to file a report that her SSN has been stolen.

5:54 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD, West Northfield Road.

Caller reporting a strange couple, which he believed to be under the influence of something, came with his Instacart delivery. Vehicle stopped in Gill and questioned.

**Sunday, 3/17**

4:54 p.m. Medical emergency, French King Highway.

11:05 p.m. Medical emergency at Mountain Road Estates.

**Monday, 3/18**

4:13 p.m. Welfare check on Walnut Street.

**Tuesday, 3/19**

6:49 p.m. Main Road caller advises she has an oddly-acting skunk on her property.

**Wednesday, 3/20**

6:59 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Route 10.

**Thursday, 3/21**

8:54 a.m. Minor accident with no injuries, French King Highway.

12:16 p.m. Abandoned 911 call from Walnut Street.

3:24 p.m. Caller reporting that the sick-looking skunk she reported a few days ago is back and across the street.

3:42 p.m. Medical emergency on Main Road.

11:17 p.m. Officer requested about a scam, Main Road.

**Friday, 3/22**

1:40 p.m. Caller states she saw a loose dog near the road and it then wandered back up a driveway, French King Highway.

6:31 p.m. 911 call requesting an officer at the Gill Mill because the vehicle operator he called to report as erratic pulled in and threatened him. The subject then left the Gill Mill.

**Saturday, 3/23**

8:24 p.m. MassDOT truck driver reporting he almost struck a Dodge pickup parked at the side of the road, French King Highway.

**Sunday, 3/24**

8:07 a.m. Caller reporting icy road conditions on Main

Road, from the police station heading toward Turners.

1:47 p.m. Two cars reported parked on the roadway, unattended and facing the wrong direction, at Boyle and North Cross roads.

5:40 p.m. Caller from Barney Hale Road reporting a purple Mercedes SUV followed them down the French King Highway, trying to run them off the road. Same then followed them onto their street and is now parked at the end of their neighbor’s driveway.

**Monday, 3/25**

8:25 a.m. Assisted citizen on Main Road.

11:33 a.m. Caller states a vehicle has been passing several cars in a no-passing zone on West Gill Road and speeding.

7:07 p.m. Assisted citizen on Riverview Drive.

11:58 p.m. Disturbance on Center Road.

**Tuesday, 3/26**

4:46 p.m. Medical emergency on Lamplighter Way.

**Wednesday, 3/27**

6:48 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with unwanted person, Wells Street.

**Thursday, 3/28**

12:16 p.m. Disabled vehicle on Main Road. Out of gas.

1:59 p.m. Assisted citizen with home lockout on South Cross Road.

4:35 p.m. Caller advises a green Ford pulling a black trailer has no working lights, French King Highway.

4:42 p.m. Welfare check on Main Road.

**Friday, 3/29**

7:32 a.m. Caller states a smaller German Shepherd mix is running in the roadway at the French King Highway and Camp Road. The dog has a collar and tags, but the caller cannot get close enough to read them.

2:41 p.m. Medical emergency on Main Road.

5:59 p.m. Assisted citizen on West Gill Road.

**Saturday, 3/30**

12:18 p.m. Vehicle lockout reported on Center Road. Vehicle not running, and no kids or animals are inside.

2:59 p.m. Fire alarm on Boyle Road.

3:47 p.m. Flooded basement on Walnut Street called in to the PD.

6:07 p.m. Welfare check on the French King Highway.

**Sunday, 3/31**

11:55 a.m. Paperwork service on the French King Highway.

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It is difficult  
to get the news from poems  
yet men die miserably every day  
for lack  
of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

edited by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno  
Readers are invited to send poems to the  
*Montague Reporter* at: 177 Avenue A  
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# Our April Poetry Page

## The new Greatest show on earth

Hip hip hooray?  
We're going to  
The Death capades  
This afternoon.  
All our ancestors  
Will be leaping  
Wildly across the  
Three-hundred foot  
Platforms and doing  
Countless backflips  
To entertain the  
The thrilled children  
In gold roller skates.  
Great Aunt Betty  
Who passed away  
One hundred and thirty  
Years ago will be  
Pirouetting in a silk  
Tutu and spinning  
Like a never-ending  
Top on the floor.  
She'll be reciting  
Her prize-winning  
Essay: "What I did  
Last summer" which  
She wrote in her  
Fourth grade class  
With Mrs Cummings  
At the Alexis Martin  
School for girls  
In the country.  
Great great uncle  
Julian will be doing  
The hundred-yard  
Dash in his lawyer's  
Suit which he wore  
Every day to work  
At the Heineman,  
Ross and Bigsby and  
Sons law firm one  
Hundred and forty  
Years ago.  
You'll be happy to  
Know that all his pens  
Have been secured  
in his vest pocket  
So they wont fall out  
And Great great  
Grandmother Roundtree  
Will be singing "It's a  
Grand old flag" for two  
Hours straight while  
Standing on her head  
In front of four hundred  
Siamese cats.  
So step right up folks  
And get your tickets  
Now for the new  
Greatest show on earth.  
The incomparable  
Death capades!

- Sara Steinberg  
Amherst

## A Slight disappointment

This is not how  
We thought it was  
Going to be.  
We expected  
Red carpets,  
Tiffany chandeliers  
Gold plated forks  
And spoons in  
Fine bone china bowls  
On Christian Dior  
Table cloths flown  
In from Paris.

We expected  
A fleet of white  
Horses with green  
And blue garlands  
Carefully placed  
On their upturned heads  
Who acknowledged us  
One by one as we  
Passed gingerly  
In front of them  
Wearing the  
Monogrammed  
Slippers given to  
Us as a going away  
Present that July  
When the sweltering  
Heat made us seem  
Happier than we ever  
Deserved to be.

We expected all  
These things whether  
We deserved them or  
Not because we thought  
We were worth it.

But in the end all we  
Got was a bowl of  
Luke warm water,  
One sharpened pencil  
And a piece of paper.

- Sara Steinberg  
Amherst

## Shadow of an Idea

I thought I had an idea once  
But it really wasn't an idea  
But merely the vague shadow  
Of an idea riding alone on  
Horseback through the woods  
On the other side of the lake.

It continued for tours on the  
Horses back until a nightmare  
Sliding backwards inside purple  
Wind posts lifted it into the  
Stratosphere for thirty-nine  
Point two seconds.

The shadow of an idea then  
Morphed into the shape  
Of a fruit bat and spoke Orange  
And blue Latin words, commanding  
Half-cocked army platoons to  
Charge awkward but friendly  
Enemy soldiers climbing up  
The mountainside.

A real idea would never  
Behave in such an outrageous  
Fashion but would present  
Itself in a more dignified manner.

I knew that was the problem  
With this shadow of an idea  
Which insisted on reminiscing  
About the old days when Grandpa  
Danced and sang in a Kilt, doing his  
Best impression of Harry Lauder  
On the front porch.

But after fourteen seconds  
The shadow of an idea became  
Tired of being a fruit bat and  
Decided to turn into a commercial  
Jet liner on its way to Senegal  
to Pick up a two-ton cargo of spider  
Moths to be transported to  
The San Francisco Zoo.

The spider moths arrived  
Safely at the Zoo and the  
Zoo keeper sang familiar  
Songs to them to calm them  
Down after their long journey

But again, real ideas do not  
Change from Fruit bats into  
Commercial jet liners just  
Because they're bored

Real ideas are solidly  
Grounded on the surfaces  
Of magnetized titanium  
Casserole dishes flown  
In from the Owens Corning  
Factory in Paris where the  
Working classes break their  
Hands and backs making  
Them all day long.

- Rachel Sterling  
Amherst

## Contributors' Notes:

Rachel Sterling and Sara Steinberg, both from Amherst, allow language to spring forth in capricious, surprising, and delightful ways. Sterling just finished a book about her great-uncle Everett Fessenden's shirt factory, and a story titled "The Competent Seamstress."

## Forward Frolicking

Frolicking lumberjacks  
Talking backwards  
In a field of dandelions  
Cannot tell the time  
Because they were  
Not instructed to.  
Talking backwards  
And frolicking in fields  
Of dandelions is their  
Specialty.  
The dandelions enjoy  
Hearing the lumberjacks  
Talk backwards because  
It's the only game in town.  
The dandelions would  
Be bored if the lumberjacks  
Talked forwards while  
Frolicking.

- Rachel Sterling  
Amherst



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WILLIAM TROST RICHARDS, THE SPRING, 1863

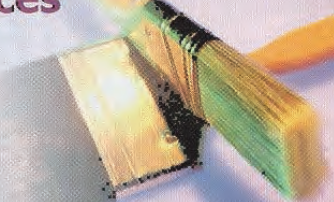
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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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### THURSDAY, APRIL 11

Rat Trap, Holyoke: *Feminine Aggression, Nemesister, Posy, Sgraffito Kill*. \$ 7 p.m.

Bowker Auditorium, UMass Amherst: *JJJJ*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 12

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Josephine Foster, Jenifer Gelineau, David Shapiro*. \$ 7 p.m.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Nanny, New Here, Dollflower*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Whiskey Treaty Roadshow* with special guest *Peter Prince*. \$ 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Rocking Puppies, Boring Man, Sam Mulligan, Spookaround, Wire Pile*. \$ 8 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Pat Metheny*. \$ 8 p.m.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Meltdown Family Festival feat. *The Rockin' Puppies, The Deedle Deedle Dees, Marsha and the Positrons*, storytellers, more. See [www.rivermeltdown.com](http://www.rivermeltdown.com). \$ 10 a.m.

Palladium, Worcester: *Bone Thugs-N-Harmony, DJ Craze, Lil Eazy E, Danny Pease & The Regulators*, more. \$ 4 p.m.

Bondhu, Lanesborough: *Human Pontiac, Matt Weston, Paul LaBrecque & Wednesday Knudsen, Alicia Jeanine, Liz Durette*. Gaza benefit. \$ 6 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Open Mic Night, 'Echoes of David Kaynor'*. Sign up at 6:15 p.m. \$ 6:30 p.m.

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

Floodwater Brewery, Shelburne Falls: *She Said*. No cover. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Robbie Fulks* with special guest *Bill Kirchen*. \$ 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Trash Rabbit, The Howlers, Senior Year*. \$ 8 p.m.

SCDT, Northampton: *QUAD*, quadrophonic compositions by *Jake Meginsky, Jenifer Gelineau, Omeed Goodarzi, and C. Laverdar*. \$ 8 p.m.

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: *Two Suns In the Sky (Elizabeth Karp / Federico Balducci)*. \$ 9 p.m.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 14

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Mike Videopunk, Pleasure Coffin, Fred Cracklin, Rhubarb Duo*. \$ 8 p.m.

### MONDAY, APRIL 15

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Ruth Garbus Trio, Bernice*. \$ 8 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wes Brown with Jill Connolly and Eugene Uman*. No cover. 8 and 11 p.m.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 18

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Kira McSpice, Wiles, Rebecca Schraeder*. \$ 8 p.m.

Bookends, Florence: *Bugslam, Miracle Blood, Imp Say Glyph, Wax Input*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Sword II, Noah Kesity, Thus Love*. \$ 8 p.m.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 19

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Film & Gender, SLOBDROP, Sapien Joyride*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Back In Black, AC/DC* tribute. \$ 8 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Madison Cunningham, Juana Molina*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Earthless, Minami Deutsch*. \$ 8 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Gaslight Tinkers, Ditrani Brothers*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:

*Don Gadi, MF Oblivion, Slush-room*. \$ 9:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 20

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Toasted Jam* feat. *Papoose, Styles P, Gorilla Zoe*, more. \$ 1 p.m.

Mount Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Carrie & Michael Kline, Joe Blumenthal*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hutghi's at the Nook, Westfield: *Setting*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Dead Man's Waltz, Dead/Band/Allmans* tribute. \$ 8 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Catamount, Derek Sensale*. \$ 9:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 21

Holyoke Media, Holyoke: Flywheel presents *Dear Nora, Ruth Garbus Trio, bobbie*. \$ 7 p.m.

### MONDAY, APRIL 22

Dracula, Holyoke: *The Body, World Peace, Space Camp*. \$ 8 p.m.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 23

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Blaque Dynamite*. \$ 8 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

Tori Town, Holyoke: *Friendly Spectres, bobbie, Sleep Destroyer, Perennial*. \$ 7 p.m.

### looking forward...

### SATURDAY, APRIL 27

10 Forward, Greenfield: RPM Fest launch feat. *Bellow, Viqueen, Hauzu*. \$ 7 p.m.

### SATURDAY, MAY 18

Nova Arts, Keene: *Earth, J. Pavone String Ensemble, The Huntress and Holder of Hands, Sunburned Hand of the Man, The Leafies You Gave Me*, more. \$ 2:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY, MAY 24

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Home Body, Wooly Mar, bobbie*. \$ 8 p.m.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 8

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Greenfield Records's Big 15 feat. *Noise Nomads, Old Pam, Stella Kola, The Eye, Willie Lane, Big Destiny, Creative Writing, Moth's Frog, DJs*. \$ 1 p.m.

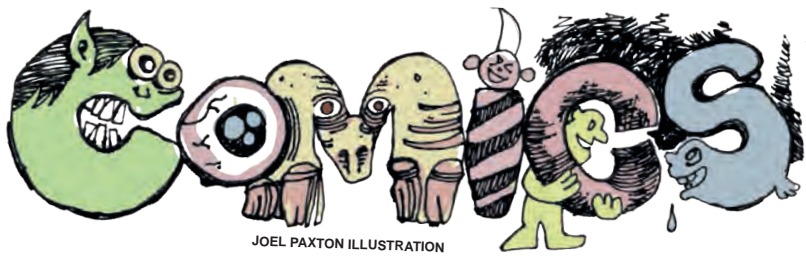
Colonial Theater, Keene: *Roseanne Cash*. \$ 8 p.m.

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

Treehouse Brewing, Deerfield: *Little Feat, The Steel Wheels*. \$ 7 p.m.

### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

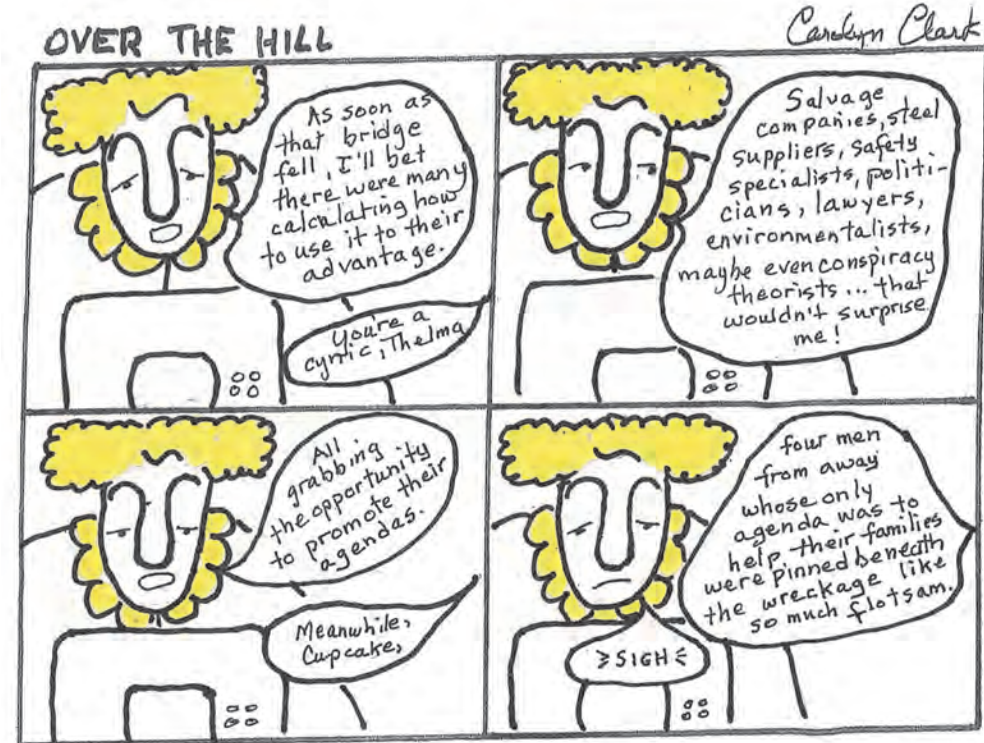
Academy of Music, Northampton: *Adrienne Lenker, Suzanne Vallie*. \$ 8 p.m.



JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION



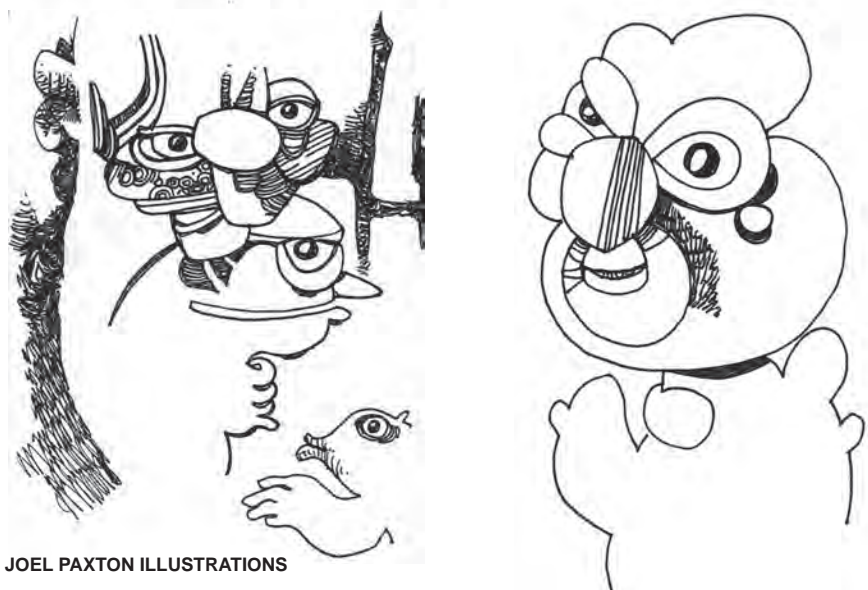
JAN ATAMIAN ILLUSTRATION



Carolyn Clark



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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Wendell: Litter Pickup

Since the '80s many Wendell townfolk have been consistent with helping pick up litter along our town's roads. Ted Lewis was one of those folks that cared and helped for decades, driving the town's small dump truck and walking along picking up litter with us. Last year we decided to hold the town litter pickup during April school vacation each year, and to honor Ted Lewis by naming this event the TED Walk.

This year's TED Walk will be held April 14 through 20. Participants can pick up litter along the roads in town anytime, and a crew will pick up the bags on Saturday,

April 20 between 9 a.m. and noon.

If you choose to bring bags of litter to WRATS they will let you put them in the hopper at no charge. If you leave them on the roads please leave them safely by the guardrail or a telephone pole. Please call Maggie at (978) 544-7773, Deb at (978) 544-7102, or Anne at (413) 522-4453 to tell what roads you have cleaned.

Please be safe. Wear gloves and bright colors so drivers can clearly see you. Bags for participants will be available at the Wendell Country Store and Diemand Farm Store, and grabbers and neon vests will be available to borrow at the Library.

## Leverett: Earth Day Cleanup

The Leverett Community Builders are sponsoring the Fourth Annual Earth Day community-wide cleanup next Saturday, April 20 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Come join in the fun with your neighbors and leave Leverett clean and sparkling.

You and your family can participate by choosing an area to clean and signing up at [bit.ly/LeverettCleanup](http://bit.ly/LeverettCleanup).

Participants can bring trash and recyclables to the transfer station at no charge. A prize (a Coop gift certificate) will be awarded for the most trash collected. The highway department will pick up large items left on the side of the road the following Monday if participants arrange pick up by emailing [highway@leverett.ma.us](mailto:highway@leverett.ma.us).

The selectboard and the transfer station are waiving fees that weekend for Cleanup trash.

This year Earth Day Cleanup coincides with "Hold the Foam," an opportunity for Leverett residents to recycle Styrofoam at the Leverett Transfer Station on each Saturday in April.

The event offers a great opportunity to not only clean up Leverett but to also be part of a fun, community-wide effort. People are encouraged to show up with your family, and invite your friends and neighbors to participate. Be safe. Have fun.

Questions, concerns, and photos can be sent to [LeverettCommunityBuilders@gmail.com](mailto:LeverettCommunityBuilders@gmail.com).

### VALLEY VIEW from page B1

Future research may yet uncover clues defining the footprints of complementary wooden apparatuses associated with weirs. Indians obviously knew the value of durable, water-resistant woods like chestnut, cedar, and locust for companion pieces, and would have used them to build fences, lattices, and platforms to aid in fish-gathering. Because such woods have shown remarkable survival capabilities in submerged archaeological environments, the footprints of such structures could be mapped by field researchers.

Sadly, one important fact now out of reach is quantification of the various pre-colonial fish runs up and down the Connecticut River, and its tributaries like the Ashuelot. There is just no way to attach

accurate numbers to those anadromous and catadromous fish runs, but take it to the bank that they were much larger than the largest on record during the modern era. Ancient run volumes matter in any assessments of pre-European Contact Period fishing practices and related structures.

The Swanzey Fish Dam is shaped like a checkmark. It rests approximately eight straight-line miles—perhaps 12 meandering river miles—from the Ashuelot's Hinsdale, New Hampshire mouth. Radiocarbon dating brings the structure back to the Terminal Archaic Period, some 4,000 B.P. (years before present). It was still in use by Squakheag or Sokoki Indians into the second half of the 17th century, likely one of many manmade fish-gathering constructions of var-



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ious designs built along the Ashuelot's 65-mile reach.

The most important fish migrations targeted by indigenous Connecticut Valley fishers were the upstream anadromous spring runs of shad, salmon, lampreys, sturgeon, and herrings. Then came the downstream fall runs of valued catadromous American eels. The Indians would have known what adaptations were necessary for each species, and most of the adjustments would have involved wooden embellishments.

Although the Swanzey Fish Dam was known to colonial settlers at an early date and became local tradition, little effort was taken to understand indigenous fishing practices

there until recently. Goodby first showed interest in the site at the dawning of the 21st century, then ramped up investigative efforts after the August 2010 removal of the 1860s Homestead Woolen Mill dam in West Swanzey. As had previously been the case during a 1950 dam-repair project that drew down the upstream impoundment, the Indian stonework was exposed, setting wheels of discovery into motion.

Goodby's site report appeared in 2014. Seven years later, *A Deep Presence* hit the street. Now, following local press coverage, scholarly articles in academic journals, a dissertation, and random book reviews, the Swanzey site is in the public eye... sort of.

Although there's still plenty to learn about the social and economic activities at ancient indigenous fishing camps situated along large and small Connecticut Valley streams, a new discovery process is underway. Hopefully, new information will keep surfacing, starting with radiocarbon dating of the other aforementioned nearby sites.

As archaeologists like Goodby continue to poke and probe, they may yet open a clearer window into what ancient indigenous fishing operations looked like in our fertile valley before the post-King Philip's War (1675-76) diaspora took hold.

The answers lie buried in floodplain meadows and river sediments.



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3. have drink  
4. eat grub

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