

The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 23, 2024

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Override Vote On the Table; Schools, Police Outpace Limit

By JOSH HEINEMANN

On May 15 the Wendell selectboard made up for their short meeting on May 1, going late into the night.

Coming to the meeting as an “item not anticipated,” finance committee co-chair Meagan Sylvia and member Al McIntyre told the board that the town’s projected FY’25 budget is over the levy limit. Though the town is still taxing under the levy ceiling – 2.5% of the total valuation – inflation and planned costs exceed the town’s allowable gain in revenue.

Selectboard member Gillian Budine added that 49 Wendell property owners have not paid their 2024 property tax, and 27 have not paid their 2023 tax.

McIntyre said the school assessments were up – by 16% at Swift River School and 18% at Mahar – due to the increased number of students Wendell is sending, while the bill for policing is up 40%. Wendell has used stabilization to keep taxes from growing too fast, but the stabilization fund is lower than it should be, not helped by the expensive replacement of the Mormon Hollow Road culvert and two subsequent repairs.

A Proposition 2½ override would allow Wendell to fund all requests, but requires a town meeting vote and a separate ballot question. Treasurer Carolyn Manley said the budget items made vulnerable by possible defeat of an override must be specified.

“We can’t do another year like this,” McIntyre said. He said available grants are aimed at larger projects: \$5 million for new school

see **WENDELL** page A5

Towns Sit On Opioid Money; Collaboratives Plot Programs

By BELLA LEVAVI

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Voters in our coverage area first began seeing money from national opioid settlements flow into their towns when they voted to open stabilization accounts during the annual town meetings in 2023.

Now, over a year since the accounts’ creation and nearing two years since the initial payments from large national corporations like Johnson & Johnson, Walmart, Allergan, CVS, and Walgreens, towns in our area have yet to see any implemented programs.

This money is the result of a court case in 2021, where several pharmaceutical companies reached a landmark settlement in an opioid lawsuit, agreeing to pay billions of dollars to compensate communities for their role in fueling the opioid epidemic in the United States.

For instance, when asked, Montague public health director Ryan Paxton responded via email, stating, “The Montague Board of Health has not made any decisions regarding how they would like to advise the Selectboard to use the funds.”

While no programs have been put in place, Phoebe Walker, director of community health at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), indicated that some programs using this money are in their planning stages, and that residents may start seeing the settlement revenue being spent as early as this September.

“It has been a real logistical challenge,” Walker said, addressing the prolonged period towns are taking to spend the funds. “I hear the frustration from people in the recovery community... The funding arrived

see **OPIOID** page A5

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Feds Pledge \$4.9 Million for Teardown



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Town officials fear the publicly owned, long-vacant paper mill buildings could begin to collapse into the Connecticut River.

By JEFF SINGLETON

The town of Montague will be receiving \$4,920,400 from the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to help demolish the Strathmore mill complex, town administrator Steve Ellis announced at Monday’s remote selectboard meeting.

The mills on Canal Road in Turners Falls, which were built in 1874 and have been empty for over two decades – with the exception of a small hydro plant in a building the town does not own – have become a

major safety concern for town officials, who fear that they could fall into the Connecticut River or become a death trap for trespassers.

Ellis said the grant award had been known for about a week, but town officials had agreed to wait until Monday for the official federal announcement. The topic did not appear on the meeting’s agenda, but was announced during the “public comment period” and discussed further at the end as a “topic not anticipated.”

“This is the critical foundational piece that the town see **MONTAGUE** page A4

GILL SELECTBOARD

Voters Elect to Stop Electing Treasurer and Tax Collector

By KATE SAVAGE

In Monday’s meeting, the Gill selectboard reviewed the outcome of the annual town election and prepared to submit comments on the FirstLight relicensing process.

Forty-seven residents voted in Monday’s town election, which is under 4% of the town’s registered voters. All candidates ran unopposed.

Thirty-five voters approved changing the roles of treasurer and tax collector from elected to appointed positions. The change will allow the town to create a job description and establish prerequisites for the roles, hire qualified non-residents, and remove any appointees who neglect their work or misuse funds.

The selectboard moved to refer the issue to the personnel committee to begin writing job descriptions for both positions.

Voters also approved an expansion of the sewer commission to include two additional appointed members. The commission had requested this expansion to ensure the presence of actual sewer users from the Riverside neighborhood on the board. Residents interested in the position should contact town administrator Ray Purington.

Selectboard member Charles Garbiel was reelected, though he noted ruefully that two voters left that section blank. Greg Snedeker was appointed as the chair of the board for the year ahead.

FirstLight Relicensing

Coming up against a May 22 deadline, the town is preparing to submit comments to the Federal

see **GILL** page A6

Deputy Admin Job Offered

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – The town of Montague could soon have a new assistant town administrator (ATA). Athena O’Keeffe, who currently works for Amherst as the clerk to its town council, comes highly recommended by the official hiring committee, which reported to the selectboard at its Monday meeting. The board voted unanimously to begin negotiations with O’Keeffe on a new contract.

ATA hiring committee chair Dorinda Bell-Upp began by describing the search process. She see **JOB** page A3



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Greenfield resident Athena O’Keeffe may become Montague’s second ATA.

Incumbents Hold Seats

By REPORTER STAFF

GILL and MONTAGUE – Local elections were held Monday and Tuesday in Gill and Montague, attracting 47 and 718 voters respectively. The main competitive race on both ballots was for Montague’s two three-year seats on the district school committee. Incumbents Lori-Lee Adams and Carol Jacobs defended these seats from challenger Scott Hyman of Millers Falls, best-

ing Hyman in every precinct.

In Gill, 74% of voters supported making the town treasurer and tax collector into appointed positions (see article, Page A1).

In Montague, a write-in race for town moderator was unexpectedly close. Recently-retired Montague police sergeant John Dempsey garnered 84 votes to planning board chair Elizabeth Irving’s 82.

The dispersion of these write-ins see **SEATS** page A2

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Volunteerism at a Deficit

By GEORGE BRACE

At their meeting on Tuesday, Leverett’s selectboard discussed initiating a “recruitment drive” to fill vacancies on town boards, committees, and commissions. The board also agreed to work with the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust to pursue grant funding for the repair and restoration of the Rattlesnake Gutter Conservation Area.

Resident Steve Weiss called at-

tention to the number of unfilled volunteer positions in town bodies, noting that the town depends on these volunteers to function effectively. He said that while recruitment has “always been an issue,” he thought it had become more difficult recently.

Town clerk Lisa Stratford agreed, adding that the problem was not specific to Leverett, but facing municipalities everywhere.

see **LEVERETT** page A6

ONE FOR TOMORROW



SUZETTE SNOW-COBBE PHOTO

Right to left: Bill Codington, Tom Sullivan, and David Detmold, members of Montague’s tree committee, planted a new Harlem Elm in Peskeompskut Park as part of the town’s Arbor Day observance last month.

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Interests In The Region

"Permanent peace can only be secured upon the basis of the free will of a free people," Ireland's prime minister Simon Harris declared on Wednesday at a press conference announcing that his country, along with Norway and Spain, intends to officially recognize Palestinian statehood next week.

Israel angrily recalled its ambassadors from the trio of European countries. "This evil cannot be given a state," Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu asserted. "This would be a terrorist state."

Seven months into Israel's campaign in Gaza, international polarization over the status and rights of Palestinians in the occupied territories has become particularly stark.

According to Bilal Hammoud, executive director of the Arab American Chamber of Commerce, US secretary of state Antony Blinken told Arab-American leaders at a closed-door meeting last week that if the United Nations votes to recognize Palestine, the US will defund the global body, likely prompting a collapse of the World Food Programme. "The comparison was made that 'the world would have to go hungry, just as the Gazans are,'" a stunned Hammoud told reporters. "The fact that it's US policy to starve the world if Palestinians have a free state, regardless of if that's the law or not, is indicative of something severely wrong."

This is not the first time the administration has offered an explanation that sounds uncannily like a threat. "Were there no Israel, there's not a Jew in the world who will be safe," President Biden stated in February. He has repeated the line several times, leading some Jewish American commentators to marvel that it sounds a lot like an abidca-

tion of his responsibility to their safety here – or conditioning their protection on the status of Israel.

"Were there not an Israel, the United States of America would have to invent an Israel to protect her interests in the region," Biden, then a US senator, declared in 1986.

The intention of the current Israeli government to use the October 7 attacks as a pretext for territorial expansion has become obvious by now even to its most obtuse apologists. This month defense minister Yoav Gallant recommended that Israel "build a new city in the West Bank to accommodate an influx of residents as the settler population continues to grow," according to the *Times of Israel*, and on Wednesday he broadened a law allowing a return to several illegal settlements previously ordered abandoned. Hamas, needless to say, has very little presence in the West Bank and never served as its civil authority; it is sheer opportunism to punish its residents for their actions. But tell that to the tanks rolling into Jenin.

Monday's news that an International Criminal Court prosecutor planned arrest warrants for Netanyahu, Gallant, and three Hamas leaders for their respective war crimes drew a sharp rebuke from Biden, who flatly denied that Israel could be committing genocide; Blinken challenged the "legitimacy and credibility" of the ICC itself.

Biden is playing a dangerous game of chicken with his own electorate. Democrats should be asking themselves: Is his commitment so passionate, so unwavering, that he'd rather cede the presidency to Donald Trump than end the US's lockstep defense of Israel? It seems as if that is the threat he is making – is the party condemned to follow?



Blanche Derby holds up some of the edible plant samples she presented during her Wild and Cultivated Edible Foods talk at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls last Sunday. Derby brought edible flowers such as wisteria, peony, and tulip, as well as an assortment of leaves and twigs that can be used in salads, casseroles, infusions, and poultices. She writes about wild and tame plants on her Facebook page, Forage: Forest & Field, and has made 89 educational videos on YouTube @thederb720.

Letters to the Editors

If Fire Is the Concern...

Thanks to the *Reporter* for providing front-page coverage of the risk of "runaway fires" in storage battery facilities. As the article made clear, this is an issue of much local concern. However, I feel compelled to point out concerns far more incendiary than those posed by any battery.

Again this summer we can expect raging wildfires from Canada to Australia. We will probably breathe the scorched air of the former. We will watch as millions of acres are torched by record temperatures due to global warming.

Lithium-ion batteries, when improperly stored or maintained, can

catch fire. Firefighters are justly concerned about the difficulty of extinguishing such fires, but as the article makes clear, they are preparing for this challenge. I suspect, being firefighters, they even welcome it.

By contrast, the *Reporter's* article, which does not mention global warming, fans the fears that have sparked town bylaws rejecting any storage sites. As our planet burns, doesn't it seem rather short-sighted to focus solely on potential fires in small communities, utterly ignoring the existential danger of a simmering planet? Is fanning those fears with a front-page article really in the best interest of a world facing not just

fires but surging seas, sweltering temperatures, and record storms?

The picture of our upscale communities worried about a possible fire while the planet burns is NIM-BY on steroids.

Soon, very soon, every citizen must answer a question – which future do I fear? Possible fires in facilities whose solar energy is helping to cool the planet? Or the spreading firestorms we can expect every summer until we finally take personal responsibility for overheating the earth?

Bruce Watson
Montague

SEATS from page A1

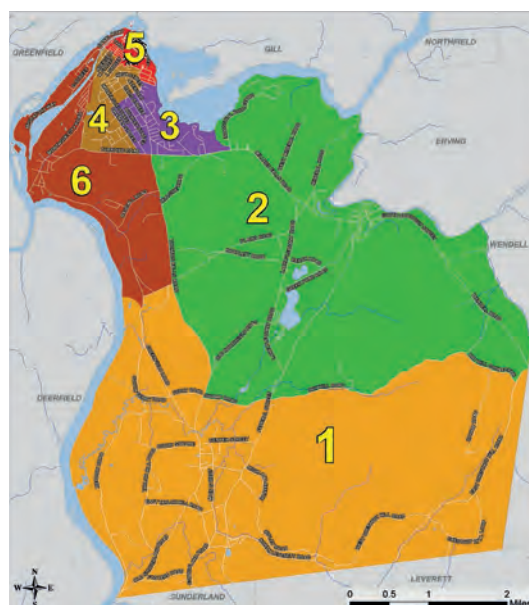
followed a common pattern of polarization in town poll results, with Dempsey's support concentrated in Precincts 3 and 4, the Hill neighborhood, and Irving's in Precincts 1 and 5, Montague Center and downtown Turners Falls.

Support for Hyman's school committee bid ranged from 24.2% in his home Precinct 2 down to 13.5% in Precinct 6.

The big winners of the day were incumbents running unopposed, including Gill and Montague selectboard members Charles Garbiel and Rich Kuklewicz. As a write-in candidate, Pam Allan qualified to win both three-year and two-year seats among the Montague library trustees. Another write-in, Gretchen Wetherby, won a three-year seat.

Retired police detective Bill Doyle won a five-year seat on Montague's housing authority with eight write-in votes, and police chief Chris Williams won the veteran seat among the soldiers' memorial trustees with two.

The non-veteran seat was won by Hyman, who with three write-in votes cast in Precinct 2 edged out John Reynolds and Jeff Singleton, who were each written in twice.



Montague's six voting precincts are evenly proportioned by population.

Good Summary

Just a quick thank you to Sarah Robertson for her careful, thorough article on the potential fire dangers of lithium battery facilities, and including even very much smaller lithium batteries. This is an important subject, being a key aspect of "decarbonizing" energy. Good to have a summary of the issues which must be addressed in permitting.

George Drake
Leverett

Not a Question

I have not a question, but praise: I bought the *Montague Reporter* at Unnameable Books on Sunday, May 19, 2024. We were in Turners Falls exploring Loot. What a great paper. News stories clear and concise. Layout easy to peruse. I love the police log highlights, and the pg. A2 "125 Years Ago This Month" was a gem.

Good luck, thank you and keep up the good work.

Mike Plaisance
Holyoke

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Learn about fish migration at the **Turners Falls Fishway**, open now through June 9. You can see fish migrating upriver during their spring spawning run through underwater viewing windows, and there are guides who share information about anadromous fish such as American shad and sea lamprey.

The Fishway is near the bike path and Unity Park picnic area by the Connecticut River, with parking off of First Street. It is open Wednesdays through Sundays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and admission is free.

The **Bridge of Flowers**, closed at the end of 2023 for needed repair work, is unexpectedly open for the season due to a dearth of bidders for the repair project. The Bridge of Flowers Committee has decided to move some plants back onto the bridge and open it to pedestrians, though the gardens will not be in top form, as many plants have been relocated into foster care.

The Mead Art Museum at Amherst College opens a new exhibition, **"The Juncture: Ukrainian Artists in Search of Modernity and Identity"** this Friday, May 24. The show highlights a period of cultural renaissance in Ukraine against a complicated socio-political backdrop with sculpture, painting, graphic design, and more.

The opening reception will be held tonight, Thursday, May 23, from 6 to 8 p.m. The exhibit will be on view until October.

The Congregational Church in Montague Center is holding a **tag sale** this Saturday, May 25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The National Spiritual Alliance will host a **Psychic Fair** from

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. this Saturday, at Thompson Temple, 2 Montague Avenue in Lake Pleasant. To register or for more info, visit spiritualallianceusa.org/calendar.

Founded in 1874, Lake Pleasant is the oldest continuously-existing same-site year-round Spiritualist center in the United States and is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year.

Abdou Sarr has returned from a trip to Senegal and is restarting his weekly **African dance classes** at the Wendell Town Hall this Saturday, May 25 at 2:30 p.m. He also offers a youth series on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Email Sarr for more information at ssarrsabar@proton.me.

MASS MoCA offers free museum admission on May 25 in celebration of their 25th anniversary. There will be a performance by Son Lux, open studios, and family activities and other live performances on that day. The Son Lux trio provided the score to the hit film, *Everything Everywhere All At Once*.

Greenfield Community College invites the public to a celebration on Saturday, May 25. **"GCC Day" on the campus** will have food and family activities from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Food trucks will offer a variety of fare such as sliders, mac and cheese, Thai food, and vegetarian food, with each graduate entitled to a free meal item. Hitchcock Brewing will provide beer; water and soft drinks will be available for those who don't imbibe. Hop on the carnival rides and play games from North American Amusement while listening to music from local radio station WRSI "The River."

A **Memorial Day observance** on the Montague Center common is

scheduled for this Sunday, May 26 at 11:15 a.m. The Montague Center Firefighters Association will sponsor the service, which will pay tribute to fallen military members.

Eggtooth Productions and the Shea Theatre present **Sarah Ruhl's adaptation of Virginia Woolf's Orlando** on May 30 and 31 and June 1 at 7:30 pm. Linda Tardif plays the title role, in an ensemble cast that includes Kyle Boatwright, Lindel Hart, and Rich Vaden, with Broadway makeup artist and beloved character Mr. Drag (Joe Dulude II) as Queen Elizabeth.

The story is described as that of a young nobleman who is drawn into a love affair with Queen Elizabeth I: "For a time, life at court is interesting enough, but Orlando yearns for something more. As he strives to make his way as a poet and lover, his travels through time and space keep him at the heart of a dazzling tale where gender and gender freedom shift regularly, often with hilarious results."

Tickets are \$20, available at sheatheater.org or at the door. The production is offered in support of the Collective at Lupinewood. Special VIP tickets for the first two rows are \$45 and will feature "fun immersive elements."

Find out about **soils and pH testing** at the Great Falls Farmers Market on Saturday, June 1 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. thanks to DCR staff, the Friends of the Discovery Center, and Western Massachusetts Master Gardeners. Learn how to collect a sample to bring for testing at tinyurl.com/soilgffm.

Plants have different needs as far as soil acidity, and this would be the opportunity to get your garden questions answered.

Musical storyteller **Eli Elkus will give a free, all-ages show** on Saturday, June 1 at Peskeompskut Park in Turners Falls from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., in conjunction with the Great Falls Farmers Market.

Elkus's songs and stories illustrate the history of family farms, workers' rights, railroads, and industrialization in America. Musical genres include folk, blues, and Americana from the early 1900s as well as original works that continue

the story of the working class. Find out more at eliekus.com. The rain date is Saturday, June 29.

Diemand Farms in Wendell is offering **Saturday lunches of farm fresh food** throughout the summer. They plan to have live music during the 1 to 3 p.m. picnic events.

The first lunch on June 1 will feature chicken BBQ, mac and cheese, green beans, and cornbread, with music provided by the Can Collectors. Lunches will be packaged "to go" so you can either take them home or eat at the picnic tables. It's best to order ahead of time at thediemandfarm.com.

It's not too early to start on your costume for the **Wendell Misfit Prom and Parade**, which will take place June 15. The wacky and fun Prom started in 2009 as an opportunity to "wear all your fancy stuff and get your spectacle on," and it has become an annual costumed theme parade and party. This year's theme is "Wendell Goes Medieval!"

Spectators bring their chairs and line the road for the half mile from the Wendell Common to the Deja Brew at 6 p.m. This year the Montague Marching Band will lead, followed by floats, anyone in costume who wishes to join, and ending with the Wendell Warriors drummers.

The party continues at Deja Brew with backyard barbeque and two bands, Carol Devine & the Mighty Fine and the Salty Heifers, playing in the outdoor pavilion. Tickets for the party are available for \$15 at the Wendell Country Store or \$20 at the door, but the parade is free.

The LAVA Center in Greenfield is accepting submissions from Massachusetts filmmakers for the **fourth annual LAVA Film Festival**, a showcase of Massachusetts filmmaking talent, from students to professionals and everyone in between. The festival will take place October 11 through 13. Films of any length, subject, and style are accepted by current Massachusetts residents. The early bird deadline is July 21, with a regular deadline of August 11. Submissions are handled through filmfreeway.com/LAVAFilmFestival.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

JOB from page A1

said the panel had narrowed the candidates down to two finalists, O'Keefe and Christopher Nolan, who has served for the past year and a half as assistant town administrator in Deerfield.

Both candidates, she said, "have strong speaking and writing skills, both have recently received [degrees] from Suffolk University in public administration, both have a lot of potential but are newer to forward-facing positions in public administration."

The committee ultimately recommended moving forward with O'Keefe, who lives in Greenfield and has experience in the public and private sectors. "We are confident that Athena will be a quick learner in the areas where she has a lack of direct experience," Bell-Upp read from a written statement. "We are also confident that she will be a committed community advocate."

Current ATA Walter Ramsey said that O'Keefe had "interviewed really well," and is a "rising rock star in municipal administration out here."

Town administrator Steve Ellis, who Ramsey is replacing in June, said that he had sat in on all the interviews with finalists, and that he was "very excited, as I leave the role - [Athena is] exactly the kind of person I hoped that we would see."

"What attracted you to apply for this role?" selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz asked her. O'Keefe responded that she had just received

her masters' degree from Suffolk University the previous day, and originally "had not expected to begin a job search... before I was even finished with finals." "But this opportunity arose, and I just love Montague," she said, noting that her family spends a lot of time here, and that "it seems like Montague is part of my community."

"I think I could do great things teaming up with Walter in Montague, so I'm very excited," she concluded.

The final motion approved by the board authorized Ramsey, Ellis, and Kuklewicz to negotiate a contract with O'Keefe. Ramsey told the *Reporter* that he hopes to see a transition to the new appointee prior to the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

The potential end of the process for hiring a new ATA puts a significant dent in the number of major town staff positions that need to be filled in the coming months. A committee has been formed to find a replacement for public works superintendent Tom Bergeron, who will retire in June; the selectboard has not yet discussed a process to replace longtime town accountant Carolyn Olsen, who leaves in September.

The ATA position is relatively new in Montague, having been approved at the May 2022 annual town meeting by a 39 to 25 vote. Ramsey, who was the town planner at the time, was chosen to fill the role that August and started working in October 2022.

The job focuses heavily on grantwriting and infrastructure development. At the previous week's meeting, for example, Ramsey reviewed a long list of capital projects in order to set priorities for the coming year. He was also credited by Ellis for writing the grant proposal to the Environmental Protection Agency that secured over \$4.9 million in federal funds to help demolish the Strathmore factory complex (*see article, Page A1*).

However, the ATA job description was revised last winter to attract a broader range of candidates with diverse skills in the recent search. "We would like to encourage candidates who may have other strengths, but not some of these [in the current job description] to apply," Kuklewicz said at the time.

Ramsey said that the role will likely evolve further in the coming months. "We're going to see what works best for us," he told the *Reporter*.

O'Keefe has revealed to us the origins of her creative name. She said her mother had a dream a year before she was born that "she had a baby who introduced herself as Athena," so when Athena's mother and father found they would be having a girl, the name choice was relatively obvious.

As for the last name, when they got married her parents "decided to adopt a new name rather than use theirs," choosing "O'Keefe" in honor of the iconic artist Georgia O'Keefe. "So I am unrelated to any O'Keefes outside my immediate family," she told us.


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| 5/29 Arte y conversacion 6-8pm \$10 |
| 5/30 & 6/13 Figure Drawing 6-8pm \$15 |
| 5/31 Greenfield Arts Walk 5-8pm "Inside, Outside" by Emily Gamari |
| 6/1 Clothing Swap 1-3pm \$10 |
| 6/5 & 6/12 Risograph Stationary Workshop 5-8pm \$60 |
| 6/6 & 6/20 Still Life Social Club 6-8pm \$10 |
| 6/7 Concert! Mere of Light, Annie Grizzle, Eileen Stillwell, Kristine Leschper & Page Page Doors at 7pm \$15 |
| 6/14 Open Mic for Writers 7pm \$10 with 2 dramatic readings at 8pm by Wren Hannaf. |
| 6/15 Greenfield Pride face painting at Looky 12-3pm walk-ins welcome \$10 |
| 6/19 Botanical Gel Printing Class with Melissa Reid 6-8pm \$35 |

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66 AVENUE A • TURNERS FALLS

OP ED

A River Without Respect...

By KARL MEYER

TURNERS FALLS – I was on my bicycle this past Saturday, headed home after this year’s “reconciliation ceremony” event marking the 1676 Turners Falls Massacre. I’d been at the first one 20 years prior. When I saw parked cars across the canal near the Rock Dam turnout, I turned back to have a look.

Spring is sometimes a joyous, life-filled time for the Connecticut River and for the shad anglers there, but only if operators inside Northfield Mountain allow enough water down the riverbed from the Turners Falls Dam. Sometimes, even the federally endangered shortnose sturgeon get to successfully spawn at their ancient Rock Dam spawning site.

But I was aghast at what I saw when I scrambled down the river bank. While a handful of anglers cast quietly just upstream, eleven kayakers were pulled up at the edge of Rock Dam’s flowing crescent pool. Their paddlers readied to launch as they listened to a presenter from near the shallows.

As a longtime journalist, knowing things I’ve learned here, this was wholly wrong. Watching an already broken river being disrespected can be heartbreaking. The Rock Dam pool is the sole, documented natural spawning site for Connecticut River shortnose sturgeon in the ecosystem. Its discrete, flowing pond is not much bigger than the infield dirt at Fenway Park. It should be one of the most valued, protected aquatic sites in the Commonwealth. Clearly it is not.

Compelled to bear witness, I wasn’t subtle. When one of the outfit’s employees, John, who also works a stone’s throw away at the federal Conte Fish Lab – and to whom I’d spoken about sturgeon spawning just a week prior – hurried to speak to me aside, I had little time for him. “I already know,” I replied as he tried to tell me about the Conte Lab’s researcher Micah Kieffer’s netting sturgeon here last week.

I interrupted the outfit’s presenter Trevor, in

front of the assembled crowd: “Do you know this is the spawning site of a federally endangered species, right here through May 22nd?” (This was May 18th.) I continued on, “Your being here is interfering with a federally endangered fish.”

“I did not know that,” he replied as surprised faces looked on. He deflected then, suggesting I could talk to John: “Maybe he knows about that.”

But I wasn’t having it. “Who do you work for?” I demanded.

“Adventure East,” came the reply.

“Well, how about having a little respect for the river?”

At that, I simply turned to leave, hearing, “He knows I work there,” as I did.

The federal penalty for a single infraction of killing or interfering with spawning or the critical habitat of shortnose sturgeon is \$10,000. Yet here was a recreation outfit, at the peak of sturgeon spawning season, ready to launch almost a dozen boats on top of them.

The National Marine Fisheries Service, US Fish & Wildlife, MassWildlife, and the state Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program have known about sturgeon spawning here since the exhaustive federal work of Dr. Boyd Kynard and his colleague at the USGS Conte Fish Lab, Micah Kieffer, was presented to them in 2004. All did nothing.

In 2012, Germany’s World Sturgeon Conservation Society published a work by Dr. Kynard and fellow researchers largely centered on Connecticut River shortnose sturgeon. A key finding was that “river regulation” – flows – controlled by hydro operators was causing repeat spawning failures for endangered sturgeon in this reach.

That was uncomfortable information for corporate interests. Curiously, publication and distribution of “Life History and Behavior of Connecticut River Shortnose and Other Sturgeons” was suddenly stopped here – embargoed and banned for months by the US Geological Service. Much of Kynard’s research and investiga-

tions hailed from the USGS Conte Fish Lab, just 400 yards from the Rock Dam. That June, days before an article I wrote on the clampdown of the book’s publicly-funded research ran in the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*, all USGS objections to its distribution and sale were suddenly lifted.

In 2014, in an effort to aid the sturgeon’s unending struggles here, I came up with an idea I thought might engage the public interest and compel action by responsible parties. The concept, name, and label text I authored became “Shortnose Stout,” produced for several years by The People’s Pint.

It did raise the sturgeon’s plight, but not one responsible agency took action. Nor did the local watershed council, which stepped in the following year to accept part of the profits rung up in the sturgeon’s name.

In 2018 Dr. Kynard emailed Julie Crocker, endangered fish branch chief at National Marine Fisheries in Gloucester, stating his research knowledge dictated paddle boating should not occur at Rock Dam: “I urge NMFS to protect the spawning-rearing reach of shortnose sturgeon and support the restriction of all boating in the Rock Dam reach during the period adults or early life stages are present.”

In a subsequent filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, I entered the text of Kynard’s email into the FERC public record.

It’s now 2024, likely another crap year for successful sturgeon spawning at Rock Dam. They remain prisoners of those with financial interests. There are many places on this river where companies can take tourists to paddle. The tiny falls at the Rock Dam simply should not be one of them.

Karl Meyer has been a stakeholder, intervenor, and member of the Fish and Aquatics Studies Team in the FERC license applications for the Northfield Mountain and Turners Falls projects since 2012. He lives in Greenfield and is a member of the Society of Environmental Journalists.

MONTAGUE from page A1

has been working so hard for, on so many different levels,” Ellis said. “It will help us remove a tremendous public safety and environmental risk... and helps move us toward a future when we can realize some of the dreams that were envisioned and shared through the planning grants that were received two years ago for riverfront revitalization.”

Ellis commended assistant town administrator (ATA) Walter Ramsey, who “wrote the actual grant” but agreed to let him make the announcement, and credited town meeting’s May 2022 approval of the ATA position for creating the “capacity” to secure the funding.

Ellis added that Montague would still need to secure “additional funds” for the project, which he later told the *Reporter* could cost as much as \$8 million to complete.

“Yeah!” said selectboard member Matt Lord, who could be seen over Zoom waving his hands.

“Best news I’ve heard today,” said member Chris Boutwell.

The grant is part of over \$300 million in EPA Brownfields grant awards announced Monday by the Biden administration. Montague is one of 14 municipalities in Massachusetts receiving funds this year, and one of only three receiving near the maximum of \$5 million, along with Lowell and Springfield.

Montague has had good luck with the EPA recently, according to Ramsey. The agency cleared the crumbling “Railroad Salvage building,” another dangerous structure on Power Street, in 2021 and is currently evaluating

soil contamination under the First Street parking lot, slated to be the site of affordable homes constructed by Habitat For Humanity.

Three New Bridges?

In other infrastructure news, the board agreed to invite officials from the state Department of Transportation (MassDOT) to update the town on the status of designs for three bridges the agency has committed to reconstructing in Turners Falls: the Fifth and Sixth Street bridges over the power canal, and the “White Bridge” over the Connecticut River into Greenfield.

Ramsey told the board that the projects, which are scheduled to be advertised for bidding in 2027, are still at the “conceptual design stage” and there are potential alternatives in each case.

Ramsey said he and Ellis had talked to MassDOT officials and decided it would be helpful if they met with the selectboard, to “present those alternatives to get some feedback from the board before they go too far in any one direction.” He said the “DOT folks” had expressed a willingness to come to such a meeting, possibly on June 3.

Water and Power

Ellis requested that the board allow him to file comments with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in the latest phase of the FirstLight Power hydroelectric relicensing process. He said that the comments, which will be filed in collaboration with several other towns through the regional Council of Governments, needed to be filed

by this Wednesday.

Ellis said that technical “source material” for the comments, which involve soil erosion and historical property FirstLight controls, had been late in coming, so “I don’t have a written product to share and ask your approval for.”

The board voted to authorize him to submit the comments on behalf of the town.

Junker Registry

The meeting saw a lengthy discussion of a proposal by Ramsey to establish a permit process for keeping unregistered and inoperable vehicles on private property, consistent with town bylaws. He said that the bylaw, adopted in 2012, allows residents to have “up to one” such vehicle on their property, but says they can receive permits from the selectboard for more. No such permits have been issued, however, because the bylaw did not establish an application process.

Ramsey proposed annual permits, beginning July 1, that require the payment of a \$50 fee plus the cost of a legal notice to abutters for a public hearing, potentially preceded by an inspection.

The board approved of the application, adding a requirement for photographs of each vehicle. The bylaw did not limit the number of vehicles that may be stored, though it stipulated that they must not be visually offensive to neighbors or unsafe.

The bylaw does not apply to garaged vehicles.

Other Business

Town planner Maureen Pollock

was authorized by the board to apply for a grant under the state Digital Equity Implementation Program to improve the accessibility of the town website.

At the request of Turners Falls airport manager Bryan Camden, the board voted to accept grants from MassDOT Aeronautics to purchase vegetation management equipment, install a new door on a hangar, and install security cameras.

At parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz’s request they awarded a contract for lighting at Unity Skate Park to Central Mass Signal LLC, the low bidder. The \$95,996 project will be paid for by American Rescue Plan Act funds.

The board authorized paying \$1,288 to the Berkshire Design Group for administering construction of the Hillcrest Elementary School playground, and \$8,740 to the same company for ongoing design work on the Avenue A Streetscape Project.

A request by the Avenue A Market for a license to sell beer and wine was approved, as was a request for the use of public property for tables in front of the affiliated Upper Bend Café. Both requests were made by co-owner Tamara McKerchie.

The selectboard approved a summer schedule proposed by administrative assistant Wendy Bogusz under which they will meet every two weeks, beginning this week. The one exception may be July 10, which will likely be scheduled for a hearing on the Comcast television cable license renewal. The board’s next meeting is scheduled for June 3.

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OPIOID from page A1

here with such incredible restrictions on it.”

When towns initially received funds in FY’23, they created stabilization accounts, which were restrictive and required a 2/3 majority town vote for use. Midway through this year, Walker explained, the state instructed towns to instead open “special revenue” accounts. At town meetings this spring, all of the towns opened these accounts, and transferred the revenue over. With the money in these new accounts, it is less restrictive and can be spent without a town vote.

“Towns went through the effort of putting the money into stabilization accounts at town meetings. At the time, they didn’t vote to take it out because there wasn’t a plan yet,” Walker elaborated.

In Massachusetts, 60% of the funds received from the settlements will be allocated through grants administered by the state, while 40% will be allocated directly to towns. While the towns taking two years to put these funds into action may seem slow to some residents, the state only recently announced that it opened its first round of grants, so Walker said she believes this slow timeline is appropriate.

“I know people are frustrated, but even the state only put out its first round of applications this last week,” she explained.

Of the towns in the *Reporter’s* coverage region, Montague is set to receive \$110,361, Gill \$12,230, Erving \$194,562, Wendell \$3,979, and Leverett \$149,720 from the settlements over the next 18 years. (Greenfield is due to receive \$1,712,872, out of a countywide total of \$3,877,157.) This data is being tracked by FRCOG and is available on the website frcog.org/opioid-settlement-updates/.

“Montague has thus far received \$15,158,” town administrator Steve Ellis told the *Reporter* this week. “The amount has actually been somewhat unpredictable because the timing does not seem to be built

around the fiscal year... One reason is that some of the companies that contribute to the settlement have also chosen to accelerate payments, for whatever purpose. It is possible that some others may have declared bankruptcy.”

Given the significant variation in revenue awarded, and for many towns the relatively small amounts, all the towns in the county are using preexisting regional collaboratives to address the issue collectively.

“I anticipate the total settlement funds we receive will be less than \$10,000, spread out over 5 to 15 years,” Gill town administrator Ray Purington wrote in an email. “Likely, we will join with other towns for some type of regional program to maximize the impact of the funds.”

Montague and Leverett have joined the Valley Health Collaborative with Deerfield, Greenfield, Shutesbury, and Sunderland, expecting to receive \$2,588,479 combined over the 18-year payout period.

All the towns in the county are using preexisting regional collaboratives to address the issue collectively.

Wendell, meanwhile, joined the North Quabbin Public Health Collaborative with New Salem, Orange, Petersham, and Warwick, expecting to receive \$620,122 over the 18 years.

And Gill and Erving are joined with 13 other Franklin County towns in the Cooperative Public Health Service Health District, expecting \$623,824 over the 18 years.

“It is absolutely vital that people are doing this work regionally,” Walker stressed. “This isn’t a town-by-town problem, and the money is not being allocated on a town-by-town basis in a way that is equitable.”

These collaboratives are at different stages of developing regional

plans for spending the money, and are working with the selectboards and boards of health of the different towns to initiate programs for those affected by the opioid crisis.

Orange health agent Ashley Gough, program manager for the North Quabbin Health Collaborative, explained that her Collaborative is currently working to determine the decision-making authority and seeking opinions of experts to establish processes.

“We are now exploring programs and proposals. We are at the beginning stages of gathering thoughts,” Gough said in an interview. “There is no update yet, but we will have one soon.”

Walker said that many towns received vastly different totals due to a nationwide formula that disadvantaged rural areas. The formula collects data about healthcare, public welfare, and education to determine allocations; while healthcare and public welfare are largely administered by the state, education falls under local jurisdiction. The formula counts educators from a town’s budget, but since many rural towns in Massachusetts are part of regional school districts, Walker said, they have not been counted accurately.

This discrepancy may explain the \$182,332 difference in the funding awarded to the similarly-sized towns of Erving and Gill: because Erving has its own elementary school district, it received significantly more funds. Walker said that FRCOG is in the early stages of working with the Healey administration to address the inequities caused by the oversight.

“We have plans and projects on the table,” Walker said. “Boards of health are meeting to endorse plans.”

FRCOG, CARE Massachusetts, and the Opioid Task Force will host a seminar titled “2024 Opioid Settlement Funding Updates: What it Means for Franklin County and the North Quabbin Now” this Thursday, May 23 from 2 to 3 p.m.

Registration can be found at shorturl.at/bmBJ4.



Budine said Tech 1 is already scheduled to send an electrician to estimate the cost for reconfiguring the office building ethernet cable to make it more responsive, and that she wanted some time to mull over the offer.

The Condemned

Manley asked the board to renew its effort to dispose of the house and property at 40 Gate Lane. The house is condemned, and the town took ownership of it through tax title, and now pays liability insurance.

Manley said one of the opposing lawyers had objections when open space committee chair Dan Leahy arranged for Audubon to pay for dismantling the house and then pass the property on to DCR, but none of that has happened. She was not sure which party had slowed progress.

When told that this time of year is overfilled with details, Manley said action can wait until next fiscal year, but should not drag on another. She offered suggestions including the town dismantling the house and auctioning the property, with a minimum bid to cover costs. The board decided to invite Leahy to a meeting.

Other Business

Board of health chair Amy Sim-

WENDELL from page A1

construction, not \$100,000 to replace doors in an old building initially built in the early 1970’s.

Town coordinator Glenn Johnson-Mussad said state-required property reevaluation should bring tax revenue up in two years; the town’s fiber-optic system gave a big jump in the prices people will pay for a house in Wendell. This may help the town’s finances, but not property owners’.

Citizen Nina Keller suggested an economic development committee. Another approach, she said, may be to appeal to the state to make full payments *in lieu of* taxes (PILOT) for state land in Wendell, or fully reimburse regional school transportation.

Tech Upgrades

Zooming into the meeting because of a cold, selectboard chair Laurie said that the Wendell municipal light plant (MLP) is cooperating with New Salem to build redundancy into the fiber-optic system, so if one source of internet connection is broken another path can provide a connection. They hope to approve all costs through the MLP with no cost to the town.

This year’s annual town meeting warrant will include an article

that would change the selection of MLP members from appointed to elected, starting with three members with staggered terms. The decision to change would come at the June town meeting, and if it passes, the choice of candidates would first appear on the May 2025 town election ballot.

Budine’s motion to put this article on the warrant passed unanimously. Board members expect citizen and broadband activist Robert Heller to speak in favor of the change, which he has supported for years. Budine said one problem with an elected MLP is getting people to run.

Lee Gutkopf and Justin Hughes of the Athol-based company Tech 1 Computers met the selectboard to offer information about their internet maintenance service, now provided by Entre Technologies of West Springfield.

Tech 1 would bill service by the hour, not as a regular monthly payment, and said they expected Wendell would save money using their service. Being more local, Tech 1 said they would find in-person service calls easier than Entre, which has tried to make needed corrections remotely. Gutkopf said passwords would stay with town organizations, “less for us to hold.”

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LEVERETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Mass General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 40, Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, the Leverett Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing June 3, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., at the Leverett Town Hall to consider a Notice of Intent (NOI) submitted by the **Leverett Department of Public Works**. Portions of the proposed work are within wetland Resource Areas. The NOI is available for public inspection at Town Hall or via email request to leverettconcom@gmail.com.

TOWN OF MONTAGUE DPW Superintendent

The Town of Montague, MA Selectboard seeks qualified applicants for the position of **Department of Public Works Superintendent**. The position is responsible for professional management of staff and operations of the department. The Superintendent oversees a \$3.4M budget for a 20-employee department. DPW has 103 road miles, 9 municipal buildings, and a combined sewer overflow sewer collection system under its purview. Montague boasts a modern DPW facility built in 2019.

Minimum qualifications include a bachelor’s degree in a related field, and 5 to 7 years of related experience; or any equivalent combination of related education, training, certification, and supervisory experience.

The Town seeks an exemplary candidate with a thorough knowledge of municipal public works operations, superior skills in communication, demonstrated ability to effectively manage personnel, budgets, and contracts. The town seeks a candidate that is highly collaborative in their approach to work. Salary starts at \$85,514 and the scale goes to \$105,239. Work week is Mon. through Thurs., 40 hours/week, with frequent evening and Friday obligations. The Town of Montague is committed to a collaborative team environment and competitive benefits. A job description is available at www.montague-ma.gov. Target start date is July 2024.

For priority review, please submit resume and cover letter by June 4, 2024 to: Wendy Bogusz, Selectboard Executive Assistant, WendyB@montague-ma.gov.

EEO/AA Employer.

Notice of Public Information Session MONTAGUE CLEAN WATER FACILITY Biosolids Reuse Action Plan

With support from a FY23 Rural Development Fund Grant awarded to the Town of Montague, the Montague Clean Water Facility has conducted a study to determine whether composting or drying their biosolids would be desirable for the Town to pursue and implement. The draft report is available for review at www.montague-ma.gov.

The Public is invited to a remote informational session on Wednesday June 5 held via ZOOM. Link can be found at www.montague-ma.gov.

mons came to the board with a proposed health and safety bylaw, created with the help of former regional health agent Glenn Ayers and aimed at potential hazards involved with the battery energy storage system (BESS) proposed by New Leaf Energy.

Simmons said she wanted to know how this bylaw would mesh with the one passed at the May 1 special town meeting; she was granted permission to contact town counsel.

Speaking next as a member of the unofficial Old Home Day committee, Simmons said the committee is hoping to get a \$2,500 grant to help pay musicians and other expenses. The committee is a group

of people who work to keep Old Home Day happening, not a formal organization, and needs the sponsorship of a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit to apply.

Selectboard chair Laurie DiDonato said it was a busy time and Old Home Day is not an official town function, but other board members suggested that Simmons contact the Friends of Wendell or the Wendell Historical Society.

Board members signed contracts with Erin Degan as town accountant and Emilee Rybczyk as assistant accountant, to start July 1. Until then Degan is Wendell’s accountant through FRCOG, but that arrangement is ending.




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GILL from page A1

Regulatory Commission (FERC) regarding the relicensing bids by FirstLight for the Turners Falls dam and Northfield Mountain pumped-storage project.

Purinton said the town's submission will borrow heavily from comments made by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), with a focus on erosion. This will include a request for better stewardship of land along the river and more transparent monitoring.

Gill will also ask for a narrower operating range of the water level above the dam. "FirstLight has proposed a very wide operating limit," said Purinton, which he said worsens erosion.

The Gill Historical Society has independently submitted comments to FERC, asking for a revised Traditional Cultural Properties Study (TCP). The society argued the current TCP doesn't include enough input from indigenous individuals and groups in the area.

"FirstLight has not made progress in combating erosion, loss of land and cultural resources along the river," they wrote. They asked for a new TCP informed by local indigenous knowledge, and requested the ensuing

historical properties management plan be made public, even if location information must be redacted.

Other Business

Bill Tomb, emphasizing that he was there in an individual capacity and not as vice chair of the Gill-Montague regional school committee, protested that the second half of town meeting is being held on June 11, at the same time the school committee typically meets. He asked that this oversight not happen again, but said the committee had agreed to only have one meeting in June, "so there's probably a plus there too."

"I guess, in a way, you're welcome," said Garbiel. The board granted a public gathering permit to Schuetzen Verein for upcoming clam bakes, car shows, and grounds rentals.

The Memorial Committee invited all members of the public to the Memorial Day ceremony this Sunday, May 26, at 9:30 a.m., beginning at the Gill church and followed by a rose ceremony, gun salute, and the playing of "Taps" at the veterans' monuments.



LEVERETT from page A1

Weiss's initial suggestion to address the problem was for a bulk mailing to residents with a concise letter listing open positions, information about them, and their importance. He said that people are so used to electronic communication that a physical letter might attract attention, and that he recently had success with this approach in a similar situation.

This idea was met with resistance from the selectboard due to its estimated cost, \$900 to \$1,000, but it spawned a brainstorming session in which numerous other recruitment ideas were discussed.

Board member Patricia Duffy responded to a suggestion that recruitment be made a responsibility of those currently serving by saying it would be better to create a "culture of recruitment" rather than make it a responsibility.

Stratford said that board and committee members already viewed finding their replacement as a responsibility. New selectboard member Jed Proujansky noted that he had "tried hard" to fill the finance committee position he left to join the selectboard, but couldn't.

Stratford pointed out that the election edition of the newsletter only listed open elected positions, not appointed ones, which are perhaps harder to fill in the first place. Duffy suggested an extra page in the newsletter for open positions of all kinds might be helpful.

Proujansky said that an in-

creased and more systematic use of the LeverettConnects listserv could also help.

Duffy recommended the transfer station as a place to advertise for volunteers. Selectboard chair Tom Hankinson agreed, suggesting the possibility of having committee members on hand to talk about the work involved.

Duffy agreed that sharing personal stories and more information about the functioning of town groups could aid in finding volunteers. She said that people may think they can't do the work of certain positions, and that she had felt that way herself but discovered that she could do it.

Proujansky suggested holding a "recruitment day" at the facility, advancing the slogan "Dump your trash, pick up responsibility!"

Hankinson commented that "only with full committees come objective decisions."

Weiss added that he felt the message should be put out that public volunteer work "is a responsibility if you're going to live in a town like this," and that it doesn't "just happen."

Trust Fall Applications

The selectboard unanimously voted to work in conjunction with the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust (RGT) to sponsor Community Preservation Act and MassTrails grant applications for the repair, restoration, and conversion of Rattlesnake Gutter Road to a hiking trail.

Eligibility for such grants was recently attained through the official discontinuance of the road.

RGT trustee Eva Gibavic and Weiss, a former trustee and associate, asked the town to sign on to upcoming applications because the town can receive the money directly, whereas as a private group the RGT would need to raise the money first and be reimbursed later.

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis informed Weiss that if the town sponsored the applications they would be subject to procurement laws, such as awarding contracts to the lowest bidder, rather than vendors chosen by the RGT.

Hankinson added that the board's sponsorship also opened the possibility of a difference of opinion between the board and the RGT.

Weiss responded that the road was on town land and that therefore any decisions were ultimately up to the selectboard, and so the RGT would be providing recommendations rather than making decisions in any case. He said the RGT was planning to begin submitting applications in the fall.

Other Business

The selectboard awarded a liquor license to Progression Brewing Company to serve beer at the town's 250th anniversary celebration barbeque on Saturday, July 6 at the recreation field.

The bar-b-que will begin at 12:30 p.m., following a 10 a.m. parade through town to the safety complex.

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The board added a 15-minute public comment period to its agenda. Proujansky said the move was made in response to residents raising concerns about not having an opportunity to speak, and that the time was for people to bring "thoughts, questions, and concerns" to the board's attention. Topics raised will not be deliberated on during this time, but can be added to a future agenda if necessary.

Resident Richard Nathorst took advantage of the comment period on Tuesday to point out that recent work on the sound system for the meeting had led to better audio quality.

McGinnis reported that the library trustees are moving ahead with planning for landscaping work at the library to include a

trail, garden, music area, and stage. Stratford, speaking as a recreation committee member, reported that the committee is working on updating its page on the town website and creating a survey to find out what activities residents are interested in. The board voted to allow them to use the "Community Events" tab of the website's calendar to announce events.

Stratford noted that along with the Community Events calendar tab itself, there are already sanctioned events happening that people are unaware of, such as pickup basketball on Tuesday nights.

Hankinson suggested "free cookie" events might also be planned and posted on the Community Events tab to help advertise its existence.



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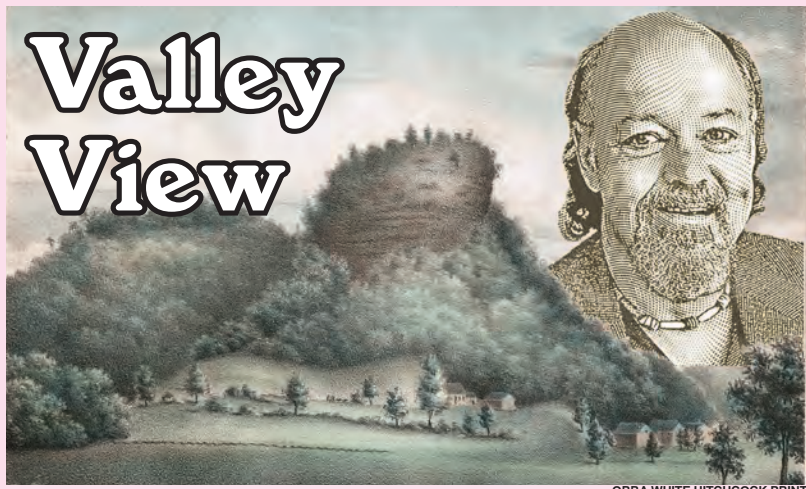
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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

MAY 23, 2024

Valley View



ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK PRINT

Where Bliss Was Ambushed

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD -- Gray, rainy, spring morning. Woodstove idle. Cool indoors. Still writing in my comfy winter kitchen nook.

I'm thinking about colonial New England soldier Constant Bliss, who, by chance, popped into view during recent local-history meanderings.

What a name, huh? *Constant Bliss*. Something to stive for. Very un-Puritan-like.

Born to Reverend John and Anna Bliss in 1715, Constant hailed from Hebron, a small central-Connecticut town southeast of Hartford and below Manchester. Stationed in his 31st year as a Deerfield sentry under the command of a man recorded only as "Capt. Holson" on the fateful day of August 22, 1746, Bliss and nine comrades marched for Coleraine. (Note the obsolete spelling.) If there were horses involved, none are mentioned in published accounts.

The ongoing French and Indian War was aflame, and the times had taken a perilous turn for the English in this neck of the woods. Northern Indians from the Lake Champlain corridor – many of them carrying proud Connecticut Valley roots from between Springfield and Northfield – were on the warpath.

Yet the Connecticut soldiers were totally unaware that just two days earlier, in what is today North Adams, Deerfield favorite son John Hawks, vastly outnumbered by some 750 French and Indian attackers, had been forced to surrender Fort Massachusetts. Those on the northward march also had no clue that danger awaited where their trail would begin its upland ascent.

Historians don't specify the precise marching orders for Bliss' small party, but the destination was most likely Fort Morrison, also known as North Fort. Standing tall and strong in the northern part of the isolated colonial town, just below today's Vermont line, Morrison was the most formidable of four Colrain strongholds. The other three all stood in East Colrain: Fort Morris, or South Fort, on the hill across the road from today's Pine Hill Orchards store, and Fort Lucas

and Fort McDowell, the fortified houses of Andrew Lucas and Reverend Alexander McDowell, nearer to the Chandler Hill Burial Ground.

Though the troop was undoubtedly sent to make sure all was well in Colrain, that we can only speculate. Documentary evidence, if there ever was any, apparently vanished long ago. Does it really matter now? No. They were soldiers doing what soldiers do.

What delivered me to this inquiry was a map I recently viewed that traces the soldiers' path that day to within an underhand stone's throw of my upper Greenfield Meadows home.

I discovered this interesting, hand-annotated, pullout map of Greenfield tucked into a rare Massachusetts Society of Colonial Wars pamphlet celebrating the dedication of a Greenfield monument to Capt. William Turner of King Philip's War fame. This little paperback book, titled *Capt. William Turner and the "Falls Fight," May 19, 1676*, was handed out at the July 26, 1905 ceremony memorializing a new stone salute to Turner and his fallen comrades.

The "Turner Monument" gala was a grand affair, brass bands and all, unfolding at the now largely forgotten North Parish Church Square at Nash's Mills, which along with its tranquil pond enjoyed by many was removed to make way for Interstate 91 in the early 1960s. At that time the monument was also moved, down the hill and across Green River, to its current location beside Nash's Mill Road below the outflow of the so-called "Greenfield Pool."

As it turns out, the monument's current placement is actually closer to the spot where Indians killed the fleeing Turner, as he crossed the Green River below the waterfalls cascading to Mill Brook's mouth.

Though the creator of the pamphlet map goes unnamed, it's a good bet contemporaneous local historians George Sheldon of Deerfield and Francis M. Thompson of Greenfield had a dominant hand in it, as well as the publication's other fold-out map of "Nash's Mills." The two friends and Pocumtuck see **VALLEY VIEW** page B8

Above: The Montague Community Band rehearsed Monday night in the Peskeompskut Park bandshell. Open rehearsals are being held every Monday in May – there is one more! – and concerts are scheduled every Monday at 7 p.m. from June 10 to July 29.

High School Sports: Softball Teams Advance

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS –The regular season wrapped up this week, and the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference (PVIAC) tournaments kicked off.

Some of the week's games were vicious battles. The Turners baseball team eked out a ninth-inning victory to capture the conference crown, while the softball teams from Turners and Franklin Tech squeaked by against lower-ranked opponents in the first round of the Western Mass tourney.

Meanwhile, two local athletes are going to the state finals track meet, and the Turners Falls boys backed into the tennis playoffs.

Baseball
FCTS 10 – Smith Academy 0

The Franklin Tech Baseball Eagles finished their regular season on a high note last Friday, celebrating Senior Night and mercy-ing Smith Academy.

"We're not going to make the MIAAs," one of the coaches told me before the game. "We'd have to win today and advance into the Western Mass tournament."

So with no pressure on, it was a pretty fun game, especially the senior recognition ceremony. Although Tech got men on base, they only scored one run in the first four innings. This was a little surprising, as Tech crushed the Academy the last time they met.

Beginning in the fifth, though, Franklin scored nine



DAVID HOIT PHOTO

Turners Falls High School senior Mike Boyle wins his final match for the Thunder (6-2, 6-1) in number-one singles against the visiting SICS Bulldogs on Monday.

unanswered runs. When the tenth crossed the plate, the players walked off the field and the game was called. Then came the speeches – and the cupcakes.

see **SPORTS** page B4

Travel with Max
By Max Hartshorne

Raw Milk, Parachutes, and a Bear's Den in 'Nearby Orange'

SOUTH DEERFIELD – On a cloudy May morning, I took a 17-mile ride east on Route 2 from Greenfield to Orange, Massachusetts. It's a town that once prospered, and that's been through hard times. Today Orange seems to be re-discovering itself. In 1892, 1.2 mil-

lion sewing machines were made here, and the first car factory in the US was in Orange in a building that now houses Pete's Tire Barn.

What I found in Orange were people who love living there, really believe in the town, and are inspired by new attractions, businesses, and

recreational areas worthy of discovery. The closed and abandoned factories here are sad reminders of an industrial age that's long since gone.

One of the things many people of a certain age in the Valley think about when they hear the town's name is a series of funny radio commercials for the Bedroom Factory on WRSI-FM in the '80s and '90s that always referred to the location as "nearby Orange." I remember visiting the mattress store in 1988 and buying a waterbed...

Fast forward 36 years to the morning when I visited the same building, which was once a tapioca pudding factory, and is now the impressive Orange Innovation Center. You can still see the Bedroom Factory sign, but today more than 50 small businesses call the converted factory home.

Jack Dunphy, the biggest booster in the town of Orange, bought the giant complex in 2011 and has brought in a wide range of tenants. Today you can find the Orange

see **TRAVELS** page B5



HARTSHORNE PHOTO

Many of the old mill buildings in Orange are awaiting reuse, as has been done in many New England milltowns.

Pet of the Week



'Boo'

Much like the Boo from the movie *Monsters, Inc.*, Boo saw his opportunity to explore a new world and find some loving people to call his own! We do not know much about Boo's life as he came to us as a stray, but the kind family that took him in for a couple days said he was a nice boy. Boo is looking for a home where he can be the only cat and with no kids. He needs a lot of play with wand toys, and hands-off type play. He can get a bit handsy with petting.

Boo may do best as an indoor/

outdoor cat, to work off some of that energy.

If you're ready to adopt and want to learn more about, meet, or adopt this pet, you can start the process in one of two ways:

Come in during open adoption hours, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12:30 to 3 p.m. For in-shelter pets (not in foster care) coming in ASAP is the fastest way to adopt! For more information, call (413) 781-4000 or visit www.dakinhumane.org.

Senior Center Activities MAY 27 THROUGH 31

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 5/27

Closed

Tuesday 5/28

9 a.m. Good for U
10 a.m. Line Dancing
11 a.m. Social String

Wednesday 5/29

9 a.m. Strength & Conditioning
10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursday 5/30

9 a.m. Barre Fusion
10 a.m. Pilates Flow

Friday 5/31

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

For more information please call 863-9357.

Monday 5/27

Closed

Tuesday 5/28

9:30 a.m. Tuesday Knitters
10 a.m. Zumba Lite

10:45 a.m. Chair Yoga
12:30 p.m. Tech Help Drop In
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 5/29

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Outdoor Yoga
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
4:15 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 5/30

1 p.m. Pitch
3 p.m. Meditation for Seniors
(pre-registration req'd)

Friday 5/31

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

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.

EXHIBITS

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

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *What's On Your Plate?*, a community arts exhibit about the entanglement of food, time, commitment, and ecology. Through June 29; closing reception Saturday, June 29, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: *Caroline Wampole*, guest artist showing abstract paintings. Through June, with a reception this Saturday, May 25, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Distractions*, showcasing work by Greenfield Community College students Sam Kuusinen, Ava Machowski, Suzy Q Groden, Isabella Lonardo, Madeline Keating, Mars, and Erin Shabunin, participants in Joan O'Beirne's art seminar. Through May.

Greenfield Library, Greenfield: *ServiceNet Community Art Ex-*

hibit. Paintings, photography, and other art works by more than 20 artists from the ServiceNet community. Through May.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Indi-Visible*, photos by Alfonso Herrera-Neal and Lindy Whiton documenting migrant and immigrant farm workers in Western Mass, including field interviews, through July. *Tom Swetland*, collage art, assemblage, mixed media, *papier-mâché* and junk sculpture around the themes of surrealism, psychedelia, dreamscapes, and conspiracy, through June 29.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Inside, Outside*, paintings by Emily Giamari, through May.

Leverett Library: *Pastels from Ruggles Pond* by Rema Boscov, through June.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Susan Mulholland*, paintings, and *Michael Kudrikow*, metal sculpture. Through May.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Stories I Tell Myself*, mixed media by Diane Steingart, through May.

MD Local Gallery, Amherst: *Femme Locale*, group show by

trans women, cis women, intersex, genderqueer, genderfluid, and non-binary artists, curated by Christine Texiera and Alexia Cota. Through June.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Splash of Color*, group show by member artists, through May.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne: *Jeremy Sinkus*, glass sculpture, and *Unpleasantly Beautiful*, sculptural pieces with etched glass panels by Annaleah Moon Gregoire. Through June.

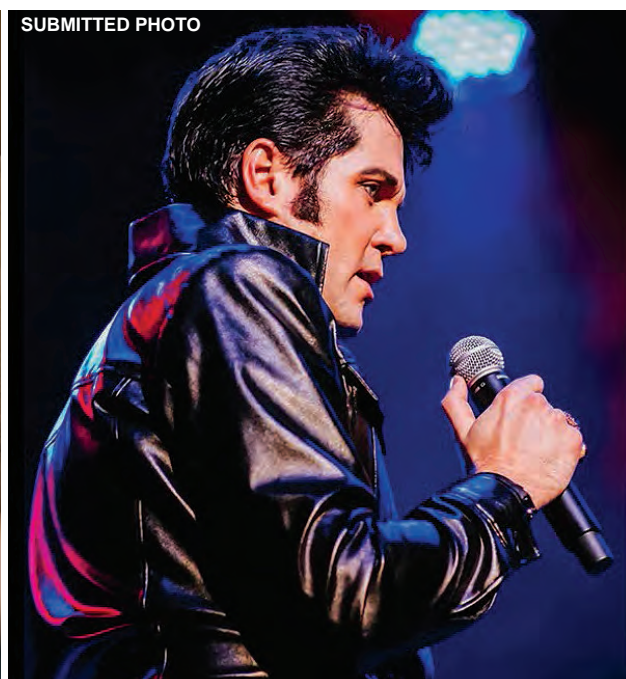
Watermark Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Grand Opening*, innovative work by Andrew Sovjani, Jan Morier, Christine Kaiser, Cynthia Costantino, and Laurie Goddard.

APE Gallery, Northampton: *Platitude*, a look at contemporary queer life in America through the form of ceramic serveware created by nine artists. Through May 26, with a reception this Friday, May 24 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Club George, Northampton: *Soft Openings: Pictorial Textiles and Vernal Ephemera*, by Ruby Henry. Opening reception this Saturday, May 25 from 3 to 6 p.m. Through June 8.

ARTIST PROFILE

Travis LeDoyt: The Greenfield Elvis



Greenfield's Travis LeDoyt, before (left) and after (right) transforming into The King.

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I got lucky with this profile, and was able to talk to Travis LeDoyt face-to-face for the interview. This local Elvis impersonator told me his “big break” was in 2001 at the Tupelo Elvis Festival, which was apparently in the city where Elvis Presley was born. Over the years, he has opened for Chuck Berry, Jerry Lee Lewis, and B.B. King at this event. “I did it for six years in a row,” LeDoyt said.

His educational background in music doesn't extend beyond high school. He officially started his act in Greenfield at the town commons in 1999, and in 2001 he started doing it at Greenfield High School. The first time I saw him at the school, he handed out Hawaiian leis to the audience when he sang “Blue Hawaii.” He confirms he still does that.

Paul Calcari, his high school music teacher whom I talked with about Travis, is someone Travis is very appreciative of.

“I got into music after I graduated,” he told me. “He let me come back and join the choir for two years. The first song I performed on stage was “Monday, Monday” from The Mamas & The Papas, thanks to Paul Calcari.” Mr. Calcari played a trumpet with LeDoyt in a show called “King Creole,” and has also been a conductor in that show.

Travis has done several different shows. One is called “Sun and the Stars.” “I started it last year,” he said of that one. In this show, LeDoyt performs music from Sun Records legends like Johnny Cash, Roy Orbison, Jerry Lee Lewis, and of course, Elvis.

His regular show consists of a guitar, bass, and drum. He calls his band the Nashville Boys. His shows were originally just called “Tribute to the King.” LeDoyt was just going to do this at Greenfield High School, but other venues liked the productions.

Other places he has performed in Greenfield have included the Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center and the Franklin County Fairgrounds, but he has also been a well-traveled Elvis, doing shows in other countries – he performed “A Christmas Show” in England and has gone to Hong Kong and Chile.

LeDoyt told me his favorite show is his new one, called “The Elvis In Me.” It will have a large group of people playing instruments. This includes two guitar players, bass, drums, pianos, five horns, and three backup singers named Kinsey Rose, Michael Lusk, and Augusta Hagen.

This man has albums of his own to his name, titled *Fever Dream*, *Lonely Blue Train*, and *Sun & Stars*. He told me his own favorite Elvis song is “Can't Help Falling In Love,” “because of people's reactions to that – people love that.”

LeDoyt's friends and family are very supportive of his act. It's a part he plays well, by fixing up his hair for every show to look like Elvis. He told me he dyes it every two weeks, and uses show makeup before going on. I enjoyed talking to him, and he said he likes the name that I gave him, Greenfield Elvis.

Travis LeDoyt brings The Elvis In Me to Greenfield High School this Saturday, May 25 at 7 p.m. Advance tickets are available at ledoyt.com.

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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on May 22, 2014: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

1676 Massacre Remembered

"This is a journey of healing," said Joe Graveline, president of the Nolumbeka Project, as he opened the ceremony of the Annual Day of Remembrance of the Great Falls Massacre 338 years ago. On that day, Captain William Turner's forces ambushed a Native American camp, killing hundreds of men, women, and children.

The event also marked the tenth

anniversary of the town of Montague signing a reconciliation agreement with the Native Americans.

The agreement begins, "In the spirit of peace, healing and understanding we come together on this date May 19, 2004 to acknowledge the tragic events that took place on the shores of this river on May 19, 1676, and hereby begin to put the tragic echoes of the past to rest."

The Native peoples were represented by Howard Clark and Monique Fordham of the Friends of the Wissatinnewag and Lloyd Running Wolf Wilcox and Matthew Seventh Hawk Thomas of the Narragansetts.

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on May 20, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Female-Majority Selectboard

On Monday, while town clerks throughout the Bay State were busy processing marriage applications in an historic day of newly acquired civil rights, women made local headlines. Patricia Pruitt's election victory marks the first time in town annals that the Montague selectboard has had a female majority.

Pruitt tallied 605 votes, ahead of Chris Boutwell's 281 votes and

Ryan Kelsey's 227. Asked to comment, Pruitt said, "I think people want a more cooperative attitude on the board, one less driven by a single agenda. They want the selectboard to do its job. Maybe that's why I was elected."

Please Ask for More!

On Monday, the Gill selectboard agreed with the finance committee that the library's \$14,912 budget was too modest.

"They have a computer that is ten years old," explained fin com member Sandy Brown. "It has a virus. It doesn't work."

150 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on May 20, 1874: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

Local Matters

Refreshing rains have blessed us the past week.

Mr. Conway has laid a handsome ten foot sidewalk in front of his block.

"Jenny" was "terribly tickled" with one of Randall's pineapples, but said she couldn't bite it.

Miss Mary Finnerty has converted the old Reporter office into a Millinery and Dressmaking establishment. It ought to be a good investment, the ladies used to like to come there.

Schuler Hall will resound to the sweet strains of the Montague City Cornet Band in Concert on Saturday evening. After the Concert a social hop will be had to the music of Hasting's Quadrille Band.

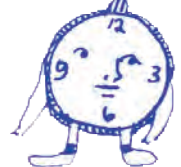
A foot race on Avenue A, on Wednesday evening last between Thomas McGarry and Andrew Rock, resulted in a handsome triumph for Mr. Rock in 10 min 45 sec. Distance two miles. Mr. McGarry owns his defeat like a gentleman. Another race may result from this one. The race drew the largest crowd we have yet seen out here, and the victor was greeted

with three rousing cheers.

The Ball of the Celtic Literary Association on Friday evening was a success socially and financially. The supper was all that was desired. The hall was prettily decorated with wreaths, festoons, mottoes and pictures. At the head of the hall, "God save Ireland"; at the foot, "God prosper the Union," were tastefully arranged in evergreen. It was as handsome a party as the years can boast, and we congratulate all interested upon its arrangement and success.

Our new school house is walking along splendidly. The walls are up to the second story. Messrs. Campbell & Hazelton are using their best skill and first-class material, and these, with Mr. Moore's acknowledged care, will give us a structure we may be proud of. The handsome freestone trimmings used are from the yard of Messrs. James & Marra of Springfield. Growlers will get no chance to complain of the committee, for they are doing their duty faithfully.

Ladies, stay away from the scene of the disaster for the present. It is no place for you. That people are now bearing the infliction of the worst set of loafers and drunkards the country affords. Do not inflict your unwelcome presence upon them. Let every man who can assist them volunteer.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Wily Coyote; Manger Management; Currently Carrying; Past Wheelie Incident; Suspicious Flowers; Pickaxe & Shovel

Monday, 5/13

11:07 a.m. Plant manager advising that Saturday night around 11:20 p.m., a coyote came charging into the Mayhew Steel Products building through an open garage door. The coyote came right up behind an employee, who was unaware it was there. The animal ran around the building before being scared off by employees. Caller has seen this coyote in the daytime, and is concerned about the kids playing outside at the nearby daycare. Animal control officer notified.

4:55 p.m. 911 caller from Park Street states that a pipe burst and he can't get the water turned off in his house. Referred to other agency.

Tuesday, 5/14

8:50 a.m. 911 caller reporting that another vehicle went through a red light at Avenue A and Seventh Street and "T-boned" him. TFFD and AMR started as a precaution. Northfield ambulance transporting female operator to BFMC.

11:36 a.m. Caller from Avenue A states that another resident of the building keeps bothering her and following her around. No answer on callback.

1:44 p.m. Caller from Eleventh Street states that a three-legged dog was running loose in the neighborhood again and is now inside her sun porch. Animal control officer (ACO) notified and responding to pick up dog.

3:11 p.m. 911 call reporting male walking in front of traffic at First and L streets. Additional caller states he is with the male on the side of the road and that the male is possibly highly intoxicated or under the influence of drugs. Officer providing courtesy transport.

6:19 p.m. TFFD advising motorcycles weaving in and out of traffic headed towards Millers Falls. Officer copied direct.

Wednesday, 5/15

9:30 a.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road states that there are two loose horses in the road. Chief Williams was in the area and helped return them to the address that they came from.

3:31 p.m. Caller reports that four kids and one adult are playing in the manger at Our Lady of Peace Church; she asked them to stop, and the adult was rude to her and ignored her. She would like them removed from the area. Officer spoke to

adult on scene, who stated that the caller came up to them and immediately started yelling that they weren't allowed to be there. It is a bus stop that the children are dropped off at every day. Nothing is ruined; the only thing there is hay at this time.

5:18 p.m. 911 call from branch manager at Greenfield Savings Bank reporting a white vehicle in the parking lot that hasn't moved for two days. Reports it looks like it was hit and possibly abandoned.

Attempted to call car owner; number out of service. Requesting Shelburne Control to ask Gill to see if the registered owner lives at the address on file with the RMV. Owner called in stating his tie rod is broken; spoke with officer and states he will have the car towed in the morning.

5:42 p.m. 911 caller states he was attempting to sell a lawn mower on Facebook and the male party who came to look at it sped off angry and may be speeding. Vehicle heading north on Route 47 or 63. Referred to an officer.

Thursday, 5/16

12:42 a.m. Caller from Coolidge Avenue requesting officers to her location as she is hearing noises at the front of her house which sound like someone trying to gain access to her dwelling. Caller advises she has an active license to carry and is currently carrying. Officer advises no sign of any attempted entry; nobody in the area.

8:36 a.m. 911 caller from Second Street states that sometime last night his power washer was stolen. Report taken. Following up at Food City. Officer requesting landlord check security cameras for anything showing between 10 and 11 last night.

11:08 a.m. Caller reporting a tree blocking Taylor Hill Road; road is impassable. No wires involved. DPW advised.

11:42 a.m. ACO following up on a report from a homeowner on K Street that part of the back fence on a neighboring property is missing. Requesting PD assistance to take pictures of fencing. Request canceled; ACO was able to talk to a male party who declined to let him into the back yard to take pictures. Party states his dog is friendly and does not cause any issues.

12:26 p.m. Caller from Hillside Road states she was chased into her house by two white and brown dogs. They are now in her yard. ACO notified. Dogs have been brought to animal shelter.

1:52 p.m. Caller states that a male parks on the

wrong side of the road with his truck and trailer every day at Masonic Avenue and Montague City Road; states it's disruptive to traffic and often blocks driveways. Officer advised. Parking violation issued.

6:50 p.m. Caller wanted to report a past incident at the intersection of Avenue A and Third Street; a bike went through the lights heading toward Canal Street and did a wheelie.

Friday, 5/17

1:49 a.m. Caller states two people are outside yelling at each other near High and Davis streets; unsure what about. Officers didn't see or hear anything.

2 a.m. Deerfield PD requesting officers check area of bike path near the railyard for a female. Officer walked bike path to the bridge. Unable to locate.

11:34 a.m. Caller from Fifth Street states she got home and there were flowers on her steps along with a note. She finds this suspicious; last time there were flowers and Skittles. Wants on record at this time.

1:49 p.m. Report of black pickup with hazard lights on abandoned in the middle of the intersection of Turnpike and Montague City roads. Male party walking back with a can of gas. Officer requesting FD for a small gas spill cleanup that occurred during refueling. Shelburne Control copied direct. Vehicle moved; TFFD en route.

2:13 p.m. 911 call reporting a silver Honda speeding up and down Central Street. Nothing showing at this time. Parties advised of options.

2:48 p.m. Caller states that a message was left on her voicemail that a suspicious male with a pickaxe and shovel was headed towards the dam and needs to be looked into. Officer spoke with a worker at the Discovery Center who got the information second-hand. Nothing showing at this time. Officer will continue to be on lookout.

3:24 p.m. Caller from Avenue A states that there are two parties with clipboards inside the building asking people for personal information. They are not wearing ID badges and did not identify themselves. Officer attempting to contact property management.

7:31 p.m. Anonymous caller reporting that a bald white male is riding up and down K Street on a four-wheeler with no helmet. Officer made contact with male party who resides at that address. Advised of complaint. Nothing showing upon arrival.

8:32 p.m. Anonymous 911 caller from Avenue A

states that there is a lot of drug activity and narcotics being sold out of the apartment building. Referred to an officer.

11:45 p.m. Greenfield PD requesting female officer for search.

Saturday, 5/18

4:09 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road states that someone is shooting a large gun or using explosives in the area. Officer checking an address; spoke with a male who was shooting a handgun at a metal target. Male was doing so legally; states it will be a little longer, then he will be done for the day.

4:51 p.m. Caller states that a flatbed was doing approximately 60 mph in a 35 mph zone in downtown Millers Falls, weaving around vehicles and crossing over lines. Caller states that when he honked his horn, the driver started yelling and making hand gestures at him. Unfounded.

5:44 p.m. Caller from East Main Street states that a male carrying a duffel bag just left the pub and was starting to become violent with people in the area. When caller said he was calling the police, the male took off towards the railroad tracks. Officers spoke with people in the area who stated the male left on foot and was very intoxicated. Left vehicle with a Connecticut plate. Area checked; unable to locate.

Sunday, 5/19

1:18 a.m. 911 caller from Third Street states she can hear arguing and loud noises coming from the building next to her. Caller states it sounds like a male and female arguing and that it sounds like they are intoxicated. Officer advises he located the individuals in the alley between Third and Fourth Street. Verbal argument. Peace restored.

1:56 a.m. Caller from Third Street reports that the two individuals the cops dealt with earlier are arguing again; believes she heard the sound of glass smashing. Officer advises female party has returned home for the night.

1:53 p.m. Caller from Third Street requesting to speak with an officer regarding ongoing harassment by a female and her sons. They were in front of her house an hour ago trying to get the caller's son to come out and fight. Called back to report that they are back, and she believes one of the boys has a knife in his pocket. 51A filed.

3:34 p.m. Caller states she got a threatening message after the previous call stating that a boy has a gun and is going to kill her son. Advised of options.

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SPORTS from page B1

Six batters had hits for Tech – Hunter Donahue, Tyler Yetter, Kyle Begos, Gavin Crossman, Zaydrien Alamed, and William Ainsworth – with Begos smacking a double and Donahue slicing a triple. Begos threw a two-hit shutout, walking one and striking out five.

TFHS 6 – Athol 4

The Turners baseballers outlasted the Red Bears on a brisk and windy Saturday in Athol. Blue drew first blood, but gifted Da Bears two runs in the bottom of the first inning, courtesy of two errors. Mental miscues persisted in the second, and Red increased their lead to 4-1.

In the third, a lead-off base hit and a standup double shrank the deficit to 4-2, but a tag at second ended the threat. After getting another one back in the fifth, Blue entered the seventh inning of the final game of the regular season down by a single run.

“This is for the conference championship,” a fan pointed out. They tied it on an Alex Quezada RBI.

In the bottom of the seventh, Athol got the go-ahead run to first but the Thunder defense shook it off and the game went into extra innings. In the ninth, Turners got two men on base, and Athol switched pitchers. This was the proverbial Band-Aid on the broken arm as both runners crossed the plate.

The Thunder D held on, and Powertown won the game and the conference title. Athol was held to just two hits and Turners only let up one earned run. The Turners Falls team had dug deep and finished this marathon game, as well as the season, strong.

TFHS 6 – Mount Everett 2

On Monday, the fourth-ranked Thunder hosted the Mount Everett Eagles in the first round of the Class D playoffs. Because the Tech softball game started late I didn't get to the diamond until the bottom of the first inning, and Blue was already leading 3-0.

Because the game was broadcast on Bear Country, I could listen to the later innings while watching softball.

In the baseball game, both teams settled down until the fourth. Three more runs crossed the plate, and the baseball fans came alive. The Birds prevented a shutout by scoring two runs in the seventh.

Alex Quezada, Joey Mosca, Dylen Richardson, Cam Burnett, Deven Sloan, Jackson Cogswell, and Brody Girard all had hits for Blue with Cogswell clocking a double. Mosca pitched a complete game, walking two, striking out five, and giving up two earned runs on four hits.

Drury 9 – FCTS 1

Meanwhile on Monday, the eighth-ranked Tech boys went over the Mountain and lost to the Drury Blue Devils in the quarterfinals of the Class C tourney.

This was the only time that a Berkshire team defeated a team from Turners Falls all night.

Getting knocked out of the Western Mass playoffs isn't the end for Tech. On Thursday, the Eagles head back to the Berkshires to challenge the Lenox Millionaires in a consolation game.

Track and Field

At last Friday's Western Mass invitational track meet hosted by Mohawk Regional, seven athletes representing Franklin Tech competed in the boys' meet: Anthony Gallo (1 mile), Logan Caron (110m hurdles and 400m hurdles), Sam Bodenstein (200m), Preston Duval (100m and 200m), Cameren Candelaria (100m), Josiah Little (long jump), Ethan Smarr (long jump), and Atlithonatiu Gonzales-Jayne and Izaya Romer (discus).

For the Turners Falls girls, Jakhia Williams (100m and long jump), Jaede Duncan (100m and 200m), Jazzy Gonzalez (100m and 200m), Ella Guidaboni (100m hurdles and 400m hurdles), and Tristan Bliss (discus) represented Turners in individual events.

In the relays, Gonzalez, Duncan, Williams, and Taylor Youmell ran the 4x100m while Gonzalez, Youmell, Guidaboni, and Charlotte Canterbury competed in the 4x400m.



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners Falls High School's Marilyn Abarua races the throw to first base as the Thunder squeaked past the Mount Everett Eagles 1-0 in the Western Mass Class D quarterfinal game on Monday at Gary Mullins Field.

Both Duncan (100m and 200m) and Williams (100m) qualified for the Division VI state championship, to be played this weekend.

Tennis

On Monday the Turners boys' tennis team hosted Springfield International Charter School in the first of five contests waged by Turners and Tech that day. I spoke to Coach Touloumtzis as the players were warming up, and he told me that they would probably not make the playoffs.

But in this match, they gave it their all. Mike Boyle won first singles 6-2, 6-1, and Noah Kolodziej won on the second singles court 6-3, 6-3. John Carmichael was defeated in third singles (6-3, 6-1), leaving Blue a 2-1 edge with the doubles matches still raging.

Both doubles contests went into a third set. Mario Pareja and Vaughn LaValley lost in first doubles 4-6, 6-4, 7-5, however, and Lucas Black and Khalifa Seck were bested in second singles play 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

After the match I received an email from Coach T. “Current MIAA Division IV power rankings have us at 31,” he wrote. “Top 32 make tournament.” So, it wasn't their last match of the season after all. The Turners Falls hybrid tennis team will go on the road against a foe yet to be determined.

Softball

Wachusett 6 – TFHS 3

The Wachusett Mountaineers came to town last Thursday for their annual showdown against Turners Falls. This is usually a good game, as in the past both teams have been the best team in their respective regions.

But this year has been tough for the Thunder, while the Mountain Girls are riding high. Not only are they in Division I, four divisions above Turners, they're also the best team in their division. This could have been a blowout, but it wasn't – the Blue Thunder kept even, and lost by a respectful 6-3 score.

FCTS 3 – Lenox 0

The first round of the Class C softball tournament on Monday started late. The Lenox bus finally arrived, and first pitch was delayed by 20 minutes. This seemed to help the pitchers, as both teams were struggling at the plate.

Tech scored their first run by chance: with runners at second and third and two outs, a ground ball was easily fielded, but instead of ending the inning with the sure throw to first the infielder checked the runner at third base. When she realized her mistake she threw it to first, but by this time both runners were sprinting down the lines.

The throw was late, and the run scored. The other baserunner rounded third base and attempted to beat the throw to home. She for-

got to slide, though, and crashed into the catcher, who held onto the ball. The runner was called out. After the coaches and medical staff examined the catcher, she got off her back and the inning ended.

In the third, again with two outs, an easy out at third base was bobbed and the inning went on. With a runner at third, Kylee Gamache hit a shot which was misplayed. The runner scored and Tech went up 2-0. Franklin scored their third run as Hannah Gilbert batted in Kaitlin Trudeau.

Tech advances deeper into the PVIAC tournament with the victory. Gilbert, Trudeau, Cordelia Guerin, and Gianna DiSciullo had hits, with Guerin cracking a double; Gilbert pitched a one-hit shutout, walking one and striking out 16.

TFHS 1 – Mount Everett 0

The first round of the playoffs was more difficult for the reigning Class D champs, as the visiting Mount Everett Eagles held Powertown to just one run. While the baseball crowd was loud, the faithful at the softball diamond were more pensive, yelling encouragement and waiting for Blue to blow it open.

Finally, in the third, Madison Liimatainen scorched a triple. The throw went awry, and she didn't stop until she crossed home plate.

In the fifth, with the score still 1-0, the visitors' section got loud – really loud. The black-shirted Everett baseball team joined the crowd and cheered for every single Eagle who came to the plate. But in the end, they couldn't score.

After squeezing by in the first round, Turners hosts Hopkins this Friday in the next round of the PVIAC playoffs. Tech, meanwhile, will host the Drury Blue Devils on Thursday.



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TRAVELS from page B1

YMCA gym, the Honest Weight Brewing Company and Tasting Room, a large laundromat, and a soon-to-be-opened new café in the well-worn wooden hallways of this rabbit-warren-like building.

There are dozens and dozens of other small businesses, from skin-care to salons to pilates and artists. If you're passing by the many interesting shops here, find out more at *OIC.com*.

Up on the third floor is a maker space called LaunchSpace, where classes in various industrial arts and crafts are held. Students from the local high school learn about starting their businesses here, and there are tools including a 3D printer, woodworking lathes, and many more for people to use.

Woods and Water

One thing that drew Jack to the town was the inexpensive real estate that abounds here. Orange still has pretty good deals on houses, especially for people who can fix them up. The market is strong, and as soon as he rehabilitates another house it sells fast.

We walked around Orange's small downtown area, first stopping at the hub of the village, the Corner Café, located inside the Trailhead, a store filled with outdoor gear and other interesting sporting goods.

At the back, café owner Terry Bouchard welcomes her neighbors and many visitors from out of town to the 24-seat eatery that serves breakfast and lunch from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. I enjoyed my meatball panini, while Jack had a half sandwich and salad. The place is busy most all day long, as it's really the only place to find a bite that's not pizza since the Subway around the corner closed.

I always enjoy walking through a New England village, and the architecture of Orange is old industrial with water features that add to the overall old New England brick look.

Some of the best parts of Orange, however, are not the dilapidated buildings, but the woods and water that are close by. For one, the massive 37-square-mile wide Quabbin Reservoir is just over the line in Athol. The massive man-made water source for Boston and other towns has strict rules against swimming, but you can rent a motorboat for a day of fishing at the Mass. DCR office at the Quabbin.

We spoke with an orange-vested fishing warden, who said that any boats brought onto the big lake have to be specially washed to prevent milfoil and zebra mussels from getting in the Quabbin. Better to stick to their little rentals with outboards, unless you want to pay the \$60 boat washing fee.

The Millers River also runs right through Orange. You can rent a kayak or a canoe at Billy Goat Boats and have a safe paddle; call owner Jerry Wheland at (978) 577-8420 to set it up. The town-owned boat ramp also accommodates private vessels.



HARTSHORNE PHOTOS

Clockwise, from top left: The Orange Innovation Center hosts 50 different businesses including a brewery, a laundromat, and a gym. Tracy Wilkinson is one of the artists at Stage on Main, a crafts and art gallery in Orange. Richard Curtis is the manager at Jumptown, whose plane has room for 17. The Bear's Den property, owned by the Trustees of Reservations, is a great deep-woods hike.

Four Thrilling Minutes

Another thing that Orange is famous for is Jumptown, the parachuting school that has offered skydiving above the skies of town for 40 years. The police cars here feature a little parachute as an homage to Jumptown. The airport in Orange has two long runways, and can accommodate both jets and piston-powered airplanes.

"Jumptown started as Parachute Inc. by some parachute veterans of the 101st Airborne Brigade in 1959," operations manager Richard Curtis told me. "It is the first and oldest skydiving club in the country." Another big first: "Parachute Inc. in Orange was the first manufacturer of parachutes in the United States."

The jump plane the company uses is a Cessna Super Caravan, which can fit up to 17 jumpers. Typically, they fly to 14,000 feet. From that height, the parachutist descends for four long, thrilling minutes.

Safety is the top priority. Curtis added, "We recently built a 'swoop pond,' which is a shallow pond we use for safer landings," he said. "We teach all levels of licensing. Here you can earn your A, B, C, and D licenses

and achieve a tandem master license and a videographer license. If you're a true adventurer, you can even learn to wingsuit at Jumptown."

There are two motels within a couple of miles, and at the airport site they offer a space for RVs, spaces for tent camping, and even some bunk beds and a club room. "Jumptown patrons come from all over the country," Curtis explained.

We drove west to a great little spot for hiking: the Bear's Den, a small walking path area in deep woods next to a rushing waterfall and stream. It's run by the Trustees of Reservations, and is a fun short hike. It's easy to find and makes a little loop.

Many Revivals

In January a new bookstore, the Book Forge, opened up right next to the Trailhead Store. Next to the bookstore is the Orange Cannabis Company, also new to town.

Another store on the block is Stage on Main, which opened just before the pandemic in 2020 as a performance space, though Tracy Wilkinson, one of the participating artists, said that today it's for artists

and craftspeople from around the region to display and sell their wares.

Tracy has lived in Orange for 17 years, and said she loves living here. She enjoys seeing so many visitors who pass through town and visit the gallery.

Every New Year's Eve there is a big event in Orange called Starry Starry Night and performers set up all over town in different spaces, similar to Northampton's First Night and others around the country.

One of the most distinctive buildings in Orange is indeed a true mansion. The Revival Wheeler Mansion at 75 East Main Street holds events that bring Harry Potter fans to town in the summer. Their popular "Return to Hogwarts" event is returning to Orange this July. Revival Wheeler Mansion will host workshops, as well as the Hogwarts Ball!

There are other unique things to find in Orange, like when you stop at the little shack outside of O'Brien Farm to find a store selling raw milk that's both unpasteurized and unhomogenized. It's a special treat for some, but others might not be willing to imbibe it. According to *Delish*, the food website, "Raw milk

often tastes richer and sweeter than pasteurized versions, depending on where the milk comes from and what food the cows eat... People who swear by raw milk often say that pasteurized milk is comparatively bland and watery."

You'll find raw milk from the farmer, one of the only ways one can buy it legally in Massachusetts, at O'Brien Farm in "nearby Orange."

Another recommended stop during the summer months is Lake Mattawa, just outside of town. This 118-acre lake has been called the most beautiful lake in Massachusetts, and it's ringed with vacation homes and is known for trout fishing. There is a clean, compact beach at one end, without lifeguards. If you're a swimmer, you can go the length of the lake and no one will stop you.

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



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The Children's Page

YONERDOD ILLUSTRATION

CHELLA AND VIOLA LIKED TO THROW PARTIES AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE, AND THEY ALWAYS INVITED EVERYONE. PEOPLE CAME FROM FAR AND WIDE. A LOT OF PREPARATION WAS INVOLVED. TODAY THEY WERE SHOPPING AND CLEANING AND GETTING THE PIANO TUNED, SETTING OUT POTS OF TEA, COOKIES, A CROCK OF STEW, AND MANY BOWLS OF CANDY AND PEANUTS.

NOVELLA WAS GOING TO PERFORM HER ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS AND SHELLA WAS GOING TO LEAD A SING-ALONG. VIOLA HAD MADE HERSELF A MARVELOUS NEW DRESS, AND ALL THE WHILE SHE GOT EVERYTHING READY SHE WOULD STOP AND SPIN AND POSE DRAMATICALLY, ENJOYING THE SIGHT OF IT. SHELLA AND NOVELLA WERE SIMPLY SWOONING AND GAZING AT HER WITH ADORING EYES.

CORDELIA WAS ALREADY HOSTING A PRE-PARTY MIXER AT HER PLAYHOUSE NEXT DOOR, WITH ALL THE DOLLS AND FAIRIES, TWO WOOLY BEAR CATERpillARS, A HANDSOME BLUE JAY, AND SPOT THE DOG. SHE WAS PLAYING WILD RECORDS AND TELLING JOKES WHILE SOME FRIENDS DANCED AND SOME LAUGHED UPROARIOUSLY.

MEANWHILE, THE LOVELIGHT SISTERS: GUESTS BEGAN TO ARRIVE, DRESSED TO THE NINES IN EVERY FORM OF GLADRAGS KNOWN TO MAN. JUST AS THE PARTY BEGAN TO REALLY PICK UP SPEED, ELDA WANDERED UP WITH A BASKET OF FLOWERS, HAVING COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN THAT THERE WAS TO BE A PARTY. SHE WAS IN HER PLAINEST DRESS AND OLD SNEAKERS, AND SHE LOOKED UP IN STRANGE COMBINATION OF DISMAY AND DELIGHT AS SHE SAW THE SILK AND SATIN GUESTS ARRIVING AND MUSIC POURED OUT OF THE WINDOWS.

JUST AT THAT MOMENT, CORDELIA ROUNDED THE CORNER OF THE HOUSE AND UNDERSTOOD ELDA'S SITUATION AT A GLANCE. SHE WHISKED HER AWAY TO THE DOLL HOUSE AND BROUGHT HER RIGHT IN, ALTHOUGH ELDA HAD TO KNEEL AND TOOK UP MOST OF THE SPACE. "YOU NEED TO GET DOLLED UP" SAID THE DOLL AND THEY ALL LAUGHED.

FLORA AND FAUNA GOT RIGHT TO WORK WEAVING THE FLOWERS SHE BROUGHT INTO A CROWN. CORDELIA BRUSHED HER LONG HAIR INTO SHINING GOLDEN STRANDS, AND SPOT BROUGHT HER ONE OF HIS BRIGHT YELLOW COLLARS TO USE AS A BELT.

FUNNY LITTLE MAEVE FLUTTERED OUT THE WINDOW TO CHELLA'S ROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR NEXT DOOR AND GOT HER ONE GOLDEN SHOE AT A TIME. YOU MAY IMAGINE THE SURPRISE OF THE PARTY GOERS WHO HAD STRAYED UPSTAIRS AND SAW A GOLDEN SHOE FLYING BY!

SO WHEN ELDA EMERGED FROM THE PLAYHOUSE, SHE LOOKED AS LOVELY AS HER HEART HAD DESIRED, AND SHE JOINED THE OTHER GUESTS WITH CORDELIA AND HER FRIENDS FLUTTERING AROUND HER, THE MOST ENCHANTING RETINUE IMAGINABLE!

SUDDENLY A HUSH CAME ON THE PARTY, FOR JUST AS THEY ARRIVED NOVELLA'S GENTLE AND KNOWING MUSIC BEGAN TO FLOW QUIETLY FROM THE PIANO, AND ALL THE GUESTS WERE ENRaptured, LOST IN THOUGHTS AND DREAMS. AT THE CONCLUSION OF HER PERFORMANCE SHE SMILED SHYLY AT ALL OF THE BEAMING FACES AND HEART-FELT APPLAUSE. SHELLA JUMPED UP AND HUGGED HER TWICE AROUND.

TURNING THEN TO THE AUDIENCE, CHELLA BEGAN THE SING-ALONG. "THE MOON BELONGS TO EVERYONE, THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE, THE STARS BELONG TO EVERYONE, THEY GLIMMER FOR YOU AND ME." THEY ALL SANG SO SWEETLY AND SLOWLY TO THE GREAT OLD TUNE.

YET STILL, IN NO TIME FLAT, THE PARTY SPRANG BACK TO ROLLICKING, AND BY THE END OF THE NIGHT, MR. HARBINGER AND PRITTY PLEASE HAD DANCED THE TANGO WITH ROSES IN THEIR TEETH!

IT MUST HAVE BEEN NEAR DAWN WHEN CHELLA LAY HER HEAD ON THE PILLOW, AND WHAT SHOULD SHE SEE BUT A FLYING GOLDEN SHOE BOBBING RATHER PRECARIOUSLY THROUGH THE AIR! SHE JUMPED UP AND LIFTED THE SHOE FROM MIDAIR. IT WAS TIRED LITTLE MAEVE, TRYING TO RETURN IT! MAEVE LANDED ON CHELLA'S PILLOW AND FELL FAST ASLEEP, AND THEY BOTH RESTED PEACEFULLY WITH SUGAR-PLUM DREAMS.

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FRIDAY, MAY 24

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jumpy, Jeff Coyne, Venetian Choir Boys*. \$ 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Home Body, Roost.World, bobbie*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRI-MON, MAY 24-27

Camp Keewanee, Greenfield: *Strangecreek Campout* feat. *Rubblebucket, Max Creek, Too Many Zooz, Pink Talking Fish, Badfish, Bella's Bartok, Moon Boot Lover, Dirtwire*, more. See www.strangecreekcampout.com.

SATURDAY, MAY 25

Allen Tree Farm, Westfield: Mia Friedman, Mary Fraser, Catsy. Disc golf course grand opening. \$ 12 p.m.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Juan Carlos Marin Band, Myrtle Street Klezmer*. Free. 4 p.m.

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: *Open Mic* feat. *Noah Britton, Gracious Calamity*. No cover. 6 p.m.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Lupo Citta, Germ House, Creative Writing*. \$ 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Agonizers, The Mighty Suicide Squirrels, Scotty Saints and the True Believers, The Flemis, Hardcar*. \$ 7 p.m.

Buoyant Heart, Brattleboro: *Cursed Image, Donna Revving, Lily Konigsberg, Elie McAfee-Hahn*. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 26

Bookends, Florence: *Cursed Image, Donna Revving, Lily Konigsberg, Cal Fish, Itchy Kisses*. \$ 7 p.m.

Cold Spring Hollow, Belchertown: *Diagram A, Noise Nomads Duo, SickFit, Useless Little, Tempestate, Loculus*. \$ 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 28

Feeding Tube Records, Florence: *Sailor Beware, Sound Of Pot, S.Glass*. \$ 7 p.m.

Tori Town, Holyoke: *Map of the Stars, Rotundos, Sgraffito Kill, All Maine Points, Rugrat Rehab*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Charioteer, Cousin Greg, Blame Shifters, Nate Goyette*. \$ 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Suns, Robber Robber*. \$ 7 p.m.

Quarters, Hadley: *Michael the Generator*. \$ 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 30

Energy Park, Greenfield: *133 Skeelee, R & D, Small Change*. Free. 6 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Eggtooth Productions* presents *Orlando*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 31

Three County Fairgrounds, Northampton: *Nation of Language, Geese, Prawn, The Heavy Heavy*, more. \$ 4 p.m. See field-day.rocks.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Nation of Language, Ian Sweet*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Eggtooth Productions* presents *Orlando*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Buffalo Tom*. \$ 8 p.m.

The Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bride of Chucky, Hardcar, Michael Slyne*. \$ 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Eli Elkus, Musical Storytelling*. Free. 11 a.m.

Three County Fairgrounds, Northampton: *Sheer Mag, Indigo de Souza, Dehd, Butcher Brown, Thus Love, Sun Parade, Lucy*, more. \$ 12 p.m. See field-day.rocks.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Green Lion Crew, Bud E. Green, I Ganic Sound System, Satta-Sound*. No cover. 4 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Eggtooth Productions* presents *Orlando*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bunnies, Sonum Unum, Chris Goudreau*. \$ 8 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Negativland, SUE-C, Valley Solar*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rat Trap, Holyoke: *Gay Mayor, Wanted, Valley Gals*, more. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *ICICI, Neonach, Marasca, Small Choice, Sagan and Sigourney, Dave Thomas and the Frosty Five*. Free. 3 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 4

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Killah Priest, SoloGem*. \$ 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

Black Birch Vineyard, Hatfield: *Livingston Taylor*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Joe Graveline, Katie Clark & Larry LeBlanc, The Frost Heaves and HaLes*. Free. 6 p.m.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Gracious Calamity*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

Bookends, Florence: *Twin Foxes, Nanny, Grazer*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Mere of Light, Annie Grizzle, Eileen Stillwell, Kristine Leschper and Page Page*. \$ 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *The Leafies You Gave Me, Padded Waltz, Randi Woodelle*. \$ 8 p.m.

looking forward...

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

Lunder Center, Williamstown: *Chris Forsyth, Nick Millevoi, Mikel Patrick Avery, Erica Dawn Lyle*. Free. 5 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Franklin County Pride* featuring *The B-52.0s, Thus Love, Pamela Means*, more. Free. 1 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Jung-Yi Alice Hsieh Daugherty, Ilya Kazantsev*. \$ 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

Greenfield Common, Greenfield: *Sen Morimoto*, more TBA. Free. 5 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 28

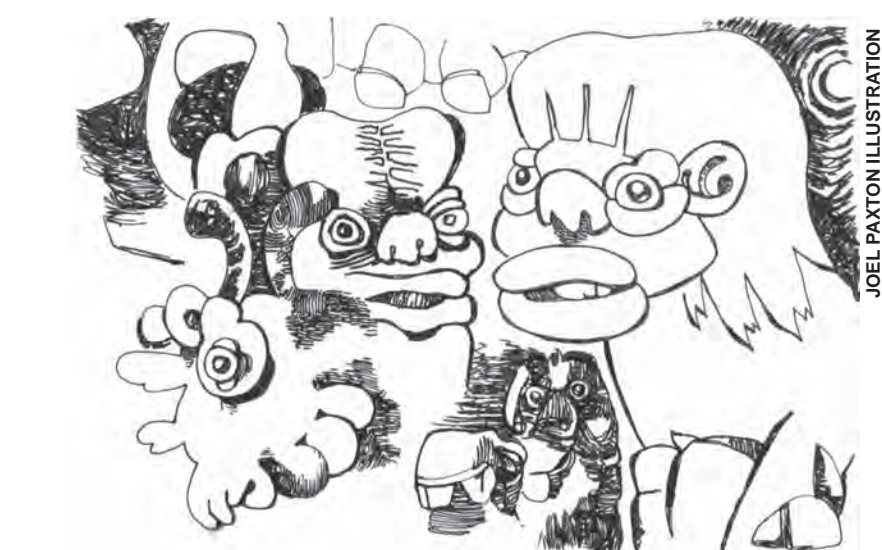
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Pile*. \$ 8 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 5

Nova Arts, Keene: *Sun Ra Arkestra*. \$ 7 p.m.



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Montague Community Television News

Show Your Support for MCTV!

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – Do you rely on MCTV for coverage of town meetings, local sports, town festivals, or business promotion? We need your help!

Comcast, which provides crucial funding for our station, is hosting a public ascertainment hearing for the renewal of the town contract with the company to determine if PEG access (MCTV) is a viable asset to our town. We are looking for letters of support, or even better, your attendance at the June 17 meeting at 6 p.m. at the Montague Town Hall to show support for MCTV!

Letters can be addressed to “Cable Advisory Committee, RE: Comcast Relicensing, c/o Montague Town Administrator, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA,” but can be emailed as a PDF to infomontaguetyv@gmail.com.

We know we are doing great work over here, and we only hope to get better, but we cannot do that without funding from Comcast and a display of support from you! Please check out our Vimeo page and see the thousands of videos we have made documenting our town’s

history. You will find our most recent uploads, including the Montague selectboard meeting and GMRSD school committee meeting, as well as a performance at the Shea Theater by the Whiskey Treaty Roadshow.

A great thing about MCTV is that all community members are welcome and encouraged to submit their videos to be aired on Channel 9, as well as featured on the MCTV Vimeo page. Our page is home to many new videos every week. This week we have a handful of local public meetings, including the Gill annual town meeting, both the Gill and Montague selectboard meetings, and the GMRSD school committee meeting.

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

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

VALLEY VIEW from page B1

Valley Memorial Association colleagues were repeatedly identified in the local press as leading voices behind the Turner commemoration. Their correspondence, housed at Deerfield’s Memorial Libraries, also clearly establishes a strong promotional relationship.

One annotated “X” on the Greenfield map immediately pulled me in. Not more than a quarter-mile above my house, the note accompanying it reads “Constance Bliss killed by Indians August 22, 1756.”

First of all, disregard the mistaken year – a very understandable transcription error. A few inches to the right of this marker lies another “X,” marking a later deadly neighborhood Indian skirmish known as the Country Farms attack, which claimed the lives of townsmen Shubal Atherton and Daniel Graves. This tragic event in Greenfield lore occurred on August 23, 1756, ten years and a day after the Bliss killing. Whoever wrote it was stuck on 1756.

As for the pamphlet’s spelling of Bliss’ first name – Constance – Sheldon and Thompson just had it wrong. Sheldon probably lifted it from 18th-century Deerfield records, and Thompson copied his spelling. Remember, Bliss was a transient soldier stationed only briefly in Deerfield. An outsider. Thus, the confusion. Historians in Sheldon and Thompson’s day didn’t have the luxury of *Ancestry.com* and other online sources, which

consistently use the gender-appropriate spelling – Constant – in birth, death, and probate records.

Bliss was the lone ambush casualty that dreadful day. Personal knowledge, which I’ll get into, tells me he was killed and scalped at a predictable site where the ancient Indian trail tilts uphill to Colrain. Although his nine companions aren’t named, one of them was presumably Capt. Holson.

Historians trust that the survivors escaped to Colrain – an assumption likely based on the fact that Colrain was closer than Deerfield. Terrain Navigator measurements bear this out. The closest Colrain bastion, Fort Lucas, was nearly four direct, wooded miles from the ambush site, while Deerfield was nearly six miles away on flatter, more exposed terrain.

The reason I call the upper Meadows site “predictable” for this ambush is that it’s located near three active springs, which still run pure today. Better still, the one closest to the ambush “X” came equipped with an ancient permanent trailside mortar, hollowed into sturdy ledge and used for millennia to grind nuts into gruel grain.

The mortar was there for good reason. Early records note a prolific butternut grove just north of my property during the colonial period, and there are still many butternut, walnut, and other edible-nut trees standing in the neighborhood and surrounding hills. That in-

cludes two huge black walnut trees in neighbors’ yards. Walnuts, butternuts, and white-oak acorns were among our indigenous people’s most desired nuts.

Some, if not all, of the Indians who killed Bliss also participated in a sneak attack three days later in what is known in Deerfield lore as the Bars Fight, also memorialized by a stone near Stillwater. By the time the dust had settled on August 25, 1746, five colonists were dead, one miraculously survived a fractured skull, and young Samuel Allen, 9, had been taken captive.

Sheldon identified those attackers as “St. Francis Indians,” and gets even more specific by calling one of them a Scatacook. Both designations suggest the strong possibility that some of the assailants had deep roots here and knew the old trails through community memory and elder guidance.

As for the trailside mortar stone in the woods behind my house, I have not seen it with my own eyes – just learned of it in independent conversations with two neighbors who had. One of my sources is a friend five years older than me. The other, older than my parents and long dead, would be well over 100 today.

Both men last visited the mortar stone more than a half-century ago. They agreed it was about knee- to hip-high, near a spring on the perimeter of an old orchard long ago choked off by reforestation.

Had I learned of this ancient in-

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www.wendellhistoricalsociety.org/orsh.html

The One Room Schoolhouse program is made possible with support from the New Salem Academy and the Orange Cultural Council. The Wendell Historical Society is a registered (501) (c)3 non-profit organization.

digenous site during my first 15 years of Meadows residence, I undoubtedly would have forced myself to find it during deer-hunting diversions. Although I no longer hunt deer, I did search for the stone once, maybe five years ago, with an archaeologist friend. When our search came up empty and I described the unsuccessful mission to my surviv-

ing source, he suspected we had focused too far south.

Oh well, I guess I’ll now have to take another poke at finding it. I’ll begin where the spring meets the road and scour both sides. Hopefully, the lay of the land and outcroppings will offer helpful hints.

So, stay tuned. I may return with a photo.

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