

The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 6, 2024

Leverett Group Marks River's Native Name



ROBERTSON PHOTO

Members of the study and advocacy group *On Native Land* say they intend to put more indigenous language place-markers around the town in an effort to counter the “invisibilization” of Native history and presence in the region.

By SARAH ROBERTSON

NORTH LEVERETT – New signs fixed to a bridge that crosses the Sawmill River now identify the waterway by the name it was known by centuries ago: *Sawwatapskechuwas*.

A group of residents interested in indigenous history have started an initiative meant to honor and acknowledge natural landmarks with signs that share earlier Native names for these places. The group, “On Native Land: Leverett Advocacy and Education,” met on Monday on the bridge near the North Leverett Sawmill to install two signs, each with the indigenous name and the one given to the river by English settlers.

They drilled holes in the wood beams of the bridge’s railing, and secured the signs with screws. The ceremony was interrupted several times by passing cars.

“The sign is the first step in the group’s effort to bring the town’s Native American place names into the awareness of Leverett present

inhabitants,” said Martin Wobst, a member of the citizens’ group and longtime professor of anthropology at UMass Amherst, where he has specialized in indigenous archaeology.

The name *Sawwatapskechuwas* (also spelled *Sawwatepskechuwas*) is a word likely originating from local Algonquian languages meaning “pouring forth alone it comes out,” or “continuous outflowing current runs over sloping ledges.”

The group credits University of Pennsylvania anthropology professor Margaret Bruchac with rediscovering the Native name of this river and numerous other sites. Wobst was Bruchac’s Ph.D. advisor while she was studying at UMass Amherst in 2007.

The land where Leverett sits today was once the territory of the Pocumtuck people. For millennia they and other indigenous groups lived an agrarian and somewhat nomadic lifestyle up and down the Connecticut River valley.

English settlers first arrived in see NAME page A5

Slew of Vacant Town Meeting Seats Prompts Official Worry

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – “I was pretty disappointed, at the election this year, that there were so many unfilled seats where people didn’t choose to run for offices,” selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz said at the board’s meeting on Monday.

These comments may be confirmed by a review of a sample ballot issued by the town clerk’s office prior to the election, which showed 30 seats on town meeting with no candidates’ names on them. It takes only 10 signatures to get on the ballot.

This may have been alarming to Kuklewicz in part because the annual town meeting last month failed to maintain a quorum for its afternoon session, and absent members had to be called in to continue the event. A quorum is required for the town to pass its annual budget, and vote on any potential bylaw changes.

While most Massachusetts towns have “open” town meetings which all voters can join, Montague has a representative town meeting, with 126 potential members – 21 in each of six precincts, seven of whom run each year for three-year terms. The number of open seats on a ballot increases when members resign their positions mid-term.

To take the most extreme case on this spring’s ballot, Precinct 3 – the eastern section of the Hill neighborhood in Turners Falls – had only four nominees on the ballot for the seven available three-year seats, but also had three vacant two-year seats and four vacant one-year seats for which no one had filed papers. The result was a total of 10 seats with no names on see VACANT page A6

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

ATA Pick Turns Down Job

By JEFF SINGLETON

The process for filling vacant town administrative positions took two steps forward this week, and a half-step back. Assistant town administrator (ATA) Walter Ramsey told the selectboard on Monday that “applications are coming in” for the role of public works superintendent, which Tom Bergeron is leaving later this month, and that

the hiring committee plans to meet this Thursday for an “initial review” of the applications.

On the other hand, Ramsey announced that the approved candidate for ATA, Athena O’Keeffe, has decided to decline the position. O’Keeffe, currently clerk of the town council in Amherst, was chosen by a hiring committee and the selectboard for the job and was

see MONTAGUE page A7

Poet’s Seat Ridge Eyed for Possible Coop Development



MURTISHAW PHOTO

Valley Housing Co-op member Saul Shanabrook shared the group’s vision for the Greenfield hilltop site at a fundraising and information event on Sunday.

By CHARLOTTE MURTISHAW

GREENFIELD – If a significant fundraising push pays off, dreamers and schemers behind a proposed development in Greenfield say they’ll be able to chip away at the local housing crisis by creating a 24-unit coop which will remain environmentally sustainable and affordable for generations to come. Spearheaded by Valley Housing Cooperative, a trio of local organizations have begun the process of purchasing 32 acres in the highlands of Greenfield to try

to bring their plans home to roost.

The proposed cooperative living build “would ensure a sustainable community, systems, buildings, stewardship, and conserved habitat,” said Valley Housing Co-op member Kali Ransom, pitching the project as a means of decommo-difying land and homeownership. “It can be a model for resilient housing in the valley.”

Representatives of the Valley Housing Co-op (VHC), the Valley Community Land Trust (VCLT), and design-build firm Noble Home see COOP page A4

Plan Edges Closer to Comprehension



GAGNON PHOTO

Franklin Regional Council of Governments planning intern Nicole Krantz, at left, speaks with Lake Pleasant resident Will Szal at Tuesday’s meeting on the Montague Comprehensive Plan at the Great Falls Discovery Center.

By BEN GAGNON

TURNERS FALLS – The room was abuzz with talk of open space, affordable housing, climate change, and other pressing issues as more than 40 people came through the double doors on a sunny Tuesday afternoon at the Great Falls Discovery Center to provide feedback and ask questions about the draft Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Montague.

Moving from one display to another, local residents learned about issues ranging from attracting and retaining young families to providing housing for seniors, and exploring the possibility of creating new public gathering places, including a public swimming pool.

“I feel like governance happens at all levels,” said Will Szal, who moved to the Village of Lake Pleasant two years ago. “Everyone is pretty fixated on politics at the national level, but community governance is as important or more important. This [meeting] is a great opportunity to come by and try to align the priorities that are vital to the community.”

Between the informal child care center near the front door and pizza in the back room, local residents learned that “resilience” is the catchword of the comprehensive plan: With global climate change coming home to roost and an interconnected economy promising more surprises in the future, planners want to be ready for anything while moving toward community goals.

see PLAN page A5

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Both TF Softball Teams Make It to Quarterfinals



DAVID HOIT PHOTO

The Thunder team meets Madi Liimatainen at the plate after her over-the-fence home run during Wednesday’s Round of 16 game against Norfolk County Ag.

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – This week, the 2024 Turners Falls Baseball Thunder played their last game as a unit. It wasn’t pretty, but they never gave up, scoring three late-inning runs in a valiant effort to keep the season alive.

The Boys’ Thunder have nothing to hang their heads about. They

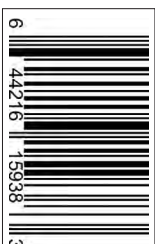
finished 13–6, won the Bi-County Conference Championship by winning a marathon game against Athol, and played in the Western Mass tourney.

The softball teams from both Franklin Tech and Turners Falls, meanwhile, each won two playoff games this week, advancing into the MIAA Division 5 Elite Eight.

see SPORTS page A6

One Good Turn Deserves Another

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The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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INVESTIGATION

Paper Claims Shop Name Not Botched Maliciously

By BRIAN ZAYATZ

TURNERS FALLS – Jay Majerowski was working on his new Avenue A shopfront, Great Hauls – which did not yet have a sign up – when a possibly clairvoyant passerby said to him she was sorry to see the newspaper had misspelled the new business's name.

Sure enough, Majerowski soon discovered, the editor of Montague's paper of record had repeatedly referred to the business, co-owned by Elliot Hartmann Russell, as "Great Halls" in a story about their moving into the beloved former Nina's Nook space.

"To have it be instantly wrong the minute we announce, that's a bit of a punch in the gut," Majerowski told the *Reporter* on Monday, tracked down at his K Street home.

"The *Recorder* will probably get it right," he added.

Reached for comment, the offending editor, Mike Jackson, denied allegations that the error was an act of anti-capitalist sabotage. But when asked to share his interview transcript, Jackson conveniently asserted that discussion of the name had occurred before he started recording.

"I remember having an exchange where I expressed that I thought it was a very clever name, and Jay beamed back," Jackson said, explaining that he thought the name was variously a play on Great Falls, the Great Hall at the Discovery Center, the hallway-like nature of the space, and a joke about its small size.

"It's the kind of error that I am mortified by," he continued. "Not too many of them make it all the way to a headline, and fewer still onto a headline on Page A1." He shuddered at the memory of a 2012 incident involving James Franco. (Mr. Franco could not be reached

for comment by press time.)

"I don't think Mike's the only one to make that mistake," Nina Rossi, of the eponymous Nook, told the *Reporter*. "It's like a hallway between two buildings, with 42 feet of wall space inside."

Majerowski explained that the name actually derives from lingo used by the proprietors' intended clientele.

"It's a term that thrifters and vintage people have been using for a long time," he said. "We want people to think they're gonna come and get a bunch of great stuff." Some of that stuff might include something with which to adorn a hallway – but hall *decor* will not be the shop's focus, Majerowski confirmed.

The above reasoning was ultimately the sticking point during a session of late-night negotiations in an undisclosed location between the two parties, in which Jackson pressed the duo to change the as-yet unlabeled business's name to match the *Reporter's* initial coverage, negating the need for a correction. In the wee hours of the morning, Jackson agreed to commission a full investigation of the misspelling (which you are presently reading) in exchange for a commitment from Great Hauls to fund a fact-checking department for the newspaper should the business succeed financially.

Reached for comment after negotiations, Jackson said he was disappointed the duo declined to change the name. "But their reasoning makes sense," he added.

While this particular moment in the limelight seems to be drawing to a close, Great Hauls may yet have a splashy future in the "un-nameable" village.

"Maybe there's a new movement to change the village name to Great Falls," Rossi mused.

CORRECTION

It has been brought to the *MR's* attention that the captions for two photographs from the LAVA Center's ongoing *inDiViSiBLE* exhibit in Greenfield were incorrect in our May 16 edition.

The photograph on the left is *Father and Son* by Alfonso Herrera-Neal, and the one on the right is *Loxley Whitter and Friend* by Lindy Whiton. The files the Greenfield gallery sent to press



were mislabeled and we repeated the error; we are nevertheless happy to help correct the record.

The show, which features photos and interviews of local farmworkers, runs through July.



Annie Diemand (right) shows state senator Jo Comerford how to pack eggs while on a tour of Diemand Farm last Thursday. State officials were invited to the Wendell poultry farm to see how recent grants have helped the farm adapt to rising expenses and a challenging business landscape for small-scale food producers. A grant from the Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) helped the farm buy a new walk-in freezer, which Diemand called "life-changing."

Diemand Farm processes around 10,000 chickens and turkeys per year, and local colleges, which buy the meat frozen, are some of their biggest customers. State grants also helped to renovate the chicken coop in order to meet new regulations in 2021, and buy a new ice machine to help cool the meat prior to vacuum-sealing and packaging. This year the farm applied for, but did not receive, a grant to replace its egg-sorting machine.

"We're not trying to make a lot of money," Annie's daughter Tessa told the tour group. "We're just trying to cover our costs." Diversifying by selling prepared foods, compost, and lumber has helped the family-run business stay afloat for nearly 90 years, and in the process they have found ways to recycle nutrients back into the food system. Used wood shavings from the coops are mixed with bones and entrails left over from the meat-packing process to make compost the farm sells by the bag or truckload.

This Saturday: Neighborly Fest Returns to Montague Center

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE CENTER – "We haven't really decided whether we're gonna keep it annual or not," organizer Nicole Nemeć said of Good Music Makes Good Neighbors, a repeatedly recurrent, grassroots, multi-venue festival in the town's most New Englandy village. "People get really excited about it when it's been away a little while."

GMMGN, which Nemeć and partner and fellow founder Matthew Duncan describe as "reverse caroling" and which may be recognizable to those who have been elsewhere as a porchfest, will take place for the seventh time in ten years this Saturday, June 8 during daytime hours.

This year there promises to be more dancing than before, and the event has been sanctioned for the first time by town officials to officially use the Montague common. Twenty acts will occupy five venues – the Common Hall, the Congregational Church, a barn, a residential porch, and a pergola – with the common itself occupied as an interstitial sixth venue by the Montague Marching Band and hammered-dulcimer champ Tim Van Egmond as audiences rush from show to show.

A full schedule is available at montaguemusic.org.

The event kicks off at 11:30 a.m. with a "pre-fest community contra



Tim Van Egmond plays hammered dulcimer under a pergola at the 2019 GMMGN.

dance," with Liz Nelson calling, and the Common Hall will continue to be dancey throughout the day with Appalachian, Arabic, Irish, and swing offerings.

The rest of the lineup ranges from country to free jazz by way of funk, "Renaissance crossover," and klezmer.

Mohawk Falafel and Shawarma, the best local Levantine food truck, will be parked on the common, and Nemeć adds that additional snacks will be on hand as well as such lawn games as cornhole.

Saturday's forecast looks dry as of press time, but GMMGN will go off rain or shine, according to Nemeć, who added that unless rain drives some performances into the old town hall upstairs, the whole

festival will be accessible.

"We have chairs, but we love people to bring blankets," she added.

Nemeć also said she hopes that GMMGN might one day develop into an event where "there's just music happening everywhere." "What we really wanted to have the beginning, and it's slowly working its way up to this, is musicians sitting with other musicians," she said.

There is a suggested donation of \$15 for the day, and all donations are split up among all scheduled musicians – Nemeć told the *Reporter* that even though "you can get in anyway," each donor will receive a purple sticker which will make them "feel like 'Oh yes, I've paid my dues, and I am participating in supporting Montague music.'"

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by NINA ROSSI

It's First Friday tomorrow in Turners Falls, and Sadie's Bikes is having their fourteenth **gumball machine takeover!** The latest gumball machine artist is Tess Poe, and the store is having a reception from 5 to 8 p.m. for her hand-sewn button creations.

According to Sadie's owner Nik Perry, a Dr. Slumbersum will turn the side stage into "the cave" – "[a] comfy place to have one's dreams interpreted. The kind Dr. has traveled from far away to offer his keen wisdom on your inner psyche." Bring quarters for the gumball prizes to 83 Canal Street.

Other **First Friday happenings** include a Vegan Pizza Land pop-up, starting at 4:30 p.m. at the Brick & Feather Brewery on Eleventh Street; DeeJay Overtime spinning from 5 to 8 p.m. at Breakdown Records on Avenue A; Next Stop Comedy at 7:30 p.m. at the Pioneer Brewery on Third Street; and bands playing a "StrangeCreek Campout Afterparty" beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Shea Theater.

Celebrate the **Buddha's birthday** this Sunday, June 9 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the New England Peace Pagoda. A little statue of baby Buddha will be bathed with sweet tea, representing the nectar that is said to have poured down from the heavens when the Buddha was born in the garden of Lumbini. The ceremony will be followed by a light lunch around 1 p.m.

The Peace Pagoda is located at 100 Cave Hill Road in Leverett, and a shuttle bus will run from the parking lot for anyone who doesn't want to or can't walk in.

State senator Jo Comerford invites the public to **A People's Town Hall** next Monday, June 10 at 5:30 p.m. in the dining commons of the

main building at Greenfield Community College. Bring your concerns to this open forum and let the senator know what problems are important to you.

On Monday, June 10 local author Cathy Stanton will read from her new book **Food Margins: Lessons from an Unlikely Grocer** at the Greenfield Public Library at 6:30 p.m. The book tells the story of starting a food co-op in nearby Orange.

Stanton has written widely about industrial and agricultural history in the American northeast, and the book is part memoir and part history lesson. The reading and talk are free, and copies of the book will be available for sale.

The *Montague Reporter* will also share serialized excerpts of *Food Margins* in upcoming editions.

The next **Writers Read** at the LAVA Center in Greenfield, on Wednesday, June 12 at 7 p.m., features Diana Whitney, Dina Stander, and Christopher Ethan Burton. These three local writers will read from their work, and LAVA member Lindy Whiton will facilitate a question-and-answer period afterwards.

The LAVA Center is located at 324 Main Street in Greenfield.

Montague residents and business owners are encouraged to participate in a **community input session for the Shea Mural** next Thursday, June 13 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Shea Theater in downtown Turners Falls.

The goal is to generate themes relevant to Turners Falls and its residents that will be used by the selected muralist, Darion Fleming, to create draft designs for the mural. These will then be considered and approved by a Shea Mural Steering Group.

Pizza and beverages will be served from 5 to 5:30 p.m., followed by opening remarks from RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto and

a presentation from project manager Britt Ruhe of Common Wealth Murals. Participants will meet Mr. Fleming via Zoom before engaging in some simple interactive activities geared to generate information and context for the mural.

For more information, see tinyurl.com/mural-meet.

Lee Mixashawn Rozie and Nina Gross will perform a combination of traditional **Native American vocal music and jazz fusion** at the LAVA Center in Greenfield on Thursday, June 13 at 7 p.m.

Rozie is a multidisciplinary jazz artist who, according to his website (www.mixashawn.com), "has developed a system of 'Hemispheric Principles' to inform and guide his artform, more directly referred to as 'Wave Art': sonic, aquatic percussive, and harmonic." Gross teaches classical music locally, and shares her poetry and writing at open mics. In decades past she was a member of Rozie's band, Afro Algonquin. The concert is free.

The **Great Falls Coffeehouse** concert next Friday, June 14 will feature the Talamana Duo:

Laila Salins on vocals and *shruti*, an instrument similar to a harmonium, and Jim Matus on backup vocals and *laoutar*, a lute/guitar hybrid. They perform original songs based on the lyrics of various visionary poets, incorporating jazz and folk music with elements of Indian and Middle Eastern music.

Doors open to the Great Hall of the Discovery Center in Turners Falls at 6:30 p.m., and music starts at 7 p.m. There's a suggested donation of \$6 to \$15 at the door, and refreshments are available.

The Brick House is presenting the first annual **Franklin County Teen Performing Arts Showcase**, live at the Shea Theater, next Friday, June 14 at 7 p.m. The show includes an eclectic array of original dance choreography, covers of songs by Noah Kahan and MisterWives, a scene from *Mean Girls: The Musical*, and an original skit about a dog who travels through dimensions learning to be a human. Performers range in age from 11 to 17, and hail from four different schools and three different towns. Everyone is invited to attend the free show, with donations welcome.

Saturday, June 15 is **Franklin County Pride**, a day of celebratory, family-friendly, pro-LGBTQ events that kicks off with a parade down Federal Street in Greenfield. Roughly 1,000 people are expected to march, representing schools, businesses, government entities, and community organizations. The parade route goes down Federal Street, turns right onto Main Street, and then left to Energy Park.

Multiple groups and performers will play music during the parade, and Miles Street will be closed to accommodate vendors and food trucks. The pocket park on Miles Street will have musical acts, circus performers, and a face painter, and the main stage in Energy Park will have speakers and more musical performances. People are encouraged to bring their own seating.

More details are available at franklincountypride.org.

Saturday, June 15 is also the seventeenth annual **Free Family Fish-**

ing Day at Gill and Turners Falls. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. there will be free fishing fun at Barton Cove, and additional activities at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls including fly-tying demonstrations and fish printing.

Everything is free, and no fishing license is needed; adults and children accompanied by an adult are welcome. Fishing equipment will be provided, though supplies are limited, so bring your own pole if you can. A shuttle bus will run between Barton Cove and the Center.

Greenfield Garden Cinemas have announced that they are having a **free Summer Movie Camp**, starting at 10 a.m. next Saturday, June 15 with a PG-rated "mystery movie." Clues to this animated film will appear on the Garden's social media pages.

These free summer movies will run each Saturday morning through August 10. The lineup includes *Spiderman: Into the Spider-Verse*, *Spiderman: Across the Spider-Verse*, *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs*, *Lyle Lyle Crocodile*, *Angry Birds*, *Hotel Transylvania*, *The Smurfs*, and *The Smurfs 2*.

The films are free for children of all ages and their families; concessions are not included.

"**Fields & Forests: What Do Bees Need?**" is the title of a Pollinator Week program at the Discovery Center on Sunday, June 16, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Great Hall.

Attendees may make their own native bee habitat by "painting" with yarn, fleece, pre-felt shapes, and soapy water, and will learn how important native bees are, especially for growing food. The free program is geared for ages four and up, including teens and adults.

A **benefit contra dance** will be held at the Montague Common Hall from 7 to 9 p.m. on Sunday, June 16. Admission is by donation, and all proceeds will go towards making the hall accessible by building a ramp and accessible parking space.

Musicians are George Wilson and Rebecca Weiss on fiddles, Becky Hollingsworth on piano, and whatever friends turn up to join them; the caller is Andy Davis. This is an all-ages event.

Staff from the **Center for Human Development**, a local behavioral health agency, will talk about the mental health services they offer and answer any questions at the Brick House Community Resource Center on Thursday, June 20 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

All are welcome, and refreshments will be provided. The Brick House is located at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls; for more information, please contact Stacey Langknecht at slangknecht@brickhousecommunity.org or (413) 800-2496.

Montague Reporter staff and volunteers are looking forward to a **Spring Clean at our office**, at 177 Avenue A in Turners Falls, on Saturday, June 22 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A few extra hands would be great, and pizza and beverages will be provided! If you are interested in pitching in, please sign up at www.tinyurl.com/More-clean.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

Good Music Makes Good Neighbors

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SAT. JUNE 8 • 4PM

POETRY
Christopher Sawyer-Laucanno, Andrea Libin, Thoreau Lovell, & John High
SAT. JUNE 8 • 7PM

CHAPBOOK RELEASE
EXTENDED STAY by TY HOLTER
w/ Dominick Knowles & Jon Hoel
FRI. JUNE 14 • 7PM

MOVIE NIGHT
TANGERINE SEAN BAKER SHORTS BY YOKO ONO & TEJAL SHAH
FRI. JUNE 28 • 8PM

66 AVENUE A • TURNERS FALLS

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Erving: Expect Delays

ERVING – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing paving work on Route 2 in Erving. The work will start Thursday, June 6, and will conclude on Wednesday, June 12, from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day. Work will not be conducted on weekends.

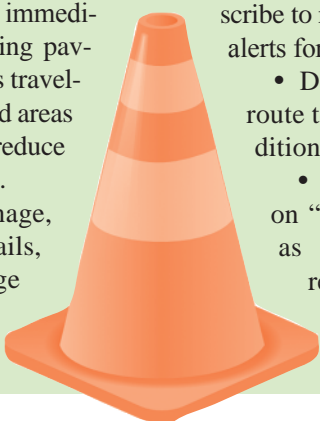
The project limits are from Old State Road to East Prospect Street, for a distance of approximately 3.5 miles. There will be alternating one-way traffic in the immediate work location during paving operations. Drivers traveling through the affected areas should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution.

Appropriate signage, law enforcement details, and advanced message boards will be in place to guide

drivers through the work area. All scheduled work is weather dependent and/or may be impacted due to an emergency.

For more information on traffic conditions, MassDOT encourages travelers to:

- Download the Mass511 mobile app or visit www.mass511.com to view live cameras, travel times, real-time traffic conditions, and project information before setting out on the road. Users can subscribe to receive text and email alerts for traffic conditions.
- Dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions.
- Follow @MassDOT on "X," formerly known as Twitter, to receive regular updates on road and traffic conditions.



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BOTTLES & CANS
Week of June 10
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more info? call: 863-2054

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COOP from page A1

presented their plans in front of a packed and enthusiastic house at Four Phantoms Brewery on Sunday.

One dollar from each beer purchased at the combination info session-fundraiser went towards the final funding needed for the project – perhaps helpful, but likely insufficient to fill out the \$177,000 deficit needed for VCLT to close on a 32-acre parcel atop the Poet's Seat ridge line.

The Right Site?

The parcel, currently under contract, is located at 106 Stone Farm Lane in Greenfield and comprises 32 acres, as well as two pre-existing duplex rental units. The sale price is set at about \$995,000, with closing costs expected to bring the price tag to around \$1.2 million.

The proposal, which has been driven by VHC, is that the VCLT would purchase the property and retain ownership of the land while permitting VHC to lease and build on top of it. The Stone Farm Lane acreage would join 13 other Franklin County properties held by VCLT, which was founded in the late 1970s as one of the first land trusts in the country. By comparison, VHC is a newcomer; the group came together four years ago and has been searching since then for the right site and dwelling combination.

The Stone Farm Lane property would ultimately be divided into three leaseholds: about an acre for a multi-family condo complex designed by Noble Home; another portion to the current residents of the duplexes; and the rest to VHC, primarily to remain undeveloped except for public-access trails, gardens, and other low-impact projects.

VHC would provide the governing structure for all residents, and submit a land management plan to VCLT for approval once every five years.

Following a presentation by VCLT board member Gabriella della Croce, Noble Homes owner and architect Noah Grunberg presented a mock-up site plan and sketch of the condo units, which would contain a total of 24 studios and one-bedroom apartments, with private terraces and shared access to common spaces such as meeting rooms, a greenhouse, and centralized parking.

The project timeline would stretch over three to four years, with groundwork laid for utilities and services this summer, excavation in the fall, and construction beginning in 2025.

Using a group equity coop model, VHC would hold the mortgage on the condo complex and residents would pay a monthly fee akin to rent, creating a path to ownership for people who wouldn't traditionally qualify for mortgages.

According to Grunberg, as many as half of the units would be priced for "affordable" housing, calculated at the standard rate of 80% of the area median income. He estimated that locally, that would place the affordable units in the \$120,000 to \$150,000 range, with the others topping out at around \$200,000.

Co-op's Seat

The property, which sits in the Greenfield



VHC's plan for the parcel involves a dense cluster of small co-op condominiums near an existing roadway.

highlands overlooking Turners Falls, is dominated by wooded areas; locals hike through it on informal trails. VHC reps said they have been talking with city officials about setting up a clearer parking area across from the trailhead, and VCLT plans to expand the available trails on the land down to the river.

The plans unveiled on Sunday also included projections of future additional units, which would be less densely situated, but still adjacent to the roadway. Other possible additions floated include orchards, a community woodshop, and a sauna, all of which would be open to non-residential VHC members.

VCLT would ultimately need to approve any significant developments on the land, which by and large VHC intends to leave unaltered. Other efforts to keep the development "low-impact" would include using a pre-existing road as the access point to the housing cluster, passive solar heating, and on-site retention and processing of graywater, as the town drinking water will have to be pumped uphill to the development.

Smaller Living

Reception from the crowd at Four Phantoms was generally positive. Among the intergenerational mix of 60 or so attendees, current residents of the Stone Farm Lane neighborhood offered suggestions about relieving traffic pressure, and others who identified as "cooperative living-curious" expressed enthusiasm over the alternative to the traditional – and harsh – real estate market for buyers and renters alike.

Still, audience members posed questions about the long-term potential of the condo units due to their small size and limited occupancy. The proposed studios and one-bedrooms would measure 250 and 500 square feet respectively, leading some to express concerns over the viability for families.

"This is why we're doing this," VHC member

Saul Shanabrook told the audience. "We want to revise according to the needs of our community."

For his part, Grunberg stated that the plans are in the early stages, and community input could be integrated; he also expressed a hope that through the project, "we'll bring a little bit of legitimacy to the smaller-living community."

All of the projected 24 units are currently spoken for, but Ransom and Shanabrook both stressed VHC's desire for an equitable and transparent application process when units become available.

Of course, all is contingent on the successful purchase of the property. So far, significant financial backing has come from Equity Trust, the Cooperative Fund of the Northeast, and personal loans. If the group fails to close and another private buyer emerges, Ransom said, "they can build McMansions, they can build single-family homes, they can just build a giant home for themselves – which is why we want to get this land under community control."

The last time the Stone Farm Lane site was prospected for development was in 2005, when its then-owner planned a subdivision of 14 duplexes, a vision that was ultimately scrapped during the subsequent housing market bust.

Should the fundraising push fall short, VHC members say they plan to dig deeper into their own coffers and source short-term loans to complete the purchase, but that doing so would impact the affordability of the project. If worst comes to worst, the group will try to find a different site.

"We have been organizing for four years without a property and are dedicated to this project regardless of whether we 'own' land," VHC member Nina Levinson told the Reporter on behalf of the group.

The groups will host another information session this Sunday, June 9, from 1 to 2 p.m. over Zoom. Registration and more information is available at www.tinyurl.com/VCLTland.

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Agendas Have Been Posted IRL Anyway

By KATE SAVAGE

At Monday's ten-minute meeting, the Gill selectboard clarified its agenda-posting policy, welcomed new newsletter editors, and bid farewell to a highway department employee.

"As was kindly pointed out in last week's edition of the *Montague Reporter*," town administrator Ray Purington said, for over a decade the town has been posting meeting agendas on its website, but state officials believed they were posting physical copies at the town hall.

Jeff Singleton investigated the matter in a belated celebration of "Sunshine Week," a time to focus on government transparency. Purington noted that technically, the town had also been redundantly posting physical copies in a visible location

throughout that time.

"The website has worked very well, with few or no complaints, for 11 years," summarized Purington. The board agreed to formalize the town website as the official agenda posting location of all meeting agendas for local public bodies.

Newsletter Lives On

The board appointed Joan Meyer and Mary "Mimi" Mayer as the new co-editors of the *Gill Newsletter* for the year ahead. The two describe themselves as friends who have retired from full-time work and are looking for ways to give back to their community.

Mayer said she is new to town and previously knew only one person in Gill: her new co-editor. "We have been just dazzled by the number of people who have stepped

forward and said they could help us," she said.

"Thanks for taking on this task," said selectboard member Charles Garbiel. "We weren't sure if we were going to even have a newsletter."

In Search of Drivers

The board regretfully accepted the resignation of mechanic and operator Chris Radzuik from the highway department, and considered next steps to finding his replacement.

Selectboard member Randy Crochier noted that he often saw ads in the paper from other towns looking for someone to fill the same role, and suggested the town sweeten the deal by offering an additional week of vacation and being more transparent about other benefits.

"I think we have a benefits package that beats most places – maybe

we should enumerate some of that," Crochier said. He tallied up 12 sick days and 14 holidays included in the position. "That's 26 days off, for a four-day workweek."

Other Business

The second part of the annual town meeting will be held next Tuesday, June 11 at 7 p.m. – a later start time than usual because the town moderator will be milking cows and wants to do the town the courtesy of showering before the gathering. Purington said the focus of this meeting will be "the entire FY'25 town budget, which sets the basis for what your FY'25 taxes are going to be."

The board renewed the town's agreement with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FR-COG) to receive accounting services for the coming fiscal year.

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PLAN from page A1

One goal is for the town to “achieve net zero greenhouse gas emission in the long term” by improving energy efficiency, expanding renewable energy generation, weatherizing municipal buildings, and installing solar panels where possible. Another recommendation is working with local school teachers to “identify areas of town that can act as a learning lab for climate impacts and vulnerabilities.”

Reviewing zoning rules to improve environmental protections for solar energy installations and battery storage facilities will be guided by the upcoming Montague Community Solar Study, which may also identify sites suitable for solar and battery storage.

“I was very impressed with the report,” said Peter Hudyma, a resident of Montague City since 1980. “It’s quite thorough. I like the emphasis on resilience because the future is unknown. We’re living with a fast pace of change and we won’t have fossil fuels forever.”

Hotter Summers

Looking out for the needs of low-income residents who have few resources is another theme of the draft plan, which calls for increasing the urban forest canopy in areas with the hottest temperatures, including shade trees along sidewalks and near bus stops to protect pedestrians from extreme heat. Updating zoning to encourage community

gardens and farmers’ markets in village centers is another part.

While future population projections suggest there will be fewer young families in Montague as part of an overall drop in population, a shrink in the size of individual households means the need for housing remains a top priority. Changes in zoning to allow for higher density housing in and around village centers is one possible approach to the problem.

Meanwhile, the goal of attracting and retaining younger residents is supported by recommendations like investing in the improvement of broadband services, elevating the reputation and effectiveness of Montague’s schools, and capitalizing on recreational tourism potential, possibly including cultural events at Turners Falls municipal airport. Town officials hope to learn from event programming at the Orange Municipal Airport, which holds car shows to help the airport break even.

Other possibilities include a community center with space and amenities for seniors, youth, and teens, while options are explored for a public swimming pool.

“Safe public outdoor swimming access is needed in Montague, especially as summer temperatures rise with climate change,” the plan states. “Providing public swimming opportunities will strengthen the community’s climate resiliency and will encourage physical activity,

even on high temperature days.”

Although lofty goals are in the nature of any long-range Comprehensive Plan, such efforts soon must come to grips with the reality that reaching community objectives usually costs money and eats up the time of town staffers.

Revenue-generating ideas in the plan include municipal solar development, event programming or cell phone towers at the airport, and a room rental tax. Perhaps the biggest potential revenue stream is the Community Preservation Act (CPA), which allows towns to impose a surcharge of up to 3% on individual property tax bills, with funds earmarked to preserve open space and historic sites, create affordable housing, and develop outdoor recreational facilities. In 2023, the city of Greenfield collected \$566,336 under the CPA and received a state match of \$370,156.

Plans All the Way Down

The draft Comp Plan was based on extensive public engagement, as well as numerous single-issue planning efforts in Montague over the last 10 years. In order to make the long list of goals into realities, the document says the creation of a Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee “will be critical to the success of this plan.” The committee could be supported by an interdepartmental working group of town staffers that help with decision-making and provide regular progress reports.

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More than 20 single-issue plans completed since 2014 formed the basis for various sections of the Comp Plan. In the last decade the town of Montague has completed a Housing Plan, a Wildfire Protection Plan, an Open Space & Recreation Plan, an Energy Infrastructure Asset Report, a Complete Streets Prioritization Plan, a Community Development Strategy, a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plan, a Hazard Mitigation Plan, a Pollinator Action Report, and a Culvert Assessment.

There’s also a Five-Year Capital Plan, which gets updated each year.

Individual villages have also generated their share of plans since 2014. There’s a Slum and Blight Inventory; Turners Falls Historical-Industrial District; a Slum and Blight Inventory; Millers Falls Village Center; a Downtown Turners Falls Tree Inventory; a Sidewalk In-

ventory for Turners Falls; *Powering Forward: A Vision for the Turners Falls Canal District*; a Turners Falls Airport Master Plan Update; *Millers on the Move! Priorities for Millers Falls Village Center*; a Turners Falls Livability Plan Community Review; a Rapid Recovery Plan for Turners Falls; and a Canal District Master Plan Study.

The latest, in 2024, is the Montague City Village Center Study.

“There are a lot of unique attributes to Montague,” said Szal. “I’d like to see the plan implemented in a way that focuses on what sets us apart, because that’s the best way to enliven the town.”

Montague’s Draft Comprehensive Plan is available for review at www.montagueplans.org. Feedback is encouraged until next Friday, June 14.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE G-M SCHOOL COMMITTEE

One New Member

By **MIKE JACKSON**

GILL-MONTAGUE – Since our last report on the Gill-Montague school committee, the committee has met five times – three in person, two over Zoom – and welcomed a new member, Jim DeLorenzo of Gill, elected this spring to fill a seat vacated by Cristina Marcalow.

The committee heard reports from superintendent Brian Beck about the search for a new Hillcrest Elementary School principal, though as of the May 28 meeting no new hire was introduced.

Beck did introduce Corrina Weislo, recommended by a hiring committee to be the district’s new pupil services director following the retirement of Dianne Ellis. The school committee voted 6-0 in April to appoint Weislo to the post.

The committee approved the Gill sixth-grade class to go to Nature’s Classroom, and Carol Jacobs, a new representative from Montague this year, asked whether there had been any discussion of other schools attending. “They used to!” her fellow member Lori-Lee Adams replied. “It was \$100 when I went.... If they can do fundraising at Gill, they should be able to do fundraising for the rest of them.”

Business manager Joanne Blier was congratulated after the district passed its annual audit with flying colors.

On April 30 the committee heard from Jess Groneman, a parent who has volunteered to help set up a farm-to-table program at Gill Elementary, that the short-staffed cafeteria was providing “pretty unacceptable” food offerings. Blier said the food services department as a

whole has been short-staffed but that several hires were underway.

On May 14, the committee gave Beck his annual evaluation. Though he received a smattering of “needs improvement” votes from one or two members on most topics, his overall rating as voted by the committee as a whole was “proficient.”

Members brought up comments made at Montague town meeting asking why the district had not asked for a higher assessment this year, given that its FY’25 budget includes reduction in paraprofessional staffing. “Any thoughts about going back to the town floor at a future town meeting?” Montague member Cliff Spatcher asked.

“Once the towns have their budget set, it’s hard for them to come up with extra money as well,” Blier replied. “I know the town of Montague will be talking about their affordable assessment – they’ve talked about wanting to take a better look at that.”

Also discussed was the ongoing study of the feasibility of reorganizing Gill and Montague with Leyden, Bernardston, Northfield, and Warwick in a new six-town district. The question was raised of the status of Erving, which operates its own elementary school but tuitions students into the Turners Falls high school, if under such a reconfiguration. The answer seemed to be that Erving would be invited to do the same with a new district, though the status of the town’s agreement with the Gill-Montague district is unclear were the district to dissolve.

At the May 28 meeting, Jane Oakes of Gill was elected school committee chair for her seventh straight year.



Left to right: Stephen Dydo, Sue Alexander, Tom Wolff, Warren Morgan, and Kathleen Winkworth install one of two new signs on Monday on the Cave Hill Road bridge over the Sawmill River, or Sawwatapskechuwas.

ROBERTSON PHOTO

NAME from page A1

The area in the early 17th century and hunted beaver extensively for their pelts. Trade relationships developed between the settlers and Native people until the beaver population was so depleted that many Native people found themselves indebted to colonial tradesmen.

In 1674 a woman by the name of Mashalisk, a leader or *sunksqua* of the Pocumtuck people, deeded land in present-day Leverett to John Pynchon of Springfield in exchange for a coat, some other items, and relief of her son’s debts. One hundred years later, Leverett was incorporated as a town by the Province of Massachusetts Bay.

Many Native people fled violent colonists or learned to hide their identities and live amongst them;

some still live here today. Our Native Land, Wobst said, seeks to end what Professor Bruchac calls this process of “invisibilization” of Native presence.

Last year the group, which formed in the spring of 2021, introduced a successful warrant article at Leverett annual town meeting that instituted a land acknowledgement and update on indigenous cultural work at the beginning of every town meeting.

“When Mashalisk sold the land, I don’t think she had much of an understanding of what selling land meant, because land was always shared – land was what you moved through, it was your relationship to it,” member Tom Wolff said during a presentation advocating for the warrant article. “The settlers saw it totally differently: it’s something

they exchange.”

The Sawwatapskechuwas/Sawmill River signs were paid for by another citizens’ group, the Leverett Alliance, and installed this week on the Cave Hill Road bridge near the intersection of North Leverett Road. The adjacent sawmill, now the focus of a different preservation effort, was built by settlers over 260 years ago.

On Native Land plans to place a sign on Mount Toby as well, identifying it by its earlier name, *Kunkwatchu*. However, Wobst said finding a location for that sign has been complicated by the various public and private owners of the land surrounding the wildlife management area.

“This won’t be the last one we put up,” Wobst said of the river sign.



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VACANT from page A1

the ballot, 38% of precinct's representatives.

Precinct 1, meanwhile, had one available seat with no nominee; Precinct 2 had three; Precinct 4 had seven; Precinct 5 had six; and Precinct 6 had three. All in all, Montague had a deficit of 30 town meeting candidates.

The preliminary election results posted by the clerk's office after the election showed that as many as 19 of those openings had been filled by write-in candidates, potentially leaving only 11 vacancies remaining on town meeting. But town clerk Kathern "Beanie" Pierce told the *Reporter* that some

of these write-ins may not agree to serve.

"Not all the people written in for Town Meeting Members at the May election will end up serving on town meeting," Pierce wrote. "Some have already called to say they did not agree to be written in and are unable to serve. Others have not responded to my outreach to learn their status."

So, the actual number of town meeting seats that are unfilled may not be known for a while. There is a mechanism for filling vacant seats between elections, which has been used in the past in Montague.

Under Massachusetts General Law Ch.

43A Section 9, any 10 town meeting members from a given precinct can file a petition with the town clerk to call a meeting to fill vacancies in their precinct. If a majority of the current members show up, they may vote to appoint candidates to fill those seats until the next election. The law requires that only candidates who agree to serve may be nominated.

Pierce said she is skeptical that residents who would not collect 10 signatures to get on the spring election ballot would participate in this kind of process. "It's a bit of challenge across the board," she wrote. "Most committees, boards and commissions are having a

hard time filling slots.

"My opinion," Pierce continued, "is the culture is changing and schedules are challenging with work/life balance. My colleagues across the state are experiencing the same issues – it is not singular to representative government or open government. It truly in my opinion is a change in culture."

"I don't know how we change that, other than to say that democracy is a participation sport," Kuklewicz said at Monday's meeting. "I just would encourage folks to consider the value of a little bit of time to help your community."

**SPORTS** from page A1**Baseball***Ware 16 – TFHS 4*

The storybook season for the Turners Falls baseball team came to an end Sunday night as the Blue Thunder was eliminated from the D-5 playoffs at Ware Memorial Field by the Ware Green Indians.

Blue scored first, off an Alex Quezada standup double and a Derek Wissman RBI, but some misplays in the bottom of the first gave Green a 2-1 lead. This would become a recurring theme, as five Blue errors gifted Ware seven unearned runs.

But Powertown never gives up, and neither does their fan base. With the team down 12-1 in the fifth, Jackson Cogswell slammed a standup triple and was batted in by senior Dylon Richardson. Richardson was thrown out at third, but tallied one more RBI before he retires.

"This is uncalled for," the Ware scorekeeper lamented as Turners took the field. "There's no mercy rule in baseball."

But this gave the Boys in Blue two final innings to pad their stats before they turn in their uniforms. Kainen Stevens was knocked in by Wissman in the sixth, and in the final inning of 2024, senior Cam Burnett went out with a bang, shooting a double into the outfield and sending Quezada home for Turners' final run of the season.

Richardson, Wissman, Quezada, Stevens, and Burnett had two hits each, with Quezada and Burnett hitting doubles and Cogswell a triple. Seniors Richardson and Joey Mosca shared pitching duties for Turners, along with Quezada and Julian Kaiser.

After the game, coach Scott Minckler gave a thank-you speech to the Blue faithful, who never stopped cheering. With the season over, the only task remaining is adding the team to the Conference Championship banner in the gym.

Softball*FCTS 17 – Rockport 1*

Earlier on Sunday, the Franklin Tech Softball Eagles vanquished the Rockport Vikings in the Division 5 Round of 32. Because the start time was one o'clock, there was absolutely no shade, and folks had to rely on umbrellas and visors to block out the sun.

The Vikes made some noise in the first inning. A couple of walks, a wild pitch, and a fielders' choice put runners in scoring position, but a tag out at home plate and a strikeout ended the threat.

And that was it. From that point on Tech took control, scoring 17 runs in just four innings.

"I should have put in the JVs for the whole game," coach Joe Gamache remarked in the third inning. By then he had replaced most of his starters with reserves, includ-



Turners Falls' Jackson Cogswell holds up at third base after slamming a triple during last Sunday's Division 5 Round of 32 tournament game against Ware Junior/Senior High School in Ware.

ing the pitcher and catcher. The bench players made the most of their time in the sun, scoring eight runs in the last two innings.

A dozen Eagles hit safely for Tech: two each from Skylei Lapan, Cordelia Guerin, and Hannah Gilbert, and one each from Kaitlin Trudeau, Shelby O'Leary, Kylee Gamache, Lindsey Taylor, Emma Petersen, Amelia Rider, Samantha Duncan, Kyra Goodell, and Alison George, with Taylor banging a triple and Guerin a double. Gilbert and Brayleigh Burgh shared pitching duties.

TFHS 11 – Notre Dame 0

On Monday, the Turners Falls Softball Thunder unseated the Lancers of the Academy of Notre Dame 11-0 in their Round of 32 game. The Lancers arrived with 10 players, which reminded folks of the regular season when Turners had only one reserve player. With the JV season over, Turners now had six, and some played in Monday's game.

After throwing three strikeouts of her own in the first inning, Madison Liimatainen whispered something about the left-handed pitcher, and then hit an enormous shot deep into the outfield. The fielders had trouble chasing it down, and Liimatainen rounded the bases for an inside-the-park home run.

In the second, Marilyn Abarua scored off an Autumn Thorton double, and Mia Marigliano followed suit with a double of her own. Liimatainen then cleared the table with another scorcher. This time the ball was played off the fence, the throw went high, and she made it home again on a triple and an error.

In the third inning the Thunder Ladies let loose, with Anne Kolodziej, Ella Kolodziej, Abarua, and Thorton all scoring. Marigliano hit a triple to the fence, but was tagged out trying to stretch it to an inside-the-park homer. Liimatainen

followed with a double and then scored, making the score 11-0.

There is a mercy rule in softball; if a team is ahead by 12 or more runs after their opponents' fifth inning, the game is called. In the fifth, with Blue leading 11-0, Holly Myers shot the ball over the fence. The center fielder snatched it but was carried into the fence, collapsing it. She retained possession, and the game went on.

Turners' defense kept the Academy off the scoreboard for the next two innings while their JV players took their turns at bat.

FCTS 10 – Lenox 5

On Tuesday the Lenox Maroon Millionaires came to the Eagles' Nest for a Sweet Sixteen playoff battle. This one could have gone either way: the last time the two teams met, in the PVIAC playoffs, Franklin outlasted the Rich Girls 3-0.

To add to the drama, the game had originally been slated for Wednesday but a last-minute scheduling conflict moved it up, creating a new conflict. Rows of vehicles lined the outer field as excited families made their way to Awards Night at the school, while Tech's three seniors had to give up their accolades to help their team advance in the playoffs.

The Millionaires drew first blood. The leadoff batter cracked a long double to the fence, and attempted to steal but was thrown out at third. The next two batters were walked and the third was hit by a pitch, loading the bases with one out. A sac scored a run before a ground out ended the inning.

Trudeau led off the bottom of the first with a base hit, and the next two batters drew walks to load the bases. Gamache then batted two runners home, and a sacrifice by Guerin gave the team a 3-1 lead. It could have been more, but a tag at the plate limited the damage.

In the second the Eagles would

score three insurance runs. Trudeau cracked a long single, stole two bases, and scored on a wild pitch. Gilbert hit an RBI double, then took third on the throw to home. She scored on a base hit, and Tech was suddenly ahead 6-1.

In the fifth inning Lenox began making errors and two more Eagles crossed the plate; they narrowed the gap to 8-5 in the sixth, but two walks and two Lilianna Inman RBIs doubled the Millionaires up 10-5.

Trudeau, who sacrificed her Awards Night, finished with four hits, two RBIs, a double and three stolen bases. Fellow senior Lillian Ross had one hit, was walked twice, and scored two runs. Gamache and Inman had two hits each, while Gilbert had a double and Gianna DiSciullo hit a single.

The win propels the Eagles into the Division 5 Elite Eight against the Georgetown Royals. The game is slated for 11 a.m. this Saturday at Penn Brook Elementary School, 47 Elm Street in Georgetown. Tickets can be purchased through GoFan.

TFHS 21 – Norfolk Ag 14

On Wednesday the Thunder defeated the visiting Norfolk County Aggies of Walpole by a touchdown, 21-14, in their own Sweet Sixteen duel.

"They can score runs," one of the regulars mused as the players warmed up. "They just beat Greylock 19-17." I've seen this team before against Franklin Tech. Norfolk can certainly score runs, but not always from base hits. Case in point: in Wednesday's game they would score many of their runs off walks, errors, and wild pitches.

In the first inning, time was called because two large dogs made their way onto the infield, playing with each other. After they were shooed away play resumed, and two walks and two base hits gave Norfolk a temporary 2-0 lead.



Turners Falls' Marilyn Abarua successfully bunts during Wednesday's MIAA Division 5 Round of 16 tournament game at Gary Mullins Field. The Thunder advance to the Round of 8 this Saturday after their 21-14 win over the Norfolk County Agricultural High School.

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MONTAGUE from page A1

in the process of negotiating a contract when Amherst “came back with a counter-offer,” according to Ramsey.

“The good news,” he said, “is that when we presented you with a slate of final candidates, there were two candidates on very equal terms, in terms of their quality and what they could offer the town.”

The two finalists Ramsey was referring to were O’Keeffe and Chris Nolan, currently the ATA in Deerfield. He said he had spoken with Nolan, who remains “very interested” in the Montague position.

Though no vote was taken, selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz said that he and Ramsey would meet with Nolan on Tuesday to negotiate a contract and bring it back to the board next week. The position will be available at the end of this month, when town administrator Steve Ellis steps down and Ramsey moves into his position.

The board also appointed a committee to find a replacement for town accountant Carolyn Olsen, who will leave her position in September. Members include Olsen, Ramsey, finance committee chair Francia Wisniewski, treasurer Eileen Seymour, director of assessing Karen Tonelli, public works office administrator Brandy Patch, and retirement board administrator Debra Underhill.

Ramsey said Olsen’s last day would be September 22, and that “at least a week of overlap would be good,” so the committee plans to meet in the coming weeks, advertise the position by June 20, and begin interviews in mid-July.

Deals and Steals

Monday’s meeting was the first since the May 21 town election, and the first order of business was a reorganization. Kuklewicz, who ran unopposed in the election, was re-elected as chair, while Matt Lord replaced Chris Boutwell as vice-chair. Boutwell became clerk. Lord provisionally agreed to become vice chair “to get [his] feet wet” and then replace Kuklewicz next year as chair.

Ellis gave an update on the progress of the transfer of the Farren property, the site of a now-demolished Catholic healthcare center in Montague City, to town ownership. He said that the transfer was not completed by May 31, the most recent target, but that the town “would likely see the closing documents on June 24,” if not sooner.

“It’s just that there are a lot of lawyers involved, and multiple boards,” he said.

The board voted to extend an agreement with Habitat For Humanity for the sale of a town parking lot on First Street, where Habitat plans to construct five or six affordable housing units, from this month until June 2025.

Additional time, Ramsey explained, is necessary for further study of contaminated fill discovered under the lot. “Hopefully [the contamination] will be small enough that the project is still viable,” he said. “Worst-case scenario, if it’s more extensive than we thought, it could remain a parking lot.”

Ellis presented a design for a large meeting room in the town hall annex, which would replace the room on the second floor in which the selectboard and other boards currently meet. His presentation came in the context of a hearing on

June 17 on renewing the town’s cable television license.

Ellis said that while Comcast, the town’s cable provider, would not pay for a new meeting room, it could help fund associated technology upgrades as part of its annual capital payments to the town and local-access station MCTV. Under the current license, Comcast subscribers in Montague are assessed a total of \$12,500 per year for capital improvements.

The board also voted to allow Kuklewicz to sign all the forms required for Montague to receive a \$4.92 million federal grant to help pay for the demolition of the Strathmore mill.

Cup Runneth Over

Ramsey presented a significant revision of the town’s strategy for addressing overflows containing wastewater and storm runoff – known as “combined sewer overflows” (CSOs) – into the Connecticut River. The problem, once common in towns with old sewer systems, has been mitigated by installing a “buffer line,” a four-foot-diameter concrete pipe that runs under Avenue A near Food City, which holds water after storms and slowly releases it to the treatment plant in Montague City.

A study by the engineering firm Wright-Pierce in May 2023 suggested that this buffer line “was not working well,” according to a memo in the meeting materials, and called for major modifications. The project was to be funded by a state “Rural and Small Town” grant of \$500,000.

A second study by the same firm this February, however, showed that the buffer line was working as designed, and that only a relatively inexpensive modification was needed at its entrance. The \$25,000 estimated cost would free up funding for other projects to address overflows.

Ramsey, echoing Wright-Pierce’s recommendations, proposed relining manholes in Turners and Millers Falls, a significant source of rainwater inflow into the sewers. He estimated that 51 holes could be lined with the money. The selectboard expressed pleasure with these developments, but questioned Wright-Pierce’s estimated fee of up to \$146,200 to design and oversee the manhole project. Lord said that the “pivot [to sewer lining] makes sense,” but that “it’s a good chunk of money to Wright-Pierce... that is not well-delineated.”

Ramsey suggested the town could reduce the cost by making the oversight position part-time and “relying on other partners” to assist in that role. The town has been working with the Worcester-based nonprofit RCAP Solutions to assist with wastewater projects.

Ellis, on the other hand, warned that the town has had conflicts with engineering firms in the past due to “projects that have gone awry” after limited oversight.

The board did not take a vote on a potential contract with Wright-Pierce for the manhole project, and Ramsey agreed to discuss project oversight with the firm and run any proposed changes by the grant office for its approval.

Energy Flows

Ellis briefly reviewed comments he had submitted on behalf of the town to state environmental officials and the Federal Energy

Regulatory Commission (FERC) in the latest phase of the relicensing application by the FirstLight hydro-power company.

The comments to FERC emphasized reducing the fluctuation in river levels above the Turners Falls dam to minimize embankment erosion, and called for the deadline for a historic properties management plan to be extended until a promised study of the affected sites has been completed.

The selectboard held a hearing on moving a telephone pole on Ferry Road 43 feet to the east, past a culvert being reconstructed this summer by the town, and installing a new pole on the western side of the road.

David Meagher, electric services designer from Eversource, said the reconfiguration would allow the town to install the new box culvert and move the pole out of a resident’s front yard. The board approved the relocation.

Other Business

At the request of RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto, the board voted to block off a portion of Center Street in Montague Center for a neighborhood potluck on Saturday, August 3 from 3 to 8 p.m..

The board also granted the use of public property for an unspecified “music event” at Peskeomskut Park from noon to 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 6.

“What kind of music is it?” Lord asked.

“I would call it an indie music festival,” said LoManto. (Wikipedia defines indie music, or independent music, as being “characterized by creative freedoms, low budgets, and a do-it-yourself approach to music creation, which originated from the liberties afforded by independent record labels.”)

Lord said he was “impressed with the variety of different types of entertainment that we have coming to Turners Falls.”

In the time allotted to “topics not anticipated,” Boutwell said he had received a complaint that turtles were being run over on Montague City Road, and a request that the town put up a “turtle crossing” sign.

Kuklewicz said he had encountered a turtle on Route 5 in Bernardston. “It was a big one,” he said. “I’m not sure where to grab this thing...” Eventually, he said, another person arrived who was “braver than I, and was able to usher it across the road.”

Ramsey said that during his time working with the conservation commission, that board has received many requests for turtle crossing signage. “It’s complicated, because there are a lot of areas in town where turtles cross the road at this time of year,” he said, and suggested the matter be sent to the con com for consideration.

“Maybe we can talk to the news outlets to get the word out,” Kuklewicz added.

Watch out for turtles. At the end of its meeting, the board held an executive session to discuss “the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.”

The selectboard’s next scheduled meeting will be held Monday, June 10.



LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF MONTAGUE CABLE TELEVISION License Renewal Proceeding

The Selectboard of the Town of Montague, as cable television license Issuing Authority under MGL 166A, S.1, and its Cable Advisory Committee, are jointly conducting a cable television license renewal public hearing regarding Comcast of Massachusetts/Virginia, Inc. on **June 17, 2024, at 6 p.m.** to allow the public an opportunity to comment on the Town’s cable-related needs. The meeting will be held in-person at Montague Town Hall, Upstairs Meeting Room, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA.

Please note that while an option for remote attendance is provided as a courtesy to the public, the hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law. Members of the public with particular interest in this hearing should make plans for in-person vs. remote attendance accordingly.

Remote access provided via Zoom at: us02web.zoom.us/j/89711128863 or dial-in: +1 (646) 558-8656 Meeting ID: 897 1112 8863.

The Montague Comcast license expires on August 31, 2025. Pursuant to the federal Cable Act, 47 USC 546, the Issuing Authority (Selectboard) conducts the public proceeding to ascertain the community’s cable-related needs and interests. Public comment is invited. The hearing is for the purpose of accepting comments and no final license issuance decisions are before the Selectboard at this public hearing.

For further information and copies of renewal records, if any, contact Walter Ramsey, Assistant Town Administrator, c/o Town Hall. By order of the Selectboard as License Issuing Authority.

INVITATION TO BID
Improvements to Montague Center Park

The Town of Montague is accepting sealed bids for improvements to Montague Center Park in Montague, MA. Bids shall be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly labeled “Improvements to Montague Center Park” and be delivered to the Selectboard Office, Montague Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, Massachusetts 01376. This IFB is offered per M.G.L. c.30, §39M and work is subject to Prevailing Wage Requirements.

Sealed Bids must be received by Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 1:00 p.m., at which time all bid packages will be opened and read at the Town Hall Annex Meeting Room at the same address listed above. No exceptions or allowances will be made for late submittals.

A bidders’ conference will be held on Wednesday June 12, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at Montague Center Park, 12 Station Street, Montague, MA 01351. Attendance is not mandatory but is strongly encouraged. The IFB is available at www.montague-ma.gov/BIDS. Registration is required. Once registered, any addenda or notifications will automatically be sent to the email address of registrants on record. Written questions can be submitted to the Project Manager, Jon Dobosz, at recdir@montague-ma.gov until Monday, June 17 at 12:00 p.m.

Qualified proposers who are Minority/Women/Disabled Owned Business Enterprises (M/W/D/BE) businesses are encouraged to apply. Other qualified proposers are encouraged to partner with disadvantaged businesses. A listing of certified disadvantaged businesses can be found at www.mass.gov/sdo.

The Town of Montague reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals in total or in part as they may deem in the public’s best interest.

Steven Ellis, Chief Procurement Officer

The Town of Montague does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or gender with respect to admission to, access to, or operation of its programs, services or activities.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wendell Prepares for Annual Town Meeting This Saturday Morning

By **JOSH HEINEMANN**

The Wendell selectboard met briefly, and only by video conference, on May 29 with finance committee members Megan Sylvia and Al McIntyre. One of their goals was to put the annual town meeting in its final form for posting by Saturday, June 1, seven days before the annual town meeting this Saturday morning, June 8.

Their other goal was to keep the budget within the limits of Proposition 2½, either through an override vote, a debt exclusion vote, or an infusion of money from the stabilization fund.

Article 22 on the town meeting warrant would apply \$260,000 from stabilization to reduce the tax rate. **Articles 9 and 10** would put \$15,000 from stabilization into the reserve fund, and use \$6,000 from stabilization to pay for the town’s independent audit.

Article 4, the town’s general operating expenses for FY’25 including town staff salaries, was set at \$4 million, still to be refined by the fin com. Debt service – for the relative new town buildings, the backhoe,

the Mahar High School renovation, the exterior door and window project at Swift River Elementary School, and townwide broadband construction – totals \$249,230.

Article 13 would appropriate \$246,122.31 from the special revenue fund designated for “Connect America Phase II” for FY’25 debt service on the broadband project.

Article 11 would appropriate \$743,852 from broadband estimated earnings and retained revenues for the municipal light plant (MLP) enterprise fund, and **Article 12** would transfer \$30,781 from the latter fund into MLP capital stabilization. **Article 14** would then transfer \$25,097 from the MLP enterprise fund into the town general fund, also for debt service on the broadband project.

Articles 27 and 28 would replace the appointed MLP board with an elected board.

Article 16 would raise and appropriate \$5,000 for fire department turnout gear, **Article 19** another \$6,000 for tree maintenance, and **Article 21** another \$5,000 to repave WRATS. **Article 23** would authorize borrowing \$53,000 for Swift River School interior doors.

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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Athletic Field Ask Grows Again

By GEORGE BRACE

At their meeting on Tuesday, Leverett's selectboard heard a renewed appeal for funding a project to overhaul the track and athletic field at the Amherst Regional High School. The board also heard from the ad hoc Field Building committee on the status of its work developing a plan for the historic, town-owned, property.

Track Changes

Leverett's representative to the Amherst Regional School Committee (RSC), Tilman Wolf, appeared before the board to relay a request from the RSC for more funding towards the improvement of the high school athletic field and track. Leverett, along with Shutesbury and Pelham, is a member of the Amherst regional school district, and has already authorized \$126,000 for the project.

Wolf said that broader interest from the public, which also uses the field, had led to the request for funding beyond what voters in the district had already approved. He informed the board that the RSC had a target completion date of the fall of 2025 for the project.

The RSC was considering three proposals, Wolf said, all of which would make use of natural grass rather than artificial turf, eliminating one source of contention from the original funding request. All three proposals would expand the track from six to eight lanes.

Wolf said the RSC had enough money in its current budget for one of the proposals, which would cost \$1.8 million, but that option would only provide limited improvement to drainage issues on the athletic field.

Option two, at \$2.33 million, would cover more extensive work on the field, while option three, estimated at \$4.2 million, included the more extensive field work and would re-orient the track from its current east-west axis to a north-south axis.

Further improvements, such as fencing and lighting, were not included in any version of the estimates but might still be added at a later date.

Wolf said additional funding commitments would need to be made by the end of June, and that the RSC would need the money in hand by September. He said he was won-

dering whether there was "any magic the selectboard can do" to come up with additional funds for either of the two more expensive options.

"There isn't," replied selectboard chair Tom Hankinson, but he added that he was supportive of the third option, and "okay with" the least expensive option.

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis said that appropriating funds would require either a special town meeting or an expedited grant from the town's Community Preservation Commission.

"Why not wait until next year?" asked finance committee chair Phil Carter.

Wolf said he would relay Carter's suggestion to the RSC, but that one reason to move quickly on the project was that the school's current seniors have never hosted a track and field meet due to the track's poor condition, and must host meets elsewhere. Another, he added, was that construction costs are rising faster than inflation.

Resident Richard Nathorst said he was "not in favor of doing anything," commenting that the town's residents, many of whom are elderly, are already having trouble paying taxes and the track was not part of the school's core curriculum.

Resident Silas Ball commented that it sounded like Amherst had let maintenance on the old track go, and that he wanted to be assured that a maintenance plan would be part of any of the proposals being considered.

Selectboard member Patricia Duffy said she felt the second option was "the least we could do," but that the new track needed to last.

Field Days

Members of the Field Building ad hoc committee expressed frustration with years of town inaction in coming up with a plan for the deteriorating historic property, and also with the status of the committee's own multi-year effort towards that end. The volunteer committee was charged in July 2022 with assessing the building's status, coming up with options for its future, and getting input from the community on what it would like to do with the property, but it has not yet crossed the finish line.

Committee member Silas Ball

said he "couldn't be more disappointed" with the way the building has been treated in the last 20 years, and that while the committee had taken "a few steps in the right direction," he also "couldn't be more frustrated" with its progress. "We haven't finished our charge," Ball said. "We're not done."

Committee member Don Robinson said the committee had "gotten a lot of work done" initially, but had not been "actively functioning" over the past year. "You can only kick the can down the road so long," he said.

Hankinson cited as examples of recent progress a recent successful perc test, and the discovery that lead paint remediation would be necessary if the building is to be refurbished, but he agreed the committee needed more information before coming up with options to present to residents.

Duffy noted that the committee still had grant money available for an architectural assessment, and suggested that once that was completed, it could move on to public forums.

Nathorst, who chairs the committee, said he believed it could add the assessment to its report and that, with the perc test now completed, it could "get the last third" of its work done this summer.

Robinson suggested that the board "keep a fire under us."

Hankinson suggested the committee come back with an update in 30 days.

Other Business

The board accepted the gift of a painting of the town center by local artist William Rathbun. Resident Barbara Alfange donated the painting, which board members described as "gorgeous" and "wonderful," and which is to be displayed at town hall.

The board signed Community One Stop state grant applications for a drainage project on Dudleyville Road and a "town center re-visioning."

The board approved a request from the 250th anniversary committee to make bathrooms in the town hall available during the anniversary parade on Saturday, July 6. The parade is set to begin at 10 a.m. at the intersection of Depot and Long Plain roads and pass through the town center, ending at the Leverett Elementary School.

Tip of the week ...

Boating enthusiasts, the season you've been waiting for is here! Remember that homeowners insurance does not automatically provide coverage for all boats. Check with your agent before heading to the river, lake, or sea.



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Security Cameras; Traffic Cop Policy; More Meetings

By KEITH WATERS

The Erving selectboard had a meeting Monday, June 3. It was relatively short, as they are getting ready for another meeting next week and a special town meeting (STM) later this summer.

In anticipation of the STM, the approval of the new town code of bylaws was discussed. It was agreed that there would be at least one meeting, if not more, before the STM so that townspeople could get some questioning done, to make possible an easier STM.

There are also issues related to the town development at Care Drive that need to be sorted out before the STM. These were raised, but put off until the meeting next Monday, June 10.

Also discussed but not settled was the town's new police traffic control personnel policy, which was given a second official read. Issues that came up this time related to the use of police vehicles by, and overtime pay for, traffic control personnel. These will be addressed further next week.

Under "settled this week" we

have the Intermunicipal Agreement for Cooperative Public Health Services. The town shares a school nurse with a few neighboring towns. This three-year agreement was up for renewal, and was approved.

Also approved was the procurement of improved security systems – cameras and access control – for the elementary school and the police station. The vendor, ENE of Canton, MA, offered a one-time price of \$245,189 and some recurring subscription fees. Town meeting has previously approved \$265,000 to cover these upgrades.

Dan Costa has finally been approved as an equipment operator for the highway department, a process that has been underway for a good portion of a year; funding was not found immediately but has been now.

The police station will get a new water heater it needs. It will be installed by Jamrog HVAC of Turners Falls for a price of \$9,285.

And finally, the board approved sending a letter of support to be included with the town of Wendell's application for state grants to repair the Farley bridge.

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Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*

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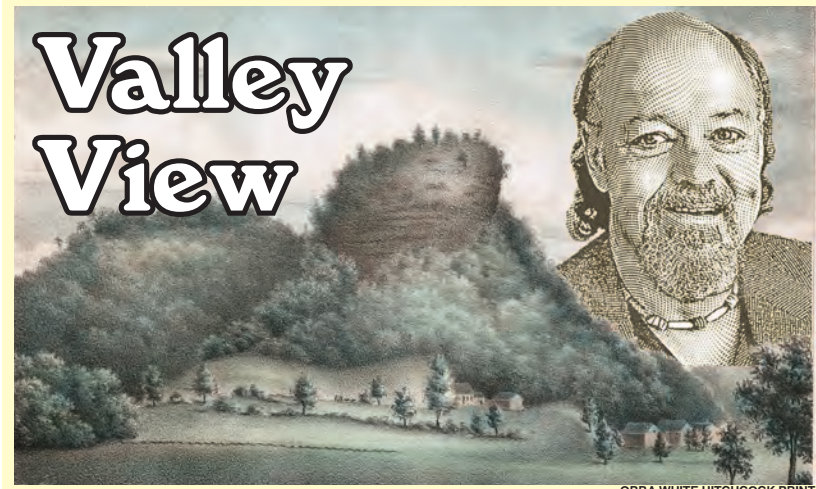
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WILLIAM HAYS PHOTO

FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORER.ORG OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER JUNE 6, 2024

Above: The irises on Prospect Street in Turners Falls do their thing.



Valley View

ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK PRINT

Not Bad: Shad's Little Surge

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – With fragrant pink weigelas in full bloom and mock orange buds opening into white flowers, I know the annual Connecticut River American shad run is near its end, typical with Memorial Day in the rearview.

Long ago were the days when I was among the eager anglers wading the margins of deep, narrow migration channels transporting these upstream-swimming anadromous fish to spawning grounds where they were born. I can't say I miss battling these strong fish that are fun to catch. Nope. As they say in Chi-co-pee (emphasis on the middle syllable), "Been dere, done dat."

Good ole Chi-co-pee, a mill and sports town where it seems every other dwelling contains an angler of some stripe. I've bumped into them on my favorite local trout streams – heaven forbid – as well as places like northern Vermont, western Maine, northwestern New York, and even freakin' Wyoming, for Chrissakes.

Of course, the Chicopee fellas don't refer to themselves as anglers. Uh-uh. They're just plain fishermen, old style, thank you. No need to honor gender-neutral political correctness. No sir. Not in Chi-co-pee, or even Chicopee Falls for that matter – where fishing likely dates back to soon after the peopling of our fertile valley some 15,000 years before the present.

This year's shad numbers, tracked weekly by the federal Connecticut River Coordinator's office in Sunderland, reveal that by recent standards, it's been a good year. Why not? We've experienced optimal river conditions for anadromous runs. Everything lined up to near perfection, beginning with a mild winter and little snowfall, followed by a favorable spring, without disruptive rain events unleashing torrents of

heavy, run-altering, fish-passage-way-closing flooding.

So, migrating fish had it easy this spring – a steady swelled flow and a gradual rise in water temperature, all favorable to spawning runs.

This year's run past the Holyoke Dam counting station looks like it will top 400,000 for the second time in 10 years, though it pales in comparison to the last one to do so – the 2017 run brought more than 537,000.

The best year on record since the counting began in 1967 was 1992, when nearly 722,000 shad passed Holyoke. Back then, state and federal officials manned several other valley counting stations to compute an annual total-river run, a practice that ended in 2017.

The record 1992 total-river count was a whopping 1.628 million, one of four recorded runs exceeding a million. The others, in declining order, occurred in 1983 (1.574 million), 1984 (1.231 million), and 1991 (1.196 million). Holyoke counts in the same order for those other three banner years were 528,000, 497,000, and 523,000.

In the six-year span from 2012 to 2017, an average of some 350,000 shad – rounded off to the nearest thousand – passed Holyoke annually. In the six years since, excluding this year's incomplete total, the annual figure dropped to 278,000. So this year's little surge is good news, considering threats of a warming planet on which sea levels and temperatures are rising along with Northeastern river temps that govern spawning runs and behavior.

Shad start running up the Connecticut River once its water temps reach into the 50s Fahrenheit. The run peaks in the mid-60s and ends as optimal spawning temps rise to 70. That's when shad stop their upstream migration and establish

see **VALLEY VIEW** page B3

BOOK REVIEW

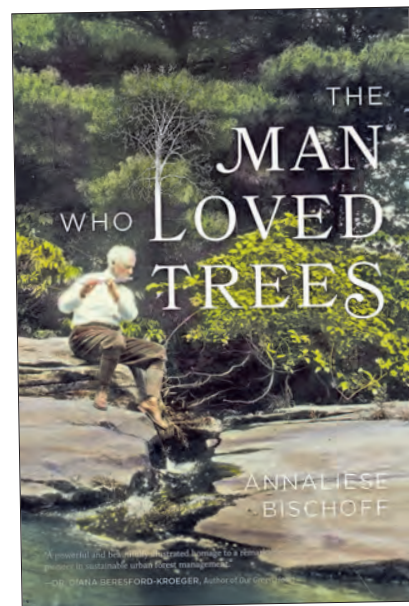
Annaliese Bischoff, *The Man Who Loved Trees*

By DONNA PETERSEN

LEVERETT – Frank A. Waugh's dream of publishing a book of his tree etchings has finally become a reality, though not quite as he planned. Eighty-one years after his death in 1943, Professor Emerita Annaliese Bischoff of the UMass Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning (LARP) department has taken up the mantle and published *The Man Who Loved Trees* (Köehler Books, 2024).

I spoke with the Leverett author, over the phone and at the Leverett Village Co-Op, to find out about the book and its subject.

Frank A. Waugh was born in 1869, raised on a Kansas farm, and in 1891 earned a bachelor's degree in horticulture at the then-Kansas State Agricultural College, now Kansas State. He went on to get an M.S. and published articles about planting suitable native species in Oklahoma. He then moved on to the University of Vermont in Burlington and researched fruit trees, earning an honorary "doctorate of



plums" while pursuing a Ph.D. at Cornell that he did not complete.

He produced a textbook on landscape gardening, and in 1902 he came to the Massachusetts Agricultural College, now known as UMass Amherst. He headed the horticultural program and created the landscape gardening program as well.

This is where Annaliese Bischoff enters the story decades later. She

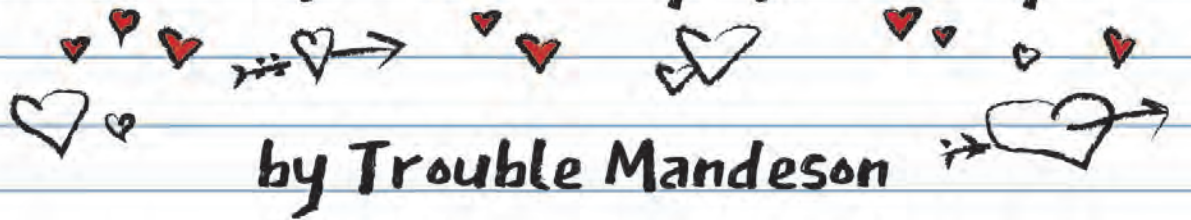
and Waugh had followed similar paths, decades apart. After earning a B.A. at Brown University and an M.S. from the New York State College of Environmental Science and Forestry, Bischoff's first academic appointment was at Kansas State, where Waugh had been a student. She ended up at UMass Amherst in 1980 as the first female faculty member in the LARP department that Waugh had founded.

"It was challenging," Bischoff said of that experience.

When she arrived at UMass, she knew nothing about Waugh, but soon learned of his work. As the 100th anniversary of LARP approached in 2002, she wanted to know more about Waugh, his academic work, the Frank A. Waugh Arboretum in the campus, and the etchings that he began making late in his career. She told me that Waugh "brought art to the homie boys in the department" he founded.

If you are familiar with the UMass Amherst campus you may have seen trees and shrubs with metal see **BOOK REVIEW** page B5

NOTES FROM THE HEARTFELT CAFE



by Trouble Mandeson

GREENFIELD – This month I'm writing about wild foraged plants. Besides the beneficial and tasty Autumn Olive berries that I wrote about back in October of 2021, I have occasionally foraged plants in my own backyard, those that presented themselves to me clearly and which I could easily identify.



MANDESON PHOTO

The author's field guide made it home from a recent workshop filled with leaves and stems, and copious notes to help her safely identify edible wild plants in and around her neighborhood.

I've made jam from rose and peony petals, plunged lilac blooms into lemonade pitchers to serve at backyard gatherings, and made little spruce-drop candies of a hard, sticky nature that taste like the old-fashioned horehound drops, slightly bitter, slightly sweet.

The bright green tips of the spruce and hemlock trees are very appealing with their soft, springy texture and citrusy, resinous taste, and are packed full of micronutrients and Vitamin C. They can be eaten raw in salads, sprinkled over desserts, or dried and ground to use as a seasoning on game meats and pasta dishes. They increase acidity and add brightness to food.

Fresh green tips can be made into a simple syrup used to flavor ice cream, sorbet, and candy. Flavored syrups like these are great with a couple of drops added to bubbly water to make a spritzer. I'd bet there's more than one recipe using muddled spruce or hemlock tips to make up a tasty cocktail or mocktail.

To make spruce or hemlock-infused sugar or salt, mix tips one-to-one with sugar or sea salt in a jar. Allow to sit out in the sun for a couple of months, then mix and strain out the needles. You'll end up with

see **HEARTFELT** page B4

Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

'CINNAMON'

Sweet Cinnamon came from a very tough neglect situation where she was housed with way too many other dogs. By the time she came to Dakin, she was very skinny and had day-old puppies with her. Despite her horrible physical condition, Cinnamon was a very loving mom and took great care of her pups.

The pups have been adopted, and now it's Cinnamon's turn to find a better life and a new home! She is very sweet and gentle. It's amazing how lovely she is, especially given her very tragic start to life.

If you're looking to spoil your

next dog, and want a pup who will truly appreciate the great things life has to offer, Cinnamon is ready to meet you.

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

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

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 Saturday, June 29, from 2 to 4 p.m.

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

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Valley Arts Mentorship Showcase*, mentors and mentees show their work. Through July 1. Opening reception this Thursday, June 6 from 5 to 8 p.m.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Indi-Visible*, photos by Alfonso Herrera-Neal and Lindy Whiton documenting migrant and immigrant farm workers in Western Mass, including field interviews; through

July. *Tom Swetland*, collage art, assemblage, mixed media, *papier-mâché* and junk sculpture around the themes of surrealism, psychedelia, dreamscapes, and conspiracy; through June 29.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *On Our Way*, paintings by Chelsea Granger, June 28 through July 31. Opening reception 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. Reception this Sunday, June 9, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Paintings*, by John Krifka, chronicle his move towards abstraction. June 6 through 29. Opening reception this Thursday, June 6, from 5 to 7 p.m.

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: *Soft Openings: Pictorial Textiles and Vernal Ephemera*, by Ruby Henry. Through this Saturday, June 8.

D'Amour Museum, Springfield: *Frida Kahlo, Her Photos*. Images from Kahlo's personal collection, which were locked up in a bathroom at the artist's residence for more than 50 years. Through September. *Look Again: Portraits of Daring Women*, woodcut and collage prints by Leverett artist Julie Lapping Rivera celebrating the achievements of women who defied the status quo. Through February 2025.

FACES & PLACES



MAGGIE SADOWAY PHOTOS

"On a morning walk on River Road in Gill," reader and proofreader Maggie Sadoway reports, "I met Donald Shebell of Riverside. From him I learned these Savage Farms fields were planted with future potato chips and irrigated with Connecticut River water."

"FirstLight's Northfield Mountain storage facility looms above the crops."



Senior Center Activities JUNE 10 THROUGH 14

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 6/10

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

Tuesday 6/11

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

Wednesday 6/12

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

Thursday 6/13

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

Friday 6/14

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

Tuesday 6/11

10:45 a.m. Chair Yoga
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 6/12

Foot Clinic by Appointment
9 a.m. Veterans' Help Hours
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Outdoor Yoga
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
4:15 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 6/13

1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 6/14

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

WENDELL

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

For Senior Health Rides, please contact Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

LEVERETT

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

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

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 6/10

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Pot Luck Lunch

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VALLEY VIEW from page B1 spawning lairs in the shallows. There spawning unfolds as females deposit eggs to be fertilized by males. At this stage of the annual run, shad are preoccupied with reproduction and will not strike anglers' shiny, sparkling offerings.

I'm sure local shad anglers have, over the past couple of weeks, been enjoying great success at Rock Dam in Montague City and many other popular Franklin County fishing haunts. The best Franklin County fishing is always a little later than Holyoke's, providing serious anglers with the opportunity to follow the run upriver and extend their recreational opportunities. Some devoted anglers, many employing boats, fish the entire month of May, and then some, by starting at Enfield Falls and following the run all

the way to Turners Falls.

Too bad the power company maintaining the Turners Falls fish-passage facilities doesn't take its role in the anadromous fish migration game more seriously. Improvements are sorely needed to optimize fish passage past the Turners Falls Dam. Yet, sadly, the power companies overseeing the operations have never strived for peak efficiency.

So, don't hold your breath awaiting impactful – and costly – adjustments aimed at improving poor anadromous-fish passage through the Powertown. Though power officials will continue feigning altruistic concern and giving the toothless plight good lip service, our warming planet will likely kill the shad run before the passage issues are ever resolved.



Montague Community Television News

Absolutely Free

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – Did you know that it is completely free for any community member to get trained to check out camera equipment from MCTV?

Much of our funding comes from Comcast, and on June 17 at 6 p.m. at the Montague town hall they will be holding a Relicensing Meeting to determine if the station will continue to receive this crucial financial backing. If you want to ensure that MCTV remains free and accessible to all, please consider writing us a letter of support, or even better, attending the June 17 meeting.

This week we have new videos from Fun Fest 2024 and the Montague selectboard. All MCTV videos are aired on Channel 9, as well as featured on the MCTV Vimeo

page. If you need help finding a video, don't hesitate to reach out.

If you have any ideas for films, MCTV is always available to assist in local video production as well. Cameras, tripods, and lighting equipment are available for checkout, and filming and editing assistance can be provided 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.

EVENT PREVIEW

McGovern's Second Cars & Coffee Show

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I wrote once about a car show that the Greenfield Garden Cinema was having due to having a *Fast and Furious* movie at the theater, so when I discovered the McGovern Chevrolet car dealership was having one, I decided to check it out.

The second annual "McGovern Cars & Coffee" event will be held this Sunday, June 9 from 8 a.m. to noon at McGovern Chevrolet, 54 Main Street in Greenfield. Last year the event ran from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

I talked about it with Rashka Manning Ross, who has been a salesman at the dealership for two and a half years. He made it sound like a pretty decent show.

"We have had everything imagined show up," Manning Ross said of last year's show. "We had an old Chevy pickup, every sports car you can imagine... We had a lot of red Corvettes. We had really nice red Camaros, and a rapid blue Camaro."

He also mentioned that 65 cars were at the event last year, and that

they "hope to have up to 100 cars" when it comes to who shows up this year.

The cars don't have to pay a fee to be a part of the event. "It's free – no charge to bring your car," Manning Ross told me. The reason they have this show is because it is nice and for "outreach – getting to know the community," he said. "McGovern is new here."

Last year, the only people there to enjoy the sights were the people who brought their cars to show. Manning said he wishes that "hopefully this year we have some [other] participants."

They will hold a raffle, like they did last year; the people behind the cars will get the chance to win different items like an oil change. "Some people brought some car artwork" was very successful. "People love it."

For this year, I was told, McGovern Chevrolet "will be bringing cars from our other dealerships – probably exotic cars." I wonder if maybe a Lamborghini will be seen at this show this time around. Who knows!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Courtesy Transport to Greenfield; Incarcerated Cousin's Ex; Menacing 'Sovereign Citizen'; Rumble at Hillcrest Homes

Monday, 5/27

8:15 a.m. Caller from Stevens Street reports that a large Australian Shepherd she was boarding in her home has gotten loose.

1:36 p.m. Motorist reporting sewer cap sticking up in the middle of Seventh Street near High Street. Officers put cap back on.

7:41 p.m. 911 caller requesting male be removed from Unity Street property. Officer providing courtesy transport to Greenfield.

9:40 p.m. Caller reporting tree down near Old Sunderland and Taylor Hill roads. Road is passable; message left for DPW to take care of it in the morning.

10:49 p.m. Three 911 calls reporting that a tree fell on wires on Taylor Hill Road and is now on fire. Transferred to Shelburne Control. Officer advises road shut down for the time being. Eversource on scene.

Tuesday, 5/28

11:06 a.m. Passenger refusing to get off bus at Third Street and Avenue A. Requesting officers. Female party got off the bus.

1:29 p.m. Dog sniff on Eleventh Street for possible warrant arrest of female who possibly fled scene prior to officer's arrival. Unable to locate.

1:36 p.m. Report of tree down blocking one lane of traffic at Old Greenfield and Meadow Roads. DPW advised.

1:54 p.m. Control requesting assistance with bicyclist vs. truck in Gill at Factory Hollow and Main Road. No injuries. Stand by until assistance arrives. Truck owner called 911 stating bicyclist left laughing, stating he has no money or insurance and he won't be found. Truck owner states he left scene as well. MPD officer canceled *en route*.

2:45 p.m. 911 hangup from Henry Avenue, transferred from Greenfield. No answer on callback. Contact made with involved parties. One party detained and transported to Greenfield.

3:31 p.m. Caller from Henry Avenue wants on record that her car was keyed during the previous incident. Advised of options.

3:33 p.m. Caller from Denton Street reporting generator leaking diesel fuel. Shelburne Control notified.

4:10 p.m. Walk-in from Third Street reports that someone entered her apartment over the weekend. Unknown if anything was taken. Advised of options.

5:24 p.m. Walk-in from Center Street reports harassment and theft of plants. Provided statement forms and civil options.

5:37 p.m. A 41-year-old Westfield man was arrested and charged with possession of a Class B drug with intent to distribute.

8:52 p.m. Caller reports

his cousin is currently incarcerated and his ex is at his house stealing items. Officer spoke with property owner, who advises the male and female do not have permission to be there. Both parties left for the evening; stated they were rearranging things and did not take anything.

Wednesday, 5/29

4:57 a.m. Caller from Henry Avenue states that she just received a threatening message that she would be killed with a tire iron. Officer will contact caller.

6:09 p.m. Officers at Montague Center post office waiting for parade to start.

7:09 p.m. Caller reporting a male party, about 6 feet tall and wearing a mask, filming people downtown and making people feel uncomfortable. Caller states when they asked him why he was there, he would not answer. All units tied up. Received second call reporting male party is harassing people out in front of the Chinese restaurant. Officer requesting more units. Officer advises suspect is a "sovereign citizen" who is trying to antagonize people downtown. Requests units stand by on Second Street.

Officer advised business owners what was going on with subject and to just ignore him; he was not speaking to anyone. Advised he does have the right to film. Received another call from Subway; advised them of same. Officer checked area and advised male party was now making his way toward the Pizza House.

8:23 p.m. Walk-in reporting a red sedan driving erratically at around 80 mph down Turners Falls Road. Caller states that when he came to the four-way intersection, the sedan was in the MPD parking lot, then took off again heading towards the high school. Advised the word "oops" was spray-painted on the back bumper of the car. All units tied up on an arrest. Referred to an officer.

Thursday, 5/30

7:42 a.m. 911 caller reports a silver Chevy Malibu operating erratically near Unity Park, passing a school bus. Last seen heading up Third Street. Unable to locate.

10:45 a.m. Caller states she is being harassed by a party who keeps knocking on her door and sending texts threatening to call DCF on her. Advised of options.

11:27 a.m. Party into station to report that yesterday they came in during an emergency call and spoke with a detective; reporting party and his wife were walking on Montague Street and were almost hit by a vehicle driving erratically. Detective had to leave in the middle of talking to the reporting party. He did provide a partial plate num-

ber. Report taken.

1:49 p.m. 911 caller reports her car is smoking on G Street. A TFFD truck was passing by, so she flagged them down and they stopped to help.

2:52 p.m. Caller would like on record that a silver Toyota pickup truck was speeding through the Food City parking lot and pulled up next to the caller. The caller rolled his window down and scolded the driver about speeding. The truck driver started calling him names and being aggressive. The caller drove away.

5:56 p.m. 911 call reporting neighbor disturbance on Third Street. Involved party in station to speak with an officer. Officer advised her of her options. Attempted to call original caller back; female answered and stated it was the wrong number.

6:28 p.m. 911 caller from Nouria states a female was kicking the gas truck and yelling, causing a disturbance. Party left in a red Ford; plate number provided. Driver of truck stated nothing physical occurred; just concerned about female being intoxicated. Unable to locate vehicle.

6:54 p.m. Caller from Second Street states there was a female squatting down in the backyard. States female left when wife opened door. Officer will be on lookout.

9:18 p.m. Caller from Second Street inquiring when the "disturbing the peace ordinance" goes into effect; states landlord has been using tools and playing the radio very loudly all day. Peace restored.

9:21 p.m. Caller from Seventh Street states there is a large group of people next door playing music really loud and using a microphone. Peace restored.

10:47 p.m. Report of vehicle playing loud music in the parking lot at Hillcrest Homes. Officers were in the area for a reported fight; services rendered.

11:05 p.m. Caller from Hillcrest Homes reporting a fight between five people. No weapons reported. Second caller also reporting fight. Involved parties left area in a black vehicle; last seen on Griswold Street. Victim refused any services. Investigated.

Friday, 5/31
12:45 a.m. Caller reports the four or five people arguing in the back lot at Hillcrest Homes. They left, and two were walking down Griswold Street with rakes and pipes. Officers located the two males on Griswold Street. The other involved male was not located.

12:41 p.m. Report of a large owl on Randall Road that may have been struck by a vehicle. Appears to be gravely injured. Someone brought the owl to the fire

department. Message left for person in Leverett who may be able to help.

12:42 p.m. Caller from K Street reports he found a Golden Retriever puppy with a broken leash. Called back and stated he took the dog to the shelter.

2:58 p.m. Caller from Avenue A states that there are suspicious people in the hallways taking pictures and possibly using drugs. Referred to an officer.

4:09 p.m. 911 hang-up call. Upon callback, party stated he was trying to cancel dinner reservations and his phone dialed 911.

5:13 p.m. A 25-year-old Turners Falls woman arrested on a default warrant.

11:49 p.m. Caller from East Main Street reports an intoxicated male is constantly ringing the doorbells and knocking on doors for an individual who does not reside in the building. Officer spoke with caller; male is no longer inside the building. Unable to locate.

Saturday, 6/1

2:05 p.m. 911 caller reports a rabid fox on a non-public beach on the Connecticut River below Millers Falls Road, accessible only by boat. EPO notified; they have no one in the area, but they will contact the caller and advise them to leave.

5:58 p.m. Caller from Grove Street thinks someone may have used her outdoor shower. Caller advised of options.

9:12 p.m. Caller reports people on Park Street are using a microphone and it's too loud, keeping her awake. Parties advised and will turn it down.

10:08 p.m. Noise complaint on Park Street; states there are about double the amount of people from the last hour and they are playing music too loud. Responding officer observes no music playing and about half the number of people as before. Will check back.

Sunday, 6/2

9:17 a.m. 911 caller states that he hit a deer on Federal Street. Car is damaged and deer is lying in the road injured. Vehicle was able to drive away. Deer was dispatched and moved to the side of the road; officer requesting MassDOT be contacted for removal.

3:19 p.m. Caller from Fifth Street states his neighbor is dumping his trash into the caller's dumpster. Caller states he keeps taking it out and leaving it in the neighbor's driveway. Neighbor called, stating he is being threatened by the original caller. Situation mediated.

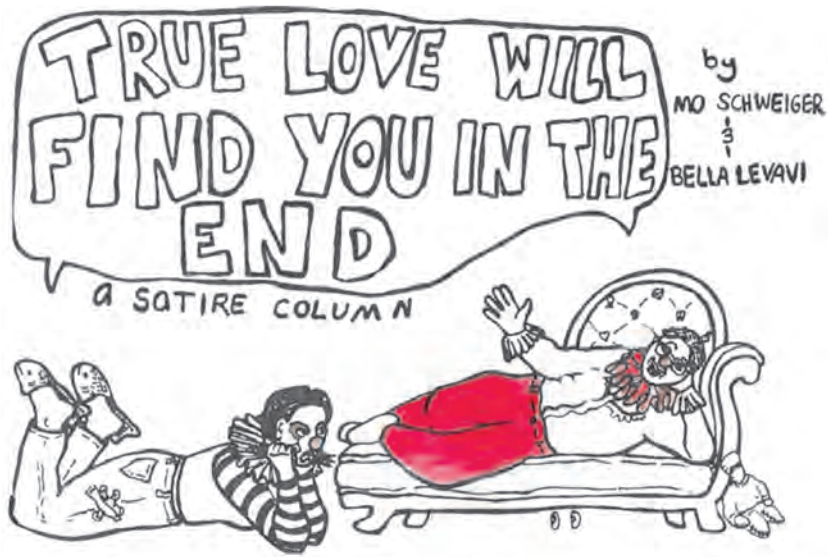
11:45 p.m. 911 caller reports that while he was stopped at the red light near the library on Avenue A, he heard a female scream obscenities and yell as if she were in distress. All quiet upon arrival.

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A Night at the Ballet

By MANDEE MUDBALLS

WHATELY – “Yes! Pound your vulva into the ground like it’s doing construction,” I shrieked as the six-foot-tall woman directly in front of me dropped into a split, thrusting her taint into my face.

“Wait, is that okay to say? Am I the male gaze?” I asked my friend, a quarter pound of ass still in my face.

The place: Club Castaway. Or, depending on who you ask, the Whately Ballet.

The occasion: ’90s Lesbian Night.

The company: The most rag-tag group of individuals you could possibly assemble – me; my butch roommate; my friend’s girlfriend, who I haven’t spoken with since we made out sophomore year of college and our nose rings got stuck together and drew blood; my other butch roommate.

The biggest question on my mind: Will I get ejected from the strip club, making it so that I cannot finish this review of my night and thus leaving *Montague Reporter* B-section readers in Turners Falls, Millers Falls, Lake Pleasant, Montague Center, Montague City, Gill, Erving, Wendell, and Leverett without knowledge of Lesbian Night at the Whately Ballet, if I accidentally touch the dancer while tucking a dollar bill into her G-string? I know the rules say “no touching,” but they also say “tip heavily” – *please clarify!*

I was surprised when my editor gave me the assignment to review Club Castaway/The Whately Ballet’s ’90s Lesbian Night. I was doubly surprised when he agreed to fund the mission in singular dollar bills. His justification? “Like, what should it really cost?”

Well, Mike, according to the budget I put forth, which took into consideration how much money I would spend if the strippers were ugly and how much money I would spend if the strippers were hot, I was slated to spend around \$50. Unfortunately, I arrived five minutes after the two-for-one entry deal from 7 to 9 p.m. ended – what can I say, punk time! – so I spent an extra ten dollars.

Please deduct it from my payment for this column. My sincerest apologies.

I was in good company at the Ballet, with the bar completely full and the tipping rail as full as my 401(k). (You can judge how much that is based on the fact that this monthly column is my only job.) There were four distinct groups of people sharing this experience with me.

The group first was the night-

ly male regulars, who likely don’t identify as lesbians and probably forgot to check the calendar. I have a feeling that their counterparts who knew what day of the month it was took the opportunity to run the 15 minutes up I-91 from their nightly haunt to Poet’s Seat Tower to graffiti more phalluses on it before it’s too late.

The second was a pair of *hey mamas* lesbians who – according to my friend’s girlfriend who had joined our party for reasons that I still don’t fully understand – were on a first date. “She needs this *bad*,” she shout whispered over the thrum of Beyoncé’s “6 Inch,” a song which in my opinion is too on the nose to be played at a strip club but bangs anyway.

As I watched the *hey mamas* leave together, hand in hand, I couldn’t help but marvel at the skill of the date planner, who took a lesson from those who bring their prospective lovers to an oyster bar on the first date, priming her match with visual aphrodisiacs galore.

The third group made up for the lack of clothing on the strippers by coming in stylishly glittery KN95 masks. Clearly first-timers, they were mocked by the staff for their timidity.

In my mind they were a true counterpart to my demeanor, which I was certain projected an air of sheer confidence, but their giggles and fish-out-of-water affect were echoes of my inner monologue, which in truth was saying “I bet they’re really smart as well” and “I just want them to know that I’m on their side!”

The fourth group were clearly the only ones having fun at this event. Their ringleader was my former Women’s Studies (SWAG for short) professor at my *alma mater*. Ironically, the film being played on one of the massive high-definition TVs that made the whole experience feel a little like a slumber party was *Bound* by the Wachowski sisters – a movie that she’d taught in the class I took with her about queer ’90s cinema.

She and her friends were throwing money like professionals, laughing like they truly felt comfortable in the room, and wearing head-toe Eileen Fisher. I surmised from their comfort that if one’s entire career is spent writing and reading feminist scholarship, the universe grants you a pass to objectify women once a year at Lesbian Night at the Whately Ballet.

The dancers on display ranged in skill levels, but, have no fear, those who were less proficient on the pole made up for that fact by having

HEARTFELT from page A1

what www.foragerchef.com says is “the soul of a spruce tree.”

To make a fir-flavored drink, you can add fresh green tips to a bottle of vodka or gin, no sugar needed, and allow it to sit for several weeks before straining and making your favorite drink.

This weekend I participated in a wild foraging workshop at a nearby farm. I’ve always wanted to learn more about foraging for edible wild plants, like the nettles and ramps I’ve been gifted or received in farm shares, but have never myself known where or how to find in the fields and forests around my neighborhood.

We met in the morning, a group of five led by our leader Laura of Sage Green Botanicals. We headed out towards the edge of a large community garden, surrounded on three sides by farmland and on the remaining side by a tangle of greenery which fronted a small creek.

It was hard to differentiate one plant from another until Laura began to point them out one at a time.

It was amazing to find so many plants I’d been seeing in my own yard for years without any idea of their edibility and healing powers. The first plant we came across was a hickory oak whose nuts taste like butterscotch. Hickory nuts are harvested in the fall, if you can beat the squirrels to them, and with their rich flavor and crunchy texture are great eaten raw or toasted. They can be pressed into cooking oil, ground into flour, and even made into pesto.

I took copious notes and plucked a stem or spike of each plant we discussed to press in my field guide. You really don’t want to make a mistake when making, say, hemlock tonic, only to discover, and hopefully not too late, that the hemlock in your backyard is of the poisonous variety. Poisoning happens, and one must be very careful when foraging and choosing to eat plants and mushrooms that are not correctly identified. Thousands are poisoned a year with some resulting in death.

Next, we encountered clover, a natural probiotic. It’s rich in estrogen and used for breast health. The white or red flowers can be eaten raw or cooked, and taste a bit like alfalfa sprouts. Be forewarned that too much clover causes indigestion, though soaking the



MANDESON PHOTO

One of the plants discussed in the workshop was goldenrod. It contains saponins, which are antifungal, and flavonoids, antioxidants which have anti-inflammatory properties.

flashing LED butt plugs on display through their G-strings.

The most engaging performer of the night waggled her finger around the room as if it was a curious PBR – available in tallboy form at the bar for only \$2 – in a game of spin-the-bottle. Luckily for you, she selected me as her target, probably because of my clear discomfort with the whole situation.

I want to thank her for sensing my awkwardness and inviting me into the space by shoving her naked breasts in my face and making me motorboat her. I can only describe the sensation as like the part of the car wash where mechanical arms

descend from the sky to wipe the suds off a vehicle, except there was no car, only my naïve face and a stripper’s healing bosom.

Around 10 p.m. I decided to leave, even though the famous lesbian adult film star who was slated to appear had yet to bust through the Ballet’s bright pink doors. I have a feeling that no one else that night saw her, though, because the crowd was full of lesbians who I am certain were tucked into bed with a cup of chamomile tea by 11.

As I approached the door to go, the same bouncer who’d scanned my entire body with a metal detector on my way in approached me

SPRING TONIC

Combine a handful of fresh leaves of nettle, dandelion, or peppermint with a teaspoon each of fennel seeds, cardamom, cinnamon, and fresh chopped ginger.

Steep a spoonful of the mixture in hot water for 15 minutes, strain and drink.

(From www.permaculture.co.uk.)



CATHY GOUGH PHOTO

Tonics are made by adding leaves and other plant matter to boiling water, simmering, straining, and then consuming. They can be added to drinks, drizzled on food, or taken to boost health and immunity.

leaves in water for an hour or boiling them before eating can reduce the effects.

Easy to spot because it appears often in my yard is broadleaf plantain, an anti-inflammatory. It’s one of several wild plants you can use to make an oxymel, a honey-sweetened, vinegar-soured tonic that’s great on bee stings and bug bites. The Greeks used this folk remedy around 400 BC.

We learned about oak trees as life sustaining, community-building plants. Their protein-laden acorns can be eaten or ground into flour. Oak’s astringent and antibacterial tannins can be used to treat diarrhea as it helps to constrict and dry tissues; a 15-minute sitz bath in oak bark will relieve inflamed hemorrhoids.

There was sorrel, a.k.a. oxalis, so rich in Vitamin C that eating one leaf a day gives you your daily requirement; cinquefoil in the rose family, a heart medicine that energetically opens the spirit; and nettle. Nettle can be left in boiling water overnight and then the liquid consumed to help with allergy season, its seeds can be eaten, and its root can be made into a tonic for male health. Whipping oneself with the stinging leaves is actually good for arthritis pain.

After nearly two hours I’d learned about goldenrod (allergies, urinary tract infections), dandelion (a diuretic), curly dock (blood cleansing), wild carrot (birth control; if consumed before sex it’s purported to “make the womb slippery”), mugwort (a dream plant), motherwort (relieves anxiety), and the divinely scented rose multiflora, a tiny white wild rose used to open the spiritual heart.

My field guide is bursting with greenery and hastily scribbled notes to use for reference when I’m foraging on my own.

I’ll leave you (ha-ha) with a recipe for a restorative and invigorating drink made from wild plants. This tonic combines spring plants with spices you may already have in your pantry.

Trouble Mandeson lives in Greenfield with her wife and their cat Peeps. She volunteers for local nonprofits, cooking for and feeding those in the community, and loves to write, copyedit, and create art.



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BOOK REVIEW from page B1
plaques identifying the species. This is part of Waugh's legacy: the approximately 8,000 specimens of more than 300 species that make up the Frank A. Waugh Arboretum that help green up the campus. Bischoff is an Arboretum Committee member.

"He was an amazing guy," she exclaimed; pursuing his etching art while teaching and writing. He attended the Eastport Summer School of Art in Maine and later studied the technique in Fontainebleau, France.

Bischoff researched his work on and off for over a decade, and in 2019 got a fateful call from an antique store owner in Palmer. The owner had boxes of etchings by a Frank Waugh, and wanted to know their worth.

Bischoff went to the store and bought 150 of the etchings, and in one of the boxes found a short prospectus Waugh had written for a book of his tree portraits. *Woo woo!* The book was soon to become a reality.

Bischoff did the diligent re-

search required, tracking down more of Waugh's etchings and speaking with his grandchildren. Waugh and his wife Alice had six children, all of them very accomplished in their fields.

The resulting book includes 38 etching illustrations, out of about 223 known works. The black-and-white images include trees from Japan, Berlin, Utah, London, Florida, and happily, the beloved giant sycamore in Sunderland. An article Waugh published in 1938 titled "Studies of the Nude" reveals his focus on showing the winter "bones" of trees, as his etchings also show.

Bischoff's slim, 137-page volume enriches Waugh's legacy, bringing attention to the ecological and artistic value of trees. The book contains a list of where some of the etchings can be seen or digitally accessed, and the endnotes include some interesting tidbits, and indicate the depth of Bischoff's research.

Reviews have been glowing. Dr. Diana Beresford-Kroeger, author of *The Global Forest* and *To Speak for the Trees* – and the subject of a *Montague Reporter* article last year

– called Bischoff's book a "powerful and beautiful illustrated homage to a remarkable pioneer in sustainable urban forest management."

Mark Resnick, co-author of the *The American Image: US Posters from the 19th to the 21st Century*, said that Bischoff "was destined to write this singular book. Waugh himself would doubtless say she got the story exactly right."

And Jack Ahern, professor emeritus of the LARP department, has called the book "a beautiful tribute to the works and drawings of Frank A. Waugh."

Bischoff explained to me that the book is self-published; laughing, she explained that it seemed no publishers were very "interested in a book about a dead white guy." But still she persisted, and her enthusiasm is obvious and infectious. She plans to donate all royalties to the LARP department's scholarship fund.

She also told me she is considering writing a book about Frank Waugh's daughter Dorothy (1896-1996), a talented artist in her own right who created posters for the US National Parks and became a children's book editor.

Talking to Bischoff, I found she is creating her own legacy. While still teaching honors classes at UMass – she is designing a junior honors course for 2025 on cultivating tree stewardship – she pursues various artistic endeavors: making prints from detritus and recycled stuff, ink from oak gall and black walnuts, and paper from shelf mushrooms. She helps curate a "Spice Tasting" display at the Leverett Library, where patrons can help themselves to spice packages and recipes, and she made the signs for the trails near the library and elementary school in town.

The Man Who Loved Trees was released May 21, and is reasonably priced. Paperback is \$16.95, hardcopy is \$24.95, and the EBook is \$7.50. It is available at the UMass Bookstore, Amherst Books, and more to come. You can also find it by searching at *Koehlerbooks.com* or by a direct link at www.bit.ly/497RvcF.

An official book launch will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 20 at Amherst Books, at 8 Main Street in Amherst.

Bischoff will also deliver a Zube Lecture in the LARP Department, titled "A Look at the Women in the Etchings of Frank A. Waugh," at the Olver Design Building at UMass Amherst at 4 p.m. on Thursday, September 19, as well as a talk on the book for the Amherst Historical Society at the Bangs Community Center in Amherst from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on Friday, October 25.

An exhibit about trees and the Waugh Arboretum, meanwhile, is being planned for April 2025 at the Olver Design Building.



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on June 5, 2014: *News from the Montague Reporter's archive.*

Off to the Finals

With a 10-1 semifinal win over Monson Wednesday, the Turners Falls softball team advances to face Pathfinder in the Western Mass Division III finals. Morgan Ozdarski helped power an 11-0 victory over Mahar on May 15, Mackenzie Phillips scored the game-winning home run against Southwick on May 24, and Emma Johnson showed up at the game against Frontier on May 19 with a surprise birthday cake for Coach Mullins.

Secret of the Ooze

The Gill selectboard spent most of its Monday meeting on the mys-

terious cause and growing impact of rising sewer rates.

The question the board, highway department, and Riverside residents have been grappling with since the flows to Montague began to spike about five years ago is: if Riverside residents pay to pump 13,400 gallons of clean water into the district each day, but pay to pump 27,100 gallons of sewage out each day, then where are the additional 13,700 gallons of untreated water coming from?

Since the meter, check valves, and pumps have all been replaced recently, that leaves inflow and infiltration as the possible culprits. The selectboard has smoke tested the system's 12,000 feet, used closed circuit TV cameras to inspect pipes, and checked for manhole leaks and flow increases after heavy rains. Nada.

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on June 3, 2004: *News from the Montague Reporter's archive.*

Pleas for Mechanical Cutting

"Do not apply these herbicides where we live," implored Turners Falls resident Chris Belmonte.

He was addressing representatives of Northeast Generation Services and Vegetation Control Service who had just spent 45 minutes explaining to about 40 residents that the chemicals the company uses are necessary to control vegetation along the power canal – and are safe.

Dale Moss, a G Street resident

and founder of People Against Toxic Herbicides, spoke up to say that much of the literature that says these chemicals are safe is published by the very companies that produce them.

Welders Shine

Five Franklin Tech students excelled in welding a six-inch diameter steel pipe to American Society of Mechanical Engineers' standards at the sixth annual NOTCH Pipe Welding Challenge. FCTS junior Elliot Sorensen of Erving was named the "Top NOTCH Welder" and won a \$500 scholarship.

150 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on June 3, 1874: *News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.*

Local Matters

Next – Picnics.

Clark & Chapman shipped a splendid Coleman Patent Turbine Wheel this morning, addressed to E.C. Walker, Fayetteville, Vermont.

A grand demonstration, clam bake and fish chowder is the order for June 7 at Mount Toby. A right royal good time will be had.

The German Methodists have succeeded in their undertaking to build a church so far as to advertise for proposals.

The Legislative Committee on Prisons, with their ladies, about twenty persons in all, paid us a visit in Kimball & Joslyn's big wagon last Thursday. They have been "visiting" Sheriff Wells. Why didn't you keep them, sheriff?

We don't know that Nate Allen has the largest foot in town, but will take our "Dary" he has the biggest boot. It is so large that

Starbuck & Co. had to make a special last for it, and Bartlett Bros. were two days painting it, to get a desired polish on the thing. Everybody can see it in front of the Farren House.

Geo. L. Manchester, the man who has been longest in business here, and has put in the steam and water fixtures for nearly every large building in town, is engaged in putting in the new hydrants ordered by the Fire District.

The County Convention of Good Templars will meet here tomorrow, and the duty of providing for them will devolve upon our people. The friends of temperance as well as those who love the good name of our town are appealed to for voluntary contributions toward the entertainment of the guests.

Are we to have a telegraph office? Correspondence has been opened with President Ogden, of the Western Union Telegraph Co., and it has been ascertained that they will put the line through to Turners Falls for \$500.

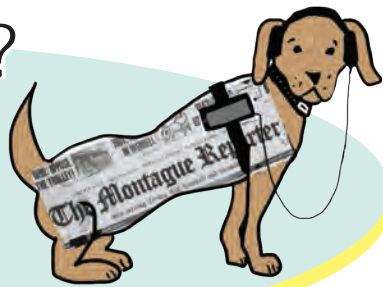


IMAGES COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

Above: Frank Waugh's April 1940 etching Cypress Swamp, Florida.
Below: Waugh's July 1942 etching David Grayson's Elm, Amherst MA.

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MEDICINE

Distinguishing Headaches

By CATHERINE DODDS, MD

TURNERS FALLS – A headache is one of the most common reasons to see a primary care doctor. There are many different kinds of headache, some of which are emergencies and some of which are very common. How to tell them apart? What a headache!

First, let's go through the scary headaches. These are the ones that make me think a patient should be evaluated in the emergency room:

- **Brain tumor/cancer.** This is a rare cause of headaches, but often when I ask a patient, brain cancer is their major concern when they get a bad headache. For a tumor to cause only a headache is unusual – tumors can also cause seizures, confusion, or weakness. Classically, headache from a brain tumor is worst overnight or early morning, but this is not seen consistently. A higher risk for those over 50 or with prior history of cancer.

- **Brain infection** (meningitis, encephalitis, brain abscess). The headache may be accompanied by fever, confusion, lethargy, or a stiff neck. Higher risk in patients with weakened immune systems.

- **Head trauma** causing bleeds inside or around the brain such as intraparenchymal hemorrhage, subdural hematoma, or epidural hematoma. Higher risk in the elderly and in people taking blood thinners.

- **Subarachnoid hemorrhage,** a bleed into the brain due to trauma or a ruptured aneurysm. Higher risk with family history of brain aneurysm, at a relatively younger age (40s to 60s).

- **Carotid artery dissection,** a tear in the wall lining of the major blood vessel from the heart to the brain. Headaches due to carotid dissection may be centered on the neck and side of the head, and often worsen with exertion.

- **Stroke,** caused by a blood clot blocking blood flow to the brain or by a bleed in the brain, and usually accompanied by changes in thinking, speaking, or movement/weakness.

- **Severe hypertension,** a blood pressure over 200/100 causing a headache that requires immediate blood pressure reduction to prevent a stroke. Higher risk with cocaine use.
- **Carbon monoxide poisoning,** particularly seen in winter with multiple household members affected.

- **Central venous thrombosis,** a blood clot inside the veins draining the brain. A higher risk after pregnancy.

- **Giant cell arteritis,** inflammation of the artery along the temples, which can lead to vision loss if not

diagnosed and treated promptly with steroids.

- Whether the cause of the headache is clear or not, emergency medical care is needed for any headache that is sudden and rapidly worsens – within one minute – to the “worst headache of my life,” a so-called “*thunderclap headache*.”

ER evaluation is also needed for any headache that involves fever, inability to move the neck, seizure, confusion, passing out, weakness, numbness, vision changes, or difficulty speaking. New-onset headaches over the age of 50 are also concerning, particularly in a patient with a cancer history or vision changes.

Most people with headaches do not need imaging. CT or MRI scans should only be considered if there is a sudden change in headache pattern, if headaches worsen despite treatment, or if there are other concerning symptoms, as listed above.

Next, the common headaches:

- **Migraine.** These affect 15% of people, and are more common in women than men. With a migraine, pain starts slowly and builds in intensity until treated, generally affects only one side of the head and can last for four to 72 hours. The headache is throbbing or pulsating, and can be quite severe and debilitating. Other symptoms include nausea/vomiting and sensitivity to light and/or noise.

A migraine may be accompanied or preceded by a sensory aura such as seeing lines or spots, or temporary stroke-like symptoms such as speech changes or weakness. Migraines generally start in puberty and cause ongoing headaches throughout adulthood, though their frequency may change over time.

Treatment is with medications such as ibuprofen, Excedrin, triptans, or rapid-acting CGRP inhibitors. Most migraine sufferers also find it helpful to rest in a quiet, cool, dark place until their migraine resolves. Migraines are prevented by taking daily prophylactic medications – many types are available – and by reducing triggers.

Episodes may be triggered by many things, and triggers can be highly individualized. Common triggers include certain food or drinks, such as alcohol, chocolate, cheese, caffeine, and aspartame; hormone changes in women, around the time of menstrual period or ovulation, or from taking hormonal contraception or hormone replacement therapy; environmental stimuli such as bright or flickering lights, strong smells, loud noises, prolonged exposure to sunlight, or changes in the weather or barometric pressure; physical and psychological stressors, such

as grieving a loss or changes in relationships, jobs, or housing, or a crisis or period of high-intensity activity; or changes in habits, such as travel with changes in time zone or altitude, changes in work schedule or sleep patterns, skipping meals, dehydration, or new exercise patterns (for instance, varying from minimal to intense exercise from week to week).

- **Tension headache.** These affect 25% to 40% of people, and are more common in women, younger people, people with insomnia or depression, and people with a family history of tension headache. These start slowly, with tension spreading from the temples or the neck to the entire head, and the pain generally affects both sides of the head. Pressure and squeezing sensations come and go in waves, sometimes described like wearing a vise grip for a hat.

These headaches last anywhere from 30 minutes to several days, and will usually go away on their own but sometimes require medications such as Tylenol or ibuprofen. Prescription muscle relaxants and pain relievers can also be used. Prevention focuses on posture and work ergonomic changes, stress reduction, stretching, and changing out old pillows or mattresses to improve the alignment of the head and neck. Some people also see a chiropractor, massage therapist, or physical therapist to help with chronic tension headaches.

- **Medication overuse or rebound headache.** This usually happens as a consequence of having tension or migraine headaches, and taking too much of the over-the-counter medications to treat them. The only treatment for an overuse headache is to stop the medication, and only take it for fewer than 10 days per month if choosing to restart.

Often a different medication is used to manage symptoms in the meantime, as these patients generally have severe daily headaches by the time they seek care, and may also have withdrawal symptoms from the medication they have been overusing. The highest risk is associated with Excedrin or Fioricet, a medium risk with ibuprofen, naproxen, or triptans, and the lowest risk with Tylenol.

Finally, the unusual but non-emergent headaches:

- **Cluster headache.** Rapid pain around the eye that escalates within minutes, with a deep, constant, explosive, severe pain focused on the eye. Always one-sided. These usually last 15 to 30 minutes but can persist for several hours.

- **Hemicrania continua** is a similar one-sided headache centered on the eye, forehead, or temple, but is

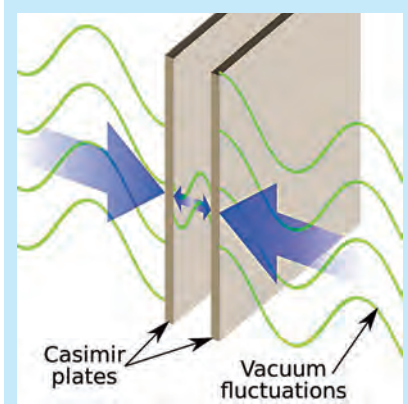
FRONTIERS

Zero-Point Energy And the Casimir Force

By SPENCER SHORKEY

MILLERS FALLS – The fabric of space itself is bubbling with an enormous amount of energy, sometimes referred to as the omnipresent “zero-point” energy of the universe. Nobel Prize-winning physicist Richard Feynman once described it this way: “One teacup of empty space contains enough energy to boil all the world’s oceans.”

This energy presents as short-lived electromagnetic fluctuations, which in 1948 were theorized by Hendrik Casimir and Dirk Polder to produce a noticeable force between parallel plates of specific materials.



Parallel plates are mutually attracted to each other by the Casimir force.

Steven K. Lamoreaux and colleagues published a key study in 1997, “Demonstration of the Casimir Force in the 0.6 to 6 μm Range,” in the *Physical Review Letters*, which showed the Casimir forces were measurable.

In the early 2000s, work on the quantum “electron-tunnelling” phenomena by Garret Moddel’s research group at University of Colorado, Boulder revealed a pathway for extracting energies derived from the Casimir force.

Moddel’s team has been steadily iterating their devices in the time since, and in the last five years has published a number of papers and patents detailing the development of their devices. Their 2021 paper in *Physical Reviews Research* titled “Casimir-cavity-induced conductance changes” demonstrates the success of their device. In

constant and longer-lasting, and responds to indomethacin. Both cluster headache and hemicrania continua are often accompanied by eye redness and watering, a stuffy or runny nose, swelling of the face, ear, or eye, facial sweats, and restlessness.

- **Activity-related headaches.** For example, headaches may be triggered by cough, exercise, sex, cold exposure, or when falling asleep or

this study, Moddel and colleagues show how their solid-state nanoscale device can generate nanoamps of current at microvolts of potential.

Although their device produces only a small amount of energy, Moddel’s team theorizes that stacking hundreds of silicon wafers, each embedded with billions of these zero-point energy devices, could drastically increase the power output. Such devices would achieve a power density of about 70 watts per square meter.

To put this in perspective, while this power density is lower than what solar panels typically generate on a sunny day, it represents a significant step for harvesting energy purely from the vacuum of space – energy that is potentially unlimited and can be harnessed anywhere, anytime.

Garret Moddel’s work is still in the developmental stages, but it’s already showing how quantum phenomena like the Casimir effect might one day be as common in our energy systems as batteries and solar panels are today. This exploration into the quantum vacuum could lead to an era where energy is not only abundant, but also sustainably sourced from the fabric of space itself.

At the moment, Moddel and his team are working to secure funding to scale up and mass-produce these devices. In some interviews he has suggested that raising funds may prove difficult for non-technical reasons; since his technology’s aim is the production of continuous streams of free energy, it would undermine an energy generation and transmission industry that thrives on scarcity.

This challenge mirrors the difficulties that Nikola Tesla faced over a century earlier, when J.P. Morgan ceased funding Tesla’s wireless energy transmission devices, famously stating “Where do we put the meter?”

This article was written about 80% by our Science Page editor, and 20% by ChatGPT 4.0.

waking up, i.e. transitions between sleep and wakefulness.

- **Headaches due to other underlying medical problems.** For instance, headaches may be caused by mild head trauma (concussion), neck arthritis or disc disease (cervicogenic headache), sinus infection, obstructive sleep apnea, or congenital skull abnormalities (Chiari malformation).

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



THURSDAY, JUNE 6

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

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

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

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

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Bunnies, Rope Trick, Cheap City, Fugue State*. \$. 7 p.m.

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

The Drake, Amherst: *Tony Trischka*. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

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

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Tori Town, Holyoke: *Silvie's Okay; rage, honey; Sleep Destroyer*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls:

Echoes of Floyd. \$. 8 p.m.

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

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Quabbin Valley Pro Musica*. \$. 4 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Gorilla Biscuits, Restraining Order, The Path, Slob Drop*. \$. 4 p.m.

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Tula Vera, Bruiser and Bicycle, M.I.B.B.L.E.* \$. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Gemma Lawrence, Nell Sather, Waterbug*. \$. 7 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Itasca, PG Six, Anthony Pasquarosa*. \$. 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Jennie McAvoy, Orlen Gabriel & Avery, Pat & Tex LaMountain*. Free. 6 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Marasca, Amber Wolfe Rounds, Ben Richter*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

Leverett Village Co-op, Leverett:

Little House Blues. Free. 6 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Film, Popul Vuh: The Creation Myth of the Maya*. \$. 6 p.m.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Betty LaVette*. \$. 7 p.m.

Club Castaway, Whately: *Squirt: Western Mass' Sexxxiest Pride Party* feat. *DJ Kashmere Champagne*. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Misfit Prom* feat. *The Salty Heifers, Carol Devine & the Mighty Fine*. \$. Parade starts at 6 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The B-52.0s, DJ Just Joan*, more. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Burly Girlies, McAsh, The New Limits, RVR, Melovictoria, Marianne Toilet and the Runs*. \$. 7 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Richard Chase*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Loculus Studio, Holyoke: *Tyler Rai, Olana Flynn, Kryssi & Wednesday*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Tori Town, Holyoke: *Frogs, Radical Joy, Dalton Moon, Cinema Stare*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

SAT-SUN, JUNE 15-16

Cheshire Fairgrounds, Swanzey

NH: *Goose, Greensky Bluegrass, moe., Pigeons Playing Ping Pong, Dopapod, Sierra Hull*, more. See northlandslive.com.

MONDAY, JUNE 17

Nova Arts, Keene: *Haley Heynderickx*. \$. 7 p.m.

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, JUNE 21

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

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

Bishop's Lounge, Northampton: *Noah Kesey's Magic Band, Hey Cowboy, Magick Lantern*. \$. 9 p.m.

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

FRI-SUN, 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.

looking forward...

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Sen Morimoto*, more TBA. Free. 5 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

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

SATURDAY, JULY 6

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Cousin Greg, Cycles Inside, Daniel Gay, Belltone Suicide, Federico Balducci, Hardcar, Marie Carroll/Nat Baldwin, Mibble, Noise Nomads, Scald Hymn*, more. Free. Noon.

FRIDAY, JULY 12

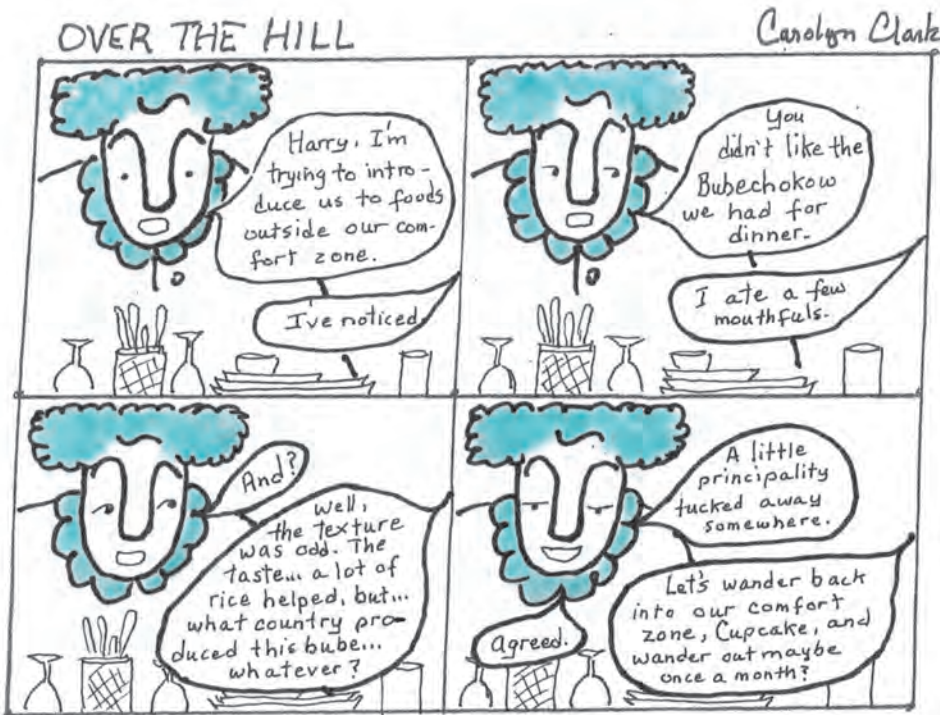
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *KRS-One*. \$. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31

Tree House Brewing Company, Deerfield: *Rhiannon Giddens*. \$. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Bunnybrains, Nod, Michael Slyne*. \$. 6:30 p.m.



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Jonathan Bodenstein topped the Adult division on Friday in a family cart already proven as a winner once by his brother.

By BELLA LEVAVI

TURNERS FALLS – The Soapbox Derby concluded this weekend with 19 brave participants – kids, teens, and adults – hurtling down the First Street hill adjacent to Unity Park in homemade carts of various shapes, sizes, and colors.

Jonathan Bodenstein, 20, clinched the first-place medal in the Adult category, racing down the hill twice with a combined time of 44.89 seconds. Eight-year-old Zeagan Stafford followed suit, winning the Youth category with a combined time of 45.53 seconds for his two runs.

Fifteen-year-old Myra Glabach, who raced in a cart raising awareness about chronic recurrent multifocal osteomyelitis, secured the Teen award, although she was the sole contender in her category.

The Montague Soapbox Derby, an almost-annual race, raised approximately \$5,000 for the Montague parks and recreation department’s programming scholarship fund. Participants climbed into homemade “soapbox carts” equipped with steering systems and brakes to race down the large hill adjacent to the Connecticut River.

The race was canceled last fall a week before its scheduled date due to insufficient preregistrations.

In an interview with the *Montague Reporter*, adult winner Bodenstein shared that this race has become a family tradition. He joined the ranks of Soapbox Derby winners racing in a cart built by his grandfather and brother.

“I enjoyed seeing the community come out for the event. Everyone was friendly, and the creativity of the carts was impressive,” Bodenstein said. “I hope it continues for many years.”

His brother Brian, who won the race in 2022 with a combined time of 45.52 seconds, couldn’t make it on

race day, so Bodenstein took his place. He mentioned that in previous years, his younger brothers had also competed. Despite having family members participate in the race in the past, this was Bodenstein’s first year attending the event.

Bodenstein’s cart consisted of a “good amount of sheet metal,” he explained. His grandfather enlisted the help of a welder friend to keep the cart together. Before racing the cart this year, Bodenstein tested it down a big hill near his house to ensure it wouldn’t fall apart during the event.

Bodenstein, a Northfield native, works at Walmart and Crumpin-Fox Golf Course and attends Southern New Hampshire University when he isn’t speeding down hills on homemade contraptions.

He has always been competitive, participating in track and field and playing football during his high school days. He suspects his love for speed might have originated from his competitive sprinting days.

“I enjoy speed,” Bodenstein said. “Shout out to my grandpa and brother for making it. I’m glad I got to ride it down the hill and have fun with it.”

It was also the first time racing in the competition for youth division winner Stafford. Hailing from the adjacent village of Millers Falls, Stafford used a cart borrowed from his brother’s friend.

“I started enjoying speed as a baby when my dad pushed me down on my little bike,” Stafford explained. “And I really like going the fastest.”

When asked about his experience going down the hill, Stafford described it as “fun.” Regarding his win in his category, he said he was “happy” and plans to compete again in the future.

Bodenstein echoed Stafford’s sentiment. “I plan on coming back next year,” he said. “It won’t be easy – I am bringing the competition.”

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Turners Falls Athletic Club Announces Scholarship Winners

TURNERS FALLS -- The Turners Falls Athletic Club Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the following five students, who have been selected to receive our scholarships for their academics and contribution to sports at Turners Falls High School.

The awards are in the amount of \$2,000 each, payable to the individual student for their second semester at the college of their choice, for a total of \$10,000.

The recipients are: Joey Mosca of Turners Falls, Anne Kolodziej of Turners Falls, Ella Kolodziej of Turners Falls,

Taylor Greene of Montague, and Owen LaValley of Gill.

We would like to congratulate the scholarship winners and thank all the student athletes who applied; we wish you all the best of luck in the future.

We especially want to thank all of the active TFAC members whose donations make these scholarships possible. This is the first time in the history of the TFAC that we have been able to award a total of \$10,000 in scholarships, and with this group we have awarded over \$132,290 to more than 200 students since 1954.

The Turners Falls Athletic Club: Supporting Sports & Academics for the Youth of Turners Falls Since 1934.

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www.wendellhistoricalsociety.org/orsh.html

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

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