

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 22 – NO. 38

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1.50

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Town to Take Fresh Swing At ‘Calming’ Village Traffic

By JEFF SINGLETON

Two issues dominated Monday’s well-attended Montague selectboard meeting: “traffic calming” measures to reduce danger from speeding motorists in Montague Center, and cannabis odor at the industrial park.

Speeding through Montague Center on Main Street, a concern which the town has attempted to address frequently over the years, was on the agenda in the form of a proposal by town planner Maureen Pollock to apply for a construction grant under the state’s Complete Streets program.

Pollock explained that the program is designed to improve safety for pedestrians, bicycle riders, those using public transportation, and motorists. Since it began in 2016, it has funded work in Montague, including in Montague Center.

Pollock thanked residents who attended a public input session last week or contacted her directly, through email and in person at the Village Store, to complain about speeding traffic. She then reviewed a proposed construction project which included measures to slow traffic, expand bike lanes, move the

see MONTAGUE page A7

INVESTIGATION

Corporate Cash Still Flows Toward Rep, Despite Pledge



A loophole in progressives’ vows to turn down corporate PAC donations means trade association PACs are still giving campaign cash to McGovern and others.

By DUSTY CHRISTENSEN

WASHINGTON, DC – In 2019, US representative Jim McGovern made a pledge that made headlines across the region: he was done taking money from corporate political action committees. As the chairman of the influential House Committee on Rules, he became the first committee chair in the US House to make that commitment.

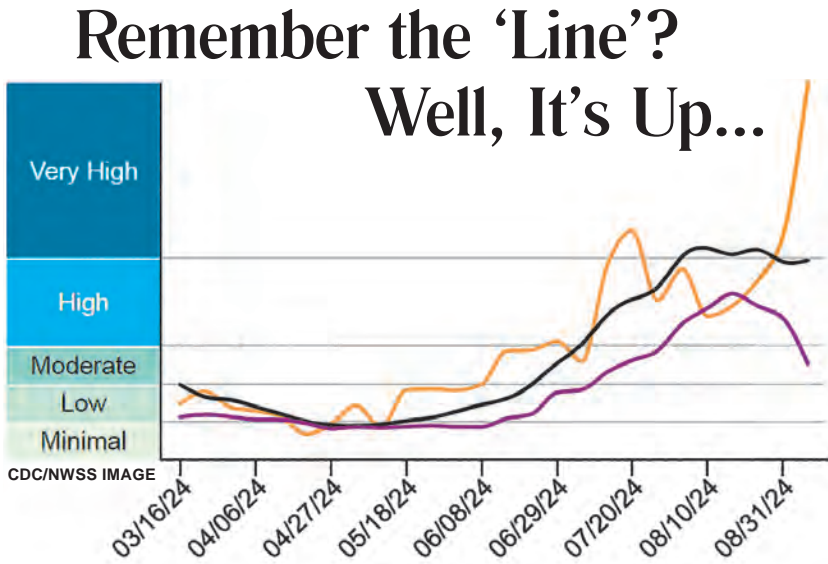
A member of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, McGovern has long spoken out in favor of campaign finance reform. When he made his announcement in 2019, he wrote in a CNN article that one of his first speeches in Congress was about how “unregulated contributions were threatening to undermine

our democracy.” Going forward, he said he would still take money from political action committees, or PACs, representing labor unions, but he said at the time that he was done with corporate PAC cash.

“Our system is rigged to favor those at the top,” McGovern wrote. “And I believe the perception of corruption, even where it doesn’t exist, must be addressed if we’re going to restore faith in our government. My constituents want me to lead by example – and I will.”

However, federal records show that while McGovern is keeping to that pledge to avoid corporate PAC money, cash from business interests has continued to trickle into McGovern’s campaign coffers this

see CASH page A8



This chart from the Centers for Disease Control’s National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS) website compares COVID-19 levels in Massachusetts sewage (orange, 14.92) with regional (purple, 3.79) and national (black, 7.88) levels. The viral level is “Very High.” The most recent data was from September 7. The state Department of Public Health website says “There has been a delay in the reporting to DPH of wastewater sampling results taken in September, due to a technical issue with the vendor conducting the laboratory tests.” Yikes! Plan accordingly.

Mobile Homes, Last Bastion of Rent Control, See Requests For Big Hikes

By SARAH ROBERTSON

SPRINGFIELD – In Massachusetts, it is illegal for a city or town to regulate how much a private property owner can charge for rent – except at mobile home parks.

In 1994, state legislators narrowly passed the Rent Control Prohibition Act, which dissolved municipal rent control boards and made local regulation of rental rates, or the price of services provided to tenants, illegal. Mobile home parks and publicly-subsidized housing were excluded from the ban because they tend to house some of society’s most vulnerable: the elderly, disabled, or poor.

Residents at mobile home parks typically rent land, which comes with water, electricity, and sewer hookups, and own the homes they park on it.

In Ludlow, Orange, and elsewhere across the state, rent control boards are arbitrating bitter struggles between landowners seeking rent increases and residents who say they fear being priced out and losing their homes. The housing advocacy organization Springfield No One Leaves (SNOL) is helping tenants at several parks in western Massachusetts organize to fight rent hikes.

“Manufactured home parks are really one of our last truly affordable homeownership opportunities,” SNOL director Rose Webster-Smith told the Reporter. “People who built these communities should be allowed to stay in these communities – they shouldn’t be priced out.”

Last week, residents of the West Street Village Mobile Home Community in Ludlow rallied with SNOL members outside the Springfield housing court ahead of a hearing to appeal the town’s approval of a 142% rent increase.

see RENT page A5

A Growing Program at Gill



The leafy greens growing in the school garden will soon end up on lunch trays.

By BELLA LEVAVI

GILL – Gill Elementary School didn’t just win a blue ribbon for their potatoes and beans, a red ribbon for their herbs and kale, and a white ribbon for the tallest sunflower at the Franklin County Fair out of nowhere.

The school is in year two of a five-year plan for its Farm to School program, making tangible strides to bring agricultural education to the classroom, cafeteria, and community, thanks to local efforts and a recent \$3,000 grant from the Whole Kids Foundation, a national nonprofit.

“The most important thing to

teach the kids is to feel connected to the land and realize just how lucky we are to be in this place with such access to bounty,” Sorrel Hatch, a parent, volunteer, member of the Farm to School Committee, and owner of the nearby Upinngil Farm said in an interview.

Jess Groneman, another school parent and Farm to School Committee member, explained that the program started after several people with the same idea came together. Hatch had already been volunteering at the school for years, teaching students about farming, when Groneman approached the administration with a proposal to add

see GROWING page A4



Garden club members Leslie and Mila prepared snacks for the club on Tuesday. “I like to eat the crunchy beans,” Mila reported. “They’re green.”

High School Sports Week: Kills and Aces

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – The Turners Falls field hockey team snapped their winless streak this week, while the Franklin County Tech soccer boys halted their losing streak with a tie. Turners volleyball won another close match, and Tech’s volleyballers went 2-0 while their field hockey team suffered their first loss. In football, Franklin Tech sent McCann back to the Berkshires.

Field Hockey

FCTS 2 – Amherst 0
FCTS 4 – West Springfield 0
TFHS 1 – Mohawk 0
Belchertown 4 – FCTS 1
TFHS 5 – Mahar 5

Last Thursday, the Franklin Tech Field Hockey Eagles defeated the Hurricanes of Amherst 2-0 in an epic defensive battle. I found a pretty good vantage point where I could watch both field hockey and the boys’ soccer game simultaneously. With two captains riding the bench, Tech needed to win both close battles.

see SPORTS page A6

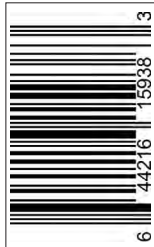


Turners Falls High School’s Madi Liimatainen excelled during last Thursday’s 3-2 victory over the visiting Mahar Senators with 19 aces, 11 kills, and four digs.

A Few Clowns Short Of A Circus

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The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August 2002

Rolling Initiative

On November 5, Massachusetts voters will be asked whether to grant the state auditor oversight of the legislature (Question 1); allow students who failed the MCAS test to still graduate high school (Question 2); let Uber and Lyft drivers engage in collective bargaining (Question 3); legalize personal possession of psychedelic mushrooms, mescaline, ibogaine, and DMT (Question 4); and require employers to pay service workers minimum wage (Question 5).

We tend to take the availability of this process for granted, but ballot initiative was not established in Massachusetts until 1918, a year some historians and many vampires would consider quite recent.

It was adopted at a state constitutional convention in 1917. One of its main opponents at that convention was a man named Albert E. Pillsbury of Wellesley, who had served as the attorney general of the state. Pillsbury was also a prominent anti-lynching activist and a founding member of the NAACP – in fact, he drafted its bylaws.

In a stern speech at the convention arguing against the initiative, Pillsbury described a contest between “the believers in constitutional representative government on the one hand and socialistic democracy on the other.”

He condemned what he called “the absurdity of committing the work of direct legislation to an electorate too ignorant or indifferent to take care of the selection of their own local representatives,” and warned that the ballot initiative would lead to “government by the most active and clamorous faction, a little socialistic oligarchy, controlled by half a dozen men, or women as it may be, for which the name of democracy is nothing but a false and criminal alias.”

Pillsbury predicted it would “emasculate the Legislature and make it a mere collection of puppets sitting in *terrorem* under shadow of the initiative and referendum.”

“Almost a third” of the state’s people, he pointed out, “are still alien but on their way to the franchise. We know how far industrial workers are under the influence, not to say the control, of their leaders, who preach to them the gospel that labor and capital are natural enemies, that they are the victims of corporate greed and the Legislature under its control.”

Pillsbury’s faction of Republicans did not succeed in preventing the initiative, but they did make

it significantly more complicated and cumbersome before it passed.

In their first decade with this new weapon in their sweaty paws, the enfranchised masses of Massachusetts did not seize control of industry from the propertied class, though they did successfully pass two citizen-initiated laws.

The first, in 1920, allowed for the sale of cider, beer, and wine. It passed by a slim 1% margin.

And the second, in 1928, with the approval of 63% of voters, allowed sports games on Sundays.

A trickle of twelve more citizen-initiated laws went through between 1932 and 1978, and in 1980 the process gave us the tax reform laws now known as Proposition 2½. Since then there have been another 30 successful instances of direct legislation in the state.

But if you happen to find yourself in a voting booth on the 5th of November, ask yourself this:

Why didn’t we ever set our sights a little higher?

If you think you’ve read the above text before, you probably did – it’s a lightly updated re-run of our lead editorial on October 13, 2016. Our other editorials that month discussed the pipeline protests at Standing Rock and the debate over the Turners Falls High School “Indians” sports logo. Voters would go on to approve Question 3, banning the sale of eggs from caged hens, and Question 4, ending cannabis prohibition.

“2016 will go down in history books as a year of rupture in American national politics,” we wrote on November 3. “The gravity and intensity of this year’s presidential contest seem likely to leave deep marks, which will serve as reference points for years to come....”

Fast-forward to October 29, 2020: “The last four years have been mostly terrible, but we didn’t plunge into any actual world wars. We should count our blessings. The next four may well be worse – or better. Americans have learned a lot of lessons during this recent ordeal. Maybe we’ll have an opportunity to put them to good use.”

And now here we are again, trapped on the merry-go-round. If a Republican were president, Democrats would be in the streets right now demanding zero-COVID policy and an end to military support for Israel. Instead, the brightest vision they have to offer the masses is four years of President Harris – and maybe, just maybe, legal DMT.



Malcolm Hatch Crosby constructs a low dry-stacked stone wall at the Upinngil Farm in Gill. He is the youngest of the three Hatch siblings who have grown up on the land the family has farmed since 1987.

Letters to  the Editors

Meyer Piece Bad

It was disappointing to see the inflammatory and one-sided “Perspective” of the annual canal draw-down on the front page of the September 12 edition of the *Montague Reporter* rather than as a guest editorial. It would have been the perfect companion piece to Mark Lattanzi’s letter, “Getting Beyond ‘No’.”

There is no question that hydropower impacts river health, and regulatory annual maintenance activities are part of that impact. Annual safety inspections of the canal’s structural integrity require the canal be drained. Those costs are quite rightly borne by the current owners of the hydro facility. In addition, FirstLight Power continues to be the largest taxpayer in the town of Montague.

I would like to see the documentation for the claim that “In other states – on other rivers – industry pays compensation to the public for any annual killings such as these. Each species and each fish lost at corporate hands has an actuarial value, one that gets quantified and repaid in compensation.”

As a retiree of FirstLight, and former compliance administrator, I am unaware of other hydro facilities being charged annually for the impact of maintenance activities.

The Clean Energy and Climate

Plan’s goal that Massachusetts achieve Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 may or may not be achievable or realistic. However, I am grateful that our legislators recognize the severity and impact of climate change and the need to rely less on fossil fuels and imported power.

Massachusetts has already retired all of its nuclear and coal plants and several oil-fired generators. Natural gas plants currently provide more than 40% of electricity generation in the state, and some of those are being phased out. Hydropower continues to be one of the most flexible forms of renewable energy, and very critical to the stabilization of the grid. The independent system operators responsible for managing the grid recognize the importance of hydro assets.

There are protests over new commercial wind and solar facilities, not to mention fierce opposition to battery storage facilities and hydro relicensing efforts. All the while, the demand for electricity continues to grow.

Variable generation plants – solar and wind – are not dispatchable like conventional power plants. They generate when it is sunny or windy, regardless of the demand for electricity at the time, and any surplus electricity produced needs

Civil Marks?

Thanks to Lee Wicks for the article about scams (September 12, *ElderConnect*, Page B2).

Most of this I already know, but I hadn’t thought about how many of us were taught a degree of courtesy in handling telephone calls that has potential to be used to scam us.

Good advice throughout!

**George Drake
Leverett**

The editors respond:

Of the 42 sentences in Mr. Meyer’s article, two pertained to the Northfield Mountain storage project. Eight were about the river’s “bypass stretch,” from which water is diverted into the power canal. The other 32 were about conditions in the canal during the annual draw-down, mostly his first-person observations of fish dying.

We took at face value Mr. Meyer’s assertion that elsewhere this type of impact on habitat requires compensation to the public, and are very interested to hear that this might not be correct. The Reporter asked him to provide examples of the policy he describes, and received an auto-reply indicating he will not be checking email until after our press deadline. We will update our readers in a future edition with the results of this inquiry! – Eds.

Published weekly on Thursdays.
*Every other week in July and August.
No paper the fourth week of November,
or the final week of December.*

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Twenty-seven artists submitted designs this year to our call for art for the Special Wrapping Paper Edition. Our judges have met and determined seven winners – six adults and one youth.

We would like to congratulate (*drumroll please...*) **Linda Aubry, Daphne Board, Roxanne Boyd, Sophia Elizabeth McKusick, Vu Nguyen, Soren Temple, and Jeanne Weintraub** on having their cool designs picked for our wrapping papers. Weintraub is now a two-time winner in this contest, having placed previously in 2020.

We will share more about these winners and their artwork in the weeks leading up to the publication of the Special Wrapping Paper Edition on November 28!

LifePath is looking for volunteer help in the following areas: benefit support, grocery shoppers, money management support, and Meals On Wheels drivers.

If you have some free time to help, visit their website at lifepath-ma.org/volunteer or call (413) 773-5555. LifePath is headquartered in Greenfield and provides a variety of support services for elderly and/or disabled folks throughout the county to live independently.

The LAVA Center in Greenfield will host a **community roundtable discussion of the Farm Bill**, and the ways it impacts our lives

in Western Massachusetts, this Friday, September 20 at 6 p.m.

The federal bill is up for reauthorization on September 30, and there are major differences between political parties on issues like SNAP benefits, price supports, and environmental protections. It's an important and complicated piece of legislation covering agricultural and food policies, and you can learn about the impacts with Doug Selwyn, who will moderate this discussion. For more information, contact info@indivisiblegreenfield.org.

Wendell Old Home Day will take place this Saturday, September 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Like the town's Alt Prom, this home-grown event is a funky expression of local talent and creativity. There are 40 vendors slated to be at this year's event.

Wendell Blast, a "multigenerational funky-ponic band" consisting of trombones, flutes, drums and other instruments, will perform, and the word is that anyone is welcome to bring an instrument and join the band as they perform "When the Saints Go Marching In" in B-flat and "I'll Fly Away" in E-flat for the parade.

Players will convene at the town's north common at 10:45 a.m. and the parade, which will feature a float with Donna Horn's dragon, starts at 11 a.m. Wendell town crier Kathy-Ann Becker will lead the way.

We also received a note from Ed

Hines of the Wendell Historical Society about an **interesting bronze plaque** found in the home of the late Anna Hartjens, now owned by Cece- lia Aldrich, which will be at the Historical Society's exhibit at Old Home Day. "You have to see this amazing piece of history!" Hines wrote.

The plaque measures 12 inches by 24 inches and weighs 20 pounds, and contains the names of Chas. M. Ballou, Ozro D. Baker, and Lewis W. Bowen, Wendell selectmen in 1910. Adjacent are the names C.M. Underwood, J.D. Howe, and H.U. Wakefield, who were selectmen for the town of Orange.

1910 was the year the Athol-Orange power plant was completed, and Hines speculates that the plaque may have originally been located on the new bridge that was part of the project.

The **jazz group Ask Me Now** will give a free performance next Friday, September 27 at 6 p.m. at the Peskeompskut Park bandshell in Turners Falls. The group, with vocalist Frances Rahaim, pianist James Argiro, Dominic Poccia on reeds, and George Kaye on bass, offers timeless jazz standards, blues, Brazilian and "sophisti-pop." Bring chairs, blankets, and picnics for an evening at the park.

The rain date is Sunday, September 29 at 2 p.m.

The Montague Public Libraries invite community members to celebrate **Good Neighbor Day** next Saturday, September 28, from 2 to 5 p.m. at Unity Park in Turners Falls. Enjoy an afternoon of free family activities, learn about what's going on around town, and meet community partners from the Brick House Community Resource Center, the Great Falls Discovery Center, the Montague Public Libraries, and more.

Attendees will be able to check out live animals from the Zoo at Forest Park with "Wildlife on Wheels," while Brie of Brie's Balloons will twist free, biodegradable, balloon animals. Live music will be provided by the local daughter-and-dad punk band the Rocking Puppies, and light refreshments will be served.

Apex Orchards in Shelburne will host a **Gathered Farms harvest festival** on Sunday, September 29, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be arts and crafts and free activities geared towards kids and families, with apple and cider tastings and cider donuts. CISA will be giving away 100 pick-your-own bags to the first 100 kids to visit their booth. These special, child-sized bags are for this event only.

Greenfield Garden Cinemas will show the iconic **movie Easy Rider**, a throwback to 1969, on Sunday, September 29 at 6 and 8 p.m. in honor of the Greenfield High School Class of 1969 reunion. Directed by and starring Dennis Hopper, the counter-culture motorcycle classic also stars Peter Fonda and Jack Nicholson.

Reunion members are offered free admission, and the general public is welcome to purchase tickets.

Local activists involved in Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution (FCCPR) are holding an **online auction of 40 works** by professional artists and crafters to raise money to put up local billboards directing people to

learn about the dangers of the Heritage Foundation's "Project 2025" (project2025.org/policy).

Funds will also go to the Movement Voter Project, which focuses on youth, people of color, LGBTQ+ voters, and other communities in key battleground states. Bidders can participate in the FCCPR auction, which ends next Sunday, September 29 at 8 p.m., at givebutter.com/c/FCCPR-Auction24/auction.

LifePath's next Healthy Living workshop on Zoom, "**Movement, Breath and Voice Techniques for Those with Chronic Conditions**," will be held Monday, September 30, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Respiratory therapist Bonnie Robert will discuss managing and living with COPD. Speech language pathologist Caitlyn Gannon will teach vocal hygiene, breathing and voice techniques, and voice and chair yoga. Register at lifepathma.org to receive a link.

Register now if you are interested in a **Basic Drawing for Adults** class at the Leverett Library. Instructor Mary Schreiber will guide your experimentation with various media with demonstrations and examples. Learn a new skill, or refresh an old one.

The six sessions will be held Wednesday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to noon, starting October 9. Materials will be provided. Call (413) 548-9220 with any questions, and sign up at tinyurl.com/LevLibdraw.

Are you a **zine maker, collector, or reader?** There is an upcoming regional zine fest in North Adams on October 12 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Western Mass Zine Fest is held at Mosaic Arts Space in that town, and for you makers of zines, the organizers are still looking for vendors and tables are free.

To find out more or register to table, go to tinyurl.com/WMZINE.

Applications are open now for the 2025 round of **local Cultural Council grants**. These grants support local arts, cultural, science and humanities projects, and are offered to residents of (or for events in) each of our coverage towns.

These town Cultural Councils provide funding for projects such as, but not limited to, exhibits, festivals, field trips, performances, short-term artist residencies, workshops, lectures. Organizations, schools, and individuals can apply.

The application deadline is at 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, October 16. You can find more information at www.massculturalcouncil.org, and set up an account to submit an application to your local Cultural Council at massculturalcouncil.smartsimple.com.

ArtSpace in Greenfield invites artists to **submit to a community art show** titled "Forward" which will be on exhibit from January 17 to February 28, 2025. The works should capture the essence of the word "forward," as in evolution, change, movement, and the endless possibilities held by the future.

All creatives, including poets, musicians, and sculptors, are encouraged to apply. Submissions are open now through December at tinyurl.com/artspaceforward.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

SEEKING APARTMENT!

Woman of a certain vintage looking to rehome in a one-BR apartment starting in October, November, or December.

30-year Montague resident, occasional writer for the *Montague Reporter*. First floor preferred, and reasonably affordable. I'm responsible, am a current homeowner, and can do pet care!

Please contact at chestnuthilldog@gmail.com. Thank you!

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w/ Amirthanayagam
FRIDAY, SEPT. 20 • 7pm

A HAPPENING: LEVIATHAN
hosted by
Cloudgaze Productions
SUNDAY, SEPT. 22
6pm-8pm

MOVIE NIGHT
Todd Haynes
Superstar: The Karen
Carpenter Story
w/ shorts by
Harry Smith &
Jane Campion
FRIDAY, SEPT. 27 • 7pm
66 AVENUE A • TURNERS FALLS

A SPIKY EXTERIOR

"Poems are made by fools like me / But only God can make a tree," writes Chip Ainsworth, quoting Joyce Kilmer. "Schoolkids learn early not to touch the spiked pods that protect chestnuts.... There was a horse chestnut tree in the schoolyard at Old Deerfield grammar school, and that's how I became mystified by those spiky balls dropping off the limbs." (This one, a sweet chestnut, is edible!)

CHIP AINSWORTH PHOTO

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9/11 & 9/25 Hooks and Needles
Fiber Arts Club 6-8pm
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9/12 Still Life Social Club
6-8pm BYO materials \$10

9/13 Open Mic for Writers 7-10pm
featuring Zoe Tuck! \$10 donation

9/14 Riso Workshop! Make your own
Stationery! 12-3pm \$60

9/19 & 10/13 Figure Drawing!
BYO materials 6-8pm \$150

9/20 CONCERT! Magick Lantern,
Bonnie & Ben Hersey 7pm \$15

9/21 From Comb to Candle- How
to make hand Dipped Beeswax
candles 12:30-3pm \$38

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Wed-Fri 12-5pm & Sat 12-3pm

GROWING from page A1

farming and local food to the curriculum.

“I thought I would have to be leading the efforts, but everyone was already in,” Groneman said. She described principal Walter Huston as enthusiastic about starting the program, and it turned out that Molly Brooks, the Gill-Montague district’s new food services director, had already spoken with Greenfield schools about their Farm to School initiative when the wheels began turning.

Four Gill Elementary School staff members attended a three-day seminar at Shelburne Farms in Vermont, home of the Institute for Sustainable Schools, to create an action plan for the program’s first five years.

“This has grown to be something I wasn’t even expecting,” Huston said.

Huston said that the program has a three-pronged approach: curriculum, cafeteria, and community.

For the curriculum component, volunteers, including Hatch, go into the classrooms and lead field trips to farms, teaching students about agriculture and healthy food choices. This is especially practical because Upinngil Farm borders the school property, making a visit there a quick trip.

The school also features one crop each month, which it calls the “Harvest of the Month,” to teach and let the students taste local produce.

“Before, I was a rogue agent volunteering sporadically,” said Hatch. “Now, I have a good connection with teachers and the principal, and I am doing more and more with them.”

Huston said he hopes to expand the connection between farms in the area and the school. He plans to bring students to Martin’s Farm in Greenfield this year to learn about composting.

Strides in the cafeteria include efforts to bring more fresh fruits and vegetables into school lunches and breakfasts, composting, and moving away from styrofoam and plastic receptacles.



Left to right: Jessie, Brett, Bryson, Declan, Sorrel, Heidi, Oggie, Leo, Mila, Ahysa, August, and Jenay, with beans, corn, and squash. “My favorite thing to plant was the corn,” August said, “because we got to climb in the arches.”

The school also participates in the federal Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program to help bring produce to the cafeteria.

Groneman said that the school has faced some difficulty getting fresh fruits and vegetables to the students due to being down a food service staff member. The district is currently searching for one part-time cafeteria staff member to help prepare the fresh produce.

For the community component, the school now hosts a garden and outdoor club. Every Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. families and community members, led by Hatch and Gill paraprofessional Faith Rand, come out to work with students on the garden of raised beds next to the school.

“I’m extremely proud of our garden,” Huston said. “Everyone says, ‘Oh my god, this is incredible.’”

Typically, the interviewees recounted, the garden gets overgrown in the summertime, leaving little teachable, interactive curriculum

available on the site. Thanks to the garden club, the garden was maintained this summer and now provides students with new opportunities, along with fresh garden snacks, this fall.

Hatch explained that the club’s involvement goes beyond the raised beds, with members teaching students about the larger edible landscape on the school grounds and helping them explore the many forest trails surrounding the property.

“We are making good strides and making progress, staying on track with the plans we made at Shelburne Farms,” Groneman said.

Along with the Whole Kids grant, Gill’s Farm to School program received an additional \$500 grant from the Greenfield Garden Club last spring, and the school plans to apply for more grants this year. According to Huston, the district is also looking into creating a similar program at Sheffield Elementary School in Turners Falls.

“I hope we can keep it up,” said Hatch. “It’s been a very positive thing.”

AT LARGE

Schell Game: Crossing Over the Bridge

By CHIP AINSWORTH

EAST NORTHFIELD – Thirty-six million dollars doesn’t get you much in the bridge-building business these days. In three years, the cost to replace Schell Bridge and build an adjoining park and playground has risen from \$28 million to \$61.63 million.

Schell Bridge opened in 1903 to accommodate rail travelers coming to town for overnight stays at the grand Northfield Chateau near the golf course, or to attend religious conferences in the 2,300-seat auditorium at the Northfield School for Girls.

As the tourism industry dwindled, the bridge was used mostly by residents north of town as a shortcut over the river to the dump or to get to Vermont. The 515-foot span eventually fell into disrepair, and was closed for safety reasons in 1985. Two decades later it was resurrected, if in name only, by the Friends of Schell Bridge, whose goal was to save or replace the historic structure.

Through their efforts, enough funding was raised to build a new Schell Bridge – or so everyone thought. Three years ago at town meeting, voters approved money to pay for right-of-way access. As for the rest, 80% of the projected \$25 to \$28 million cost would come from a federal highway program, and 20% from the state.

Alas, said town administrator Andrea Llamas, “It ended up costing way more than they thought.”

The project was recently rebranded as the Pauchaug-Schell Bridge Greenway as part of a push by grant development director Leslie Roberts to help Northfield’s



A public event last Monday called attention to a renewed push to rehabilitate the bridge.

tourism industry.

Give her an A for effort – she has pumped out press releases and fact sheets, and on September 9 she teamed up with Llamas to co-host a walking tour with state senator Jo Comerford, representative Susannah Whippis, historical commission chair Bee Jacque, selectboard member Heath Cummings, Friends of Schell Bridge chair Kathy Coutu, and more than a dozen others.

They convened at the base of the bridge, where Roberts and Llamas held placemat-sized maps of bike routes and a rendering of the Schell Bridge project site. “Come all the way down and you can see the beautiful view,” said Roberts.

Two days earlier Roberts, highway boss Tom Walker, and other volunteers had cleared away a veritable jungle of overgrowth to provide the view of New England’s longest river arcing past the Pauchaug boat ramp on its inexorable journey

to Long Island Sound.

Roberts invited J.B. Mack, the assistant director of the Southwest Region Planning Commission in Keene, to describe the sort of activity that would occur with the new crossing.

“This will create some great biking and pedestrian activity,” Mack said, later adding: “The whole idea of the meeting was to get some momentum going again. It’s kind of sad you have one part of town that can’t get across the river to the other part of town.”

Relying on the old proverb that a bird in hand is better than two in the bush, Roberts and Llamas are spearheading an effort to build a bridge with the resources they already have, plus a few million.

“The goal is to lower the gap,” Roberts replied by email. “If [the state] agrees to let the project move forward with a less expensive bridge design [and] the gap becomes \$5

million instead of \$25 million we can succeed by cobbling together smaller grant applications.”

Mack said he thought the approach was feasible: “Without all the bells and whistles, I think it’s probably possible.”

Roberts has posted an online poll asking residents if it’s okay to mothball the original design for another, less expensive alternative. As of this writing she has received 33 responses, and is hoping for at least 150 to account for roughly 5% of Northfield’s population.

“So far, over 70% are supportive no matter which design is selected,” she said.

“The bottom line is we want a bridge,” said FOB chair Coutu. “We love the idea of having a bridge.”

After almost two decades, the fog might finally be lifting from under the Schell Bridge.

Correction/Clarification: My column about the June 25 Northfield selectboard meeting in our July 10 edition (*Northfield Has Itself a Tea Party*) incorrectly attributed a quote to selectboard member Bee Jacque. Jacque denied saying two members of the town’s economic development advisory committee (EDAC) had “weaponized” it against grant development director Roberts and previous grantwriter Mallory Sullivan.

Indeed, it was town administrator Llamas who said the EDAC “has sort of been weaponized against [Roberts and Sullivan].”

We regret the error, and thank Bernardston Northfield Cable TV production manager Tyler Bourbeau for helping us track the quote down for proper attribution.

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RENT from page A1

Veteran Springfield housing rights attorney Joel Feldman is representing the residents. “We don’t take these cases unless we believe they are wrongly decided,” Feldman told the *Reporter*. “This was another situation where the landlord had a lawyer, and the tenants didn’t.”

The West Street Village tenants allege that owner Tom Lennon provided the rent control board with inflated business expenses and appraisals to justify the increase. The decision to approve the hike was “arbitrary and capricious” and should be reversed, according to Feldman’s court filing, because the board failed to follow proper procedures, and lacked the proper evidence needed to justify the increase.

Members of the board must file a deposition, Feldman said, and a decision on the appeal is expected soon.

“It’s not my job as a legislator to legislate the morality of people, but my goodness, I’ve never seen this type of greed,” said state representative Aaron Saunders, whose district includes Ludlow. “I can’t get past that type of thing happening to folks in our community.”

Saunders grew up in town, not far from West Street Village, and when he heard Lennon planned to raise the lot rent from \$207 per month to \$500.06, he and state senator Jacob Oliveira visited the park to hear from residents. They learned that many people in the development have been dealing with significant electrical, sewer, and heating issues that they say Lennon has failed to address.

“Setting aside the greed, the obscene greed, that’s in play here,” Saunders said, “I’m hopeful that the housing court sends a clear message – not only to Tom Lennon, but to anybody else who would try to fudge numbers to try to extract more money from folks who can afford it the least.”

Ripple Effect

Two years ago, motivated by conditions at the park and the prospect of rent hikes, West Street Village residents formed a tenants’ association with help from SNOL. Ethan Field, a longtime resident who started talking with his neighbors about the issues, became a leader of the group.

“I said, ‘You have problems, and so do the rest of us, and it’s in all of our best interests to come together to fight this thing,’” Field told the *Reporter*. “This is an aging park in need of repair, with zero amenities, but it is the highest-priced all-ages community of its kind in the greater Springfield area... This has a potential ripple effect, across the board, for [setting] the new bar for so-called affordable living.”

Lennon did not respond to repeated requests for comment. The sole listed manager of the southeastern Massachusetts-based real estate investment firm Gold Rush Properties 1, LLC, Lennon purchased the Ludlow park in 2021. He also owns the Hillside Valley Mobile Home Community in the same town, and the Residences on Mill Pond in West Stockbridge.

“He just seems money-hungry,” said Russ Lemon, a resident at Hillside Valley, where the monthly lot rent increased from \$288 to \$386 after Lennon’s arrival. “There is just no consideration for the people here, many like myself who are disabled or of retirement age.”

Unlike in Ludlow, the West Stockbridge rent control board

closely scrutinized Lennon’s application for a 230% rent increase at the Residences on Mill Pond, and in May denied his request. Lennon is now appealing that decision, Webster-Smith said.

In Chicopee, tenants at Bluebird Acres Mobile Home Park are currently appealing an approved increase, while at the same time some are trying to purchase the park and establish it as a cooperative. Feldman and SNOL organizers, who are helping with both efforts, said they believe Lennon is also trying to purchase Bluebird Acres, and possibly two additional parks in the region.

“We’re seeing a lot of these Boston investors coming out and buying property in the area, and it’s going to gentrify it,” Webster-Smith said. “A lot of our seniors are living in these parks, a lot of our differently-abled people.... People are desperate right now. We have a huge housing crisis, and a huge shortage of affordable housing.”

Dead on the Hill

Today, about two dozen of Massachusetts’s 351 municipalities have mobile home park rent control boards. The laws establishing the entities are typically decades old, and many towns struggle to fill them with volunteers willing and able to follow complicated – and high-stakes – decision-making procedures.

“Unfortunately, many rent control boards don’t do this correctly,” Feldman said. “It’s really a shame, because it’s very important to the lives of the people living there.”

In recent years advocates have had a hard time getting housing protection legislation through the Joint Committee on Housing. Six bills filed in the most recent legislative session would have implemented some form of rent control in the Commonwealth, according to Webster-Smith, and each of them ended in a study committee.

One bill sent to study, co-sponsored by Springfield senator Adam Gomez and supported by the Homes For All Coalition, would have repealed the ban on rent control statewide. The city councils of Boston and Somerville have requested permission to enact rent control on a local level, but were not approved. Another bill would have created a “rental arbiter” position within the attorney general’s office, while another would have capped the rent increases that can be imposed on senior citizens.

“What the hell is our state legislature doing?” Webster-Smith said. “If you look at the amount of bills that were filed versus what is passed, what are we doing?”

Legislative pressure is also being applied from the industry side.

“[W]hile rent control is often initially viewed as a safeguard to protect residents, it ultimately undermines the stability it seeks to create,” Lesli Gooch, CEO of the Manufactured Housing Institute, told the *Reporter*. “In reality, rent control policies result in decreased investments for necessary community repairs and upgrades, and negatively impact residents.”

Hometown America, an Illinois-based corporation that owns 80 manufactured home communities in 12 states, has spent \$300,000 since 2021 lobbying to change the Massachusetts law requiring that all residents of a mobile home park be charged the same rent, WBUR’s Simón Rios reported this summer.

Residents of Miller’s Woods and River Bend, a manufactured-home park for seniors in Athol, have partnered with tenants of another Hometown park in Middleborough to sue the company for not complying with the uniformity law. Hometown, which has lost once in court, is now trying to overturn the law.

This year, for the second session in a row, a bill to create a mobile home park rent control board in Athol was sent to study. Attleboro and Plainville have also passed home-rule petitions in recent years to establish rent control boards, with little success.

“It’s a difficult policy to pass but a little frustrating as there is a rent control board in Orange for a similar property which lies a mile or so away as the crow flies from the River Bend,” state representative Susannah Whipps, who filed the bill along with state senator Jo Comerford, wrote in an email to the *Reporter*.

Rates of Return

Orange’s rent control board has been meeting since June to decide on a proposed 43% rent increase at that park, Leisure Woods Estates. It would be the second significant hike in two years, and Leisure Woods management is requesting that it be applied retroactive to the date of their initial request last fall.

In justifying the request, the company’s lawyer has suggested that due to the depressed economic condition of Orange, “a higher rate of return is warranted as such conditions pose more of a risk.”

“There’s going to be a lot of homeless people with no housing to go to,” Orange Council on Aging director Tracey Gaudet testified at a June hearing. “I just can’t imagine where the money is going to come from, or how these people are going to survive.”

At the Orange hearings, several residents expressed frustration with the park owner, particularly concerning paving, tree removal, and stormwater management. After being asked for more information to justify the increase from \$410 to \$588, including vendor invoices, Leisure Wood’s management is threatening to sue the town.

Glenn Gidley, who co-owns Leisure Woods and six other parks in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, also owns Salem Manufactured Homes, which builds, transports, and sells homes to park residents. The company’s website describes it as a “thriving, vertically integrated family business,” though Gidley has testified that the companies are entirely separate.

Years ago, Feldman helped Leisure Woods residents win a suit forcing the owners to address flooding, neglected road maintenance, and other infrastructure concerns. Longtime resident Alfred Henderson was one of the plaintiffs. Today Henderson, a widower in his 90s, says that if the rent increase is approved in full, he plans to pay the difference into an escrow account until the matter is appealed in court, and he hopes others will do the same.

An Uneven Game

Eviction from a mobile home park is a much faster and less forgiving process than a foreclosure. Residents are frequently left with no way to relocate the structures they own, which once arrived on trailers but are now immobile.

“The [park] owners have tre-

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mendously more leverage in that situation than they do in any other landlord-tenant relationship,” Saunders argued. “And then, not only are these folks without a place to live, but the value they did have in their property is sold for a fraction of what it’s worth.”

Since Tom Lennon’s purchase of Ludlow’s West Street Village park, a number of residents have moved out and sold their homes to him. According to Ethan Field, new arrivals then bought the homes from Lennon for a much higher price.

“Many who purchased from him also financed through him,” Field added. “It’s not only lot rent – they also pay a mortgage directly to him.”

Field said many of his neighbors feel “trapped,” paying too much in rent but unable to move or sell their homes. “The astronomically high lot rent, for what you’re getting, is preventing you from selling it at a reasonable fair market rate,” he said. “You may be stuck having to take some incredibly low offer.”

Webster-Smith also accused Lennon of trying to intimidate and discourage residents at his parks from organizing. Tenants, she said, have been told to call Lennon – or the police – if anyone knocks on their door to discuss issues with management.

“These are all human beings that

live in these parks, and they deserve to be treated as such,” she said. “Every tenant has the right to organize.”

Saunders lauded the West Street Village residents for their ongoing efforts. “They have done incredible work, and they have done it in the face of veiled threats and push-back, and every type of divisive tactic you can imagine,” he said. “They stuck with it, and getting that far is an inspiration. It should be a model to folks in other parks to see how to do it right.”

The rent control cases in Orange and Ludlow are ongoing, and decisions could be made in the coming weeks. The Orange board will continue to deliberate on Leisure Woods’s proposal at its next meeting on September 24, and a decision on the Ludlow appeal is expected at the end of the month. Neither Ludlow town administrator Marc Strange nor the town’s mobile home park rent control board answered requests for comment.

“The case is going to be instrumental in directing us in what changes need to be made to this statute in Ludlow,” Saunders said. “If they say, ‘Yes, this thing is unfair, and it’s greedy, but it’s not illegal,’ then we need to have a conversation about what needs to change.”



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LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on September 18, 2014: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Pipeline Looms

On Monday, the Houston-based energy company Kinder Morgan made official its intention to run a major natural gas transmission pipeline through Franklin County by submitting a "pre-filing" for the project with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission through its Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company subsidiary. A 30- or 36-inch pipe would carry pressurized natural gas from Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania to Dracut, Massachusetts. The project would include a 50- to 75-acre, 120,000-horsepower compressor station near Deerfield.

Clarkdale Fruit Farms owner Tom Clark said he worries about noise and safety risks. Andrea Donlon of the Connecticut River Watershed Council noted that the site is habitat for the endangered shortnose sturgeon.

Amy Mahler of the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs said, "We are very concerned." She added that the project would cross 15% of all state-listed endangered or threatened species' habitats.

Channeling Betsy Ross

Wendell selectboard members spent much of their September 10 meeting talking about making the town flag to hang in the statehouse. Flags can be cotton or nylon, and the image can be dyed, embroidered, or appliquéd. To hang in the statehouse the flag can be one-sided, but if it will be hung on a pole, or from poles, in Wendell it should be two-sided.

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on September 16, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Bustling Bus Business

F.M. Kuzmeskus's cup runneth over. The Gill-based bus company is winning contracts and gaining so much new business there's no room to park their buses. The company had just 12 buses in 1979 when Darlene Reipold took the reins of the company. Now it has 165. Gill hit the jackpot when the company came to town, and will receive around \$55,000 in taxes.

Renaissance Excavating is constructing 1.5 acres of new parking at the Gill facility. Special catch basins, all cross-connected, prevent runoff. Trenches are dug in the coarse beach sand, deposited during the Lake Hitchcock Period more than 10,000 years ago.

Slow as a Glyptemys insculpta

Folks in Gill may be right in thinking the reconstruction of Main Road is moving ahead at a turtle's pace. Although full funding for the three-mile, \$3.7 million rebuild of the road has been secured, MassHighway won't give final approval until all parties agree on a better way for wood turtles to cross the road.

150 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on September 16, 1874: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

Local Matters

Flies – by the million. And now it's a clam bake and chowder that's in order.

Good weather for haying – only a little late.

Three new iron hitching posts were yesterday placed in position before Colle building by Mr. Philip Jacobus.

Stone has been putting on airs, and indulges in a new coach from Morgan's carriage shop. It looks well, rides easy, and is commanded by the most obliging "whip" that ever drew a rein.

The Company have been making their usual annual repairs on the dam. It is their custom at this season, while the water is low, to go over the water shed thoroughly and repair even the slightest break. It has suffered no more than usual during the year, and the repairs were quickly made.

It will be one year next Thursday, 24th, since the first Oakman schoolhouse was burned. Why not dedicate the new one on the anniversary?

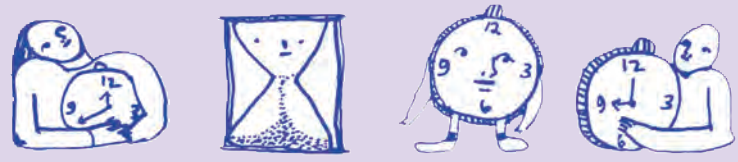
The last street sensation – a performing bear, two loafers making him earn their living, a crowd of boys, and a lot of loose change about to leave town.

Wunsch, of Greenfield, has a stock that fairly takes the fair all aback – on hair. And oh, such millinery! Keep your wives at home if you don't want more 'airs than you can take care of.

The base ballists among the Cutlery hands have challenged the best nine to be picked from among the Keith and Hotel nines. No response from the challenged parties. Come boys, let us have the game.

The "cradles" on Avenue A can discount those of Frank Park so many times we dare not give the number. They are not so pleasant to ride in however.

Oh for some rain. It has tried all the week, but seems afraid to for fear it will wash all our roads out.



SPORTS from page A1

In the field hockey clash, there was a lot of action, but little scoring. With just 1:18 left in the first half, Kenzie Sourdiffe-Phelps slapped the ball past the goalkeeper to make it 1-zip. Then the Eagles went on the attack.

As time ran out, Tech made several shots on goal, and each time Amherst committed an infraction just to keep the ball out of the net. When the half ended, Tech was granted three consecutive corner penalty shots, but they came up empty each time.

The second half was a repeat of the first, with lots of action but little scoring. Finally, with 2:32 left in the game, Jazzlyn Gonzalez fed the ball to Sourdiffe-Phelps, who slapped it in, to cap the game for Tech.

The next day, Tech beat West Springfield 4-0. When I saw coach Rian Lovett at the Tech football game, she told me that Sourdiffe-Phelps scored three goals in the win with Hannah Gilbert, finally back in action, scoring Tech's other goal and Abigail Dobias giving an assist.

On Monday, the Eagles were knocked off their perch as Belchertown handed them their first loss of the season. Gilbert scored Tech's sole goal assisted by Katy Lengiza. The Eagles host Turners Falls this Friday.

Meanwhile, on the other side of Millers Falls Road, the Blue Thunder's fortunes were finally improving. On Friday the 13th, the Blue Thunder won their first game of the season against the Mohawk Warriors up in Buckland. Ella Guidaboni scored the only goal of the night to give Turners the 1-0 victory.

On Tuesday, the Thunder survived a shootout against the Mahar Senators for a 5-5 tie. Guidaboni scored two goals and gave an assist, Ledwin Villafana also scored twice, and Khalifa Sack hit the net once.

The Southwick Rams come to town this Thursday, followed by the Tech matchup on Friday.

Volleyball

TFHS 3 – Mahar 2

FCTS 3 – Greenfield 1

TFHS 3 – Greenfield 0

FCTS 3 – Pioneer 0

Last Thursday the Turners Falls volleyball team outlasted the visiting Mahar Senators in a five-set marathon. Blue won the first two sets handily, 25-13, 25-15, but to the home crowd's dismay, Mahar erased a huge deficit in the third set to take it 25-22.

Turners couldn't shake off the Senators, dropping the fourth set 25-23 and forcing a fifth. In the tiebreaker, though, Blue left nothing behind, trouncing the Senators 15-3 to salvage the victory. Madi Liimatainen led the team in kills and aces, Maddie Dietz gave the most assists, and Tatiana Carr Williams and Janelle Massey registered kills.

That same night, the Volleyball Eagles defeated Greenfield 3-0. I watched the JV match, but I couldn't stay for the varsity game.

In varsity, Shelby O'Leary finished with 24 assists and 11 digs, Emma Peterson had 11 kills, Sarah Beckwith served 12 aces, and Madison Pettingill saved 15 digs.

The Thunder had their own chance to take on the Green Wave on Tuesday. Green was limited to just 8 points in the first set, and although Powertown allowed their reserves to finish the match, they swept the Wave 3-0. Liimatainen, Dietz, and Carr Williams came up big in the win.

Franklin Tech also had a 3-0 sweep that night, against Pioneer Valley. Taylor Underwood, Emmy Nash, Janilylah Wan, and Skylei LePan all contributed to the win.

Boys' Soccer

FCTS 2 – Duggan 2

The Tech boys have not had a lot of luck this season in soccer. They mount attacks, make shots on goal, and play solid defense, but they have had difficulty kicking the ball into the net. Not to mention that their goalie is out with an injury. But last Thursday the Eagles ended their losing streak, tying Duggan Academy 2-2.

You could hear the whistle from the field hockey match throughout the contest, and it was a little distracting at times. The first half was a repeat of Franklin's entire season: plenty of attempts, but the ball never made it past the crease. Duggan, however, made the most of their chances, scoring two unanswered goals to put the Eagles in a 2-nil hole.

The game dragged on with the Academy clinging to that lead. With less than five minutes left in the battle, the Eagles were awarded a penalty kick; Soren Marin sized up the goalkeeper and kicked it over his head to prevent a shutout.

With the momentum in their camp and their backs against the wall, the Eagles mounted several more attacks, and Mason Thurston found paydirt to knot the score at 2-2.

With three minutes left on the clock, Tech went into their two-minute offense; they made some threats, but did not manage to break the tie.

Football

FCTS 42 – McCann 6

The Franklin Tech Football Eagles swatted the Green Hornets of McCann, 42-6, on Friday the 13th. The only Hornet score came off a fake punt at the end of the half, after Franklin tried to get the ball back by calling timeouts.

By halftime it was already 28-6, and in the fourth quarter the clock ticked non-stop to comply with the mercy rule.

I mentioned how impressed I was with the drubbing. Someone on the sidelines shrugged his shoulders, shook his head, and said, "No – look who they're playing." Apparently, McCann is starting at Ground Zero after their entire coaching staff stepped down.

Needless to say, it was still a wonderful game. Blocking was solid, the defense was aggressive, and the passing game was clicking. It was nice seeing the Tech fans again, and the cheerleaders riled up the crowd.

Much of the scuttlebutt on the sidelines concerned Josiah Little's quest to break Franklin's all-time rushing record, and Tyler Yetter's foray as the new quarterback. Both performed admirably behind a line that opened holes and protected the QB.

Little finished with 192 all-purpose yards and scored two touchdowns. Yetter completed five passes to five different receivers for 117 yards, three touchdowns, and three 2-PATs; his targets were Little, Nolyn Stafford, Hunter Donahue, Ethan Smarr, and Tucker Hicks.

Yetter, Little, Maxon Brunette, and Nathan Sabolevski carried the ball for Tech for a combined 243 rushing yards. Stafford, Donahue, Smarr, and Sabolevski scored touchdowns while Sabolevski, Smarr, and Hicks added two-point conversions.

Freshman Brady Gancarz led special teams with seven kickoffs for 209 yards – and yes, they run old-fashioned kickoffs, unlike the NFL – while Madix Whitman and Wyatt Whitman returned punts. Defensively, Madix Whitman had 16 tackles, Hicks and Travis Eastman combined for a sack, Stafford recovered a fumble, and Donahue, Gancarz, and Wyatt Whitman tipped away pass attempts.

The Eagles will flock to South Deerfield this Friday to take on the Frontier Red Hawks.



Tatiana Carr-Williams bumps the ball to the front row as the Thunder prevailed in last Thursday's five-set win over Mahar.

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MONTAGUE from page A1

bus stop in front of the Village Store slightly north, and formalize on-street parking regulations, which she called “loosey-goosey.” Elevated crosswalks would be installed where Station and Union streets intersect with Main Street.

“Each of the proposed measures works in combination – they are not separate,” Pollock explained. “It’s a system.”

Most of the comments from Montague Center residents at Monday’s meeting focused on the dangers of speeding vehicles. “I can’t even get out of my driveway for about five minutes as the cars zoom by,” said Eileen Mariani, who lives across from the Village Store. “I grew up in Queens, New York, [so] I’m used to traffic.”

Mariani said she would “like to see a speed bump that throws them up in the air.”

“Well, we’ll leave the design of that...” said selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz.

Carol Kostecki, who lives on Court Square, complained about high hedges and poor sight lines at the intersection of School and Main streets. “I can’t tell you how many times I’ve almost been hit because they come right down School Street at 40 or 50 miles an hour,” Kostecki said, noting that she had been told by both the police and highway departments that they “would never do anything until somebody gets killed at that intersection.”

Carol Kostecki said she had been told by both the police and highway departments that they “would never do anything until somebody gets killed at that intersection.”

“Well, that’s not the right answer,” responded Kuklewicz. “We recognize there’s a problem, and that’s why we’re here.”

If Montague’s application, which is due at the end of the month, is approved, the town will be required to develop bid-ready construction designs. Pollock said the town may apply for up to \$500,000, but that Complete Streets is a competitive grant, and the state’s decision could take several months.

The board did not take a formal vote, but all heads nodded when Kuklewicz said, “We certainly are endorsing the application.”

Downtown Crash

In a related development, a woman named Shelley Madden who said she lives at the corner of Fifth and L streets in Turners Falls spoke during public participation time about an accident at that intersection on Saturday afternoon. Madden said she had heard the sound of a car speeding down L Street striking something, and was the first on the scene to discover it had been a boy on a bicycle.

The boy, who Madden said she believed had significant head injuries, was lying in the middle of the street, and his bicycle had been thrown to the side of her house. The car’s windshield was broken, she said, and the driver was attempting to flee the scene on foot.

Madden, who was standing with the help of a crutch, said she herself had been seriously injured by a

car at the age of 16. She said that L Street is “dangerous,” as it has parking on both sides of the street.

“I am not an expert, but we have to do something about it,” she said. “It’s going to happen again unless we fix this.”

Kuklewicz said the board would have a discussion with the police chief about the parking on L Street, saying he thought drivers were often parking “too near the corner.”

Drug Aroma

Nearly 45 minutes of Monday’s meeting were taken up by discussion of complaints of pot odor emanating from a cannabis grow facility, Flower Power Growers, in the industrial park. Since the spring, complaints from the nearby Ja’Duke Center for the Performing Arts, which runs a preschool program, had focused on a potential violation of the special permit issued by the town planning board in November 2020. The permit had prohibited the emission of odors “which may be noxious or cause a nuisance, or impair public comfort and convenience.”

At Monday’s meeting, Ja’Duke co-owner Kim Williams shifted gears and requested the town enforce a provision of its recently-revised host community agreement granting the selectboard the power to require the company to fund an “independent” engineering study in response to odor complaints.

Public health director Ryan Paxton, who has been monitoring the complaints from Ja’Duke and residents of several summer camps along the Connecticut River, gave a report. Paxton said that he had received 25 more complaints, and visited the industrial park several times, since his previous presentation to the board in mid-August.

On one occasion, Paxton said, he “observed” the smell of Ecosorb, a chemical mixture Flower Power sprays into emissions from its greenhouses in an attempt to reduce odor. He said he had visited the area earlier that day in response to new complaints, but was “unable to observe it.”

Asked by Kuklewicz if he felt there was a “public health concern” about the odor, Paxton said that his department would continue to monitor the situation, but “I have not found it to be a nuisance.”

Flower Power co-owner Josh Goldman reviewed data comparing the timeline of complaints with wind direction, and said it appeared that the majority of the complaints occurred when the wind was not blowing in the direction of Ja’Duke from the cannabis facility.

Upon receiving complaints about odor, Goldman said, employees and owners had walked around the perimeter of Flower Power and had not detected any odor except that of the Ecosorb.

Goldman then shared detailed statistics, which primarily involved “gas chromatography” testing the air at the park for “terpenes,” the compounds in cannabis and other plants associated with smell. The samples were taken at the end of last week, when odor control upgrades the firm had promised last month were in full operation.

The study indicated that the terpene levels were low in all tested locations, Goldman said. He hypothesized that the odor being experienced may be caused by Ecosorb, or by some other pot source in the area. He said Flower Power had worked

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

TOWN OF GILL

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

NOTICE OF TAX TAKING

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

You are hereby notified that on Tuesday the 8th day of October, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. at the Tax Collector’s Office, 325 Main Road, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, it is my intention to take for the Town of Gill the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due thereon, with interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

Assessed to BECCHETTI FRANK C.

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

2024 Tax\$2,703.53

Assessed to CIELITO LINDO LLC

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.4 Acres located and known as 24 FRENCH KING HWY shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 101.0-0000-0027.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 7968 on page 186 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2024 Tax\$723.94

Assessed to GOODWIN TIMOTHY

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 12.2 Acres located and known as 87 SOUTH CROSS RD shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 223.0-0000-0035.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 1973 on page 251 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2024 Tax\$1,617.74

Assessed to KELLEY JULIE K.

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

2016 Tax\$3,351.02

Assessed to MCKENNA MARK J.

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.287 Acres located and known as 5 MEADOW ST

shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 101.0-0000-0040.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 6556 on page 261 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2024 Tax\$1,750.82

Assessed to NAMNGIS LLC

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

2024 Tax\$936.54

Assessed to NAMNGIS LLC

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

2022 Tax\$4,273.29

Assessed to SCOTT M. BALLOU TRUSTEE And BALLOU FAMILY IRREVOCABLE TRUST

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.5 Acres located and known as 25 WEST GILL RD shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 223.0-0000-0046.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 6774 on page 249 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2021 Tax\$2,864.95

Assessed to SIRUM MAURIA

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 1.4 Acres located and known as FRENCH KING HWY shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 225.0-0000-0006.0 and being part of the premises

recorded in book 8083 on page 314 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2024 Tax\$400.93

Assessed to STRIEBEL STEPHEN P. And STRIEBEL MARGARET A.

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 50 Acres located and known as OFF MAIN RD shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 205.0-0000-0010.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 1803 on page 99 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2024 Tax\$974.12

Assessed to VINING MICHAEL

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 36 Acres located and known as 235 FRENCH KING HWY shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 226.0-0000-0024.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 07793 on page 276 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2024 Tax\$4,381.33

Assessed to WARREN RAE GENE

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

2024 Tax\$3,034.08

Assessed to YOUNG EARL N.

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 3.55 Acres located and known as 61 SOUTH CROSS RD shown on the Town of Gill Assessors Records as Parcel identifier 222.0-0000-0024.0 and being part of the premises recorded in book 8129 on page 210 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

Supposed Present Owner HYUN ON GONG

2024 Tax\$814.13

with “quite a few companies” to evaluate the facility’s odor, but that the terpene data was measured by a firm named Cannabusters.

“There’s a smell we’re smelling,” Williams responded to Goldman. “Maybe it’s Ecosorb, maybe it’s cannabis. But it’s a smell... Today it was waving through the playground all day long.”

Williams also complained that her company had been unable to establish a clear definition of the term “nuisance odor,” which appears in Flower Power’s special permit and for which Paxton has been monitoring the park.

Williams complained that her company had been unable to establish a clear definition of the term “nuisance odor,” which appears in Flower Power’s special permit.

Williams then said she did not want to “repeat everything we’ve been saying over and over again – I want to come to the table with solutions.” She said that she had talked with staff at Yankee Candle, which had hired an “environmental consultant” to evaluate an odor problem at its Deerfield manufacturing facility, and proposed that the town require the same thing of Flower Power.

Selectboard members then dis-

cussed at length whether to mandate an “independent” odor evaluation, and whether it should include an analysis of Goldman’s data.

Member Matt Lord questioned the value of having another consultant evaluate the odor, and said he would like to see a copy of Goldman’s report, because “I think that’s what we’re going to get from another consultant.”

Kuklewicz, on the other hand, said he had personally smelled odors from the facility, and did not want to “kick the can down the road” any further.

After hearing more back-and-forth between Flower Power and Ja’Duke, Kuklewicz proposed that town administrator Walter Ramsey research independent evaluators and the cost of their services. He said that this could take a few weeks, which would allow Paxton more time to evaluate the firm’s recent upgrades.

The board approved Kuklewicz’s motion by a 2-to-1 vote, with Lord dissenting.

Other Business

John McNamara, co-owner of the Avenue A shop Loot, criticized the selectboard’s recent decision not to fund proposed access ramps to four storefronts on that street using the town’s remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, which must be committed by the end of the year.

Noting that the initial quote for the ramp’s cost was \$225,000 and

that the town had originally been awarded “around two and a half million dollars” in ARPA funds, he asked, “What determines that a ramp is too expensive?”

Kuklewicz responded by listing recent demands on the much smaller pool of remaining ARPA funds, and Ramsey said that the board and town would need to “sit back and strategize on ways to come up with that level of financing.”

At the request of assistant town administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller, the board approved a \$2,397,461 contract with Associated Construction Company to upgrade the screw pumps at the Clean Water Facility, and another for \$149,808 with General Contracting Solutions to supplement work underway in the basement and second floor of the Carnegie Library.

Kuklewicz announced an award had been given to town accountant Carolyn Olsen, who is retiring this month. He noted that “in true accountant fashion,” Olsen wanted to make sure the award document stated that she had been in the position for “28.75 years.”

Kuklewicz also reported that on Saturday he and Boutwell “had the honor” of awarding the town’s Boston Post Cane to its oldest citizen, Maxine Davis (*see article, Page B1*). He showed a picture of Davis, who will be 103 years old in October, with three of her six daughters.

The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 23.



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CASH from page A1

election cycle. The source? Trade associations and other industry groups representing some of those same special interests. It mirrors a trend that has played out in other states, too, including Vermont and Maine, raising questions about the gaps that exist in the pledges progressive Democrats have made to avoid corporate PAC money.

The vast majority of McGovern’s fundraising continues to come from individuals and PACs associated with labor unions. Of the \$900,502 that McGovern raised from the beginning of 2023 through September 14, 2024, 72% of that has come from individual donations. The Shoestring has also identified at least \$125,000 in funds from PACs representing organized labor – unions from the National Association of Letter Carriers to the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

“The first three words of the constitution are ‘we the people’ not ‘we the corporations,’” McGovern told The Shoestring in a phone interview Friday. He said he’s proud of his record on campaign finance reform and representing regular people over business interests. “Unions represent workers, people who are trying to change things. Corporations are just trying to make money for their stakeholders.”

But McGovern is still receiving money from some of the trade associations and other lobbying groups they belong to.

This election cycle, for example, federal campaign finance filings show that McGovern has taken donations from trade associations, membership organizations, and co-operative PACs representing sugar growers, alcohol manufacturers and distributors, convenience stores, insurance interests, the nursing-home industry, powerful legal and lobbying firms, medical device makers, grocery giants, and others.

One of the special interests that has given to McGovern through its membership associations this election cycle has been the sugar industry.

Federal Election Commission data show that McGovern has received at least \$20,000 from out-of-state trade associations representing sugar growers across the country. That includes \$10,000 from the American Crystal Sugar Company’s PAC, \$2,500 from the Michigan Sugar Company Growers PAC, \$2,000 from the American Sugar Cane League PAC, \$1,500 from the Amalgamated Sugar Company PAC, and \$1,000 each from the PACs representing the Western Sugar Cooperative, Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative, Florida Sugar Cane League, and American Sugarbeet Growers Association.

McGovern sits on the House Committee on Agriculture, which has jurisdiction over the federal government’s agriculture policy.

McGovern defended those donations, saying that he has long ad-

vocated for more access to locally grown food, better nutrition education, and support for farmers. He said that at a time when the country is importing staples like sugar “from halfway around the world that can be grown halfway down the block,” he welcomes the support of those who agree with his values.

Sugar isn’t the only industry group giving to McGovern, though. He has received \$5,000 from the National Beer Wholesalers Association’s PAC, for instance. The NBWA is an organization whose members include beverage giants like Molson Coors Beverage Company and Anheuser-Busch.

McGovern has also pulled in \$5,000 from the Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers PAC, whose website boasts that its membership includes “200 of the top commercial insurance and employee benefits brokerages worldwide.” He also received \$2,500 each from the PACs associated with the American Property Casualty Insurance Association – representing home, auto, and business insurers – and the American Council of Life Insurers PAC, whose members include that industry’s top players. Among them is the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company, based in Springfield.

Those organizations are not considered corporate PACs under the Federal Election Commission’s classification, since they represent trade associations, cooperatives, or other membership associations. However, the members and donors to those trade associations are often big corporate interests. The Consumer Brands Association, for example, gave \$3,000 to McGovern this election cycle. Its members include companies like Amazon, Nestlé, and Procter & Gamble, to name a few.

Asked why he continues to raise so much campaign cash, [McGovern] said he doesn’t know when an election cycle starts whether somebody will challenge him or not.

When asked whether lawmakers not accepting corporate PAC money should consider including corporate trade associations in that pledge, McGovern instead focused on larger structural changes to campaign financing. He said that the current system, which often requires politicians to spend millions of dollars on their races, undermines democracy and forces lawmakers to spend too much of their time fundraising.

“The ground rules are what they are and I don’t like them,” he said. “But the bottom line is that we need campaign finance reform and I think we ought to talk about how we get that.”

Some of the trade associations that gave to McGovern have come under scrutiny after continuing to give campaign contributions to election deniers in the Republican party, according to research from the campaign finance watchdog organization OpenSecrets. In 2022, for example, the organization Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington identified American Crystal Sugar as one of the top contributors to members of Congress who refused to certify Donald Trump’s election loss.

Powerful law firms that represent big corporations or lobby on Capitol Hill have also given money to McGovern this election cycle. Those include \$3,000 from the PAC of the multinational firm King & Spalding, which has drawn controversy for decisions like representing Trump in 2020 in one of his election lawsuits and initially agreeing to work with Republicans in 2011 to fight against same-sex marriage. The PAC of Squire Patton Boggs, one of the world’s largest law firms, gave McGovern \$5,000. Both of those firms have lobbied on behalf of Saudi Arabia’s government, according to reporting by *Mother Jones*.

McGovern said that those massive law firms take clients across the political spectrum, including those fighting for good causes. He also highlighted his decades-long advocacy for LGBTQ+ issues. McGovern was one of the lawmakers who helped bring forward a bill to overturn the Defense of Marriage Act, which prohibited same-sex marriage. He has also been vocal in condemning insurrectionists in Congress and has worked in the past to prohibit arms sales and military support to Saudi Arabia because of that country’s human-rights abuses.

McGovern is not alone among progressive Democrats who have pledged not to accept corporate PAC money but have continued to take cash from business trade association PACs.

In 2022, *VTDigger* reported that Vermont’s US representative Peter Welch, who was running for the US Senate, had likewise taken campaign contributions from powerful industry groups that lobby Congress. The state’s lieutenant governor Molly Gray, who had run to replace Welch in the US House, had also taken money from the American Crystal Sugar Company PAC like Welch, the news outlet reported.

“American Crystal Sugar is responsible for contributing to climate change with policy and practices that cause environmental destruction,” one of Gray’s opponents, state Sen. Kesha Ram Hinsdale, wrote in a campaign fundraising email at the time, according to *VTDigger*.

This year, Maine saw a similar trend. There, the news organization Maine Wire identified similar contributions to US representative Jared Golden, who will face Trump-endorsed Republican state representative Austin Theriault in November.

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McGovern said that instead of focusing on progressive lawmakers like Welch, people should work together to create a system that allows for people-powered elections rather than the corporate-dominated status quo. That means supporting and voting for candidates who want to make change.

“Get with us and let’s get more people to make the no corporate PAC pledge,” he said. “Let’s start building a movement for real honest campaign finance reform in this country.”

McGovern said he’s proud that his campaign is largely funded by individual donors. But money from special interests can also flow into a candidate’s campaign account through individual donations. For example, OpenSecrets, which tracks the employers of individuals who donate to political campaigns, found that lobbyists have given \$54,450 in individual contributions to McGovern’s campaign this election cycle.

With all that campaign cash, what is McGovern – whose only opponent this election cycle, independent Cornelius Shea, hasn’t reported any fundraising at all – spending it on?

Of the more than \$1 million he has spent this cycle, FEC records show he has sent \$350,000 of it to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, which works to elect Democrats to the US House. The DCCC has in recent years worked to stifle progressive challenges to incumbent Democrats. In 2019, the organization instituted a blacklist of any vendor who worked for somebody challenging a Democrat incumbent. The DCCC ended that policy in 2021, but this election cycle, high-ranking former DCCC officials have worked for more conservative Democrats that unseated progressive incumbents, according to *The American Prospect*.

McGovern said that he doesn’t micromanage who the DCCC supports and that he may not always agree with those candidates on ev-

ery issue. But he said that it is important for Democrats to take back the US House. He noted that when Democrats were last in charge of the House, he was able to use his perch as chairman of the House Committee on Rules to hold the first-ever hearing on Medicare for All. He said he also supports progressive candidates with donations to their individual campaigns.

“If you want change, you have to make sure that you’re electing people who can create an atmosphere where you can actually implement that change,” he said.

McGovern’s campaign has spent \$200,675 on solicitation and fundraising expenses this election cycle. Another \$186,210 was used for administrative, salary, and overhead, and the campaign spent \$178,472 on travel.

When McGovern was first elected to the House in 1996, he said he defeated the state’s last Republican representative and then faced a tough challenge from a Republican the next year. However, since then, McGovern has rarely faced any serious challenge to his incumbency, winning landslide victories in nearly every contested election. Asked why he continues to raise so much campaign cash, he said he doesn’t know when an election cycle starts whether somebody will challenge him or not.

“I’m not universally loved and every couple years there are rumors that very high ranking people in the Republican Party want to take me on,” he said.

McGovern said that Republicans “have no interest at all in campaign finance reform” and that only a Democratic majority can address the Supreme Court’s weakening of democratic elections, for example.

“It’s important that people have confidence in campaigns and in their elections,” he said.

This article first appeared at The Shoestring (www.theshoestring.org).



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Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*

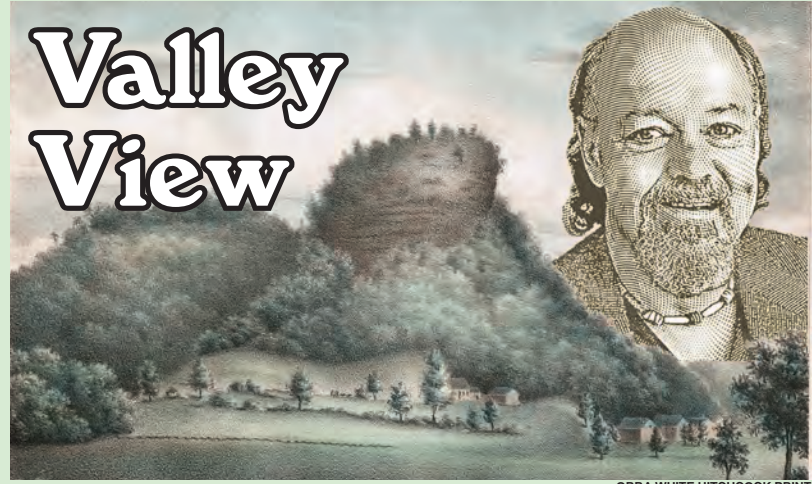


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Fish, and Forts, of the North

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – In the research game, a chase can be quickly rewarded. Always nice. Then again, important information sometimes appears unexpectedly, from the clear blue sky. Even better.

Well, chalk up a recent discovery we'll soon explore – pertaining to 18th-century migratory fish of the Merrimack River – among the latter.

What led to my new finding was enduring personal genealogical interest in “the Fort at Number 4,” once the Connecticut Valley’s northernmost 18th-century military outpost, built in 1743 in what is now the town of Charlestown, New Hampshire, established in 1753.

Nestled between Claremont and Walpole on the east bank of the Connecticut River across from Springfield, Vermont, early Charlestown helped sprinkle our slice of the valley with sturdy northwestern Middlesex County Massachusetts stock: Parker, Shattuck, Williard, Sartwell and Longley, to name some, all from the Groton area. Members of these Yankee military families occupied perilous outposts between forts Dummer and No. 4, and, during the most dangerous times there between 1740 and 1760, temporarily fled to safer places like Northfield, Deerfield, Sunderland, and Hatfield – the north part of which became Whately.

When the dust from the final French and Indian War settled in 1763, many members of these hardy families settled here, particularly accumulating in Hawley after the Revolution and Shays's Rebellion of 1786. Thus, the Fort at Number 4 gene pool is important to genealogists of all stripes researching these local families.

The problem is that, even in this day of *Ancestry.com* and other comprehensive online sources, the attempt to track them has become a vexing genealogical conundrum. I call it the black hole of Charlestown, New Hampshire – one left by a devastating downtown fire that destroyed the town’s vital records in 1842.

These days, the Charlestown vital records begin in 1842, nearly eliminating any hope of recovering birth, death, and marriage records from the town’s first 100 years. Oh sure, diaries and Bibles with hand-entered family-register forms do occasionally come to light at estate sales or on-site auctions. But time is sadly running out on such important discoveries that provide answers. Thus, the rest of the “answers” are conjectural.

I was nudged into this familiar Charlestown abyss by a Sanderson Genealogy Facebook post from a distant Connecticut relative I have not met. Identifying as a descendent of James and Sarah (Parker) Sanderson of 18th-century Conway, I responded with a simple question: Did she know Sarah Parker’s lineage?

“No, do you?” was her rapid-fire answer.

The chase was on.

Not unexpectedly, my search led straight to Groton and Charlestown, eventually suggesting the strong but unprovable possibility of parentage by Isaac Parker, Jr. (1709-1760) and his second wife, Mehitable. I had been down this road before with James’s three-years-old brother Joseph, who was born in 1741 and married the elusive Lois Fuller – undoubtedly, without hard evidence, the daughter of the mysterious Micah Fuller, Fort Number 4’s first blacksmith.

By chance, the hunt for Sarah Parker’s lineage led me to a source that had somehow previously escaped me. I found it in a Fort Number 4 pamphlet footnote: Charles E. Clark’s *The Eastern Frontier: Settlement of Northern New England 1610-1763*, published in 1970, the year before I graduated high school. I found a reasonably priced copy in “very good” condition, bought it, read it, and gained new insight regarding migratory Merrimack River fishes of the colonial period.

Although as an annual tracker of Connecticut River anadromous fish runs for nearly a half-century I have always viewed Merrimack River fish migration as peripheral see **VALLEY VIEW** page B4

TOWN’S ELDEST CITIZEN STILL GOING STRONG

By WILL QUALE

TURNERS FALLS – “I really like it here!” said Maxine Davis.

For almost 103 years, Davis has traveled widely, giving her many points of comparison. But for over half a century she always came home to Greenfield, and since moving across the river in 1998, she has made her home in Montague.

On Saturday, Davis was honored by the town as its oldest citizen, and as such became the official holder of Montague’s *Boston Post Cane*. The cane, a peculiar relic – in 1909, that now-long-defunct newspaper gifted 700 to New England towns as an advertising gimmick – resides on display in town hall, aside from occasional ceremonial use.

Davis herself, however, is no relic. Born in rural Iowa in 1921, she left behind a large family – five sisters and two brothers – when she moved to Greenfield in 1940. During the war she worked at Greenfield Tap & Die and raised her first daughter while her husband served in the Army Air Corps; after the war, she had five more daughters.

As children, these six sisters often wore identical outfits, and a



Maxine Davis (seated), holder of Montague’s *Boston Post Cane*, with daughters (left to right) Audrey Ward, Debbie Bulman, and Cindy Boissonneault on Saturday.

photograph on the wall of Davis’s Park Villa apartment conjures images of *The Sound of Music*. Three of Davis’s daughters live

nearby, and a fourth lives in Michigan. Audrey, Cynthia, and Debra beamed and bantered while their see **ELDEST** page B8

RECIPES Chutney: A Great Seasonal Flavor Saver!

By CLAIRE HOPLEY

LEVERETT – Jars of chutney frequently gleam from gift-store shelves, so they often show up on tables as vacation souvenirs or hostess gifts. The mix of ingredients can seem obscure, and perhaps explains why few people make chutney for themselves, even though



Chutneys can be made with a range of ingredients, and provide a great way to preserve them.

it’s packed with flavor and making it is cheap and easy.

It’s useful, too. Right now, chutney can help solve the problem of what to do with the seasonal abundance of tomatoes, apples, squash, onions, and a myriad of other crops. Later, when you want a little something to brighten a sandwich or perk up supper, you’ll have snappy sweet-and sour chutney to do the job.

Chutney originated in India, where the Hindi word *chutni* has the root meaning of “to eat with appetite.” With their spicy flavors, Indian chutneys were designed to add zest to meals dominated by rice and beans. Among the commonest Indian chutneys are tomato chutneys, onion chutneys, coconut chutney, mango chutney, and bright green mint and cilantro chutneys. Most are freshly made and brightly colored.

These appealed to 18th- and 19th-century Western traders and colonizers because their food also benefited from sparky flavors. When they returned to their homelands they took chutney recipes with them. But unlike India, their northern countries did not have year-round fresh produce. Instead their cooks turned to their seasonal crops such as rhubarb, apples, onions, and plums, added Indian spices plus some dried fruit, then boiled everything with sugar and vinegar to preserve it.

The result was a dark sweet-and-sour sauce that could be stored for months. In this way the Europeans kept India’s spicy flavors, but sacrificed the colorful freshness of Indian chutney for the ability to preserve harvest crops for winter. In the Western countries chutneys took their

see **RECIPES** page B4

Pet of the Week



‘TEDDY’

Teddy is an adorable little 15-pound boy, but don’t let that cute face fool you – he needs an adopter experienced with scared little dogs who don’t have much experience in the world and sometimes make bad decisions. Teddy went to live with his last family when he was very young, and doesn’t have much experience of different people or places. It’s all scary for him. He’ll never be good to take out in public, and with his own people he is very clingy.

Teddy was groomed once as a puppy, but when he was taken in six months later the groomer said he moved around too much and they were unable to groom him. By the time he arrived at Dakin he had solid mats all over. He couldn’t see, and the mats were putting pressure on his

body. He is now shaven, but requires grooming every six to eight weeks, and may need calming medicine.

Before he came to Dakin, Teddy started to show some snapping at the kids in his home. This may have been due to his discomfort, but to be safe he cannot live where kids visit. He is working on housetraining.

Teddy is a project, no doubt. His adopter needs to have experience with little dogs with fear and related behavior issues. If you have experience with adorable, scared, sometimes naughty little dogs and are interested, please come meet him.

The Dakin Humane Society is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 12:30 to 3 p.m. Call (413) 781-4000 or visit www.dakinhumane.org for more information.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Test Your Garden’s Soil

GREENFIELD – The Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association (WMMGA) will be at the Greenfield Public Library this Saturday, September 21 from 10 a.m. to noon to offer information about their Master Gardener training program, and free pH soil testing.

Bring a sample of soil to learn what your garden needs to flourish! For information on collecting samples, see “How to Test Your Soil” at www.wmmga.org.

WMMGA is a member-managed nonprofit dedicated to promoting good and sustainable gardening practices. WMMGA is an affiliate of the national Master Gardener program of the American Horticultural Society. Each Master Gardener has completed an in-depth training program, including hands-on activities in gardening and public education, and has made a commitment to participate in WMMGA public programs each year.

This program is free and open to the public, rain or shine.

Youth Swim Team

TURNERS FALLS – The Montague Bluefish Swim Team will host a pre-season informational meeting next Wednesday, September 25 at 6 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School cafeteria.

The Bluefish is a competitive and recreational swim team that competes in the Pioneer Valley Swim League and has served area youth for almost 50 years. Ages typically range from 6 to 18.

New swimmers must be able to successfully complete an in-water swim test. Practices are held Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings; home and away meets are held Saturdays. The season runs from mid-October through mid-March. Fees vary.

For more information, please call (413) 863-3216 or visit www.montaguebluefish.com.



By CASEY WAIT

TURNERS FALLS – Hello, dear readers.

With the start of fall comes school – and, if wastewater data is anything to go by, with school comes yet another COVID surge. This year has already seen one of the largest summer surges so far. We have never entered the school year with such high numbers across the country.

This is bad – even for those of us who do not have children, and are not ourselves enrolled or teaching in schools. Schools are a huge driver of viral community spread. One study of around 850,000 cases of household transmission in the US showed that up to 70% were introduced by a child.

When school is back in session, and now that attendance is strongly encouraged even when children are sick, those children will then continue to spread the virus like wildfire – infecting not only their classmates and teachers, but also the people in the community to whom they are connected.

Throughout the pandemic it has been common to hear pundits, politicians, and even health professionals downplay the impact of COVID on children. It is still a common belief that COVID is “mild” in children, and that it’s very rare for kids to develop Long COVID (LC), but a metareview of the research estimated that one in four children develops LC post-infection. That means it is extremely common!

The Sick Times reports that “multiple infectious ‘hits’ from viruses and bacteria may increase long-term neuroinflammatory damage, like fatigue and cognitive dysfunction, in people with Long COVID...” Authors also found that brain exposure to SARS-CoV-2 may make people more vulnerable to different forms of autonomic dysfunction (or dysautonomia) including increased heart rate.”

To add more concern, according to the University of Oxford, COVID-19 is a leading cause of death in children and young people in the US.

The advocacy group Long Covid Family has created a helpful guide for parents on what to look for in

their children. They say that “many LC symptoms in kids present similarly to dysautonomia, which is also very common in adults with Long COVID.”

You should look out for the following signs: “can’t play the same; they may want to avoid school; sudden fainting; have a loss of appetite; concentration/focus issues; anxiety & difficulty making decisions...” A quarter of children with LC present with primarily neuropsychiatric symptoms, but the virus can impact all body systems, so it is important to watch closely for other issues as well.

Symptoms may also vary by age group. In children ages 6 to 11, the most common were trouble with memory or focusing; back or neck pain; stomach pain; fear about specific things; refusing to go to school; itchy skin or skin rash; trouble sleeping; nausea or vomiting; and feeling lightheaded or dizzy. Adolescents ages 12 to 17 with LC are more likely to present with change or loss in smell or taste; body, muscle, or joint pain; daytime tiredness, sleepiness, or low energy; tiredness after walking; back or neck pain; trouble with memory or focusing; headache; and feeling lightheaded or dizzy.

Regardless of age, COVID infection can cause cognitive dysfunction, memory impairment and loss, brain fog and fatigue, and poor attention control – all things that can greatly impact kids’ ability to learn! Kids, especially younger ones, may not know how to describe what they are experiencing, so it’s important for adults to really listen to them and watch for these signs.

So, what do we do about all this? Well, the best thing you can do to avoid getting LC is to avoid getting COVID altogether. Wearing a well-fitted N95 or KN95 remains the cheapest and most effective way to protect against airborne infections of all kinds.

I know it can be difficult for young children to mask comfortably, so I asked a friend of mine whose 7- and 11-year-olds wear masks at school for some advice. They recommended KN95s from a company called MASKC. For stronger protection, the kids wear

3M Aura masks or a FloMask, which is a reusable respirator. Both children have sensory issues, but are able to comfortably wear these masks for hours at a time.

In addition to masking, improving indoor air quality is a huge necessity – not only for preventing COVID spread, but also to protect children from mold, dust, and other gunk that can impact the ability to think clearly. You can advocate that your child’s school invest in air purifiers, or even build a Corsi-Rosenthal Box for your child’s classroom. One study in Helsinki found that air purifier use at a daycare center cut kids’ sick days by a third!

Vaccination is also an important tool for lowering the risk of severe COVID. The newest series of vaccines is tailored to the variants that have been spreading more recently, so they offer much stronger protection than previous vaccinations.

Think of COVID shots like flu shots – you need an updated one whenever a new version comes out, in order to be best protected. Vaccination does not, however, stop transmission or infection, which is why a layered approach that includes masking in public and cleaning the air is so important.

I believe all adults have a responsibility to the children in our world, whether or not they are our “own.” I can’t stay quiet when I see so many parents and teachers accepting a new normal in which children are regularly becoming infected with a neurovascular disease with a high likelihood of bad outcomes! In the coming years, many kids of this generation will become chronically ill, and they will look back at this time with rage and horror. They will have every right to be angry with us.

COVID can kill and maim children, just as it does adults, and it does not make sense to count on infections being “mild” when even asymptomatic cases have been shown to impair various organ systems in quantifiable ways. Adults must lead by example and implement and advocate, once again, for extending COVID precautions.

With love and rage,

Your Sick Friend

Senior Center Activities

SEPTEMBER 23 THROUGH 27

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 9/23

10:15 a.m. Aerobics

11 a.m. Chair Exercise

Tuesday 9/24

9 a.m. Chair Yoga

3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 9/25

10:15 a.m. Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Outdoor Yoga

11 a.m. Chair Exercise

12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo

4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 9/26

1 p.m. Pitch

3:30 p.m. MV Volunteer Training

Friday 9/27

10:15 a.m. Aerobics

11 a.m. Chair Exercise

2 p.m. Chair Dance

ERVING

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

Monday 9/23

9 a.m. Interval

10 a.m. Chair Dance

1 p.m. Yoga

Tuesday 9/24

9 a.m. Good for U

10 a.m. Line Dancing

11 a.m. Social Stringer

Wednesday 9/25

9 a.m. Strength & Conditioning

10 a.m. Chair Aerobics

12 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 9/26

9 a.m. Barre Fusion

10 a.m. Pilates Flow

Friday 9/27

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

WENDELL

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

For Senior Health Rides, contact 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.

Contact (413) 548-1022 x2 or coa@leverett.ma.us.

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AT THE FAIR

Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue



Wendi, one of three “ambassador” opossums working with Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue.

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – Pam Lefferts is one of the owners of Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue, along with her husband Bill. Ferncroft Rescue is named after the wildlife rehabilitators’ farm in Woodstock, Connecticut, which is covered in ferns.

Pam and Bill were at the Franklin County Fair earlier this month in Greenfield, and brought two opossums with them. While their program was called the “Meet the Opossums” on the flyer of the fair’s events, Pam told me its formal name is “Backyard Wildlife: All About the Opossums.”

“We usually don’t do fairs,” Pam told me when I asked her about coming to the Franklin County Fair. “We are going to try it and see how it goes.”

The program has been going on for eight years. “We are a specialty for opossums only,” Pam explained. “We’re elderly and retired schoolteachers, and wanted to do something meaningful.... We wanted to work with animals that we felt were exposed.”

Pam told me they “have a perfect setting to have a wildlife refuge.” When I asked her about the opossums there, she said, “Right now I have 19 of them. We have educational ambassadors and three opossums who live with us full-time. We have a federal USDA permit to keep these animals as educational ambassadors.”

The opossum pictured here, Wendi, is one of the two ambassadors for the program. The names of the other two are Sherman and Bob.

Ferncroft presents many educational programs, and does professional tours, which means going to schools and conservation groups. “We have also trained other rehabilitators,” Pam told me. They do the educational programs in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

The place has programs appropriate for children and families. One children’s program is called “All About Wild Things.” An adult and family one is “What Is Wildlife Rehabilitation?”

I knew the “Meet the Opossums” program meant we would get to see the opossums with them. But they did it in a cool way. They used two of the ambassador possums for this, Wendi and Bob. Pam talked about opossums while people could see the two ambassadors up close. It was a cool sight, and people could even pet them.

They made sure these animals were nice ones to do this with. A nice crowd came over to see all of this. One thing I learned from talking with Pam is that opossums don’t get diseases such as rabies. It was also mentioned that these animals got practice being around people. It showed that they didn’t mind people – both seem to enjoy being petted. Ferncroft Wildlife Rescue has a Facebook page, and its official website is at www.ferncroftwildlife.com.

Montague Community Television News

Still Hiring!

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – Lake Pleasant celebrated their 150th, and we have a lot of videos from their event on August 24. Pop on to the MCTV Vimeo page to check them out!

There you’ll also find footage from the performance by Wes Brown and Friends at Peskeompskut Park, the GMRSD school committee meeting, and both the Gill and Montague selectboard meetings. And if you haven’t seen Montague’s “three-tier” plan for its Complete Streets project in Montague Center, we have that available as well.

MCTV is still looking for enthusiastic new hires. If you have any

experience or interest in editing or filming, you should get in touch. We’re always looking to bring more people on board!

All MCTV videos are aired on Channel 9 as well as being featured on the MCTV Vimeo page. If there is a meeting, event, performance or happening in the Montague area that you think MCTV should capture, let us know! And if you also have an idea for a show, MCTV is always available to assist in local productions as well. Just reach out!

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). For videos and more, check out our website, montaguetv.org.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Threat of Haircut; Ebike Crash; Napping With High Beams; Half-Alive Bat; Driver Strikes Child, Then Bites Bystander

Monday, 9/9

1:50 p.m. Callers from Moltenbrey Apartments reporting a female harassing and threatening others in the building. A 44-year-old Turners Falls woman was arrested and charged with violating a harassment prevention order.

5:46 p.m. Caller from Fifth Street states that he had his dog stolen. Advised.

5:52 p.m. Walk-in reporting a suspicious vehicle with its doors open parked in front of the Moltenbrey Apartments.

5:56 p.m. Several reports of a loose dog in the Plains. Unable to locate.

7:14 p.m. Caller states she saw what looked like a child walking near the church on L Street waving a machete. Unfounded.

10:31 p.m. Out with Anti-Crime Task Force in the Fifth Street alleyway. A 31-year-old Springfield man was arrested on a straight warrant.

Tuesday, 9/10

12:20 a.m. Caller reports an individual looking through car windows with a light in the Fourth Street alleyway. Referred to an officer.

9:58 a.m. A 41-year-old Montague Center man was arrested on two default warrants.

11:55 a.m. Caller would like to speak with an officer about recent activity at the Moltenbrey Apartments.

12:25 p.m. School resource officer requesting officers for some type of disturbance in the high school lobby involving parents. He is on his way from Gill. Two parents who are not together showed up to deal with their juvenile with behavior issues. No problems. Child removed from school.

1:09 p.m. Caller from Moltenbrey Apartments states she was told that another resident hired someone to assault her and cut her hair off. Advised of options.

2:31 p.m. Caller has safety concerns about a truck at Food City with several large political flags hanging off the back. Vehicle no longer there.

2:57 p.m. Caller would like it on record that a female against whom they have a harassment protection order was yelling outside their apartment building.

4:19 p.m. 911 caller reporting possible brush fire near Mineral and Lake Pleasant roads. FD on scene.

9:38 p.m. Multiple 911 callers reporting a car into a yard on Millers Falls Road; car is trying to take off. One call stated that the car went through the yard next door. Fire, EMS, and Rau’s contacted. Field sobriety test performed; .03% preliminary breath test. DPW notified about a “Do Not Pass” sign that was hit and needs to be put back up.

11:25 p.m. 911 caller reports that an intoxicated individual drove an electric bike into a pole on Turnpike Road and crashed. Caller advises male is bleeding significantly and is breathing but in and out of consciousness. Transferred to Shelburne Control for ambulance; officers advised. Officers heading to East Main Street to find a family member.

Wednesday, 9/11

7:14 a.m. Caller from East Main Street states her neighbor is being loud and disrespectful. The neighbor called and said the same thing about the caller and that the police need to mediate all arguments between tenants there. Mediated; advised of options.

1:17 p.m. Multiple callers reporting a yellow-and-white dog running around the airport area. Animal control could not locate.

6:52 p.m. Fosters Road caller states she heard a gunshot from the street next to her, and kids laughing and yelling. Unfounded.

Thursday, 9/12

3:23 a.m. 911 caller from Montague City Road reported an individual triggered the motion light in their backyard. Officer out with individual; party stated he was cutting through the backyard from the bike path. Nothing appears to have been taken. Caller called back and stated she heard a noise in front of her house and noticed a person in the middle of the road on a phone; states the individual saw her and then the phone light went off. Last seen walking towards Cumberland Farms. Units advised; call logged.

5:31 a.m. Caller reports a purple Ford Fusion partially in the fog lane on Main Street near the Village Store; advises the vehicle appears to be running and has its high beams on, and someone is inside. Officer spoke to individual, who had pulled off the road to nap. Party was directed to the post office parking lot.

6:19 a.m. Caller from Pine-wood Circle states that her and her husband’s vehicles have been gone through by someone. Nothing appears to have been taken.

6:39 a.m. Caller from Pine-wood Circle reports that her vehicle was broken into and rummaged through overnight. Additional caller reporting vehicle break-in. One caller reporting a case that holds CDs is missing. Investigated.

7:44 a.m. Food City employee reporting a female party stole some items and is sitting outside the store. Female paid for items, but has been verbally trespassed. The 25-year-old Greenfield woman was found to have an active warrant and was taken into custody.

8:35 a.m. Caller from O Street states her vehicle was broken into and the interior trashed; unsure if anything was taken.

8:38 a.m. Caller from O Street advising that two vehicles were gone through overnight. Unsure if any items are missing.

9:05 a.m. Caller from Moltenbrey Apartments states that a party with an active warrant is in the building yelling and making threats. A 44-year-old Turners Falls woman was arrested on a straight warrant.

12:51 p.m. Walk-in is unhappy with the response to a call for a neighbor dispute she was involved with yesterday. Advised of options.

2:24 p.m. Walk-in from Grand Avenue requesting to speak with an officer about a theft at her home. Advised caller of options.

3:04 p.m. Caller from the Montague Center post office reports he came across a half-alive bat, and attempted to call the ACO but did not get through.

Covered bat with a box to prevent children or animals messing with it. ACO off today. Officer advised. Copy of call printed for ACO.

4:27 p.m. Walk-in reporting that residents on South High Street speed in and out of the driveway too fast. “Slow” signs have been put out as children and animals reside in the neighborhood, but it hasn’t helped. Officer advised. Negative contact with vehicle owners; spoke with neighbors and left notes on the cars.

5:10 p.m. Caller reporting log in the road on Spring Street. Officer advised. Log moved to side of road.

Friday, 9/13

6:18 a.m. Officers headed to a Turners Falls Road address with a search warrant. GPD officers assisting. Subject detained and Mirandized.

6:24 a.m. Caller from I Street states his daughter’s vehicle was broken into overnight and credit cards and possibly money were taken. Car window was smashed and a small tan Calvin Klein purse was stolen. Officer left note for H Street neighbors asking them to contact PD regarding their porch camera.

10:16 a.m. Report of a skunk walking around in circles for hours at Oakman Street and Autumn Lane. ACO *en route*.

2:39 p.m. Report of a young male operating a small, coffee-colored, wagon-type vehicle at approximately 70 m.p.h. on Montague Road in Wendell; possibly heading towards Millers Falls. Forwarded to Shelburne Control; officers advised.

3:15 p.m. Trespass order for Turners Falls High School issued to a male party. Paperwork filed.

3:32 p.m. 911 report of a blue car operating erratically on Montague City Road. Info passed to GPD.

3:35 p.m. Control received a 911 call about two dirt bikes riding in the middle of Federal Street popping wheelies. Officer advised.

Saturday, 9/14

12:03 a.m. 911 call reporting music blaring in a backyard on Morris Avenue. Caller states he tried to whistle and have them turn it down, but they are not able to hear him. Caller called back on 911 to reiterate the noise complaint and give the address.

12:08 a.m. Caller states that there is yelling and screaming coming from an Eleventh Street address; states she was asleep with windows shut and could hear it. Verbal only. Peace restored.

5:59 a.m. 911 caller states he was just turning onto the Avenue from Eleventh Street and heard a female screaming, “Leave me alone.” Unable to locate.

4:09 p.m. Multiple 911 calls reporting a bicyclist struck by a vehicle at Fifth and L Streets. Majority of callers stated that the patient was a child. Several callers reported that the suspect was attempting to flee the scene and that one or more bystanders were attempting to restrain him. Officers advised; Shelburne Control sending a mutual aid unit due to reports of a large disturbance surrounding the accident scene. Officer advises one detained at this time; requesting second ambulance for bystander who attempted to restrain the suspect and was bitten. Summons issued for leaving the scene of an accident with personal injury; operating to endanger; attaching plates to a motor vehicle; unregistered motor vehicle; uninsured motor vehicle; and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.


Sunday, 9/15

6:54 a.m. Report of suspicious activity at Moltenbrey Apartments. Referred to an officer.

9:47 a.m. Owner of an Avenue A building located two people sleeping in the hallway and would like an officer to assist him with waking them up. Parties moved along.

8:55 p.m. 911 caller reports that a black GMC truck pulled into the North Village Smokehouse parking lot and struck his vehicle approximately 25 minutes ago. The driver left and drove to Orange. The caller followed the truck to West River Road, but pulled over when he decided he should not follow it any further. Plate number provided. Referred to an officer.

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VALLEY VIEW from page B1

data, I have never ignored it. Quite the contrary, I remain alert for accurate assessments of the American shad and Atlantic salmon runs that greeted the first waves of colonial New England settlement.

Clark, a history professor who began as a newspaper reporter in West Lebanon, New Hampshire, and Providence, Rhode Island, visited the subject of Merrimack Valley migratory fish four times in his work chronicling the settlement of colonial Maine and New Hampshire. Not surprisingly, his descriptions of fishing practices and harvests on the Merrimack River closely resemble contemporaneous accounts from the Connecticut River at present-day Turners Falls and Gill. All the data were gathered from second-hand reports gleaned from town histories. In Clark’s case, he relied upon the 1851 *History of Bedford, N.H.*

And yes, there were salmon, albeit in far fewer numbers than shad, smaller herrings,

and lampreys. Curiously, Clark doesn’t mention sturgeon – Atlantic or shortnose – which appear to have been less important to colonists than to Native Americans.

Clark reports early opposition, by Indians and colonials alike, to migratory-fish-obstructing millsite dams. River-obstruction grievances were addressed by colony regulations mandating New England’s first fish passageways past grist and sawmill dams. Examples are many on the rivers of coastal Maine and New Hampshire, and on the Merrimack River, which flows from New Hampshire’s Lakes Region (Winnepesaukee) to Massachusetts’s North Shore.

The late 18th-century fishing practices and harvests described by Clark at Amoskeag Falls in Manchester, New Hampshire mirror those reported by Franklin County historians Epaphras Hoyt (*Antiquarian Researches*, 1824), Francis M. Thompson (*History of Greenfield*, 1904), and Edward P. Pressey (*History of Montague*, 1910). Unfortunately, such second-hand

numbers published in town histories are not always reliable, but they’re all we have.

These sources describing two major New England river systems say that shad were harvested in great numbers by seines stretched across heavily-used migration channels, while fishermen employing long-handled dip-nets scooped up many shad and smaller herrings, such as bluebacks and alewives.

Clark doesn’t quantify the daily take of scoop-netters, but he does report individual 1762 seine harvests of 2,500 and 1,500 shad, which is remarkably similar to reports by the Franklin County historians focused on the same activity some 30 years later.

Pressey reports that seine-netters at present-day Turners Falls took “as many as 2,000 shad in one haul, often [with] a giant salmon or two floundering in their midst.” He also says that solitary scoop-netters took as many as 5,000 fish in a day at Turners Falls, without naming the fish.

It would, however, appear that Pressey is

parroting Hoyt’s “upwards of 5,000 shad a day by dipping nets at Burnham’s Rock” – a well-known mass of bedrock jutting from the head of the falls on the Gill side to create an ideal fishing site.

As for Merrimack Valley salmon, they were obviously there, according to Clark, and his source is airtight: *The Diary of Matthew Patten, 1754-1788*. An original Scots-Irish settler of Bedford, New Hampshire, Patten (1718-1795) was a man about town and neighboring villages. He records fishing at his Patterson friends’ brook on July 17, 1762 and catching four salmon weighing 66 pounds, an average of 16.5 pounds per fish; two days later he caught 11 more totaling 134 pounds, better than 12 pounds each.

So, yes, salmon did exist in the Merrimack Valley back then. And take it to the bank that they were here, too – though in far fewer numbers than the accompanying shad, and their smaller herring kin.

The proof’s in the puddin’.



RECIPES from page B1

place alongside other condiments, such as ketchup – which had also originated in Asia.

Notably, chutney ingredients vary depending on what’s on hand. Spices, onions, and garlic are basic; apples are often included, and sometimes play the starring role.

Recipes for green tomato chutney – clearly an answer to the dilemma of the gardener faced with all those end-of season tomatoes that never ripen – appear in many community cookbooks produced by churches and schools. Green bean chutney is another one that uses a popular garden vegetable. Peppers, zucchini, and rhubarb are others. Massachusetts’s cranberries make a spectacular crimson chutney.

Mixing and matching fruit and vegetables is fine, and the exact amounts of each ingredient rarely matter. Vinegar and sugar are the exception to this because they act as the preservative. Typically, you will

need roughly a cup of vinegar and a half cup of sugar to each pound of ingredients. If you want the chutney sweeter or tarter, you can add more of one or the other.

Similarly, you can adjust the spices. Some chutneys have a fiery kick, but most have a gentle warmth, so go for what you like.

Chutneys don’t need to be canned because the vinegar and sugar preserves them, but you should store them in a cool, dark place in clean jars. Sterilize the jars by heating them in a 225-degree oven for 15 minutes; remove them with tongs, and fill them promptly.

In her *Cook’s Handbook* Prue Leith, who judges *The Great British Baking Show*, says chutney is “the easiest preserve to make.” It’s also a satisfying harvest rite, whether you want a vivid just-made Indian chutney or an Anglo-American jar of something to put on the table or give to friends over the holidays.



BUTTERNUT AND TOMATO CHUTNEY

The golden chunks of butternut look enticing in this zingy chutney.

- 3 medium-large tomatoes, about 1 lb.
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- ½ cup raisins (optional)
- 4 cups (about 1 lb.) butternut squash, cut in ¾-inch cubes
- 2 cups clear cider vinegar
- 1 tight-packed cup light brown sugar
- 2 tsp. powdered ginger
- 1 tsp. powdered allspice
- 1 tsp. black peppercorns, crushed
- dash of cayenne or red pepper
- 1 tsp. salt



Skin the tomatoes by making a criss-cross cut in the top of each, putting them in a bowl, and pour-

ing boiling water over them. After a minute or so the skins will loosen. Peel them under cold water to pro-

tect your hands.

Chop the tomatoes roughly and put them in a pan with the chopped onion, garlic, raisins if you’re using them, and half a cup of water. Simmer until they are soft. Now add the butternut with a little more water if the pan is getting dry. Simmer for another 4 or 5 minutes until the butternut softens, stirring as necessary to prevent sticking.

Pour in the vinegar and stir in the sugar, plus the ginger, allspice, black pepper, cayenne, and salt. Boil rapidly until the liquid looks thick but is still a tiny bit runny.

Taste and adjust the flavors as you see fit.

Makes 2½ pints.

APPLE AND APRICOT CHUTNEY

Fruity chutneys such as this are an ideal topping for Cheddar and other cheeses on sandwiches and crackers. Also good with lunch meats and fried food.

- 10 to 12 dried apricots
- ½ cup raisins (optional)
- 1 large onion (8 to 10 oz.)
- 2 to 3 cloves garlic
- 1-inch cube fresh ginger
- 1¼ lb. apples
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- ½ tsp. powdered chili pepper
- 1½ cups white cider vinegar
- 1 tsp. salt
- half a large red bell pepper
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup white sugar

Cut each apricot into 4 or 5 pieces and put them in a small bowl. Add the raisins and cover with water. Let soak for 30 minutes, or longer if that’s easier.

Chop the onion, crush the garlic, and grate the ginger. Peel the apples

and chop them into cubes or grate them. Remove seeds and ribs from the pepper and cut into 1-inch strips. Put the onion, garlic, ginger, and apples into a saucepan. Sprinkle on the cinnamon and powdered chili, then add the vinegar and salt. Bring to a boil and cook until much of the liquid has evaporated and the apples and onions are very tender.

Now stir in the pepper strips. Boil for another 3 to 4 minutes, then stir in the sugar. Reduce the temperature and continue cooking, stirring often to prevent sticking, until the mixture is thick and ploppy. Taste for flavor. Add more spices, garlic, salt, vinegar, or sugar as you see fit. Let cool, then pack into sterilized jars.

Makes 3 or 4 cups.

INDIAN CILANTRO CHUTNEY

This Indian chutney is uncooked. You can substitute mint for cilantro for a major flavor change. Eat with Indian poppadums and breads and fried Indian foods such as samosas and pakoras, as well as with fried chicken, sausages, and anything from the grill.

- 1 bunch cilantro, washed
- 2 or 3 garlic cloves
- 1 jalapeno pepper
- ½ to ¾ cup coconut milk
- about 4 Tbsp. finely grated coconut, or ground almonds
- 1 tsp. sugar
- salt to taste
- lemon juice to taste

Trim 2 or 3 inches of stem from the cilantro and discard. Roughly tear the leaves and put in a food processor. Crush the garlic with something heavy and add it. Cut the jalapeno lengthways and remove the seeds. Cut half into 3 or 4 bits and add it to the mixture, along with half a cup of coconut milk.

Process for a couple of minutes, then add 3 tablespoons of the grated coconut or almonds, plus the sugar. Process again to make a loose paste.

Taste. For a very hot chutney, add more jalapeno. For a thicker chutney, add more of the nuts. To loosen, add a little more coconut milk. Season with salt and lemon juice to taste.

Serve immediately. Store leftovers in a jar in the fridge for up to 3 days. The liquid separates out, so stir before serving.



Makes about 1 cup.

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Aquí se habla español

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



OPINIÓN

Mes de la Herencia Hispana

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

TURNERS FALLS – Esta semana ha empezado el Mes de la Herencia Hispana que se celebra en los Estados Unidos desde el 15 de septiembre hasta el 15 de octubre. El mes busca celebrar la cultura latina y los latinos que han ayudado a crear este país. Este debería ser el objetivo de la celebración, y no honrar una figura como la de Colón que no tiene ninguna relación más allá de llegar al mismo continente que los Estados Unidos.

Celebramos el Mes de la Herencia Hispana en reconocimiento de los logros y contribuciones de los líderes hispanoamericanos que han inspirado a otras personas latinas en nuestro país a lograr el éxito. Esta celebración empezó en 1968 como la Semana de la Herencia Hispana, bajo el presidente Lyndon Johnson, y fue expandida por el presidente Ronald Reagan en 1988 a un periodo de 30 días. Se promulgó como ley el 17 de agosto de 1988.

La elección de estas fechas es también un guiño a los aniversarios de la independencia nacional de varios países latinoamericanos: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras y Nicaragua reconocen el 15 de septiembre como la fecha de su independencia, mientras que la independencia de México se celebra el 16 de septiembre y la de Chile el 18 de septiembre.

Actualmente los hispanos y los latinos constituyen una parte cada vez mayor de la población general de los Estados Unidos. El censo estadounidense de 2020 concluyó que los hispanos y los latinos constituyen un grupo multirracial de rápido crecimiento: en 2020, 62,1 millones de personas se identificaron como hispanos o latinos, el 18% de la población estadounidense. Ese número había crecido un 23% desde 2010. En comparación, la población estadounidense que no es de origen hispano o latino creció solo un 4,3%, según los datos del censo.

Entre 2010 y 2020, algo más de la mitad del crecimiento total de la población estadounidense, el 51,1%, se debió al crecimiento de los hispanos o latinos.

Aún así, muchos estadounidenses nunca han oído hablar del Mes de la Herencia Hispana y simplemente creen que celebramos el Día de Colón en octubre porque este llegó hasta Estados Unidos ya que muchos piensan que Colón llegó a las costas de Boston o Nueva York en alguno de sus viajes, no conociendo la realidad histórica.

Así pues, esta es la historia: Colón navegó unos tres meses y llegó a lo que él siempre consideró la India un 12 de octubre de 1492. ¿Fue el primero? No, por supuesto que no, pero su llegada cambió el



curso de la historia. En aquel momento, España no era España, era un país que se estaba formando y no tenía las mismas fronteras que ahora conocemos, En ese mismo año tuvieron lugar otros tres acontecimientos que cambiaron la historia de este pequeño país entre el Mediterráneo y el Atlántico:

Los Reyes Católicos, Isabel y Fernando, tras muchos años de guerras intermitentes conquistaron Granada. Esto supuso la expulsión de los últimos musulmanes que todavía habitaban la parte sur de la península Ibérica.

Ese mismo año para complacer al papa que les había concedido el título de Reyes Católicos, promulgaron un edicto que obligaba a los judíos a convertirse al catolicismo o abandonar el territorio. Los que decidieron quedarse eran espiados para comprobar que sus prácticas religiosas eran las cristianas y los que no lo hacían eran perseguidos por la Inquisición. Los que se fueron debieron abandonar sus casas, tierras, enseres, joyas, etc.

La reina Isabel se hizo cargo de estas riquezas que fueron en parte utilizadas para sufragar los gastos del viaje de Colón.

Y por último, también en 1492, Antonio de Nebrija publicó la primera gramática en lengua castellana. Es la primera gramática de una lengua moderna, anterior a la francesa o inglesa y dice la leyenda que Nebrija se la ofreció a la reina Isabel como instrumento del imperio.

Estos eventos históricos y otros científicos como mejores instrumentos de navegación y naves mejores, así como un mejor

conocimiento de las estrellas y los mapas hicieron posible que un simple navegante italiano que había llegado a las costas de Portugal después de un naufragio frente a Lisboa lograra convencer a la reina Isabel para conseguir fondos para su viaje, y más aún después de que el rey de Portugal le hubiera dicho que no a semejante despropósito.

En aquellos años se pensaba que la tierra era plana y que el Atlántico era un lugar en el que los barcos se hundían como si de un precipicio se tratase y por ello nadie se atrevía a acercarse a ese punto del océano. La iglesia católica estaba en contra de cualquier avance científico y consideraba una herejía cualquier teoría que hablase de la posibilidad de que la tierra no fuese plana.

En aquellos años, las guerras entre los gobiernos cristianos y los turcos a lo largo del Mediterráneo estaban causando grandes pérdidas económicas a los primeros ya que los barcos que volvían cargados de seda, especias y otros bienes eran hundidos con todas sus mercancías lo que suponía una gran pérdida monetaria.

Colón había oído a navegantes en Lisboa que quizás sería posible hacer el viaje siguiendo otra dirección, navegar desde Portugal al oeste, atravesando el precipicio, y llegar desde allí hasta China e India. Jamás imaginó que en su viaje se toparía con otro continente, es más, Colón murió creyendo que había llegado a la India.

América recibió su nombre debido a un científico italiano que era profesor en la Universidad de Salamanca llamado Amerigo

Vespucci, que fue el primero en afirmar que aquellas tierras era un nuevo continente.

Colón salió el 3 de agosto de 1492 del Puerto de Palos en Huelva y llegó en octubre a la isla que los nativos llamaban Guanahani y que Colón renombró como Isla de San Salvador, ahora es la isla de Watling en Bahamas. En este primer viaje Colón llegó también a Cuba y a la isla que ahora es Haití y República Dominicana. A la primera la llamó Isla de Juana y a la segunda isla la llamó La Española.

Los habitantes nativos de estas islas del Caribe a la llegada de Colón fueron los taínos, que provenían de los Arawak que también habitaban en Florida. Los taínos fueron casi en totalidad asesinados por los españoles debido a los trabajos forzados y a las enfermedades que trajeron desde Europa a las que los nativos no eran inmunes.

Colón escribió una carta al tesorero de la reina Isabel en la que describía a los taínos como de cuerpo atlético, que desconocían el uso de la fabricación de armas con metales, y eran generosos y fáciles de conquistar. La intención de Colón era conseguir más dinero para poder realizar otros viajes como así sucedió.

En su segundo viaje llegó a Puerto Rico y Jamaica, y en un tercero llegó frente las costas de Venezuela, a la isla de Trinidad. En su cuarto y último viaje alcanzó las costas de Costa Rica y Panamá.

Colón jamás puso un pie en Sudamérica, ni tampoco en México y mucho menos en las costas de Estados Unidos, ni siquiera en Florida.

Hay muchas maneras de celebrar el Mes de la Herencia Hispana, y descubrir cómo el mundo cambió, no especialmente para bien, a partir de 1492. Les recomiendo especialmente leer *1491: New Revelations of the Americas before Columbus* de Charles Mann; cualquiera del gran García Márquez (mi favorito es *El amor en los tiempos del cólera*); o la dominicana Julia Alvarez y *En el tiempo de las mariposas*.

En Netflix y Amazon Prime encontrarán muchas series en español o en inglés con actores como John Leguizamo, Sofía Vergara, Mónica Ferrera o Gael García Bernal. Escuchen música: salsa, bachata, Rosalía y no olviden a los clásicos como Vicente Fernández o Luis Miguel.

Y por último, acudan a los restaurantes latinos de la zona – Posada, Cielito Lindo, El Nopalito, Mesa Verde, Lupita – y disfruten de la cocina latina.

Y ahora, traten de contestar a estas preguntas sin mirar las respuestas y juzguen ustedes mismos cuánto saben de nuestros países vecinos, de su historia y de su cultura, y con ello hacer un reconocimiento a los latinos de este país.

PREGUNTAS:

1. ¿Cómo se llama la capital de Honduras?
2. ¿Qué dos países de Centroamérica entraron en guerra después de un partido de fútbol?
3. ¿Cuál es la montaña más alta de América?
4. ¿Qué famoso jugador de fútbol fue conocido como la Mano de Dios?
5. ¿Cuál es la capital más alta del mundo?
6. ¿De qué país es lengua oficial el guaraní?
7. ¿Qué dos países de Sudamérica no tienen salida al mar?
8. ¿Qué es el pabellón criollo?
9. ¿Qué deporte practica el mexicano-americano Marc Gonzalez?
10. ¿Quién fue Dolores Huertas?

RESPUESTAS:

5. La capital más alta del mundo es La Paz que es la capital de Bolivia. Se encuentra a una altura de 3.500 metros.
6. El guaraní es lengua oficial en Paraguay junto con el español.
8. Es el plato nacional de Venezuela que consta de carne de res, frijoles y plátano frito.
9. Practica el patinaje callejero.
10. Activista de los derechos humanos especialmente de los trabajadores agrícolas.
2. El Salvador y Honduras. La guerra duró solamente cuatro días. Se originó por disputas acerca de la propiedad de tierras y por controles migratorios.
3. La montaña más alta es el Aconcagua que se encuentra en la cordillera de los Andes, en la provincia de Mendoza en Argentina.
4. Maradona. Marcó un gol contra Inglaterra en un mundial que algunos consideraron que usó la mano en lugar del pie. El partido se celebró en plena guerra de las Malvinas entre estos dos países.

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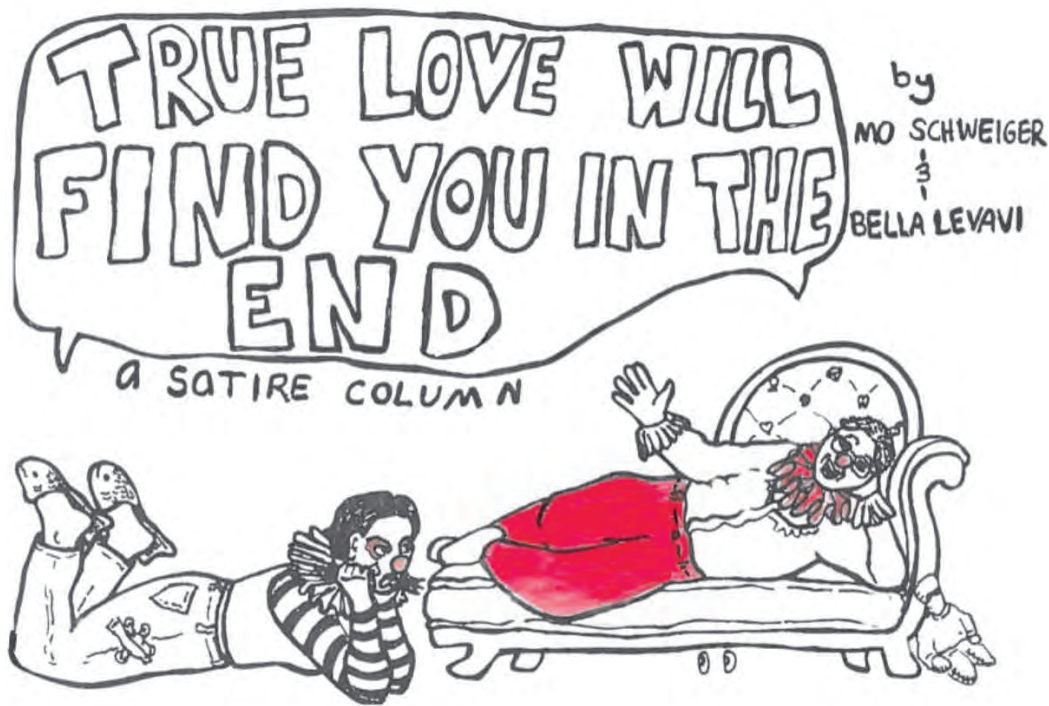
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Demo Derby is for Lovers

By MHANDY MUDBALLS

FRANKLIN COUNTY – It’s official: I’m in love.

When Demolition Derby driver of car #69 knocked #420 out of the competition by pulling a donut and slamming him into the concrete barricade 15 times, I knew exactly what he should be slamming next.

For those of you who don’t know, the Demolition Derby is a sacred ritual performed at the end of county fairs nationwide to symbolize the freedom that we have as Americans to both create and destroy, using cars as a vehicle through which to decree our

national consciousness. In short, cars slam into each other over and over in an attempt to destroy one another and create as many emissions as a small nation emits in a year in just two hours.

This was my first Demolition Derby, and thank God I was seated next to Bethany, the sister of one of the drivers, because she quickly became my Demolition Derby Doula. Between bites of cheese fries from a bucket deep enough to house a small family of rodents and shouts of “Oh *shit!*” that drowned out the sounds of the stalling cars and made our entire bleacher turn to look at her, Bethany explained to me the rules of the road.

“Drivers are sponsored by junk yards and ICU departments,” she explained, with no indication whether or not she was joking.

She then explained to me that each driver has 30 seconds to deliver a hit – nothing like a shot clock at a basketball game, she clarified. If you miss this window or your car gets pummeled to smithereens, you’re out.

What I didn’t know ahead of time, and that Bethany forgot to explain, was that the Demolition Derby was in fact the second day of *Chewing Noises*, the experimental noise music festival at Unnameable Books in Turners Falls. I was very impressed with the “disorganizer” of the event, abstract turntablist Rutabaga Schmutabega, who had clearly pounded the pavement and managed to sell out of tickets to the second day’s festivities, even with the change of venue.

The stands at the Demolition Derby were full to the brim with people ready to hear the sweet *clanks* and *crunches* that define the genre of the festival, and the musicians did not disappoint. There were crunches, revs, and backfires galore, all topped off by intermittent air horns and the sounds of water bottles smashing into vehicles, both of which were deployed by referees at cars that had somehow committed fouls in this lawless game.

All in all, it was a totally immersive soundscape – complete with a piece of shrapnel hitting me in the eye despite me having the worst seat in the house, something that Bethany tells me is akin to catching the bouquet at a wedding. It was the perfect complement to Shea Mowat’s headlining set the night prior.

What drew my eye to Driver #69 was not just his skill behind the wheel, but his showmanship. Every time he would deliv-

er his signature side swipe, he would zoom around the ring and throw his hands out of the windows of his car – their glass had been removed by fair mandate – showing off his fingerless gloves and flipping off the entire audience. What a dreamboat!

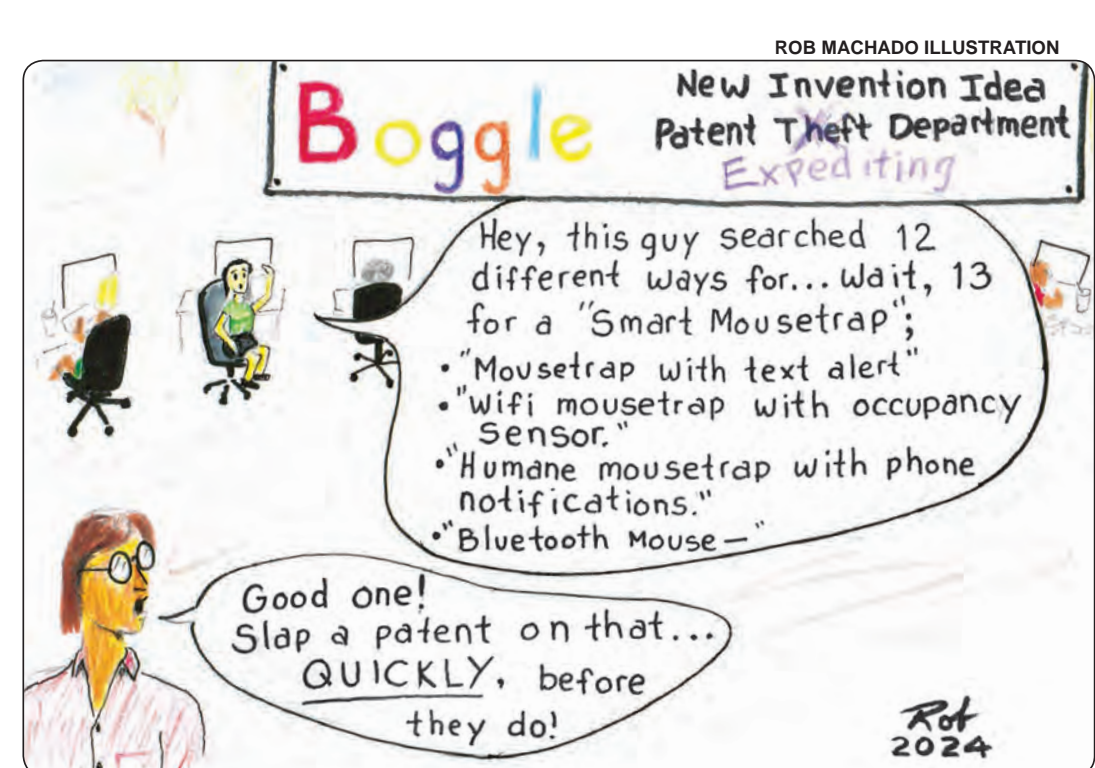
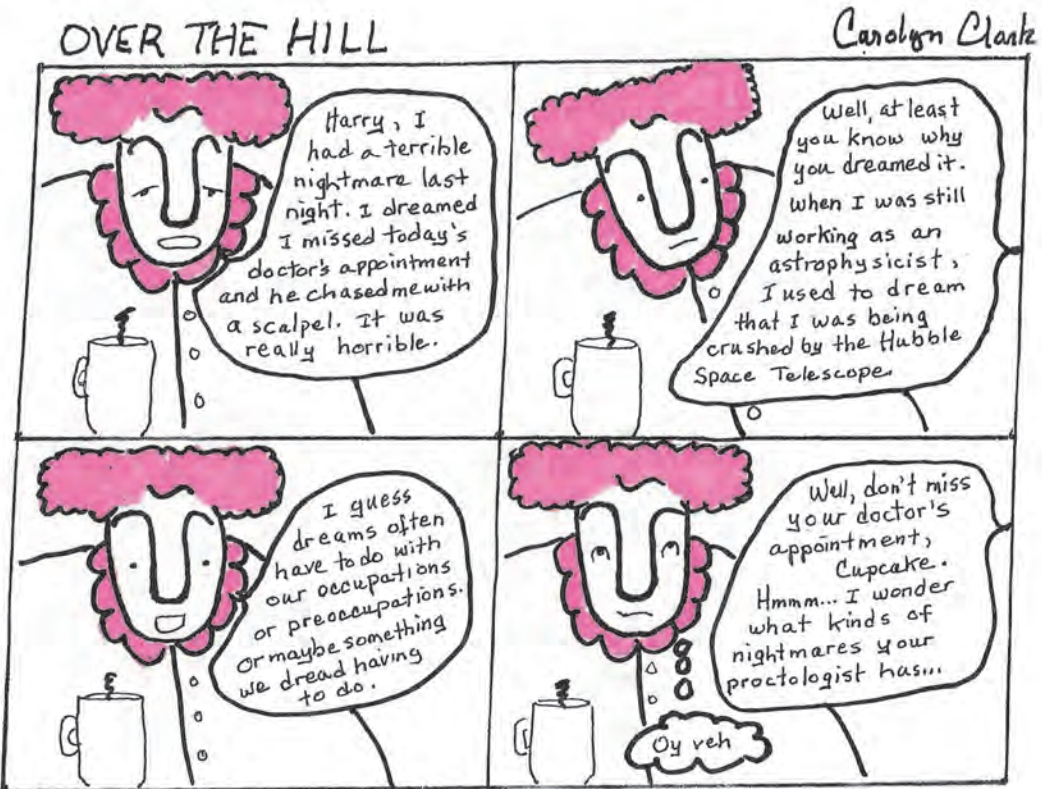
Additionally, I cannot overstate how many babies were in the stands at the Demolition Derby.

Seeing hundreds of babies in noise-canceling headphones sucking on deep fried Oreos put me in an absolutely rabid and trancelike state of baby fever that I am certain spun me into a heterosexual frenzy, compounding my love for #69.

But it wasn’t just my pheromones that drew me to him: *the babies* seemed to love Driver #69, making my desire for him even stronger. When he and his father tied in the final round of the derby and he jumped on top of his car, ripping his shirt off in celebration, I swear that every baby in the stadium stood up and saluted. What a *mensch*.

After the derby’s conclusion, I drove around town looking for lucky car number 69, which had phalluses spray-painted on its sides mirroring those that I often marvel at on Poet’s Seat Tower. After hours of searching a one-mile radius, I found the barely-drivable Honda Fit in the Smitty’s parking lot. I walked into the bar, proudly wearing the hot pink “Legalize Road Rage” t-shirt I had bought at the derby, and parted the sea of admirers surrounding my man.

With an air of casualty, showing that I’m *not* like other girls, I offered to buy him a beer. I am choosing to believe that he declined not because he doesn’t want to hit it like he did driver #420, but because of the concussion he was suffering.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Rodney Crowell*. \$. 7 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Jolie Holland, Jon Braught, Sofi Naufal, Alice George Perez*. \$. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Trigger Discipline, Caldon Glover, Snowbeasts, Burial Woods*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Dead Collective*, Dead tribute. \$. 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Kalliope Jones*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Mesh, Eraser, Landowner, Pearl Sugar*. \$. 6 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Magick Lantern, Bonnie, Ben Hersey*. \$. 7 p.m.

Williamsburg Grange Hall: *Etran de L'Aïr*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Pulp, Holyoke: *Greg Kelley & Yoona Kim, Ron Schneiderman, Julia Handschuh & Anna Hendricks, Jimena Bermejo & Jeff Huckleberry, Loculus*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Wolfman Jack*, Dead tribute. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Joe Graveline with Nina Gross*. Free. 12 p.m.

Palladium, Worcester: *Kills-witch Engage, Converge, Full of Hell, Integrity, Nails, Xibalba, Machine Head, Emmure*, many more. \$. 12:30 p.m.

Next Stage Arts, Putney: *Cyro Baptista*. \$. 5 p.m.

Prescott Tavern, Amherst: *Birth-right, Kidnapped, Crucial Point, Skud, Posthumous Obsession*. \$. 6 p.m.

Mount Toby Friends Meeting-house, Leverett: *Paul Kaplan, Sarah Pirtle*. \$. 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Mali Velasquez, Bloomsday, César Alvarez*. \$. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Tony Vacca and Fusion Nomads*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Deep River Ramblers*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Holyoke Media, Holyoke: *Nat Baldwin, Bobby Labitch & Keiran Lally, Arien Wilkerson, Loculus*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Big E, West Springfield: *Diplo*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Fruition, Joelton Mayfield, Splendid Torch*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Longings, Red Herrings, Phroeggs, Feminine Aggression*. \$. 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Club D'Elf*. \$. 8 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Black Sweatpants*, Dead tribute. \$. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Palladium, Worcester: *Slaughter to Prevail, Suicidal Tendencies, Bane, Terror, As I Lay Dying*, many more. \$. 12:30 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Talisk*. \$. 6 p.m.

Quarters, Hadley: *Western Mass Electronics*, open synth jam with set by *Eric Hnatow*. No cover. 7 p.m.

Big E, West Springfield: *Pepa of Salt-n-Pepa*. \$. 8 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Leo Kottke*. \$. 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Leo Kottke*. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Deerhoof, Ekko Astral*. \$. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Leon Trout*. Free. 5:30 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Angel Olsen*. \$. 8 p.m.

Big E, West Springfield: *Slaughter*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Spectre Folk, Fugue State, P.V.*. \$. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Greenfield Community College: *Erin McKeown*. \$. 6 p.m.

Holyoke Media Center, Holyoke: *Crank Sturgeon, Victor Signore, Nat Baldwin, Kane Loggia Hypothesis, Eric Dahlman*. \$. 7 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Southern Culture on the Skids, The Woggles*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Leon Trout, The Narcotix, Faith Ann Band*. Free. 5:30 p.m.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Ask Me Now*. Free. 6 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Steve Gunn, Geologist, Blue Cactus*. \$. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Jimmy Tingle*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Angel Olsen*. \$. 8 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Haunting Titans, Crowrider, Starbath, Demon Chrome*. \$. 8 p.m.

Big E, West Springfield: *Lisa Loeb*. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bluegrass and Beyond*. No cover. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Garlic & Arts Festival, Orange:

Ray & the Lovers, Eli Elkus, The Secret Chord, Moon Hollow, Rippopotamus, Josh Levangie, more. \$. 11 a.m.

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Eilen Jewell, Breezy Jane & the Hurricanes, James Montgomery Blues Band, Lonesome Brothers*. \$. 12 p.m.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Queer-Core Fest* feat. *Space Camp, Eevie Echoes & The Locations, Film and Gender, K.O. Queen, I Have No Mouth, Mudai*. \$. 4 p.m.

Bombyx Arts, Florence: *Yacouba Sissoko*. \$. 7 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Jason Anderson, Jak Mikal Thomas, AJ Coletti*. \$. 7 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Film screening, Nosferatu* (1922), with live soundtrack by *Arpeggi-one Ensemble*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Big E, West Springfield: *Public Enemy*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Completely Unchained*, Van Halen tribute. \$. 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Big Bad Bollocks*. \$. 8 p.m.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Winterpills, Tiger Saw*. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Vimana*. No cover. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Garlic & Arts Festival, Orange: *Tap Roots, Briezy Jane & The Hurricane, Mighty King Snakes, JJ Slater & Lexi Weege, Ch'Chunk*, more. \$. 11 a.m.

Clark Art Institute, Williamstown: *Malik Abdul-Rahmaan, DJ Rec*. Free. 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Supersuckers, Hooten Hallers*. \$. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*. No cover. 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Safe Mind, Clock Serum, Barbie.AI*. \$. 8 p.m.

Tourists, North Adams: *Steve Gunn*. \$. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Carinae, Sun Parade*. \$. 7 p.m.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Glenn Jones, Thalia Zedek, Damon & Naomi*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Minibeast, Ian St. George Band, Kane Loggia Hypothesis*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Neko Case, Imaad Wasif*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

Marsh House, Amherst: *Woody, Skud, I Have No Mouth*. \$. 6 p.m.

Buckley Recital Hall, Amherst College, Amherst: *Emmanuel Ax* plays *Beethoven, Shoenberg*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Vapors of Morphine*. \$. 8 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Graham Nash*. \$. 8 p.m.

looking forward...

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Rocking Puppies, Battlemode, Shiprock & Anchor-dog*. \$. 2 p.m.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Olive Klug, Silvie's Okay*. \$. 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Kath Bloom, Lori Goldstone, Vaguely Pagan*. \$. 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11

Palladium, Worcester: *Sepultura, Obituary, Agnostic Front, Claustrophobia, Harvest*. \$. 6 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Richard Thompson, Kacy & Clayton*. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

The Drake, Amherst: *DJ Lucas, Woody, 22BB, Target Scammers*. \$. 8 p.m.

Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT: *Lil Wayne*. \$. 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Little Wings*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *Briezy Jane, Little Wild Bouquet, Edward Hines*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Philip Glass Ensemble* performs *Koyaanisqatsi* live. \$. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23

Northampton Center for the Arts: *Yo La Tengo, Friendship Band*. Benefit for Whole Children. \$. 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Sunset Rubdown, Sister Ray*. \$. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Colonial Theater, Keene: *Bruce Cockburn*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Judge John Hodgman: Road Court*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Flore Laurentienne, William Basinski*. \$. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Carnivorous Bells, Editrix, Landowner, Target Scammers*. \$. 4 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Apes of State, Rent Strike*. \$. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Minibeast, Upper Wilds, Teen Driver*. \$. 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

Buckley Recital Hall, Amherst College, Amherst: *Juilliard String Quartet* plays *Schubert, Mozart*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

EXHIBITS

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wax, Water and String*, paintings in encaustic, watercolor, and embroidery by Pam Allan. Through January.

Waterway Arts, Turners Falls: Work by Molly Almeida, Lydia M. Kinney, and Judith Bowerman. Drawings, paintings, and prints.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *A First-Class Machine Shop*, local history exhibit with images, text, maps, and artifacts in collaboration with the Museum of Our industrial Heritage. September 29 through December 1.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: *Jasper Alexander* presents block prints from his Salted Snail Studio, through October.

Montague Center Library: *Meaghan Schwelm*, paintings exploring the everyday and the familiar. Through October 30, with a reception Wednesday, October 23 at 6 p.m.

Rhodes Art Center, Northfield Mount Hermon: *Tertiary Effects*, sculptures, prints, and drawings by Jess Star, through September 29.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Nature Elementals*, paintings by Lori Lyn Hoffer and fabric beasts by Jacqueline Straus, through September.

Leverett Library: *Trees and Mills*, drawings and etchings by Frank Waugh. Through October 29, with a talk with curator Annaliese Bischoff Saturday, October 5 at 1:30 p.m.

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *It's Never Too Late to Create*, work by Tim Gorts, through October 11.

Greenfield Library: *The Day After Yesterday*, portraits of de-

mentia by Joe Wallace, through September 28.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Every Vote Counts*, art installation by A.L.R. Keaton. Enter a voting booth, read the graffiti there and add your own, and cast a unique ballot. *The Art of Recovery*, artwork from participants at the Recover Project, through October; reception next Friday, September 27, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Von Auersperg Gallery, Deerfield Academy: *limninal*, paintings and kinetic sculpture by Donnabelle Casis, through November 2.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *When Matter Talks Back*, mixed-media installation by Rebecca Muller, through September 28.

Science and Engineering Library, UMass Amherst: *Our Common Ground*, UMass worker artist exhibition about caring for the Earth and each other. September 23 through December 19.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Treasured Memories*, group exhibit by member artists depicting scenes that trigger memories or emotions, through September.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne: *Wings of the Wind*, paintings by Margaret Loyd, and *The New Herbarium*, cyanotypes by Madge Evers, through October 28.

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.

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ELDEST from page B1

mother held forth, charming select-board members Rich Kuklewicz and Chris Boutwell, who presented her with the cane and a keepsake medallion.

One of Davis’s lifelong passions is sports. “I used to play softball, when I was a young’un,” she said. “And basketball. I played a lot of sports.” She also bowled, into her 90s. Upon learning she is a longtime Red Sox fan – when the team finally won the World Series, “we put a big sign outside the building!” – Kuklewicz made a promise:

“We’ll get someone from the Red Sox here, one way or another, for your 105th birthday.”

Davis, whose 103rd birthday is next month, said her favorite players include World Series star David “Big Papi” Ortiz, but she also loves promising youngsters like Carl Yastrzemski, age 85.

“Can you do anything about some music?” asked one of her daughters. “Rod Stewart, maybe?”

“We’ll get a CD,” Boutwell said with a chuckle.

It’s hardly necessary to look beyond Davis’s immediate family for musical entertainment. Remembering her Iowa childhood, Davis described singing in harmony with her sisters, a tradition she continues to this day with her younger sister, “Aunt” Audrey – herself about to turn 96 – over Facetime.

“My sister and I are the last of the generation,” she said wistfully, before breaking into song: “You are my sunshine, my only sunshine!”

A few years ago, Davis got to see 20 members of her Iowa family for her 100th birthday, when despite her party being officially canceled on account of the COVID pandemic they came anyway and stayed in a rental house in Buckland.

“I drove up and saw them all on the porch,” Davis proudly recounted.

Davis now has 20 grandchil-



Maxine Davis’s daughters (left to right) Marie, Cindy, Audrey, Debbie, Brenda, and Carolyn, in a late-1950s photograph.

dren, 40 great-grandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren – soon to be eight.

Some years earlier, while visiting more of her family in Los Angeles, she became a genuine Hollywood celebrity, interviewed under the iconic letters atop the hill. (We hope this hometown article compares favorably!)

Davis’s daughters commented on her sunny disposition, with classic sisterly repartee:

“She’s never said a harsh word about anybody!”

“Except about me.”

“Justified!”

Davis’s stories, spanning all ages and facets of her life, paint vivid scenes of days gone by. “Bananas were our candy when we were growing up,” she recalled. “We’d get a Chiquita banana and 50 cents for a birthday!”

Then she instantly transported

her guests to 1960s Turners Falls, remembering the many times she took her daughters to the Park Villa Drive-In movie theater which, until a 1978 fire, stood on the very site of her current apartment complex.

Sometimes her stories led to surprising connections: during her 35 years as head cashier at the UMass Student Union, it turned out, she knew Rich Kuklewicz’s wife.

As Davis moved back and forth through the decades and remarked on how recent some of these events still felt, one of her daughters observed, “Time flies fast for you.”

“Well, I guess so,” Davis reflected. “I’ve had a very nice life, and I’m still having a very nice life.”



REPORTER’S NOTEBOOK

To Sit and Listen

By WILL QUALE

MONTAGUE – The memories Maxine Davis shared on Saturday call to mind an editorial in this paper nearly a decade ago, not long after Montague had rediscovered its *Boston Post Cane* – which it turned out had been “preserved” in a closet for many years – and revived the tradition of these ceremonies.

“We’d like to gently voice our reservations about much further focus on the cane itself,” the *Reporter* cautioned on January 22, 2015. “We think we should honor the 1,500 or so senior citizens of our town. We should commemorate and congratulate longevity, and most of all, we should sit and listen to the very oldest among us. They are living links to a bygone world.”

Sunderland folklorists Michael and Carrie Kline recently helped residents of Northfield and Deerfield do just that in year-long oral history projects as a part of each town’s 350th anniversary. The Klines trained volunteers to interview their elders and provided technical expertise.

“We feel one of the most effective ways to help this old world roll more peaceably is for people to be heard, to feel heard, to really feel listened to, and to help people find their own voice,” Carrie Kline told the *Amherst Bulletin*. “And then, to share these voices in the context of others.”

Closer to home and coming right up, the Montague Center Oral History Project, a collaboration between the Montague Public Librar-

ies and Weathervane Community Arts, begins with an event at the Montague Common Hall on Thursday, November 14.

“Since I started working at the Montague Center Library four years ago I have heard so many stories about how the village was ‘back in the day,’ whether that meant before any of our times or just in the ’80s,” librarian Kate Martineau explains. “The stories are fascinating and the current residents are eager to hear them. So we’re starting an oral history project here in Montague Center which will involve training neighbors to interview neighbors to archive the many stories of the village. These stories will then be available for anyone to access through the library.”

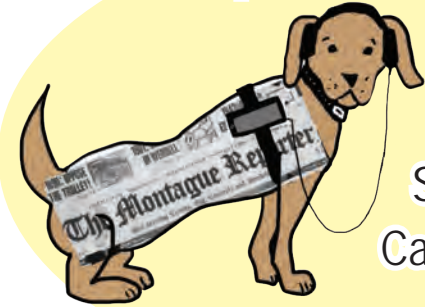
Montague’s oldest citizen, Maxine Davis, has a wealth of tales to share, and the *Reporter* delights in celebrating her accomplishment.

Over a thousand more Montague seniors have stories of their own to tell. To them we say: There’s no need to wait for the selectboard to hand you a cane before you tell your stories! And to our readers: There’s no need to wait for an oral history project to come to your village or town – though the resources and guidance are valuable – before you start listening and collecting.

Michael Kline’s simple yet profound philosophy of collecting oral history, honed by many decades in the field, is easy to learn: say, “Tell me about your people, and where you were raised.”

And then sit, and listen.

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