

The Montague Reporter

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Officials Seek Public’s Help In Keeping Trees Watered

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard generally meets once every two weeks in the summer, which means that im-



This young dogwood on Third Street has been withering in the dry heat.

portant and often complex topics can accumulate. Monday’s meeting was no exception, as the board set new sewer rates, reviewed the municipal airport’s budget and learned of new delays in a planned solar array on the property, and were informed of a very large jump in the cost of town employees’ health insurance.

But the meeting got off to an unexpected start during the “public comment time” reserved for citizens to raise issues not on the agenda as several members of the tree advisory committee told the board that young trees planted by the town in recent years are dying for lack of water. This kicked off a broader discussion.

Eli Smith, a Patch resident and co-chair of the tree committee, told the board that “after a long period of drought” many trees in the town’s roadside tree belts are

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

Battery Added to Planned Solar Array May Require Board of Health Permit

By SARAH ROBERTSON

WENDELL – After a contentious public hearing Tuesday night on a proposed solar array on Lockes Village Road, the conservation commission decided to give the applicants more time to answer some questions asked during the meeting.

About a dozen people attended the online hearing, including representatives of the solar developer Nexamp, Inc., project engineers from Beals and Thomas, Inc., prop-

erty owner Jacob Doody, abutters, and other community members.

“I want to know why this location is being chosen as opposed to a supermarket roof, a mall roof, or a parking lot,” asked Kristen Andrews, the site’s closest abutter. “Why choose to replace forest over something that wouldn’t be disruptive to the habitat?”

The con com had originally approved the site plan in 2018 for a 11.6-acre solar array owned by

see **BATTERY** page A6



Wendell conservation agent Mary Thomas (left) and conservation commission member Trevor Kearns logged in to the hearing from the town offices.

Patrol Officer Terminated For Unbecoming Conduct

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – “I don’t like where we’re sitting,” said Montague selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz at an unusual executive session on the morning of Friday, July 25 that had been opened to the public. The board had just voted to terminate police officer Shawna Williams for violating three of the department’s policies, and was considering her final date of employment.

The other two members – chair

Matt Lord and Marina Goldman – nodded in agreement.

Kuklewicz suggested the termination be delayed until September 8, to give the board time to consider severance pay, but Lord said he was concerned this could leave the town open to “liability.” He proposed Williams be terminated as of August 1, noting that “we can discuss severance at a later date.” The board unanimously agreed.

Williams’s disciplinary hearing, see **CONDUCT** page A4

Sisters Retire With Grace, Open Route 63 Farm Stand



Debbie Frechette, at left, recently completed a new farm stand at Gracie’s Gift 1770 Farm with her sister, Mary Sue Fowler, at right.

By BEN GAGNON

NORTHFIELD – A six-foot rooster painted in bright colors welcomes passersby to a new farm stand on Route 63 in Northfield, just north of the boundary with Erving, symbolically representing the spirit of two sisters who have spent the last four years remaking the property into Gracie’s Gift 1770 Farm.

The sisters, Mary Sue Fowler and Debbie Frechette, have built a barn, a garage, and several sheds, along with fences surrounding five pastures, a large raised-bed garden, and most recently the brand new farm stand. That’s not to mention spending 10 days with a brush hog to salvage what they could of an old apple orchard while planting new fruit trees of their own, including peach, plum, pear, apple, and apricot.

Among the chores ahead of them now is replacing the framework for two beehives that were wrecked last month by one or

more honey-loving bears.

Behind the gray farmhouse is a new patio the sisters recently designed, complete with outdoor furniture they rarely have time to relax in. The farm dates back to 1770, but is now named after their beloved mother Grace Kozlowski, who instilled a work ethic and a love of farming in her five daughters before passing away in 2021 at the age of 92.

Mary Sue and Debbie transferred numerous plants from the hobby farm in Natick where they grew up, a patch of seven acres their elderly mother continued to patrol in a golf cart after her knees gave out. These transplanted plants include a hibiscus, Johnny-jump-ups, foxglove, and thornless blackberry bushes that Grace came to favor when she was being treated with blood thinners. More than 40 family members gathered at the farm last summer for a Celebration of Life for Grace.

At the family’s farm in Natick, see **FARM STAND** page A8

Wendell Voters Approve Debt Exclusions, Veto Override

By REPORTER STAFF

In a special election Monday, Wendell voters agreed the town could borrow \$525,000 to buy the fire department a tank truck, plus \$16,615 toward the new windows and doors at Swift River Elementary School, without these debts counting toward its levy limit as set by the state law known as Proposition 2½. The truck debt exclusion passed 125 to 87, and the school debt 113 to 99.

They did not, though, approve increasing the tax levy by over 2.5% this year, effectively holding Wendell’s FY’26 budget to \$3.94 million, rather than the \$4.08 million approved by town meeting in June if the override passed. An extra \$40,250 to put in stabilization was rejected 117 to 95, and the rest, \$133,999 in operating expenses, failed 118 to 94.

The town has been working with in the smaller budget since July 1. By July 16, treasurer Carolyn Manley reported that this had resulted in one highway employee being laid off.

Town clerk Anna Wetherby told the *Reporter* it was Wendell’s first special election since 1991, so she had no “basis of comparison” for the turnout, 26.93% of registered voters.

Town coordinator Kelly Tyler, hired in March, declined to comment on the results of the vote. The selectboard will meet next Wednesday

GILL SELECTBOARD

Roof, Bridge Continue to Slowly Decay

By KATE SAVAGE

The Gill selectboard took up the valiant fight against time’s cruel erosion of all things at last Monday’s meeting. In summary: the old roof on the elementary school might not be replaced until at least 2027, and the only town-owned bridge is in disrepair.

But people are working on it, and progress is slow but steady.

Late last year, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) agreed to reimburse 77.5% of “eligible expenses” for the design and construction of a new roof on the Gill elementary school. The town will have to pay the rest of the cost, which could run over \$500,000 and will require approval from a special town meeting.

Members of the Gill Elementary School roof building committee are hoping to build a strong, longer-lasting metal roof rather than one made of asphalt shingles. “We’re looking at the alternative between a very cheap, in my opinion, crappy roof,

see **GILL** page A5

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Sudden Premium Hike Elicits Calls for Single-Payer System

By GEORGE BRACE

At its July 29 meeting, Leverett’s selectboard learned that the town’s health insurer is proposing a 20% mid-year rate increase. The board also held a utility pole hearing, interviewed an applicant for fire chief, and hired a community and event organizer for the Council on Aging.

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis reported that she had received notice from the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust of the proposed rate increase, set to take effect October 1. Assuming it is prorated, McGinnis said, the “unforeseen” cost to the town will be about \$108,000.

She noted that the new hike comes on top of a 15% increase

that took effect July 1. Other local towns are also facing the mid-year increase, she said, and are looking into alternative providers.

Board member Tom Hankinson said that one of the reasons given for the increase was a rise in claims. He said that data provided by the trust showed a large claims increase in April and May, and he wondered what was behind it. McGinnis said she did not have any insight into the question.

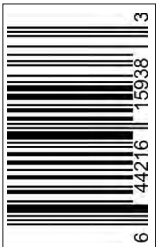
“The town needs to be careful not to have the same thing happen if it ends up deciding to switch providers,” said member Jed Proujansky. He reiterated his support for single-payer healthcare, calling it “the only solution that I know that’s

see **LEVERETT** page A5

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The Montague Reporter

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OP ED

The New Great River Regional School District: Imagine the Possibilities

By GREG SNEDEKER and ALAN GENOVESE

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Just imagine if the Gill-Montague, Pioneer Valley, and Warwick districts regionalized to form the Great River Regional School District!

The proposed K-12 “super-regionalization” of the GMRSD, PVRSD, and Warwick would combine the elementary, middle, and high schools in these districts under one new district

To clear up some confusion about this proposal, the elementary schools would continue to operate as before within this new district. As with most Massachusetts school districts, each town with an elementary school would lease the building to the district.

As noted in past articles, the Six-Town Regionalization Planning Board (STRPB) has found in our research that the educational advantages for middle and high school students would be significant, including expansions in the following areas: curriculum; programs and services; enrichment; electives; opportunities for student engagement in learning activities; capacity; aligned and standardized processes; substantial professional culture for staff and students; and state incentives (school buildings and transportation).

Some of the disadvantages – real or perceived – include loss of local control or voice, differences in social and educational culture, fear of school closures, class sizes, and changes in local assessments and power.

It’s worth mentioning that some of these disadvantages are already being discussed within the two districts, outside of the discussion of regionalization. For instance, GMRSD is proposing to close Hillcrest Elementary (K-2) and move those students into the Sheffield School, expanding the building through an MSBA loan. Similarly, PVRSD has proposed making a \$90-to-\$100-million expansion of the Pioneer Regional campus and closing the Bernardston and Northfield elementary schools, thus educating all students, K-12, at Pioneer Regional.

Although these districts are con-

sidering regionalizing their students internally to find financial savings, this will do little to increase district enrollments, and in the case of Pioneer it may hurt overall enrollment as students who begin attending the Pioneer campus in kindergarten may understandably seek a change of scenery by the time they reach 9th grade. This should cause the Pioneer district towns to consider this proposal carefully, as enrollment declines in these districts have been most experienced at the high school level. With Pioneer’s high school enrollment hovering just over 100 students for next year (9-12), the school is already very small.

One solution that has not been discussed in either district, which could potentially solve Pioneer’s challenges, would be to support the STRPB’s efforts *in addition* to both districts moving forward with their internal regionalization plans.

In the STRPB’s proposal, both Pioneer and Gill-Montague high school students would be educated in the Turners Falls regional building, and the middle school students would be educated in the Pioneer regional building.

If Bernardston and Northfield residents are in support of closing and repurposing their elementary schools, they could still do so, establishing an elementary and middle school (K-8) at the Pioneer regional building to fill the underutilized and underpopulated facility.

The Pioneer regional building is already designed to serve middle and high school students. If the high school students attend the Turners building, it would leave room in the building to accommodate elementary school students from Bernardston and Northfield without having to pursue an extensive MSBA project. This would avoid an estimated \$30 million to \$40 million in future capital costs, even with the state contributing MSBA funding.

The middle school students would enjoy the benefits of a larger enrollment – academics, sports, extra-curricular activities – creating a “state of the art” middle school program. The graduating 8th graders could look forward to attending a different campus, where they would enjoy a high school with an enrollment of over 300 students instead of



Catherine Pentoney and Peta Leitermann-Long work at the Clarkdale Fruit Farms store, which is currently stocked with an abundant crop of fresh peaches. The farm has existed since 1915, and the store sports an impressive overhead display of license plates from over the decades, the oldest one dating to 1919.

just over 100 students at Pioneer.

If GMRSD’s plans to move Hillcrest students into Sheffield are realized, the efficiencies created could allay Gill and Warwick residents’ understandable fears of their elementary schools closing in the future.

To be clear, the STRPB’s proposed regional agreement for the new Great River Regional School District does *not* take any position on, or recommend, any changes to the existing elementary schools and how they operate. The proposal has the elementary school students continuing to be educated in their respective towns, with the benefits of regionalization being realized by combining the middle school students at the Pioneer regional facility and the high school students attending the Turners Falls regional facility.

The proposed regionalization does not preclude the possibilities being explored by the respective districts to achieve greater facility efficiencies, and to realize the educational advantages associated with an increase in enrollment, if the towns wish to do so. In other words, both initiatives support the intention of the planning board to increase student enrollment for the betterment of students and staff.

With that said, imagine if all of this had already happened.

The larger Great River Regional School District would have been a powerhouse in high school sports this past year, winning *three* state championships. Imagine having enough students in the pipeline to maintain these athletic teams into the future, and not have that just be a random one-year occurrence.

Imagine combining the talented staff in these districts to develop, offer, and run more core courses and electives! Imagine bringing back many of the programs and services that existed in these districts 20 to 30 years ago.

Imagine a middle school with over 400 students, able to have its own designated middle school curriculum, co-curriculars, arts, and

teams. Those students would have more opportunity to play with and against teams with peers their age. Imagine a high school with over 300 students, enough to have its own designated high school programs and services.

Imagine all of the possibilities and opportunities for students if these districts combine!

More information, and a comprehensive presentation, will be

forthcoming in the coming months so that voters in the six towns can make an informed decision about the proposed formation of the Great River Regional School District. In the meantime, please visit the STRPB’s website at www.6towns.org.

Greg Snedeker is the treasurer and secretary of the STRPB. Alan Genovese is its chairperson.

Letter to the Editors Flashes Across Time

No one has invented a time machine so far, but sometimes the website *montague.advantage-preservation.com* is a good substitute. It was there that I read a whimsical sentence in the July 7, 1875 *Turners Falls Reporter* that both delighted and intrigued me:

“The lightning bugs during the past week have been so numerous that nobody has thought of looking for a full moon.”

In the twinkling of an eye, I found myself in a dark summer evening in the early 1950s. With school out and bedtimes ignored, my brothers and I would head to nearby fields, armed with glass jars and determination. We’d move towards a flashing luminescence only to miss our prey – those fast-moving, soft-bodied, light-emitting beetles, family *Lampyridae*, were more interested in attracting mates than thrilling children from the confines of a jar.

But catch them we did, only to watch a few escape each time we lifted the lid to trap another. When our jars were full of these miniature flying flashlights, we’d make a wax paper cover with small holes so our quarry could breathe while we watched their blinking abdomens. All too soon our mom

would say it was time to set them free and go to bed.

That brief entry in the “Turners Falls and Vicinity” column – amidst reports of dead fish, a temperance lecturer, and the Pulp Mill closing for a week – also intrigued me because the writer called them *lightning bugs* rather than *fireflies*.

The terms are interchangeable, but folks in New England and on the West Coast usually say *firefly*, while *lightning bug* is more common in the South and Midwest.

Has local usage changed, did the writer grow up elsewhere – or was he slyly introducing an unfamiliar term to his readers?

I’ve seen only a handful of fireflies in the Patch, but some places report an abundance of these magic wings this summer, perhaps enough to rival the full moon. Sadly, they are still at high risk of extinction, due to light pollution, pesticides, habitat loss, and climate change. What a shame if we are the ones who snuff out these enchanting beings that have existed for millions of years, delighting untold generations of children and their grownups.

Maggie Sadoway
Turners Falls

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PHONE: (413) 863-8666
EMAIL:
editor@montaguereporter.org
ads@montaguereporter.org
bills@montaguereporter.org
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TURNERS FALLS AND VICINITY.

Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

Beneath the pavement, the beach!

This week and next, the **Third and Fourth Street municipal lots** here in Turners Falls are being torn up and re-paved – since Monday and through next Friday, August 15, according to the announcement the town blasted out just hours after our previous edition went to press.

It’s “necessary re-paving and maintenance work,” heavy equipment in the neighborhood, and the scope seems to also include the lot in back of the town hall. That big empty expanse on Third, coned off, de-asphalted, and reduced to dirt crisscrossed by tire tracks, has been a sight to behold.

It’s a little sad, though, to think this might be the end of a universally enjoyed downtown pastime – watching visitors hit the turn into that lot a little too hot and bottom out on the apron. I can hear it all now in my head, including the sound of an automobile pausing in frustration.

Oh well, nothing lasts forever!

They **drew down the Holyoke dam** earlier this week for inspection, in theory causing a huge dip in the level of the Connecticut River – *Western Mass News* warned of a three-foot drop in the river level “between the Holyoke dam and the Montague dam,” and there was a flurry of alarm in these parts at the prospect of another major boat-beaching event.



Didn’t happen – at least not this far upstream. Here’s the measurement of the river height at Montague City, from the United

States Geological Survey gage just after the confluence with the Deerfield, over the last two weeks. Those last four spikes are 6’ to 10’ to 6’ to 10’ to 6’ to 9’ to 6’ to 9’.... Some other factor seems to be at work.



The drawdown of the Turners dam on July 7 continues to deliver, though. Ben Gagnon’s July 10 article on long-submerged rock carvings from 1937, and his inquiry on this page last week about one nickname, “The Earl,” lured forth exactly who I thought it might: **Mr. George F. Bush of Fourth Street**, born in 1926, whose older brother Frank was a prominent name in the 1937 carvings.

Little brother, it turned out, carved his own nickname in the stones around the early 1940s – I wonder if the river was drawn down in 1942 for the dismantling of the Red Bridge. “That’s where my gang used to swim,” he said. “My nickname is Voyt, V-O-Y-T....”

Years later, Mr. Bush came across the stone again (during the 1968 dam project, maybe?) and found it had broken in half. He took the slab with the Y and the T, as well as another

tag, “YAB.” Years after *that*, well, there he was in our office with the artifact.

Mr. Bush scolded us roundly for referring to anything on this side of the river as “Barton Cove” – that particular location, he explained, is *Red Rocks*. “We used to jump off the Red Bridge,” he told me. “My mother would die if she knew what we were doing!”

He didn’t know if we identified “Wooz” correctly, but he did remember a Wuz, his Fourth Street neighbor Raymond Morin. YAB was “Yab” Zukowski, another Fourth Street neighbor whose father was brothers with Mr. Bush’s stepfather, and as for Ben’s big question about The Earl? *Easy*.

“Earl was our coach in baseball,” he explained. “Earl Lorden. We used to call him The Lord, The Earl, and so forth.”

This did ring a bell, but it was a treat to hear Mr. Bush run through Lorden’s illustrious career, coaching the famous ’42 TFHS state championship team and going on to fame and fortune at UMass, where a baseball field still bears his name.

Needless to say, we are unbelievably lucky to have Mr. Bush still here in the neighborhood, and still very sharp and funny. He remembers this town in the era of the social clubs, and the Polish cooperative grocery store, and the ice house at Unity Park and rafts up and down the riverbank, when absolutely *everyone* had a nickname and there were always enough kids around for a pickup baseball game after lunch, and when once you worked up a sweat playing ball, the next stop was that cool, wide, wonderful river.

OK, feeling inspired? Valley Players has put a call out for auditions, September 2 and 4 in Amherst, for a **dinner-theater run of *It’s A Wonderful Life*** this December at the Blue Heron restaurant in Sunderland. Rehearsals are in November, and half of the net ticket sales will go to the Springfield affordable housing nonprofit Way Finders. See valleyplayers.org for more details.



As for 2025. The air quality has been horrible this week, thanks to swirling planetary-scale **smoke from uncontrolled wildfires** all across Manitoba and Saskatchewan. It is expected to dissipate a little by the week-end, fortunately, but it’s hard to forecast very far out. I’ve been watching FireSmoke Canada (www.firesmoke.ca), which loops an animation of the last 10 hours and the next 40 in its main “Smoke Forecast” feature.

The above electric sign on Avenue A encourages residents to contact Montague’s board of health for more information.

It’s a serious health hazard, so when the smog is thick, please try to take it easy if you can. We’ll all have to get used to tracking air quality on the East Coast, I guess. It does sometimes make the sunsets look cool.

As we put this edition to bed, we’re heading into our fourth of five **summer break weeks**. We’ll see you next on August 21, and then every Thursday in September. Stay safe.

Send your little bits of news to editor@montaguereporter.org.



Two More Letters to the Editors

Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki – and Watching Gaza

Because of this paper’s richly deserved summer breaks, the main local event of this week’s commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the US atomic bombing of two civilian cities in Japan towards the end of World War II will have happened before publication.

The civilian city of Hiroshima was destroyed by massive nuclear explosion and firestorm on August 6, 1945; by the end of that year, 140,000 were dead. Although there was hardly a need to “test” further, on August 9 “Fat Man” was dropped on Nagasaki, killing 40,000 instantly, with an estimated 100,000 dead within five years.

Gatherings and programs across the state are commemorating the many thousands killed and calling for an end to nuclear weapons development, and for nuclear disarmament. Wednesday saw the 41st Easthampton Commemoration, one of the nationwide events led by Back from the Brink, working for prevention of nuclear war.

That event started with a Peace

Walk, led by members of the Leverett Peace Pagoda, from the Easthampton River Valley Co-op to Nashawannuck Pond for a gathering with information, crane folding, and presentations of poetry, including from Gaza. One reading was from the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize-winning Nihon Hidankyo, the grassroots movement of atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Known as the Hibakusha, they worked for decades to warn the world of the dangers of nuclear weapons.

The horrors and long-term suffering of residents of Hiroshima and Nagasaki lead to comparisons with the devastating situation of the Palestinian people, especially in Gaza, now recognized widely as genocide.

The connection was made already in October 2024, following the announcement of the Nobel award. As reported then in the press: “Hidankyo Mimako, the group’s co-chair, gave an emotional acceptance speech at a news conference today, saying he never dreamed they would win and thought ‘those fighting hard

for peace in Gaza deserve it.’ Mr. Hidankyo added: ‘The images of children in Gaza covered in blood, held by their parents, remind me of Japan 80 years ago.’”

The anniversaries will also be remembered in Wendell at an event linking atomic weapons and nuclear power. During a pause in the Saturday, August 9, Old Home Day program on the Wendell common, members of the Roots and Branches affinity group formed to oppose the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant (closed in 2014) will rededicate the Japanese Maple they planted in 2011 to remember the nuclear disaster at Fukushima.

With care and compost, the little tree has survived and grown, but the accompanying wooden sign is weathered beyond recognition. A new marker will now call for peace, remembering Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Fukushima.

Anna Gyorgy
Wendell

The Mug Race Cometh

The 44th Montague Mug Race will be held next Saturday, August 16. The 5.5-mile road race “blasts” off at 8:30 a.m. from the Village Common, 4 North Street. Pewter mugs will be awarded to the top male and female finishers, and red coffee mugs to top three finishers in each division. T-shirts will be given to the first 70 runners.

The 19th Mini-Mug Run/Walk kicks off at 8:35 a.m. This course is 2 miles. Both races finish on Station Street, one block from the start. All participants are entered in a drawing for local prizes.

The course is well-marked, with the Montague Center firefighters stationed along the course to ensure a safe run, and plenty of water stops. It features a run along the Connecticut River.

All proceeds stay local, and are



divided between the Montague Center Firefighters’ Association and the Montague Congregational Church. Runners may register on runreg.com.

Ann Fisk
Montague Center

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OP ED

Town Called to Take Anti-Apartheid Pledge

By RICH KARSTEN
and HEATHER HUTCHINSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – The Town of Montague is organizing to join the Apartheid-Free Communities network.

Apartheid-Free Communities (AFC) is a coalition of municipalities, businesses, and organizations that unite in solidarity against apartheid, and for freedom, justice, and equality for all, with 708 affiliates located across six continents.

Montague residents are asking their community to take a renewed public pledge against all forms of racism and oppression, including antisemitism, Islamophobia, and xenophobia, with a Citizens' Petition declaring the town an apartheid-free community.

This resolution represents the will of the residents of Montague to stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine to build an apartheid-free world, under the AFC Pledge:

"We affirm our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people and all people; we oppose all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression; and we declare ourselves an apartheid-free community and to that end, we pledge to join others in working to end all support to Israel's apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation."

The pledge was drafted in 2022 by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), a Quaker-founded organization that worked alongside many interfaith organizations to create a new anti-apartheid movement.

Apartheid, according to the

United Nations' 1973 International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, is "Inhuman acts committed for the purpose of establishing and maintaining domination by one racial group of persons over another racial group of persons and systematically oppressing them."

Given the emerging consensus worldwide that Israel's treatment of the Palestinian people amounts to the crime of apartheid, AFC's global network unites a variety of organizations toward the common purpose of dismantling apartheid.

The local chapter, Apartheid-Free Western Massachusetts (AFWM), was formed in 2024, emerging from a year-long campaign focused on Palestine Liberation and Indigenous Rights education. This has included weekly film screenings and discussions whereby the community learned about underlying systems of oppression in Palestine and around the world. AFWM activates residents at the grassroots level through neighbor-to-neighbor conversations about the devastation of Palestinian lives under the system of apartheid, while drawing connections to realities here at home in the United States.

What does being an Apartheid-Free Community mean? In Palestine it means being free of occupation, colonization, and oppression. In the US it means being free from discrimination, the threat of deportation and abduction. Now is the time to end support for Israel's far-right institutional genocidal policies, collective punishment, and mass starvation. Now is the time to raise our collective voice

for democracy and freedom of speech, and against fascism.

As we build a robust network of Apartheid-Free Zones, interlinked by hope and sustained grassroots organizing, we dismantle Israel's apartheid just as we dismantled South Africa's apartheid, and just as we dismantled America's apartheid, when slavery was blatant and in plain view. Let's remember real change comes from the bottom up, motivated by love, compassion, and morality.

Apartheid-Free is not just about Palestine. It is about our collective humanity, and our heartfelt morality. When tax cuts are given to the ultra-wealthy while services in support of the working class are cut, when billions of dollars of the federal budget are redirected to build more detention centers even as too many residents of the Commonwealth face food insecurity, struggle to find affordable housing, or suffer under rising healthcare costs – this, too, is apartheid.

We recognize that when \$612,252,169 of federal income taxes from Massachusetts residents (the 2025 figure according to notmytaxdollars.org) go to subsidizing a foreign country's healthcare, education, and illegal settlements instead of supporting our own residents, this is an injustice.

And when our mainstream media seeks to normalize an engineered mass starvation of 2.2 million Palestinians, the kidnapping of our most vulnerable community members, and a violent crackdown on our free speech, this is an injustice.

In contrast, when Montague comes together as a community

with a pledge to renew our moral compass, we restore our heartfelt humanity in Montague and in Gaza. In the words of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Even the most entrenched and egregious injustices can be ended by people-power, and that is what we are doing now. Taking the pledge is a courageous step toward creating the world and community where we truly want to live, and where our children can thrive.

So, how can you help?

- Please sign the Citizens' Petition to show your support. Petitions can be found at the Dreamhouse and Great Falls Harvest restaurants in Turners Falls, or by contacting infoapartheidfreewesternma@gmail.com.

- Talk to your affiliated organizations and businesses about joining the AFC Pledge (see www.wmc4p.org/afsc-pledge).

- Get in touch at the above email or visit www.wmc4p.org/pledge to sign AFWM's People's Pledge as an individual:

"As a person of conscience, I join my local Apartheid-Free Western Massachusetts community, with a renewed pledge against all forms of racism, bigotry, and oppression, including against racist discrimination, Islamophobia, antisemitism, and xenophobia in our local and global community."

Rich Karsten and Heather Hutchinson are members of Jewish Voice for Peace, American Friends Service Committee, and Apartheid-Free Western Massachusetts.

CONDUCT from page A1

and the votes on the charges she faced, were initially scheduled for an executive session, but the state open meeting law holds that such hearings must be opened if the subject of the investigation so requests, and Williams requested that this be done. A group of her supporters, one of whom was allowed to record the session, sat in the rear of the town hall annex meeting room. Williams and her lawyer, Barry Auskern, sat at the main table with the selectboard, police chief Chris Williams (no relation), town administrator Walter Ramsey, and an attorney for the town.

The charges centered on two incidents: on May 26, when she was accused of assaulting an acquaintance at a private club in Hadley, and on June 19, when she was charged with attacking a friend who had come to her house. Neither occurred while officer Williams was on duty.

The evidence against officer Williams, who served in the department since 2020, was cited by chief Williams and accompanied by documents containing extensive testimony and text messages.

According to the chief, the Montague department was contacted by a man named Wayne Carter on May 26 and 27 claiming that he had been assaulted by officer Williams in the parking lot of the Hadley Young Men's Club during a car show. The alleged assault, "causing injuries to his face and lip," took place in front of his child and the child's mother.

Carter provided a number of text messages from officer Williams, sent while both were at the car show, threatening to confront him and the child's mother. In the course of the exchange Williams called Carter a "f---t" and a "piece of s---t," noting that he had invited her to the show and would "lose [her] as a friend" if he avoided her. He begged her to leave him alone, claiming that the child's mother was a "psycho" and warning that he was "going to snap."

In a subsequent interview, chief Williams

reported, officer Williams stated that Carter, whom she had known for a long time, had initiated the recent texting relationship with her, as well as the physical contact in the parking lot, during which his head movements had caused her to hit him on the lip.

A representative of the police union, the New England Police Benevolent Association, was present at that in-person interview. Officer Williams's testimony was supplemented by an interview with a friend of hers, Alexandra Blake, who had been present in the parking lot, and who called officer Williams Carter's "on-call therapist."

The chief eventually judged that officer Williams had violated three department policies, and she was placed on administrative leave.

The June 19 incident involved Blake, who reportedly went to officer Williams's Deerfield home to retrieve shoes and was then allegedly assaulted by her. Most of the evidence in the police chief's memo to the selectboard concerning this incident was based on reports from the Greenfield police, who led the investigation.

Blake told the Greenfield police that officer Williams, suspecting her of having an affair with a former boyfriend, had attacked her in her car and kicked her with steel-toed boots. Officer Williams apparently texted chief Williams the next day stating that Blake had "jumped out of the dark" from behind her and put her hands on her throat, and that she had initially thought the attacker was Wayne Carter.

During a later in-person interview with the chief, officer Williams was represented by Auskern, and repeatedly pleaded the Fifth Amendment against self-incrimination.

After this second incident, the town of Montague suspended officer Williams's right to carry a firearm and the state Police Officer Standards and Training Commission suspended her certification as a police officer. She was charged with eight counts of assault by the town of Deerfield.

At the July 25 selectboard hearing, Auskern challenged the chief's findings, arguing that his judgment was based on telephone as opposed to in-person interviews, which he said would give a better sense of the witnesses' credibility.

Officer Williams read a personal statement saying that she had not handled either incident "in the best way," and that her judgment had been negatively affected since last year, when, she said, a fellow Montague officer followed her into the women's locker room at the station seeking sexual contact. The department, she added, did not respond to her complaints about this harassment in a timely manner.

The town's labor attorney, Timothy Zessin of KP Law, replied that the department had commenced an investigation immediately. Before any charges were heard by the selectboard, according to an April 10 article in the *Montague Reporter*, the accused officer resigned. He was subsequently hired by the Bernardston police department.

Chief Williams reported that he had found that in each incident, officer Williams had violated three department policies – conduct unbecoming an officer; criminal conduct; and "discourtesy" toward a superior, fellow officer, or member of the public – for a total of six violations.

The selectboard sustained the unbecoming conduct violation in both incidents, but rejected the criminal conduct violations in both cases, as officer Williams has not been convicted of any crime. The third finding, discourtesy, was sustained as it related to the May 26 incident, but not to the June 19 altercation, as it did not take place in a public setting.

As of press time the town has not been notified that officer Williams intends to appeal the board's decision, which according to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 31 Section 41 would need to be filed with the state Civil Service Commission within 10 business days of the hearing, or this Friday, August 8.



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LEVERETT from page A1

going to prevent this from continuing to happen.”

Chair Patricia Duffy agreed with Proujansky, but suggested that until single-payer healthcare is implemented, allowing MassHealth coverage for town employees may be a solution, and should be advocated at the state level.

McGinnis replied that either MassHealth or insurance through the state’s Group Insurance Commission (GIC) are the “end game” that she sees, and pointed out that “a lot of towns” are already insured through the GIC.

The board members agreed to begin researching alternatives, and planned a formal vote for their next meeting.

Pole Hearing

An Eversource representative, Adam Bjelf, answered questions at a hearing on the company’s plan to replace a series of aging utility poles eastbound along North Leverett Road from the intersection with Dudleyville Road. Bjelf said the goal is to increase reliability by reducing span lengths to allow for heavier wire.

The work is preliminarily scheduled to begin in 2026, he said, and will take four to six weeks to complete, with “at most” a one-day electricity outage to some nearby customers. Both selectboard and conservation commission approval are required.

Board members and residents said they were concerned about disruption in power to the Village Co-Op’s coolers and to residents with medical needs. Bjelf said the company can provide alternative power through means such as generators, and that a public relations team will be available to respond to specific concerns.

Energy committee member Richard Nathhorst asked if Eversource could help facilitate the prompt removal of the old poles, owned by Verizon, as well as other remnant poles in the town. Bjelf said he would pass the request along to his operations group.

The selectboard approved the project.

Fire Chief

Selectboard members interviewed Tyler Bryant for the position of fire chief. Interviews with other candidates are possible, but had not been scheduled at the time of the meeting.

Bryant said he received his EMT certification in high school and served as a call firefighter for five years before transferring to a full-time position in his hometown, Hanson, in 2014. He is currently a lieutenant, and oversees three full-time firefighter-paramedics and 24 on-call responders in a department with two ambulances.

Bryant said he is pursuing a masters degree in public administration with a concentration in emergency management, as well as accreditation as a Massachusetts Professional Emergency Manager. He is married, with two children and two dogs, he explained, and is looking for a small town to raise his family in.

Asked for his thoughts on potential improvements to Leverett’s department, Bryant replied that the townspeople should have the “final say,” but that Leverett may want to consider providing ambulance service, which could generate revenue and better serve residents, and also look into regionalization.

He added that he would be willing to “spearhead” the creation of a “critical incident stress management team” in Franklin County. He and others in his department have made use of these services following traumatic situations such as pediatric drownings, he said, and have found it “a huge bonus to the field.”

Other Business

The selectboard appointed Johanna Hall, a Shutesbury resident, as a community and event coordinator at the Council on Aging (COA). COA chair Judi Fonsh said the group was “really impressed with how much work she’s done with older adults, most of it... through volunteer agencies like Village Neighbors,” and touted Hall’s preparation, listening skills, and nonjudgmental nature.

The board approved a \$299,325 contract with Davenport Construction, the low bidder, for work on the town-owned Rattlesnake Gutter Conservation Area. McGinnis reported good references and past experience with Davenport. The money will come from the Community Preservation Commission, the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust, and grants.

The board approved a \$250,000 contract with low bidder Everon for sprinkler system repairs and refurbishment at the Leverett Elementary School. Work is set to begin in early August, and completed before the start of school.

Solomon Goldstein-Rose was appointed to the conservation commission, and Kate Rice as the recreation commission’s representative on the Community Preservation Commission.

Iris Everill was hired as superintendent at the transfer station, and Rowan Howe as an attendant.

Duffy recused herself from the transfer station appointments.

As of press time, the selectboard’s next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 26.

Tip of the week ...

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INVITATION TO BID FOR THE TOWN OF LEVERETT ACCESSIBLE PATH

The Town of Leverett, pursuant to Mass. G.L. c. 30, sec. 39M, hereby requests sealed bids from proponents, in accordance with the Invitation to Bid, for the construction of a new accessible path, boardwalk, and other site amenities and improvements in accordance with the documents entitled:

Leverett Library Accessible Path

in accordance with the Contract Documents prepared by The Berkshire Design Group, Inc., 4 Allen Place, Northampton, MA 01060.

This project is being electronically bid and hard copy bids will not be accepted. Please review the instructions at www.biddocsonline.com on how to register as an electronic bidder. The bids are to be prepared and submitted at www.biddocsonline.com.

General Bids will be received until 2:00 PM on September 2, 2025 and be publicly opened online, forthwith. The estimated project value is \$350,000.

A non-mandatory pre-bid site visit/walk through will be conducted on August 22, 2025 at 10:00 AM at the site at 75 Montague Road, Leverett, MA 01054 at which time bidders will have the opportunity to view the project site.

All work is subject to the schedule of prevailing wage rates as determined by the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Occupational Safety.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available after August 13, 2025 at www.BidDocsOnline.com (may be viewed electronically or a hardcopy can be requested). There is a plan deposit of \$50.00 per set of hard copies payable to the BidDocsOnline Inc. Bid forms and documents may also be viewed at the Leverett Public Library.

GILL from page A1

and an appropriate roof that’s significantly more expensive – like three times more expensive,” committee co-chair James Asbel said of the proposal to MSBA. “We don’t know yet how far they’re willing to go, and I think we aren’t going to know until we submit [it].”

The grant process also requires making updates to the school to ensure Americans with Disabilities Act compliance. That includes updating classroom sinks, some doorways, and two bathrooms to be wheelchair-accessible. The outdoor parking area must also be made less steep, with a better demarcation between pedestrians and automobiles in the horseshoe driveway.

While the playground doesn’t have to be updated for accessibility, Asbel called on the town to keep that goal on its radar for the future.

Roof building committee co-chair Claire Chang said the group will receive cost estimates in September and submit their request to MSBA the following month. The MSBA will meet in December, after this there would be two months for the town to hold a special town meeting to come up with the remaining funds.

Committee members expressed concern about the pace of the MSBA’s work. “I have to say, my experience of it is that movement’s been kind of slow,” said Asbel, who worried that even if the committee works as fast as it can, the town won’t be ready for the construction before next summer: “People would be employed already, and the bidding climate would be terrible.”

Selectboard member Greg Snedeker countered that contractors seem desperate for projects right now. “It’s such a crapshoot, because nobody knows what’s going to happen from day to day,” he said.

Other participants at the meeting listed concerns about tariffs, inflation, and the possibility of government funds simply disappearing before the work is done.

Bridge Crumbling

Gill’s only town-owned bridge “needs attention immediately,” according to the state Department of Transportation (MassDOT), which found major structural issues following a routine inspection. North Cross Road Bridge has been narrowed to one lane, so that cars drive over only the structurally-sound center.

Highway superintendent John Miner is requesting \$20,000 in Chapter 90 emergency funds to cover expenses.

The entire bridge, which was built in 1940, will eventually need to be replaced. Because it is listed in the National Bridge Inventory, it is eligible for federal funding. Miner said the project is a good candidate for funding, but a complete replacement is required to get the bridge up to code, which could take five to six years.

Miner also reported back on this year’s West Gill Road milling and paving project, which came in more than \$5,000 under budget.

Crashes and Bangs

After a car crashed into Tracy Dowd’s house on 253 Main Road, the selectboard approved putting in a guardrail at that curve to avoid future incidents. The rail will be 98 feet long and cost \$3,365.

“I sit right where the car hit – I work from home, and I watch cars almost do that every day,” said Dowd, who wasn’t home when the accident happened. The driver, she said, claimed to have a coughing fit that made him black out. He didn’t hit the brakes, and there were no skid marks on the road.

His grandchild was also in the car, but both of them were uninjured. Dowd said her home received major structural damage and will require extensive work.

Dan Croteau attended the meeting to announce that he just moved to a new home on Mountain Road, only to be pestered with loud gunfire in the neighborhood. He said his wife reported the problem to the police, but they responded that the shooter had already informed them of his activities.

Another town resident, who was attending for a different reason, said she had also spoken to the police about the loud gunfire, and that they had found the individual was “within their rights, because they have enough property.”

“I know there’s not a lot you can do,” Croteau told the selectboard, but he expressed hope for a mediated conversation with his neighbor, to find a compromise that would work for everyone.

TOWN OF LEVERETT SELECTBOARD ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids for the construction of the “**Dudleyville Road Improvements Project**” will be received by the Selectboard at the Town Hall, 9 Montague Road, Leverett, MA 01054 until 2:00 p.m. local time on August 28, 2025 at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. Sealed Bids must have outer envelope marked as “Town of Leverett, Dudleyville Road Improvements Project.”

The work consists of the removal and disposal of existing roadway cross culverts and installation of new roadway cross culverts, drop inlets, headwalls, erosion controls, grading, and surface restoration. Bids shall be on a unit price basis. All Bids for this project are subject to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30, Section 39M as amended.

Bidding Documents may be obtained electronically from the Tighe & Bond website at: www.tighebond.com/Projects_Out_to_Bid.php

Prospective bidders must complete a one-time registration process on the website in order to receive log-in credentials. Bidders must log in to the website to download bidding documents for the project. Bidders will be added to the “planholders” or prospective bidders list upon downloading the bidding documents for the project. This Contract contains price adjustments for diesel fuel and gasoline. See the Special Provisions for payment procedures and base prices for this Project.

Minimum Wage Rates as determined by the Commissioner of Department of Workforce Development under the provision of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Section 26 to 27D, as amended, apply to this project. It is the responsibility of the Contractor, before Bid opening, to request if necessary, any additional information on Minimum Wage Rates for those trades people who may be employed for the proposed Work under this Contract. This project is funded by the MassWorks Infrastructure Program (STRAP Grant) and is subject to all applicable regulations. MassDOT prequalification of contractors with the class of work as Drainage for the project with an estimated value of \$825,000 will be required.

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“Every great cause begins as a movement, becomes a business, and eventually degenerates into a racket.”

Eric Hoffer, ‘The Temper of Our Time’

Looking Back: 10 Years Ago This Week

Here's the way it was on August 6, 2015: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Restaurateur Pistol-Whipped

CeCe's owner Zhang Lin Hua was working after hours Sunday night at his restaurant when a woman called in a late order. On Wednesday, speaking with the help of an interpreter, Mr. Zhang described the events that followed:

He let the woman in around 11:20 p.m., but she ran away. Seconds later, two men entered. One was wearing a stocking over his

head, brandishing what looked like a handgun. That man demanded money. When Mr. Zhang tried to run, the men grabbed him. He was struck two or three times on the head with the butt of the gun. The men then took all the money from his pockets. Patrons across Second Street at Between the Uprights called the police.

Mr. Zhang was bleeding profusely and taken to the hospital. His injuries were all external, although requiring five stitches. According to Sgt. Christopher Bonnett of the Montague police department, an active investigation is underway.

20 Years Ago

Here's the way it was on August 11, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

World Champion in Montague

There's a new world champion in town. Montague's Sonja Lamonakis won the Women's Boxing World Championships in the Light Heavyweight class on August 6. Held in Kansas City, Missouri, the tournament featured 1,500 fighters representing six countries.

Lamonakis is well-known to locals from her point position behind the counter at her parents' busy lunch counter at Scotty's on the Hill in Turners, and is also an elementary school teacher.

Country Store and the Wendell Post Office on Locke's Village Road, Deja Brew, owned by Wendell residents Patti and Vic Scutari, is in the final stages of completion. The pub opened for the afternoon and evening of Saturday, August 6, during Wendell's Old Home Day celebration.

"There was standing room only. It was beyond my wildest dreams," said Patti Scutari. "All four of my children worked the 11 hours we were open."

Better Radio in Erving

On August 8, Erving fire chief Mickey LaClaire updated the selectboard on progress with the \$12,000 in new emergency radio equipment for the town, part of a region-wide system provided through Homeland Security grant funds. The town will be responsible for \$500 in annual maintenance fees for two new transmitters for the fire and police departments. "There's always a hitch," said administrative coordinator Tom Sharp.

First Pub in Wendell

"First Last Call in Wendell!" That was the cry from an estimated crowd of 50 as Charlise Baleno flashed the lights at the end of the "sneak preview" of Wendell's new and only pub, Deja Brew.

Nestled between the Wendell

150 Years Ago

Here's the way it was on August 4, 1875: News from the Turners Falls Reporter archives.

Turners Falls and Vicinity

Everybody and his folks were at Lake Pleasant, Friday.

K.C. Putnam has some corn in his garden over fifteen feet high.

We have had a little reminder of the weather that Noah and the boys had to put up with.

Dr. Walker's horses took a little run this forenoon. Slight breakage of the harness the only damage.

No repairs were made in the Keith mill last Sunday. We shall be able to Christianize those people by and by!

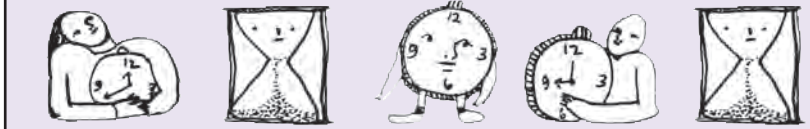
Mrs. Dike of Montague City had a night-blooming cereus in full bloom, Wednesday night, and the neighbors sat up all night to look at it.

Willie Stoughton shot a henhawk the other day which measured five feet from tip to tip of the

wings, in doing which the nipple was blown out of the gun.

The rear of the entire drive consisting of 15,000,000 feet, has reached Turners Falls, and with the late rains the river will be high enough to continue it to its destination without delay. There are one hundred and fifty men with the drive.

The County Commissioners have located the Turners Falls bridge. They have decided not to interfere with the buildings of the Clark and Chapman Machine Co., but a portion of the new office of the Montague Paper Co. will have to be demolished to make room for terminus on this side. The Commissioners advertise for proposals for an iron bridge of the whole length, or for an iron bridge from the Montague shore to Great Island and a wood bridge of the Howe truss pattern from the Great Island to the Gill shore. The bridge is to be completed by the first of May, 1877.



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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Board Invited to Sniff Sludge

By KEITH WATERS

Meeting on Monday, the Erving selectboard continued to discuss a proposal from Erseco, the Erving Industrie subsidiary that operates the town's POTW#2 wastewater plant, to reduce waste sludge by installing a dryer and pelletizer.

In response to a concern raised by the town at their last meeting, Erseco replied that its employees had conducted a trial-sized sludge drying run and did not notice any bad odors. Erseco invited the selectboard and up to 10 citizens to come to the plant to witness this test conducted again.

The board was happy with this response, and decided it did not yet need to come in for a demonstration. Staff will work on the wording of an agreement with Erseco that will move the project forward while protecting the town's interests.

Water and wastewater superintendent Pete Sanders reported on a water line break on Lillian's Way on or around July 28, apparently the third leak in a year around one condominium complex.

Sanders was asked how likely more leaks were in the area. "There was a bad batch of copper in the mid-'80s," he explained, "and it depends on how much of that that job had on site."

Selectboard member William Bembury asked if the town should make preemptive repairs.

"I think it's something we have to look at, as the both departments together, as a larger capital project," said highway superintendent Glenn McCrory. "The sidewalks are

falling apart on that road also, and when that road was paved, it wasn't to the standards of today."

The board seemed interested in this idea of a more comprehensive project. Town administrator Bryan Smith said he could coordinate with Sanders and McCrory to draw up a request for proposals.

Steep Hike

The Hampshire Group Insurance Trust, which handles health insurance for many towns and departments across four counties, has voted to raise its rates mid-year by 20%.

The rates were already raised by nearly that much on July 1, and Bembury said he thought he heard they intend to raise them another 20% in January, but selectboard chair Jacob Smith and member Loynd said they had not heard that.

Loynd asked what other options the town has. Bryan Smith listed a number of options, but said the problem is bigger than the current rate hike, and that the way healthcare pricing works in the US is unlike any other industry and is unfair to consumers. He suggested contacting Erving's state legislators.

Loynd and Jacob Smith concurred, and Bryan Smith said he would research additional options and draft a letter to the legislators.

Other Business

Police chief Robert Holst said a patrol officer screening committee had interviewed, and recommended, a Mr. Derek Worden, and that he also recommended him for the job. Worden has worked as a patrol

officer in Gill and Colrain in the last two years.

The board was amenable, and voted to approve hiring Worden pending psychological and background tests. Holst said he intended to have the new officer start at the beginning of September.

The board created a five-person screening committee for an activities coordinator and appointed Loynd as its chair.

The board voted to extend the contract with Bernardston-Northfield Community Television BNCTV to stream and archive video of public meetings for four months, at a cost of \$5,500, to allow time for a new contract to be written.

The board held a second review of proposed updates to Erving's drug-free workplace policy. Bembury said he thought five days was too long to allow an employee found guilty of a drug or alcohol charge, or who pleaded no contest, to notify their department head; he suggested "immediately."

Jacob Smith said a change like that would have to be negotiated with the staff union. Loynd asked what the origin of the five-day allowance was, and Bryan Smith said he would look into it.

At the end of the meeting the board went into executive session to discuss a complaint about an unnamed town employee.

Certain documents about the Church Street bridge project were not ready in time for Monday's meeting, so the board was forced to schedule a meeting for next Monday, August 11, in order to meet deadlines.

BATTERY from page A1

Wendell Solar, LLC, a Nexamp subsidiary, on Doody's 62-acre lot. Tuesday's hearing addressed an "amended order of conditions" requested by the engineers, adding an onsite battery and more extensive stormwater management system.

"We have maintained the exact same overall footprint, limit of clearing, and limit of work as this project when it was originally approved," Beals and Thomas civil engineer Eric Las explained as he showed maps and diagrams of the updated plan.

While the original plan was to install 9,000 solar "modules" on the partially-cleared forest lot, the new plan calls for 6,000 modules, capable of producing 3.6 megawatts (MW) of power, with a 2-MW energy storage system at the center of the array.

The previously-approved plan also included clearing some trees within 100 feet of an established wetland area, a feature that has not changed.

To comply with state stormwater management guidelines, Las explained, his firm expanded on the previous engineers' work to make the drainage system more "robust." Two "detention basins" were added, designed to temporarily hold runoff before it drains into an adjacent Wendell State Forest wetland.

"What we're trying to do is collect that stormwater runoff, detain it, and ideally put it back into the ground with infiltration basins," Las said. "We want to provide groundwater to the wetlands, as opposed to surface water to the wetlands."

A number of Wendell residents including Andrews, Chris Queen, Linda Hickman, Kathleen Leonard, and Lisa Hoag asked about the possibility of harmful chemicals being released by damaged solar panels or a battery fire.

Las said the only contaminant of concern in his line of work is sediment that could wash into wetlands during storms. Local fire departments, he said, are the public's best resource on how to handle emergencies.

"If there's a fire, what does that mean for my drinking water?" Andrews asked. "What does that mean for the Quabbin? We have a volunteer fire department, we don't have fire hydrants around, so I just want to understand a bit more about how you can ensure safety."

Las said the battery system would comply with state and federal fire code, and that the company would be more prepared to address her concerns at the hearing's continuation.

"Why do we have residential zoning, when this is clearly a large-scale solar factory?" asked Hoag. "I live downhill.... This could put toxic chemicals in our wells, and also into the wetlands. This will lower all our property values."

Las said his firm has worked with Nexamp on many solar projects, and that the state's Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) incentive program now strongly encourages all arrays to include onsite batteries.

"The state is the one encouraging these projects to be built throughout the Commonwealth, and we're doing everything we can to protect wetland resources," he said. "I think we do a really good job on this, because of the number of projects we've seen through construction."

Las said that as a civil engineer, he has not seen "scientifically conducted, published studies" indicating any of the equipment would leach toxic chemicals, but that "there's a lot of misinformation being presented, on the internet and elsewhere."

Con com chair Ward Smith asked if the battery would produce ambient noise, and requested the engineers produce a "noise contour map" to predict its impact on the abutting conservation land. Given that most of the con com has been appointed since 2018, he recommended they visit the site with the developers to confirm the locations of wetlands.

After discussing questions and concerns about the project for about an hour, the con com voted to continue the hearing until its next meeting on Tuesday, September 9.

The amended plans must also be approved by the planning board, and potentially the board of health. New "Regulations for Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)" the health board adopted last year detail an extensive permitting process for all new and existing stationary electric batteries, without stipulating any minimum size for a permit to be required.

The board of health meets next Monday, and the Wendell Solar, LLC project is on the agenda for discussion.



MONTAGUE from page A1

“already dead” or losing their leaves, particularly young, recently planted trees. “We’d like to implore the selectboard and the [public works department] to put in an effort to water the trees that are in desperate need,” Smith said, adding that his committee would implement outreach “to get community members to water trees in front of their houses.”

Committee member David Detmold said the US Forestry Service “had spent hundreds of thousands of dollars over five years to give us the resources to plant these trees.”

Selectboard member Marina Goldman said she had already met about the issue with town administrator Walter Ramsey, who emailed Jason Kingsbury, the tree warden, and that immediately after the meeting she saw Kingsbury and an intern watering trees. Goldman said she supported the public outreach Smith and Detmold suggested, and expressed concern about weed whackers “girdling” trees.

“We’ve got to get them through the first six or seven years of their life,” said Detmold.

Waste Economy

First up on the regular agenda was a meeting of the “sewer commission,” which the selectboard transforms itself into when it considers sewer issues.

Clean Water Facility (CWF) superintendent Chelsey Little shared a calculation of the residential and industrial sewer rates needed to fund the department’s budget for the new fiscal year. The recommended rates, developed with the help of town accountant Angelica Desroches, were \$18.50 for 1,000 gallons of residential water usage, an increase of 2.78% over last year, and \$19.50 per 1,000 gallons of industrial usage, an increase of 6.04%.

Billing for these two categories of customers is based on measurements of their water usage the previous winter. Little said she felt residential users have been overly subsidizing the budget in recent years, so she is increasing the industrial rate more rapidly.

The recommended “sewer-only” rate, a figure based on town-wide average usage for customers not on one of the town’s two water systems, was \$904 per year, a decline of 2.8%, and the minimum annual charge was set at \$316, an increase of 5.33%.

The commissioners approved these rates. Bills for the first half of the year will be issued by early September, according to the treasurer’s office, while those for January through June will be mailed in February.

In response to a question from selectboard member Rich Kukulicz, Little said the amount of rainwater entering the Millers Falls sewer system has been significantly reduced by the public works department, and she does not expect another “overage charge” this year from Erving, which processes that village’s sewage.

The board renewed an agreement with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, which oversees the transportation of waste sludge to a facility in Lowell in case of a shutdown at the CWF, as well as an agreement with Agresource, Inc. to haul sludge from other towns to Montague for processing, an expected source of revenue for the plant.

STRIDENT APPEAL

Please Help Young Trees Survive

There are young trees all around Montague that badly need our help to survive and thrive. There have already been significant resources invested in them, and during this dry hot summer it’s crucial that we water them if we are to preserve and multiply their benefits, for ourselves and future generations.

With the help of the tree advisory committee, Montague received a five-year US Forest Service grant to plant 600 trees. As a match for this grant, the Montague DPW provided the labor to plant them in our parks and public tree belts and in other locations around town.

The recent lack of rainfall and high temperatures have been hard on them. Their leaves are wilting, and in some cases even turning brown and falling. One inch of rain on July 31 was not enough. I urge people to “adopt” these saplings and water them, those near your home or workplace and those you pass by. Individuals, the Scout pack and troop, and civic organizations could all pitch in as a public service.

Why is this so important? A quick search brought me to the www.strongtowns.org website, which provides a surprising list of all the help we get from trees:

- Trees on streets extend the life of road surfaces by keeping their temperature cooler and more stable.
- A mature tree can catch 30% to 40% of rainfall in its leaves and branches. This keeps a good share of

rainfall from going into the storm drains and causing basement flooding and sewage overflows.

- Besides providing shade, trees cool the air around them through releasing water vapor, a process called *transpiration*. There’s an estimate that trees lower residential energy use by an average of 7.2%, saving billions of dollars on a national scale.
- Trees improve air quality by absorbing pollutants, dust, smoke, and pollen. They also reduce carbon dioxide, and so help the climate.
- Unlike infrastructure like roads, bridges and buildings, “trees actually increase in value and capacity over time. Urban trees have been dubbed ‘the miracle municipal asset.’”

We have an opportunity to protect and extend the investments of time, energy, and taxpayer dollars that have gone into planting 600 trees in Montague. There’s no guarantee the Town could get a similar grant to provide more, especially if it’s to replace trees we allowed to die through neglect.

The Estonian folk tale “Mikku and the Trees” has some important wisdom for us. Trees keep telling the main character “Remember... you care for us, and we will care for you.”

Timothy Van Egmond
Co-chair, Montague energy committee

Jet-Setters

Turners Falls municipal airport manager Bryan Camden discussed a number of matters with the selectboard, including the status of a project to build a large solar array, which has been delayed for two years by negotiations with the electric company Eversource over its connection to the power grid.

“We thought we had forward momentum with Eversource,” he said, but the town learned in a recent “email discussion with them, which was brief and basically to the point, that they have not made any progress.” Camden said he believed it was “time to go with some political pressure.”

After reviewing the town-owned airport’s revenue projections for the current year, Camden proposed an increase in the fuel revolving fund from \$200,000 to \$300,000. He explained that a decision to reduce the markup on fuel sold by the airport was attracting significantly more business to the facility. This, he said, increases the airport’s eligibility for federal grants, and the town is brainstorming ways to “drag that business downtown,” including offering car or bicycle rentals onsite.

Camden asked for the board’s support for the increase, which would also need to be approved by town meeting.

Personnel

Ramsey announced that Montague’s insurance provider, the Hampshire Group Insurance Trust, which brokers health insurance for public organizations in four counties, has voted on a 20% increase in premiums for employees, effective October 1. He did not discuss the causes of the increase, but said the decision was necessary “to keep the trust from going insolvent in the next couple of months.”

Ramsey said this increase was “tough, tough news for us to swallow,” and would impact both the town budget and employee paychecks. He said the town will “have until spring to look at other options” for FY’27.

The board approved an agreement with the Gill-Montague regional school district that would allow a “resource officer” from the police department, Dan Miner, to

assist at the public schools.

Chief Chris Williams said that while there was still not enough money available to provide a full-time officer, the agreement would allow the department and district to share information about students, and that “as long as we have three officers on during any given day during the week, I’ll have Officer Miner up there as much as I can to help out, because he is missed.”

The board appointed Felix Morales as a part-time police officer at \$30 per hour. Williams noted that Morales, originally trained in Montague, works as a full-time sheriff deputy and was looking for additional work, and would be the town’s “first hire of a part-time officer in years.”

Fern Smith was hired as the executive assistant to the selectboard at an annual salary of \$61,443. Smith, who currently serves as the operations manager at Greenfield Community Energy and Technology, will replace Wendy Bogusz, who has recently become town clerk.

“We landed on a really great candidate,” said Ramsey, who participated in the search process. “She’s going to really help us modernize the way we do business, and help in ultimately improving our transparency.” The appointment will be effective starting September 2.

Other Business

The selectboard approved agreements with the Franklin County sheriff’s office for the use of the dog shelter on Sandy Lane and to provide the town with animal control services from that facility.


Four individuals were appointed to the town cultural council, for terms of varying lengths.

Elsewhere on the cultural front, the board approved the use of public property for the annual Rag Shag Parade on October 31. Parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz said the parade, newly under his department’s stewardship, will be accompanied by the Turners Falls High School band, and will proceed from Second Street to Peskeompskut Park where a “short little movie or *Scooby-Doo* episode” will be screened.

The board’s next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 18.

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INVITATION TO BID

UNITY PARK SURFACING & SLIDE PROJECT

The Town of Montague is accepting sealed bids for the replacement of pour-in-place rubber surfacing, and the purchase and installation of a new tube slide to replace an existing piece of equipment at Unity Park in Turners Falls, MA.

Sealed Bids must be received by Wed. September 3, 2025 @ 1:00 PM, at which time all bid packages will be opened and read at the Town Hall Annex Meeting Room at the same address listed above. No exceptions or allowances will be made for late submittals.

A bidders’ conference will be held on Tuesday August 26, 2025 at 9:00 AM at Unity Park, 56 First St., Turners Falls, MA 01376. Attendance is not mandatory but is strongly encouraged. The IFB is available at www.montague-ma.gov/BIDS.

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

Walter Ramsey, Chief Procurement Officer

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TOWN OF GILL Board of Health

A Public Hearing will be held by the Gill Board of Health at the Town Hall, 325 Main Road, Gill MA, on August 12, 2025 at 5:30 PM to consider adopting “Regulations for Fats, Oils, and Grease Management.”

The regulations, if adopted, establish requirements for all new and existing Food Service Establishments that generate and discharge Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) in the wastewater flow of the Town’s sanitary sewer system to install, operate, and maintain a FOG pretreatment system.

The regulations provide for routine compliance inspections and penalties for violating the regulations.

The proposed regulations can be viewed on the Board’s web page www.gillmass.org/g/10/Board-of-Health and at the Town Hall offices during business hours.

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Left to right: Ducks and chickens produce eggs at Gracie's Gift 1770 Farm; some of the farm's Nigerian dwarf goats; Debbie Frechette, with one of the farm's beloved rescue donkeys.

FARM STAND from page A1

they grew tomatoes, corn, squash, beans, potatoes, carrots, raspberries, and strawberries. Debbie recalls mowing the lawn, pounding nails, and “being up on the roof with a roll of tar paper.”

Although the sisters have only been in residence at Gracie's Gift 1770 Farm for four years, they've made connections with people in the area.

“Everyone has been so welcoming,” said Mary Sue. “The people who lived here on the property over the years have told us lots of stories, and one man even brought over a photo album.” The property was once home to the Sunset Inn, and later the Greenwood Farm cider mill.

Although the sisters are technically retired – Debbie was an accountant, and Mary Sue was a chef – their farming work ethic keeps them busy with chores they enjoy.

Looking back on four years working their new farm, Debbie said, “I think we deserve a couple of afternoons on the patio.”

The vegetables and other items at the new farm stand will vary with the season, but will include everything from chocolate peppers to jalapeños, green beans, wax beans, yellow beans, carrots, beets, peas, cucumbers, eggplants, strawberries, tomatoes, rhubarb, blackberries, blueberries, horseradish, honey, apple butter, jellies, and jams. A 35-foot grape arbor that dates back more than 100 years produces Concord grapes. Mary Sue made 250 bars of goat milk soap last winter. “People went nuts for the soap,” she said.

Like other farmers in the area, the sisters sell fresh eggs to eager customers every day, produced by 50 chickens and 25 ducks of two different breeds, American Pekin and Khaki Campbell. But what sets Gracie's Gift 1770 Farm apart from the rest are the Nigerian

dwarf goats that roam the pastures.

While it's legal to make soap from goat milk and a mixture of oils and lye, the sisters would need an expensive federal certification to sell the small amount of milk and cheese the goats produce, so they happily enjoy it themselves.

Instead, the sisters are in the business of breeding and selling goats – the breeding kicks off in late fall, and kids are born in April. A total of 12 goats were born this year at the farm, and nine have already been sold. Some people prefer to buy castrated goats, known as wethers, which are popular as pets. Although some buyers worry that goat horns could be dangerous for children, the sisters decided not to “disbud” their goats because the process involves cauterizing the horn buds with a heat gun.

“Letting them grow the horns is better,” said Debbie. “It's who they are.”

Last week, 14 goats were in residence, but the males and females are being kept in separate pastures until breeding season.

“The goats are very playful, they have fun with the seesaws we put out there,” said Debbie. “They love climbing on tree stumps and the big cable spools we put out there. And they love people. When we have the grandkids here, they feed them apple treats, and the goats follow them all over the place. They like to tug on their shirts, and nibble on things like earrings and shoelaces.”

The sisters are also gearing up to breed their two cows, Daisy and Sedona – one is a Jersey and the other a prized Black Angus. That side of the business ends in selling steers for meat, which they did in late July.

“It was a sad week, but we knew what they were here for,” said Mary Sue. The process wasn't made any easier by the fact that the sisters had affectionately named the three steers that were sold: Bisbee, DJ, and Harry.

“Last year they figured out how to shake the apple trees and eat the apples,” recalled Mary Sue.

On the other hand, the sisters acquired

two donkeys from a rescue operation in New Hampshire called Save Your Ass Long Ear Rescue. They named the pair Mary and Phaedra, and say they're “good watchdogs” that help scare off coyotes and foxes, though mostly they're “very loud.”

“When you turn the light on in the house every morning they start baying and heehawing,” said Mary Sue. “They're saying, ‘Hey, you're up, come feed me!’”

And true to their nature, the donkeys are stubborn. “If they don't want to move, they don't move,” said Debbie. “We had to teach them to get in the barn.”

Mary and Phaedra cost money to feed, require daily brushing, and don't generate any income. Needless to say, they weren't a big part of the farm's business plan, although they do produce good manure. Asked why they brought home the donkeys, Mary Sue replied, “For joy!”

“We like 'em,” Debbie added.

Rounding out the wide range of animals on the farm is a barn cat that controls the mouse population.

“I get up every morning and love to go out and see all the animals,” said Mary Sue.

The sisters have been knee-deep in the farming life since they were children visiting the dairy farm run by their maternal grandparents and a vegetable and Christmas tree farm run by their father's parents, both in Pennsylvania.

“We would always be wearing our barn clothes, chasing cows, building fences, weeding, planting, picking potatoes, cleaning out the stalls,” said Debbie. “It was great.”

Mary Sue recalls milking her first cow when she was just 10 years old.

“It was a foundation for a good sense of responsibility,” she said. “We would see other kids going to camp in the summer, but our camp was going out and pulling weeds or cleaning the barn. Mom always canned and froze vegetables, and now we're doing the same thing.”



Debbie Frechette, at far left, and Mary Sue Fowler look over their raised-bed garden.

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Above: The days are just packed: bathers skip stones on the Connecticut.

RECIPES SALAD... FOR SUPPER?

By CLAIRES HOPLEY

LEVERETT – The word “salad” comes from the Latin *sal*, which means “salt,” so originally, a salad was simply a salted dish. Most European languages have a variant: *salade* in French, *ensalada* in Spanish, *salat* in Danish, and *salata* in Greek.

This uniformity notwithstanding, salads range from the mashed eggplant in Greek *melanosalata* to a bowl of vinaigrette-dressed lettuce in the French *salade verte*, and to the chicken, bacon, egg, avocado, tomatoes and more in America’s Cobb Salad.

The multitude of variations makes “salad” a hard word to define sharply, but focusing on a salad’s role in a meal is helpful. *Melanosalata* is a great appetizer, whereas *salade verte* supposedly refreshes the palate between courses.

The Spanish *Ensalada de Judias Verdes* is a mixture of cooked green beans and potatoes garnished with hard-boiled eggs – great for lunch, or as a *tapa* in a bar. Tuna salad screams “sandwich filling,” while California’s Cobb salad is far too substantial to be anything other than a main dish.

And thinking of main dishes, what could be a better supper on these hot, hot summer days than a cool, colorful salad – especially now that we can get so many lovely local vegetables?

Cobb salad was created at the Brown Derby restaurant in Los Angeles in 1926. Owner Bob Cobb said he composed it from what he found in the fridge. When the first Cobb salad recipe was published in the *Brown Derby Cook Book*, its ingredients included lettuce,



Any number of fruits can add allure to a curried chicken salad.

watercress, chicory, romaine, tomatoes, diced chicken breast, chopped cooked bacon, sliced avocado, hard-boiled eggs, chopped chives, and Roquefort cheese.

Nowadays one or more of these is often missing, leaving tomatoes, chicken, bacon, and eggs on a bed

see **RECIPES** page B8



ADVICE Tech Tips to Save You Some Dough

By RYNE HAGER

TURNERS FALLS – With inflation up and the many knock-on effects of economic uncertainty thanks to Trump’s tariff-by-Magic-8-Ball, odds are you’re one of the many people scrutinizing their budgets more often to find ways to save a little extra for a rainy or revolutionary day. Here are a few bits of advice on how to stretch the diminishing value of your dollar when it comes to technology.

One big piece of advice I give everyone is simple: Stop renting your internet provider’s modem. While the cost varies, companies like Comcast typically charge between \$5 and \$15 a month to use their hardware to get online. But you can buy your *own* modem for

between \$50 and \$200, or as little as \$20 if you buy used or refurbished.

This requires a little work. You’ll need to research that the modem you get is fast enough and supports the right standards for compatibility with your provider and the speeds you’re paying for. The activation process can also be fiddly-to-frustrating, so bank some time for the project.

But the possible savings add up *fast*. Just take a look at your latest cable bill to see how much more cash you can keep in your pocket each month.

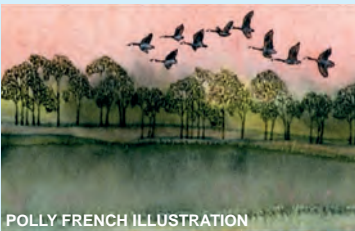
Another easy way to save is to consolidate your ever-growing service subscriptions, or convert some into one-time fees.

For example: Montague has a surprising number of photographers, thanks to the long-running Hall-

mark school. That probably means we have a lot of folks in the area subscribed to one of Adobe’s various subscription services for things like Photoshop, Lightroom, and more. With prices from \$20 to \$70 a month, you could be spending almost a thousand dollars a year to put the finishing touches on your art. I recommend those on higher-priced plans consider dropping to cheaper packages, especially if they don’t use all of Adobe’s products regularly.

And if you’re willing to spend a little time learning how to use a different set of tools, there are fantastic alternatives for the entire Adobe catalog that only have one-time fees – and some are even straight-up free. I’m a big fan of Pixelmator and Photomator, which were recently bought

see **DEVICE** page B2



WEST ALONG THE RIVER AFTER 350 YEARS, GREAT JOY AT THE RIVER’S EDGE

By DAVID BRULE

PESKEOMPSKUT – This first weekend of August, a huge gathering of several thousand people took place on the banks of the great Connecticut River.

I hope you didn’t miss it.

Three days of celebration, joy, prayers, tears, and peace helped to continue the healing, to draw further back the dark cloak that had shrouded the falls at Thunder Rocks Place, *Peske-omp-skut*.

For sure, there have been many changes here since the atrocity of May 19, 1676, when 250 elders, women, and children were massacred by men with names like Turner and Holyoke and their 150 men.

Ever since that day of carnage, white people went on about their relentless work of colonizing, building, developing, harnessing the power of the falls. But their dam drew a line through the thundering falls as if to cancel out the place of sanctuary and refuge for Indigenous peoples who gathered there continually for over 12,000 years.

Many of us forgot what happened here in our headlong pursuit of bigger and better. We all benefited from the power supplied by the dam and the canal, from the industry that sprang up. Many nowadays enjoy the privilege of speeding mindlessly on jet-skis, up and down the angry waters held back by the dam.

But the Native people did not forget. They knew something bad had happened here. They knew that people had died here in great numbers. And they knew that the spirits of those ancestors were trapped here, stuck in this place at

the hour of their greatest torment.

Tribal people have avoided this place. We are told that when Natives had to follow Route 2 past the falls, they always carried with them one of the sacred herbs, tobacco, to toss to the winds and alleviate the pain of the victims, and to alleviate their own anguish surging up when they passed here.

For sure, not many of the non-Native folks who arrived here, had families here, had children born here and died here had any idea of what happened at the falls so long ago. We forgot, if we ever really knew. I do know from personal experience that the atrocity was never mentioned in the schools here – or, when it was, it was glossed over, and the name of Turner instilled a sense of pride, being the name of the place we were from.

But there has been a Great Awakening. Bit by bit that dark cloak has been drawn back from the skies overhead, and stars have been shining through.

It’s hard to say when this all began, perhaps only a few years ago. Maybe it began when the Indigenous burial site on Canada Hill/Wissatinnewag was saved from the bulldozer and a Walmart shopping plaza. Maybe it was when the ceremonial hill on the edge of the Montague Plains was saved from destruction. Maybe it was when ceremonial stone landscapes and burial sites were saved from the desecration that would have been caused by the Kinder-Morgan pipeline project.

One thing is for sure: the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival, first celebrated 12 years ago, plays a major role in helping lift

see **WEST ALONG** page B3



Mohawk Elder Tom Porter, at last weekend’s Pocumtuck Homelands Festival.

Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

‘SADIE’

Sadie is a sweet, loyal, and playful seven-year-old coon hound mix. Sadie aims to please, and responds well to verbal and e-collar commands as well as positive reinforcement with treats. Sadie gets along well with other dogs and loves on- and off-leash walks.

She would do best with an active owner in a quiet home, as she can grow over-excited. In the past, Sadie has demonstrated guarding

tendencies but these have diminished following training.

She is spayed, microchipped, housetrained, and up to date with shots. Sadie is currently living in Holyoke. To apply to adopt her, find “Available Community Animals” under the “Adopt” menu at www.dakinhumane.org. A potential adopter must submit an application, interview and meet the pets, and sign an adoption contract.

DEVICE from page B1

by Apple, but GIMP is also a decent, free photo editor (despite its unfortunate name) that I used for years together with Darktable, and some folks I know swear by Krita for a more drawing-centric workflow.

DaVinci Resolve and OpenShot are also capable video editors, and Inkscape is fantastic for vector design. Plus, you aren’t giving your money to a company that’s more interested in the explosive growth of AI than the hard work of human art.

The same logic applies to other subscriptions. If you don’t have a 4K TV or don’t care that much about getting the very best video quality, one of Netflix’s cheaper plans may save you some money. Consider rotating your video subscriptions so you only have one or two active each month. There’s probably no need to have access to all of them at the same time, and Hulu isn’t going to toss *The Bear* in a vault for a year if you don’t see the latest season immediately.

You may not think of your phone or cable TV bills as subscriptions, but they are, and there’s savings to be had there too. For instance, you probably don’t need an HBO cable package if you pay for HBO Max. Make a note for a couple weeks of which channels you watch, and consider dropping to a cheaper tier with most of the same options. (Or consider cutting the cord entirely, though you will miss out on Montague Community Television’s local access programming.)

If you’re on a cell plan from AT&T, Verizon, or T-Mobile and you don’t have three or more lines, you’re probably being charged too much for the service you’re getting. Mobile virtual network operators

(MVNOs) such as Mint, Visible, and Cricket license service from those companies in bulk and resell it under their own name at a discount.

Some MVNOs even combine service from multiple carriers for better signal, but there are downsides, like being deprioritized in congested areas like concerts, sports venues, or dense downtown areas. That means you’ll have a “signal,” but see intermittent, slow, or no data while you’re there.

But the savings can be drastic. For an extreme example, T-Mobile charges \$100 a month for one line on its current unlimited data plan, but you can get Mint Mobile’s unlimited plan for \$15 a month if you pay for a year at a time – a savings of over a thousand dollars a year, if you can deal with the handful of disadvantages.

This is typically a gadget-centric column – when it isn’t a digital privacy column – so I’d be remiss if I didn’t point out a few ways to save when you’re upgrading hardware or picking up the Latest Hot Thing.

One piece of advice I have is never to buy a phone on launch day, unless you need to buy it through your carrier. Carrier subsidies can be substantial and short-lived, so if you want a “free” phone on contract and see a deal you like, it’s not usually worth waiting. But if you buy your phones outright – and sell the old ones on eBay or Swappa rather than taking a lower trade-in offer – you’ll see sales start at many retailers just a few months after launch, particularly for Samsung or Pixel phones.

Waiting for sales like so-called “Prime Day” or Black Friday are also good ways to get a deal, but not all of those deals are real. Lots of companies extensively plan out price hikes to make discounts seem much greater than they actually are. A service I recommend called CamelCamelCamel charts historical pricing data for Amazon listings to better indicate the true savings for a given promotion, and similar services are available for other retailers.

Relatedly: We’ve been conditioned in recent years to believe that Amazon offers the best prices and a level of convenience that’s difficult to go without. I’ve been

trying to determine whether that’s true, and I don’t think it is. I recently canceled my Prime subscription and have been doing everything I can to avoid purchasing from Amazon, and I’ve discovered that a lot of popular products on Amazon are cheaper when purchased directly from the manufacturer during sales events. You just have to wait a few more days to get them.

As someone that works in PR and marketing for some of the brands that are popular on Amazon, I should add that there have also been recent efforts to engage in “community” development. This is often as gross as it sounds, but it can work out to be a savings for you. As brands seek to engage more with their audiences and build “authority” through “authenticity,” they’re often interacting with their customers at places online where they congregate, such as brand-specific subreddits, topically related Discord servers, identity- or activity-based forums, and other places where people talk about the things they buy.

Sometimes these brands will post limited-time private deals or coupon codes in these venues to build a feeling of exclusivity and intimacy. This is a good strategy for the brands as they drive engagement and “build community,” but it’s also a good way for you to find added discounts with just a few extra searches.

My last piece of advice is probably the most obvious. You should consider, more deeply, whether you need to buy something at all. For example, you might already own something that can do the job just a little less effectively, like busting out an old laptop when your iPad breaks or pulling an old phone out of the drawer, as long as it’s still getting updates and secure and safe to use. If you have to make a purchase, you can also consider buying used. But ultimately, the biggest savings is in not spending your money in the first place.

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.



Senior Center Activities AUGUST 11 THROUGH 22

WENDELL

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. The next clinic is September 3. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments. For Senior Health Rides, contact Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

ERVING

Open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1 Care Drive. Daily snacks and coffee. Fitness room and pool table open.

Monday 8/11
9 a.m. Good for U
10 a.m. Seated Fitness
12 p.m. Pitch Cards
1 p.m. Yoga

Tuesday 8/12
9 a.m. Stretch & Balance
10 a.m. Line Dancing
11 a.m. Social Stringer

Wednesday 8/13
9 a.m. Interval Training
10 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursday 8/14
9 a.m. Barre Fusion
10 a.m. Pilates Flow

Friday 8/15
9 a.m. Quilting Open Sew

Monday 8/18
9 a.m. Good for U
10 a.m. Seated Fitness
12 p.m. Pitch Cards
1 p.m. Yoga

Tuesday 8/19
9 a.m. Stretch & Balance

10 a.m. Line Dancing
11 a.m. Social Stringer

Wednesday 8/20
9 a.m. Interval Training
10 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursday 8/21
9 a.m. Barre Fusion
10 a.m. Pilates Flow

Friday 8/22
9 a.m. Quilting Open Sew

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information, please call 863-9357.

Monday 8/11
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Potluck – *canceled*

Tuesday 8/12
9 a.m. Chair Yoga
12:30 p.m. Tech Tuesday
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 8/13
Foot Clinic by Appointment
10:45 a.m. Outdoor Yoga (weather permitting)
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 8/14
10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share (by subscription)
1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 8/15
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
2 p.m. Chair Dance

Monday 8/18

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Kitchen Club

Tuesday 8/19
9 a.m. Chair Yoga
11 a.m. Money Matters
12:30 p.m. Tech Tuesday
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 8/20
9 a.m. Veterans’ Agent
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Outdoor Yoga (weather permitting)
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
1 p.m. Mobile Food Bank
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 8/21
10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share (by subscription)
1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 8/22
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
2 p.m. Chair Dance

LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held Wednesdays at 10 a.m., hybrid, at the town hall and on Zoom. Foot care clinics are the third Tuesday of each month. The next clinic is August 19. Luncheons are the fourth Friday at town hall. For more information, contact (413) 548-1022 or coa@leverett.ma.us.

Check the town newsletter or the LeverettConnects listserv for info.

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WEST ALONG from page B1
that burden of darkness over this place, the darkness so deeply felt by Native people.

Every year now in August, we head out from the shore of the river in a procession of 50 canoes and kayaks led by traditional *mishoonash* dugouts. Songs of joy echo up and down the river, reaching the trees that have not heard songs in Nipmuck or Abenaki for 350 years. The hills, the trees, the waters recognize the words, they hear the old songs of their friends, their relations, come back once again.

Every year now, hundreds of Indigenous people come back to the falls. We come back from the East, the West, the South, the North, as Mohawk Elder Tom Porter has said. This return was prophesized by the Iroquoian Peacemaker: one day a new generation will come to help the Elders save the White Pine, the perilously faltering Tree of Peace.

We have now done that.
A young, ethereal white pine was planted for the White Roots of Peace ceremony. This tree was found on the slopes of Northfield Mountain and planted on the shore of the river.
Many of us cared for the delicate tree night and day to help her survive the stress and trauma of transplanting. Little did she know that she had been chosen to play a major part in the ceremony of renewal. We watered her, encouraging her through the drought and baking heat, and she survived for the big day.

Last Friday, Tom Porter took the unprecedented step of celebrating the Tobacco Ceremony at the foot of this young tree. He told us that he had never performed this Ceremony for The Dead outside of the Mohawk reservation. But he led us in this ceremony here on this day.

The lengthy prayer in the Mohawk language was for the victims who died here 350 years ago. But he also insisted that the prayer be said for the settlers who had also perished on that day.

That is part of the healing of this place.

All 80 of us present also shared in a symbolic meal of cornmeal, strawberries, and maple syrup mash that Tom had prepared. The simple meal was offered to the spirits of those who died near this spot.

The following two days were filled with joy, music, and dancing. Once again the great drum resounded and resonated throughout the river valley, up through the avenues and streets of the village named ironically in the honor of the man who perpetrated the massacre.

The drum’s heartbeat reached up to the hills overlooking the flood plain, reaching the eagle’s nest, up to the sentinel white pines towering over the valley, moving us all in unison to the heartbeat rhythm coming to us through deep time, renewing this spiritual place.

Indigenous people from more than 30 Nations mingled with non-tribal people, all sharing stories, asking questions, and learning from each other. All of us, knowingly or unknowingly, were putting our shoulders to press forward and upward to heave off that great burden of trauma and guilt.

We tossed our prayers and expressions of gratitude high into the heavens as Tom Porter gently exhorted us to do.

All of us, having been there on those days, learned to join together in one mind agreed, to contribute and share in the great effort to bring healing to this place:
a-HO!



SHOW REVIEW

The 2025 Coop Concerts

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – Back on June 12 I decided to go check out another Coop Concert at the Energy Park. It was the second one I went to this summer.

Jennie McAvoy, the first in the lineup, sang songs from the British Isles, Ireland, and America. One song of hers really did sound like it was out of Ireland. Her singing voice was very unique-sounding. She sang while playing a guitar, which is something I have always liked, and she did both well.

I believe one song she sang was a ballad. The crowd there appeared to agree with me when it came to her performance being good. Small Change was a three-person group made up of one guitarist, one dobro player, and one mandolin player. They played after McAvoy, and they sounded unique and like country music.

The guitarist and the mandolin player sang a song together, and when the guitarist sang he sounded like a country singer. It was what you might call different to hear, in a good

way. The mandolin player sang one song by herself and her voice was good, and then she and the dobro player sang a song together.

A few people were tapping their feet, sort of speaking to their music. It wasn’t a bad reception to their performance. They got a nice amount of applause, too. The Klines were the last to perform. They were a four-person group that consisted of a mandolin, a bass player, and two guitarists, with one on an electric guitar. They too sounded like country music when they performed. The acoustic guitarist sang a song, and her voice was good – I heard a nice depth to her singing. The other instruments kept in sync nicely.

The group got a nice amount of applause, like Small Change. I understand that people will have the chance to enjoy them again during the summer. I certainly did upon hearing them.

Coop Concerts are held Thursdays at 6 p.m. at Energy Park, and they are free. Check our Events Calendar (Pages B6 and B7) for ongoing listings.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Backpack Full of Needles; Litter Dumper; Geocache; Snapping Turtle; Unconfirmed Urine; Pilot Trapped

Monday, 7/21

3:11 p.m. Caller from Franklin Street reports he served a trespass order to a male party, which is his right as a landlord. Sheriff’s office was not involved. States male party broke the glass to the door that goes upstairs to the second floor. No answer on callback; message left. Male party called back in stating he’s not going to answer a call from an unknown number. Male called in again stating it’s not a landlord-tenant issue, because the involved male isn’t supposed to live there. States he feels the officer who called him does not understand this issue; wants another call back. Officer advises there is a rock inside that broke the window. None of the painters on scene know how or when it appeared. Caller called back in stating he needs to file a criminal complaint as officers are not responding to his requests appropriately. Officer advised caller of all options going forward; also advised an incident report would be filed, which he could request.

4:23 p.m. Caller reports that the last couple of times she’s been in town, there has been a pitbull off leash in the Fourth and Fifth Street alley. She has reached out to the animal control officer (ACO) and hasn’t heard back. Forwarded to ACO, who reports area checked, negative findings.

4:52 p.m. Caller from Franklin Street states his worker is at the property and a female believed to be someone’s cousin is there arguing with the worker; believes it’s going to get physical. Officer advises call not as reported. Situation mediated. All units clear. Caller called back stating he needs to file a criminal complaint as officers are not responding to his requests appropriately. Feels his workers did not need to be IDed on scene as it’s a violation of their race. States he received a call from his workers and they felt the officers were interrogating them instead of solving any issues, and that the situation was not different from what was reported. Officer called back and advised caller of all options going forward.

4:55 p.m. Caller from Dell Street states a male who appears to be on drugs is walking door to door. Officers unable to locate; will continue to check area.

5:16 a.m. 911 caller from Park Villa Drive reports hearing a loud popping noise, possibly a blown transformer, and losing power. Eversource contacted and advised.

5:17 a.m. Water department superintendent into station reporting someone has been dumping cat litter at the access road entrance. Plate number provided. No phone number for vehicle owner in house. Sunderland PD attempted to make contact at listed address, but party does not live there.

5:18 a.m. A 51-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a default warrant

and also charged with possession of a Class A drug, subsequent offense.

9:58 p.m. Caller from I Street states a green Toyota Corolla is parked in the middle of the alley he uses to get to his house. He has spoken to an officer about it, but the car is still in the way. Officer advised.

11:45 p.m. Shelburne Control advises the state police are currently at the Franklin County Boat Club in Gill dealing with an assault; requesting officers to location, as roughly 75 to 100 people are on scene. Units advised.

1:05 p.m. 911 caller reports a male party is starting a fight with people she is with at Unity Park. Numerous 911 calls reporting an altercation between a male and female; last caller stated they were near the baseball field. Officer spoke with involved male and sent him on his way. Other adults came forward advising the female was the aggressor; officer looking to speak with her now. Received a call from another male party stating the involved male was trying to kill him and threatening him. Caller advises he is currently hiding in the woods near a house on First Street because he is scared of the party. Officers out with female in parking lot area; she will be calling other caller to come out of the woods and speak with them. Officer advises female and her friends were advised to leave the park for the day and the other group was sent on their way as well. Will remain in area for a bit.

2:27 p.m. Caller from Montague Street reporting male party soliciting without a permit, going door to door selling pest control services. Involved vehicle with a Utah plate is currently parked on Cross Street. Officer clear; all parties have been spoken with.

2:58 p.m. Neighborhoo

3:24 p.m. Report of a female refusing to leave the Family Dollar store in Turners Falls. Officer states female trespassed from store.

6:29 p.m. Table reportedly fell from a truck and is in the road at the intersection of routes 47 and 63.

8:12 p.m. Caller believes maintenance workers are stealing her property on Franklin Street. Advised of options.

8:14 a.m. Officer checked on an abandoned truck on Bridge Street in Millers Falls. Owner located, and will remove on Thursday.

see MPD next page

Wednesday, 7/23

11:51 a.m. Caller reports he is by the water near the Discovery Center and found a backpack full of needles. Officer advised. Male dropped off bag containing drugs and paraphernalia at Town Hall.

1:47 p.m. Walk-in states that she went to her friend’s house on Franklin Street to pick up her garden tools and found the doors locked and a note on the door. States she has text messages and pictures that prove the tools are hers. Officer called involved female, who states that she is currently locked out of the area herself and when she returns home she will attempt to gain access. She will then update the PD.

6:09 p.m. Caller from Park Street states that a skunk in her yard has been in the same spot and is having trouble breathing; she thinks it might die. Message left for ACO.

6:36 a.m. Caller from Dell Street reports her four dogs got loose from the house. She is not home, but her daughter is. She believes the dogs will come back, but if someone calls, they belong to her. One black German shepherd; one brown dog; one black Pyrenees; one pitbull mix.

1:04 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street reports that a green Dodge truck with no plates has been in front of the building for two months. No tow companies currently available. Parking ticket issued.

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bottle wrapped in green painter’s tape approximately six feet up on top of the ledges at the Greenfield Road entrance to the bike path. Contents unknown. Referred to an officer.

4:48 p.m. 911 caller reporting car vs. house on Main Road in Gill. Serious injuries; vehicle smoking. Transferred to Shelburne Control.

6:54 p.m. 911 caller reports a party just stole a backpack full of things from Family Dollar and fled the store. They have cameras, and a witness is on scene. Officers looking for party. Caller reports same thing occurred last night; Cumberland Farms has a similar incident at 1 a.m. Seems to be the same person. Officer requesting Gill PD be on lookout for male party as well. Caller called back in stating camera footage is ready. Officer checking Avenue A; may have found suitcase at Peskeompskut Park. Officer has suitcase; possibly belongs to Salvation Army.

9 p.m. Caller from Vladish Avenue reports that around 7 p.m. a Prius with college kids in it sped down the road at around 60 mph. She feels they are taunting the neighborhood. No longer in area. Report taken.

10:26 p.m. Caller from Cumberland Farms reports male party who threatened him last night is standing in front of the store. Officer advises male party is detained at this time and advised of Miranda rights. Summons issued. Courtesy transport to Greenfield provided.

7:18 a.m. Wellness check requested in Montague Center for elderly neighbor. All is well, neighbor not home.

9:59 a.m. Wires down on Turners Falls Road. Comcast notified.

1:10 p.m. Report of a rabid fox at Turners Falls airport. ACO notified.

2:58 p.m. Neighborhood disturbance reported on Chestnut Lane. No answer on callback.

3:24 p.m. Report of a female refusing to leave the Family Dollar store in Turners Falls. Officer states female trespassed from store.

6:29 p.m. Table reportedly fell from a truck and is in the road at the intersection of routes 47 and 63.

8:12 p.m. Caller believes maintenance workers are stealing her property on Franklin Street. Advised of options.

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see MPD next page

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FRIDAY & SATURDAY – 4:30 TO 9:30 P.M.
CALL TO CONFIRM: (413) 423-3328

MPD from prev. pg.

9:34 a.m. Lockout at Cumberland Farms. Services rendered.

4:53 p.m. 911 hangup; two-year-old called while their father was driving on Federal Street. Father called back to say no services needed.

Wednesday, 7/30

6:10 a.m. Yelling and screaming near Eleventh Street reported. They drove off while caller was on the phone. All quiet on arrival. 12:27 p.m. Suspicious automobile reportedly parked in the middle of Turners Falls Road with cones around it, causing a hazard. Officer found car was moved out of the yard while landscaping was being done. Officer advised the homeowner they cannot park in the middle of the road; ongoing issue. 12:29 p.m. Caller, very upset about road conditions in Montague Center, states the road is torn up causing a hazard and the town is "irresponsible." Officer found that road work was being done on Turners Falls Road, with cones placed properly around it, scheduled to be paved over the next day.

6:33 p.m. Caller from Avenue A not happy with a note found taped to her door. Officer advised.

Thursday, 7/31

11:41 a.m. Caller believes illegal dumping occurred on Eighth Street. The officer found items in a free pile on the edge of someone's driveway.

Friday, 8/1

8:55 a.m. Caller states a skunk is using her mother's pool. Message left for ACO. 10:27 a.m. Walk-in at the station with a dead bat found in her house, because the health department was closed that day. Officer to bring the bat to the animal hospital to be sent out for testing. Public health director notified. 11:47 a.m. Unwanted male sleeping in a chair in front of Swanson's Fabrics. Officers moved him along. 1 p.m. Walk-in wants it on record that someone tried to open an account in his name at Franklin First Credit Union and applied for a Visa in his name at Freedom Credit Union. 1:09 p.m. Caller needs assistance with a large snapping turtle in the middle

of Montague City Road. ACO pulled up while on the phone; turtle relocated. 3:43 p.m. Caller states someone hit a racoon or cat and it's covered with a blanket on the side of Avenue A near the carwash. Second caller states it's a snapping turtle she moved to the side of the road so it wouldn't get hit. Officer found the turtle on the bike path and relocated it. 7:20 p.m. Report of a camper parked at the Farren lot for three weeks. Officer spoke to the owner, who says he will relocate soon. Saturday, 8/2 7:21 a.m. Verbal argument in Eleventh Street alley. Female locked in car with male banging on the window. Parties separated. 12:59 p.m. Caller on Eleventh Street says a black Kawasaki motorcycle has been using the Patch as a raceway, and they are nervous for the safety of children. Officer could not locate a motorcycle but will monitor the area. 3:47 p.m. Caller on Franklin Street reports that a female has been threatening and harassing upstairs tenants in the building and dumped

urine all over things in the hallway that belong to the caller and his work crew. Caller wants officers to take pictures and write a report and forward it to him so he can bring her to court for vandalism and destruction of property. Officer found workers cleaning in the hallway, but could not smell urine. Issue between homeowners at this time. 4:30 p.m. Loose dogs on Eleventh Street. Owners located, dogs brought inside. 8:26 p.m. Large bonfire on Charron Street, no burn permit recorded at that residence. TFFD responding. Sunday, 8/3 12:44 a.m. Larceny reported on Third Street. Caller states her computer and a charger for her playstation controllers are missing along with some of her medication. She reported to State Police the other day that her neighbors are stealing her stuff. Party called back to say she found the computer, but the charger is still missing. Officer advised. 2:19 a.m. Caller can hear soft tapping on her window while she was in the living room,

would like an officer to check the area. Negative findings. 11:13 a.m. 911 call from party stuck in the carwash with her Honda Pilot. Car hit machine. Company contacted; carwash owner on scene. Car removed with no apparent damage to the machine, but some cosmetic damage to the car bumper. Parties advised of options. 1:11 p.m. 911 call about a bear on a deck on Greenfield Road; resident is scared. Referred to ACO, officer advised. 7:57 p.m. Caller states he was driving with his wife and a black car was following them. At a stoplight a man got out and was talking crazy, frothing at the mouth and threatening him and his wife; said he would slap his wife. Caller says he saw him again with three people in the car and they took an alternate route home, but wanted it on record that if they showed up, he is a Marine and he could hold his own. 11:26 p.m. Officer with two males at the bandstand at Peskeompskut Park. Parties moved along.



Montague Community Television News

All Sorts

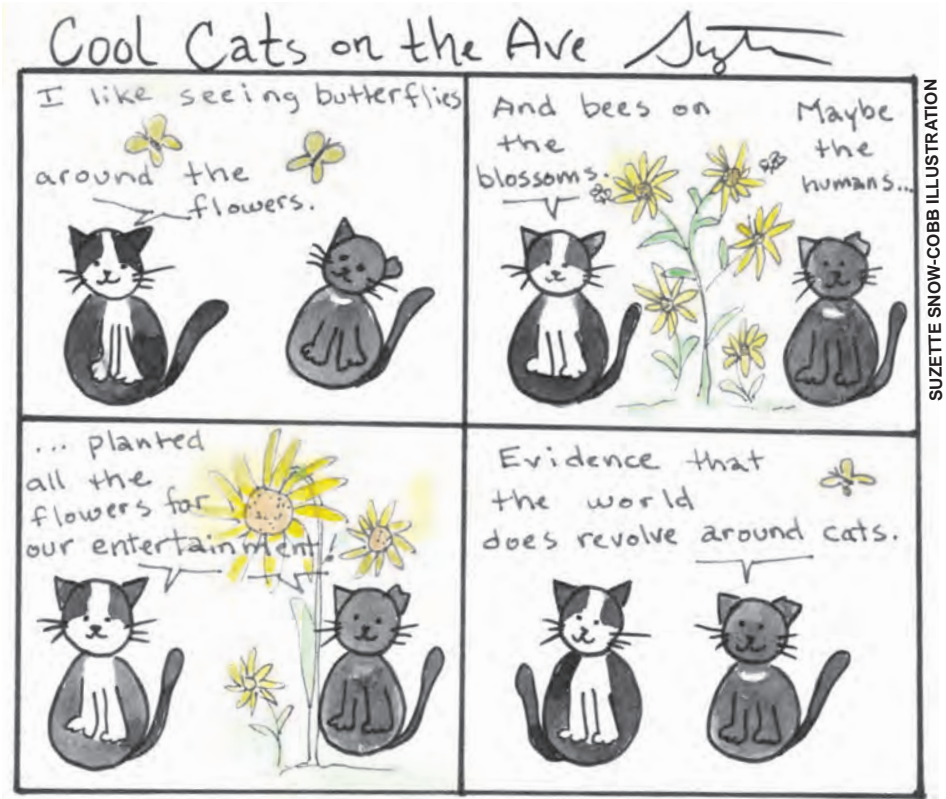
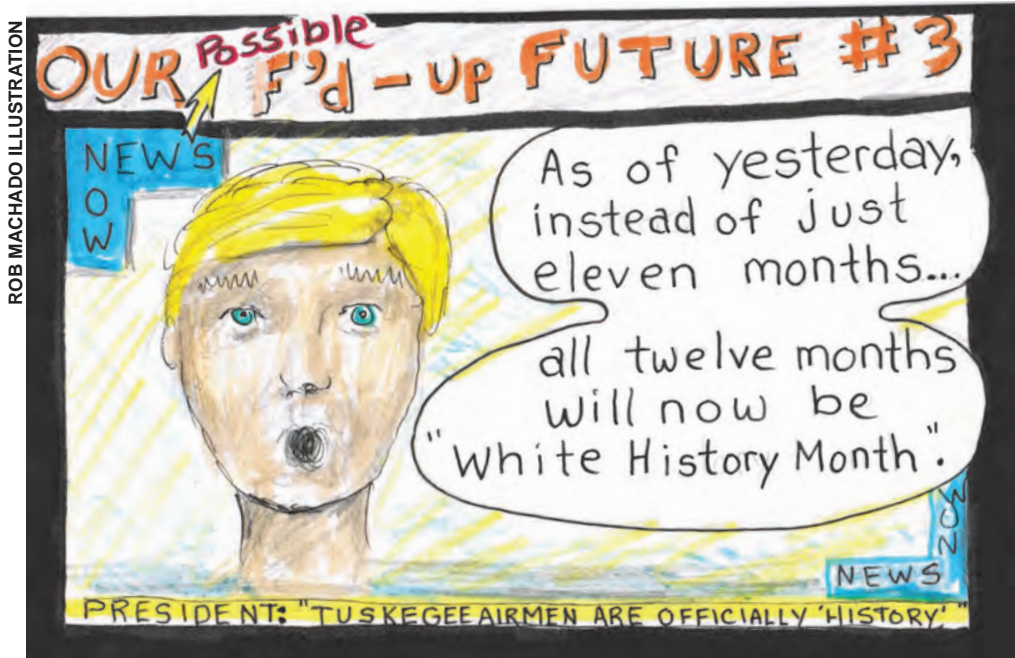
By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – What's on Channel 9? A sewer meeting, dancing Kates, and the Future of the Library are just a few of the recently updated video topics on MCTV this week!

You can also find the Jurassic Armored Mud Ball Unveiling and "Do It Now" online through our website, MontagueTV.org, by clicking the "Videos" tab.

There you will also find folders directing you to the Montague and Gill selectboard meetings, in which you will find the most recent meetings as well as all of our previous recordings.

If you would like to make a video, or if you know of an event that should be filmed, let us know. You can come by the station at 34 Second Street in Turners Falls to talk with Dean or Deirdre, Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can email us at infomontagueTV@gmail.com or even call us up at (413) 863-9200. And if you see us out there filming, say hi!



and PZZLE

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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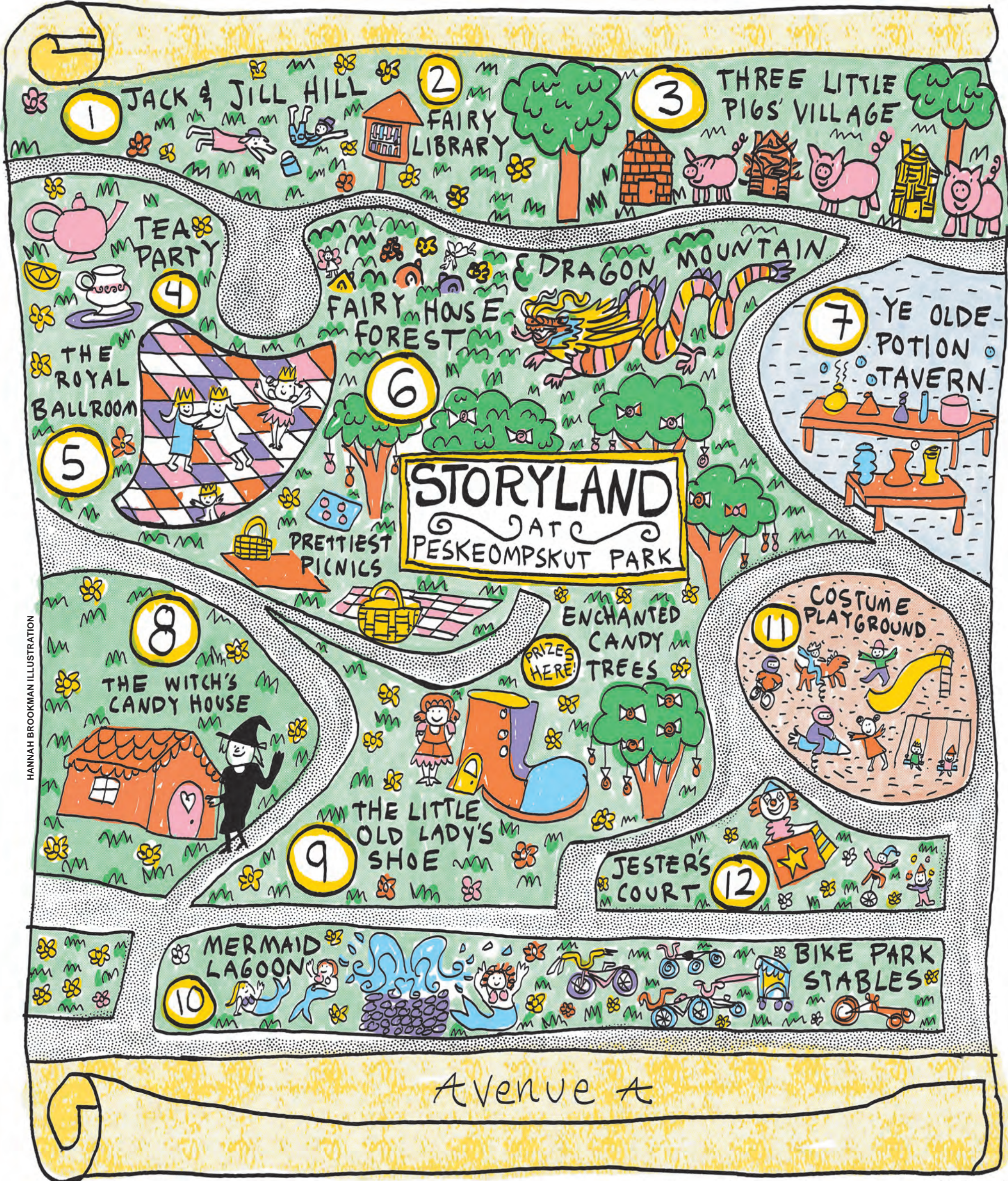
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EVENTS

submissions:
events@montaguereporter.org

THURSDAY, AUGUST 7

Carnegie Library Tent,
Turners Falls: *Bilingual
Music & Movement*. Designed
for ages 0 to 5, older siblings
welcome. 10 a.m. Free.

Millers Falls Library, Millers
Falls: *Community Resource
Assistance*, with Brick House
staff. Support with signing
up for SNAP, WIC, and other
programs. 1 to 2 p.m. Free.

Energy Park, Greenfield:
*Dust Devils, Small Change,
Jim Eagan*. 6 p.m. Free.

Black Birch Vineyard, Hatfield:
Darlingside. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Great Falls Harvest, Turners
Falls: *Bonnie, Planet Dogg,
EDT, Amateur Birders*. 7 p.m. \$.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro:
Film, *Legend* (1985), with
soundtrack by *Tangerine
Dream*, preshow music
by *Dutch Experts*. 7 p.m. \$.

Marigold, Easthampton:
*Henbane, Broken Idol
String Band*. 8 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

Peskeompskut Park,
Turners Falls: Puppet show
by *No Strings Marionettes*.
10:30 a.m. Free.

10 South Main Street,
New Salem: *Garden Tour*.
Sponsored by Village
Neighbors. 2:30 p.m. Free.

Four Phantoms Brewing,
Greenfield: *Patch Burger
Pop-Up*. 4 to 8 p.m. \$.

Brewery at Four Star Farms,
Northfield: *Rough Chop
Food Truck Pop-Up*, 4 to 8
p.m.; *Bingo*, fundraiser for the
Friends of the Library, 6 p.m. \$.

Black Birch Vineyard, Hatfield:
Deadgrass. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Great Falls Discovery Center,
Turners Falls: *Silverback
Swing*, 7 p.m. By donation.

EXHIBITS

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: The Springfield Photographic Society presents *The Towns of Franklin County*, through September 30.

Montague Center Library, Montague Center: Paintings by Millers Falls artist *Ashley Liu*, through September.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: *Alessandra Corbett*, fine art and prints inspired by life on a farm, through August. Painter *Sophie Theroux* popup exhibit on Saturday, August 23 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wendell Historical Society, Wendell: *Photo: 65 Years of Edward Judice* Art, one-day retrospective show of photographs by Judice at 10 Center Street, Wendell, this Saturday, August 9 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. during Wendell Old Home Day.

Shutesbury Athletic Club,
Shutesbury: *Golden Repair*.
7 p.m. No cover.

Look Park, Northampton:
*Hazmat Modine,
ECCE Ensemble*. 7 p.m. \$.

Hangar on the Hudson,
Troy NY: *Dropdead, Who Pays,
Demented FX, Sex Dwarf,
Life Abuse*. 7 p.m. \$.

Cold Spring Hollow,
Belchertown: *Kat Nzingha,
Bicycle Noise Creation
Machine, Oreo Cookie
Therapy, Shane Kerr,
Impure Luck, Outerbody
Barbie*. In collaboration with
the Western Mass Asylum
Support Network. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell:
Lady Pop. 8 p.m. No cover.

Marigold, Brattleboro:
*Ruby Lou, The Whip Appeal,
Elie McAfee-Hahn,
Jack Alboher*. 8 p.m. \$.

Healy Guitars, Easthampton:
*Rick Maguire (from Pile),
All Feels*. 8 p.m. \$.

MASS MoCA, North Adams:
Julio Torres. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:
Reuben Toadstool.
9:30 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

Wendell Town Common,
Wendell: *Old Home Day*.
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free.

10 Center Street, Wendell:
*PHOTO: Sixty-Five Years of
Edward Judice Art*, photo
retrospective presented
by the Wendell Historical
Society. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free.

Hager's Farm Market,
Shelburne: *Fried Dough
Pop-Up*. Maple cream; hand-
cut fries. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$.

104 Fourth Street, Turners
Falls: *Books Through Bars*
volunteer day. Read and
respond to letters from
incarcerated people. Ramp
accessible, mask req'd, drop-in
encouraged. 1 to 5 p.m. Free.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: Collages
by *Susan Dorais*, through August.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett:
Fragments of Shelter, photos, mixed
media sculpture, and works on paper
by Hannah Hartl and Benjamin Sears.
Through August, with a reception this
Friday, August 8, from 5 to 8 p.m.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Words on Art
on Words*, an evolving installation of art
and written work with an invitation to
contribute, through August.

New Salem Library, New Salem:
Jeanette Stockton, new works,
through August.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls:
Hilltown Happenings, abstract paintings
by Tuyet Linh LaFleur, and *Meet Your
Neighbors: A Celebration of New
England Wildlife*, digital art by Jeanne
Weintraub-Mason, through August 29.

Appalachian singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist Sam Gleaves plays the Mount Toby Meetinghouse this Saturday, August 9.

Carnegie Library Tent,
Turners Falls: *Flying High
Dogs*. 2 p.m. Free.

Antenna Cloud Farm, Gill:
Duo Yumeno. 2 and 6 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *2 Car
Garage*. 5 p.m. No cover.

Incandescent Brewing,
Bernardston: *Rosie Porter
Band*. 6 p.m. No cover.

Brewery at Four Star Farms,
Northfield: *Seven Mile Line*.
6 p.m. No cover.

Robertson Paper Company
Field, Bellows Falls, Vermont:
*Tony Trischka, The Stockwell
Brothers*. 6 p.m. \$.

Peskeompskut Park,
Turners Falls: *Home Body,
Wishbone Zoe*. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Montague Common Hall,
Montague Center: *Second
Saturday Open Mic*.
6:30 p.m. By donation.

Mount Toby Friends
Meetinghouse, Leverett:
Sam Gleaves. 7 p.m. \$.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro:
Double feature: *The Last
Unicorn* (1982), with live
accompaniment by *Adipocere*;
followed by the the Hungarian
animated fantasy *Son of the
White Mare* (1981). 7 p.m. \$.

Iron Horse, Northampton:
*Bonnie "Prince" Billy,
Tashi Dorji*. 7 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:
*Snowglobe Almanac,
Chris Goudreau, Brokestrung
& the Empty Promises*.
9:30 p.m. No cover.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

Erving Public Library,
Erving: *Summer Reading
Celebration*. Raffle, puzzle
swap, crafts. 1 to 3 p.m. Free.

De La Luz Courtyard,
Holyoke: *More Love Day
Rave* feat. *Captain Planet,
Underground System, DeeJay
Theory, DJ Studebaker
Hawk*. 2 to 8 p.m. \$.

Feeding Tube Records,
Florence: *PG Six,
Anthony Pasquarosa*.
4 p.m. By donation.

Academy of Music,
Northampton: *Mary
Chapin Carpenter,
Brandy Clark*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

Darlings, Easthampton:
Saliba, Dollflower. 7 p.m. \$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Thor &
Friends, More Eaze, Sister
Xmas, Lumber Rob*. 7 p.m. \$.

Midnight's, Brattleboro:
*This Could Be It, Idiot
Savant*. 8 p.m. \$.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12

Tree House Brewing,
Deerfield: *The Dead South,
The Sadies*. 7 p.m. \$.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls:
Summer Dreaming, group show by
members, through August.

Gallery A3, Amherst:
Tenth Annual Juried Show, works by 37
artists on the theme of "United We Stand:
Art for Divisive Times," through August.

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Wistariahurst Museum, Holyoke:
Identity in Ink: The Art of Tattooing:
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quality images with title, date, medium,
and size. Tattooed skin, designs, flash,
and process photos accepted. Sensitive
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not shown, and no logos or watermarks.
Include an artist statement (300 words)
and bio (150 words) in one PDF, and send
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CALENDAR

Daily Op, Easthampton:
Talib Kweli. 7 p.m. \$.

Midnight's, Brattleboro:
internetdrugs, *Stresselbee*,
Spoken Nerd, *Sleepy Spectre*. 8 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13

Tourists, North Adams:
Thor & Friends, *More Eaze*. 7 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:
Falltown String Band.
8:30 p.m. No cover.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

Great Falls Discovery Center,
Turners Falls: *Nice & Easy Walk*. 10 a.m. Free.

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Austin & Elliott*, *The Frost Heaves*
and *HaLeS*. 6 p.m. Free.

Brewery at Four Star Farms,
Northfield: *Silverback Swing*. 6 p.m. No cover.

Brewster Court, Northampton:
Gold Dust. 6 p.m. Free.

LAVA Center, Greenfield:
Film night with local directors
Abhi Indrekar and *Brooklyn Demme*. 6:30 p.m. By donation.

Greenfield Records:
Bhob Rainey & Vic Rawlings,
Milk of Mustard Seed.
7 p.m. By donation.

Sulis Studio, Florence: *Jetties*,
Norma Dream, *Thank You Thank You*. 7 p.m. No cover.

The Hoff, Holyoke:
Space Camp, *Fruit LoOps*,
Landowner. 7 p.m. \$.

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *Film & Gender*, *Model Daughter*,
Dinos, *Dialog Talk*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:
Zane Provost. 9 p.m. No cover.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15

Brick House Community
Resource Center, Turners Falls:
Backpack and School Supply Distribution. For families with
kids in K-12. 4 to 7 p.m. Free.

Element Brewing, Millers
Falls: *David Brule & His Irish Band*. 6 p.m. No cover.

Shutesbury Athletic Club,
Shutesbury: *The Equalites*.
7 p.m. No cover.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners
Falls: Movie, *Indiana Jones & the Temple of Doom*
(1984). 7:45 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell:
Adam S.Z. & The Inner Fiyah.
8 p.m. No cover.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:
Couchboy, *McAsh*, *bearchild*.
9:30 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

Montague Center Common:
Montague Mug Race, 2- and
5.5-mile road race. Register
at tinyurl.com/montague-mug-race. 8:30 a.m. \$.

Great Falls Discovery Center,
Turners Falls: *Art Naturally: Source to Sea Mosaics*.
Create art from tile, pebbles,
marble and glue; materials
provided. Ages 6 and older;
children must bring an
adult. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners
Falls: *Fairy House Day on Avenue A*. Bike parade
from Loot, 2 p.m.; picnic
and butterfly release, 3 p.m.,
Storyland Ball, 4 p.m. Free.

Four Phantoms Brewing,
Greenfield: *Patch Burger Pop-Up*. 4 to 8 p.m. \$.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19

Greenfield Public Library,
Greenfield: *Mending Clinic*.
Register at librarian@greenfieldpubliclibrary.org,
or drop in. 2 p.m. Free.

Antenna Cloud Farm, Gill:
Christopher Dylan Herbert,
Chris Reynolds. 6 p.m. \$.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell:
Stone Circle Concert,
The Faux Paws. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Last Ditch, Greenfield:
Hover, *Eliot Papadakos*,
Julia Mark. Benefit for
Umm Al-Khair. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Farm Table, Bernardston:
Kids' Neon Dance Party.
Dance under blacklights!
Cash only. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro:
Film, *Black Moon* (1975),
with live score by
Neonach. 7 p.m. \$.

Iron Horse, Northampton:
The Gaslight Tinkers. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls:
Heartwood Trio presents The Well Tree. Three-person
musical illustrated by a
crankie. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Academy of Music,
Northampton: *The Basement Tapes: Songs of Bob Dylan and the Band*, featuring
Lisa Bastoni, *Cloudbelly*,
Tracy Gammer, *Lonesome Brothers*, *Sandy Bailey*,
more. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:
Jeff Unfortunately.
9:30 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

Franklin County Technical
School, Turners Falls:
Soccer Shoot. Children
and teens 7 to 15 welcome;
age verification required.
Sponsored by the
Montague Elks Lodge.
Registration at 9 a.m.,
shoot at 10 a.m. Free.

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary,
Easthampton: *Arcadia Folk Festival* feat. *Josh Ritter & The Royal City Band*, *Amy Helm*, *Steve Poltz*, *Cloudbelly*,
more. 10:30 a.m. \$.

Four Phantoms Brewing,
Greenfield: *Original Cowards*, *Brandee Simone*.
6 p.m. No cover.

Greenfield Town Common:
Harvest Supper, hosted
by Stone Soup Café.
4 to 7:30 p.m. By donation.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro:
Mirah, *Footings*,
Mimi Fang. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Iris Dement*, *Anna Egge*. 8 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

Trinitarian Congregational
Church, Northfield:
The Power of Place: Reflections of a Teacher on the Holocaust, presented
by Bement School history
department chair Meg
O'Brien. 2 p.m. Free.

Peskeompskut Park,
Turners Falls: *Wes Brown and Friends*. 3 p.m. Free.

Four Phantoms Brewing,
Greenfield: *Couple of Wanderers*. 4 p.m. No cover.

Feeding Tube Records,
Florence: *Spectre Folk*,
more TBA. 4 p.m. By donation.

Shea Theater, Turners
Falls: *Eddie 9V*. 8 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

Four Phantoms Brewing,
Greenfield: *Patch Burger Pop-Up*. 4 to 8 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20

Gill-Montague Senior Center,
Turners Falls: *Mobile Food Bank*. All welcome to receive
food. 1 to 2 p.m. Free.

61 Lakeview Road,
Shutesbury: *Origami Group*.
Register at villageneighbors.org.
4 p.m. Free.

Academy of Music,
Northampton: *Glenn Miller Orchestra*. 7 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:
Wes Brown. 8 p.m. No cover.

Hutghi's, Westfield:
Science Man, *Feminine Aggression*, *Fugue State*,
Ballers. 8 p.m. \$.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21

Great Falls Discovery Center,
Turners Falls: *Nice & Easy Walk*. 10 a.m. Free.

Energy Park, Greenfield:
Kathy Sylvester & Stephanie Marshall, *Psychedelic Farm Girls*. 6 p.m. Free.

Brewster Court, Northampton:
Ruby Lou. 6 p.m. Free.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners
Falls: *Root Fiyah*. 7 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:
Curmudgeon Bingo. 8 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst:
Romperayo, *DJ Shaki*. 8 pm. \$.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 22

Four Phantoms Brewing,
Greenfield: *Patch Burger Pop-Up*. 4 to 8 p.m. \$.

Two Brooklyn natives who enjoyed popular success and critical acclaim for debut solo LPs released in the year 2000 are coming through these parts next week: Talib Kweli (left), next Tuesday at Easthampton's Daily Op, and Mirah (right), who headlines a bill the following Saturday at Epsilon Spires in Brattleboro.

Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club, Turners Falls: *Stealing Frequencies*, bbq. 7 p.m. \$.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Home Body*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *Perra Party*, Latinx dance party feat. *Las Titis*, *DJ Harsh Noise Boyfriend*. 9 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

Erving Public Library,
Erving: Artist reception,
4 The Love of Learning Preschool. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Erving Public Library, Erving:
Craft Day with the Friends.
Limited space; call (413) 423-3348 to register. 1 p.m. Free.

Sawmill Herb Farm, Montague:
Film, *Angel of Gaza* (2024):
traditional Palestinian meal,
silent auction, community
healing circle, speakers.
Limited seating. Register at
infoapartheidfreewesternma@gmail.com. Fundraiser
for Gaza food aid. 2 p.m. \$\$

Great Falls Discovery Center,
Turners Falls: *French/Breton Jam Session*. 2:30 p.m. Free.

Feeding Tube Records,
Florence: *Ben Hersey*, *Impure Luck*. 4 p.m. By donation.

MONDAY, AUGUST 18

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield:
Toad the Wet Sprocket,
KT Tunstall, *Sixpence None The Richer*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:
Open Mic with Jim McRae.
8:30 p.m. No cover.

looking forward...

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29

Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, Montague: *RPMFest* feat. *Conan*, *Royal Thunder*, *Chained to the Bottom of the Ocean*, *Midnight*, *Duel*, more. Camping, vendors, sideshows. See www.rpmfest.org. 12 p.m. \$\$.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, Montague: *RPMFest* feat. *Ghoul*, *Lich King*, *Heavy Temple*, *Goblet*, *Slob Drop*, more. Camping, vendors, sideshows. See www.rpmfest.org. 9 a.m. \$.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 31

Great Falls Discovery Center,
Turners Falls: *Watershed History Station: Women Who Made Franklin County*.
All ages. 3 p.m. Free.

FRI-SAT, SEPTEMBER 12-13

CitySpace, Easthampton:
Queercore Fest feat. *No Man*, *Evan Greer*, *Sapien Joyride*, *Letters of Marque*, *Told Not To Worry*, *Bubble Scary*, *Soji*, *Sgraffito Kill*, *AFK*, *Film & Gender*, *I Have No Mouth*.
Full schedule TBA. \$.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Big E Court of Honor Stage, West Springfield:
Al Jardine & The Pet Sounds Band. 8 p.m. \$.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

De La Luz, Holyoke:
Mary Halvorson. 6 p.m. \$.

Daily Operation,
Easthampton:
billy woods. 7 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Winchester, NH: *Winchester Pickle Festival*. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Reprise*, Phish tribute. 8 p.m. \$.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

The Drake, Amherst:
Water From Your Eyes,
Her New Knife. 8 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Stone Church, Brattleboro:
Richard Thompson. 8 p.m. \$.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Palladium, Worcester:
Death To All, *Gorguts*,
Phobophilic. 7 p.m. \$.

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TUE-SAT 4-9

RECIPES from page B1

of greens as the basics, and avocado, chives, and blue cheese common pluses. Red wine vinaigrette is typically served alongside, so the rows of vivid ingredients remain temptingly intact until they're served rather than tossed about.

Caesar salad was also named for its inventor: Caesar Cardini, owner of a restaurant in Tijuana, Mexico. He tossed together romaine lettuce, Parmesan, olive oil, croutons, and Worcestershire, insisting that the olive oil and Parmesan be imported from his Italian homeland. In the 1940s he took out a patent on the tangy dressing, calling it Cardini's Original Caesar Dressing. Nowadays anchovies appear regularly in this salad, though Cardini said they were too strong. Today's cooks may also top it with a scatter of shrimp or a chunk of chicken or salmon to make a perfect summer main dish.

A similarly popular summer vegetable salad is *Salade Niçoise*. Cooked green beans and potatoes are often added, and tuna is a must. *Niçoise* is not the name of its cre-

ator, but of the city of its birth: Nice, in southern France.

Other main-dish salads eschew a big variety of vegetables. Spanish salads, for example, are often just beans with a vegetable or two. Then there are grain-based salads of rice, barley, quinoa, and the ever-popular pasta salads.

There's an endless variety. You need little in the way of a recipe, because you can riff on whatever interesting bits and bobs you have on hand. Sometimes the ratio of vegetables to pasta is quite tiny, so it's important to include a strongly-flavored ingredient, such as the smoked fish (or meat) in the recipe below.

In the curried chicken salad, veggies disappear almost entirely. Onions, celery, and hot peppers hide among the chicken to jazz the flavor, while fruits such as mangoes, apricots, apples, or raisins serve to add alluring sweetness. The garnishes are nuts, usually sliced almonds or chopped walnuts, and cilantro – sometimes omitted because of its odd love-it-or-hate-it flavor.



CURRIED CHICKEN AND FRUIT SALAD

For a zing to bring you back to life on a torrid day, this salad is hard to beat.

- 1/2 cup golden raisins
- 1 to 2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 tsp. finely chopped fresh ginger
- one 12-inch celery stalk, chopped
- 2 to 3 tsp. mild or medium curry powder
- 1 tsp. cumin
- about 3 Tbsp. mayonnaise
- breast and thigh meat from a roast chicken
- 1/4 tsp. powdered chili, or hot paprika
- salt to taste
- one 6-inch piece of English cucumber
- 1 mango, sliced, or 12 canned apricot halves
- 1 cup washed red grapes, plus extra for garnish
- 2 to 3 Tbsp. roughly chopped cilantro
- 1 Little Gem or Boston lettuce, or half a Romaine
- 2 to 3 Tbsp. sliced almonds, or chopped walnuts

Two hours ahead of time, put the raisins in a bowl and cover with a cup of cold water. Set aside.

In a medium frying pan, heat the oil. Add the onions and

cook over low heat for 4 to 5 minutes until they have softened. Stir in the ginger and celery and cook another 3 minutes.

Move everything to one side of the pan and add the curry powder and cumin; let them heat for about 30 seconds, then mix everything together. Tip this mixture into a large mixing bowl. Drain the raisins and stir them in, too.

Cut the chicken into bite-sized pieces. Add these to the bowl, dust with powdered chili or paprika, then stir in 3 Tbsp. of mayonnaise and salt to taste. Slice the cucumber fairly thickly, dice and add half the slices, and set the others aside for garnish.

Also add half the mango or chopped apricot pieces, and half the chopped cilantro. Cut a cup of grapes in half and add them to the mixture. Stir, then taste. Add more salt or curry powder or chili if you like, and more mayonnaise if needed to coat and combine the ingredients.

Mix well. Cover and let stand for 20 minutes, stirring once or twice so the flavors combine.

To serve, wash and dry the let-



tuce. Arrange the larger, darker leaves around a serving platter. Roughly chop the center leaves and put them in the middle of the platter. Pile the salad on top, leaving the edges of the lettuce exposed.

Garnish with the reserved cucumber slices and additional whole grapes. Scatter the remaining cilantro on top, then arrange the remaining mango or apricot slices on the surface. Finally, sprinkle with nuts.

Serves 3 to 4.

PASTA SALAD WITH GREEN BEANS AND SMOKED FISH

- 1/2 lb. green beans
- 3/4 lb. small thin pasta (angel hair broken in pieces is fine)
- 2 tsp. salt
- 3 Tbsp. chopped parsley or chives
- 6 oz. smoked fish, such as hot-smoked Pacific salmon, smoked trout, or mackerel (or substitute a can of oil-packed tuna, or chunks of smoked ham, chicken, or chorizo)
- about 12 cherry tomatoes, halved
- 4 Tbsp. grated Parmesan, plus more for serving
- grated zest of one large lemon
- freshly ground black pepper
- 2 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 4 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 tsp. dried thyme

but if necessary, cook it.)

When the pasta and beans are done, drain them and return to the empty pan. Stir in the parsley or chives, the fish or meat broken or cut into smallish pieces, and the tomatoes. Add the Parmesan and lemon zest, followed by a generous grating of black pepper.

Whisk together the lemon juice, olive oil, and thyme. Pour over the pasta mixture and toss. Serve at room temperature – not chilled, because chilling makes it stodgy. Have extra Parmesan available for sprinkling.

Serves 4.



HOPLEY PHOTOS

Trim the ends off the green beans and slice each one diagonally into 4 or 5 pieces. Bring 3 quarts of water to a boil, and add the salt and then the pasta. Stir and let cook for the time suggested on the package – usually 9 or 10 minutes.

After 4 minutes of cooking time, add the beans to the pan. While the pasta is cooking check the package of fish to see if it needs cooking before eating. (Usually it doesn't,

COBB SALAD WITH RED WINE VINAIGRETTE

- 1 head Romaine or 2 heads Little Gem lettuce
- 8 stems watercress (optional)
- 2 cups cooked chicken or turkey, cut in cubes
- 2 medium tomatoes
- 1 ripe avocado
- 3 slices cooked bacon
- 2 or 3 hard-boiled eggs
- 3 to 4 oz. crumbled Roquefort or other blue cheese
- half a red onion (optional)
- 1 Tbsp. chopped chives
- 1 to 2 Tbsp. red wine vinegar
- 5 tsp. olive oil
- 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 garlic clove, finely minced
- 1 to 2 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 1 to 2 tsp. snipped chives
- salt to taste
- 1/2 teaspoon sugar (optional)

Wash the lettuce and tear it into bite-size pieces. Arrange on a large platter. In the center, make a row of the chicken or other meat. Make a parallel row of tomatoes on one side and avocado on the other.

Now make rows of the eggs, either halved or sliced, on one side, and bacon cut in bite-size pieces on the other. Finally add the rows of the crumbled cheese and chopped onion.

(Exact quantities depend on the shape of the platter. If you are using a round platter, the rows of



ingredients are shorter, so less plentiful the further you get from the middle; on a rectangular platter the rows are equal, though you could choose to pile the cheese and onions in the corners rather than in a row.)

Scatter the chives on top.

To make the vinaigrette, put the red wine vinegar, olive oil, Worcestershire sauce, and minced garlic in a bowl. Add the mustard and whisk briskly together until it thickens. (Or make it in a lidded jar, cover, and shake.)

Add the chives and salt. Taste, and add more of anything you think is missing, including sugar if you think it will balance the acidity. Serve in a small pitcher or bowl alongside the salad.

Serves 4 to 8.

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