

The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 20, 2024

Comeback Kids: Thunder Reclaims Championship!



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners Falls' Ivy Lopez congratulates captains Holly Myers and Madi Liimatainen as the Thunder win their eleventh state championship title last Saturday at UMass-Amherst's Sortino Field.

By MATT ROBINSON

AMHERST – The Turners Falls Softball Thunder brought the Massachusetts state trophy back home last Saturday as they 11-peted as the MIAA state champions.

At high noon on June 15 at UMass Amherst's Sortino Field, the Thunder faced off against the fourth-ranked Georgetown Royals for the Division 5 belt. Thunder would win the battle, 5-0, by displaying patience, drawing walks on full counts, and garnering seven hits from seven different players. Stellar pitching and solid fielding kept the Royals off the scoreboard.

The win, while not surprising, was a long shot. During the regular season Powertown went through an uncharacteristic rough patch, at one point dropping three consecutive games. But Turners won when it mattered most, in the end, with the pressure on.

This 2024 team isn't unique for Turners Falls High School. The roster includes three seniors, supplemented by a bevy of un-

derclasswomen, including several players still in middle school. Two of those seniors, Anne and Ella Kolodziej, decided to go out for the team having never played varsity softball before.

The Royals led off Saturday's rumble by loading the bases in the first inning. A leadoff strikeout, a walk, and a base hit put two runners on base. After another strikeout and another walk, the bases were loaded with two outs. Blue didn't allow this threat to smash the magic. The next batter hit a high pop but Mia Marigliano tracked it down to retire the side and quash the threat.

Georgetown is a great team, and one reason they made it to the state finals is great fielding. In the home first, a one-out Madison Liimatainen walk and a Holly Myers single put two courtesy runners on base. The Royals proceeded to throw McKenzie Stafford out at third for the second out, but an Addison Talbot single knocked in Ivy Lopez to give Thunder a one-run edge.

see **CHAMPS** page A5

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

School Board Chair Pledges To Improve Communication With Public

By GEORGE BRACE

Jya Plavin, the new chair of Leverett's school committee, came to the selectboard meeting Tuesday night to discuss challenges Leverett Elementary School has been facing in recent months, including budget issues, leadership turnover, and parental dissatisfaction.

Plavin, who became chair of the committee on May 6, said that the elementary school's principal, its director of student services, and the Union 28 superintendent were all moving on before the fall semester, as well as at least one teacher. Plavin said that while all the positions had already been filled except the principal, the period of upheaval has been "really tough." She said she recognized a need for more transparency with the board and community, and pledged to pursue this goal.

Plavin said it had also been a "challenging year" for sixth-grade students, with interpersonal struggles and some "unmet academic needs" generating letters of concern from families. These issues were addressed, she said, by offering tutoring and changing the classroom setup, dividing the class into two groups; the students "needed more people in the room, and more instruction and more support services as well," she explained.

The school committee chair said she would not comment as to whether a temporary teacher may have contributed to the difficulty, but mentioned that a teacher who has been on leave would be coming back and is expected to provide a "stabilizing presence."

Due to the staff turnover and the cost of additional support for the sixth grade, the school committee is

see **LEVERETT** page A8

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Board Votes to Accept Empty Farren Property

By JEFF SINGLETON

"It's exciting that before I'm out of here we will complete this project, however one might feel about the decision ultimately to remove the Farren from the property," Montague town administrator Steve Ellis, who will be retiring at the end of the month, said during Monday's selectboard meeting. "What we really can agree on is that there's an exciting new future for that lot."

Ellis was referring to the transfer to town ownership of properties on Montague City Road on which the

historic Farren hospital, built at the turn of the 20th century, long sat. The Farren, which had been transformed into a long-term care center serving patients rejected by other facilities, was emptied in 2021 and demolished in 2023.

Trinity Health of New England Senior Communities, the parent company of the current owner, had pledged to transfer the property to the town after conducting an environmental cleanup.

"The company has done everything that we have requested of see **MONTAGUE** page A7



ED GREGORY PHOTO

The longtime hospital lot was cleared and seeded this spring.

GILL SELECTBOARD

One More Dangerous Dog Identified in Gill After Attack

By KATE SAVAGE

Rothgar the dog was deemed dangerous at Monday's Gill selectboard meeting. The German shepherd, licensed to Michael and Linda Chudzik, ran into Linda Croteau's yard last month in the Riverside neighborhood and bit her wrist, leaving four lacerations.

"I am very concerned about what happens to my arm," said Croteau, who received treatment at a hospital and is working with a specialist to regain mobility.

"My own mother's afraid to go on her lawn on our private property," said Croteau's son Jake Croteau. "We pay taxes – we do everything right. We're great citizens. I

don't think it's quite correct that my own mother should be afraid to go on her own lawn to sun tan or weed the garden."

"I messed up," said dog owner Michael Chudzik. "I feel terrible about it. We love Linda, and I feel terrible – I can't stress that enough."

"We're making it really simple," he continued. "We're moving out of the neighborhood by the end of the summer. We will be gone." Chudzik said the couple planned to move to a rural area of New Hampshire, and that before they do, Rothgar would receive behavioral treatment from a German shepherd specialist in Maine.

Attendees at the hearing did not see **GILL** page A6

Study: Sludge-Composting Facility Would Save Money In 20 to 30 Years

By SARAH ROBERTSON

MONTAGUE CITY – As costs continue to rise, Montague officials are considering building a composting facility to deal with the sewage sludge left over from treating wastewater at the town's Clean Water Facility (CWF) in a more economically and environmentally sound way.

"It's very important that our community has control over its own biosolids destiny, and not have it in the hands of third-party contractors in an extremely volatile and expensive market," CWF superintendent Chelsey Little told the *Reporter*. "Keeping the solids in-house also has important environmental and climate change resiliency factors

that I believe are important to our community."

The state Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) defines "sludge" as the solid material removed from wastewater during treatment. After it has been aerated, heated to meet health standards, and allowed to decompose for several weeks, sludge can be considered a pathogen-free "bio-solid" compost product.

"Biosolids – it may be the first time you're hearing that word," Little said at a June 5 public meeting on the composting proposal. "I don't really like the word 'sludge,' because I think it has a really negative connotation to it."

see **COMPOST** page A5



TOWN OF MONTAGUE CWF PHOTO

Compost was made from sludge at the Montague wastewater plant for several years under an earlier pilot program.

Strong Support Voiced For Local Access Station As Cable Renewal Nears

By JEFF SINGLETON

The second-floor meeting room at the Montague town hall was busy for the June 17 "ascertainment hearing" with the cable company Comcast, part of the process of renewing the company's 10-year license to provide cable television in the town.

An ascertainment hearing, according to an introductory statement read by selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz, is an opportunity for the town to "hear public input relative to the community's cable-related needs." The selectboard was conducting the hearing in conjunction with Montague's four-member cable advisory committee (CAC), on which Kuklewicz is joined by Ryne Hager, Kristi Bodin, and chair Jason Burbank.

Comcast representative Eileen Leahy, senior manager for government and regulatory affairs, moved up to the front row of the meeting room when she was introduced. Also in attendance was attorney Bill August, the town's legal counsel in the cable license negotiations.

Kuklewicz pointed out that the license under discussion was only for television, and not internet or telephone services, though Comcast provides residents with all three. The three services are "mingled," in Kuklewicz's words, on customers' bills from Xfinity, a division of Comcast created in 2010.

Though a range of cable-related issues are covered by the television license, nearly all the comments at the hearing concerned Montague Community Television (MCTV), see **CABLE** page A8

New Study: Planet's Supply of Index Titles Badly Depleted

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The Montague Reporter

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August 2002

Power – Lines

As we were putting the finishing touches on these pages early Thursday morning the phone rang at the office. It was Lake Pleasant.

"I'm just wondering if you've heard about this National Interest Electric Transmission Corridor?"

Why, yes, but only recently – the news didn't reach our tiny Avenue A newsroom until Jeff Singleton filed his Montague selectboard coverage Wednesday afternoon. (See article, pp. A1-A7.)

In a nutshell, Congress, responding to a sense that state-by-state permitting of power lines was creating an irrational, inefficient, patchwork electrical grid, passed a law in 2005 directing the Department of Energy to study of "transmission congestion" every three years, identify congested areas, and to designate special "corridors" within which permits for power lines can be granted instead at the federal level.

Not much came of the 2006, 2009, or 2012 studies, and the project languished in obscurity until 2021 when the Biden administration's flagship bill, the Infrastruc-

ture Investment and Jobs Act, was passed. The Act required the next study to include projections of future electricity demand. After all, if decarbonization means capturing energy where and when the sun and wind provide it and using it to power cars and trucks and heat homes, we're gonna want more wires.

As it turns out, some of those wires want to pass through Montague. On May 8 the DOE published a "preliminary" list of 10 potential NIETCs – you can read it at www.tinyurl.com/NIETClist. The very first is a 60-mile "New York-New England" corridor passing from Northfield Mountain through the Montague Plains into Deerfield, tracing to an uncanny extent the power line right-of-ways in which Kinder Morgan wanted to collocate a natural gas pipeline back in 2014.

Comments on this "preliminary" list are only being accepted until Monday, but an "in-depth" process is scheduled for the fall. We're sure to be reporting more on this over the coming months.... Stay tuned!



Greenfield artist Trouble Mandeson, author of this paper's Notes From the Heartfelt Café column, painted a sidewalk mural commemorating the Samuel Wells Family home – rumored to have been part of the Underground Railroad – at the corner of Coombs Avenue and Main Street in Greenfield. Twelve murals depicting abolitionist and Underground Railroad scenes were painted on sidewalks around the city. Download a self-guided map, or take a virtual tour, at visitgreenfieldma.com/art-walk.

SUMMER SCHEDULE:
VOL. 22 #31: JUNE 27
VOL. 22 #32: JULY 11
VOL. 22 #33: JULY 25
VOL. 22 #34: AUGUST 8
VOL. 22 #35: AUGUST 22

Service Announcement

GILL – Please join us to celebrate the life of Renee (Parody) Jenkins, 94, of Gill. The service will take place in the Basement of the Gill Church, 6 Center Road, Gill, MA on Friday June 28, 2024 and will begin at 4 p.m.

A light supper will be served following the service.

OP ED

Project 2025's War on Women – and Democracy

By **FERD WULKAN, SHARON TRACY, and DAVID GREENBERG**

FRANKLIN COUNTY – It has now been two years since the Supreme Court's *Dobbs* decision reversed the 1972 *Roe* decision, which held that abortion was a Constitutional right and a fundamental aspect of privacy and bodily autonomy. The new ruling returned the right to regulate abortion to individual states as they saw fit.

This Sunday, June 23 at noon, Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution, together with seven other groups, will discuss the impacts of this decision on women and on democracy in a rally at the Second Congregational Church of Greenfield, just off the Common at 16 Court Square. Here's why you might want to attend.

Dobbs has led to a hodgepodge of state laws, with abortion illegal or greatly restricted in a third of the states and thousands of women forced either to give birth or to make expensive trips to faraway places to receive needed care.

According to numerous polls, support for legal abortion is over 60% and has increased since *Dobbs*. Ballot referenda in seven mostly red states all supported abortion rights by large margins. Nonetheless most Republican politicians, heavily influenced by Trump and Christian nationalists, continue to oppose women's rights to control their own bodies.

This rollback of reproductive rights is part of broader right-wing efforts to roll back hard-won gains like gender equality at work,

access to contraception, and protection against gender-based violence. These same forces want to remove restraints on corporations – environmental laws, recognition of workers' rights to unionize, and anti-discrimination laws – while drastically cutting taxes for corporations and the 1%.

If Trump wins the impact will be immediate and dramatic. The right-wing program is spelled out in Project 2025 (www.project2025.org), which lays out in detail what should happen in the first six months of a Trump presidency. Led by former Trump administration officials and backed by over 100 conservative organizations, the Project aims to change America as we know it.

The document panders to the religious right by calling for the elimination of the separation of church and state, saying that the government should "maintain a biblically based, social-science-reinforced definition of marriage and family."

Project 2025 goes beyond *Dobbs* to say the FDA must reverse its approval of abortion pills and outlaw sending of such pills from one state to another. The recent Supreme Court decision that maintained the legality of mifepristone did so purely on procedural grounds; the "pro-life" forces will not give up easily, and we will have to keep fighting to maintain access.

Letting states decide on abortion is no longer the goal: pro-lifers want a national ban, and go much further. Project 2025 advocates restrictions on contraception and IVF, arguing that family planning should rely on

preventing pregnancies simply by tracking menstrual cycles.

While current rules mandate that pharmacies carry certain kinds of contraception, a Trump administration would allow them to refuse to do so based on practitioners' religious preferences. Project 2025 would even rename the Department of Health and Human Services the "Department of Life."

The Project covers a lot more than just reproductive rights. One of its main priorities is reinstating a Trump-era executive order removing civil service protections from federal employees in order to pack agencies with Trump loyalists. Other parts of Project 2025 include:

- The Department of Justice would no longer be independent from the executive branch, and could retaliate against anyone Trump deems an enemy.

- The administration could deport millions of people with virtually no due process.

- Racism would be declared "over," and government action to safeguard equal rights would be banned.

- The National Labor Relations Act, which grants workers the legal right to organize unions, would be gutted.

- The EPA would shrink dramatically and environmental regulations would be rolled back, crippling the fight against climate change. Coal mining and oil drilling would be promoted.

- Title X protections for reproductive healthcare would end, effectively eliminating

low-cost contraception, STD screenings, and prenatal care for low-income people.

- Federal protections for LGBTQ people would be eliminated, while research into conversion therapy to encourage gender and sexuality conformity would be promoted. Among many attacks on trans people, "reassigning" the sex of a minor would be considered child abuse.

Sadly, there is much more.

Demonstrations similar to FCCPR's rally in Greenfield at noon Sunday (see address above) are taking place this weekend around the country. By themselves these demonstrations won't prevent these changes from being implemented, but they can shine a spotlight on ongoing attacks against women, the assault on democracy, and especially Project 2025, which the mainstream media has mostly ignored.

Even if you don't see yourself as an "activist" and don't generally go to demonstrations, please consider spending an hour of your Sunday at our rally for justice, transparency, and democracy. A number of powerful and informative speakers will discuss the issues, their interconnections, and actions we can take in response. For more information about the event, contact Ann Ferguson at ferguson3638@gmail.com.

Ferd Wulkan lives in Montague, Sharon Tracy lives in New Salem, and David Greenberg lives in Colrain. All are members of the FCCPR Coordinating Committee.

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Attention Montague taxpayers: Town Hall advises that the look of your real estate tax bill has changed. This is a change only to the look of the bill – everything else is the same, and the first half is still due October 1. Let's hope the "new look" doesn't involve higher numbers.

The Turners Falls Water Department also warns that they will be **flushing fire hydrants** next week, June 24 to 28. "Residents may experience low water pressure and/or discolored water," clerk Suzanne Leh writes. "Fire hydrant flushing is done annually, and is imperative for water quality and flow."

And one for parents and caretakers: the Communities That Care Coalition has compiled some information on **family-friendly summer activities and programs**. Find their listings online at greenfield4sc.org and start planning for summer days when the kids are out of school.

Celebrate the publication of **Leverett author Annaliese Bischoff's** book *The Man Who Loved Trees*, reviewed by Donna Petersen in our June 6 edition, tonight, Thursday, June 20 at 6 p.m. at Amherst Books in Amherst.

The book tells the story of UMass professor Frank A. Waugh (1869-1943) and his evolving love for trees. Waugh pioneered native planting landscape design. Bischoff is a local artist and landscape architect, as well as a professor emerita in the department Waugh started.

The second **Charlemont Forum** is also tonight, Thursday, June 20 at 7 p.m. at the Charlemont Federated Church or online via Zoom. Ted Conover, a nationally recognized author, will talk about his immersive experiences including working as a prison guard, living off the grid in Colorado, and rid-

ing the rails with the homeless. If you can't be there, use tinyurl.com/june-forum as a Zoom link.

The Great Falls Discovery Center invites people to stretch their legs on a "Nice and Easy Walk" along the canal side rail trail or through downtown Turners Falls this Saturday, June 22 at 10 a.m. During the one- to two-mile walk you can learn about **the housing history of mill workers and mill owners** during the industrial heyday of Turners Falls.

Meet at the main entrance to the Discovery Center, dressed for the weather and with sturdy footwear, and bring water. Inclement weather will cancel the walk.

A Spiritual Roundtable discussion titled "The Lightning Bolt Conversion of John Newton: From Slave-Trader on the High Seas of Yesteryore to Life in the Anglican Pulpit via Living the Lyrics of *Amazing Grace*" will be the focus of services this Sunday, June 23 from 10:30 a.m. to noon at The National Spiritual Alliance, 2 Montague Avenue in Lake Pleasant.

The discussion, moderated by David James, will explore how "profound personal experience of divinity puts a match to the fire of spiritual practicing." Light refreshments and socializing will follow.

Starting next Monday, June 24, the Montague Public Libraries will be collaborating with the Gill-Montague regional school district's food services to **provide free onsite meals** to anyone age zero to 18 under the tent at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls.

Mondays through Fridays, rain or shine, until August 16, free breakfasts will be available from 8:15 to 9:15 a.m. and free lunches from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. No meals will be provided on July 4 or 5.

Starting in July, Massachusetts is offering a new federal food benefit

to help low-income **families with school-aged children buy groceries** while schools are closed for summer. The benefit is \$120 per eligible child, and is put on an EBT card that can be used like SNAP wherever SNAP is accepted.

The Summer EBT will be issued around July 25, and expires four months from the date it is issued. If your household gets SNAP in July and you have eligible children, the funds will be added to your card; if your child is not getting SNAP but is eligible for another reason, the state will send you a Summer EBT card.

An application is available for caregivers to demonstrate income eligibility – similar to a free/reduced price lunch application – for children who aren't enrolled automatically. Learn more at mass.gov/info-details/summer-ebt-faq.

Gail Mason will convene the third event in this year's **"Honoring Elders" series at the Wendell Meetinghouse** next Tuesday, June 25, at 6:30 p.m.

June's honoree is Karen Copeland, local drummer and teacher, organizer of Old Home Day and other events, and one of the creators of the Wendell Free Box. Copeland was named the 2015 Wendell Citizen of the Year. Community members are invited to come and share stories, memories, and appreciations of her contributions.

Honoring Elders events are free and open to the public; after expenses, donations will go to the Meetinghouse to support ongoing renovations and programming. For more information, contact Gail at rushingwaters01@gmail.com.

Diapers are a significant expense for many families, and the United Way tells us their diaper bank could use donations. They are running a **Diaper Drive in June**, and there are multiple ways to make a contribution, from bringing boxes of diapers or disposable wipes to nearby dropoff locations or making targeted purchases on Amazon that go right to the diaper bank. Find out more at uw-fh.org/diaper-drive.

The Montague Public Libraries are joining in the Discovery Center's "Food, Farms, and Factories" theme with a summer visit to the **Great Falls Farmers Market** at Peskeompskut Park in Turners Falls

next Saturday, June 29. They will have books and activities about growing food to share.

Exploded View, the multi-disciplinary arts group I am a member of, will have a **closing reception for our community art exhibit**, "What's on Your Plate?," in the Great Hall of the Discovery Center next Saturday, June 29, from 2 to 4 p.m.

We'll share readings of selected work by Exploded View members, and community bard Annie Hassett will lead a sing-a-long. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Discovery Center.

June 29 and 30 marks the opening weekend of **Antenna Cloud Farm's** music festival in Gill. They are presenting two innovative artists, Majel Connery and Anju, at their hilltop site.

The artists will perform "life-affirming music created in relationship to place, to landscape, and to the earth," according to an announcement, starting Saturday, June 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the outdoor stage with composer, singer, and multi-instrumentalist Majel Connery. Sunday, June 30 features Anju, bassist/vocalist Devon Gates, and pianist Luciana Garcia, at 3 p.m. on the indoor stage.

The audience is advised to bring seating and bug spray for the outdoor concert, and the grounds open an hour prior to each concert for those who wish to bring a picnic. Tickets are on a sliding scale from \$0 to \$25 and are available at antennacloudfarm.com.

The Wendell Meetinghouse will host a **Community Contra Dance** on Saturday, June 29 at 7 p.m. Steve Howland will be the caller, with Annika Amstutz on fiddle and Becky Hollingsworth on piano. Admission is by donation.

As the organizers note, this "quintessential New England experience is an opportunity to enjoy simple, lively dances with nice people to good music." No experience or skill is required, and dances are suitable for all ages. Musicians who play an appropriate instrument are welcome to bring it along and ask about sitting in with the band. For more information, contact Becky at guidingstaropenband@gmail.com.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

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- 6/27 & 7/11 Figure Drawing 6-8pm \$15
- 6/28 Gallery Walk: Opening of "On our Way" by Chelsea Granger 5-8pm
- 6/29 Rouge Readings 7pm \$10
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Montague Community Television News

Did You Miss It?

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – Thank you sincerely to all of the MR readers and MCTV viewers who came out or wrote letters in support of our station. We are pleased to report that our relicensing meeting with Comcast went very well! We will continue to keep you updated on the latest Montague events.

This week we have a video from World Music Fest and coverage of Gill's annual town meeting. There is always so much happening in our towns it's hard to keep up. If you've missed a meeting or event you wish you hadn't, check on MCTV's Vimeo page or tune into our Comcast Channel 9 or 1070 in all five villages of Montague, as well as into Gill and Erving. Chances are we were there

to capture what you missed!

Make sure we don't miss a thing by letting us know if you need something filmed, or try getting behind the camera yourself! Cameras, tripods, and lighting equipment are available for checkout, and filming and editing assistance can be provided at no cost to you. It's an incredible resource!

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

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

Letter to the Editors
Appreciated Cross-Pub

I am always delighted to see collaborations between the Reporter and The Shoestring – most recently via Dusty Christensen's fantastic article on the GCC DEI fiasco in the June 13 issue.

By now, we all know that when local newspapers need to cut their budgets, investigative reporting is the first thing to go. Many of the reporters at The Shoestring have been casualties of layoffs at other local papers. Yet they are our finest local investigative reporters: taking the time to make public records requests and obtain other documents that truly give us an understanding of how our local institutions operate.

Personally, I would love to see

more Shoestring reporting in the Reporter. I already support The Shoestring with a monthly donation (and anyone reading this should too!), but it would be great to see our region's finest print newspaper regularly publish an otherwise online-only article from The Shoestring. Not everyone gets their news online and this reporting really needs to be read by every resident in the valley. I cannot overstate how much I appreciate The Shoestring and their novel approach to sustaining investigative reporting when the changing economics of the news business don't necessarily allow it.

Andrew Ritchey
Greenfield

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RECYCLE

BOTTLES & CANS
Week of June 24
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054

Call for Artists: Our Fourth Wrapping Paper Edition!

By REPORTER STAFF

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

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

In 2022 we produced another Wrapping Paper Edition just before the holiday gift-giving season, and were able to raise \$2,200, less than the pandemic year bonanza but still significant.

Our third Wrapping Paper Edition in 2023 brought in \$3,300.

We are happy to announce a call for artists for another Wrapping Paper Edition for 2024. Artists from western Mass and southern Vermont

are invited to submit designs and proposals for wrapping paper pages from now until September 1.

We will give each artist the space of two full adjacent pages for their design, making a double page measuring approximately 20 by 22 inches. Artists may design in black and white or color, and we'd love to get proposals from tattoo artists, comic illustrators, graffiti writers, painters, street sketchers, kids, photographers, geometry nerds, type designers... All are encouraged to send us ideas! Submissions may be portfolio samples, rough sketches, or finished work.

Once again we are able to offer a \$200 stipend to each of seven chosen artists, thanks to the generosity of anonymous donors. Each winner will also receive five copies of the edition.

The Wrapping Paper Edition will be available for sale between Thanksgiving and the end of December, in local stores and online, at the special price of \$5 each or five for \$20.

Artists and designers, you may submit up to three designs before the September 1 deadline. This year



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

a Google submission form is available at tinyurl.com/more-wrap. If you can't use the online form, send your name, address, phone number, and up to three images to features@montaguereporter.org with "Wrap" in the subject line.

We have a separate Youth category for artists who are 15 years old or younger, and we will select at least one finalist from this group.

Proposals and submissions are due September 1. Selected artists

will be contacted on Monday, September 16. You will then have the rest of September and October to finish your design.

For more information, please contact Nina Rossi at (413) 834-8800 or features@montaguereporter.org.

And if you are a shop or business owner who would like to support local journalism by selling copies of the Wrapping Paper Edition, please get in touch with Garth Shaneyfelt at garth@montaguereporter.org.

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66 AVENUE A • TURNERS FALLS

AT LARGE

By CHIPAINSWORTH

NORTHFIELD – It's now or never for the selectboard to decide what to do about town administrator Andrea Llamas. Although her contract doesn't expire until July 1, 2025, the board has until June 30 to notify her in writing whether or not it intends to renew her employment agreement. A copy obtained by public records request stipulates that if the selectboard stands down, "this Agreement shall be extended for an additional one year period," meaning Llamas can remain in her post through at least June 2026.

Consequently, a petition is being circulated requesting the selectboard "to vote not to renew the town administrator's contract at the June 25 meeting."

Llamas was named town administrator in November 2018, following a months-long search by a Plymouth head-hunting agency. "I think Northfield is about to take off," she told the *Greenfield Recorder*. "I want to be a part of that."

Since then two out-of-town developers, a non-profit Christian group from Kansas and a for-profit industrial solar corporation from Boston, have elbowed their way into town.

A Conway native, Llamas has a BS in social thought and political theory from UMass and a law degree from Roger Williams University. Prior to Northfield she was Buckland's town administrator for 11 years. "This isn't my first rodeo," she argues when her \$119,149 salary is compared to the \$91,083 state average reported on ZipRecruiter.

"Andrea's evolved to become what the town wants and needs," says former selectboard member Alex Meisner. "She multitasks under stress, and does not overstep the selectboard unless it is to keep the board in compliance with the law."

Perhaps, but when the board looked for her help electing a new chair, she guided them through a secret ballot process, which was repeated last month when Heath Cummings and Bernie Boudreau were both nominated to replace the outgoing chair.

This time an anonymous emailer contacted the selectboard and cited MGL Ch. 30A, S. 22, paragraph 13: "No vote taken at an open session shall be by secret ballot."

Llamas's critics say she tries to dominate meetings and gets defensive quickly.

Admin's Foes Call for Non-Renewal

At the town's board of health meeting on June 12, Alison Wahlstrom said that Llamas had accused the BOH of slow-walking the approval of a well permit for the controversial Idyllwood campground off Pierson Road.

"We did not delay – Andrea gave unfactual information to the planning board," says Wahlstrom, who as of this writing was composing a detailed response including documents and dates of correspondence received and delivered.

The selectboard can't simply slough off her job performance, or put it in an evaluation safe from prying eyes. The citizens' petition is making sure of that.

Sewer Grants In the Works

"I'm always happy to talk grants," says Northfield's grant development director Leslie Roberts, whose \$75,000 annual salary is funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). "We aren't just twiddling our thumbs – I've been here three months, and have worked more grants on sewer than anything else."

The first of two sewer grants Roberts has applied for is the DEP's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant. "The particular challenge with this grant is they don't want to fund projects that are to fix old problems," she says. "My argument to them is that the way we'd make improvements would be to incorporate climate change into the [repairs], and make the sewer system more resilient."

Roberts is referring to a section of sewer line parallel to Dickinson Street behind the library. If awarded, the \$56,200 grant would cover the design and permit process; the project would encompass a fifth of the town's sewer system.

"We've located all the pipes and manholes," she adds. "Many are below the water tables, particularly on Dickinson Street, and manhole covers are required to be above the ground... We'll hear back in July, if not a little later, and then put out a bid for engineers."

Roberts has also submitted a grant for \$4.2 million to make upgrades to the town wastewater facility. "I feel optimistic, but it's a big ask," she says. "We'll know by mid- to late September."

Roberts also adds that she has applied for a \$90,022 grant from the Underutilized Properties program to help Jody James restore and open a restaurant across from his IGA store. "She's

earning her money," says James.

Sewer commissioner Karen Boudreau concurs: "She's a very hard worker. She is smart, she is fast, and she is competent. We threw everything we had at her, and she never blinked."

Bread In the Oven

After four years of pushback from East Northfield residents, Idyllwood is clearing the final hurdles to open for business. The board of health has signed off on a well, and once the DEP deems it potable for public consumption, building inspector Jim Hawkins will issue a building permit.

At that point, architect Christian Arnold of the D.L. Moody Center can move his six pre-built cabins from their hiding place in New York into the gnarly underbrush that Arnold has called his "vision from God. It felt like I was the pencil that translated it to paper. We don't take credit for it. It was certainly inspiration from God."

Uh-huh, tell that to the neighborhood. It will be interesting to see how his cabins compare to the rendering he presented to the planning board – and presumably God – four years ago.

"If it was in my neighborhood, I wouldn't be opposed to it," says Arnold's construction consultant Scott McKusick. "It's going to provide taxes without a lot of liability, and I think they have a market."

"They say they get 25,000 visitors a day," he added. A Northfield resident, McKusick's tongue was firmly planted in his cheek.

Other Notes

Quarterly sewer bills for \$316.17 (that's \$1,264 per annum) will be sent on the first day of July, October, January, and April, and due in 45 days. At this writing the delinquency rate was 17.7% for the previous billing statement...

In Deerfield, townsfolk who remember the briny smell from the pickle plant in summer and Carl Allen hanging Christmas lights on the town common from out of his WMECO bucket loader in winter are the voters who helped Blake Gilmore upset longtime selectboard incumbent Carolyn Ness. Asked how it was going, Gilmore smiled and said, "They haven't warmed up to me yet."

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

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CHAMPS from page A1

Another throw to the plate, however, ended the inning and limited the damage.

It turned out to be the only run the Thunder would need. From then on it seemed like a matter of when, not if, Turners was going to win.

In the second inning Turners padded on their four insurance runs. Anne Kolodziej reached on an error, and Madisyn Dietz hit into a fielders' choice, taking first base while Kolodziej was thrown out at second. Marilyn Abarua then slammed a single to advance Dietz.

Next up was Autumn Thornton, who walked, loading the bases. A pop-up to the shortstop gave the Royals two outs, and the chance to keep the margin to one run, but Liimatainen sent a line drive into the outfield, plating two runners and putting two more in scoring position.

Myers drew a walk to reload the bases – and then Blue practiced patience.

Janelle Massey battled at the plate, driving the count to 3-and-2. On the deciding pitch, she held her swing as the ball sailed by. She glanced at the ump, who sent her on to first, giving Turners a 4-0 lead and gifting Massey with an RBI walk.

Then Talbot came to the plate. The first two pitches were called strikes, and she found herself facing a 0-and-2 pitcher's count. She chipped away the next pitch, and the count stayed the same. She then watched the next three pitches sail by, banking that the ump would call them balls. He did, and the count was now full. The next pitch came down the pike and Talbot fouled it off. She then patiently held her stance as the next one missed the mark, sending her to first, earning her an RBI walk, and handing Turners a 5-zip lead.

In the fourth, courtesy runner Stafford appeared to slide under the tag at home plate, making it 6-0, but the Georgetown coach met with the game officials and ap-

pealed the run. After a conference, the decision was reversed, the run was removed from the scoreboard, and the inning was ended.

In the seventh, Turners finished strong. The first batter hit a shot, but it was snagged in the infield. The next batter hit a looping fly ball into right field, and Massey caught it on the run. After a base on balls, Liimatainen whiffed her final batter – and just like that, Turners Falls were Massachusetts's Division 5 state champions!

As a side note, this is the team's first Division 5 state title. Most of the other championships were in Division 3, while their first was in Division 2.

Midseason, an out-of-town journalist asked me why three of the state's best softball schools are within four miles of each other. I won't share what I said. But when a team has four or five strong seasons, it's usually because a talented crop of athletes comes through the school. But when a team consistently wins state championships over the span of decades, one can only conclude that it is the coaching.

And head coach Gary Mullins, who has skippered the TFHS softball program for 44 years, can stand proud of the mentoring he has provided to countless student athletes throughout those decades. For the True Blue Faithful, it's just one more reason to love Turners Falls sports.

Saturday's win was a total team effort. Seven different players had hits for Blue – senior Holly Myers, Liimatainen, Abarua, Marigliano, Dietz, Massey, and Talbot – with Thornton, Lopez, and Stafford scoring runs.

Junior ace Liimatainen gave as good as she got. She got one hit at the plate, batted in two runs, and was walked twice; in the circle she allowed one hit, walked three batters, and fanned 14.



Top: Turners Falls Thunder head coach Gary Mullins (at center) and athletic director Adam Graves (at right) present championship ribbons to the players following their win in the state final last Saturday.

Above: Senior captain Holly Myers was "locked in" at the plate during the final matchup.



DAVID HOJITT PHOTOS



Eye of the tiger: Madi Liimatainen pitched with focus and determination, allowing only one hit during the Division 5 state final in Amherst last Saturday.

The win also marked the last event Adam Graves would preside over as the athletic director for Gill-Montague's regional high school. Graves has been a fixture of Turners Falls athletics for years. No matter how late a game went on, he was always there, making sure that

the basketballs were back in the closet, the fields were picked up, the lights were turned off, and the doors were locked. Not to mention all the championships he has under his belt. Good work, Mr. Graves. Your presence will be sorely missed.



COMPOST from page A1

Before 2023, the CWF paid Casella Waste Management \$223 per ton to dispose of sludge at a composting facility in Canada or a landfill in New York. The town now contracts with the international waste management company Synagro to haul its dewatered sludge to incinerators in Connecticut and Rhode Island at a cost of \$198 per ton, a cost set to increase to \$208 in July.

When the out-of-state incinerators are closed, the town sends liquid sludge to a facility in Lowell. The cost of that contract is due to increase by 48% in the coming fiscal year, Little said.

"It just doesn't make sense to have to bring this stuff so far," said Jarod Stuyvesant, a project manager with Weston & Sampson, an engineering firm hired by the town. At the June 5 Zoom meeting the consultants presented their analysis of two cost-saving alternatives: drying wastewater sludge collected on a regional scale, and composting it.

Both options would require the town to invest in multi-million dollar technology upgrades that would allow the CWF to accept more sludge from neighboring communities, and according to the consultants, both would save money in the long term. Processing more sludge from other towns would increase revenue for the CWF and address the regional problem of increasingly limited disposal options.

A drying belt would greatly reduce the moisture content of the sludge, helping to lower the disposal cost. If it is composted, the biosolids could potentially be applied to land as a fertilizer or soil adjunct.

Montague's sludge disposal expenses are increasing by about 7% annually, according to Stuyvesant. The town is spending about \$200,000 per year for disposal, a figure expect-

ed to increase to an average of \$330,000 over the next two decades, adjusting for inflation.

"It's really expensive to truck and haul biosolids and sludge," Little said. "It's a disruption to the nitrogen cycle that we're not putting it back into the ground where it belongs."

Over the next 20 to 30 years, the study says, the cost of continuing to truck the town's biosolids away for incineration is projected to exceed the cost of a composting program – \$9 million – or new drying belt for \$5 million.

"Figuring out what to do with these biosolids is kind of a critical issue for the town of Montague, and towns across the state," said assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey. "I'm excited about this study, and looking at the options of what we can do that will hopefully save us money and make our operation more sustainable."

Wild Card In the Deck

"It's really, really quite impressive that the town of Montague is seriously considering this, because we as engineers have wanted to do this for quite a few years now," Stuyvesant said. "It only sets them up for more benefits as the years go on."

Some neighboring communities already send sludge to Montague. Between July and March the majority came from South Deerfield, where the wastewater treatment facility is undergoing extensive renovation, and the rest from Sunderland, Orange, Erving, Northfield, and Hatfield.

The proposed composting facility would combine sludge with yard and food waste, providing what Stuyvesant called an "ancillary benefit" to the community.

In Massachusetts, 13 wastewater treatment facilities currently produce biosolids products, according to MassDEP, including plants in Springfield, Williamstown, Nan-

tucket, Marlboro, Ipswich, and the Boston area, as well as the Lowell facility that receives Montague's liquid sludge.

However, the practice of composting municipal waste raises concerns that it could spread any toxic substances that goes down the drain into the environment.

In accordance with new state guidelines, Montague has recently begun testing the CWF's sewage, sludge, and effluent for PFAS, a class of harmful industrial chemicals which have become pervasive over the last half century. Trace amounts of PFAS have been found in some samples of Montague's sludge, but the chemical has not been detected in the majority of tests.

"What risks does the changing regulation of PFAS pose to Montague developing a composting facility?" Ramsey asked the consultants. "Have you ever wrestled with that idea?"

Neither the mechanical drying system nor the composting facility, Stuyvesant said, would remove PFAS. "It's a consideration at every facility," he added. "The ideal situation would be that Montague's sludge doesn't have PFAS, and anyone who they accept sludge from doesn't have PFAS. There will probably be regulations of levels of PFAS in soil that is safe, or not safe, for human contact... That would be a deterrent from being able to give it away to people to put in their gardens."

Though the state and federal governments have yet to establish regulations for safe levels of PFAS in biosolids, Mickey Nowak, president of the wastewater industry group the Massachusetts Water Environment Association (MAWEA), told the Reporter that new rules could be a "wild card" for Montague's composting plans.

"The direction we're going in is not land application-friendly," Nowak said. "We're

more likely to have a biosolids crisis in Massachusetts than not have one, because of all the increased regulations."

Under Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards, according to the consultants, Montague's biosolids would qualify as "Class A," suitable for all home and agricultural uses.

In Massachusetts, which regulates the land application of biosolids with more stringent standards than the EPA, "Type 1" biosolids can be used without restriction, "Type 2" require a permit, and "Type 3" must be recorded on the deed of any land where it is applied.

At least three bills addressing PFAS in biosolids are pending in the state legislature, including one filed by senator Jo Comerford and representative Susannah Whipps which would require PFAS testing and recordkeeping for all land application, and establish a relief fund for farmers with contaminated land.

Maine and Connecticut have banned all land application of biosolids, and Vermont is considering setting limits. According to MAWEA data, about 72% of the sludge generated in Massachusetts is exported.

"In Massachusetts, we like to farm our waste problems out of state," Nowak said. "It's good that people like Chelsea in Montague are trying to do something."

If the town decides to move forward with the composting facility, Stuyvesant said, Weston & Sampson could produce plans for construction to begin in 2025, with an opening date as soon as 2026.

Town officials have indicated that their preferred location for such a facility is a municipal lot on Sandy Lane past the regional dog shelter, the town transfer station, and the wood bank. The lot, located between two solar arrays, is currently used for storage by the public works department.



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GILL from page A1

appear satisfied by this commitment. Neighbor Doreen Kwader said Michael Chudzick had promised to euthanize Rothgar after the attack. "All of us agree here that he has made promises to do things, and he hasn't done them," she said. "We don't trust him."

Other attendees said Rothgar also attacked a small dog belonging to Lennox Scott in 2022, resulting in abdominal injuries that required treatment at an emergency veterinary hospital. Scott said the Chudzicks had

agreed at that time to muzzle their dog and get help from a trainer.

Kwader expressed fear that Rothgar could hurt her children. "There's no way, if it doesn't have a muzzle, that it's not going to maim somebody," she said. "And it better not be my kids."

At one point the meeting devolved into a spate of accusations against other neighbors' dogs, who may or may not have attacked Rothgar and traumatized him into his current reactive state.

The selectboard moved to de-

clare Rothgar a dangerous dog, ordering him to be confined to the Chudzicks' property and muzzled when removed from the property. They also required the Chudzicks to take out an insurance policy of no less than \$100,000 for any injury Rothgar causes, and to give the animal control officers identifying information about Rothgar, including his location, for the duration of the dog's life.

Rothgar was the name of a sixth-century Danish king featured in the epic poem *Beowulf*.

Dangerous Blob

"At least four feet of solid grease" has built up in the wet well at the town's sewer pump station, reported highway superintendent John Miner. "The grease is up the side so far this time we can't see the pipes down in there."

Miner said prices for the work have risen since the station was last cleaned in 2000. He estimated it will cost around \$6,750 even before disposal fees.

"Unfortunately, why prices are so high is it's a confined space and hazardous," Miner explained. "Somebody's going to have to go down with a respirator and laser-jet it out with water and pump it out at the same time. It's rock solid."

After briefly exploring whether they could do anything with solid blocks of fat, the board discussed possible sewer regulations that would require restaurants to install and maintain outdoor grease traps. Selectboard member Randy Crochier said he would research what other towns have done.

The board voted to approve paying a company to clean out the grease, provided the total is under \$10,000.

Miner also set out the schedule for this year's road repaving. He said he was originally planning to use Chapter 90 funding to pave 880 feet of Center Road, but noticed the road is "falling apart all the way to Ben Hale Road." Using "Fair Share" funding, he will be able to pave three times as much, for a total length of 2,640 feet.

"Fair Share" funds come from the new state tax on residents who make over \$1 million annually, and are allocated to cover education and infrastructure costs.

Other paving projects planned this season include a section of Mountain Road near Deer Run Lane and Cove View Lane.

In other highway department news, the board approved spending some of the remainder of this year's snow and ice budget to repair a truck used in road sanding. When doing other repairs on the 2009 International truck, Miner discovered "the body is completely rotted through." He predicted the work of welding stainless steel to the body will cost around \$5,000, while sandblasting and painting the rear of the vehicle will be \$15,000 to \$20,000.

"The cab right now is still in great shape," said Miner. "This would buy us years of service."

Other Business

The selectboard approved replacing the town hall fire alarm panel at a cost of a little over \$6,000. The latest test of the build-

ing's fire alarm system found a number of problems, with heat detectors from 1986 and some components improperly wired.

The personnel committee asked the selectboard to approve a job description questionnaire it will use to examine applicants for town positions – but the selectboard kicked the issue back to them. "I'm just not sure whether it's up to us to tell that committee what forms to use," said Crochier.

"You don't care how they make the sausage, as long as it tastes good," said town administrator Ray Purington.

"Within reason," added selectboard member Charles Garbiel, owner of the Shady Glen restaurant in Turners Falls.

Purington informed the group about the upcoming "BEAD Challenge," which locates households that lack access to high-speed internet. BEAD, which stands for "Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment," is funded under the 2021 federal Infrastructure Act, which set aside \$42 billion to expand internet access; Massachusetts received \$147 million to bring high-speed internet to its unserved and underserved households.

Purington said current maps of access include "points of questionable accuracy." Some areas are supposedly covered by Verizon or T-Mobile, but those companies say they can't cover those regions.

"Write the people in charge of this and tell them to spend one week with a Verizon connection, and tell me that's 'served,'" said Crochier.

Purington said he would double-check with residents to make sure the access maps are accurate.

Board members discussed past efforts to expand internet access, which left them frustrated and disappointed with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI).

"I would recommend that before MBI checks off anything in our town as being 'served,' they might want to go back and revisit the minutes of our 2015 selectboard meetings," said selectboard chair Greg Snedeker. "We really don't want to run into a situation like that again – let's get it right this time."

Snedeker lamented that Gill residents are still waiting for adequate web access. "It's sad it's been almost 10 years and these poor people still don't have high-speed internet," he said.

The board approved appointments of around a hundred members of town committees and departments for the fiscal year ahead.

Gill's next selectboard meeting will be held Monday, July 1 at 5:30 p.m.



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Defeat the Heat

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Heat stress is a serious condition that poses a health threat to many people, particularly the elderly and young children. Heat stress places a strain on the body and can cause serious damage or death. Here are some tips to follow during hot, humid weather:

- Slow down, avoid strenuous activity, and drink plenty of water, even if you do not feel thirsty.
- Stay in an air-conditioned place as much as possible. If you do not have AC, stay on your lowest floor, out of the sun. Electric fans do not cool the air, but they help evaporate sweat, which cools your body.

orate sweat, which cools your body.

- Take cool showers or baths.
- Cover windows that receive morning or afternoon sun with drapes, shades, awnings, or louvers.
- Wear lightweight, loose-fitting, light-colored clothing.
- Eat well-balanced, light, regular meals. Avoid high-protein foods that increase metabolic rate.
- Never leave children or pets alone in a closed vehicle.
- Check in on your family, friends, and neighbors.

For more info, see www.cdc.gov/extreme-heat/signs-symptoms/.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Town of Gill

Thomas Hodak, Collector of Taxes – Office of the Collector of Taxes

NOTICE OF TAX TAKING

To the owners of the hereinafter described land and to all others concerned:

You are hereby notified that on Tuesday the 9th day of July, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. at the Tax Collector's Office, 325 Main Road, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, it is my intention to take for the Town of Gill the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due thereon, with interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

Assessed to BECCHETTI FRANK C.

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.3 Acres located and known as 9 & 11 WALNUT ST shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 101.0-0000-0032.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 7338 on page 187 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2023 Tax \$39.66

Assessed to BILLIEL LINDA E.
And SHAW KRISTIN E.

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.16 Acres located and known as 46 FRENCH KING HWY shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 101.0-0000-0016.1 and being part of the premises recorded in book 6021 on page 173 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2019 Tax \$2,345.63

Assessed to CZUJ MARK E.

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 5.852 Acres located and known as 0 FACTORY HOLLOW shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 223.0-0000-0001.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 7178 on page 222 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2020 Tax \$139.16

Assessed to DARGIS DEBORAH
And DARGIS NEIL F.

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 3.76 Acres located and known as 79 SOUTH CROSS RD shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 222.0-0000-0027.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 3255 on page 297 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2023 Tax \$1,236.90

Assessed to DUDA NATHAN
And DUDA JENNIE

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 12.6 Acres located and known as 42 MOUNTAIN RD shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 224.0-0000-0014.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 5241 on page 12 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2014 Tax \$1,518.29

Assessed to DUDA NATHAN
And DUDA JENNIE V.

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 2.5 Acres located and known as 42 MOUNTAIN RD shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 224.0-0000-0015.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 5241 on page 12 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2017 Tax \$89.75

Assessed to GATES-TETREAULT
PATRICIA M.

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 8 Acres located and known as 129 BARNEY HALE RD shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 227.0-0000-0004.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 1605 on page 84 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2022 Tax \$1,301.26

Assessed to GEXLER MICHAEL J.

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 14.9 Acres located

ed and known as WEST GILL RD shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 224.0-0000-0040.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 7490 on page 64 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2023 Tax \$1,220.90

Assessed to HAYWARD ROBERT J.
And BLAKENEY-HAYWARD DEBORAH R.

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.39 Acres located and known as 23 WALNUT ST shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 101.0-0000-0037.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 1715 on page 27 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2018 Tax \$164.20

Assessed to JOHNSON VERONICA
And BAKER EDWARD

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.15 Acres located and known as 24 WALNUT ST shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 101.0-0000-0047.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 7022 on page 314 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2023 Sewer Ln \$376.73

2023 Tax \$1,512.64

Assessed to JOHNSON WESLEY E.

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 2.05 Acres located and known as 0 MAIN RD shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 222.0-0000-0018.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 6412 on page 344 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2017 Tax \$202.28

Assessed to JOHNSON WESLEY E.

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 14.64 Acres located and known as 91 MAIN RD shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 222.0-0000-0017.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 6412 on page 344 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2017 Tax \$1,699.45

Assessed to KELLEY JULIE K.

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 2.8 Acres located and known as 22 MOUNTAIN RD shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 224.0-0000-0020.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 6184 on page 139 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2015 Tax \$666.26

Assessed to MELCHOIR ALAN
And MELCHOIR MARY BETH

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.44 Acres located and known as 11 MT HERMON STATION RD shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 201.0-0000-0015.1 and being part of the premises recorded in book 07820 on page 139 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2023 Tax \$1,242.89

Assessed to MELCHOIR ALAN
And MELCHOIR MARY BETH

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 1.3 Acres located and known as MT HERMON STATION RD shown on the Town of Gill Assessors

Records as Parcel Identifier 201.0-0000-0016.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 07820 on page 139 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2023 Tax \$196.16

Assessed to NAMNGIS LLC

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 3.752 Acres located and known as FRENCH KING HWY shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 227.0-0000-0017.3 and being part of the premises recorded in book 7454 on page 21 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2023 Tax \$199.54

Assessed to NAMNGIS LLC

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 2.2 Acres located and known as 277 FRENCH KING HWY shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 227.0-0000-0017.4 and being part of the premises recorded in book 7454 on page 21 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2021 Tax \$2,897.59

Assessed to PRATT DAVID

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 7.27 Acres located and known as 28 CAMP RD shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 227.0-0017-0112.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 3057 on page 47 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2017 Tax \$495.56

Assessed to PRONDECKI EDWIN W.
And PRONDECKI KURT T.

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 3.92 Acres located and known as 0 FRENCH KING HWY shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 226.0-0000-0026.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 07793 on page 276 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

Supposed Present Owner VINING MICHAEL

2017 Tax \$3,360.77

Assessed to RAMSDELL ROY A.

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 3.64 Acres located and known as 317 WEST GILL RD shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 207.0-0000-0012.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 5301 on page 245 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2023 Tax \$42.18

Assessed to SLEIMAN ELIE

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 17 Acres located and known as 0 MOUNTAIN RD shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 222.0-0000-0010.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 4231 on page 063 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2017 Tax \$131.30

Assessed to WARREN RAE GENE

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.37 Acres located and known as 196 WEST GILL RD shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 215.0-0000-0001.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 1886 on page 7 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2023 Tax \$720.23

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MONTAGUE REPORTER



At left: David and Barb (Molongoski) Bordeaux of Scottsdale, Arizona, formerly of Turners Falls, enjoy the May 9 edition of the Reporter on Saguro Lake in Mesa, Arizona.

Below: Cathy Stanton (left) and Fred Holmgren somehow knew our May 30 edition needed a vacation, so they brought it along with them earlier this month to Campobello Island, New Brunswick. Seen behind the trio is the Harbour Head Lightstation, which has helped ships navigate the Bay of Fundy for nearly two centuries. This month we are printing a three-part excerpt of Stanton's new book, Food Margins: Lessons from an Unlikely Grocer – check out Page B1 for the second installment!



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

ON THE ROAD

Going somewhere? Take us with you! Send your photos to editor@montaguereporter.org.

MONTAGUE from page A1

them," said Ellis, "[including] additional steps to ensure that we're getting property that is free of unknown environmental defects." He noted that the town had already spent some of the \$100,000 Trinity had promised to contribute to help revitalize the property under a "gift agreement."

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz thanked Trinity for "acting very responsibly." "It's unfortunate that the best decision seemed to be the removal of the building," he said, "but I think in the long run it's going to benefit the community, and the residents in that village, far more than having a building that was going to be very difficult to repurpose."

The board approved motions to accept the property, which is divided into three parcels, and the \$100,000 donation from Trinity. Ellis said the closing of the sale will occur this Friday.

The future of the property remains uncertain. The planning department has used a state grant to employ a consulting firm, VHB Associates, to evaluate the town's options. In early April VHB proposed several variations on a mixed-use "village center" project on the site, with different densities and different financing scenarios, including having the town sell the entire property to a private developer. The proposals encountered some opposition from residents of the neighborhood at the public meeting.

"It will take years of hard work and support from the town to realize redevelopment of the former hospital site," assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey told the Reporter at the time, "[but] this planning process has laid the groundwork for a village center for Montague City."

Rusted Open

Clean Water Facility superintendent Chelsey Little reported that

she had been approached by the Turners Falls Water Department "asking us if we were using zero water, which we were not." When water department staff came to inspect the plant's water meter, constructed in 1980, it was discovered to be "faulty."

Showing a photograph of the very rusted unit, which she said "looks like the bottom of the Titanic," Little explained that there had been so much corrosion that the valves that would allow the plant's clean water supply to bypass the meter had "seized up." Repairing it, therefore, would be "not just a quick swap-out."

"This is in the bad part of the building," Little added, "where things are always falling apart." She said a plumber would soon provide an estimate for the replacement, which she guessed could cost up to \$30,000.

Little said her department needed the supply of clean water to chlorinate the plant's effluent, particularly during the summer months, to meet its permit requirements.

"The plumber... is going to have to come up with a bypass method, perhaps from a hydrant," said Kuklewicz. "Thanks for letting us know about this. Keep us posted." The board did not take a vote on the issue.

The board did approve an agreement with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District to accept sludge for processing from other member towns in the coming fiscal year. Little said the CWF has garnered \$83,281 this year from processing this sludge.

Little reported that the latest monthly test data on the plant's discharge into the Connecticut River met all the criteria of its federal permit. She added that she had paddled into the river in a canoe to take samples to compare with the discharge measurements.

National Interest

Ellis presented a report on a proposed "National Interest Electrical Transmission Corridor," which would begin at the Northfield Mountain pumped-storage station and pass through Montague on its way into New York state.

Ellis said the proposal for the corridor, and nine others around the country, had been "out" for a number of years but had not been noticed until a recent article in the *New York Times*. If enacted, state and municipal authority over permitting grid improvements would be reduced on a mile-wide swath of land.

Ellis said the comment period on the proposal ends on June 24, the date of the next selectboard meeting, and that regional planning agencies would be submitting comments. Another phase of the process would begin in the fall.

The board delegated to assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey the authority to review comments on the corridor from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, and confer with selectboard member Matt Lord as to whether an emergency meeting is necessary. As of Wednesday evening, no such meeting had been announced.

Other Business

Ramsey reported that the state had agreed that Montague could use a \$500,000 grant for its combined sewer overflow to instead line manholes, as discussed at a previous meeting. The board approved changes to the grant contract with the Executive Office of Economic Development.

The board also approved a \$794.68 change order to a contract with Diversified Construction Services to add internal handles to 18 windows the company installed in the "old town hall" and library in Montague Center.

The board held a follow-up

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Send submissions to administrator@gillmass.org or **Town of Gill, Attn: Highway Dep't., 325 Main Rd, Gill, MA 01354**. Review of applicants begins immediately; position remains open until filled.

Call Highway Sup't. John Miner at (413) 863-2324 with any questions.

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TOWN OF MONTAGUE TOWN ACCOUNTANT

The Town of Montague, MA Selectboard seeks qualified applicants for the position of **Town Accountant**. The position is responsible for the maintenance and monitoring of the Town's financial records and ensuring proper accounting and expenditure procedures are followed in accordance with MA General Laws. The Accountant coordinates with the Town Administrator and Finance Committee in the development and amendment of the Annual Budget and related article requests to be brought to Town Meeting.

The Town seeks a collaborative candidate with a thorough knowledge of municipal accounting process, procedures, and best practices. Minimum qualifications include a bachelor's degree in a related field, and 3 to 5 years of related experience with accounting systems in municipal or other government accounting agencies; or any equivalent combination of related education, training, certification, and experience.

Salary starts at \$67,277 and the scale goes to \$82,394. The work week is Monday through Thursday, 35 hours/week, with some evening meetings. 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 August 26 to September 9, 2024.

For priority review, please submit resume and cover letter by July 8, 2024 to Wendy Bogusz, Selectboard Executive Assistant: WendyB@montague-ma.gov

EEO/AA Employer

discussion of the options presented the previous week by the state Department of Transportation and the engineering firm Stantec for replacing bridges over the power canal and Connecticut River.

No votes were taken, but members voiced support for the state's preferred option, which would create two new connecting bridges 40 feet south of the current Fifth Street bridges and replace the Bailey bridge across the canal to Power Street and the Patch.

Lord noted that this option may involve the town "taking" a section of the property at 42 Canal Road, and that he hoped the former factory building on the lot could one day

be rehabilitated.

Executive assistant Wendy Bogusz announced that governor Maura Healey had signed legislation allowing establishments with licenses to sell mixed drinks and food to sell mixed drinks in capped containers with food to go. Healey also signed legislation allowing outdoor alcohol service for licensed establishments without state approval.

The selectboard did not take votes on these new regulations. The board is required to report its process for approving outdoor service applications, Bogusz said.

The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be held Monday, June 24.



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CABLE from page A1

which is funded by two line items in the customer's television bill to operate a so-called "public, educational, and governmental" (PEG) access channel.

Quarterly payments to operate the station, which by federal law are capped at 5% of Comcast's gross television revenue, pass through the town to MCTV, as do additional payments for capital improvement, which are not capped but are negotiated under the license.

Kathy Schermerhorn, who said she had helped produce a program at the Shea Theater about "a part of Montague's history," testified that she was contacted by MCTV with an offer to record the event, and that the station was "easy as pie" to work with. "They seemed to be really attuned to Montague history and Montague culture, businesses in town, and to the community," she said.

Matt Atwood of the Lake Pleasant Village Association said it was "amazing that we have not only the ability to borrow the equipment but the training to use it... so I would like lots of resources to go to MCTV."

Brick House Community Resource Center program director Stacey Langknecht said that the teen center at her agency "has done many projects with MCTV, and the kids have had the opportunity to learn about filming and things along those lines. I think it's a fabulous community resource."

Precinct 4 town meeting member David Harmon applauded the station's extensive programming of local government meetings. "I think that democracy needs that engagement," he argued.

Suzanne LoManto, assistant town planner and director of RiverCulture, said that the latter program "counts on MCTV to record dozens of events annually, which is important because this is one of the ways I show the Massachusetts Cultural Council what we have been doing."

LoManto added that the station effectively facilitates online public hearings, such as a recent one on a mural project in downtown Turners Falls.

Assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey gave a presentation on a new meeting room the town is planning to construct in the annex attached to town hall. He pointed out that some of the station's capital improvement funding could be applied to install the technology needed to broadcast meetings from the space, particularly if MCTV also uses the room for its own programming.

Several speakers expressed concern that revenue from traditional television, with its declining customer base, was the only source of funding for the local access station, which provides all of its video for streaming online.

"Maybe when it started there was no internet," Kulewicz said of the legislation providing for local-access funding. "It was hard for me, in the beginning, to understand how to differentiate it - it's all together now, it's the same wire."

We asked CAC chair Jason Burbank whether data exists on the number of cable television subscribers in Montague. Citing a recent report to the CAC, Burbank said that the number of subscribers had declined from over 2,000 in 2022 to under 1,750 in 2023.

"Looks like handwriting on the wall," he wrote. At Monday's hearing, town administrator Steve Ellis asked legal counsel August if there was "any circumstance under which the town could negotiate to have revenues from other business sources, other than cable, fund its PEG access operation".

August responded that, "sadly," courts have ruled that the federal cable laws only allow municipalities to negotiate fees for PEG access from television revenues, and not those from internet or telephone services.

"There are bills pending to change that," August said. "It seems commonsensical, because whether the service is an internet service or a cable service, it's coming down the same public way.... There are many strong arguments for Congress, or the Massachusetts legislature, to broaden the scope of the licensing fees."

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LEVERETT from page A1

projecting a \$65,000 deficit for FY'24, but expects it can be resolved using school choice funds.

Selectboard chair Tom Hankinson commented that Plavin must have felt "dumped on" by the number of issues the school committee had to address in a short time.

Plavin said it has been a difficult time for the committee, which has also experienced turnover, but that being thrown in "the deep end" had been a good learning experience. If there was one thing everyone has learned, she said, it was that a lack of transparency hurts trust between the school and the community even when it is unintentional.

Selectboard member Jed Proujansky said that he wanted to be sure employees who were "stepping up" to fill gaps were being looked after, and possibly remunerated. Plavin responded that this was under discussion. Proujansky also suggested the board write a letter of appreciation, which they voted to do.

Discussion turned to the search for a new principal. Police chief Scott Minckler suggested a selectboard member serve on the search committee, as is sometimes done with police department hiring. Proujansky volunteered to sit in on meetings, if not officially serve on the committee.

Hankinson said that the select-

board had been unaware of the issues at the school, and asked what they could do to help. Plavin responded that even the school committee had not been aware of some of the problems early on, and that "embracing transparency along with us would be helpful."

"Parents have definitely been very vocal about this as well," she said, but added that she felt everyone was "moving into a year of much more stability - and trust."

Pet Sounds

The board approved an expansion of its charge to the *ad hoc* dog bylaw committee, authorizing it to review the town's noise bylaws along with its rules pertaining specifically to dogs.

Committee members Natasha Blackwell and Brian Emond explained that the committee felt there needed to be "consistency" in regulating noise, whether from dogs or other sources.

Hankinson said he was not opposed to expanding the committee's charge, but did not want it to lose sight of the reason for its formation: providing recommendations to help the board enforce measures to protect the public against loud or dangerous dogs.

Village Green Preservation

Proujansky presented a draft letter expressing the selectboard's sup-

port for a bylaw adopted in Wendell asserting the town's authority over the placement of lithium-ion battery storage facilities. The letter outlines environmental and safety concerns with such facilities and states support for the right of small towns to govern themselves by determining allowable land use.

The issue affected Leverett directly, Proujansky said, due to the possibility of smoke from a potential fire spreading contaminants, as well as the fact that both the Leverett fire and police departments would need to respond to such a fire, and would require specialized training.

Leverett energy committee member Richard Nathhorst said his committee was in favor of the letter. The selectboard agreed to vote on it at its next meeting.

Other Business

The selectboard appointed Nicholas Feld as Leverett's fourth full-time police officer, effective July 1. Chief Minckler said that Feld has worked as a part-time officer since 2017, and for Leverett since April 2023, but has completed his academy training and is certified to be a full-time officer.

Minckler said Feld has been "helping out tremendously" and has received a lot of positive feedback.

The board also appointed Virginia Goodale to the police advisory committee.

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The board approved a request from the Friends of Leverett Pond (FLP) for a \$300 contribution to the group's annual cleanup. The money will reimburse one hour's use of an "EcoHarvester" machine to remove milfoil and other plants around the public boat launch area.

Hankinson, a member of the FLP, recused himself from the vote.

Nathhorst expressed concern that people may try to use a new state law allowing the taking of property in need of cleanup as a vehicle for preservation of historic buildings. Nathhorst said the law is not intended for that purpose, and its misuse could lead to negative consequences.

The board signed a letter of support, as requested by the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, for a statewide law encouraging paint recycling.

The board announced that a digital equity survey has been distributed to residents by mail, and is available on the town website.

Proujansky brought attention to a faded map on display outside the front door at town hall. Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis informed him that the map's condition was on her radar, and that Community Preservation Act money would be sought next year for the purpose of restoring it.

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 Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*

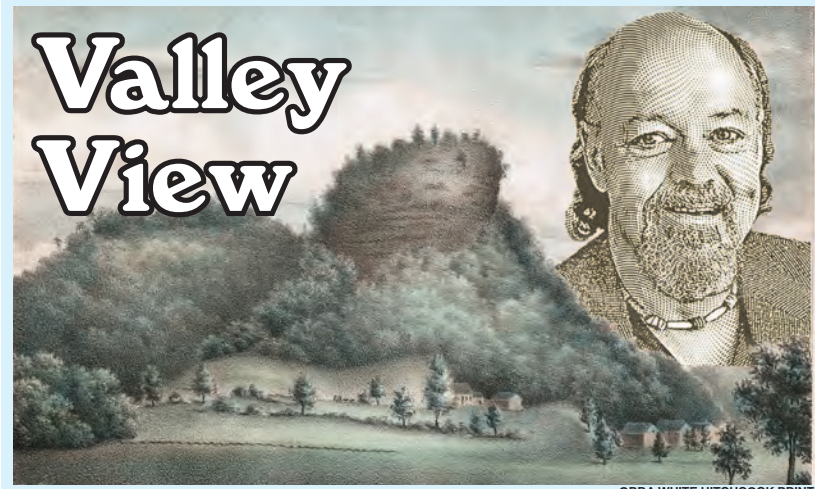
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Valley View

ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK PRINT

Springtime Behavior Sighted

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – Father’s Day has dawned and I’m back in my study, where I’ll remain until the cold of winter shifts me to my kitchen writing nook near the woodstove. Facing two sun-splashed windows instead of sitting with one at my back, this seat can brighten my perspective some. Plus, my library is closer, which is a fact-checking convenience.

I returned yesterday afternoon from an overnight stay at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Montpelier, Vermont, where they’re still digging out from last summer’s devastating downtown flooding. We were in the Green Mountain State Capital to attend my grandson’s high school graduation in a bordering community.

Whew! How time flies. As I sit here, thinking, there’s no time to malingering. I must buckle down to the task at hand, which is to crank out another column – this one addressing a topic I could have covered a couple of weeks ago, had not my focus been elsewhere.

So, let’s drift slightly back in time to the fawning season, right after Memorial Day, when wobbly fawns rise from their nests on spindly, unstable legs and quickly learn to run and dart and bound like deer. It just so happens that, lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time, I got to witness a teaching moment between a doe and her spotted twins, and I want to describe it.

I remember that daybreak during the first full week of June as cool and refreshing – me clad in shorts and a t-shirt. It was breathlessly still, with grey skies suggesting rain as I rambled down the home stretch of my daily two-mile walk around Greenfield’s Upper Meadows neighborhood.

Though a few interesting events had unfolded, it had been, by recent standards, a largely uneventful spring on the wildlife-sighting front. Most salient was the absence of turkeys where they have been common. Curiously, I heard not so much as a distant gobble during the month of May and the weeks leading up to it. Strange indeed.

I attributed this void, in my May 9 column, to a great horned owl nest I watched in my friend’s yard up the road. It may or may not have been the reason why turkeys had vacated a place where typically there are many. Then, just when I had written it off as a wait-till-next-year scenario, on three or four days during the third week of June, like clockwork, between 7 and 9 a.m., gobbling from the woods south and west of me.

Hmmm? The second mating of a hen that had lost her first nest? Hard to say. And truthfully, I can’t say I wasted much time evaluating it. It just happened.

Prior to those unexpected, phantom gobbles, the most extraordinary wildlife sighting of spring was a beautiful, large, shiny black bear – likely a solitary bruin in the 250- to 300-pound class, whose daybreak path I interrupted. He was headed for a Nichols Drive crossing as I passed through, up close and personal.

The burly beast detected me coming and froze like a statue, facing me from about 40 yards away. His nose and ears raised on high alert, he watched me approach before turning tail, sauntering three strides back and turning 180 degrees to face me as I headed toward Plain Road.

It was my first bear sighting in three or four years. Both were close encounters. This face-to-face was about twice as far from me as the previous one, but I’d say the first bear was larger. I can’t say I felt threatened on either occasion. Both bears were palpably cautious in my presence. I kept a peripheral fix on both of them and continued on my way without incident.

As it turned out, I wasn’t the only person who crossed that bear’s path that morning. A fella named Craig Franklin did, too. I learned that a week to the day later, when he stopped his grey Chevy pickup truck to report the sighting and the day it occurred. We often pass in our early-morning travels, and I always give him a friendly wave. He infrequently stops to report notable sightings.

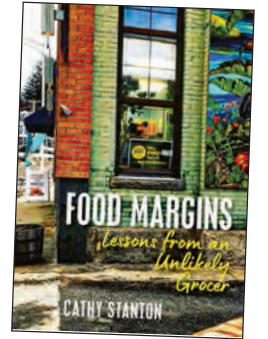
Franklin must have seen that see **VALLEY VIEW** page B3

Above: Seen from the safety of the state highway, the unmistakable steeples, vintage fish ladder, coal silo, split waterfall, and Depression-era truss bridge of the little village many call “Crocker’s Folly.”

THE RISE AND FALL OF ORANGE’S TAPIOCA EMPIRE

By CATHY STANTON

WENDELL – This is the second of three excerpts from my book *Food Margins: Lessons from an Unlikely Grocer*, newly released by the University of Massachusetts Press. *Food Margins* tells the story of Quabbin Harvest Food Co-op in Orange, interwoven with the history of the town and its industries, in particular the Minute Tapioca Company.



PART TWO: PUDDING PLANTATIONS

The new owners of the tapioca company in Orange soon changed the name from Whitman Grocery Company to Minute Tapioca. Around 1902 they bought a large factory next to the Millers River – the same one where Quabbin Harvest got its start a century later.

The factory, built by a local business group as an economic development project, was initially occupied by a shoe manufacturer from Brockton, enticed to Orange with an offer of five years of free rent and a ten-year exemption from taxes.

The shoe company threw 250 people out of work when it closed barely ten years later, and not everyone was happy about the tapioca company buying the complex. A local paper noted dismay about “the little ‘puddin’ factory’ mov[ing] into that ‘fine, great building,’” suggesting that the new craze for convenience foods wasn’t universally seen as a real industry like metal-working or shoemaking.

But the company’s executives quickly set about realizing their goal of turning Minute Tapioca into a national brand. They understood the trifecta behind wildly-successful processed and packaged foods like Jello pudding, Campbell’s Soup, and Heinz ketchup, the building blocks of an increasingly industrialized food sector. You needed cheap and consistent raw materials, efficient mechanized production, and mass advertising to reach shoppers – mainly housewives – patronizing new economy grocery stores like A&P.

Building state-of-the-art machines wasn’t a prob-

lem in industrial Orange, with its deep bench of skilled mechanics and engineers. And advertising was relatively straightforward, too.

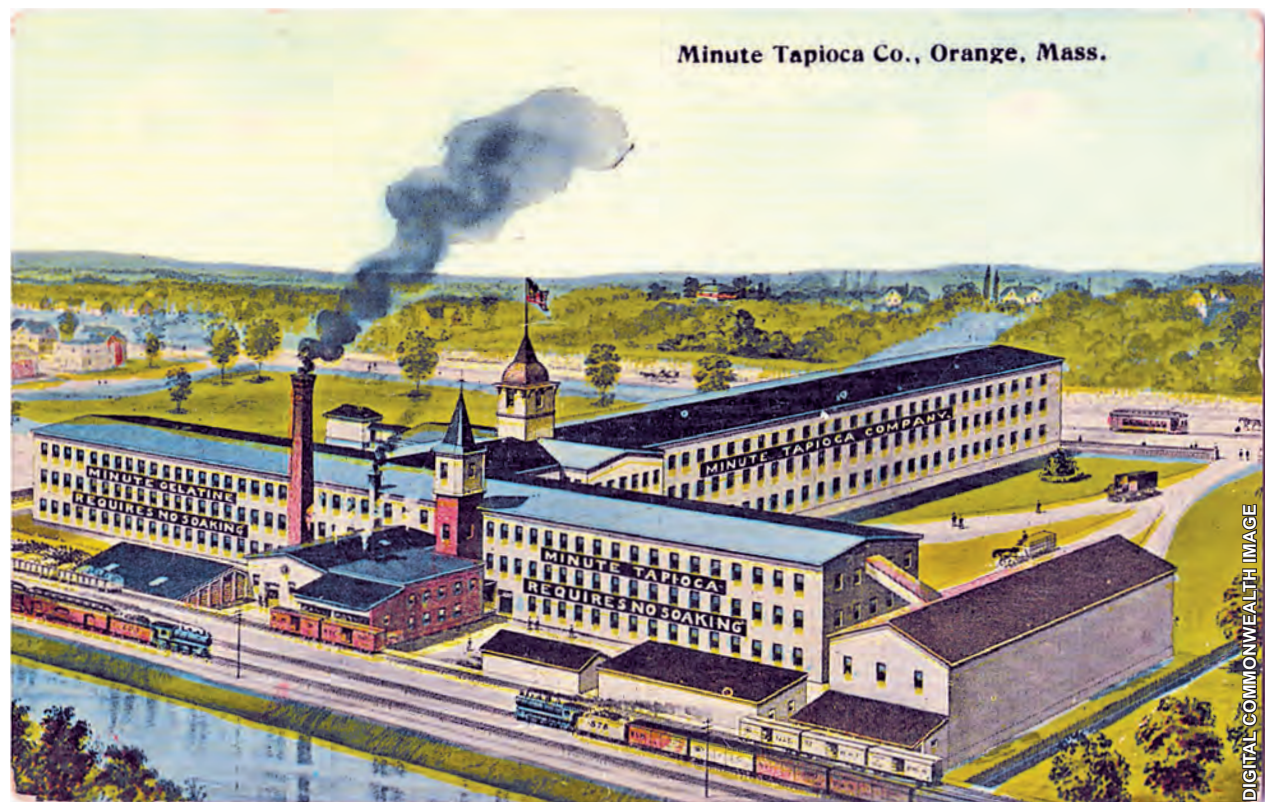
The supply of raw materials was trickier.

Tapioca is the starch that comes from cassava (also known as *yuca*, *manioc*, and other names) after you soak and grate and squeeze and dry the tubers produced by these hardy plants. You can leave the starch in powdered form, as flour. Or you can shape it into flakes or granules, the little “pearls” familiar to bubble-tea enthusiasts and generations of children who know them as fisheyes.

There wasn’t much of a world market for cassava or its derivatives at that point. But there was a well-established model for growing other commodity plants on a large scale, building on the basic plantation method that enabled global trade in tropical crops like sugar, tea, coffee, and bananas, as well as domestic production for the oats in Quaker Oats and the tomatoes in Heinz ketchup. The model was based on what we now commonly refer to as “monocropping,” with specialized production on a large scale and tight integration into long-distance supply chains.

It also relied on the cheapest possible labor for the parts of the process that couldn’t be fully mechanized. In that sense, the present-day food system remains firmly rooted in the plantation model, with low-wage and sometimes coerced labor all along the pathways that bring us

see **TAPIOCA** page B8



This postcard shows the Minute Tapioca Company factory in Orange sometime between the company’s purchase of the property around 1902 and the addition of a large concrete wing around 1930.

DIGITAL COMMONWEALTH IMAGE

Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

'PUSS IN BOOTS'

Just like his character in *Shrek*, Puss in Boots is ready for action and to play! Since Puss came to Dakin as a stray, there is not too much we know about his past experiences. At the shelter he got along well with the other cats in his room, and he would be a good match if you are looking for a friend for your kitty at home. You will need to do a slow introduction to resident animals to ensure a smooth transition after adoption.

Puss in Boots will need to have both indoor and outdoor access in his next home. This is a very import-

ant way he can get all his kitten energy out, exploring by day and cuddling in bed with his people at night. Come meet him today if you think he might be the right match for you!

If you'd like to learn more about, meet, or adopt a new pet, call Dakin Humane Society at (413) 781-4000 or visit www.dakinhumane.org.

Want your pet featured in *The Montague Reporter*? We accept reader submissions! Just email a high-resolution photo to jae@montaguereporter.org along with a paragraph or two about why your pet is simply the best.

EXHIBITS

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Allen Fowler*, small mixed-media collage work from several recent series, through mid-September.

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

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: *Caroline Wampole*, guest artist showing abstract paintings, through June.

Montague Center Library: *Landscapes: Endangered and Preserved*, paintings by Meg Ricks. Through August, with a reception Wednesday, July 24 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Valley Arts Mentorship Showcase*, mentors and mentees show their work. Through July 1.

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



SUBMITTED IMAGE

Clarity, painter Meg Ricks's interpretation of the bright springtime view along the last stretch of undeveloped California coastline, the Gaviota Coast. A reception will be held Wednesday, July 24 at 6 p.m. for a show of the conservationist artist's work at the Montague Center Library, "Landscapes: Endangered and Preserved."

conspiracy; through June 29.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *On Our Way*, paintings by Chelsea Granger, June 28 through July 31. Opening reception next Friday, June 28 from 5 to 8 p.m.

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

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Travel the World*, photographs and paintings by Dave and Jackie Pueschel, through June.

Sunderland Library: *Frederick Gao Retrospective*, showing Gao's paintings of life in western Massachusetts, through June.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Paintings*, by John Krifita, chronicling his move towards abstraction. Through June 29.

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: *Country Life*, group exhibit of pastoral images by member artists, through June.

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

Club George, Northampton: *A First*, prints and photographs by Linda Bills and Stephen Dallmus, through June 29.



Montague Villages Elects New Board Members

By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE – Kristi A. Bodin and Roberta Potter have joined the board of directors of Montague Villages. They were elected unanimously at the monthly meeting on May 16.

Montague Villages is a non-profit organization that will help elders age in place with assistance from neighborly volunteers. It is part of the national Neighbors Helping Neighbors network. The board of directors is currently seeking volunteers, members, and donations to help with startup costs. To learn more, go to www.montaguevillages.org.

Kristi A. Bodin, who lives in Turners Falls, says she is interested in supporting her town and community through volunteer service. She has lived in Montague for 22 years, is a town meeting member for Precinct 3, and currently serves on the Montague cable advisory committee and finance committee.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Roberta Potter

She is the current vice president and an active member of the Rotary Club of Amherst, and a past president of the Rotary Club of Franklin County. She has served on the boards of directors of the Greenfield Community College Foundation and the Franklin County Community Development Corporation.

Bodin recently retired after 30 years as an attorney, and has worked in the areas of small business law, commercial real estate, municipal law, zoning and land use, construction law, and civil litigation. She started her legal career as an Assistant Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Prior to attending law school, Bodin worked in manufacturing management for several large Massachusetts companies which produced industrial and consumer products for domestic and international markets.

Bodin grew up in Amherst and is a graduate of Greenfield Community College, the University of Massachusetts, and Western New England College School of Law. She enjoys weightlifting, swimming, and indoor rowing, and is also a student of Russian iconography. She lives with her black lab, Marty.

Roberta Potter, who has lived in Turners Falls for 45 years, is the director of the Montague Council on Aging and is an individual who has supported Montague Villages from the beginning. She has welcomed the organization to hold its monthly meetings at the Gill-Montague se-

nior center, and has made the center available for informational meetings for those who want to know more. She is a valuable representative linking the Montague COA and older adults in the community.



Kristi A. Bodin

"I joined the Board hoping to contribute whatever I can personally or on behalf of the Montague COA," Potter said, "and to help this venture succeed, and involve a large number of Montague's older adults as members and volunteers."

Potter says she is hoping that membership will grow to include everyone who needs help as well as those who have help to offer. When she isn't working, she enjoys gardening, knitting, and hanging out with her dogs.

Bodin and Potter join board members Helen Gibson-Ugucioni (president), Susan Dorais (treasurer), Eileen Mariani, Terry Eaklor, and me (clerk), bringing our membership to seven.

Senior Center Activities JUNE 24 THROUGH 28

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 6/24

9 a.m. Interval
10 a.m. Chair Aerobics
12 p.m. Pitch

Tuesday 6/25

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

Wednesday 6/26

9 a.m. Strength & Conditioning
10 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo
1 p.m. Cyber Senior Hours

Thursday 6/27

9 a.m. Core & Balance
10 a.m. Barre Fusion
7:30 p.m. Bus Trip: Isle of Shoals

Friday 6/28

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 6/24

10:15 a.m. Aerobics

11 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Ice Cream Social & Trivia

Tuesday 6/25

9 a.m. Chair Yoga
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 6/26

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

Thursday 6/27

4:15 p.m. Mat Yoga

Friday 6/28

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

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VALLEY VIEW from page B1 bear soon after I did that day. I wonder how many other neighbors saw it, or at least knew the beast had passed through. Probably not many, unless it left random calling cards.

OK – enough of the superfluous chatter. Back to the deer story I sat down to tell.

It unfolded less than a half-mile south and east from my home, along the eastern perimeter of a slim, 100-yard finger of woods partially dividing two hayfields. The timber stand shelters a spring that bubbles from the ground and trickles south, past a small burial ground and into another spring that connects with Allen Brook.

Walking west on Meadow Road, I was about 150 yards from a sighting that always leaves a warm impression when one is fortunate enough to bear witness.

Always, in passing, I carefully scan those hayfields for deer and often find them in varying numbers, this spring ranging from one to nine. This time it was three – obviously, given the size discrepancy, a doe and her fawns. I wasn't surprised. Other does have nested in that midfield refuge over the years, and many more will likely choose it in the future. It's a perfect birthing place.

Back when I routinely meandered the perimeter of those fields a doe once burst out of the tree line and bounded across the hayfield in front of me. She was obviously trying to distract my attention from her hidden nest by showing herself and romping through the field.

This time the fawns were on all fours, and from my vantage point they appeared to be nimble. Engaging their mother in an entertaining catch-us-if-you-can game, the little ones displayed remarkable agility for their young age. The frolicking fawns ran, darted, and jumped in tight half-circles around their mother, who feigned aggression by occasionally stomping in their direction, encouraging development of their agility and escape ability. I have seen an identical game played out many times between a bitch and her litter.

It was a joyous sight to behold – one I have witnessed less than a handful of times, and heard many others describe over the years. Come August and September, I will undoubtedly bump into this family unit many times, as the fawns lose their spots and continue to gain mobility.

Wildlife observation never gets old for an observant walking man who stays alert and knows where to look.



CONCERT REVIEW

Greenfield Records' Big 15th

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – Greenfield Records, a vintage record store in Greenfield, decided to hold a 15-year anniversary celebration for the store on June 8. It was at the Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center from 1 to 10 p.m. The owners sold vintage vinyl at the event for people to have.

The performers were Noise Nomads, Old Pam, Willie Lane, The Eye, Stella Kola, Creative Writing, Big Destiny, and Moth's Frog. There were also DJs playing records. I stayed for the first four performers.

Noise Nomads sounded like weird echoing, which he was making using equipment including a bowl he made noise on with a small stick. I was told this is called experimental music. I found it to be too loud and, as I said earlier, weird, but what there was for an audience seemed to find it interesting. They also seemed to be paying a decent amount of attention to him.

Old Pam was a singer who I found sounded a bit echoey, like Noise Nomads, but I liked the sound of her voice. She almost sounded like she was singing a ballad. There also appeared to be some sound effects that were happening alongside her singing.

She held the audience's attention. It might be right to call her an experimental music singer – after all, she sounded like Noise Nomads. The speaker system at the center worked lovely with her voice, and made her sound nice and loud. I would also

mention that the audience gave her a decent amount of applause.

The Eye was an electric guitarist who played nicely. He sounded like a man playing rock'n'roll. He also sang while he played guitar, and that sounded like rock'n'roll too. It was much more up my alley than the other performances.

It sounded like he was playing a guitar solo, and it could also be said that maybe he was doing a ballad on the guitar. He continued to sound like he was singing rock'n'roll, and his singing sounded in sync with his guitar playing. His guitar didn't sound off-key throughout the entire performance.

Willie Lane was another guitarist. He played a regular guitar while sitting on a chair. He sang as well, and sounded like he was doing a ballad. Both his guitar and his singing sounded very harmonious. He seemed to really know how to play the guitar – he made some skillful-looking moves on it – and he continued to play what sounded like ballads during his performance.

Like the Eye, this man was also right up my alley when it came to music, and also like the Eye, the audience seemed to give him what sure sounded like particularly strong applause to me.

The DJing between the performances was very good. I would name Willie Lane and The Eye as my favorites of the event. It was a nice way to celebrate the anniversary of the store. A decent number of people also showed up for it.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Creep Has First Amendment Right to Leer at Workers; Re-Stolen Plates; Intoxicated Caller; Whistling Kids

Monday, 6/10

7 a.m. Walk-in looking to speak with an officer regarding ongoing harassment. Caller made aware of shift change; it will be a short wait. Caller left, stating he will call the state, as he doesn't want to wait any longer for something to be done. Officers advised.

8:28 a.m. Caller from Fifth Street requesting call back from an officer regarding suspicious notes that have been left on her house and in her mailbox. Officer advised caller of her options.

12:10 p.m. Walk-in from East Main Street reporting that she is being accused of sending threatening/harassing messages to her ex-roommate. She wanted to report that it is not her doing it.

12:47 p.m. Caller from East Main Street states she keeps getting threatening text messages despite changing her phone number. They have mentioned her ex-roommate as well. Would like a call back to discuss further. Advised of options.

2:12 p.m. Housing authority requesting animal control assistance in getting a dog out of an apartment on Third Street. ACO contacted; states he will verify whether the shelter will take the dog, and contact the caller.

3:02 p.m. Caller states he has a plot at the community garden at Unity Park and when he goes there is always a white Toyota sedan without a sticker parked in the handicapped parking spot. When he has asked them to move so he can park there with his sticker for his mother, the woman does not move and states she doesn't have to. Officer advises no car in any of the spots.

6:27 p.m. Report of two metal gas cans placed in front of the First Congregational Church on North Street between 3 and 4 p.m. today. Caller did not see who left them there. Officer observed two small empty metal gas cans; not creating a hazard.

Tuesday, 6/11

7:19 a.m. Walk-in reports that he was just assaulted. Officer spoke with the party, who does not want to press any charges or for the officer to investigate further; would just like the incident on record for now. Advised of options.

8:03 a.m. ACO advised

that he was responding to Third Street to pick up a dog and transport it to the shelter.

9:39 a.m. Caller from Couture Brothers states that a male party was going through items in a neighbor's backyard and is now hanging around in front of his shop. Gone on arrival. Officer spoke with the homeowner; she checked and did not find anything to be missing.

8:14 p.m. Caller requesting that an officer check her property on L Street; states there is a gingerbread house out back that people were trying to break into. Caller states she received a call yesterday from neighbors and that the house is locked and used for storage right now. Building is secured.

Wednesday, 6/12

1:59 a.m. Caller states she is working overnight at Cumberland Farms and would like the police to move along an individual who has been outside the store for over 20 minutes. Officer advises "First Amendment auditor" at location. No police action required at this time. Employee advised.

9:02 a.m. Officer checking on a concrete truck blocking traffic on Third Street. Truck just finished pouring concrete; moving out of the way now.

10:13 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street would like on record that a fancy white Chrysler vehicle is hanging out in the parking lot next door again and the caller believes that drugs are being sold.

6:03 p.m. Caller from High Street requesting to have an officer stop by to discuss harassment by a neighbor. Advised of court options.

Thursday, 6/13

1:19 a.m. Holyoke PD advises a female at their station is reporting that a friend of hers is making suicidal statements and states she is currently in the town of Montague next to the police station at St. Anne's Cemetery. MPD officer advises he checked multiple locations and did not locate a vehicle or individual. Holyoke PD advised.

1:28 p.m. Shelburne Control advises they are toning the fire department to Park Villa Drive for fire alarm activation. Caller from Park Villa Drive states that alarms are sounding in her apartment; however, there is no smoke or fire. Officer advises smoke seen from building upon arrival. FD remaining on scene; PD units clear.

4:23 p.m. Caller reports that both license plates were stolen off her husband's car on Avenue A during the work day. She

cannot recall what the plate numbers were as they were just replaced from this previously happening. Report taken.

Friday, 6/14

2:26 a.m. Caller states she believes she just heard several gunshots in the alley between Eleventh and Twelfth streets and she heard arguing just prior. Area checked thoroughly; no signs of disturbance anywhere.

10:44 a.m. Caller requesting an officer come by to view the condition of an apartment on Fairway Avenue; thinks someone may have been going through it. Advised of options.

2:14 p.m. 911 caller from Fifth Street reporting a disturbance between her and the male who lives upstairs. Parties advised to separate for the evening; they can call back if needed.

3:07 p.m. Caller states there are two parties in Peskeompskut Park yelling at each other; this has been going on for several minutes. Verbal only at this time. Chief advises nothing showing in the park or on J Street.

3:29 p.m. Walk-in states she was threatened by a female who stated she would slash the tires on her car. Advised of options.

5:44 p.m. Highly intoxicated caller states he no longer lives in Massachusetts but has cameras set up on his ex-wife's property and his John Deere tractor was stolen and towed to a known shop. Caller does not know where the shop is, or who stole the tractor, but knows with confidence that it was stolen and towed to a shop.

Male party wants a call back to discuss with an officer. Officer called male party back; male party hung up. Advised male party this is a civil issue. He does not have proof the tractor is his. Advised to call back when he is sober.

6:33 p.m. Multiple 911 calls reporting tree on wires that took down a transformer and started a fire on Montague City Road near the golf course. PD and FD advised; transferred to Shelburne Control. Officer advising mostly smoke at this time. Live wire. Officer requesting DPW to bring barricades to block the road from Walnut Street to Cumberland Farms. DPW advised. Ticket placed with Eversource. DPW on scene putting up barricades. One detail officer has arrived; the other is on the way. Second detail officer on scene.

Saturday, 6/15
1:10 a.m. Caller states there are currently three or four individuals at Third Street Laundry who are not doing laundry and have shut off the

lights. Caller states he wants them moved along and requests to remain anonymous.

6:48 a.m. Caller reports a deceased orange cat in the roadway between Scotty's and the airport. Officers advised.

9:19 a.m. Caller from Hatchery Road states a dog in her yard has been wandering around for the last day or so; hoping someone can bring it to the shelter. Officer advises caller fed the dog and then it left. Unable to locate.

12:15 p.m. Caller states there is a pitbull off leash that lives at 20 K Street and it's making her uncomfortable as her dog was killed in December by a pitbull. Caller requesting it be removed from the area as she is uncomfortable even being in her house. Officer advised. Negative findings.

2:38 p.m. Caller requesting to remain anonymous states there are three kids on bikes in a parking spot on East Main Street and they are whistling; it is annoying and she wants them to stop. She told them to, and they said they didn't have to, so she called the police. Officers advised.

4:18 p.m. 911 caller states her husband would not let her out of the car during an argument; she finally jumped out while at a stop sign. He took off and left her there. Courtesy transport provided.

7:16 p.m. Caller would like on record that while walking her dog on Millers Falls Road, an older woman came running towards her yelling, screaming obscenities, and acting very aggressive. Caller kept on walking by, but she felt the whole interaction was disturbing.

Sunday, 6/16

10:07 a.m. Caller reporting that a medical lab agency has billed him three times for services that have already been paid for by insurance. Needs on record for insurance purposes. Report taken.

10:28 p.m. Caller from Randall Wood Drive states that a Toyota Supra sports car keeps driving up and down the road every other hour with very loud exhaust (85 to 90 decibels inside the house). Caller states he has called about this vehicle in the past, and knows of others in the area who have complained about it. Unable to locate.

11:02 p.m. Bartender states that a male party in a black mask and hoodie is harassing customers at the Rendezvous. Officer advised. Individual was a First Amendment auditor. No engagement with them. Officer spoke with employees still in restaurant and advised them to call back if needed.

Have a question for the editor?

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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on June 19, 2014: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

A Proud History

Paperlogic was launched last October as the new name of the specialty and technical paper division of its parent company, the Southworth Company. It occupies the final paper mill in Turners Falls, at 36 Canal Road.

Dating back to 1839, Southworth was one of the legendary mills in western Massachusetts, offering a high-quality, cotton fiber product. When manual typewriters were new in the 1880s and 1890s, the company switched to providing typing paper. Later, it survived the shift to home printers. The office products market

remained stable until 1985, when big stores like Staples entered the scene. Then came a decline in printing and writing paper usage.

Sixty people are employed at the Turners Falls mill. "The plan," said a Southworth spokesperson, "is to keep the paper machine going and retain our employees."

No New Housing

Plans for the purchase and conversion of the Montague Center School building into a 22-unit apartment building appear to be once again in limbo. The developer is concerned that the numbers do not work; nearby residents are concerned about increased traffic flow, noise, and congestion. What was once an educational asset remains empty, overgrown with weeds.

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on June 17, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Herbicides Nixed for Now

Northeast Generation announced on June 15 that it would suspend plans to apply herbicides along the power canal near residential areas of the Patch for one year, and turn to mechanical vegetation controls instead. The company cited concerns about the safety of the spraying of two compounds – glyphosate and metsulfuron methyl –

so close to their homes.

Twelve Meters Deep

The Route 2 realignment project in Erving is moving forward. Two streams cutting across the road now run in concrete pipes. Before blasting and drilling down nearly 40 feet to make trenches for utilities and drainage, the crews need to measure very carefully, using metric measurements, no less. Since the US seems to have no interest in going metric, this is the last job in the state to be measured in that system.

150 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on June 17, 1874: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

Local Matters

Our school house is receiving its roof to-day. Starbuck & Co. are to do the tinning.

Come, local veterans, don't be so backward. Send in your names and address.

Come, Urbans, wake up on that Library benefit, heralded so generously a few weeks ago.

The members of the German Sick Men's Benefit Society propose a party for the benefit of their fund. A worthy object.

Mrs. M. J. Wells has opened a dress-making room at the residence of R.S. Locke, Riverside. She has had several years' experience.

The brick office of the works at Factory Hollow, owned by the Turners Falls Company, was burned on Monday night. The building was entirely destroyed. Loss about \$500.

Randall has moved into his new store. The basement will be used for the fish market.

The dedication of Colle Hall next Wednesday is going to be a nice affair. The music – Mr.

Wunsch's new orchestra – is the best in the county; the hall is the handsomest in Franklin; and everything looks like a good time.

B.H. Basford, who works for the Turners Falls Lumber Co., was on his muscle this morning. Not being in an agreeable mood as a man of his age should be, he quarreled with Mr. E.L. Beemis, the ferry man, and, without provocation, struck him over the head with a club inflicting a dangerous wound. He was fined \$18.25.

W.G. Potter, our gentlemanly station agent, has been in his position three years and a half without losing a single day. During this time he has done much over work, yet he is always at his post. When we consider that his station is among those that ship the largest amount of freight on the road, we will appreciate his fidelity.

The *Greenfield Times* is not only unjust enough to steal our local items without credit, but last week mutilates the one in reference to Lake Pleasant so far as to contradict our statement in toto. Notwithstanding this, the result of stupidity, let us assure our readers it will not be legal to take fish there before 1877. The law will be strictly enforced against all offenders.



Air Condition Your Home, Not the Neighborhood!

By RYNE HAGER

TURNERS FALLS – I don't often think of a window air conditioning unit as a "device" in the gadget-y sense. It can't fit in a pocket or a bag, it doesn't make pleasant beeps or boops, and it usually isn't a software minefield of privacy and security concerns. But it does enhance comfort, expand the places on the planet that humans can inhabit, and provide some relief for those sensitive to heat.

Like everything else in my life, I researched the hell out of the subject before making any big purchases, and following a string of recent conversations by visitors, I felt that it could be helpful to impart a little device advice about air conditioning to you, my dear reader.

One thing that's key, and which we haven't historically paid attention to, is the efficiency of a given design. Energy costs are rising, and there's no point in spending a bunch of money to cool a roomful of air just for it to creep out an open window or door. Properly closing off and insulating your home is an advantage for cooling as much as it is for heating.

You might not be aware of it, but some types of air conditioners actually straight-up blow the air you spent money to cool right out the window – *by design*. And, frustratingly, they are some of the most popular air conditioning units out there.

These floor-standing or "portable" air conditioning units work off of the same principles for cooling that window-mounted models use: A refrigerant is pumped between two sets of radiators, which capture and move heat as the refrigerant transitions phase – i.e., change between liquid and gaseous states – across the two ends of the system. That means you need air moving over both radiators: one to move the cool air into the space being cooled, and one to move the hot air away.

In the case of many cheaper floor-standing air conditioners, the air that circulates the hot air out the window through a flexible tube actually sucks air from inside the room, which includes the air you're spending precious energy and money cooling. Effectively, you're pumping cold air right outside.

This isn't a universal issue with the floor-standing design, but it is a cheaper way to engineer a floor-standing model, and many products use it. Thankfully, there is an easy way to tell if an air conditioner suffers this design flaw: Pay attention to the number of ventilation tubes the unit has. More efficient and better-engineered models



U-shaped air conditioners, such as this model by Midea, isolate the two ends of the cooling system from each other.

will typically have *two* of these tubes that you shove into a window, for intake and exhaust, to ensure the air used to pump heat away from your room comes from outside and not inside your home.

While these portable units are rising in popularity because of their ease of use – they're easy to roll around on wheels and store for the winter, they don't require screwing stuff into your window frame or house so you can use one in a rental, and they work with more window types – the older fall-out-your-window style frequently often works better. They're actually held to a higher efficiency standard by the US government. And, remember, efficiency will have an impact on energy use and the ongoing operation cost to you, too.

My favorite window AC unit design – which happened to grace the *MoRe* section header of the June 6 edition of the *Reporter* – is from a company called Midea. The design separates the two sections of refrigerant cooling system thanks to a novel "U" shape that your window closes snugly against, more effectively isolating the noisiest part *outside* your window. This not only reduces the noise of the unit to a negligible level, but also reduces the gap it occupies in your window, cutting down on the amount of cold air that might leak out around the unit.

I know, it's probably a little weird to get this excited about the minutiae of an air conditioner, but thoughtful engineering tickles my nerdy senses deeply.

I own two 12,000 BTU units in this design for my own home – a stop-gap while I save for a better, more efficient heat-pump system – and even though the pair together are ostensibly only rated for 1,000

square feet they cool well over twice that space, effectively cooling the whole house as required through the hottest days of the summer.

In short, I recommend the crap out of them, though they do have some "smarts" built in for remote activation and deactivation that you can ignore if that's not your style.

Whether we opt for a window unit, portable AC, central air, or a heat-pump system, odds are that more and more of us will need cooling systems in our homes over the coming years. Changes in climate mean we could see an increase of 9.5° F by the end of the century in Massachusetts, according to a recent projection published by the state. With the average temperature here in Turners Falls already in the low 80s for much of the summer, this means we can look forward to a slow march towards consistent 90°-plus summer days unless we do something serious, as a civilization, to counter the existential crisis and effects of climate change.

While I really hope that happens, we should still probably plan for the sort of North Carolina climate that these models are predicting, which means many of us who are more sensitive due to age or other conditions will need to consider picking up an AC unit even if we didn't own one before.

And one last piece of advice: if you use a window-mounted unit, stuff a strip of foam in the top of the window sash!

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



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Watching the Canada Grand Prix in Montreal.

SOUTH DEERFIELD – I've often shared stories in this column about the pleasure I derive from taking a grandchild or my kids on trips with me. The joy is multiplied when you can make a good turn for the little one and still have a great time yourself.

My travel plans in early May coincided with one of the world's largest sporting events, Formula 1 auto racing. F1 racing is recognized worldwide yet relatively new to this country, brought on by the Netflix TV series *Drive to Survive*. My cosmopolitan 15-year-old granddaughter Sofie got into the sport last summer in France, where F1 appears to be what the cool kids are into, so when we saw the Canadian Grand Prix F1 race was happening in Montreal, just four hours north of our Deerfield home, we set our sights on taking in the massive event in person.

We booked the only Airbnb we could find that wasn't affected by F1 craziness, about 20 minutes north in a suburb called Terrebonne. This town of about 116,000 is one of the richest heritage sites in the province with a series of 18th and 19th-century mills and other old buildings, and a tradition of outdoor theater and concerts in a lush green park near the Saint Lawrence River.

The best part was a Métro station, which could whisk us right into the heart of old Montreal with no traffic or parking hassles on race day.

We quickly learned the value of buying a weekend Métro pass,

which gave us unlimited rides for a small sum of around \$3. Oh, that's another thing we realized over the three days – Canadian prices are about 37 cents per dollar higher than ours, so every \$10 Canadian we "spent" was really \$7.29, making that \$86 poutine, beer, and salad lunch a mere \$62. Take a drive up north this summer if you want to save some money on everything!

Buzz of Anticipation

On the Saturday of our arrival we settled into the spartan Airbnb, a compact space with two beds, a bath, a kitchen, and not much more. We quickly set out to park the car near the Radisson Métro station, 12 stops and about a 45-minute ride to Old Montreal.

Sofie had a store in mind for some F1 regalia, which for a fan is pretty much *de rigueur*. On the street outside pop-up stores that sold each team's merch, supercars were revving their engines as racing fans clicked their phones and shot videos of the passing Ferraris, Lamborghinis, and souped-up Porsches.

The energy in the street was all about the next day's race. It was fun to be around so many fans wearing their Ferrari red, McLaren orange, and Aston Martin green. After some shopping, that big decision loomed, in a city where everyone has a recommendation for their favorite restaurant – is there any city with more beloved restaurants than the urban heart of Canada? *No!*

But I had a plan, which involved

a place with outposts in London, New York City, Boston, Lisbon, and Hong Kong... and no, it wasn't the Hard Rock Café. It was Time-Out Market, on the second floor of the Eaton Centre shopping mall on Montreal's main drag, Sainte-Catherine Street.

If you've ever been to Eataly in Boston or New York, you know the layout. It's a giant food hall with restaurants and bars placed on the outer edges of the giant second-story space. The whole place was buzzing with people who sat at counter-high communal tables as they enjoyed the food, wine, and beer. There were 16 unique food concepts from poutine to grilled fish to burgers, and everything in between.

It was the kind of place that made even a finicky 15-year-old happy. We chose spicy bowls of ramen and, I enjoyed a sample of a zero-alcohol Peroni beer from Italy, from one of the race sponsors who were doling them out free.

Life Lessons, With Curds

As we made our way back north that night we contemplated the logistics of this incredible event, one of 24 Formula 1 races held around the world during racing season. Have you ever been to an event with 350,000 attendees? It's like one of those mega-festivals in India, with crowds like you've never seen.

In the morning, throngs of fans were all trying to reach the Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve, which follows the outline of the Île Notre Dame,



Supercars rev on Rue Ste-Catherine on Saturday before Canada's Grand Prix Formula 1 race.



Terrebonne's historic streets.

an island in the Saint Lawrence River, which is accessible by the Métro.

When we left Terrebonne at 6 a.m., we still hadn't gotten the second confirmation email from StubHub that would give us the actual tickets to enter the racetrack's general admission. At 7:30 a.m. we decided to move to Plan B, which was to buy new tickets and get a refund from StubHub.

We approached the friendly woman at the ticket window, only to find: "We have three tickets for sale, they are \$600 each in the grandstand." We looked up at the rainy skies, and then at the gigantic crowd waiting to fill up the flat general admission area. It didn't take long to convince Sofie that Plan C might be the better option.

The race didn't start until 2 p.m., and it was only 8 a.m. Time for a proper breakfast and more shopping at her favorite boutique, Brandy Melville, where it seems like every item is white and cropped. After a successful shopping trip and a confirmation of our refund, I found the perfect place to watch Montreal's important race.

We returned to familiar Terrebonne and went to La Cage, an enormous sports bar with a wall-sized screen showing the race – and they even had poutine. What, you've never tried french fries cov-

ered in gravy with cheese curds? Now that's Quebec cuisine!

The race in the rain would end with the same driver from Holland, Max Verstappen, winning again, continuing to dominate and leaving Sofie's beloved Ferrari team far down at the bottom of the results.

We learned that you don't have to suffer the crowds, the rain, and the blurred view of the cars to enjoy the ambience and feel of the sport. Just visit the city where the race happens and find your version of La Cage to watch it in comfort!

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.



HARTSHORNE PHOTOS

La Cage, a great place to watch the race.

Poutine is Quebec.

WEBSITES

TimeOut Market
www.timeoutmarket.com

Village of Terrebonne
www.lanaudiere.ca

Canada Formula 1 Race
www.formula1.com

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The Children's Page

THE LOVELIGHT SISTERS
WORDS BY BEVERLY KETCH
PICTURES BY HANNAH BROOKMAN



NOVELLA WAS CONTENTEDLY READING IN THE SHADE OF THE LITTLE CAMPER'S AWNING WHEN AN EXPLOSION CAME FROM THE LITTLE BACK ROOM WHERE DOT HAD HER CHEMISTRY SET. A BILLOW OF PINK SMOKE EMERGED AND SUDDENLY THE SWEETEST SCENT SURROUNDED HER.

BEFORE SHE COULD THINK TO ASK DOT WHAT HAD HAPPENED, SHE WAS DRAPED OVER HER CHAIR, BLISSFULLY BREATHING THE MAGICAL SMELL. WAS IT LILAC, LAVENDER, HELIOTROPE?



WHATEVER IT WAS, SHE WAS UNDER ITS SPELL BY THE TIME DOT'S HEAD POPPED OUT THE DOOR. "THIS IS IT, NOVELLA! I'M READY TO OPEN A PERFUME SHOP!" SHE DECLARED.



IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF DAYS—RENTING A SHOP AND PAINTING PINK AND WHITE POLKA-DOTS ON THE WALLS, MEANWHILE SETTING UP A LABORATORY IN THE BACK WITH WILD, TWIRLING TUBES BUBBLING AND BOILING IN FULL PRODUCTION OF DOT'S IRRESISTIBLE PERFUME!

THE SMELL THAT WAFED OUT AS SHE DISTILLED IT CAUSED CROWDS TO GATHER, BUT INSTEAD OF ROWDY EXCITEMENT, THEY ALL DRIFTED UP AND WANDERED AWAY AS IF IN PEACEFUL DREAMS OF BYGONE DAYS.

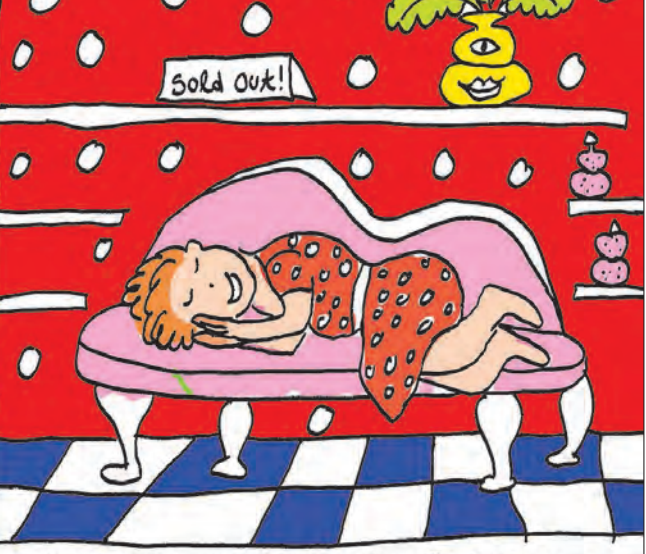


BY WEEK'S END, EVERYONE IN TOWN HAD A FANCY POLKA-DOTTED BOTTLE OF HER PERFUME. BETWEEN THE PEOPLE SITTING IN HAMMOCKS AND RECLINERS, LYING ON PICNIC BLANKETS AND GAZING OFF INTO THE DISTANCE, NOTHING WAS GETTING DONE ANYWHERE ON AVENUE A, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ENDLESS LAZY LAZY LINE AT THE DOOR OF DOT'S SHOP!



ELDA, FOR WHOM THIS DREAMY STATE OF MIND WAS VERY LITTLE CHANGE, WAS FIRST TO NOTICE THAT THERE WAS NOTHING IN HER MAILBOX FOR DAYS.

WALKING INTO TOWN, SHE FOUND THE POSTMAN LEANING ON A FLOWERING TREE AND ARRANGING THE FLOWER PETAL INTO A HEART SHAPE, WITH HIS MAILBAG SPILLED OUT CARELESSLY BESIDE HIM.



WHEN SHE STOPPED BY DOT'S NEW SHOP, SHE FOUND IT EMPTY AND STILL AT LAST. DOT HERSELF WAS ASLEEP ON THE SHOP'S LITTLE SOFA, CHUCKLING IN HER DREAMS. "HMMM", THOUGHT ELDA, "MAYBE SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT THIS"... TO BE CONTINUED...

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



THURSDAY, JUNE 20

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Undertow Brass Band*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Clay Camero*, short films \$ 8 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Landowner, Balaclava, Bucket, Feminine Aggression*. \$ 9 p.m.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JUNE 21-23

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Green River Festival* feat. *Cake, Fleet Foxes, Gregory Alan Isakov, Mdou Moctar, Dakhabrakha, Speedy Ortiz, Son Rompe Pera, Cimafunk*, more. See greenriverfestival.com.

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Film and Gender, Divine Filth, Johnny Cashmere, Zoe Tuck, DJ Hedon*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Void Bringer, Hollow Teeth, Brace For Impact, Low*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rat Trap, Holyoke: *California X, Corrode, The Watcher*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *North Bay Dead Alliance*. No cover. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Blue Skies*. Free. 7 p.m.

Thirsty Mind, South Hadley: *Hedgewitch* album release,

Britt Brideau. \$ 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Power Trousers, Van Walton, DJ Mentaldrift*. \$ 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

Tanglewood, Lenox: *Kool & The Gang, En Vogue*. \$ 2:30 p.m.

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

Lunder Center, Williamstown: *Garcia Peoples, Mountain Movers*. Free. 5 p.m.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Gray/Smith and Speer, Turner Williams Jr., Matt Krefting, Wednesday Knudsen*. \$ 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 25

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Silversun Pickups*. \$ 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: *Hollow Deck, Hedgewitch, Nick Neuberg, Kevin Murray*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Waiters: Legend 40th Anniversary Tour*. \$ 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 27

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Boys of the Landfill, Zydeco Connection*. Free. 6 p.m.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Red Herrings*. \$ 6 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: \$ 7:30 p.m.

Horsegirl, TV Buddha. \$ 7 p.m.

Tanglewood, Lenox: *Boyz II Men*. \$ 7 p.m.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JUNE 28-30

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Solid Sound Festival* feat. *Wilco, Jason Isbell, Nick Lowe, Iris Dement, Mary Halvorson, Wednesday, Soul Glo, Horse Lords*, more. See solidsoundfestival.com.

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Greenfield Arts Walk: On Our War by Chelsea Granger*. No cover. 5 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Sen Morimoto, Eric Hnatow, The Frost Heaves & Hales, Big Destiny*. Free. 5 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Mad Painter, The Holy Oakes*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Tracy Grammer and Jim Henry*. Free. 12 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Jimmy Just Quit*. Free. 6:30 p.m.

Antenna Cloud Farm, Gill: *Majel Connery*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Rick Maguire (of Pile), All Feels*.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Four Sticks, Led Zeppelin* tribute. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Burning Roses Burlesque*. \$ 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

Antenna Cloud Farm, Gill: *Anju*. \$ 3 p.m.

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Sue Kranz, The Klines, Austin & Eliott*. Free. 6 p.m.

Daily Op, Easthampton: *Os Mutantes*. \$ 7 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Lia Kohl & Whitney Johnson*. \$ 8 p.m.

MONDAY, JULY 1

Rat Trap, Holyoke: *Mordecai & Spatulas, Gluebag*. \$ 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 4

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Frozen Corn, Bridge of Flowers, Beverly Ketch, X-Mas Sisters*. No cover. 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 5

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: *Wylder Ayres, Indë*. No cover. 5 p.m.

Mystery Train, Amherst: *Paperjays, Tarp, Jeff Unfortunately, Spectre Folk, Karen Zanes, Mal Devisa*. Free. 5 p.m.

looking forward...

SATURDAY, JULY 6

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Oozie, Vallery Falls, Fisher Wagg*. No cover. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 7

Antenna Cloud Farm, Gill: *Friction Quartet*. \$ 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 12

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *KRS-One*. \$ 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 18

Energy Park, Greenfield: *John Stacey & Friends, Russ Thomas, Pat & Tex LaMountain*. Free. 6 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 28

Lunder Center at the Clark, Williamstown: *Glenn Jones, Emily Robb*. \$ 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13 & WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14

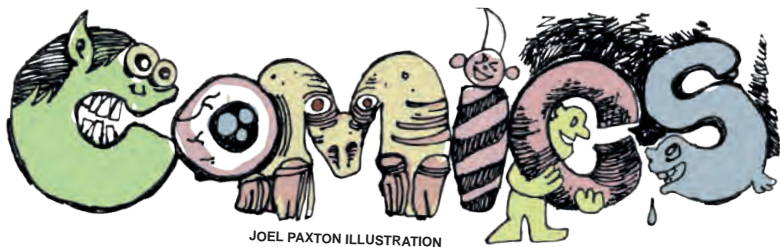
Pines Theater, Northampton: *Violent Femmes*. \$ 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21

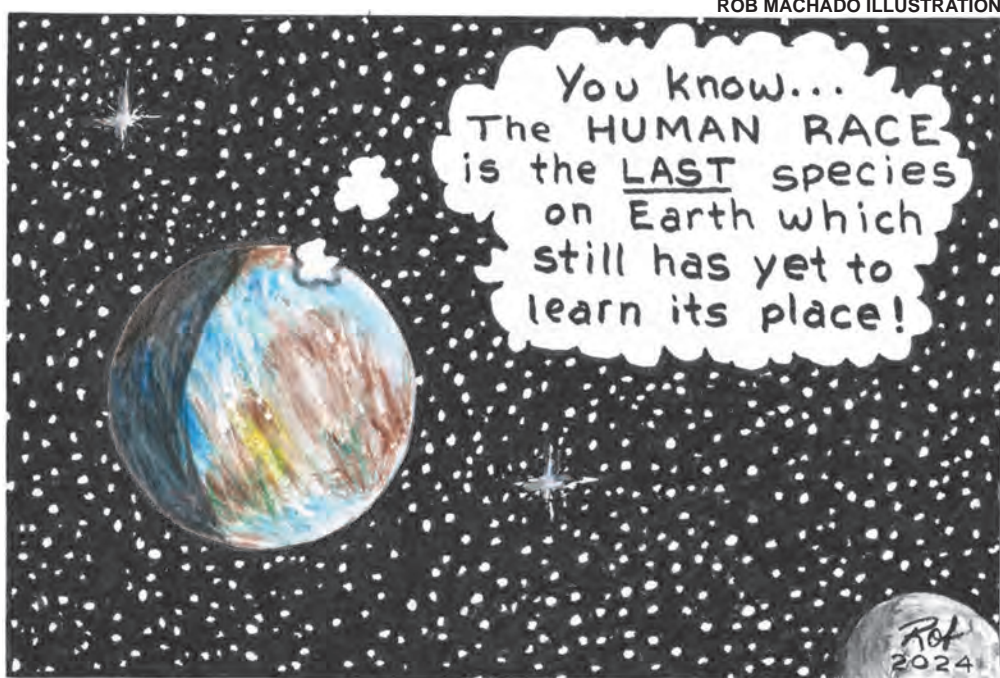
Iron Horse, Northampton: *Dave Alvin & Jimmie Dale Gilmore with The Guilty Ones*. \$ 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Cat Power Sings Dylan*. \$ 7 p.m.

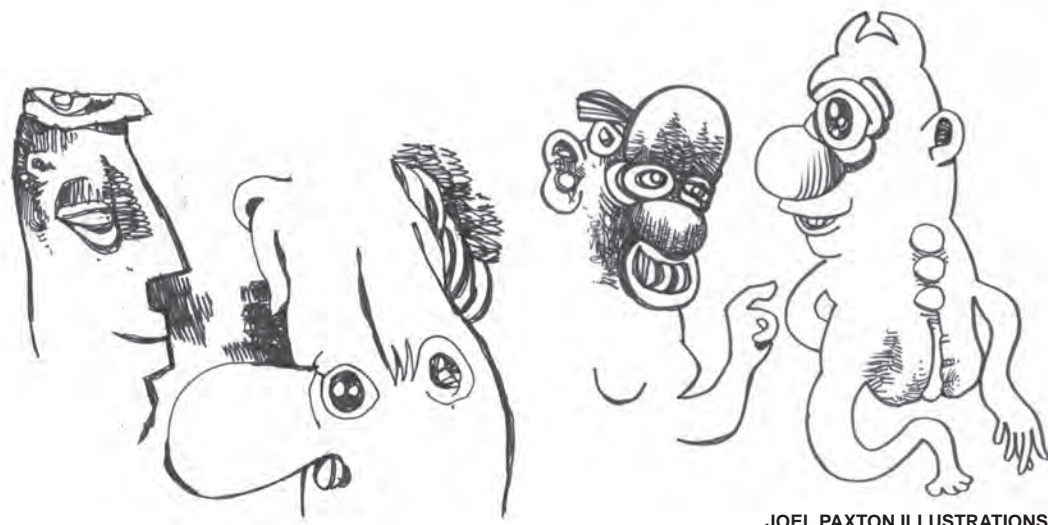


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TAPIOCA from page B1

shrimp from Vietnam, oranges from Florida, coffee from Brazil, chicken wings from almost anywhere.

From field to slaughterhouse to fast-food drive-through, the whole system rests on a thick layer of undervalued work, much of it invisible to the people consuming the end products.

The ambitions of the new company in Orange helped shift cassava production toward that model, spurred by a 1906 scouting expedition to find a more robust source of supply. The scouting party consisted of twenty-four-year-old Eben Gridley, a cousin of company president Frank Ewing, who found himself on a ship to Singapore and Malaysia, charged with studying the small on-farm processing facilities where cassava was turned into tapioca flakes for export.

“The very best,” he concluded, “was none too good – certainly not what it should be for an American packaged food.”

Gridley turned his attention to the Indonesian island of Java, where he found fewer but more modern factories built by Dutch colonizers. He pitched the idea of planters exporting flour, not flakes, with the rest of the process completed in Orange under more controlled conditions.

His overture was successful, and it helped Java become a major exporter of tapioca in the decades that followed. But Ewing and Gridley were also wondering what would happen to Minute Tapioca if wars or economic shifts disrupted its flow of source materials. Wouldn't it make more sense to control every step of the supply chain? This was the “vertical integration” model to which American corporations were beginning to turn as they scaled up and sought to dominate their industries.

Minute Tapioca started down that road, only to discover it was something that only made economic sense for the biggest companies, and sometimes not even for them.

Their short-lived experiment launched in 1908 with the purchase of seven hundred acres of farmland near the Puerto Rican capital of San Juan. Puerto Rico was a lot closer to Massachusetts than Java, and thanks to the Spanish-American War it had recently become an American colonial possession, eliminating the risk of import taxes

and tariff wars.

But it didn't take long to realize that the numbers for this new venture simply didn't add up. The company's growth required ever-greater amounts of tapioca, far more than could be cultivated and processed on a single plantation.

And size was the least of it. As any farmer will tell you, the most pressing farm expense is for labor. In a system that was already based on mass-producing foods as cheaply and efficiently as possible, turning cassava into flour in Puerto Rico was simply too expensive for Minute Tapioca to make a profit on the affordable convenience food it was selling at the other end of the pipeline.

It wasn't that the Puerto Rican plantation workers were being paid a lot. But those in Java were being paid even less. The very cheapest labor could offset the additional costs of shipping the finished flour several thousand more miles. And that made all the difference.

“To be profitable,” Minute Tapioca's plantation manager admitted in 1913, “tapioca must be gotten from yuca grown on cheap land.” And by “cheap land” he really meant “a place where labor is cheap.” That's an absolutely essential piece of the plantation model.

Before long Minute Tapioca started growing other, more profitable crops in Puerto Rico. It's not clear when they gave up on their experiment – probably sometime in the 1920s, perhaps when the company was acquired by Postum (soon to be rechristened as General Foods).

But their plantation proved useful in other ways, including for research and development. Eben Gridley spent most of a year in Puerto Rico with the company's chief engineer in 1911-12, designing the precooking process that really launched Minute Tapioca as a true convenience food. With the cheap supply chain from Java secured and a new efficient design for steam-jacketed cookers and big rotary driers, the company could finally expand into the national market.

At that scale, the profit on any individual package of Minute Tapioca was less than minuscule. But now they could make and sell enough to add up to a very solid return.

“When the business was taken over by General Foods,” Gridley recalled many years later, “we were able to deliver a well-developed manufacturing process.” People



This now-bidden fire curtain in the auditorium of the Orange town hall depicts “A Tapioca Field,” perhaps on the plantation owned by Minute Tapioca for several years in the early 20th century.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PENNIE SMITH

who were schoolchildren in Orange in the 1940s and 1950s still remember touring the factory with its big rumbling drums and belts and rollers, churning tapioca through a highly efficient and sanitary system into little red boxes found in grocery stores all over the United States and beyond.

The high-value parts of that process – research and development, engineering, advertising – stayed firmly in the hands of people in the more affluent locations. But all of it rested on the plantation, running in the background like an unnoticed operating system.

The plantation is still in Orange.

In 1913, the company donated two painted stage curtains as part of the renovation and expansion of the Orange Town Hall. In an era when every little American town had – or aspired to have – its own theater or opera house, painted curtains added either local color in the form of familiar nearby sights or a touch of the exotic and famous from farther away.

Orange's stage curtains offered both. The main curtain featured the well-known statue of the Minute Man at the bridge in Concord, Massachusetts, part of Minute Tapioca's early branding. (Like the patriots of 1775, the new dessert could be ready at a minute's notice.)

The second was an asbestos curtain intended to safeguard the auditorium by blocking draft and flames in the event of a fire. It's not clear how often this curtain was lowered and fully visible. Whenever it was, people in the hall would have seen a less familiar scene: a field of low plants bisected by a dirt road, with palm trees in the background and a dense tropical forest beyond. Next to the path there's a small, white-washed wooden building on stilts, with a thatched roof and a single window, maybe a farm building, maybe someone's house.

The “someone” may be the lone human figure in this landscape, a dark-skinned man – Javanese? Puerto Rican? – wearing a white shirt and trousers and holding some kind of farm implement. Within the faux-fabric border, gold letters read, “A Tapioca Field.” It doesn't seem like a generic scene; there's a sense that this was painted from a photograph, or maybe a description, perhaps of Minute Tapioca's own cassava plantation or somewhere else that the company's executives visited in their search for a cheap and consistent source of supply that could make the whole tapioca venture profitable enough to succeed.

A few years ago, a group of people in Orange raised funds to have the Minute Man curtain restored,

bringing it back to something like its original vibrancy. But the fire curtain was a more intractable challenge. It would have to be expensively encapsulated to make it safe to work with. Even just taking it down and storing it somewhere poses a health hazard.

So it remains where it's been for more than a hundred years: high above the stage, painted face against the interior brick wall, dark brown reverse side barely visible in the dim backstage area.

In fact, it's a lot like the modern food system itself: big yet oddly invisible, firmly fixed in place, put there for good reason but now as much problem as solution, resistant to being changed even for the better, making a link with the most marginal people in the food system in the kind of place that has benefited most from all that cheap and abundant food, but not in such a way that people on the two sides of the divide can directly know or encounter one another.

The plantation is still in Orange in that more social and economic sense, too. It's present but invisible in every grocery store, including the new food co-op right across the street from the old town hall.

Next week: Consolidation – and abandonment.



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