

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 22 – NO. 36

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1.50

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

ASSESSMENTS

Farm Commune’s Media Arm Far Out Enough to Look Back



Charles Light, third from left, moved to the Montague Farm in 1970 after surviving a tragic fire at a commune in southern Vermont. Light has been working for over 50 years to make a film about the experience at the local communes, and his documentary *Far Out: Life On & After the Commune* premieres this week. (Also pictured, left-right: Nina Keller, Smokey Fuller, Janice Frey.) Roy Finestone Photograph Collection, Robert S. Cox Special Collections and University Archives Research Center, UMass Amherst Libraries.

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE – “The farm people were now in a wholly new and different world – a world in which the climate meant infinitely more than the local political situation, in which trees were for warmth in the winters and rivers for swimming in the summer, in which carpentry and husbandry and gardening became important skills directly related to their survival and nobody was available to perform services for them.”

By 1970, when a 23-year-old Boston University graduate with a book deal named Ray Mungo was writing those words about the burgeoning back-to-the-land movement, the *New York Times* estimated there were 2,000 communes in existence around the country. Most were in cities, but the same impulses driving young people to pool their resources, cook in huge batches, and remove doors from their hinges were driving an increasing number to seek open, remote real estate.

In Montague, a small farm town with a large mill town inside it, the drive to communize played out both ways at once: in downtown Turners Falls, hundreds of wide-eyed seekers arrived to join the Brotherhood of the Spirit, exchanging their paychecks for instruction from a homegrown holy man, while down by the Leverett border was the Montague Farm.

The Farm, and a sister community in Guilford, Vermont named Packer Corners or Total Loss Farm, were purchased and settled in 1968 by a faction of left-wing journalists who were fleeing New York City and in doing so splitting a collective press agency, Liberation News Service, in two. “Montague” was established by Marshall Bloom, a movement celebrity and graduate of Amherst College, while the Guilford farm was set up by Mungo and friends including Verandah Porche and Richard Wizansky.

These weren’t the only households of their type in the area, but they were immediately two of the most famous in the country, as the particularly well-networked communards managed to swing a whole stack of book deals to document the experience.

They were also notably long-lasting, perhaps drawn more closely together by the shock of Bloom’s death by suicide at the end of the first year.

Charles Light moved to the Montague Farm in 1970, and with farm-mate Dan Keller started Green Mountain Post Films, named after a DIY publication the houses printed. GMP Films was in a unique position to document an early campaign against nuclear energy after another housemate, Sam Lovejoy, knocked down a weather-monitoring tower on the Montague Plains and was ultimately let off by a nervous Greenfield judge.

Vegetable gardening, it turned out, had not severed the communes’ activist roots, and they were interested in the “local political situation” after all. From 1974 to 1979 they were at the vanguard of the regional Clamshell Alliance and then the national No Nukes! campaign, culminating in Musicians United for Safe Energy (MUSE), a star-studded concert series and media extravaganza in New York City, back where it all began.

Sitting on a treasure trove of footage, Light has been trying ever since to make a movie about this trip – and now, after a half-century of false starts, he has succeeded. *Far Out: Life On & After the Commune* plays this week at the Latchis Theater in Brattleboro, with a special discussion event Saturday evening, and premieres in Greenfield on October 13.

The *Montague Reporter* caught up with Light last month to talk about the film, and really got into it; we had to wait til Labor Day week to get enough page space. (Buckle up!) This interview has been significantly abridged, reordered, and edited for clarity.

MR: How long will the run at the Latchis be?

CL: It’s going to be a week, from September 6 through the 12th. The premiere will be on Saturday the 7th.... Jon Potter, who runs the Latchis, said, “Oh, we should do something else for Gallery Walk, for Friday night.” And I came up with the idea of putting together all this art – there’s a ton of art that

see **LOOK BACK** page A6

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Neighbors Sue To Discontinue Public Access to Blueberry Patch

By GEORGE BRACE

At Leverett’s August 27 selectboard meeting, residents and the board learned about a plan to provide better services to local seniors, worked on a process to negotiate a potential senior housing development on the 60-acre former Kittredge estate, and addressed a dispute over access to a public blueberry patch.

According to the town website, a complaint was filed in land court against the town to “prevent public use of the right-of-way that provides access to the Gordon King Life Estate conservation area from Shutesbury Road.” Along with the complaint the owners of 101 Shutesbury Road, David and Norma Evans and Julie Evans Marlowe, put up “No Trespassing” signs and a locked gate blocking the forest road in question.

While there are other ways to enter the site – a parcel granted to the town in 2000, featuring a popular blueberry patch – a public outcry against blocking the right-of-way from Shutesbury Road has stemmed from its accessibility to people with mobility issues. Numerous residents spoke on the subject at the meeting.

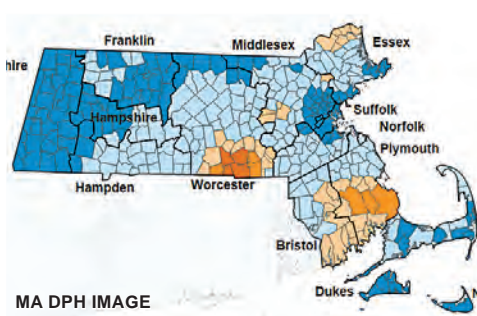
Eva Gibavic of the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust said she and her wheelchair-bound partner use the road to drive to the King property, which she described as an “incredible resource for the town and aging population,” and “the best bet” for building accessible trails in Leverett due to its flatness.

Joan Godsey described the King estate as a “keystone property,” as it provides access to other trails and natural features. She said that Gordon King, the original donor of both the landlocked property and the

see **LEVERETT** page A8

ANALYSIS

State Policy on Mosquito Control Unresolved as Diseases Return



As of Wednesday evening, the Department of Public Health map of Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) risk levels showed most of Franklin County as the lowest, “remote,” risk. All 88 mosquitoes testing positive for the virus this year were found east of the Quabbin Reservoir.

By JEFF SINGLETON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Rare but potentially deadly mosquito-borne viruses, last seen in the state and region in 2020, are back.

Last Friday the Greenfield health department announced that an insect in that town had tested positive for the West Nile virus, which causes few symptoms in most humans but can be dangerous for some, especially for older adults, children, and those with pre-existing conditions.

Eastern equine encephalitis

(EEE), another virus carried by mosquitoes, is less prevalent – only about 115 cases have been documented in the state since 1938, when the virus was first discovered – but the mortality rate among those infected is significant: as high as 50%, according to the Department of Public Health website.

In response to evidence of EEE, obtained by trapping and testing mosquitos, at the end of August the state began aerial spraying of insecticides in towns in southeastern

see **MOSQUITO** page A4

Right to Secret Voting Declared; Secret Voting Clickers Purchased

By BELLA LEVAVI

ERVING – Residents approved all 12 articles at a special town meeting on Wednesday, August 28, including two related to future voting procedures.

In a meeting lasting less than an hour, residents quickly passed every article without discussion until Article 11. They approved a \$12,000 expense from the town’s capital stabilization fund to purchase 200 electronic voting clickers before the annual town meeting in the spring.

Town clerk Richard Newton explained he had conducted extensive research on the clicker system, which has been implemented in many Massachusetts towns. He said he would

purchase 200 clicker devices.

Newton noted that town meetings have had over 200 attendees on only three occasions in the past 20 years, making 200 an appropriate number for Erving to purchase. He also received permission from Orange to borrow their clickers, he said, if attendance exceeds 200.

“There was a lot of discussion about secret ballots,” Newton said. “I have been thinking about it for the past couple of years. I assume this will improve things for everyone.”

Resident Megan Edson voiced concerns about the clicker system. “You can’t prove the vote if you can’t prove which device voted,” she said. “There needs to be a way to

see **ERVING** page A2

The Week in Sports: Scrimmage & Lift

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – This week the Gill-Montague school district welcomed a new athletic director, Franklin Tech ran a football scrimmage, and a local man broke a state record.

You may have seen Russell Johnson and his crew of teenage volunteers at the Franklin County Fair. But Russ is more than just a youth worker. He is the strongest man in Massachusetts. At least in the Wagon Wheel Dead Lift.

Last Saturday Russ competed in the “Pioneer’s Strongest” Strongman Competition at the Greenfield Y. Eighty-five contestants, some from as far away as North Dakota, came to Greenfield to show off their brawniness. Some of the contestants, who participate in the Scottish Games, came dressed in kilts.

Besides the dead lift, men, wom-



Franklin Tech defenders stop a Spartan advance last Saturday as Tech hosted Monument Mountain Regional of Great Barrington for a pre-season scrimmage.

en, and kids displayed their toughness in the tire flip, log press, and vehicle pull, as well as the Pioneer Medley, which included the Atlas

Stone and the Yoke Walk.

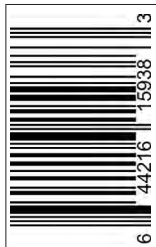
A few years ago I ran into Russ while he working out, and he told

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The Montague Reporter

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Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August 2002

Chapter 37: Sunset

The cabin; by the stern windows; Ahab sitting alone, and gazing out.

I leave a white and turbid wake; pale waters, paler cheeks, where’er I sail. The envious billows side-long swell to whelm my track; let them; but first I pass.

Yonder, by ever-brimming goblet’s rim, the warm waves blush like wine. The gold brow plumbs the blue. The diver sun – slow dived from noon – goes down; my soul mounts up! she wearies with her endless hill. Is, then, the crown too heavy that I wear? this Iron Crown of Lombardy. Yet is it bright with many a gem; I the wearer, see not its far flashings; but darkly feel that I wear that, that dazzlingly confounds. ’Tis iron – that I know – not gold. ’Tis split, too – that I feel; the jagged edge galls me so, my brain seems to beat against the solid metal; aye, steel skull, mine; the sort that needs no helmet in the most brain-battering fight!

Dry heat upon my brow? Oh! time was, when as the sunrise nobly spurred me, so the sunset soothed. No more. This lovely light, it lights not me; all loveli-

ness is anguish to me, since I can ne’er enjoy. Gifted with the high perception, I lack the low, enjoying power; damned, most subtly and most malignantly! damned in the midst of Paradise! Good night – good night! *(waving his hand, he moves from the window.)*

’Twas not so hard a task. I thought to find one stubborn, at the least; but my one cogged circle fits into all their various wheels, and they revolve. Or, if you will, like so many ant-hills of powder, they all stand before me; and I their match. Oh, hard! that to fire others, the match itself must needs be wasting! What I’ve dared, I’ve willed; and what I’ve willed, I’ll do! They think me mad – Starbuck does; but I’m demoniac, I am madness mad-dened! That wild madness that’s only calm to comprehend itself! The prophecy was that I should be dismembered; and – Aye! I lost this leg. I now prophesy that I will dismember my dismemberer. Now, then, be the prophet and the fulfiller one. That’s more than ye, ye great gods, ever were. I laugh and hoot at ye, ye cricket-players, ye pugilists, ye deaf Burkes and blinded Bendigoes! I will not say

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION



Nick Kramarczyk shakes up a concoction behind the bar at Harvey’s in Turners Falls. In front of him is a Luxardo Gin Fizz, one of the many specialty cocktails on the menu. Harvey’s offers cocktails, mocktails, and freshly-squeezed juices to go with their shared-plates-style menu.

ERVING from page A1

validate each vote and not just take your word for it.”

The clickers connect to a counter via an encrypted radio signal and count as a secret ballot on the town meeting floor. Newton noted that the United States Congress uses a similar system.

Article 12, a citizen’s petition, also approved by voters, requires the moderator to switch to voting by secret ballot upon request from the town meeting floor. Submitted by Dana Dodge and receiving 127 signatures, this article was likely prompted by a past incident in which residents felt a secret ballot request was not honored.

Town moderator Richard Peabody explained he had not received a formal request for a secret ballot, and the voters were already being counted at the time one was suggested. He addressed rumors that he said had emerged outside the meeting about the incident.

“It didn’t go down that way,” he said.

Newton expressed concerns that the article may have no legal weight because it is already covered under Massachusetts General Law and not written as a bylaw. He added that if submitted as a bylaw, it might not be approved by the state attorney general’s office. “I am not sure if this is a necessary measure,” he said.

Dan Hammock, speaking as a resident, supported the article, stating that passing it would restore confidence among those who had signed the petition. “It won’t hurt in any way,” Hammock said.

After the article passed unanimously, Peabody said, “Thank you for caring enough about your town to get

something like this done, and for getting 127 people to sign it.”

The meeting also saw the passage of an article establishing a general bylaw for the town’s senior tax work-off program, increasing the minimum income eligibility and raising benefits to \$2,000.

Five articles related to easements for the planned Church Street bridge project were approved.

Selectboard Notes

At a selectboard meeting held before the special meeting, the board discussed two construction projects.

Town administrator Bryan Smith provided an update on the former IP Mill site, stating that the town had submitted its proposal to MassDevelopment and received follow-up questions from the state. A meeting with MassDevelopment occurred two weeks ago, and Smith was told more time was needed to review the responses.

“There is nothing they need from us at this time,” Smith reported. “Meanwhile, our office is working with the insurance company to renew coverage for the coming year.”

The board also voted to remove a utility pole from the scope of a contract with A. Martin and Sons Construction for work at Bridge Street and Maple Avenue in order to keep the project on schedule.

James Loynd expressed concerns that removing the pole might diminish the town’s leverage in having Eversource remove it promptly but still voted for the change after discussion.



Letter to the Editors

Cradle-to-Grave... Or ‘NIMBY’?

The current plan by the “New Leaf” corporation to clear-cut and then erect a large stand-alone lithium battery storage facility in Wendell has been temporarily deflected. Corporations flaunting themselves as proponents of “Green” technology are actively considering other sites.

Wendell awaits the State Attorney General ruling on our town bylaw passed at town meeting, 100 to 1, to protect health and welfare. Leverett is the only town in the county that sent a letter to the AG urging approval of our bylaw, and therefore of town rights and home rule.

Decades ago, along with other county volunteers, I was trained by a representative from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to be a Town Hazardous Waste Coordinator. “Cradle-to-Grave” was the phrase assigned to the challenge of responsibly handling toxic wastes. The slogan was a sensible, balanced, and conscientious approach to assure an ecological solution.

Was that mere theory, and does our current Democratic state government retain that moral code? Or is prioritizing the environment an illusion?

Our society opts to use toxic chemicals. Thus, environmentally sound means to handle and dispose of waste products must be included in the processes. In the urgency society places on electric lifestyles,

dominant research remains directed towards the generation of more power rather than teaching conservation, re-use, and sustainability. An inclusive spectrum in the use of lithium batteries is prudent if one is prioritizing planetary distress and ethics.

There is opposition to toxicity and its destructive impact on nature. Added to an untenable mix of problems stemming from battery projects to capture energy is the current, unpublicized and depraved, method of disposal of spent lithium batteries. There are increasing numbers of batteries from electric vehicles, home appliances, and an accelerating number of large-scale Battery Storage Facilities, whether built in conjunction with solar arrays or not.

The ship that destroyed the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Maryland on March 26 was laden with spent lithium batteries in transit to Sri Lanka. The practice of shipping this waste elsewhere has far-ranging political and moral implications. Consequences abound when the US relies upon lithium destructively mined elsewhere. I refer to any domestic mining community, perhaps richer in taxes yet poorer in health.

Waste responsibilities remain a priority. Will you be labeled a “Not In My Back Yard” NIMBY? Let the evidence rest.

**Nina Keller
Wendell**

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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177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

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Compiled by
TROUBLE MANDESON

Dear readers, it’s your food columnist Trouble here, sitting in for a traveling Nina. I enjoy researching events of interest in Montague and around the region, and there is no shortage of things to do this month.

As a grant writer who strives to turn out the most succinct narratives, this column challenges me to write in a more conversational style which, as a talker, comes naturally, but as a writer requires a dedicated focus to not sound too stilted or too chatty when working with short bursts of information.

I hope I’ve done a good job for you and that you find many things of interest to add to your calendar....

Prepare to be horrified at the **Stephen King Film Festival**, now through October 4. The Greenfield Garden Cinemas is now screening 25 film classics based on King’s work, and you can find showtimes at gardencinemas.net.

Montague town planner Maureen Pollock invites community feedback at a **Traffic Calming Forum** via Zoom to explore possible roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian improvements. The forum is this Friday, September 5 at 6 p.m., and the link to participate is at tinyurl.com/3dt85zre. Contact mpollock@montague-ma.gov for more information.

The theme of the 175th Franklin County Fair is **“Rooted in Our Community.”** On Thursday, September 5, the parade starts at Greenfield Middle School and marches up to the Fairgrounds where you can eat and ride your way down the midway, watch the demolition derby, and admire the entries in the Roundhouse.

The gates open at 3 p.m. Thursday and Friday and 8 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission prices are

\$12 for adults; \$9 for seniors, active military members with ID, and youth ages 9 to 17; and free for kids 8 and under. Parking is \$10.

Throw your name in the hat at **Beautiful Disasters: A Storytelling Open Mic**, September 5, and the first Thursday of every month, at the LAVA Center in Greenfield. A potluck starts at 6 p.m. followed by storytelling at 7 p.m. This month’s theme is school disasters. The event is open to all ages, but may contain adult themes.

Plan your visit this fall to Mike’s Maze, where an eight-acre cornfield has been transformed into what *Wired Magazine* calls **“the most elaborate corn maze in America.”** It’s a “corn-ival” with trivia and challenges inside the maze, giant slides, wagon rides, and farm food at the Corn Café. The maze is open from September 6 to November 3 at Warner Farm in Sunderland. Find hours and ticket prices at mikesmaze.com.

The Pioneer Valley Brewery is hosting Next Stop Comedy’s **rotating lineup of professional comedians** this Friday, September 6 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$20 to \$25.

The Athol Bird & Nature Club invites birders and nature lovers to meet up for **Early Birding with Jeff Johnstone** every Friday at 7:30 a.m. at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street in Athol. The event runs weekly through October 11. Call Jeff at (978) 249-9052 to reserve a spot.

The **Carnegie Public Library Book Sale** in downtown Turners Falls is this Saturday, September 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bring plenty of bags to haul your treasures home. Choose from hardcovers, paperbacks, children’s books, DVDs, CDs, puzzles, and audiobooks.

Drive by Freedom Credit Union at 74 Main Street in Greenfield for **Free Community Shred Day** on Saturday, September 7 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The event is for members and non-members alike, and each vehicle is limited to five file boxes or paper bags.

The **First Saturday Contra Dance** at the Guiding Star Grange this Saturday, September 7 features Wild Asparagus and caller George Marshall. A beginner’s workshop starts at 7:30 p.m., and dancing goes until 11 p.m. Tickets are \$15 to \$20 and masks are admired, but not required.

The Second Annual **Sunflower Sunday** at Apex Orchards, 225 Peckville Road in Shelburne, is a great way to spend a Sunday with family and friends of all ages. There will be vendors, food trucks, face painting, wagon rides, and, of course, apple picking. Western Mass acoustic band Desmond Burke & Friends will perform. It all happens on September 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

GCC’s Cyber-Senior Program is offering a **“YouTube for Seniors”** class with Donna Dusell of Montague Webworks. Learn to navigate YouTube to find and watch your favorite videos in a format designed for seniors. It’s free to attend and takes place from 3 to 5 p.m. next Monday, September 9, or again Monday, September 16. To attend please register at engage.gcc.mass.edu/workshops/youtube-for-seniors.

Inviting kids 5 to 12 to **get crafty with leaves and flowers**. Mass Audubon Arcadia teacher-naturalist Kelly Walbert will lead a Nature Arts & Crafts workshop next Monday, September 9 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls.

Gail Mason will convene the fifth event in the **2024 “Honoring Elders” series** featuring well-known local actor, musician, mediator, and activist Court Dorsey at 6:30 p.m., Monday, September 9. A second event, “Art and Activism, Conversations with Court Dorsey,” follows on Sunday, September 15 at 4 p.m.

The next **Millers Falls Community Improvement Association**

meeting is next Tuesday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Millers Falls branch library. The group is seeking input from villagers and business owners for a May 2025 block party.

MassHire’s employer spotlight is on **Community Action Pioneer Valley**. Come learn about jobs like energy technician, family support worker, and teacher’s assistant next Wednesday, September 11 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Community Action Family Center, 90 Federal Street in Greenfield.

The Shelburne Falls Area Women’s Club hosts a free talk with UK writer, educator, and cultural activist Christian McEwen about her latest book, *In Praise of Listening*, next Wednesday, September 11 at 7 p.m. at the Shelburne-Buckland Community Center on the corner of Main and Church Streets in Shelburne Falls.

The next **Montague Square Dance** will be held at the Common Hall next Friday, September 13. There will be dances geared for families at 6:30 p.m., and regular square dances starting at 8 p.m.

The Great Falls Discovery Center and Nolumbeka Project, collaborating on a “Foods, Farms, and Factories” series, invite you to hear Dan Shears and Brian Chenevert of the Nulhegan Cultural and Historic Preservation Department discuss **Abenaki Nation traditions**, including “Three Sisters,” handmade baskets, and dried native foods, on Saturday, September 14 at 10 a.m. at Peskeompskut Park.

This event will be followed by a presentation at the Shea Theater by Dr. Marge Bruchac, “Talk with the Indian Doctress: Interpreting **19th Century Native American Medicine**.” (See sidebar.) Both events are free and open to all.

New Salem Old Home Days will be held on the Common with arts and crafts, gourmet foods, mini-golf, trail walks, and a Take-the-Cake baking contest. It all happens next Saturday, September 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission to the New Salem Museum and Academy of Art will be free, and a free concert will be given at the 1794 Meetinghouse.

The Ninth Annual Orange Riverfest at Billy Goat Boats invites you to enjoy family activities, vendors, and performances starting Saturday, September 14 at 5 p.m., with a **lighted boat parade at 9 p.m.** The rain date is September 15.

The LAVA Center in Greenfield presents “Molten,” featuring **belly dancers from across the region**, on September 14 at 5 p.m. The suggested donation is \$10.

There are two events on Sunday, September 15 for **casual walkers at Tully Lake in Royalston**. The first group meets at 9 a.m. in the parking area on top of the dam (under Route 32) for an iNaturalist Get-Together, and the second group meets at the canoe launch parking area off Doanes Hill Road at 2 p.m. for a walk along the Tully Trail.

Bring a lunch, bring children, and bring dogs if they are leashed.

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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MUSIC

RIVERBED
EMMA GEIGER
NORMA DREAM
FRIDAY, SEPT. 13 • 7pm

66 AVENUE A • TURNERS FALLS

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Free Talk on Local History of Native Healthcare

TURNERS FALLS – In partnership with the Nolumbeka Project, the “Food, Farms and Factories” programming partners present *Talk with the Indian Doctress: Interpreting 19th Century Native American Medicine* with Dr. Margaret Bruchac next Saturday, September 14 at the Shea Theater.

Refreshments will be served at 1 p.m. followed at 1:30 p.m. by a free academic talk and question-and-answer session.

In 19th-century New England, a number of Indigenous people worked as “Indian Doctors,” treating their Native and non-Native neighbors alike. Residents of Indian Hollow, Massachusetts turned to Indian Doctress Rhoda Rhoades (Mohican), who traveled by horseback to treat patients in Springfield and Northampton. Deerfield residents consulted with Indian Doctor Louis Watso (Abenaki), who also advised town physician Steven West Williams on Native plant medicines.

These healers practiced what we would recognize today as herbalism, chiropractic, physiotherapy, and even spiritual healing. Over time, as New Englanders moved increasingly towards modern medicine, these gifted healers were forgotten – and their knowledges were exploited by patent medicine makers.

Dr. Bruchac (Nulhegan Abenaki) will discuss her

research on Native medicinal plants and practitioners, and the approaches she uses to make these histories visible. As a performer, ethnographer, and historian, she is committed to critical analyses of colonial histories and recoveries of Indigenous histories. She is professor emerita of anthropology at the University of Pennsylvania, and founder of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Initiative there.

Bruchac directs a restorative research project designed to reconnect wampum belts in museum collections with their related Indigenous communities, and has served as a consultant to New England museums including Historic Northampton, Historic Deerfield, the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, and Old Sturbridge Village. Her 2018 book *Savage Kin: Indigenous Informants and American Anthropologists* (University of Arizona Press 2018) was the winner of the Council for Museum Anthropology Book Award.

The 2024 “Food, Farms and Factories” series explores rural life in Franklin County. The events are supported by the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center, RiverCulture, the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, and DCR, and funded by Mass Humanities through the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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MOSQUITO from page A1

Massachusetts, and truck-mounted spraying in five towns south of Worcester.

Some mosquito control districts, such as the 44-town Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project, have been spraying since the end of May, primarily in response to requests from residents and officials of their member municipalities.

The return of mosquito-borne viruses and spraying, along with a recent failure at the state level to reform antique mosquito control policies, could revive a debate in the town of Montague over whether to join the regional Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District (PVMCD). The district, created in 2017, now has 24 member towns, ranging from Erving, Gill, and Greenfield in the north to Holyoke and West Springfield in the south.

Joining the PVMCD was discussed at length in Montague in 2022, when the town applied for a waiver from potentially mandatory aerial spraying by the state in the event of a local outbreak. The state approved the town’s request, primarily because Montague was considered at low risk for mosquito-borne viruses; the board of health then recommended not to join the PVMCD.

Early this year that board, under new public health director Ryan Paxton, reconsidered joining the control district so that Montague could avail itself of trapping and testing services the organization provides. This was opposed by a number of local residents, who argued that joining a control district would increase the possibility of aerial spraying, which they said had limited effectiveness against mos-

quitoes and negative impacts on children, some vulnerable adults, and pollinators, particularly bees.

That most recent debate coincided with pending legislation, first proposed by state senator Jo Comerford in 2023, to reform mosquito policy by banning aerial spraying, and allowing regional control districts to offer member towns a menu of voluntary services, up to and including spraying by trucks.

The legislation was in response to a much-publicized study by a state “Mosquito Control for the Twenty-First Century Task Force,” which made recommendations in 2022 that the laws be reformed.

“Aerial spraying is imprecise, often contaminating other organisms, water sources, and properties that want to opt out of spraying, such as organic farms,” Comerford testified at a May 2023 hearing of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. “Mosquito pesticides are highly toxic to native pollinators such as bees and butterflies, as well as fish and other aquatic organisms.”

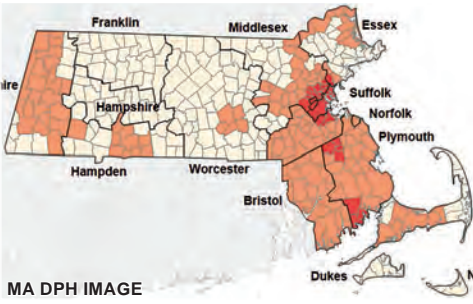
Instead of spraying, Comerford and others promote an approach known as integrated mosquito management (IMM), which she explained includes “removing places where mosquitoes lay eggs through managing wetlands habitats, promoting mosquito predators, and public education...”

“[O]ur current law from over 100 years ago does not reflect today’s science-based understanding of how to conduct mosquito control,” she argued, “and fails to consider public health concerns and environmental impacts.”

A Department of Public Health fact sheet on the state website, while

DPH’s map of West Nile Virus risk levels shows all of Franklin County at the lowest level, “low.”

Nine infected bugs have been detected in Berkshire County, five bugs and a man in Hampden, none yet in Hampshire, and one mosquito last week in Greenfield.



MA DPH IMAGE

By comparison, 276 mosquitoes and five people have tested positive east of the Quabbin.

not denying these claims, suggests the risks of aerial spraying, which it says is conducted at night, are minimal. During spraying, according to the fact sheet, adults with chemical sensitivities should remain indoors, beekeepers should cover hives in the evening to avoid bees congregating outside, small fish ponds should be covered, and windows should be kept closed.

Both sides in the debate emphasize preventative measures, such as avoiding being outdoors during peak mosquito hours – the morning and evening – wearing clothes that cover bare skin, and using insect repellent, even in towns not considered at high risk for disease.

In February, citing the still-pending legislation, the Montague health board again voted not to propose joining the PVMCD to the selectboard, which had been granted the authority to make that decision by town meeting.

The recent spike in viruses statewide may cause the town to reconsider joining the mosquito control district in order to avail itself of the testing services it provides. The legislation sponsored by Comerford has stalled, though her aide Jared Freedman told us this week that her office would continue to “push hard” for its passage.

The Pioneer Valley control dis-

trict does not currently engage in aerial spraying of pesticides, and Greenfield health nurse Megan Tudryn told the *Reporter* she believes there is little, if any, support for it within the district at this time.

The chance that the state might mandate pesticide spraying in Franklin County appears to be very low. There are two regions where state spraying has been taking place in recent weeks. The towns in Plymouth County were already being dosed from trucks by their local control district prior to the state mandate requiring aerial spraying.

The five towns south of Worcester, on the other hand, are not in a regional district. Local officials in several of those towns who spoke with the *Reporter* this week on background said they believe that mosquito samples had been collected there for testing by the state.

Maps on the state website categorize risk levels in our area as “Low” for West Nile virus and “Remote” for EEE.

Data from the PVMCD sent to us by Tudryn indicate that no mosquitoes with EEE have been identified in the control district in recent weeks, and only four insects have tested positive for West Nile, including the one in Greenfield reported last Friday.

AT LARGE

Fairgrounds Plans to Keep, Muffle SoulFest

By CHIP AINSWORTH

GREENFIELD – What wouldn’t have worked in Northfield went off swimmingly at the Franklin County Fairgrounds, where more than 11,000 concert goers came to the three-day SoulFest festival on August 22 to 24.

Wavy Gravy wasn’t warning anyone off the brown acid, but it was a rousing start nonetheless to the five-year agreement between promoters and Fairgrounds officials that will keep the Christian music festival coming back through 2028.

Moreover, it was a satisfying conclusion to an ugly situation that began two years ago when the DL Moody Center invited SoulFest to use its property without notifying the town. Consequently the Northfield selectboard informed Moody Center president James Spencer that the road to Damascus would not go through East Northfield.

After 24 years at Gunstock in northern New Hampshire, SoulFest was without a home. The show was staged at the Topsfield fairgrounds last August 5 to 7, but the town wasn’t pleased, and had filed an unsuccessful court injunction to stop it.

Sensing an opportunity where there’d been upheaval, Franklin County Fairgrounds president Mike Nelson contacted SoulFest promoter Dan Russell. “I told him the Fairgrounds has the infrastructure to support an event like this,” Nelson said. “I knew they wanted to keep it near New Hampshire and Vermont, and that this would be perfect for them.”

SoulFest paid a flat fee to use the Fairgrounds. “Overall, it was great,” said Nelson. “We’re working with the Chamber of Commerce, because they attracted a higher income bracket. That’s a great thing for Greenfield because it brings in more dollars.”

The Franklin County Agricultural Society, Incorporated was formed in 1848 and purchased the 29 acres within the gate in 1865. It is operated by an all-volunteer 21-member board of directors, including Nelson, who came aboard in 2006 and is in his sixth year as president. He draws a \$2,000 annual stipend for his effort. “Me and my entire team all have day jobs and spend our free time making the Fairgrounds a success,” he said.

The Fairgrounds hosts about 65 events a year, but the only recurring events that compare in scope and size to SoulFest are the Green River Festival and the Franklin County Fair. According to *ProPublica*’s Nonprofit Explorer, the Fairgrounds reported about \$738,000 in revenue in the 2023 fiscal year, and about \$611,000 in expenses.

Nelson said Fairgrounds parking can hold up to 500 cars across the street from the main gate, and 500 more vehicles inside the fairgrounds. “There were some learning curves for sure with the traffic,” he said.

Russell signed some of the top Christian acts in the country including Crowder, Matthew West, and We Are Messengers. Alcohol, tobacco and marijuana were prohibited.

“It was one of the cleanest events we’ve had, one of the few I haven’t had to go out with trash keepers,” said Nelson. “I actually asked their cleaning people if they wanted a job at the Fair. On Monday there were three members picking up every last crumb. It was really reassuring to see their leadership team out there.”

The negatives, said Nelson, were stage placement and noise. “A lot of people felt the music was too loud, and I’d share that sentiment,” he said. “At least three bands were far louder than I anticipated. I could hear it clear as day from Home Depot.”

What happened, said Nelson, was that “they put the main stage in front of the grandstand area,

to offer seating for 2,000 people and to block the sound from traveling so far. The seating worked out good, but it didn’t block the sound – it almost acted as a repeater, and pushed the sound further.”

The reaction seemed to be as much of amazement as annoyance that the music could be heard as far away as Colrain Road and Ferrante Avenue. One resident whose residence borders the fairgrounds said the decibel level reached 85 on his decibel meter, which is akin to noise heard hitchhiking on the New Jersey Turnpike next to Newark Airport.

“We met with SoulFest afterwards and brainstormed how we could do this better,” said Nelson. He said there will be three stages next year, and the main stage will be relocated to the center of the midway: “People will see and hear a major difference, and it will end an hour earlier at 9 p.m.”

Nelson said the “proactive solutions” will take some of the heat off him when SoulFest submits its application to the five-member licensing commission.

“They still have to come to us each year for approval,” texted licensing member Phil Corrinet. “We killed the next two cannabis shows for selling candy bars. Our mayor took pictures.”

Corrinet added that at this writing he had not heard of any pushback from anyone about noise.

Said Nelson: “They love Greenfield, and are determined to meet with the community and find common ground.”

Next year’s concert is scheduled for August 15 and 16. Tickets are priced at \$55 for one day and \$99 for a two-day pass, with camping and RV options available.

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

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Road Surrendered to Private School In Breakneck Town Hall Session

By KATE SAVAGE

With celebratory fist-bumps, the Gill selectboard concluded what may be its shortest meeting yet last Monday, August 26. In under four minutes, the board made recommendations regarding the privatization of Mount Hermon Road, appointed several members to departments and committees, and announced upcoming events.

Northfield Mount Hermon School is asking for the town to discontinue a three-mile road that runs through its campus, giving the school responsibility and control over it. Mount Hermon Road was a section of Main Road until 1928, when a bypass was built to circumvent the burgeoning school.

While the issue will be decided by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, school officials first asked for approval from Gill’s annual town meeting in May. Voters there expressed support with only one “No” vote, though several added that they would like the school to keep the road open, as it brings traffic and business to Main Road.

School representatives verbally committed to keep it open during the daytime, though they said they could choose to put up a gate and close it at night.

At last Monday’s meeting, the selectboard approved a letter supporting discontinuing the road, noting that the costs to maintain it far exceed the amount of Chapter 90 state road aid it generates each year.

Other Business

The selectboard appointed Noah Welch-Smith as a firefighter and Katie Simpson as a member of the town forest committee. It also announced that pre-registration for Hazardous Waste Collection Day on September 21 has already started.

The town will celebrate the fall season with a contra dance on Saturday, September 28, from 7 to 10 p.m. at town hall and a Harvest Festival on Sunday, September 29, from noon to 3 p.m. on the town common.

If you want to see efficiency experts in action and perhaps learn how to make your own meetings shorter, the Gill selectboard will meet next on Monday, September 9 at 5:30 p.m.

SPORTS from page A1

me he had a secret goal.

On Saturday, he revealed that this goal was to dead-lift 645 pounds, and he had not yet accomplished it. But at the Pioneer’s Strongest Russ met his goal and then some, dead-lifting 675 pounds – a new Massachusetts record.

After the dead lift, I headed to Franklin Tech to watch the Eagles scrimmage Monument Mountain. They ran kickoff and punt drills, but then went full speed, which caused a fumble or two. There were some new faces in the crowd, but the spirit of the coaches, players, and fans remained fierce.

The Eagles kick off their season at home next Friday the 13th against McCann.

This season, Turners Falls has a new athletic director. After years of diligent work, Adam Graves finally hung up his whistle. Jen Luciano, who coaches JV softball, has agreed to take the reins.

Good luck to Mr. Graves, and welcome Ms. Luciano!



Good reception: Franklin Tech’s George Gutierrez completes a pass during last Saturday’s scrimmage against Monument Mountain Regional High School.



Russell Johnson of Millers Falls worked up to his record-setting deadlift at Saturday’s competition at the Greenfield YMCA.

Tip of the week ...

As the fall season approaches, do a fire safety check. Make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly, your chimney is clean, and that the area around your furnace, fireplace, or wood stove is clear of debris.



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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Yet More Regionalization Of Police Being Floated

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The first comment at the Wendell selectboard’s August 21 meeting was chair Laurie DiDonato, reporting that Leverett police chief Scott Minckler has started a conversation with the Erving police department about adding Erving to the Leverett-Wendell department.

Gillian Budine said she plans not to run for another selectboard term in May, and said someone else would have to serve as the board’s representative on the police oversight committee. Selectboard member Paul Doud said he would do it.

Budine said she wants to invite Wendell citizens to take part in town operations, and to volunteer for vacant committee and board seats. She suggested setting up a “Come chat with the selectboard” table, with cookies, at WRATS.

DiDonato added that she and clerk Anna Wetherby can set up another table at Old Home Day.

Treasurer Carolyn Manley used the public comment time to advocate for action on the town-owned house at 40 Gate Lane. She warned that the state legislature has made changes, which will take effect November 1, to the process towns must follow for tax taking and contacting delinquent owners.

Project manager Phil Delorey said excavating was done at the WRATS, so the open-top containers for metal and construction debris can be moved behind the WRATS office, where users can deposit material without having to climb stairs. Drainage has to be reworked around and behind the office before paving.

Trees have been cleared for a wood bank site behind WRATS, but stump removal and laying down gravel are not yet done, and have not been paid for. Delorey said volunteer hours can be used toward the local matches required by grants funders.

Delorey is holding an invoice from Gill Engineering for design work on the Farley Road bridge. The agreement was that Wendell, as the lead town, would get the total bill and be reimbursed by Erving, but the company billed half to each town. Manley said federal ARPA money, which may be used for a match for a grant to pay for the engineering work, has to be spent soon.

Country Store Town Water

DiDonato reported that Wendell Country Store proprietor Patty Scutari does not have time for the town to act before she will have to start a process of connecting to the town water system.

Town engineer Jim Slavas has said connecting the store to town water is feasible as long as the store includes a tank for its water use during high demand times, and DiDonato said the state Department of Environmental Protection’s opinion was that the level of water use at the store would not make its connection to town water an issue.

There is some question of whether a connection is allowed under the system’s original construction plans. Manley said she and selectboard clerk Joy Gorzocoski had located original well documents, but could not tell one way or the other whether the privately-owned business may be connected. Private residences may not be connected. Gorzocoski and Manley plan to research selectboard minutes from the time the system was built and bring their findings to the board’s next meeting.

Other Business

The town has received complaints of unleashed dogs at Fiske Pond, with people not knowing who to call. Wendell’s longtime animal control officer has retired, and a Leverett police officer took the position and went through the required training but then left the department. The Leverett police department as a whole then assumed the role.

Leverett police chief Minckler said the Franklin County sheriff’s office has hired more workers and has facilities for holding dogs overnight, and suggested that it might prove a better option for Wendell.

Budine shared a folder of a “regional digital equity plan” created by FRCOG, and said approving it might make Wendell eligible for grants. DiDonato said the municipal light plant approves of the plan. The selectboard voted to accept it.

The board voted to give DiDonato authority to sign documents authorizing the transfer of a Class III automobile parts salvage license to Carey and Jake Johnson, who have already been running the yard covered by the license for the last decade.

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LOOK BACK from page A1

came out of these farms – so we’re having a little art exhibit that’s going to start on the 6th and run ‘til the end of September.”

MR: *What does the Saturday event look like – a screening, and then a Q&A panel?*

CL: It’ll be myself, Sam Lovejoy, Verandah Porche, and my producing partner, Dan Keller.

MR: *You and Dan have been the core of Green Mountain Post Films since – well, this is one of the things I’m been interested in. These particular communes stood out, besides the whole legacy of the Clamshell Alliance and the anti-nuclear movement, for being so involved in the publishing world.*

CL: Yeah. I mean, they basically came out of a literary background – and a journalistic background, out of Liberation News Service.

Marshall Bloom went to Amherst, and he was a major figure there. Throughout his life, he was someone who people loved and/or hated. He had started out as a Goldwater conservative, growing up as a Jew in Denver, Colorado – he knew Barry, actually – and when he got to Amherst he got totally enmeshed in the Civil Rights struggle and a whole bunch of stuff.

Bloom had written his senior thesis on the role of the Jewish community during the voting rights struggle. He went and lived in Selma with a woman who took him in who was part of the Jewish community, and he did that while at the same time... writing for *The Southern Courier*, which was a student Civil Rights paper at the time. He was arrested in St. Augustine, and in some other place. He corresponded with King, and at the same time he also corresponded with Barry Goldwater, who he knew from his earlier time.

MR: *Those archives at UMass seem really extensive. A lot of people involved with these communes have given over their papers and photos to those Special Collections.*

CL: Yeah, us, too.

MR: *It includes a “Famous Long Ago Reader,” which Ray Mungo and Tom Fels assembled in 2018, which has a bunch of articles written for college newspapers as well as the Movement press, that a lot of the folks who would become the principal players were writing as they were coming together – the folks who would go on to split from the Liberation News Service, and start the farms.*

But beyond those founders, it seems like there were more college grads gravitating there, and more politicians also?

CL: Before the split happened Ray, who was intimately involved with Liberation News Service, and Verandah, who was involved with LNS, got disgusted with all the infighting. They left in July [1968] and bought Packer Corners. By August 11, the rest of the people in the Marshall faction were sick of it. And as explained in the film, there was a benefit showing of *Magical Mystery Tour*, the money got used for the down payment on the farm. They took the equipment and moved up to the farm.

The initial group in Packer Corners had mostly gone to BU and were friends from there, although there were others. The group in Montague was more eclectic. Marshall had picked up two people at the Poor People’s Campaign – one of them, named Alex, was 20 or 25 years older than us and was Scottish.

And as time went on, because Marshall had gone to Amherst, different people came [from there]. Dan Keller, my business partner, was a freshman when Marshall was a senior, and Marshall took him – there’s some formal arrangement at Amherst for that mentoring.

But yeah, it was heavily college-influenced in a certain way, and some Ivy League. But myself, I never really finished college.

MR: *You weren’t in the LNS, either?*

CL: No, I wasn’t. I moved to Montague in 1970, when Marshall was a little less than a year dead. But I’d met him from up here, because I got to know the Packer Corners people; I’d lived at the Johnson Pasture.

MR: *I can’t imagine how many things you must have just decided weren’t going to be in*



The scene at the Montague Farm, circa 1974. Kramer-Mathews Collection, Robert S. Cox Special Collections and University Archives Research Center, UMass Amherst Libraries.

this film: “How do I do the main part of the story in 90 minutes, end to end?” But the whole Johnson Pasture commune – as well as the fire – isn’t in there. That must have been such a huge event for all of you!

CL: Oh, it was. It was. I was there. I’d just come back from California, actually, to take my draft physical in Manchester, New Hampshire, when the fire happened. It was devastating. Four people died, three of whom had been there an extremely short period of time. Two boys, either in high school or just out of high school, who had come from Penfield, New York where my [now-]wife, Patty Carpenter, had gone to school, because her brother Michael owned the Johnson Pasture.

They died, as well as this runaway girl who was 16 who had just arrived that day. And then someone who had been there a while, and who was actually the father of Janice Frey’s baby Sequoyah, who would grow up in Montague.

It was very hard. A group of us who were students at Mark Hopkins College – alleged students – had rented a house on Jacksonville Stage Road, and Michael had moved in with Annie and they had a baby in November [1968] called RedPoney Carpenter. I was witness to that [birth], that was pretty mind-blowing.

Michael had had some money, because his father had died recently – Patty’s father also – and he had been looking for land in Maine to start a commune, and then came back to Vermont. We found the land at the Johnson Pasture and bought it from Dot Henry, who owned what’s now the Franklin Farm, and then we moved on there.

But the problem with the Johnson Pasture was there were so many people moving around. It was almost like the lumpenproletariat of the communal scene. Michael believed in “open land,” though he also owned the place, and so it was a sort of a weird paradox. There were probably close to a thousand people who passed through the Johnson Pasture in the course of the first spring and summer of 1969.

MR: *I’ve gotten a clear sense that the folks at the Montague Farm and Wendell were really a different scene, or milieu, than the “commune” that Michael Metelica et. al. were doing here in Turners Falls in the ’70s. But he and his crew went up to Johnson Pasture?*

CL: The first time we met them, a fellow named Laurie Dodge, who lived at Packer Corners, came over and said, “Oh, you’ve got to meet these people!” And they took myself and Michael Carpenter, my now brother-in-law, and Fritz Hewitt over to where they were sugaring for Molly Scott up in Charlemont.

There were like 20 boys there. I don’t know if they had any women, but I think Molly didn’t want them there or whatever it was. But it was like, *Hello*. Michael [Metelica] sat on this dais, and we were all, you know, sitting with the members, the boys, on the floor, and he asked these questions. And for me – you know, it was one of those things, with Michael Metelica. I never saw the charisma. You can say the same thing about Trump: you know it existed, because at one point Metelica had 400 people turning over 50 bucks a week to him that went up his nose!

So you knew, evidentiary, that this phenomenon existed, that this person had great appeal to other people, but I never saw it. Including, as it turned out, Michael Carpenter, who got fascinated with them and basically offered them half of the Johnson Pasture at one point.

MR: *And they didn’t go up?*

CL: No, they did come up for a while. Michael Metelica built this house on stilts where he would take girls and take off their clothes and read their aura. It was like something out of that novel *Candy*. And then at one point, after Michael Carpenter had left and really didn’t want anything to do with it anymore, they sort of came back – or maybe they were still there. That was after I left. There was talk of them buying it, but that never happened. They were very evangelical, very fundamentalist-type people.

Like you say, the farms at Montague and Packer Corners were very different than that. But it turned out in Montague that the influx from the Johnson Pasture – myself and Nina [Keller] and our baby, and Janice and the baby Sequoyah, and a few other people in the beginning – I’m sort of biased about this, but I think that was the most cohesive group in terms of working together, both on the farming stuff at first and later during all the nuclear stuff.

MR: *The New Babylon Times and the editions of the Green Mountain Post are up now on the UMass Special Collections archive. That project had an interesting progression!*

CL: We would go and sell the *Green Mountain Post* in Boston on the streets, and make a big deal about putting it out.

MR: *I had heard it was a newspaper, so I’d kind of understood it to be a bridge between the LNS/Newsreel era and what you guys ended up doing with the film company during the anti-nuclear movement. I was surprised when I read them. It was basically a literary journal?*

CL: Yeah, that’s what it was – it was an outlet for a lot of writing, and photography and paintings and stuff like that. And we’d also run fake news, and ads – “send \$1 to Swami Snatchahuladollar per year...”

And the film company grew out of that. The idea of the film really began because [Robert] Redford had optioned the story from Ray, from *Famous Long Ago*, soon after it was published. And I was there – down in the Village, with Redford’s agent and Ray’s agent, a little champagne brunch when the papers got signed and they waddled off down the street. And we thought, *Wow*, this is going to be a major motion picture! But of course, Redford made the mistake of giving Ray the job of writing the screenplay. Ray worked with Stevie Diamond, and they produced something called *Between Two Moons*, which had more to do with the Brotherhood of the Spirit – I can’t even remember exactly, except the thing was a piece of shit, and nothing at all to do with the story.

Around the same time, myself and Dan got into figuring out Marshall’s papers, which we still had, mostly. A lot of them were diaries, and his handwriting of course was terrible, but Marshall was a person who thought about his

own sense of self-importance. He would write a letter to someone, and if he didn’t have carbon paper, he would write, “Oh, I didn’t have a carbon, but I know you might have access to a Xerox machine. Could you make a copy of it, and send it back to me for my record?” He was that aware of his own desire for, let’s put it that way, historical relevance, and he was a brilliant thinker.

So we started on that whole process, and during that we said, “Well, let’s make a film!” We got together in Minneapolis.... Ray flew in from the West Coast, and one or two other people came. We talked about it, and we hammered out a treatment, mostly written by Ray, which was quite good, for a feature narrative based on *Famous Long Ago* and really centered even more on Marshall. But that failed to fly, and then our filmmaking lives got wrapped up in the whole nuclear thing.

MR: *There’s this Harvey Wasserman quote in the film: “... the nuclear thing, and the issues that we dealt with, were all very real, and together they sustained us for a long, long period of time, longer than most so-called intentional communities.”*

This is a critique that I’ve heard of the turn into anti-nuclear politics at that point by the back-to-the-land movement – that it lent a social cohesion function. Everyone had been on parallel tracks, with political experience in their backgrounds and those toolboxes that they’d kind of shoved to the side, and finding it really lonely after a while, the rural farming life. This was a way for them to get back together, into mass politics, and it served a function that helped the people who were doing it.

CL: Yeah, definitely. What I think Sluggo was saying there is that the anti-nuclear fight provided a point of cohesion that kept the Farm together as a cohesive unit longer than it probably would have. And that’s probably true.

It also, like everything else, carries the seeds of its own destruction. You can see that in the Clamshell. When that blew up – well, it basically blew up because it had a lot of flaws, one of which was the whole idea of consensus decision-making, and how that could be used by your opponent to throw you into paralysis.

And I was instrumental in convincing the Coordinating Committee to agree to the proposal by Tom Rath, [New Hampshire] attorney general at the time, to have a legal rally. It was done in full knowledge that this was going to blow up the organization. But the organization would have blown itself up sooner or later – it was a victim of its own quick growth and flawed decision-making process.

And in a way, the end of Montague [Farm] – I don’t really go into that. But really, the seeds of its destruction were in its success, in the case of M.U.S.E. and the five nights of rock’n’roll concerts in New York.

MR: *The film alludes to a kind of rift between the people who went down to New York, and went through all that with M.U.S.E., and the people who stayed on the farms. What did that end up looking like?*

CL: People who stayed on the farm were also very involved in the anti-nuclear movement, in a much less public out-front way. They would get arrested, and they would go to meetings and stuff like that. But those of us who got really involved in the organizing and on the whole M.U.S.E. front – I mean, it was sex, drugs, and rock ‘n’ roll. It what you would expect. It just never was the same again. I just remember my feeling: here we are. We’re making this film that got shown at Madison Square Garden, hobnobbing with rock’n’roll elite people, which is a whole other different world, and there’s tons of money. Not that we were making tons of money, but there was this feeling of power and getting things done.

I personally thought our lives were about to take off in a whole different direction. That didn’t happen, to any great extent....

And the other thing is, these places sort of have a life of their own, and a time limit. Maybe that’s not always the case – and Montague [Farm] lived through the ‘80s and didn’t get sold until the early 2000s, but it didn’t really have the same vibe, and by the end of the ‘80s

see **LOOK BACK** next page

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it didn't have the same people.

In '93 we had the 25th reunion, and tried to figure out some way to pass it off as an institution. There was a group of people younger than us who were interested, some of whom were living there.... It just devolved into factions.

MR: *It looks like there's a few different batches of interviews that you got to kind of re-use from the archive. Were some of those filmed around one of the reunion milestones?*

CL: What serves as "contemporary" interviews took place between 2006 and 2010. The earlier stuff came from *Lovejoy's Nuclear War*, around that time. We had amateur footage in 16 mm, beginning in '68 and some in the early '70s. We also got some that was shot by people up at Packer Corners in 8 mm and Super 8....

Far Out has had these various iterations. It started with the narrative feature film, and when we got out of the nuclear stuff we turned our attentions to it again, and started a film that we called *No Success Like Failure*....

Then we also hooked up in '93 with Nora Jacobson, who made *The Vermont Movie*, and worked with her. There's pieces of that in here.... But Nora wanted to do the documentary and reenact different parts of it. The problem with movies about the '60s is they don't get it, usually. The dialog sucks.... [We decided to] go to our friend Jesse Kornbluth, who was familiar with the story and a very polished writer. And we did that, but then Jesse got appointed editor at AOL, and it didn't happen.

So that was one try – it was really two different films in the '93 to '95 era– and then we said, "Oh, fuck this!" and gave up. For each of these we produced a demo reel to sell it.

And then the *Far Out* iteration.... So back in 2005, Patty and I decided to buy the house where we live now, in Guilford, and we were moving from Greenfield, but at that point our youngest son was 15, and he says, "I'm not moving to no cow pasture!" And we decide, fine, we'll find a renter.... And I rented to this wonderful woman, Jennifer Gilbert. I showed her around the neighborhood, and a few months later, she calls up and says, "Chuck, this is a fascinating story, and you guys are filmmakers – why don't you make a film about this?" And I said, "You know, Jen, we've been trying for like 30 years.... I won't fundraise anymore, it's too degrading. I can't do it. It's so frustrating." But she said, "Oh, I'm great at fundraising!"

She had fundraised for affordable housing, raising millions of dollars. She came on board and it was great. That's when we did the majority of the interviews, between 2006 and 2010. She worked with us for those four years, and gave us a new perspective on how to approach the thing in many ways, helped us find a new perspective. It was easier to raise millions of dollars for affordable housing than it was to raise 25, 30 grand, but she got enough that we got the money and we cut a new demo reel....

And it kept gnawing at me – you know, we said we'd do it in middle age, and now I was in my 70s – until last year, when I decided to sit down and do it. That's what I did for a year.

MR: *When did you finish?*

CL: Um.... the end of May.

MR: *Well, it worked. And I don't mean to come across the wrong way when I say it, but this film was so much better than I expected.*

CL: Movies and novels and whatever about the '60s tend to be untrue, or insincere. My attitude was to try and be as honest as I could. I'm glad that came through....

The thesis of this film is that there was this explosion of LNS, these two communes came out of it; for a while they turned their back on politics and the New Left – the factional fighting, the posturing, the attempts at violence – and went into this whole sustainable farming thing. And they did that for four or five years, and then at a certain point, well, the nuclear thing came along in Montague, and that really changed everything. At Packer Corners they got involved in the nuclear fight as well, to a different degree, but their reconciliation with the larger political-social world came about through the outdoor community theater stuff.

That's what the film tries to trace: the begin-



Montague Farm members at a 1988 reunion, including Charles Light (back to camera), Tony Mathews (crouching), and behind him (left to right) Nina Keller, Dan Keller, and Harvey Wasserman. Kramer-Mathews Collection, Robert S. Cox Special Collections and University Archives Research Center, UMass Amherst Libraries.

ning in this political cauldron, a sort of withdrawal from it to more of an interior kind of thing, and then emerging, because of different circumstances and desires, back into the political world.

MR: *That mythologized origin story – the arc from the LNS split to Clamshell – is the thing we've already gotten. But one thing that blew my mind watching this film was just how queer everyone is, or a lot of people. That didn't show up in a lot of the texts that I'd read – Famous Long Ago, What The Trees Said, even Farm Friends. I had never seen Richard speak, and it made me pull Home Comfort off the shelf, which he edited, and rereading it... This isn't something you have to answer for, obviously, but that's like a straight book; I didn't get gay liberation out of it. As a reader who didn't know the people, it's very submerged – writers refer to "lovers," I guess, but it's not at all apparent that same-sex relationships were at the core of that household.*

I don't think the conventional wisdom among the younger rural queer scene is to read the commune movement in southern Vermont and western Mass of that era as substantially queer. And obviously not everyone in these communes was having that experience, but this film foregrounds it – and it also tells the LNS split story in a way that centers it.

CL: Yeah! Because it was central to it, and it was hidden. And it turns out that all of the major protagonists in the LNS split, and by them I mean Marshall Bloom and Ray Mungo and Allen Young, were all in the closet at the time. Some of them more, some of them less.

Marshall was really repressed, perhaps the most. In fact, in his suicide note, he leaves Dan and Verandah as his literary executors, and he says "except for the stuff in the closet next to my room, which I leave to Ray." And the stuff in his closet was what passed for gay porn at the time, which was muscle magazines. Marshall was very uptight about his sexual identity, and it comes through in the papers. It comes through in letters from his mother and different psychology stuff that he had that's probably down at UMass Amherst at this point.

And then Ray got involved in a relationship within a year of Bloom dying, and I think Allen Young had engaged in gay sex before but didn't really acknowledge it. It was a strange time, because even though we knew about that – and I'm pretty straight – it just never entered your mind, you know? Who knows.

I think that's why I tried to put an emphasis on it, because it was such a strong tilt. And when Verandah says, "Well, you know, we didn't have those same conflicts [at Packer Corners] because we had all these gay men..." Well, it turned out we had a lot of gay men at Montague! It was a feature, and the hiddenness of it, the repression, was a feature. A lot of what Marshall writes about in his letters is that conflict between liberation and repression, and that dichotomy or paradox was going to be a big theme of *No Success Like Failure*, too.

MR: *Another thing I noticed was that after*

you cover Lovejoy's trial, you go up to Vermont and tell the story of Shoshana Rihn, a.k.a. Patricia Swinton. It clicked for me that those trials were basically a year apart, the fall of '74 and the fall of '75... While Lovejoy's trial was technically thrown out by a judge, it probably would have resulted in jury nullification, which seems like what happened with Rihn.

Watergate was kind of hanging over both of those trials, right? People were pissed at the power structure, who might have come down on the other side five years earlier. In doing the back-to-the-land thing right in that window of time, you had unwittingly become the emissaries of something people here were about to look for... I forget who says it in the film: "And their children were fascinated!"

CL: Yeah, Nina [Keller] says it.

MR: *It made me think about when Sam's saying "We saw this tower on the [Montague] Plains and we knew that was the symbol, it had to come down to get a movement going here" – but then there was real surprise in the encounter, of people from here being ready to meet that from the other side, and at least join the argument over nuclear power.*

CL: Because one, we viewed the nuclear issue as something that didn't necessarily have to divide into a left-right paradigm politically. Of course, everything does at some point, but initially we thought it could have a lot of appeal across those barriers.

And it's true what you say about the Watergate hearing. We would listen to the hearing while we were weeding out in the garden, and that helped bring us all back into into politics as well. The nuclear plant galvanized it in a specific, localized way, but we were getting much more open to reentering the political scene as those hearings wore on and Nixon was getting his just deserts. It was definitely instrumental.

MR: *It made an opening.*

CL: Things changed in western Mass and Vermont. When we moved up here, it was totally Republican. Now it was a much more respectable kind of Republican, old Yankee Republican. But that changed fairly quickly.

MR: *"It's a sea change, really, that the dominant culture is now a culture shaped by the people who moved here in the '60s." That's the Oona Adams quote from the film.*

CL: Yeah. She was a kid during that time.

MR: *In a lot of other places where there's agricultural decline and then deindustrialization, there's often not people to run the town governments very well, or people to staff the nonprofits, and so forth. And a lot of the transplanted folks, it feels like, kind of plugged into those roles around here in the '80s and '90s.*

CL: Definitely. Verandah is now on the selectboard in Guilford, and has been there for like eight years....

MR: *And Dan had a long run in Wendell, and Sam Lovejoy was on the Montague select-*

board.... What around here's up with that?

CL: What do you mean – what's up with getting involved in civic life?

MR: *Well, if you read the Green Mountain Post up to about Issue 4, there were so many ads for commune members' books. It looks like it could have gone in a really different direction, in terms of the legacy of these households, if it weren't for this door that opened, and for anti-nuclear politics being a pretty good way to make friends more broadly in the region.*

It ended up being helpful at the right time to bring the "farm families" together and get them out in the streets with a renewed sense of outward-looking purpose. For some people, new careers. One of the things I do notice, seeing some of these folks in positions of power, is that the kind of movements or campaigns that seem to be most successful around here are the ones that follow that template of anti-developmentalism, in which there's an external enemy.

And the ones that are much harder to solve are the ones that don't fit into that mold.

CL: Yeah.

MR: *That's why I'm so interested that Oona puts it a really specific way: "the dominant culture is now a culture shaped by those people." Right? It's a really deliberate way to describe the impact of this on our whole region.*

I guess I'm still trying to pull apart some of the particularities and weirdnesses – this was not a lot of people, actually. You can name all the principals who were at the nucleus of this thing, who went through this weird sequence of experiences. But you were the ones who moved here at just at the right time, and changed the tone of this whole area historically.

CL: I would agree with that. I think we had an outsized influence in many cultural and political ways of initiating things and of seeing them through. To me, it's sort of a natural progression to go from that oppositional thing, especially in terms of the anti-nuclear movement, to a place where you try and build things that aren't – up in the other position of creating something, i.e. getting into local government.

It's also the natural moderation of aging, of becoming less willing to blow everything up – although I don't think we really were those people, we weren't the Weathermen.... You don't really want to get violent when you really are such a small percentage of the population.

MR: *Why do you think people aren't trying to live communally?*

CL: I think because the bent of things is probably more towards a community than a commune. People pair up, people couple off. People become more monogamous.

The kids got raised really well, so that worked out well. We were lucky in that way.

But why do people find it hard to commune? I don't know. We keep talking in our old age of doing it again, and it makes a lot of sense to live together. I don't know if that is true or will happen, or if it's just nostalgia....

The other thing is, anything like that requires a lot of meeting process. The glorious thing about when we lived at Montague, it was really anarchy. We didn't have chores, we didn't decide who did what. That came later, like in the early '80s, but by then I was gone. [Laughs.] And it was a miracle that it worked! And maybe it was a function of living in sort of a post-affluent society. But none of us in Montague were trust fund babies, or at Packer Corners. Down the road there were people like that. But money came in, and it was shared and it was used and it was not a major conflict.... During the heyday, we got along great.

MR: *What do you miss the most?*

CL: I guess just the sense of possibility, and the fact that we were really working and living at the top of our game. It just had that sense that we were on a roll, and we were a well-functioning unit. I get that sense, but it's in much smaller doses at this point, and I'm in a much smaller group of people because, you know, I'm living in an individual family.... I think most of us look back on it as the high point, or certainly one of the high points, of our lives.



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LEVERETT from page A1

easement to it, valued building community, and that failing to maintain accessibility to the property was “not honoring his legacy.”

Echoing other comments, Jenny Daniell said she wanted the town to be “respectful of the Evanses and their need for privacy,” but also “strong” in maintaining the public right of way. She said that King had told her “very directly” that he had created the easement for “all of Leverett” to be able to access the blueberries and trails on the parcel.

Peter Daniell said the right-of-way had been in existence for three-quarters of a century. “Please don’t hang fire,” he said. “Get to a resolution, but fight in a way not injurious to the Evanses or their daughter.”

“Hopefully there’s some middle ground,” said Sarah Dolven, a local attorney, adding that a lawsuit was “the worst possible scenario.” Dolven said that while there may only be a handful of residents with accessibility issues now, Leverett’s population was aging, and “we’re all going there if we’re lucky.”

Gary Orlinsky said he uses the access road every other week with his wife, who has mobility limitations. He suggested that one solution may be to build a berm, or plant fast-growing trees to provide more privacy for the Evanses’ home.

Speaking against fighting the lawsuit in land court, Maureen Ippolito said she did not support the town spending thousands of dollars to benefit a small number of people unable to walk from one of the other access points. Judy Ricker expressed her opposition to any solution that involved taking private property.

Selectboard member Jed Proujansky laid out the town’s options. The first, he said, would be for the town to give in and only claim the right-of-way for the purpose of maintaining the King property. Another would be to determine the outcome through a mediation process already mandated by the court; Proujansky said the town was already gathering documents in response to questions under this process. A third option would be for a judge to decide the issue.

A final option Proujansky listed was for the town to take the road by eminent domain, which would require a two-thirds vote by town meeting.

Proujansky said the selectboard had already heard from many townspeople on the matter, but wanted broader feedback on how to proceed,

and the voices of residents who may hold different views. He noted that money was an issue in deciding which road to take.

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis concluded the discussion by requesting that any residents with documentation of the use of the right-of-way, or of the King property itself, from 1955 or later, forward it to her attention at town hall.

Juggler Meadow Project

The planning board was on hand, seeking to clarify its role in responding to a provisional proposal to build 150 housing units on Juggler Meadow Road. Representatives of the Kittredge estate have floated the idea of creating a development for residents 55 and older, with some portion designated as affordable housing, and of doing so collaboratively with the town under the state’s “Local Initiative Program” (LIP), which could avoid a more adversarial process.

Selectboard chair Tom Hankinson reported that the town had hired an attorney specializing in property law, and sent a request to the estate for financial information.

The selectboard had previously stated that it wanted the planning board to “take the lead” in negotiations, and members of the latter body attended last week’s meeting to discuss what they needed to fulfill that role.

Member Kimberly VanWagner said the board would like a “job description,” in the form of a written memorandum of understanding (MOU), providing clarity and direction. The selectboard, she said, should specify strategies the planning board should pursue, such as simply reacting to proposals from the developer, pursuing a “friendly” LIP strategy, or focusing first on what the town wished to see happen.

VanWagner also commented that “we have a lot of power,” saying the developers will either have to work with the town or have “a very large, obsolete property that they’re paying taxes on.”

Planning board chair Greg Tuzolo said that if his board was to be “handed the torch” on negotiating, it would need clearly specified roles and responsibilities, and designated liaisons between the various entities involved in the process.

Member Tim Shores said specifying these in written documents would “keep things visible, clear, and public.” He said he and his colleagues needed to understand “all possible

outcomes” – for example, the risks involved in entering senior housing agreements – before presenting information at a public forum.

McGinnis said she would begin drafting an MOU.

Age-Friendly Action

Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) community health director Phoebe Walker presented an overview of a regional “Age- and Dementia-Friendly Action Plan” created by FRCOG and the Greenfield-based social service agency LifePath. She was joined by Leverett Council on Aging members Judy Fonsch and Tom Wolff.

Walker, who spoke after the discussion about the King blueberry patch, began by saying, “I feel a little bit like I was a plant on the agenda, after the conversation about the accessibility for older adults to public spaces.”

The plan, she explained, was rooted in a World Health Organization program to build networks of “Age-Friendly Communities.” The regional plan was three years in the making, and covers all 26 towns in Franklin County and four in the North Quabbin region. It identifies eight “domains of livability” as areas where work can be done to promote “healthy and active aging” in a “quickly aging population.”

Based on the results of surveys, public forums, and discussions with municipal groups, the planners recommended goals and action steps in each area.

Walker said Leverett was a regional leader in the domain of “transportation” with its model of rides for elders provided by volunteers through Village Neighbors. She commented that Leverett had services many other local communities do not, but that more work was needed, as in all areas of the report.

Fonsch added that though it is not yet confirmed, there may be a PVTa bus route servicing Leverett in the near future.

In the domain of “housing,” Walker said the desire of elders to stay in their towns and in their own houses came up “over and over again” in the surveys, and that there was “massive demand” for senior housing in Franklin County.

Hankinson asked if FRCOG could assist in evaluating a proposed 150-unit housing development. Walker said that planners at the agency would be happy to consult.

Walker also gave summaries of the six other domains: “outdoor



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spaces and buildings,” “social participation,” “respect and social inclusion,” “civic participation and employment,” “communication and information,” and “health services and community supports.”

More information on the plan can be found at www.lifepath-ma.org by selecting “Health and Wellness” from the menu marked “What We Offer.”

Other Business

The selectboard announced that the Slarrow Sawmill in North Leverett had received a \$680,000 renovation grant from the National Park Service, and that the award was featured on the Park Service website, www.nps.gov.

Eva Gibavic and Stephen Weiss, members of a steering committee for the Rattlesnake Gutter Road restoration and improvement project, provided an update. They said their committee is soliciting estimates on drainage and construction work and preparing grant applications.

Gibavic said accessibility options were a difficult topic, and would be looked at more closely as the project proceeds.

McGinnis announced that as of September 1, Leverett would have a dog officer and animal control officer through the Franklin County sheriff’s regional dog program.

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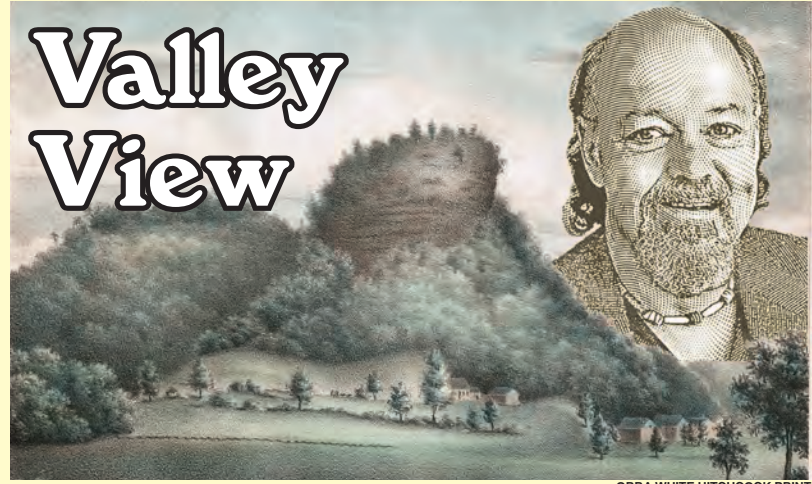
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Field Report: It’s Quiet

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – Towering cornfields obscure roadside sightlines, purple loosestrife and goldenrod color marshes and scalped-hayfield rims, festive midways are clogged, and Labor Day has passed.

Autumn is here. Wow! Where did summer go?

Not complaining. Fall has for many decades been my favorite season – ever since I hung up my spikes, glove, and bat from the old American pastime that begins in spring, the season of optimism, mischievous youthful exuberance, and nesting.

Now, with the crack of the bat far in my rearview, even my passion for the upland bird-hunting game that replaced it has greatly diminished. Attribute that to physical wear and tear brought by stubborn refusal to heed orthopedic surgeons’ warnings about my battered left knee and other things. Even with my trusty, old, 16-gauge Jean Breuil side-by-side back in action – thanks to the People’s Republic of Montague Center’s gunmaker extraordinaire Richard Colton – it’s just not the same.

But why go there? Aging’s inevitable, and swamp-busting is not forever. I accepted that reality long ago. These days I satisfy my strong hunting instinct by chasing information instead of pheasant, grouse and woodcock, turkeys and deer, trout and shad. It’s no less fulfilling. Same game, different playing field.

But why digress? Back to fall’s arrival.

It seems like yesterday I was watching and writing about that great horned owl nest up the road. Now those nestlings that peered down at me from their temporary April home in a dead white pine are casting large, predatory shadows as they swoop down to my lawn for rabbits, squirrels, and whatever else tickles their dietary fancy.

So far, they’ve spared an animated black squirrel I’ve been watching since spring. While I hope that little critter escapes those owls’ talons, I sure do wish they’d

get a grip on those damn chipmunks that have thus far robbed me of every last one of my Roma tomatoes as they ripen.

I keep waiting for the pilfering to stop. The bold little rodents, which have been staying just out of reach since spring, are industrious indeed. Secretive, too. They climb two tomato stalks tied to a 10-foot rebar pole pinned to my barn wall and, starting at the nipped base, devour each oblong tomato, leaving only a stem and thin cap. It’s annoying, to say the least. What remains resembles an inverted mushroom.

It’s a problem I’ve coped with for a few years now. I savor those heirloom tomatoes, whose storied past dates back to the garden of an infamous Springfield mobster gunned down in the Mount Carmel Club parking lot. Ideal for spaghetti sauce and quick, stovetop marinara, they’re versatile and *ain’t bad at all* in salads, BLTs, and whatever else you choose to use them for. Unlike Big Boys and other popular garden varieties, the seeds from this dense, meaty fruit don’t squirt out the side and onto your shirt when you bite into a thick sandwich.

Chipmunks apparently appreciate them, too. Which reminds me. It was just this summer that I finally figured out they were the culprit. My neighbor told me chipmunks were eating her tomatoes, too. In the past I had suspected squirrels and more so woodchucks, which seem to find their way to my property, taking refuge in the barn cellar, below the woodshed outhouse, and in the crawlspaces under my home’s front stone terrace and 18th-century western wing.

The last woodchuck I saw in my yard was way back in early April, so I must assume something killed it. Maybe a neighbor’s domestic dog, a coyote, a bobcat, a fisher or, hey, perhaps even a great horned owl feeding its young. It wouldn’t surprise me a bit if the so-called “tiger of the north woods” is capable of killing a woodchuck.

Other than that, it was an unusually quiet summer on the wild-life-sighting front. Far fewer deer

see **VALLEY VIEW** page B3

Above: Morning glories apprehended in their full glory, Sunday morning downtown.

ESSAY: Ccoonnssiiddeerr tthhee Sslluugg

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS – I like to hit on various themes in my artwork. Some of them are edgy, some are educational or even mundane, while others might be erotic or angsty. One theme that I believe has brought some joy to the world has been my ongoing series of garden slugs!

Yes, the lowly creature of the garden, despised for its voracious appetite for vegetation, and loathed for its slimy, slithery, jelly-like body. Since we are now at the end of the growing season and the level of anger directed at slugs must surely be ebbing for the time being, I’d like to slip in a few words about this fascinating member of the phylum *Mollusca*, entering through the perspective of my artistic study of their form.

It’s fun to watch people encounter my little life-size clay slug figurines. They will invariably smile, and if they are with someone else they will go, “Look – slugs!” Sometimes people will say, “Look – snails!,” to which I will say, “No, these are slugs; they are *unhoused* snails.” Snails and slugs are part of the same family, along with oysters, clams, octopuses,



Pictured: A slug, in Montague Center.

and squid. In fact, slugs still have a vestigial shell beneath their skin indicating their evolution from snails.

Imparting character and personality to a half-ounce lump of clay is a little tricky, but I’ve developed some techniques in 20 years of sculpting them. First, there are several basic attitudes of slug-dom. One is the perky, curious look-about, with the whole upper body lifted up and reared back to check things out. Then there is the *stre-e-e-e-tch*, where the slug extends itself horizontally to an amazing length, keeping the entire underneath of itself pressed against the ground. There is

the defensive huddle, which is the opposite attitude, where the slug becomes as short as possible and is just basically a hump.

The curious attitude is the most popular. I do not bother making depressed-looking slugs; that would just be too sad. I have also taken to anthropomorphizing them with the addition of smiling mouths, little pink tongues, and “arms” that clutch a tiny red heart. (I call these the “sentimental slimers.”)

So, about slugs: how the heck do they move around? Well, they have a “foot,” which is basically see **SSLLUUGG** page B4

NOTES FROM THE HEARTFELT CAFE

by Trouble Mandeson

GREENFIELD – Biscotti are one of my favorite baked items. I make my own version of them every couple of weeks, as I like to enjoy one every morning with my hot cuppa Joe’y (a coffee substitute with mushrooms).

I’ve been using the same *New York Times* recipe for years. Their original was for a cashew-cherry version, but I’ve wandered far afield since then, and mine might end up with coconut, chia seeds, and ginger, or chocolate chunks,

sunflower seeds, and dried figs. The essential ingredients remain the same, and the fillings come from whatever’s on hand.

The word *biscotti* comes from the Medieval Latin *biscoctus*, meaning “twice cooked,” which made them very dry and good for long-term storage, a vital staple of the Roman legions during wartime. Pliny the Elder, who we know as an author, philosopher, and naval commander from early A.D., boasted that biscotti would be edible for centuries. A fun fact: Pliny wrote a comprehensive 37-volume work on human knowledge and the natural world which became the model for later encyclopedias.

Although the Italian word *biscotti* is really the plural for any type of biscuit or cookie with a wide variety of sizes, shapes, and flavors, when we refer to “biscotti”

see **HEARTFELT** page B8



Crunchy and slightly sweet, piles of biscotti come out of the oven at the author’s home every two weeks. You can see the orange in this batch, which comes from adding cooked butternut squash to the batter.

Pet of the Week



GARMODY COLLAGE

‘KIRBY’

Kirby came to Dakin as a stray. This handsome fellow was found underneath a car by a student who was on her way to school. We don’t know if he went to class with her and what he learned, but perhaps if she forgot her homework, she could have used the “rabbit ate my homework” line. Now Kirby’s in foster care, and his foster mom says he is super curious, playful, and energetic. His foster recommends to his adopter that he be allowed lots of exercise, as he is happiest when running around. Kirby is accustomed to being in a large pen with lots of out

of the pen time. He has been around the foster’s bunny-safe cats, and seems very curious about them. Looking for a new friend who is too cute for words? Kirby is the bunny for you! Please call Dakin Humane Society at (413) 781-4000 or visit www.dakinhumane.org for information. Want your pet featured in *The Montague Reporter*? We accept reader submissions! Just email a high-resolution photo to jae@montaguereporter.org along with a paragraph or two about why your pet is simply the best.

SEPTEMBER LIBRARY LISTING

Montague Public Libraries

Turners Falls: Carnegie (413) 863-3214
Montague Center (413) 367-2852
Millers Falls (413) 659-3801

MONTAGUE

All month: *Art Exhibit*, Nature paintings by Meaghan Schwelm. Montague Center.

All month: *Grab & Go Bags*. Craft: bee hotel. At all branches while supplies last.

Every Thursday: *Bilingual Music & Movement*. Sing and move with Tom and Laurie. Carnegie Library, 10 a.m.

Every Saturday: *Chess*. All ages. Carnegie Library, 10 a.m. to noon.

Saturday, September 7: *Used Book Sale*. Fiction, paperbacks, kids’ books, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks. Carnegie Library, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, September 7: *Soils, Soil pH Testing, and Pollinators*. At the Great Falls Farmers Market, Peskeompskut Park, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Monday, September 9: *Nature Arts and Crafts*. Ages 5 to 12. Carnegie Library, 3:30 p.m.

Monday, September 9: *Friends of MPL Meeting*. Email kristopherlangston@gmail.com. Carnegie Library, 5:30 p.m.

Every Wednesday: *LEGO*. Carnegie Library, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 12: *Book Club*. Zakiya Dalila Harris, *The Other Black Girl*. Ages 17 and up. Millers Falls branch, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 18: *Harvest Reading*. Poems and short pieces by local authors. Montague Center, 6 p.m.

Thursday, September 19: *Graphic Novel Book Club*. Claribel Ortega, *Frizzy*. Ages 8 to 12. To register, email gracenm@montague-ma.gov. Carnegie Library, 3:30 p.m.

Monday, September 23: *Craft Club*. All ages. Montague Center branch, 4 p.m.

Thursday, September 26: *Family Crafts and Stories*. To register, email slangknecht@brickhousecommunity.org or call (413) 800-2496. Millers Falls branch, 4 p.m.

Thursday, September 26: *Book Club*. Alice Hoffman, *The Invisible Hour*. Montague Center branch, 7 p.m.

Friday, September 27: *Home-school Hangout*. Carnegie Library, 1 p.m.

ERVING

Sunday, September 8: *Puzzle Swap*. All ages, no puzzle required. 1 to 3 p.m.

Every Monday: *CNC Playgroup* with Pru. For ages 0 to 5. 10 a.m.

Erving Public Library (413) 423-3348
Gill: Slate Library (413) 863-2591
Leverett Public Library (413) 548-9220
Northfield: Dickinson Library (413) 498-2455
Wendell Free Library (978) 544-3559

Wednesday, September 11: *Monarchs with the Hitchcock Center*. Learn about monarchs’ life cycle, tag and release pre-caught butterflies, and then take a hike to look for others. All ages, capped at first 25 to arrive. 5 p.m.

Sunday, September 15: *Genealogy Drop-In Help*. 1 to 3 p.m.

Sunday, September 15: *Craft Day*: Make a solar light. Materials provided, RSVP required. 1 p.m.

Thursday, September 26: *Book Club*. This month, read a first work by a Massachusetts author. 5:30 p.m.

LEVERETT

All month: *Art Exhibit*. Drawings and etchings by Frank A. Waugh, curated by Annaliese Bischoff.

Every Thursday: *Mah-jongg*. Beginners welcome. 1:15 to 3:30 p.m.

Every Saturday: *Tai Chi*. Intermediate to advanced 10 a.m.; beginners 11 a.m.

Saturday, September 7: *Gallery Drop-In* with Annaliese Bischoff. 12:15 to 3 p.m.

Every Monday and Wednesday: *Online Qigong*. See leverettlibrary.org or email communityqigong@gmail.com for info. 10:30 a.m.

Every Wednesday: *Playgroup*. Ages 0 to 5 with caregiver. 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, September 14: *Embodied History*. Conversations with workers in Leverett’s charcoal industry. 1 p.m.

Thursday, September 19: *Back-to-School Brick Bash*. Drop-in for ages 5 to 12. 3 to 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 21: *Watson History*. 1 p.m.

WENDELL

All month: *Art Exhibit*. “Dark Barns and Dream Sheds” by Nate Longcope.

Every Friday: *LEGO*. 4 to 5 p.m.

Every Tuesday: *Cyber Seniors Tech Help*. Register or walk-in. 2 to 5 p.m.

Every Tuesday: *Art Group*. 5 p.m.

Every Wednesday: *Movie*. 4 p.m.

Every Wednesday starting September 11: *CNC Playgroup* with Sylvia. 10 a.m.

Saturdays, September 14, 21, and 28: *Work It Out Wombats*. Paid study for families of 4 and

5 year olds. Registration required. 10 a.m.

Tuesdays starting September 24: *Intro to Astrology* with Mara Bright. Six-week course through October 29. Registration required. 6:30 p.m.

NORTHFIELD

All month: *In-Library Kids’ Scavenger Hunt*, new theme each month.

Wednesday, September 4: *Readers’ Choice Book Group*. Thornton Wilder, *Our Town*, and Ann Patchett, *Tom Lake*. Pick up at the library. 10 a.m.

Wednesday, September 4: *Tech Help*. Bring your device and ask your questions. 1 to 3 p.m.

Thursday, September 5: *Spice Club pickup starts*. Sample and recipes while supplies last.

Friday, September 6: *Coffee/Tea Social*. 10 to 11 a.m.

Saturday, September 7: *Puzzle Swap*. For info, email friendsofdml01360@gmail.com. 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Every Tuesday: *Drop-in Knitting*. Join fellow knitters and crocheters to chat and share projects. 6 to 8 p.m.

Tuesday, September 10: *Naturally Beautiful Yards*. Before you “clean up” your yard for the winter, save time and preserve beautiful habitat for wildlife. 6 p.m.

Every Wednesday starting September 11: *Storytime: Music and Movement with Robin*. For toddlers and preschoolers. 10 a.m.

Wednesday, September 11: *Readings Group*. Toni Morrison, *Jazz*. Pick up at the library. 3 p.m.

Thursday, September 12: *Trivia Night*. Four Star Farms Brewery, 6 p.m.

Thursday, September 12: *Environmental Book Group*. Robin Wall Kimmerer, *Braiding Sweetgrass*. Pick up at the library. 6:30 p.m.

Friday, September 13: *Take-and-Make*. While supplies last.

Thursday, September 19: *Trees for Our Future*. Demo and info with Dan Ziomek, manager of Sugarloaf Gardens. 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 21: *Botanical Cyanotype Workshop*. Make photograms with local artist Madge Evers. Registration required: email dmemlib@gmail.com. 10 a.m.

Wednesday, September 25: *Poetry Discussion* with Nick Fleck. 3 p.m.

Senior Center Activities

SEPTEMBER 9 THROUGH 13

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 9/9
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Pot Luck Lunch

Tuesday 9/10
9 a.m. Chair Yoga
10 a.m. Senior Health Fair
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 9/11
Foot Clinic by Appointment
10:45 a.m. Outdoor Yoga
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 9/12
10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share
1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 9/13
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 9/9
9 a.m. Interval
10 a.m. Chair Dance
1 p.m. Yoga
1 p.m. Wreath Making

Tuesday 9/10
8:30 a.m. Toenail Clipping
9 a.m. Good for U
10 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. TRIAD Safety Expo

Wednesday 9/11
9 a.m. Strength & Conditioning
10 a.m. Chair Aerobics
12 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 9/12
9 a.m. Barre Fusion
10 a.m. Pilates Flow

Friday 9/13
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.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!

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VALLEY VIEW from page B1

on my daybreak walks around the Upper Meadows of Greenfield, and no sign of bears since that close spring encounter I reported a couple of months ago. Plus, curiously, I have not seen a turkey here in months, none of the typical summer hens and broods I'm accustomed to seeing. I still suspect those great horned owls may have something to do with that.

Which doesn't mean deer, bears and turkeys have dwindled in my wildlife-friendly neighborhood. Just that I, personally, haven't seen as many as usual. Sometimes there's no explanation for such things. Luck of the draw, perhaps?

Just the other day at the coffee shop I spoke to a fella I often bump into in the morning. He told me he had in recent days seen at least 10 deer, including a big, handsome buck in a field where I used to walk daily with my gun dogs. The sighting occurred a quarter-mile or so from the southern perimeter of my morning walk. So, the deer are never far away, whether or not I

happen to see them.

My friend and near neighbor agrees with me that he's seen fewer deer and turkeys in his expansive backyard thus far this year. Yes, he's seen occasional deer and a few turkeys, but nothing of note compared to previous summers. That said, he did tell of his next-door neighbors returning from their Maine camp a couple of months ago to discover bear damage to a birdfeeder, and a vulture nibbling at something along the wood line.

Upon closer investigation the following day, one of the homeowners found the picked-over remains of a fawn's hindquarter. What killed it is anyone's guess. The bear? A bobcat? Fisher? Coyotes? Then again, perhaps it was roadkill scavenged in a safe place.

Well, that's all for now. We'll see what the leaf-peeping, woodstove season brings...

Gary Sanderson lives in Greenfield. Questions and comments welcome at gary@oldtavernfarm.com.



Montague Community Television News

Work For Us!

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – Have you ever considered working for MCTV? It's really fun and easy to join the crew! If you have any experience editing or filming, you should get in touch. We're always looking to bring more people on board!

More videos are now available on our Vimeo page from the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival last month in Unity Park, including edited performances from Sito Zapakli and the Wampanoag Nation Singers and Dancers.

We also have our usual recordings of local selectboard, planning

board, and Gill-Montague school committee meetings.

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 infomontaguetyv@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, montaguetyv.org.

EXHIBITS

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

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

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: Jasper Alexander presents block prints from his Salted Snail Studio. Through October; opening reception this Saturday, September 7 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Montague Center Library: Paintings by Meaghan Schwelm. Through October 30, with a closing reception Wednesday, October 23 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield: Literately Inspired, group show of art inspired by words, through September 15.

Leverett Library: Trees and Mills, drawings and etchings by Frank Waugh, curated by Annaliese Bischoff. Through October 29, with a reception this Saturday, September 7 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: Lori Lyn Hoffer and Jac Roblee Straus exhibit work in September.

Von Auersperg Gallery, Deer-

field Academy: limninal, paintings and kinetic sculpture by Donabelle Casis. Through November 2. Opening reception this Sunday, September 8, from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: It's Never Too Late to Create, work by Tim Gorts, through October 11. Opening reception this Friday, September 6 at 5 p.m.

Greenfield Library: The Day After Yesterday, portraits of dementia by Joe Wallace. Through September 28, with a reception Monday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: Every Vote Counts, art installation by A.L.R. Keaton. Reception and presentation on Friday, September 13 at 5:30 p.m. Enter a voting booth, read the graffiti there and add your own, and cast a unique ballot. A presentation by Doug Selwyn and Jan Mahar will look at changes in political advertising over the years.

Gallery A3, Amherst: When Matter Talks Back, mixed-media installation by Rebecca Muller. Through September 28, with a reception this Thursday, September 5 from 5 to 7 p.m.

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

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Bikes Reported Stolen On Fourth, A, Third, and Canal; Sinkhole In Erving; Election Sign Trouble; Wild Sunday

Monday, 8/19
10:11 a.m. Animal control officer advising that two dogs were loose from a Park Street address. He located the dogs and brought them back home.

Tuesday, 8/20
1:43 a.m. Officer conducting a motor vehicle stop at Millers Falls and East Mineral roads. Officer requesting tow. Summons issued for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked registration; uninsured motor vehicle; and unregistered motor vehicle. Operator walking home.

3:14 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports that his black and green Montgoose bike was stolen by an involved male a few days ago. Caller will come into station at some point to fill out a report.

6:15 p.m. Caller from Montague City Road reports that a male in a white Ford Mustang with Vermont plates revs his engine loudly every day between 5:45 and 6:15 when he returns home. Caller believes the male lives in the apartments on Walnut Street, and requests an officer be in the area when available.

Wednesday, 8/21
8:08 a.m. Report of carbon monoxide detectors on Griswold Street sounding since 7:30 this morning. Everyone is out of the house and outside, and no one is feeling sick. Shelburne Control notified.

3:50 p.m. 911 caller reports that a male party in a vehicle near Cumberland Farms was screaming at two children. Officer located vehicle. Male operator refused to identify himself, but is an employee of Cumberland Farms. Kids are fine; male was yelling at them because they wanted ice cream after going to the dentist.

Thursday, 8/22
6:43 p.m. Report of a male in the rocky area on the west side of Peskeompskut Park possibly "shooting up." Unable to locate.

7:03 p.m. Report of two males inside the clothing drop-off bins in the Aubuchon parking lot throwing clothes out. Moved along.

8:44 p.m. Report of unwanted person on Montague City Road. Party transported. Report taken.

9 p.m. Report of large sinkhole in road on East Main Street. Erving officer checking area. Found to be on Papermill Road in Erving.

11:41 p.m. E-911 caller reporting accident at Poplar Street and Greenfield Road. Caller states vehicle hit a guardrail and driver appeared to be passed out. Caller attempted to check on single female occupant, who then woke up and started to leave. Advised caller to clear area to avoid getting injured. Caller advises vehicle took off and headed toward Hatchery Road. Vehicle has side and front-end damage. Officer advises upon arrival to scene, caller stated there is a Domino's sign on top of the vehicle. Officer located and stopped car near Field of Dreams. Medical attention refused. Summons issued. Rau's on scene for tow.

Friday, 8/23
6:56 a.m. Caller from Avenue A reports that her bicycle was stolen sometime overnight. White bike with purple writing.

8:06 a.m. Neighbor on Park Street complaining of a German Shepherd tied up outside for an hour, barking the whole time. ACO responding. Upon arrival, no one was home and dog was inside. ACO will follow up with owners.

9:39 a.m. Party into station requesting to speak with officer about a male party who she believes was seriously assaulted earlier in the week. Officer advising detective bureau of information.

1:53 p.m. Walk-in reporting harassment from Elder Services. Elder Services supervisor notified; will advise staff to no longer reach out to party.

3:50 p.m. Caller states that her vehicle struck an 18-wheeler while turning onto Industrial Boulevard. Officer requesting tow. Report taken.

9:03 p.m. Caller from Second Street requesting officer check his apartment to make sure no one is inside. Caller returned home and there is a light on inside that he does not recall leaving on. Officer checked residence; no one inside; no sign of forced entry; nothing reported to be missing.

9:37 p.m. Caller from High Street requesting to have on record that someone stole his "Harris" sign and replaced it with a "Trump" sign.

Saturday, 8/24
1:33 a.m. Multiple 911 callers reporting a loud motor vehicle accident on Sunderland Road. Vehicle upside down; unknown injuries; one female occupant out of vehicle. No smoke or fire reported. Multiple people out with female occupant at this time. Shelburne Control contacted for FD and ambulance. Officer requesting tow. Officer advises some property damage in vicinity; will be checking on it after area and scene are dealt with. Vehicle towed; summons issued.

10:55 a.m. Walk-in from Sunrise Terrace states that a neighbor was shooting at her cat with a BB gun. No answer at door at this time. A neighbor saw the male party that lives there leave on an e-bike earlier.

11:46 a.m. Caller from

Third Street believes that a package that was delivered this morning was stolen. Referred to an officer.

12:32 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road states that the neighbor's grill puts off too much smoke and it bothers her. When she asked him about it, he got very angry and called her names, frightening her. Advised of options.

7:21 p.m. Report of a female sitting on the bench outside Food City openly drinking beer and yelling at people. Officer made contact with the party and moved her along. Did not observe any alcohol.

Sunday, 8/25
3:06 a.m. Caller reports two individuals on the porch of a Fourth Street building, talking loudly and making noise. Advises one of the individuals urinated on the sidewalk/community garden. Area checked; nobody seen or heard.

2:37 p.m. 911 caller reports that a male driving an older black Jeep Grand Cherokee waved/pointed something at him after a road rage incident. He believes it may have been a gun. Vehicle last seen pulled over in area of East Mineral Road. Officer advises nothing showing.

6:03 p.m. Juvenile reports a black SUV driving around the Park Street area taking signs out of people's yards. Officer advised. Unable to locate.

Monday, 8/26
6:21 a.m. Caller from Montague Street states that there is a rabid raccoon in his backyard that is hissing and growling. ACO not on duty. Officer advises raccoon took off from area. No further issues.

9:02 a.m. Caller from East Mineral Road reports there is a porcupine on his walkway that is alive but not moving. ACO advised.

10:23 a.m. Caller reporting he walks his dog in Wendell three or four days a week and when he's driving on Wendell Road there are speeding cars and drivers with road rage; suggests area needs to be monitored better in the early morning. Control advised as well.

4:18 p.m. Minor two-vehicle accident at Cumberland Farms. No injuries reported.

Tuesday, 8/27
9:02 a.m. Cumberland Farms manager requesting male be moved along; he is panhandling and scaring customers on the way into the store. Officer advised. Party is gathering belongings and moving along.

10:43 a.m. School resource officer requesting detective for fraud incident at Franklin County Technical School. Report taken.

1:40 p.m. Caller reporting that a juvenile's bike was taken from outside of the

Brick House. 911 caller who is bike owner's friend states he is with an adult and wants to make a report; thinks the bike was stolen by someone wearing a black hoodie. Officer advises witness saw individual get on bike and take off towards Nouria. Bike recovered from a Fifth Street address.

2:40 p.m. School resource officer noting FCTS staff reported a strong odor of marijuana coming from 253 Farmacy.

7:53 p.m. Report of approximately eight youths smoking marijuana next to the swings at Unity Park where kids are playing. Group moved closer to basketball court while caller was on the line. Referred to an officer.

8:12 p.m. 911 report of a truck without working rear lights swerving on Turners Falls Road. Officer initiating stop. Operator is heading home; vehicle was manufactured in 1992 and the rear lights are faint.

Wednesday, 8/28
12:12 a.m. Caller from Court Square reporting someone staying in their backyard; looking at what their options are to get the party moving. Caller states they had agreed the party would be gone in two weeks, but the party has become verbally aggressive and is threatening the caller. Advised of options.

6:17 a.m. Report of unwanted person on Grand Avenue. Landlord/tenant issue. Advised of options.

12:09 p.m. Officer conducting motor vehicle stop. Male party was speeding trying to get back to the store to return cell phone to juvenile. Verbal warning issued.

2:17 p.m. Caller reports that a house on Fourth Street has dried brush in the backyard; feels that this could turn into a hazard. Report taken.

3:40 p.m. 911 caller states he got home and was getting out of his truck when the doors closed, locking his dog in the truck with the windows up and no A/C. Services rendered.


4:07 p.m. 911 caller states he is having a dispute with his roommate; there was some physical contact, but no injuries. ServiceNet employees will work on keeping them apart.

8:36 p.m. Caller from Third Street advises she had an Amazon package stolen from her property today. Advised of options.

8:49 p.m. Caller from Millers Pub states that her car was backed into by another vehicle, which took off. Bar employee states she was told someone was outside speaking with an identified male and watched him get into a brown pickup truck

see MPD next page

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MPD from previous pg and back into the caller's vehicle, then take off. No vehicles registered to suspect. Report taken.

Thursday, 8/29

8:24 a.m. Caller from Avenue A states that there is a red car out front that looks like it was in an accident. Officers determined that the operator had hit a small structure in the west end of the Third Street alley. Citation issued.

8:28 a.m. Caller states that she was threatened by two males who were on the FRTA bus this morning. The two men got off on Avenue A; one of them stated to her, "You better watch your back," and then made a gun gesture at her with his hand. Bus driver also called and gave a description of the two males; video footage is also available. Officer believes he already knows who the males are and will follow up with them.

1:13 p.m. Caller concerned that a male party who is friends with some of the guys doing work at her house showed up in a truck and was stumbling around. She spoke with him, and he stated that he had a few drinks in him; party stumbled around the property, then left in the truck. Officer drove by residence and truck was not there; will be on lookout.

1:24 p.m. Shelburne Control received a call about a hit-and-run that occurred behind the senior center.

1:28 p.m. While taking a report about a recent hit-and-run, officer saw suspect vehicle drive by. He was able to locate it and stop it on the White Bridge. Investigated.

2:20 p.m. Walk-in from Dunton Street reporting that a truck came off the street and onto his property, causing some damage. Investigated.

5:30 p.m. 911 caller reports that his e-bike was just stolen from Sadie's Bike Shop. Lime green e-bike with big wide tires.

Friday, 8/30

9:09 a.m. 911 caller states that her sister is intoxicated and throwing things around in her apartment, refusing to leave. Involved

female's boyfriend is coming to pick her up. Officers will remain on scene until he arrives.

10:01 a.m. Caller concerned about a male party who was walking behind the Cutlery Block looking into vehicles. He walked by her car about five times, and walked away when she came out. Area checked; unable to locate.

10:27 a.m. Party into station to report that the rear windshield wiper was torn off of his rental vehicle overnight on Third Street, along with that of his neighbor's vehicle. Caller would like incident on record.

12:44 p.m. Caller states that an electrical wire that goes over the road at Dell Street and Letourneau Way may be sparking. Officers advise this is a primary wire that appears to have weakened where it connects to the pole. Eversource notified.

1:38 p.m. Officer conducting vehicle stop. Tow requested for unregistered vehicle. Operator picked up by case worker. Rear driver side window was smashed prior to being towed.

1:47 p.m. Caller states that a vehicle went off of Migratory Way, almost striking him and his children. Driver appears to be "out of it" and is now trying to put the bumper of the car back on. Vehicle moved to a parking space. Operator picked up by his mother. Investigated.

6:13 p.m. Caller reporting that some of the windows at First Congregational Church have had rocks thrown at them by juveniles. Detective advised.

Saturday, 8/31

9:20 a.m. Caller stuck in an elevator on the first floor of the Moltenbrey property. Shelburne Control notified.

11:37 a.m. Caller states that a car with Texas plates has been sitting near the corner of Fairway Avenue for about an hour with people in it. Caller could hear them say they were waiting for a girl on an electric bike to show up; caller states that the same girl met two other cars there yesterday. Area

checked; nothing found.

12:33 p.m. Caller from East Main Street states that a male and a female are screaming at each other behind the building. Officer requesting CSO respond to speak with female. CSO staff on scene. Situation mediated; all units clear.

10:09 p.m. Caller from Millers Falls Road reporting RPM Festival is too loud and disturbing her. Caller was advised that the festival is going on until 11 p.m, was approved by the town, and has permits in place. Officers advised.

Sunday, 9/1

6:35 a.m. 911 caller reporting that she saw a girl pull up on an electric bike and start assaulting another female on the corner of Avenue A and Third Street. Parties have separated. Female on bike was wearing green pants and a pink hat. Area checked; unable to locate.

7:22 a.m. 911 caller from G Street reporting a female in a neon yellow jumper banging on the door wanting to use the phone. He did not feel comfortable letting her in. She left on foot toward the hydro plant. Second 911 caller stating female is now in the middle of the road in front of Cumberland Farms attempting to stop traffic. Seems to have blood on her, but is not actively bleeding from anywhere visible. Cumberland Farms worker calling in stating female is in the store begging for help; he asked her name, and she said, "Don't call the police, they don't help me," then got into a car where a male stated he would take her home and she asked him not to. Officer advises female is now in front of Walgreens waving officers down. Female uncooperative and refusing officer attention.

11:37 a.m. Caller reporting that this morning she was told by a neighbor that a young male and female ran out of her yard down the alleyway between Fourth and Fifth Streets. There are frequently cars in the area that seem to be engaged in drug-related

activity; wonders if they are possibly casing houses. Caller would like it on record at this time as her neighbors have had bikes stolen. Report taken.

2:51 p.m. Caller reporting there is brush that needs to be trimmed at Route 63 and Swamp Road, and she would also like the line to be repainted five feet closer to the intersection so it causes less of a hazard when trying to pull out onto Route 63. Caller has already contacted DPW about this and wants it on record.

4:15 p.m. Caller states that there is a shirtless male yelling and attacking people in the Family Dollar parking lot. He is now walking down Avenue A. The party, a 33-year-old Gill man, was located and arrested on a straight warrant.

4:42 p.m. 911 caller reports that there is a woman standing in the middle of the road in front of the Carnegie Library. Second and third caller reporting the same, but she is now in front of St. Kaz. Third caller called back and stated she was inside St. Kaz now. Officer providing courtesy transport to Greenfield.

6:22 p.m. 911 caller reporting a party on the porch with stomach and chest pain; party states he was assaulted in the Food City parking lot approximately 30 minutes ago. Shelburne Control advised and starting EMS. TFFD transporting to BFMC.

8:32 p.m. 911 caller states that approximately 15 people are down by the river off First Street having a loud party; states that two male parties have a gun and showed it to him. Officer advises it was a group of people having a birthday party for some young kids.

8:50 p.m. 911 caller states that a male from the party in the previous call just shot a gun twice in the Second Street alleyway. He is in a white SUV. Officer advises he is downtown and has not heard anything. Area checked; unfounded.



ROSSIPHOTO

The author's slug stuffies are anatomically incorrect, but have proven popular.

SSLLUUGG from page B1

the whole underside of their body. Bands of muscle fibers going in two different directions alternately expand and contract, and that's what moves them around.

Their mucus, which exudes from two places on their underside, helps provide traction and protection from sharp things. Slugs can move across crushed glass or the edge of a razor without harm! But they won't win any races. They are notoriously slow, though just how slow is debatable; sources I have looked at online have clocked slugs going anywhere from six inches an hour to 30 feet.

The mucus secretion is the thing that people find most repugnant about slugs. When you try to wash it off, it seems to make even more slime. That's because the mucus absorbs water – which makes sense: nothing is more dangerous to a slug than drying out. If you want to clean your hands after touching a slug, it is best to rub them together until the mucus pills up like rubber cement.

Another use for this mucus is navigation. Slugs can find each other and slither their way home by following this trail. There are even several varieties of mucus made by a single slug, with one kind for tracking, a different one for clinging to vertical surfaces, another for sex, et cetera.

They are in touch with the world through sensory glands all over their bodies. That makes it an extremely cruel and painful death for them to be "salted," one of the traditional methods of slug disposal. (It is also bad for soil.) Their eyes, located on stalks at the top of their head, can only discern shapes dimly, and sensitive feeler stalks located beneath the eyes collect information on their immediate environment.

Of course, slugs have mouths, as anyone who has battled their damage in the garden knows too well. They rasp their food, and sometimes each other, with their "radula," a ribbon with rows of backward-pointing teeth, a feature unique to mollusks. A slug will rasp several times its body weight in food every day. They don't have the little pink tongue I put in my figurines.

Slugs are hermaphrodites, able to mate with themselves if necessary but preferring consensual re-

lations with other slugs. They will each release and receive sperm, and later lay fertile eggs in clutches of three to 50. Due to their oversized sex organs and sticky mucus, they sometimes have trouble separating after sex, so occasionally one slug will gnaw off the penis of another, who will thereafter only mate in the "female" capacity.

The mating rituals of some types of slugs can be very elaborate and lengthy. You can see fantastic videos on YouTube of great grey slugs corkscrewing around each other, suspended in the air by a strong thread of slime.

There are some very odd varieties of slugs, most of which live in the northwest part of the US where the weather stays moist more months of the year. Most people have heard of the banana slug, which can grow up to 10 inches long and be yellow. The European black slug curls up into a ball when attacked and likes the strawberry crop of the state of Washington. Then you have your great grey garden slug, with leopard spots, which practices cannibalism.

There is one variety that self-amputates its tail when attacked. Another will swing its tail vigorously in defense. Yet another secretes a special slime that gags predators.

And slugs have lots of predators, because they are a tasty, protein-packed snack. Birds, including hens and ducks, love them, as do hedgehogs, shrews, frogs, toads, ground beetles, newts and more.

If your garden is being eaten by slugs, you can go out and pick them off your plants during the night by hand. Because they shouldn't dry out, slugs are most active at night, huddling under leaves, rocks, logs, and other places during the day.

Most people prefer to bait them into traps such as shallow trays of beer. This is a nice way to go, very preferable to being salted to death. Slug poisons are available, but they are also toxic to many other creatures including humans, so their use is discouraged.

You can also defend your garden by planting things that slugs do not like as a barrier – juniper, bleeding hearts, ivy, or ferns – or by surrounding plants with copper strips,

see SSSLLUUGG next page

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SSLLUUGG from previous page

which will give the little guys a shock. You can also create a sacrificial garden area where you encourage slugs to feast on the plant varieties they especially like, in the hope that they will leave the rest of the garden alone. But they are likely to treat this as an appetizer for a larger meal.

I have read about putting slugs in a blender, then spreading the ground-up creatures around the garden as a deterrent to other slugs. Too grisly, don't you think? And would you ever want to use that blender for a Smoothie again?

On the brighter side, slugs aid soil decomposition, and their poops are good fertilizer. Plus, they provide artistic inspiration for me and several other creative slug lovers that I know of in the region. There is a jeweler who makes bronze slug rings and necklaces, for instance, and there are several children's books featuring slug characters.

Though they are almost universally loathed, slugs seem a good-natured sort of creature to me. In comparison to hornets or wasps or snakes they are downright huggable, and when they stretch out and explore with their tentacles, they have such a curious, cute look.



Why Upgrade Today When You Can Upgrade Tomorrow – or a Couple Years From Now?

By RYNE HAGER

TURNERS FALLS – Technology is always changing as people figure out new ways to do things and apply new ideas to different areas. But right now is one of those fairly unique times when most consumer electronics categories are changing *very* quickly. As we wait for the dust to settle, I have a small piece of good advice for you: Unless you really need to replace something, right now isn't a great time to buy pretty much any kind of gadget, and it's a particularly bad time to get a new phone.

Let's start with phones, the quintessential gadget – the gadgetiest gadget. Right now, all the major smartphone companies are rushing to integrate AI-related features and workflows into their software so your next phone can write for you, make images for you, and do simple workflows on your behalf. And these changing software features are imposing new hardware requirements.

If you look at the smartphone business as a system in itself, there is a sort of built-in lag, where a change at one end of this system takes time to propagate through various levels of engineering. Smartphones usually have a 12- to 18-month lead time from inception to shipment, and there's a further lag on the supply side as the companies making the specialized chips that power these devices respond to manufacturer requirements and market demands.

Ultimately, this means that the iPhones, Galaxies, and Pixels debuting in 2024 are based on the feedback of systems that kicked off way back in 2020 to 2022, when things like generative AI were still nascent compared to now. And while software can move at a faster pace, the hardware it's built on top of can't catch up as quickly, which is part of why older devices get left behind. (Simple greed plays a part, too.)

If you're buying a new phone this year, its design is at least partly based on that lag in the pipeline, and bits and hardware pieces inside it were built on top of several-year-old concepts. While that's *always* going to be the case, AI-related tasks have been spurring some really big hardware changes because they require slightly new ways of handling massive parallelization and heterogeneous compute – in other words, *really* specialized and purpose-specific hardware – to work. And this means the chips inside phones, and to a lesser degree laptops and desktops, are going to change more dramatically than usual over the next few years to catch up with software requirements.

If you're interested in these new features, or are at least open to the possibility they might save you time or money in the long run, I'd urge you to consider waiting a few more years before upgrading your phone, tablet, laptop, or PC. But it's not just phones, and it's not just AI that's driving the kinds of changes that make upgrading now a poor value.

Large-format display technology is also changing drastically, thanks to technologies like Mini LED and Micro LED. And these large-format displays go by another more marketable name: televisions. Both of these changes offer drastically enhanced contrast and brightness, and escape many of the shortcomings of OLED designs, which are the current cream of the crop when it comes to TV tech.

They're crazy expensive right now, but displays are one of the single most commoditized markets, so suppliers are spending big to engineer ways to bring costs down. And AI is likely to have an impact here as well, with things like resolution upscaling and artificial HDR likely to be marketed as features in the near future, promising that those old

shows and movies will look better on your new set without needing to be remastered by a studio.

Just like LCD TVs went from luxuries to some of the cheapest gadgets you can buy in just a few years last decade, we're going to see these new approaches plummet in cost. So if you were debating buying a new TV on a tax-free weekend, I'd strongly urge you to hold off. In just a few years, you'll almost certainly get a much better model for the same price.

That said, I think there are a few market categories where it's a very *good* time to make a purchase, including headphones and some other personal audio devices.

While Sonos is still digging itself out of the hole it created with its really terrible new app, you can get some excellent dumb speakers for very little cost, and great quality amplifiers cost less than ever. The rise of cheap Chinese-produced planar magnetic headphones also means that for a little over a hundred bucks, you can get at-home headphone performance that would have cost a thousand dollars a decade ago.

And if noise-cancellation is more your style, that space is becoming deeply commoditized, too, with some fairly generic brands producing goods using the same chips and parts that much more expensive models use. The same goes for things like amplifiers, DACs, and other audio goodies.

While it's a bad time to upgrade anything with an ounce of "smarts" in it, it's a good time to get some of these cheaper, dumb gadgets, and they will last you longer.

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



Among many other roles and responsibilities, Nina Rossi manages the distribution of the Montague Reporter. She lives in Turners Falls.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on August 28 and September 4, 2014: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Cobwebs in Erving

Former Erving fire department members Mark Kosloski, Raymond Mailloux, Almon "Bud" Meatey, Herman "Butch" Meatey, William Pease, and Kelly Potts submitted applications to re-join the department at the August 25 selectboard meeting. Bud Meatey's appointment as fire chief was terminated by the board in September 2013, and the other firefighters resigned from the department after his appointment ended.

Pease stated that 911 response time had increased. "There are calls that have not been answered on this side of town," he said. "Fire Station #1 is a dead station," he reported, with at least one truck standing in the station with dead batteries and cobwebs.

Oh, That Ridge Road

When Andy Toomajian heard that the Greenfield Area Bicycle Coalition would be cleaning up the road over the ridge, he knew what he would be doing that Saturday. "It's not even fun to go on when you're in a car," said Toomajian, who commutes across the White Bridge and up Turners Falls Road, a steep and winding climb notoriously lacking in a sidewalk or, at points, a shoulder.

So Toomajian, Jessie Groneman, and their son Llewyn joined the crew to cut brush and sweep up sand and trash. Llewyn said the largest piece of debris he encountered was a piece of metal, and the grossest was a diaper.

Coalition member Alden Booth spoke of the need for signage and public education to encourage road sharing, wide passing, and "letting people know that they can cross the yellow line to pass a bicyclist – a lot of people don't realize that."

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on September 2, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Opera Finale

The Colle Opera House is quickly filling up, rendering the town's vision for revitalizing this historic, key commercial block with new tenants nearly complete.

After receiving millions in grant funding – primarily from the Massachusetts Historical Commission and Community Development Block Grant funds – the much-needed renovations were finally brought to completion this summer.

Twenty Houses Per 5,280 Feet

At the Tuesday meeting of the cable advisory committee (CAC), committee member Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno reported that a walking tour of Chestnut Hill Road, East and West, including the Loop, failed to turn up the minimum 20 houses per linear mile required for Comcast to run cable lines along the road for free. Residents may still pay Comcast to provide cable service on this road, or wait for additional construction to boost the number of houses.

150 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on September 2, 1874: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

Local Matters

Look out for more rain! Ed. Goddard is mowing again.

Moonlight views are said to be splendid. Ask those who walk out o' nights.

Mrs. N.B. Hall has rented one of the front rooms in the Colle building, where she will continue the millinery business.

Officer Morrison made a point – "seven up" – on the Sunday base ballers. There has been some base bawling since.

We are anxiously awaiting an opportunity to puff the luscious watermelon but as yet have had no *material* upon which to found our remarks.

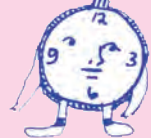
Work is progressing finely on the new school house. The floors are being laid, the walls sand-finished, and the painters are at work.

Engineer Crocker has staked the survey for the canal as far as the Griswold bulk-head.

We learn that a new band is being organized here. Given the fact that nearly all the members are old players, we may look for a concert at an early day.

The exercises at the M.E. church on Sunday evening last, being the occasion of the Sabbath School concert, were very interesting, the children acquitting themselves in a creditable manner. The singing was a marked feature. The exercises were closed by some happy remarks by the pastor on the sun-flower. This flower, lately described as rising with sun and standing still all the day, we are happy to learn by the Rev. gentleman's description, follows the sun from its rising to its going down.

The boys who were arrested for playing ball, on the Sabbath, were sentenced last week, by Judge Conant, \$2 and one sixth of the cost each.



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GENERATION

July Vineyard Snafu Highlights Concern Over Turbine Material

By SPENCER SHORKEY

MILLERS FALLS – Vineyard Wind 1 is the 62-turbine offshore wind power installation currently under construction 15 miles south of Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket. Once completed, the installation is expected to bring up to 0.8 gigawatts (GW) of power to Massachusetts power grids. The December 2022 *Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2050* called for 23 GW of offshore wind, meaning the Vineyard Wind 1 project represents the first few toes in the water of the state’s much larger offshore wind goals.

This July, with ten of the 13-megawatt (MW) GE Vernova Haliade X turbines fully installed, the project encountered a setback. One of the 107-meter blades broke off from its turbine “root,” littering the water and eventually the beaches of Nantucket. The largest piece of the blade is on the ocean floor.

Preliminary analysis by the turbine manufacturer GE Vernova determined that “insufficient bonding” of the turbine blade material led to the failure.

GE Vernova’s environmental review stated that physical contact with shards of fiberglass debris washing ashore poses a moderate risk to humans. The review stated that although there were some PFAS present in the form of Teflon-coated components, it amounted to a fraction of a pound of the entire 57-ton blade.

Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah tribal leader Andrews-Maltais of Noepe (Martha’s Vineyard) expressed the concern of tribal members for marine life, stating in a letter to the federal Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement that “[t]he ingestion of these materials by marine mammals could lead to serious health issues and disrupt the delicate marine ecosystem.”

Concerning offshore wind developments, it’s not just turbine blade debris that might be a threat to marine life. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, critically endangered North Atlantic Right Whales (NARW) have experienced an “Unusual Mortality Event” since 2017, which the agency is currently researching.

Although the “Frequent Questions – Offshore Wind and Whales”



A 107-meter blade broke off the Vineyard Wind 1 turbine this summer. Photo courtesy of the New England Fisherman’s Stewardship Association.

page of the NOAA website states that “There are no known links between large whale deaths and ongoing offshore wind activities,” advocates from the Save Right Whales Coalition paint a different picture. Their report, titled *An Investigation of Large Whale Mortality and Offshore Wind Development Activity in the U.S. Since 2015*, presents correlations in time and space between noisy sonar surveys in the Vineyard Wind lease areas and NARW deaths from August 2017 to August 2018.

Dr. Terrie M. Williams, an ecophysiologist and director of the Center for Marine Mammal Research and Conservation at UCSC, advocates for more research on the topic of impulsive noise and stranding behaviors, as outlined in her recent article “A big bang theory of big brain trauma” published in *Science*.

I am not well-educated on matters of marine acoustics and stressed-out whales, and thus I am not going to tell our readers what to think about the possible connection between sonar surveys and whale mortality. But it seems logical to me that if there is indeed a causal relationship, it should become more obvious if offshore wind activities are to continue scaling up according to Massachusetts’s 2050 energy goals.

GE Vernova has an even larger series of projects ongoing at Dogger Bank, around 100 miles off the east coast of the United Kingdom. With 20 turbines having been fully installed in Dogger Bank A, there

have been two blade failures this year, one in May and one in August. The company stated these failures at Dogger Bank have been due to installation and commissioning errors, however, and unrelated to the manufacturing defect experienced at Vineyard 1.

GE Vernova produces Haliade X blades at a plant in Gaspe, Quebec, with 150 blades already made. These blades are currently undergoing further quality assurance investigation, including ultrasound studies.

These massive turbine blades must be both lightweight and incredibly strong to withstand the stresses over their expected 20- to 25-year lifespan. Haliade X blades are made by layering fiberglass fabric and balsa wood into a tailored 107-meter mold. The layered composite material is bound together by injecting resin under a vacuum, which permeates the different layers before hardening.

Any deviation in this process – such as uneven resin distribution, improper curing, or the inclusion of air pockets – can result in defects that compromise the blade’s structural integrity. In the case of Vineyard Wind 1, it appears that such a defect went undetected during manufacturing.

The first Haliade X prototype was commissioned in November 2019 in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. GE Vernova had initially proposed scaling up their next generation Haliade platforms for 18-MW systems, but is now focused on developing a 15.5-MW variant, the first prototype of which will be commissioned in Gulen, Norway in 2025.

In terms of turbine scale, Chinese firm Mingyang Smart Energy is the current leader in the offshore wind race. Last month, they completed a prototype of a 20-MW turbine using gargantuan 143-meter-long blades. Mingyang plans to demonstrate an even larger, 22-MW turbine by next year. These massive blades used by Mingyang are possible thanks to carbon-fiber composites, which have better strength-to-weight ratios than the glass-fiber composites used by GE Vernova.

There are concerns that when turbine blades reach the end of their life, they may become a waste management issue. In recent years, GE has demonstrated that its glass-fiber composites are

STORAGE

New Battery Tech Hoped To Way Improve Efficiency

By SPENCER SHORKEY

MILLERS FALLS – Form Energy, makers of a low cost iron-air reduction-oxidation battery system, are gearing up to make a big dent in the renewable-energy storage problem. Their new “Form Factory 1” in Weirton, West Virginia is turning on its first production line this year, and ground has been broken on their first multi-day energy storage project, the Cambridge Energy Storage Project, a 1.5 megawatt (MW), 150 megawatt-hour (MWh) deployment in Cambridge, Minnesota.

Once fully operational, Form Factory 1 aims to produce 0.5 gigawatts (GW) of their 100-hour multi-day batteries, meaning they can produce 50 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of iron-air battery capacity annually at the site. This will be on par with Tesla’s Gigafactory Nevada, which currently produces 37 GWh of lithium ion battery capacity annually.

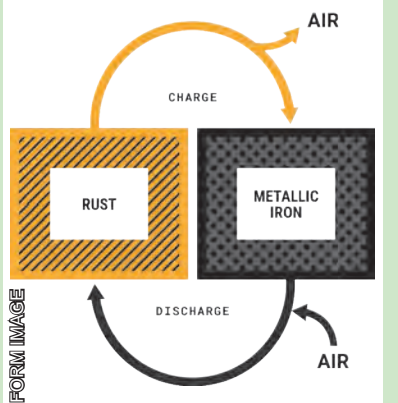
Iron-air and lithium ion are two electrochemistries with very different economics and applications. Lithium ion batteries are more expensive to produce, at around \$100 per kilowatt-hour (kWh). Form’s iron-air systems are cheaper at \$20 per kWh.

Lithium ion cells are relatively lightweight and capable of high discharge rates of up to 10C, making them well-suited for highly-mobile applications such as electric vehicles. Iron-air cells are better suited for stationary, slow-discharging applications, given their significant weight and slow discharge rates of 0.01C.

Iron-air batteries can also be safely cycled hundreds of thousands of times, compared to a few thousand for lithium ion, giving them advantages in safety and maintenance.

Due to these advantages, utilities and governmental agencies have been taking notice. In addition

tion to Form Energy’s pioneering 150 MWh project in Minnesota, they have a partnership with Xcel Energy to place 1 GWh iron-air systems at retiring coal plants in Becker, Minnesota and Pueblo, Colorado. Both projects are expected to come online next year, and will help Xcel Energy maximize use of the intermittent wind resources in these regions. Form has several other projects slated for 2026 with Dominion Energy, Georgia Power, and NYSEERDA.



A basic schematic of how iron-air batteries work, provided by manufacturer Form Energy.

Just in the past month, Form announced that they received \$147 million in Department of Energy grant support to build an 8.5 GWh system in Lincoln, Maine. This system will have a larger capacity than any other electrochemical system in existence currently, with the next largest being the 3.3 GWh Edwards & Sanborn Solar Plus Storage Project in California.

The 8.5 GWh battery planned for Lincoln will even rival the size of some hydroelectric energy storage – such as the 8.7 GWh Northfield Mountain reservoir. Form plans to complete this installation by 2028. During the announcement of the Maine project, CEO Mateo Jaramillo dropped another tantalizing hint about Form’s future opportunities, saying: “There will be other utility projects that get announced that are the same size or larger.”

a good match for reuse in cement feedstocks. When blades are shredded and used in cement kilns, the fibers are a good replacement for the silica ingredients, and the balsa and resins provide combustion and reduction potential that replaces some of the coal inputs.

Other materials are also being developed to make wind turbine blades more sustainable. One novel

resin, a biomass-derivable “poly-ester covalent adaptable network” (PECAN), was recently developed by researchers at the US Department of Energy’s National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). Made from a renewable, sugar-based feedstock, it can be broken down into its constituent components at the end of the blade’s life, enabling full-circle recyclability.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
Tree House Brewing Company, Deerfield: *The Beths*. \$. 7 p.m.
No Fun, Troy NY: *Sweeping Promises, Sky Furrows, Stro-ma, Inch*. \$. 7 p.m.
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Cut Chemist*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton*. No cover. 6:30 p.m.
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Johnny Folsom 4*, Johnny Cash tribute. \$. 7:30 p.m.
Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Next Stop Comedy*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Film and Gender*. \$. 7:30 p.m.
Institute for Musical Arts, Goshen: *Bitch, Melissa Ferrick*. \$. 7:30 p.m.
Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Kaleta & Super Yamba Band, Deep Seize*. \$. 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7
LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Memory Hoard*, multimedia presentation by musician *Michael Nix*. Free. Noon.
Millside Park, Easthampton: *River Road Festival* feat. *Dar Williams, Haley Heynderickx, Paula Cole, Jill Sobule*, more. \$. Noon.
Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: *Unnameable Bite* feat. *Vic Rawlings, Ben Hersey, Loculus Collective & Rebecca Schrader, SK, Angela Sawyer & Shea Mowat*, food, more. \$. 3 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Humans Being, Rabbit's Foot, Trouble With Parachutes, Splash Nebula, Plebroom Theater Group, Fiesta Melon*. \$. 3 p.m.
Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Rock 201*. No cover. 7 p.m.
Iron Horse, Northampton: *Bob Mould, J. Robbins*. \$. 7 p.m.
Buoyant Heart, Brattleboro: *Grazen, Jetties, Julie Bodian, Lou Marie, River*. \$. 7 p.m.
1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Samirah Evans Project, Anand Nayak*. \$. 7:30 p.m.
Colonial Theatre, Pittsfield: *Roger McGuinn*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Steven Schoenberg*. \$. 4 p.m.
Iron Horse, Northampton: *Frente Cumbiero*. \$. 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10
Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Cat Power Sings Dylan*. \$. 7 p.m.
New England Center for Circus Arts, Brattleboro: *Bread & Puppet Theater*. \$. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. No cover. 8 p.m.
The Drake, Amherst: *Old 97's*. \$. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
Camp Keewanee, Greenfield: *Whalom Park, Z3, Future Joy*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
Camp Keewanee, Greenfield:

Max Creek, Mihali, Outer Style, Consider the Source, Moon Boot Lover, Nate Martel, many more. \$. 10:30 a.m.
CitySpace, Easthampton: *Mal Devisa*. \$. 8 p.m.
Cold Spring Hollow, Belcher-town: *Rhubarb Duo, Made Manifest, Outerboby Palace, Ice Rasta, Death Spiral*. No cover. 8 p.m.
Holyoke Media, Holyoke: *Feminine Aggression, Perennial, Juana B Ontop*. \$. 8 p.m.
De La Luz Soundstage, Holyoke: *La Sonora Mazurén, Dee-jay Theory*. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14
Camp Keewanee, Greenfield: *Dopapod, Bella's Bartok, Leon Trout, Rebel Alliance, Ghost-Note*, many more. \$. 10:30 a.m.
Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Head Of Wantastiquet, Dan Gay, Russ Waterhouse & Mary Staubitz, Wednesday Knudsen & J. Burkett, Rare Geese, Jeff Unfortunately, Victor Signore Ensemble, Sam Gas Can, Power Trousers*. Free. 1 p.m.
1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Mad Agnes*. \$. 4 p.m.
Progression Brewing, Northampton: *The Claudia Malibu*. No cover. 7 p.m.
Nova Arts, Keene: *Indian Strings in Conversation, Deep Seize*. \$. 7 p.m.

No Fun, Troy NY: *Primitive Man, Hush, Blackwater Holy-light, Carnwnnan*. \$. 7 p.m.
Big E, West Springfield: *Ludacris*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15
Camp Keewanee, Greenfield: *Alchemystics, The Englishtown Project, Yes Darling, Dirtwire, Bella's Bartok*, many more. \$. 10:30 a.m.
1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Peter Blanchette, Charlotte Malin*. \$. 4 p.m.
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Gary & Graham Higgins, Plastic Crimewave Syndicate, Allysen Callery, Frozen Corn*. \$. 8 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
Big E, West Springfield: *Chubby Checker*. \$. 2 p.m.
Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Kimya Dawson, Sweet Petunia, Beetsblog, Wheelzie*. \$. 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
Big E, West Springfield: *Chubby Checker*. \$. 2 p.m.
Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Reverend Horton Heat, Big Sandy, The Incredible Ichibons*. \$. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
Iron Horse, Northampton: *Soft Machine*. \$. 7 p.m.
Amherst Cinema, Amherst: *Live-Scored Experimental Film Shorts* feat. *Bill Nace*. \$. 7 p.m.
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wes Brown*. No cover. 8 p.m.

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.

looking forward...

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
Looky Here, Greenfield: *Magick Lantern, Bonnie, Ben Hersey*. \$. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
Next Stage Arts, Putney VT: *Cyro Baptista*. \$. 5 p.m.
Hutghi's, Westfield: *Longings, Red Herrings, Phroeggs, Feminine Aggression*. \$. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
Quarters, Hadley: *Western Mass Electronics*, open synth jam with set by *Eric Hnatow*. No cover. 7 p.m.

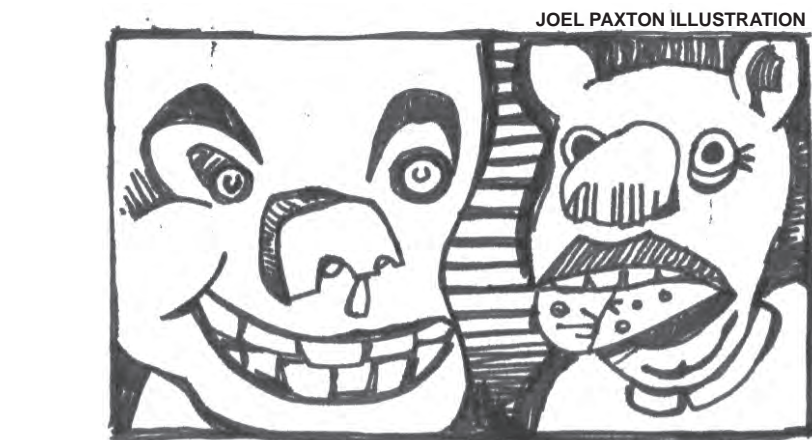
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
CitySpace, Easthampton: *Queer-Core Fest* feat. *Space Camp, Evvie Echoes & The Locations, Film and Gender, K.O. Queen, I Have No Mouth, Mudai*. \$. 4 p.m.
Bombyx Arts, Florence: *Yacouba Sissoko*. \$. 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3
Academy of Music, Northampton: *Neko Case, Imaad Wasif*. \$. 8 p.m.

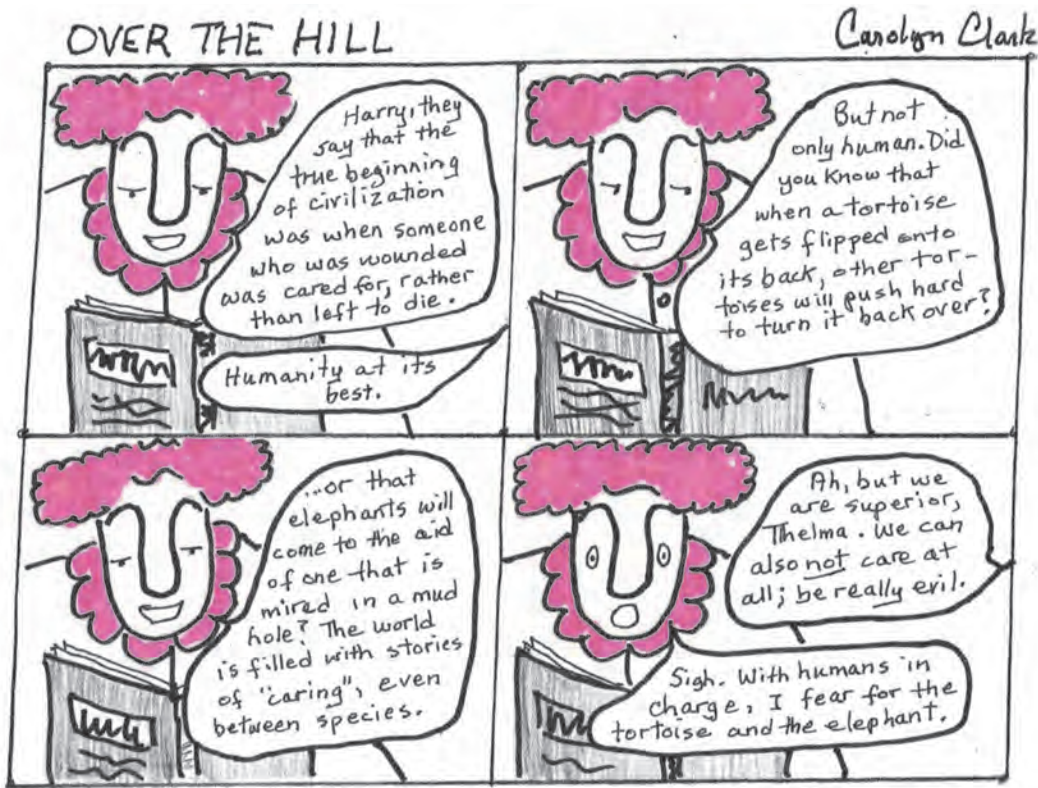
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Vapors of Morphine*. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19
MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Philip Glass Ensemble* performs *Koyaanisqatsi*. \$. 8 p.m.
Space Ballroom, Hamden CT: *Boris, Starcrawler*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25
The Drake, Amherst: *Destroyer*. \$. 8 p.m.



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HEARTFELT from page B1

in America we generally mean the oblong, twice-baked, crunchy biscuit that’s dipped into coffee, called *cantuccio* in Italy.

Cantuccio originates from the city of Prato, in Tuscany. The word means “nook” or “corner,” but also a little piece of bread with a lot of crust – hence the corner, usually the first or last slice of a loaf. If you’ve ever bitten into a hard biscotti, you’ll know why it’s compared to the hard, crusty end of bread.

In Prato they pair it with a sweet dessert Tuscan wine called *vin(o) Santo* with flavors of hazelnut, caramel, and apricot. Today we’re more likely to pair it, and dip it, into coffee or espresso.



MANDESON PHOTOS

Affogato, meaning “drowned,” is a delicious Italian dessert of vanilla ice cream or gelato covered with hot espresso and served with a biscotti. It can also be topped with whipped cream and chocolate shavings.

If you think the words *biscotti* and *biscuit* sound pretty similar, you’d be correct. *Biscuit* comes from the Old French word *bescoit*, and if it isn’t already confusing enough, the English call their cookies biscuits while Americans call a cookie a cookie and a biscuit a biscuit. In the UK they have scones which are close to our biscuits, although they tend to sweet rather than savory.

Columbus – yes, that Christopher – brought them to America on his voyage across the ocean. It is said that he stashed biscotti in the hull of one of his three sailing ships in 1492.

A pastry chef from Prato brought his biscotti to the 1867 Exposition Universelle in Paris where they won special mention. Chef Antonio Mattei’s version is now considered the original recipe made without yeast or fat, and it is still kept a secret by the family who inherited and still runs their fourth-generation bakery. I suppose now I’ll have to try this version, as mine uses butter.

Biscotti began to evolve as it spread throughout Italy with the addition of anisette, amaretto, and even lemon-flavored dough and today we see a variety in bakeries and coffee shops.

Another similar cookie to biscotti is the Jewish *mandelbrot* or *mandelbroit*, which my mother used to make during Jewish holidays. They are another crunchy, not-very-sweet, twice-baked cookie with nuts. *Mandelbrot* in Yiddish means “almond bread,” but they seem to have evolved from the Italian version with the addition of oil or butter.

I found a recipe for a biscotti bread pudding which I hope to make before this column comes out so I can vouch for it. I’ll share it at the end of this column.

I’ve also seen recipes using crushed biscotti as a crust, much like a graham cracker crust, as *affogato*, Italian for “drowned,” with a scoop of gelato downed in hot, freshly-brewed espresso and served with a biscotti, layered in an ice cream cake, crushed and sprinkled over yogurt, or served on a cheese plate.

Although my biscotti stay in a Tupperware on the counter, you can also freeze them for up to three months in an airtight container. Make sure they’re completely cooled before freezing. If yours have gone stale, you can place them on a cookie sheet in a pre-heated 300° F oven for about 15 minutes. This will draw out moisture and make them crispy again.

You can add many different types of nuts, dried fruit, and chocolate to biscotti. Dried cherries and cranberries are good, but I’ve also chopped up crystalized ginger, dates, and figs to add in to the recipe. Walnuts, almonds, hazelnuts and pistachio are also good additions.

And for me, any cookie without chocolate just isn’t worth the calories, so I always add semi-sweet or bittersweet chocolate chips.

One last tip, a container or wrapped package of biscotti makes a lovely gift. I once was asked to make a special batch for a friend’s wedding, which I packed in a beautiful container and shipped across the country. Whether you prefer a recipe without butter or oil for super-crispy biscotti, or with for a less crunchy batch, they’re a delicious way to liven up a cup of tea or coffee or served as a dessert.

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



BISCOTTI BREAD PUDDING

- 1½ cups crumbled biscotti
- 3 cups, or half, of a crusty baguette torn into cubes
- ½ cup sugar
- 4 squares bittersweet chocolate
- 1 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 3 eggs
- 1½ cups milk or heavy cream

Use a chocolate with 72% or higher cacao. Chop it into shavings using a heavy knife and add it to the chopped biscotti and bread cubes. Add the sugar and cornstarch.

Mix the eggs with the milk or cream and pour over the dry ingredients. Let sit for 15 minutes to allow the bread to absorb the liquid. Pour into an 8” by 8” cake pan lined with parchment paper and bake at 375° F for 30 minutes until set.

Recipe from staceysnacksonline.com.



The author made the biscotti bread pudding after all, on the day the column was due, and cannot stop eating it. Decadent heavy cream was used, but whole milk is fine.

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MOVIE REVIEW

W.C. Fields in *Running Wild*

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – The Garden Cinema has continued showing a bunch of silent films, this time adding one from someone I had never heard of. That is W.C. Fields, and on Monday they showed a film of his called *Running Wild* (1927). Because I had never heard of this man or seen anything by him, I didn’t know what to expect, although I knew Jeff Rapis would be there again playing his keyboard along to the film.

Before the film started, Rapis played his keyboard nicely as usual. I assume he was practicing for when he would have to play along to the film. Like the other silent films I have been at, there was a decent-sized crowd of people in the audience. Jeff Rapis gave an introduction to the film, talking about the history of silent films a bit. The owner of the Garden Cinemas, Isaac Mass, also spoke about what was to come for films to be shown at the theater.

Some of the history Rapis mentioned was that W.C. Fields was in vaudeville before films. At the start of the film, he played nice and steady, as the audience was introduced to the life of the character W.C. Fields was playing.

Elmer Finch appeared to be a man in an unhappy marriage with a stepson, though he seemed to have a decent relationship with a daughter from his first marriage. He looked very funny on screen, especially after a dog attacked him. His character was described as being timid, and he showed that on screen; one example was when his wife laid into him for bothering his stepson during his morning routine. The dog attacking



him was basically an act of his stepson picking on him, which his stepson continued to do by having the dog chew his hat.

Rapis continued to play his keyboard with musical tones that fit with what was going on in the film. They weren’t out of play with any of it. The film showed the character going to work, trying to find a way to buy a dress he had promised his daughter, though that didn’t work out for him. Then other drama involving his daughter came up.

As the suspense in the film picked up, Rapis played music that fit that as well. We saw Fields get laughed at for asking for a raise. The summary of this film indicates that everyone picks on this man until something changes, but another way to put it is that he seems to get no respect from people. Some more of his antics consist of trying to collect a bill from a man who he was afraid of and breaking a window with a horseshoe.

After an encounter with a hypnotist, the character collects that bill, inadvertently lands an important client, and I believe saves his job.

W.C. Fields reminds me of Buster Keaton, who I have seen in a couple of films. Their acting styles are similar, and both are enjoyable to watch. If Fields is like this in all of his films I will happily watch him again.

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