

The Montague Reporter

Growing Vet Practice Moves In to New Digs



ROBERTSON PHOTO

Windy Hollow's new facility on Route 47, which opened this week, was designed to resemble the smaller building it occupied across the road for 27 years.

By SARAH ROBERTSON

MONTAGUE CENTER – After spending the holiday weekend packing up and moving across the street, staff at Windy Hollow Veterinary Clinic celebrated the opening of their new building on Tuesday with flowers and balloons decorating the spacious front lobby.

The new 4,300-square-foot building on the corner of Route 47 and Fosters Road in Montague is more than three times the size of the old clinic and improves upon it with more exam rooms, a full surgical suite, x-ray machines, a small laboratory, and a larger parking lot.

“We look forward to helping a lot of animals here,” Windy Hollow’s owner, veterinarian Dr. Peg Piwonka, told the *Reporter*. “It’s an investment in the future, and the community – and we’re relying on the community to keep coming here.”

To meet the area’s growing demand for veterinary services, Windy Hollow plans to hire more staff and take on new clients in the expanded space. The clinic will continue to offer a full slate of services from vaccinations to dentistry, surgery, and preventative care.

Montague resident Anne Perkins started bringing her pets to Windy Hollow when the practice first opened in 1998. On Tuesday she visited the new facility to pick up a prescription for her 14-year-old dog Willa, who also receives acupuncture treatments at Windy Hollow for her arthritis.

“The first time she got it, she just brightened up,” Perkins told the *Reporter*. “Now she can’t wait to come inside.”

Willa’s stiff legs and jubilant demeanor corroborated Perkins’s claims.

Acupuncture and other forms of

see **VET** page A6

Short Shifts Blamed for Dump’s High Turnover

By GEORGE BRACE

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

At Leverett’s August 26 selectboard meeting, transfer station coordinator Annette Herda informed the board that she would need to close the facility over Labor Day weekend due to a staffing shortage, and sought their help in addressing hiring difficulties. The board also heard an update on the town’s new comprehensive plan, as well as a suggestion about implementing its recommendations.

At Herda’s recommendation, the board approved the hiring of a new part-time transfer station attendant. Herda, her face swollen as she recovered from a yellowjacket sting, said the weekend closure came amid a “broader, long-term concern” in retaining staff at the facility, and that she had lost four workers recently.

“We pay pretty well,” Herda said, but the shortness of the three-hour weekend shifts reduces the appeal of the job.

Board member Tom Hankinson asked if more volunteers might be recruited. Herda and selectboard chair Patricia Duffy, who works as a supervisor at the station, responded that while it couldn’t run without the help of volunteers, certain tasks such as handling money and running the compactor require paid, trained staff, and there may be legal and insurance considerations involved.

see **LEVERETT** page A7

Entirely New Zoning Type Designed for Farren Project

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE CITY – The Montague planning board has provisionally approved an entirely new type of zoning district, which it is calling “Mixed Use-Village Center,” for the land where the Farren hospital was formerly located. At its August 26 meeting, the board endorsed a lengthy set of amendments to the town’s zoning bylaws, which will go to the selectboard next Monday for review.

The zoning discussion at the meeting, held at the public safety complex and via Zoom, began with a presentation by town plan-

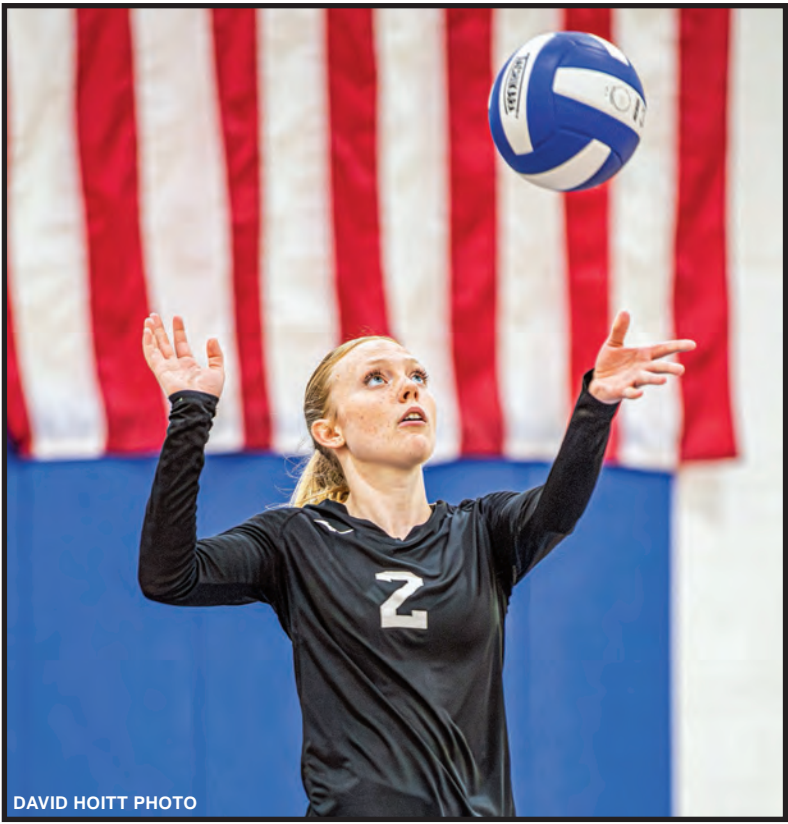
ner Maureen Pollock of the process which had led to the proposed by-law changes.

The historic hospital, by then a long-term care center, closed in 2021 and was demolished in 2023; its owner, Trinity Health Care of New England, cleared the land and granted it as a gift to the town. The planning process for redeveloping the property began in April 2023, and the town has held a series of forums to gather public input on its goals.

The current phase, updating the property’s zoning to facilitate development, began earlier this year. To oversee the rezoning, the town

see **FARREN** page A5

PLAY BALL



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners Falls libero Maddie Dietz serves during the second set of Wednesday’s season opener against the visiting Athol Bears. Dietz notched one ace, one kill, and 10 digs in the home contest, which Turners won 3-1. (See Page A7 for another shot!)

Ciesluk Protects Land, Opens ‘Snack Shack’

By BEN GAGNON

DEERFIELD – Seven years after buying the 166-acre Ciesluk Farm and one year after signing a conservation restriction that ensures it will always stay



GAGNON PHOTO

Jen Antonelli adds a basket of corn to the Ciesluk Farmstand on Routes 5 and 10 in Deerfield.

in agriculture, Mike Antonelli opened “Mike’s Snack Shack” this week next to the farm stand on Route 5, just across from Historic Deerfield and about two miles south of the Greenfield-Montague boundary.

The newly expanded Ciesluk Farm Stand is managed by Mike’s sister Jen – their mother Suzanne is the daughter of Frank Ciesluk, son of Alec Ciesluk, a Polish immigrant who started the farm on a 12-acre plot in 1920. The farm has been the main supplier of produce to Food City in Montague for 15 years, providing everything from corn to cucumbers, tomatoes, zucchini, squash, cantaloupe, cabbage, eggplant, peppers, and string beans.

“My grandfather had an incredible work ethic, always up every morning to mow or milk the cows,” said Mike. “I could see how much he loved it, and I was right there with him enjoying it as much as he was.”

Last year, Mike signed a conservation restriction on the entire farm with the Franklin Land Trust, earning \$200,000 that helped pay down the loans he took to buy the farm in 2018. The conservation restriction allows agricultural outbuildings, but no residential or commercial development.

“Farms are dropping right and left, and I wanted to keep this legacy going,” said Mike. “This is some of the best land around and to be able to still work it means a lot to me. If anything were to happen to me and I don’t have a say in it, this will still be tillable land.”

The Ciesluk Farmstand not only sells produce from the family farm, but also blueberries from Sobieski’s River Valley Farm in Whately, raspberries from Nourse Farms in Whately, apples, peaches, and apple

see **CIESLUK** page A4

Vermont School Bus Drivers Picket at Kuzmeskus HQ

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL – For three days last week – the first three days of school – 35 unionized school bus drivers in Brattleboro, Dummerston, Guilford, and Putney, Vermont found themselves locked out of the job after contract negotiations with their employer, F.M. Kuzmeskus, broke down. As the company attempted to cover the routes using replacement drivers,

the Teamsters 597 members picketed outside the schools – and at the transportation company’s local headquarters on Main Road in Gill.

“Everybody should be paying attention to what we’re going through,” a driver named Bobby, who declined to give his last name, told the *Reporter* last Wednesday. “Because they’re going to go through it. We want good health insurance for our

see **DRIVERS** page A6



JACKSON PHOTO

Members of Teamsters Local 597 came down to Gill last Wednesday.



Not Beating The Hypergraphia Allegations This Week

No Magic Bullet.....	A2	Perched at the Zenith.....	B1
Eldritch Marbles Peddled.....	A2	A Land of Nettles and Bison.....	B1
Flood Rends Earth’s Surface.....	A3	Wily Moles Evade Whacking.....	B1
Corn In Your Blood.....	A4	Tendonitis as a Teacher.....	B3
A Dark View of Dice-Rolling.....	A4	Peace Restored.....	B3
Gill Orders Grease Capture.....	A5	Tucking Cucumber Slices.....	B4
Erving Yearns for Rail.....	A5	An Encrypted Aphorism.....	B4
A Call from the Dead Zone.....	A7	A Solo Pilgrimage.....	B5
Wendell Fears Long-Buried Poisons.....	A8	Slugdust, Bongohead, and Tumbletoads.....	B6-B7

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

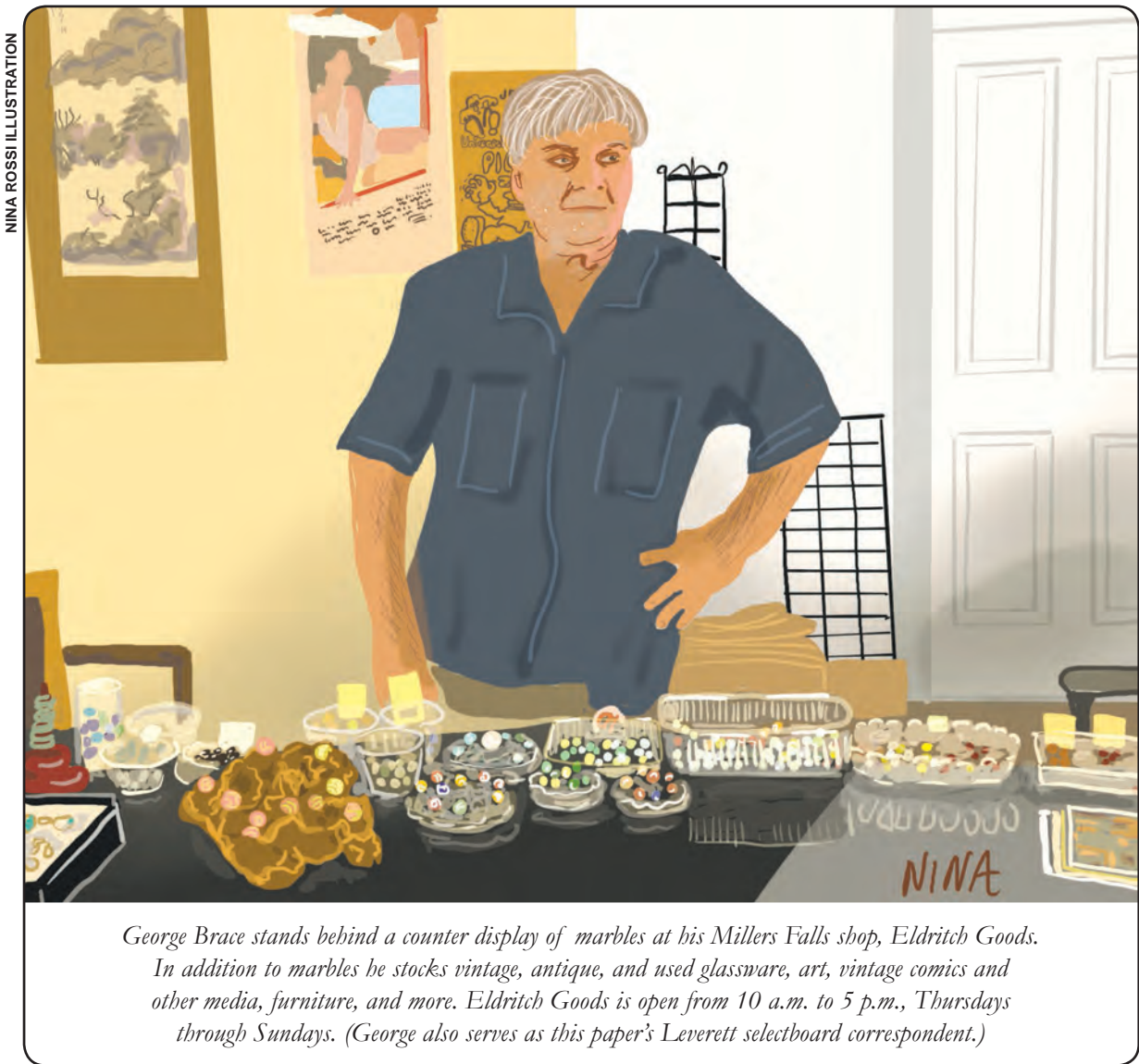
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Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August 2002



George Brace stands behind a counter display of marbles at his Millers Falls shop, Eldritch Goods. In addition to marbles he stocks vintage, antique, and used glassware, art, vintage comics and other media, furniture, and more. Eldritch Goods is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursdays through Sundays. (George also serves as this paper's Leverett selectboard correspondent.)

GUEST EDITORIAL

Deeper Discussion Of Super-District Plan Necessary

By MIKE NAUGHTON

MILLERS FALLS – Having spent four years on the Six Town Regional Planning Board (STRPB) with Greg Snedeker and Alan Genovese, I agree that merging the Gill-Montague and Pioneer Valley school districts has the potential to enrich educational and extracurricular opportunities for students and staff.

But the word “potential” is important, because enrollment alone is not a measure of a school’s quality. If it were, then Gill-Montague would be twice as good as Pioneer, and Greenfield would be better than the two of them combined. Clearly, the reality is more complicated than that, and focusing only on increased enrollment, as they did in their July 10 and August 7 columns, is only part of the picture.

Enrollment is important, but there are other factors that affect a school’s success. Therefore, the question is not whether, in general, a larger enrollment is better than a smaller one; the question is whether merging these two particular districts will give us something significantly better than what we have now. That’s a hard question to answer, because there are a lot of unknowns. But it’s the one that the STRPB will put to town meetings sometime this fall, so I think it deserves some discussion.

Along with potential benefits from increased enrollment, a number of concerns were raised during the STRPB’s investigations. Among the most common were the differing educational philosophies and cultures of the two districts, the geographic size of the new district, and whether it would be financially sustainable.

Each district is proud and protective of its history and culture. They have different educational philosophies – Gill-Montague is homogeneous, while Pioneer Valley is heterogeneous, and the elementary schools use different curricula.

The STRPB’s consultant convened two meetings with staff from both districts, one for middle school and one for high school. Each drew 10 teachers – the middle school meeting had two from

PV and eight from G-M; high school had one from PV and nine from G-M – along with a handful of administrators.

She reported that the participants saw some benefits from a merger, and some felt that the differences in educational philosophies might not be as problematic as initially feared (Mary Broderick, Ed.D., *Report on Teacher/Staff Thinking*, July 2022). I feel that the small sample size, particularly from Pioneer, cautions against giving too much weight to this finding, but it’s the only feedback the STRPB received.

As to the other concerns about district and community compatibility, there wasn’t much follow-up.

A bigger district would mean some longer bus rides. The STRPB was told the longest rides might increase by up to 20 minutes, but that no rides would be longer than one hour, and we were told that is considered acceptable. We did not discuss how a larger district with widely separated middle and high schools might affect parental involvement and participation in sports and other extra-curricular activities.

Financial sustainability is also important. The July 10 column made the case that better funding does not solve all the problems caused by low enrollment, which is true, but I think it’s unarguable that a rich district can do better than a poor district of the same size.

Merging Pioneer Valley and Gill-Montague would not create a rich district. It would likely cost about the same and be deeply in “hold harmless” status under the Chapter 70 formula, so ongoing state aid increases would be minimal. (There are efforts to address this problem in the legislature, which have had some success, but right now there is no magic bullet.)

It would also still be a small district, and if present trends continue it would have declining enrollment, so it would face similar challenges to those the districts now face – though Gill-Montague is much closer to breaking out of “hold harmless” than Pioneer. There was some concern on the STRPB that we might be just “kicking the can

CORRECTION

In our August 21 coverage of the proposal to build a new library in downtown Turners Falls (*Library Trustees Favor New Construction as Best Expansion Strategy*, Page A1), we wrote that Montague public libraries director Caitlin Kelley had said the next public meeting – next Thursday, September 11 at 6 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center – would include “a finance conversation” about the project’s cost estimate and potential tax impact.

In fact, Kelley had said that these estimates would be shared at the final public design meeting, expected in late November or early December.

We apologize for this error – including to our reporter, as this sentence was inserted by an editor!

down the road,” and also that we weren’t thinking big enough and should have included Greenfield in the study. That might have been a good idea, but our makeup (recommended by our consultants) prevented its consideration.

All this doesn’t mean that merging the two districts is a bad idea, but it does mean that focusing only on the potential benefits of increased enrollment is not presenting the whole picture. The August 7 column promised “[m]ore information and a comprehensive presentation,” and I hope that happens.

I also hope that members of the communities, particularly from the two districts, speak out and share their thoughts. If this is a good idea, it should have broad support, but so far we’ve heard very few voices, and time is getting short.

Mike Naughton served on the Montague finance committee for 17 years, and was asked to join the STRPB to look out for Montague’s financial interests. He served on that board from the beginning until June 2023.

Letters to the Editors

Littler ‘Library’ Explained

If you have recently been to 125A Avenue A in Turners Falls, where the Little Free Library (LFL) has sat for the last 15 years – wow, 15 years! – you will have noticed that there is a new red and black LFL.

Some people have expressed their dismay in losing the old funky one, but while the new one is a bit squattier than the original, and doesn’t hold quite as many books, it is well made, it doesn’t leak, its front door works and doesn’t fall off, and it will likely not be needing constant repairs, as our beloved old one did.

Thanks to Suzanne LoManto

and RiverCulture for helping us get the new LFL, and to the Montague DPW for installing it. Hopefully it will last us another 15 years.

And, please continue to bring interesting books to swap for something *you* want out of the LFL. It is there for you!

Now all we need is a lovely new “big” library, which someone called “truly the center of town, where everyone can meet everyone.” Looking forward to that!

Your LFL Librarian,

Jeri Moran
Montague

Flying Under the Radar

If you go to Avelo Airlines’ website, you’ll see colorful destination photos of beaches, palm trees, quaint cities and blue skies. What you won’t see is a detention center, despite the fact that this commercial airline has been running unmarked deportation flights for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) since last spring.

In a frank admission of the airline’s choice to put profit over human decency, Avelo CEO Andrew Levy stated “we concluded this new opportunity was too valuable not to pursue.” (*Fortune*, April 24, 2025)

When businesses elect to profit from ICE operations, they link their brand not with happy va-

cations and visits to friends and family, but with shameful human rights abuses. Airlines that market themselves as affordable and community-friendly cannot also serve as instruments of mass detention and deportation without answering to the public.

I urge journalists, public officials, and consumers to ask harder questions about Avelo’s business practices and to press them to end their contracts with ICE. We all deserve to know whether the airlines we rely on are complicit in policies that harm families and communities.

Laurie Rhoades
Montague Center

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TURNERS FALLS AND VICINITY.

Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

Time once again for the **Franklin County Fair**. Gates will open at the fairground as this paper is delivered to our office, and the kickoff parade will probably be done by the time you read this. Maybe I'll run into you in the Roundhouse?



JACKSON PHOTO

We had our final summer week off last week, so I was unable to report on what seems like a fairly catastrophic **water main break** over on First Street.

The CodeRED email from Chief Williams about the road closure reached my inbox at 8:27 a.m. on Wednesday 8/27. This obviously holds some hidden significance, so I checked *astrology.com*, which confirmed my suspicion: “If you keep seeing Angel Number 827,” the site informed me, “[y]our angels are guiding you to follow your dreams and continue with your hard work.” This was really good to hear.

In any case, it looked like it took some *extremely* hard work by a large team of workers and plenty of cones all day to deal with the break. Coming in over the bridge that evening as the sun was getting low I spotted Young’s Excavating proprietor Ed Young looking comically bored and tired and annoyed in the cab of an excavator and I thanked my guide angels that I was on vacation right then, and also that when I do work, it’s usually just at this newspaper.

The water completely wrecked the road surface, so now we have *two* notable sinkholes downtown. First Street is closed between Avenue A and L Street, but you can still get into the town hall parking lot if you come in from L. Town administrator Walter Ramsey told *Reporter* reporter Jeff Singleton this is expected to last for a month. Go take a look!

Dakin Humane Society announced last week that they had received a donation of over \$11,000 in coins removed from **Yankee Candle Village’s in-store moat**. Which is cool... I’m thinking maybe we should dig a moat?



JOE R. PARZYCH PHOTO

Our photo beat guy Joe R. Parzych went to Connecticut last month and visited the **Connecticut Trolley Museum** in Windsor, Connecticut, where he happened upon this sign that appears to read “CONWAY ST” on its front and “TURNERS FALLS” on its top.

First of all – Hey, that’s our sign! Give it back! More seriously, though, Joe asks: “Could any readers tell us what year that sign was from, and what rail station it was located at?” Any trolley buffs want to weigh in? Looking at it makes me wonder whether it might have been affixed to a streetcar and rotated to show its destination, but what line went to both Turners and Conway Station?

The **Montague Cultural Council** announced this week that its annual window is open, now through October 16, for “proposals for arts, humanities, and science programs that bring inspiration, learning, and joy to our community.” They also placed an ad about this on Page B8.

This likely means the **Gill Cultural Council** and the **Leverett Cultural Council** and the **Erving Cultural Council** and the **Wendell Cultural Council** are also taking proposals. Did you know that some people apply for funding each year from many of the local cultural councils for the same programming? It’s kind of a cottage industry.

Montague is looking to give out \$21,000 this round, so think about what you could do for the public good if you had a bit of that. Last year the awards ranged from \$200 to \$1,500, and included everything from a Millers Falls Block Party to “Hip Hop Chair Dance for Seniors.” Point your phone camera at the QR code on that Page B8 ad, and *let the funding begin!*

Speaking of culture: Over the next three Wednesday evenings, September 10, 17, and 24, the Brick House “invites the community to a hands-on celebration of the bugs” with “a series of free intergenerational puppet-building workshops.”

Not just bugs, mind you – *the* bugs. It sounds like anyone of any generation is welcome to drop in to all, some, or none of these workshops, which each runs from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. And the overall project is called **The Bug Museum**. As instigator Bella Levavi explains:

“Participants of all ages are welcome to collaborate on creating bug-inspired puppets, from butterflies and beetles to fantastical insect creatures. No experience is necessary, and all materials will be provided. The workshops will culminate in a community puppet parade on Friday, October 3, where participants can showcase their creations and celebrate together in the streets of Turners Falls.”

The *Montague Reporter* has also learned that a new original short puppet musical will be performed after the parade but maybe Bella and co. could take out an ad if they want our readers to know the title. Ah, just kidding. But maybe people could start applying for local cultural council funding so they have advertising budgets for their hyperlocal intergenerational cultural mayhem productions! Or maybe we could dig a moat?



SUBMITTED PHOTO

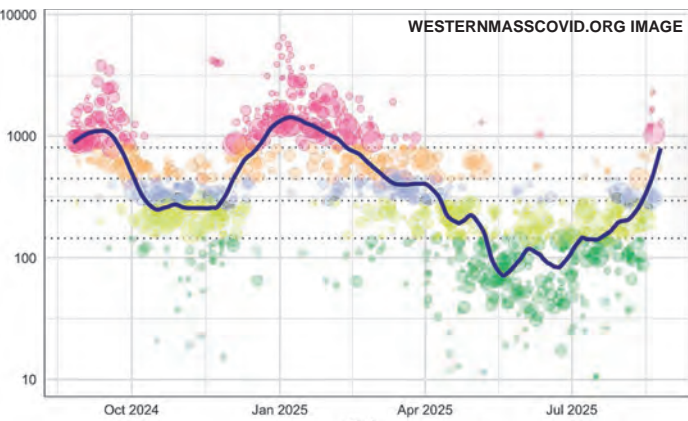
Mark your calendars even more: Besides being Batman Day, Responsible Dog Ownership Day, and National Gymnastics Day, Saturday, September 20 is also observed in these parts as **Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day**.

The Franklin County Solid Waste Management district sent us the above inspirational photo of 51 different canisters of toxic hazard, arrayed as if upon an altar to the saints – or as if they’d all been seized from hazardous-waste dealers in a fortuitous traffic stop on the interstate – and we’re printing it here to get your attention because, if you want to be responsible and turn in some of your waste hazard during the collection, you must **register for the collection by next Wednesday, September 10**. I’m pausing to make that text bold too because if you miss it, that sketchy quarter-bottle of Lime-A-Way cleaner gel is going to be with you until September 2026.

Greenfield readers are not eligible, and neither is latex paint. As with the cultural-council announcement there’s an ad on Page B8 with more info, deets, and action steps.

Besides the waste collection, **September 20** is shaping up to be one of those pathologically overscheduled days – in Turners there’s a sweet benefit show at the Brick House for the mutual aid groups headquartered on Fourth Street (see Page B7 for the listing) and also simultaneous shows at the Shea and the Harvest and the Rendezvous. At the Greenfield Community Farm, also simultaneously, Just Roots is throwing a **Hootenanny Fundraiser & Barn Dance** with an absurd pile-on of enticements (wood-fired pizza, massage therapists, hot local Cajun two-step band Les Taiauts) to raise funds for the free and discounted farmshares they provide to low-income families.

All very worthy! But, since we’re clearly heading into the colder, more social part of the year, it’s a good time to share with you a brand-new URL, www.westernmasscovid.org, which features population-weighted charts of our region’s wastewater viral data, which right now unfortunately look like this:



WESTERNMASSCOVID.ORG IMAGE



WREN WOOD PHOTO

Okay. Sorry about that. Here’s some happier news. The deadline for our first annual bulb fundraiser was this week, and it looks like a *lot* of you wonderful loyal readers ordered bulbs, so maybe we won’t have to dig that coin moat just yet. *Reporter* super-volunteer Maggie Sadoway has also been tabling relentlessly at the **Great Falls Farmers Market** this season – that’s her, above – and says she plans to continue to do so all the way through October if they keep letting her.

The market takes place Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Peskeompskut Park in Turners, and Maggie’ll be hawking our classic black *MR* t-shirts, copies of the special historical editions we ran back in 2015 and 2016, wrapping paper left over from our last several years of holiday fundraisers (we’re skipping a year on the wrapping paper, FYI), and her own fundraising innovation, woven fiberglass fire blankets. If you are not sure whether you need a woven fiberglass fire blanket in your household, go talk to Maggie. They are sadly not embossed with *Montague Reporter* branding but they very well might stop something from being on fire.

Oh, and if you missed the bulbs deadline, once they’re delivered in October we might have a few extras at the table.

Blind item #1: Sometimes an attempt to convert a conventionally-owned restaurant into a cooperative flounders for months, then years, as the owner demands a bafflingly high buy-out price! Such is the way of the world, just as tadpoles become frogs, as dragonfly nymphs withdraw from their exuvia and pump fluid into their wing veins to become dragonflies, and as shad often exhaust their fat reserves spawning and wash up dead all up and down the riverbank. *Mono no aware*.

Blind item #2: Other times, an attempt to convert a conventionally-owned restaurant into a coop... tiptoes... forward?



JACKSON PHOTO

In our last edition I shared what I felt was a “primo tip”: **the Summit Show**, a trailful of art installed at Skinner State Park in Hadley, last weekend and again this Saturday and Sunday, brainchild and curated by *Reporter* staffer Charlotte Kohlmann. I checked it out on the first day and thought it was pretty great! My favorite of all the dozens of pieces was this ceramic figure, *Effigy*, by Esther Clark.

Your mileage may vary, especially given the rain in this weekend’s forecast – oh no! And *Boston Art Review* apparently has “questions about the exhibition’s seemingly un-problemitized relationship to history.” As if we need art to remember that history is bad.

It seems sort of late, but this week the International Association of Genocide Scholars said **it’s genocide**.

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CIESLUK from page A1

cider donuts from Pine Hill Orchard in Colrain, russets and white potatoes from Smiarowski Farm in Hatfield, and watermelons from Warner Farms in Montague.

The stand also offers a variety of steak and hamburger from Ciesluk Farm’s small herd of steers – they raise about five to ten at a time – along with plants such as rudbeckia, zinnias, daisies, and hibiscus.

The new Mike’s Snack Shack will offer cold sandwiches, wraps, hot dogs, and ice cream along with existing staples such as fresh baked bread, muffins, cookies, and pies – some of which are prepared by Mike and Jen’s mother, Suzanne.

“We’re hoping the farm stand will become a one-stop shop,” said Mike. “If you’re coming by for vegetables, maybe you’ll get some ice cream too, or if you’re stopping by for a wrap, maybe you’ll pick up some corn and a steak.”

After spending 15 years working for a health insurance company, Jen Antonelli said she was happy to return to the family business in 2018, when Mike bought the property.

“I was pretty done with that,” she said. “Now I get to run my own business, I get to be outside and actually put something back into the community. You get to do something different every day. It’s nice

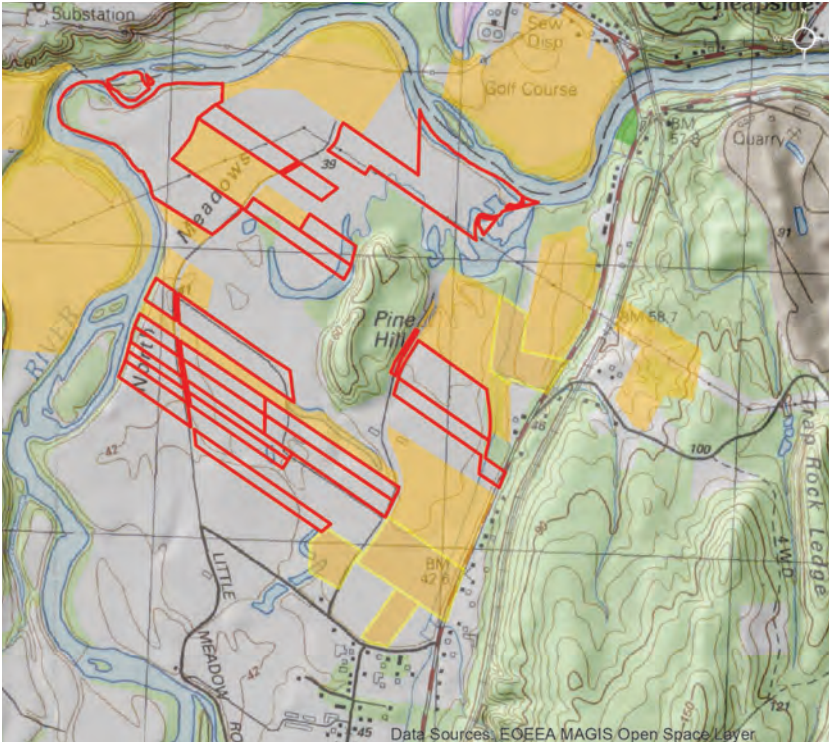
to keep your family legacy, and I feel like I’m meant to do this. If it’s in your blood, you know what’s good corn, what’s good tomatoes, what’s ready to go at the farm stand.” Ciesluk Farm not only supplies Food City and Whole Foods, but also sells to the Deerfield Inn and North Village Smokehouse in Millers Falls.

Jen recalls driving a tractor and picking radishes in the fields with her grandfather Frank.

“I learned how to shift a manual transmission when I was 10 or 12, when I could barely see above the wheel, and holding down the clutch with both feet when I could barely reach the pedals,” she said. “I remember my grandfather was a big guy, always smiling.”

Ciesluk Farm is located along the Deerfield River, including areas of floodplain in an area known as North Meadows. More than a century ago, farmland was divided into long, narrow parcels perpendicular to the river. Mike recently chose to stop raising corn on 60 acres, his westernmost holdings, because red-winged blackbirds were severely reducing the harvest; he now leases the land to Savage Farms, which grows potatoes there instead.

Alain Peteroy, deputy director of the Franklin Land Trust, was part of the effort to raise money for the



A map of the conservation restriction at Ciesluk Farm, courtesy of the Franklin Land Trust, shows how farmland was originally divided into long, narrow parcels perpendicular to the Deerfield River.

conservation restriction on Ciesluk Farm, along with the nearby Melnick Farm and Williams Farm. The properties abut Historic Deerfield, a major tourist attraction.

“Keeping all of that area in the North Meadows conserved for active farmland protects the historic character and nature of the meadows,” said Peteroy, noting that the

\$200,000 paid for the conservation restriction was relatively low because it would have been challenging to build on much of the property. “The floodplain areas are not highly developable but one never knows, so keeping the farmlands protected was well within our primary mission. We were thrilled with this project.”



AT LARGE

O, Pioneer: Kinsella Gets Her Say

By CHIP AINSWORTH

NORTHFIELD – Pioneer Valley Regional School superintendent Patricia Kinsella recently talked about the state of the high school that serves Northfield, Bernardston, Leyden, and Warwick. During a two-hour telephone interview, Kinsella spoke of enrollment growth, hiring principles, and why she believes “super-regionalizing” into one district with Gill and Montague won’t work.

“My brother sometimes sends me articles about a miraculous improvement alleged to have taken place in public education,” said Kinsella. “Ninety-nine percent of the time, it’s bunk. Improvement in public education takes time, and it’s not for the faint of heart.”

Kinsella was hired in 2021, four years after a spending spree left the district \$1 million in the red. The budget shortfall prompted the district to get a loan to pay off the debt, and caused the state Department of Education and Secondary Education to appoint an overseer.

“A double set of eyes checks our every move and acknowledges our ability to remain financially stable,” said Kinsella. “It’s state intervention the way it’s supposed to look like.”

Kinsella credited director of finance and operations Jordan Burns with creating a path to solvency, but Burns has left to work at the French International School of Philadelphia where his daughter is enrolled. “Such a tough loss for the district,” she said. “He was a key to helping the district improve its financial program.”

Burns was replaced by Taffy Bassett-Fox. “It turns out the right person was in-house,” she said, “because we developed a bench. A key player left, and we haven’t fallen apart.”

Competing for Talent

Kinsella said improved hiring practices have helped build a strong administrative team – “The best I’ve ever worked with. They understand public education is a team sport. It’s become an attractive place for teachers and administrators from other districts.”

A look online at teachers’ contracts negotiated by the unions shows that a teacher at Pioneer with a master’s degree at the top step is earning \$83,188, about \$4,000 more than in the Gill-Montague district.

In order to pay those salaries, said Kinsella, “I have to eliminate unnecessary positions and develop a great workplace culture. The number of teachers leaving has dropped, and successful administrators from other local districts are saying ‘This is where I want to be.’”

Pioneer’s Raison d’Être

A native of central Mass, Kinsella attended Dartmouth and UMass Boston and earned her master’s at Boston University. Her professional career began in Dorchester, where she worked in adult community education. She subsequently taught in the Boston Public School system, then moved to administrative roles in Brookline, Lincoln, and Canton.

“I moved to western Mass and thought I was done,” she said, “but when the Pioneer job was posted I decided I really wanted to get back into it and help the district rejuvenate.”

She focused on the nitty-gritty – “the unglamorous, unflashy, organizational effort to improve and rebuild” – and joined forces with the school committee to strategize and address declining enrollment, pay off debt, and improve campus infrastructure.

So far, so good: “A year ago we had one school choice for grade seven, and this year there are at least eight coming to us. Eighth-grade students leaving for other schools has dropped by 10 percentage points, and our ninth-grade class is the largest we’ve had in four years.”

Better yet, said Kinsella, “Winchester [New Hampshire] has reached out to establish school choice with us. We could get a few Winchester kids, with tuition payments that will approach \$19,000 a year per student.”

What’s lagging, she said, is the size of the junior and senior classes, a consequence of the aforementioned money pit. “We went through some hard financial times that impacted our programs,” she said, “and a price was paid in shrinking enrollment.”

Expanding the Curriculum

Kinsella said she wants parents who are considering where to send their children to know “Pioneer is a small, safe school – your child won’t be anonymous. We’ve got a good academic program with access to the arts, great athletics, and innovative environmental educa-

tion programs.”

In an age when parents are eschewing white-collar jobs for their children to be carpenters, welders, and plumbers, Pioneer is bringing the mountain to Muhammad.

Carpenter extraordinaire Howard Hastings is the Jimmy Carter of Northfield. He and other volunteers cleaned out the woodshop’s cluttered space and power-sanded the work bench to look exquisite.

“Everybody said re-starting a woodshop was never going to happen,” said Kinsella. “We made it happen.”

The school bought state-of-the-art equipment, including a planer, bandsaw, and lathe, and a heavy-duty sawstop with a braking mechanism that prevents kids from losing fingers.

“We believe in making investments where they matter,” she said. “Joshua Freund is an outstanding woodshop teacher. He’s had the kids build picnic tables and ‘little libraries,’ including a special design in Bernardston to honor Susan Tormanen, who was an avid reader.”

Super-Regionalization

Low enrollment has caused a move toward “super-regionalization.” Two districts would become one, and students living in Northfield, Bernardston, Leyden, and Warwick would be in the same classrooms and on the same athletic fields as those in Turners Falls and Gill.

“It’s not just a little change,” Kinsella argued. “You dismantle everything in favor of unknown policies. I don’t think it’s in the best interests of the students, family, and staff. We have a high-functioning school committee that’s allowing us to thrive. Why throw it away in favor of an untested, unknown plan? Why would residents roll the dice on this?”

A majority of voters in every town would have to vote Yes for super-regionalization to move forward.

A simpler solution, said Kinsella, would be to develop a strategic long-range plan for the district.

“The process has already begun. We are a dogged little district yielding positive results for students and families. Keep your eyes on us.”

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

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Grease Trap Enforcement Begins

By LUKE DEROY

At two minutes and thirty-three seconds, the August 25 Gill select-board meeting was a quick one. A fire department purchase was tabled for two weeks, and several announcements were made.

The Six Town Regionalization Planning Board is ramping up activity and will be holding a public forum at the Gill town hall on Monday, September 15 at 6 p.m. All residents from the six towns – Gill, Montague, Leyden, Bernardston, Northfield, and Warwick – are welcome and encouraged to come to discuss forming a new regional school district.

Saturday, September 20 is Hazardous Waste Collection Day, held at Greenfield Community College. The town’s annual Community Dance will be held at the town hall from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, September 27, and the Harvest Festival will be held on the town common the following day starting at noon.

The sewer commission meeting following the selectboard meeting was more eventful, with the board of health enforcing new regulations tightening standards regarding fats, oils, and greases going down the drains in Riverside.

Businesses in the sewer district are now required to install internal

grease interceptors. Letters of enforcement will be sent to businesses that need to make changes to support the use of grease traps, and they will have three months from the date of the order to comply.

The rate Montague charges Gill for accepting its sewage increased from \$18.00 to \$18.50 per 1,000 gallons, effective July 1.

A quote of \$26,425 for a new flow meter from R.H. White was accepted, and ARPA funds have been allocated for this cost.

The selectboard’s next regular meeting will be held Monday, September 8, and the sewer commission will meet Monday, September 22.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Church Street Bridge Repair Nears

By KATIE NOLAN

At the August 11 Erving selectboard meeting, highway supervisor Glenn McCrory reported that the town was close to soliciting bids for the Church Street Bridge replacement project. However, it still needed to secure temporary and permanent easements from abutting property owners.

The board voted to record the easements from the nine owners who were donating theirs. For two other owners, the town was waiting for appraisals for the properties.

The board voted to approve a memorandum of understanding with Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) to use up to \$4,320 from the Mass In Motion grant program for age-friendly planning.

Past age-friendly projects include installing more accessible benches near the senior and community center, supporting a wellness fair, creating blueberry bush gardens at the library, and installing bicycle repair stations at Riverfront Park and the library.

As recommended by FRCOG transportation pro-

gram manager Elizabeth Giannini, the board voted to sign a letter of support for the Northern Tier Railroad Project. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) had completed a feasibility study to examine the benefits, costs, and investments necessary to implement new passenger rail service connecting North Adams, Greenfield, and Boston.

MassDOT is now preparing an application requesting \$500,000 from the Federal Railroad Administration’s Corridor Identification and Development Program. Giannini emailed, “We want to include a flood of support letters with MassDOT’s application.”

On August 28, the board met in executive session “to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.”

The board’s next scheduled meeting is tonight, Thursday, September 4. The meeting will be broadcast by Bernardston-Northfield Community Television.

FARREN from page A1

hired Innes Land Strategies Group, a consulting firm based in Newburyport, using funds from the state Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities and the Massachusetts Housing Partnership, a public non-profit organization.

Pollock portrayed various proposals for the redevelopment of the property, as well as the zoning changes being reviewed, as the products of the public input sessions. She also credited a “working group” which includes town officials and residents, including from Montague City, that has monitored the options for the site and the rezoning proposals.

Emily Innes, a land use planner and president of the consulting firm, noted that the town had adopted a general “vision” for the property as a “dense, mixed-use hub that unites the surrounding community and unlocks new housing and economic opportunities...” The rezoning process, she said, would create “options” for the land.

“It’s about possibilities,” she said. “Basically, we’re setting the rules for what could happen.” Innes recommended that the property’s zoning be flexible enough that the town could “dispose of the land to a single developer, or divide it up and then dispose of it to multiple developers.”

At a meeting with the working group in July, the consultants decided to recommend a two-part strategy: introducing a new “base district,” which is not yet part of the town’s current zoning options, and then adding an “overlay district”

that would give the town more power to respond to unique conditions in the neighborhood.

Within the base district, Innes said, the uses that would be accepted “as of right” – requiring only a site plan review by the planning board – would include a wide range of housing options, such as two- and three-family buildings, multiplexes, and townhouses; restaurants, cafés, retail stores, “boutique hotels,” and craft and “light assembly workshops” of 2,000 square feet or less.

Uses requiring a special permit would include larger hotels, offices, restaurants, stores, and workshops, as well as parking garages. Drive-through businesses would not be allowed.

Innes then reviewed the proposed Design Overlay District, with which, she explained, “we get to add the color to the zoning.” She said the purpose of the overlay would be to facilitate the transition from a neighborhood currently dominated by single-family homes, while also encouraging open space and pedestrian activity. It would include requirements for density, open space, setbacks from the street, and parking.

One resident asked whether there had been any studies of the impact such a project on the Farren lot would have on traffic on Montague City Road. “I’m going to turn that back to the town,” Innes said. “It won’t be done for zoning, because zoning offers options, and until we know what somebody is actually going to build we don’t typically do traffic studies.”

A traffic study, she later added, might be required as part of a site plan review.

Montague City resident Sam Baker noted that neither the base nor the overlay district wording referred to single-family homes, and asked if they would be allowed in the project.

Innes said the aim was to build “two-family and up.” “There is already a great cluster of existing single-family,” she said, and the prevailing message from the public-input process was “to get a little bit more density on this – not a huge amount, but more than just single-family.”

Peter Hudyma of Montague City, who has been a critic of the higher-density proposals, asked if a portion of the Farren property could be protected from development “to assure that it remained an open space.” He said the southwest side of the lot currently features picnic tables, shade trees, and a gazebo, and that he was concerned that if the entire property were “privatized, it would no longer be a public space.”

Innes replied that the decision to either subdivide the property or negotiate an agreement with a single developer would come later in the process.

“We’d have to have a specific goal, as a board, to do what Peter wanted to do,” said planning board chair Ron Sicard. “It’s possible to do – it can happen.”

“It’s a point taken,” Pollock told Hudyma. “I don’t think this is the appropriate time to consider carving off land for a municipal park....

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MONTAGUE COUNCIL ON AGING
Administrative Assistant

The Town of Montague is seeking applications for the position of **Council on Aging Administrative Assistant**. The position provides customer service and technology assistance for older adults, assisting older adults with on-line applications and searches, administrative and clerical support to the Council on Aging director, and managing the Senior Center monthly calendar.

Responsibilities include administrative duties such as preparing weekly bill templates, payment transfers to the Treasurer, appointment scheduling, screening and directing of incoming mail, calls, and visitors to the appropriate location, publicizing meetings, programs, and information of interest to older adults through print, electronic, fliers, and other available media, maintaining files and records, preparing reports and mailings, and ordering supplies and equipment for the department as needed. Candidates for this position should have an associate degree and/or 1 to 3 years of experience in a similar role or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

This is a part-time 15 hr/week position and is part of the NAGE Union, Grade H. The starting pay rate is \$22.01/hr.

Work will take place during the Senior Center's business hours, which are Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Applicants interested in this position should send a cover letter and resume via email to Council on Aging Director Roberta Potter (councilonaging@montague-ma.gov) no later than Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

The Town of Montague is an EEO Employer.

MONTAGUE DPW

Collections System Lead Operator

The Town of Montague DPW is seeking a reliable full-time **Collections System Lead Operator**. The job requires a Class B CDL License and able to obtain an air brake and tanker endorsement within 90 days and able to obtain a hoister's license within one year. Must be able to obtain NASSCO certification within one year of hire and able to obtain Grade II Collection System License within 18 months of hire. Experience operating a sewer vac truck and robotic sewer camera strongly preferred.

The right candidate will work a 10-hour, 4-day weekly schedule and receive excellent benefits. Range of pay \$28.28 to \$36.90. Applications and a full job description are available upon request at the DPW or email: hwycompliance@montague-ma.gov.

Applications and/or resumes can be emailed to hwycompliance@montague-ma.gov or mailed or dropped off at the Montague DPW, 128 Turners Falls Road, Montague, MA 01351. Applications and/or resumes will be accepted until the position is filled.

Light Equipment Operator

The Town of Montague DPW is seeking a reliable full-time **Light Equipment Operator**. The job requires a Class B CDL License and a Hoister's License or the ability to obtain a Hoister's License. Experience is a plus in construction, road maintenance, snow removal, sanding, and all other duties assigned or in the job description.

The right candidate will work a 10-hour, 4-day weekly schedule and receive excellent benefits. Starting pay \$23.58. Applications and a full job description are available upon request at the DPW or email: hwycompliance@montague-ma.gov.

Applications and/or resumes can be emailed to hwycompliance@montague-ma.gov or mailed or dropped off at the Montague DPW, 128 Turners Falls Road, Montague, MA 01351. Applications and/or resumes will be accepted until the position is filled.

This is a premature step.”

After the public discussion was closed, planning board members asked questions and expressed opinions for approximately 20 minutes. Sicard then read a motion to recommend the zoning bylaw changes to the selectboard, “subject to technical amendments and changes based on comments from tonight’s meeting, as proposed by consultants and staff...” The board unanimously approved this.

If the proposed changes are approved by the selectboard next Monday, they will return to the planning board for another public hearing on September 23, and could be placed on the warrant for a special town meeting in October.

Pollock pointed out that though the bylaw changes would need to be approved by town meeting, the planning board would still face the decision as to whether to market the property in one piece or break it into sections, and any proposal to declare the land “surplus property” – i.e., eligible to be privatized – would need to be approved by another town meeting.

After that, the town would issue a formal Request for Proposals from developers, and any chosen proposals would still be subject to either a site plan review or an application for a special permit. For any major project on the property, she said, the town would also need to apply for state grants to upgrade infrastructure such as sewers and sidewalks, and possibly to reorient the nearby bike path.

“This is some years off,” Pollock said, “so we’re certainly not in a rush.”



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Top: Dr. Peg Piwonka, owner of Windy Hollow Veterinary Clinic.
Above: A dedicated space for lab equipment, one of the clinic's new features.
Below: One of the five examination rooms at the new facility.
Right: Longtime Windy Hollow customers Anne Perkins and Willa of Montague Center stopped in during the grand opening on Tuesday.



ROBERTSON PHOTOS

VET from page A1

traditional Chinese medicines can “augment or complement” conventional veterinary care, Piwonka said, which is why Windy Hollow offers these additional services.

“Acupuncture utilizes the body’s ability to heal in a way that modern medicine does not consider,” Piwonka said. “The integrative medical system, like Chinese medicine, looks at health and disease with a different paradigm... based on a tradition of medicine that was started thousands of years ago. It’s a way of observing and describing biology that still is very helpful in creating treatments today.”

A graduate of Cornell University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, Piwonka started working at Windy Hollow in 2010. Four years later, she purchased the practice from its founder, Dr. Amy Plavin.

Since then, she said, the number of patients the practice sees has nearly quadrupled. The COVID-19 pandemic played a factor in that surge, and business has not slowed since. “The human-animal bond is as strong as ever, I would say, for sure,” Piwonka said. “I think that people’s pets are still a big focus of their lives.”

The clinic’s “patient base” has now surpassed 2,000 pets – “mostly dogs and cats, but also rabbits, guinea pigs, ferrets, chickens, and hamsters,” according to Piwonka – but the number of annual visits for each pet has increased, from an average of 3.7 in 2014 to 6.8 last year.

Expanding the practice to meet the community’s needs became a priority for Piwonka. In 2022 she bought the property across the street from the old clinic and began designing the veterinary office of her dreams.

Wright Builders helped to design and construct a separate entrance for frightened or aggressive pets who may not want to mingle with other animals in the main lobby. Cats and dogs kept at the clinic for post-surgical care or observation will now stay in ken-

nels in separate rooms. The new building also has a break room for staff, who had formerly often eaten lunch in their cars. Once solar panels are installed on the roof, Piwonka said, it will be considered a net-zero carbon emissions building.

“It’s a big investment. I’ll be working for a while,” she said. “It’s probably the biggest thing to happen [recently] in Montague Center, building-wise.”

Piwonka’s other business, an in-home pet euthanasia service named Whispering Willow, will stay headquartered across the street in the old clinic building, next to a large red barn where chickens roost. Piwonka began the home practice about a year and a half ago with a colleague, Dr. Sharon McCutchen.

“She has a passion for helping the last hours, moments, of a pet’s life go smoothly and as best as they can,” Piwonka said of McCutchen.

Windy Hollow itself is now looking to hire a fourth full-time veterinarian to serve more clients in the expanded space, which could be a challenge.

“What’s limiting us is the shortage of veterinarians currently,” Piwonka said. “There’s just a huge deficit [between] the amount of work that’s out here and the number of people who can do it.”

It takes at least eight years of schooling, a doctorate, and often a considerable amount of debt to become a licensed veterinary doctor, and there are only about 30 such programs in the country. Veterinary work can be difficult, Piwonka said, but the support she and her colleagues receive from the community motivates her to keep going.

“It can take an emotional toll, but then, for all the difficult things that come up, I sense so much appreciation from our clients, and we get so much positive feedback,” Piwonka said. “It really goes both ways.”



DRIVERS from page A1

drivers, that’s the biggest sticking point.”

F.M. Kuzmeskus, also known as Travel Kuz, began in Franklin County as a family business in the 1920s, but was acquired in September 2022 by Beacon Mobility, a transportation-services portfolio held by two private equity firms, Northleaf Capital Partners and Audax Group.

“They’ve had an incredible reputation,” Bobby said of F.M. Kuzmeskus. “Now ten millionaires own the company.”

The three Teamsters members on the Gill picket line expressed sympathy for the local management, and concern over the safety of students on their buses. The union had voted to authorize a strike as a pressure tactic, they said, but found themselves preempted by the lockout.

Over the weekend, according to the *Brattleboro Reformer*, the company and union agreed to return to the bargaining table, and on Tuesday the drivers returned to their routes.

Local 597 business agent Curtis Clough said the drivers had “withstood” the lockout “with aplomb.”

“We hope the company will understand just how important and irreplaceable these drivers are, and will come to us with a fair contract resolution,” he told the *Reporter*.

Clough said he felt the union had a “very good” and “straightforward” relationship with the company’s longtime local owners. “The change is dramatic in the demeanor of this new company,” he said. “It’s a night-and-day difference.”

Clough added that a press release issued last Thursday by Travel Kuz, which accused the drivers picketing at the schools of “displaying obscene and aggressive behavior toward students and [replacement] drivers,” had “frayed” the relationship with the management company. The union disputed the allegations, according to the *Reformer*.

“The lockout was mostly about economics,” Clough said. “But the press release they took very personally.”

In response to a request for comment this week, the *Reporter* was emailed a written statement, attributed to “Travel Kuz Spokesperson,” by crisis management communications firm South & Hill.

“We are heartened to hear that Teamsters Local 597 is ready to come back to the table. That good-faith step allows us to lift the lockout effective immediately and welcome our drivers back,” the statement read. “There is nothing more meaningful than the bond between students and the drivers who know their names, their routines, and their stories.... We are optimistic about the path forward.”



Montague Community Television News

Back With Potpourri

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – I am delighted to announce that MCTV has a new video up by our past contributor, Joel Paxton. If you, too, are a fan of his eye for quintessential Turners Falls moments, you will be properly lulled by the charm of “Franklin County Potpourri.”

If you’re looking for some contemplative music and words, you can try the “Sunday Evening Service” video now up on our Vimeo as well. Also filmed and edited by Joel Paxton, this video documents a performance at the National Spiritual Alliance produced by Beverly Ketch.

Recent performances by Wes Brown and Friends and Root Fiyah are also up on Vimeo, and will be

playing on Channel 9. You can find a link to our Vimeo page through our website, *Montaguetv.org*, by clicking the “Videos” tab. There you will also find folders that direct you to all of our Montague and Gill select-board 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.

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LEVERETT from page A1

Duffy added that having two staff members on duty is also a safety issue.

Various ideas were discussed, including advertising the openings in the town of Shutesbury, which is also served by the facility, and at UMass Amherst, though Herda said the local nature of the job limits the search range. Changing the hours of operation was also considered, but it was noted that only opening on one weekend day might be unpopular with residents.

Herda said the work is “not rocket science,” but does require “something.”

Duffy offered that it takes “eyes everywhere” and a “certain temperament.”

Hankinson said that one benefit of the job that could be promoted is the opportunity to get to know one’s fellow residents.

Herda agreed. “It’s the center of our town in terms of people meeting each other, and I think that’s super, super important,” she said.

Comprehensive Action

Planning board member Gary Gruber gave a brief overview of Leverett’s recently completed and first-ever “comprehensive plan,” and asked the board to facilitate a meeting of representatives of all of the town’s boards and committees to look at ways to begin to implement some of its 10 pages of recommendations.

“If we hit the Powerball,” Gruber said, “we could hire full-time staff to implement all of it,” but failing this, some of the recommendations are “pipe dreams.”

The plan is the result of a lot of time and effort from volunteers and substantial grant funding, said Gruber, and it provides a “good bird’s-eye view” of Leverett’s makeup and needs, addressing topics such as environmental protection, affordability, housing, and aging in place. Still, he expressed concern that it could end up “gathering dust.”

The plan is posted on the town

website, and paper copies are available at the town hall and library. Gruber pointed out that it also includes four pages outlining various town boards’ responsibilities, and suggested that a good meeting topic might be to ask members to review how its recommendations affect their boards.

Gruber said that Leverett possesses all sorts of reports and plans, some going back many years, that not much has been done about, and he did not want to see the same thing happen to the comprehensive plan. “It’s up to us what to do with it,” he told the selectboard.

Hankinson commented that Gruber’s request was the first time anyone had come to the board and suggested something be done with the comprehensive plan, and that it was a good idea to “get the left hand talking to the right hand” and foster collaboration.

The board agreed to look into scheduling a meeting of committee representatives for late September or October.

Beyond Thunderdome

Duffy reported back from a recent meeting of the four-town working group set up to address disagreements within the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District.

She said she had learned that a financial analysis of the district’s towns – Amherst, Pelham, Leverett, and Shutesbury – had been completed by the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools, and will be presented at a meeting on September 9.

Duffy said this meeting will be “audience only,” and no questions or comments will be taken from the public. She added that a separate study by members of the towns’ finance committees, focusing on “what’s important to us” and “what variables we want considered,” was not yet ready.

Wants To Trust

During the meeting’s public comment period, resident Steve Nagy criticized the Hampshire

County Group Insurance Trust, of which Leverett is a member, on the heels of its announcement to hike premiums by 20% on October 1.

Nagy said he had researched the company’s finances on its website and found the information insufficient to explain the situation. The company was cited in the past by auditors for inadequate record-keeping, he said, and he suggested the board get answers to questions he provided to them before making any decisions on the matter.

Still, Nagy said, he would like to see if the Trust can “continue on the path that it’s been on for years, of serving the people at a reasonable rate” before the town switches providers.

Other Business

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis reported that no bids were received for printers declared as surplus. They will be brought to the transfer station.

The board awarded \$2,500 in Community Preservation Act money to the Society for Industrial Archeology to study a 4.5-acre site downstream from the 1774 Slarrow Sawmill where the Graves Ironworks once stood.

Town clerk Lisa Stratford noted that the town is still looking for a representative to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments’ cooperative inspection program, preferably someone involved in the building trade. She said she believed the group only meets three times a year.

The board signed a letter of support for the Northern Tier Passenger Rail project.

Duffy reported that the applicant previously offered the position of fire chief had declined the town’s offer due to insufficient salary.

Volunteer firefighters in attendance reported that “the fire department is not falling apart,” but that “it’s tough to do all that needs to be done.”

A discussion of next steps was postponed until the next selectboard meeting.



LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on September 3, 2015: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Police Forced to Use Land Line

The recent discovery of an Airbnb rental in Leverett gone dangerously wrong bolsters police chief Gary Billings’s case for improved cell service in the town.

A property owner, who did not meet the individual prior to renting them the home, noticed a peculiar smell and found chemicals in her home, identified by fire chief John Ingram as ones used in the manufacture of methamphetamine. Because there was no cell phone reception, Sgt. Scott Minckler had to stay in the building to use a land line while coordinating with other officers. He later said exposure to the chemicals left him feeling ill.

Another such “dead zone” affected recent efforts to find a lost child near Lake Wyola, eventually found safe. Billings acknowledged the difficulty in selling a

cell tower to Leverett residents, as some have voiced concerns about potential negative impact on property values, and negative health effects.

Water District Allows Survey

Land belonging to the Turners Falls Water Department was surveyed in late August by representatives of Kinder Morgan, to prepare an environmental impact study for a gas transmission pipeline the company proposes to build through the county.

At an August 26 meeting, the district’s water commission discussed two issues related to the proposed pipeline: a letter it will send to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission outlining its concerns with the project; and the surveying and potential use of the department’s land.

“It’s construction, not destruction,” said commissioner Kenneth Morin. “Certain things have to be done. I work in asphalt, an industry that uses a lot of gas.”

20 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on September 1, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

FCC Approves
Low-Power FM Radio

On August 3, the Federal Communications Commission notified Montague Community Cable, Inc. that they may construct a low-power 8-watt FM radio station to broadcast at 105.3 on the FM dial.

“I think it’s a great thing for Montague,” said MCCI board president Michael Muller. “It

would be great to be able to bring public access radio to town.”

Farmland Forever

This spring, as a result of combined efforts of Mark and Wendy Beaubien and the town of Montague, 18 acres of prime farmland along the Sawmill River will be permanently restricted to agricultural uses. The successful purchase and registration of the land under the Agricultural Preservation Restriction program required rapid decision-making, expert advice, and considerable patience.

150 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on September 1, 1875: News from the Turners Falls Reporter’s archive.

Turners Falls and Vicinity

The melon-colic days have come, the saddest of the year.

Miss C.L. Loveland has opened dressmaking rooms on Fifth street.

The town seems deserted since the Keith Mill has shut down. The operatives are nearly all out of town.

Mrs. Sheehan of the Patch, was relieved of a tape worm ninety feet long, Monday, through the skill of Dr. J.P. Walch.

The champion wrestler of Turners Falls succeeded in throwing the champion of Greenfield, three successive times, the other day.

A lot of urchins have a couple of drums and a number of old brass instruments, with which they go about the streets pounding

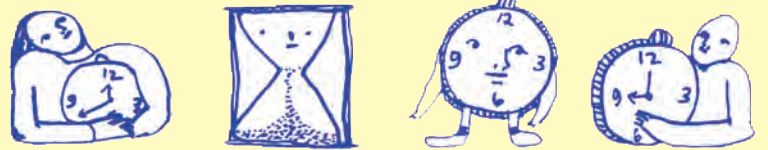
and tooting like a band of imps.

The school house at Factory Hollow is being thoroughly overhauled and repaired. They are reshingling the roof, and putting new clapboards on. The old desks have been replaced by new ones and altogether it will be as good as new when finished.

Sportsmen should be aware that the law prohibits the catching of trout between August 20 and March 20, and any one violating the statute, is liable to a fine of \$3 for every fish so taken. The killing of partridges is permitted from the first of September to the first of January, and every violation at other times is punishable with a fine of \$25.

Constable Morrison had a couple of fellows in the lock-up Monday night – for brawling.

A young lady of Riverside has just had twenty teeth extracted without the use of anesthetics.



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners Falls’s Maddie Haight sets the ball between teammates Addison Talbot (left) and Jakhia Williams (right) during the second set of the Thunder’s 3-1 win over the visiting Athol Bears on Wednesday. Haight tallied 14 assists, 10 aces, two kills, and a dig in the win.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Caring for
Someone
Experiencing
Mental Illness?

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Mental illness affects nearly one in five people, but there is no playbook given to caregivers and loved ones of people with mental illnesses.

In NAMI’s Family to Family program, families dealing with mental illness and brain disorders get both an education and a chance to share with others experiencing similar situations. This free, intensive program meets in Greenfield every Monday from 6 to 8:30 p.m. for eight weeks starting September 8. It includes basics of brain biology, problem-solving workshops, and learning to fight stigma. Guests such as a lawyer, a police officer, and a person with a mental illness will discuss crisis intervention among other issues.

Pre-registration is required. Call the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts at (413) 768-9139, Sue at (413) 422-1139, or Patti at (413) 824-9283.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Toxic Mormon Hollow Landfill May End Up on Town’s Lap

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Selectboard chair Laurie DiDonato began the Wendell selectboard’s August 27 meeting with some good financial news: the solar panels on the highway garage had generated a \$5,000 credit that Wendell can apply to any of the town’s electric bills.

After discussing electricity costs at other town buildings, board members agreed to transfer the credit to the Swift River School. The money will count toward Wendell’s next Swift River School assessment. Future credits may be applied to the library and the police station electric bills.

When Mary Thomas resigned from the planning board this summer, she also vacated her role as

clerk. There is no money allocated for a planning board clerk, but the planning board has a \$400 expense budget which may be used to pay a clerk. When \$400 is spent the town could look for more money.

Town coordinator Kelly Tyler will advertise the position, and the planning board will interview interested people. When they find someone they will offer a recommendation at a selectboard meeting.

The board appointed Joe Laur to the planning board for a term that will end on next May’s town election, in which he may run for a three-year term if he so wishes.

Negative Value

Town treasurer Carolyn Manley then brought up, without naming

the property, a tax title taking of the property at 202 Mormon Hollow Road, a former demolition debris dump. Land court is close to allowing the town to take the property for \$50,000 in unpaid taxes, but without a firm schedule.

Once land court starts proceedings, the owner has 45 days to pay the bill and reclaim ownership, and if they do not, Wendell then has 15 days to make its decision of how to deal with the property. The law requires a fair market appraisal, and Wendell then has the right of first refusal, or can offer the property at auction.

Manley said the capped landfill definitely holds asbestos, a hazardous waste. When the landfill began to slide into the Millers River, the state Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) oversaw stabilizing the slope, and assumed environmental oversight forever.

No trees are allowed on the property. Their roots can penetrate the cap and allow water to filter into the hazardous waste underneath, then leach into the groundwater and the Millers River.

Selectboard member Adam Feltman said Amherst has installed a solar field over part of a capped landfill. He asked whether a capped landfill has ever been turned into conservation-oriented open space, and wondered who would want to own one.

Newly appointed facilities manager Frank McGinn wondered if a property could have a negative assessment.

So far, Manley said, she had found no record of recent MassDEP oversight of the property, and she did not know who to contact for updates.

McGinn found the name of the MassDEP staff member who oversaw PFAS remediation at Swift River School. Manley said she would write to the department, and DiDonato offered to call that person.



Apparently in response to last month’s decision by the Friends of the Meetinghouse to move the free box, which has floated around the center of Wendell for decades, from the Meetinghouse grounds to a less visible spot by the town offices — a decision that has sparked widespread controversy — a cardboard box marked “Bougie Box” appeared this week on the town common. “Please leave only Prada, Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Versace!” it reads. “Save your trashy clothes for someone else’s backyard!”

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Tip of the week ...

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

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for money to supply paint, brushes, and scrapers for painting the senior center exterior. The amount needed is relatively small, as the sheriff’s office is offering prisoners to do the actual painting, and the money can come from either the town property upkeep account or the senior center building expense account.

The next town newsletter will include a notice that future issues will be digital, with paper copies available by request. The issue after that will be digital by default.

The board appointed Samara Sawyer as adjunct member of the finance committee.

The board discussed better communication about vacations, letting other officials know when and how long someone will be away, and if electronic communication will be possible.

Manley said she had compared state Group Insurance Commission rates with those of the Hampshire Group Insurance Trust, which Wendell subscribes to, and found little cost difference. If too many towns leave the Hampshire trust, she said, the remaining towns may be left with few viable options. The town’s liability insurer, MIIA, is not interested in taking on Wendell’s employee health insurance.

DiDonato said her thought was to stay with Hampshire, and Feltman and selectboard member Paul Doud agreed. December 1 is the deadline for full commitment.

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EVAN DICK PHOTO



WEST ALONG THE RIVER
**THE YEAR AT
HIGH TIDE**

By **DAVID BRULE**

*The sun, descending the altar
of the year, pauses ritually on
the steps of the summer months.*
— Henry Beston, from
The Outermost House

ERVINGSIDE – The high tide of summer can be both figurative, as it is in our green valley, and literal, as it is on the Atlantic shore. We’ll linger in both this month.

In the Valley, here along the west-flowing river, the season and the year have reached their zenith point in early September.

The tallest grandfather oaks will never be more towering and stately than now, the maples never more green. Joe Pye weed has flowered and has actually begun to fade, having reached its modest glory a week ago. The mauve flowers hosted hordes of nuzzling bumble bees, darting mason bees, even a few yellow jackets, prowling like tigers on the tiptop tufts.

Jewelweed, with its savory nectar favored by many winged beings, has opened bright orange to the delight of hummingbirds and bumbles. Two demure female hummers hover at the sugar water saucer placed just above the bank of jewelweed.

Each has her own style to draw in the sweet drink. One sits quietly at the plastic perch offered her, sipping in all concentrated seriousness like a child drawing through a straw at the soda shop counter. Her silly sister is just the opposite: too flighty and busy to perch, she whirrs from one portal to another while her wise sibling looks on. I would think that she uses up more energy darting from one spot to the other than that provided by a sip of the sugar water.

They both keep an eye out for their pesky brother who, acting like the cock of the walk, chases

off both females whenever he can. They’ll all be gone in two weeks, but right now it’s the high season to enjoy life before the long journey.

I have to say that by late August, the sun is taking its time in rising! I find myself wishing that it would get busy and lift the chill from this early morning air. I don’t want it to feel like autumn just yet.

Most mornings now, true to schedule, the hummers arrive, but their sugar drink needs to warm up a bit, while my morning coffee has to cool down! One of the sisters chooses first to sit on a sunny perch provided for her to warm her tiny feathers after a chill night’s sleep.

If August is the high tide of the year, then January surely has to be the low ebb tide before the cycle begins again. But soon enough, soon enough. There is time to think about that part. Put wintery thoughts out of mind for now.

I have to admit that so long ago – really only back in June – summer was full of promise and felt just right. The orioles had mated, nested, and made sure their youngsters had fledged before taking off to enjoy the rest of the season relaxing and eating. They headed out and away among the distant treetop canyons, already so long in the past.

Our bluebirds fulfilled the same cycle. Mergansers on the river floated by with their flotilla of thirteen kids, all perfect replicas of their parents. Our catbirds raised two broods in the hollybush.

The bears are now finding enough to harvest on Mineral Mountain or the Montague Plains and are leaving our back yard alone, for the time being.

In our human world, annual summer projects demand attention. The August porch painting beckons. The 1880s piazza, as the grandparents used to call it, needs a yearly touching up.

see **WEST ALONG** page B8



KEVIN BRULE PHOTO

Ring-necked plovers and a sanderling patrol the Plum Island shoreline.

BOOK REVIEW

Adam Aleksic, *Algospeak: How Social Media Is Transforming the Future of Language* (Knopf, 2025)

By **CLAIRE HOPLEY**

LEVERETT – A couple of weeks ago, *The Guardian* reported that the Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese had attacked another politician as “delulu with no solulu” – a riff on the internet meme “delulu is the solulu,” which refers to acting on unrealistic fantasies.

If *delulu* – short for “delusions” – is a new word to you, then probably so are *skibidi* and *unalived*. They’re among the myriad of words coined and used on social media. In *Algospeak* Adam Aleksic, a linguist and self-identified Etymology Nerd, explains that a major stimulus of this new vocabulary has been the rules of video sites such as TikTok and YouTube, which sideline content that breaches community standards. Aleksic shows the aftershocks of these rules rumbling through our language, altering the flow of opinion and information and influencing sentence structure, intonation, and vocabulary.

Among new social media words *skibidi* now appears in standard dic-

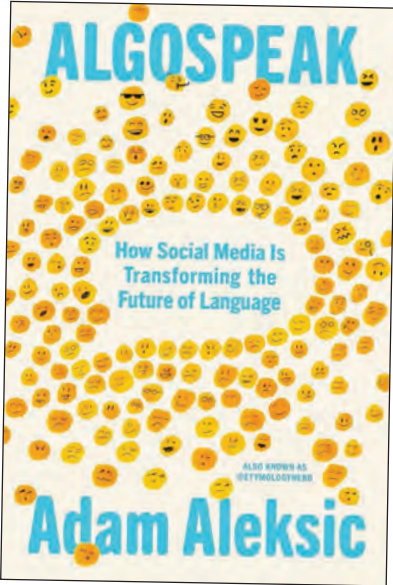
tionaries, so it’s unlikely to disappear anytime soon. Its meanings include “cool” and “bad,” but according to the Cambridge Dictionary, it can have “no real meaning,” as in: “What the skibidi are you doing?”

Unalived, another example, dates back to a 2013 episode of *Ultimate Spider-Man* and is a reference to suicide, though it didn’t become widespread until 2024, the year it

appeared on a sign in Seattle’s Museum of Pop Culture – “Kurt Cobain unalived himself at 27,” the sign reads. Aleksic says that anyone who attends or teaches in a middle school had long been familiar with it as common slang. “Just unalive yourself,” a bully taunts; essays discuss Hamlet’s thoughts on “unaliving” himself; kids suggest they all go “unalive some sandwiches.”

It’s possible that teens consciously choose *unalive* as a less frightening alternative to *kill*; this may make it easier for them to approach the difficult subject of suicide. But however the term is assessed, it’s clear that it caught on largely because social-media sites hold providers responsible for the content of their short-form videos, blocking not only political commentary but sensitive content – sexual references included.

The main blocking tool used by each site is an algorithm. Aleksic suspects that when the most prescriptive of the sites, TikTok, owned by China’s ByteDance, hit see **BOOK REVIEW** page B4



Summer fun in Lanaudiere-Mauricie, Quebec.

SOUTH DEERFIELD – I returned to Canada in June, and once again felt very welcomed by our northern neighbors despite how impolite our tariff policies have been to a 50-year ally. A year later I still had the American currency advantage, which meant that each Canadian dollar cost just 75 cents.

On this trip I had a packed itinerary that would take us from Québec City to a rural area called Mauricie, about 1.5 hours south. Here we enjoyed a spectacular mountain biking course at Saint-Raymond, with trails that all led to a fantastic waterfall in the middle of the woods.

I highly recommend the excitement and exhilaration of riding an electric mountain bike on narrow trails through the woods. What a blast!

After our vigorous ride to the falls, we relaxed in chairs at Le Roquemont Microbrewery that were immersed in a wading pool about eight inches deep. It’s hard to explain, but very comfortable in the terrific heat of June in Québec. It pairs well with the local beer, I suppose.

Our accommodations were in Mauricie, at a unique place called Le Baluchon Éco-Villégiature, a sprawling enterprise in a woodsy setting that offers six different accommodations, weddings, large banquets, a horse carriage, and trail rides. We met the horses who pulled the big wagon – Percherons, one of

see **TRAVELS** page B2



HARTSHORNE PHOTO

Trail riding at Le Baluchon, an eco-resort in Saint Paulin, Québec.

Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

‘ATHENA’

Meet Athena, a young, female, purebred Great Dane. Full grown, she will weigh between 65 and 100 pounds. According to Athena’s human parents, she is a goofy, loving, silly gal, and loves attention. Despite her size, Athena thinks she is a lap dog and likes to snuggle on the couch. She does very well playing with all types of other dogs, and enjoys socializing at the dog park. After a good romp with fellow canines, Athena is ready for downtime. She would do well in a home with a big yard.

Athena’s people describe her as “the sweetest, most loving dog.” She is good with kids, dogs, and cats. She is house-trained and current with shots. Athena is currently living in Chicopee, but she is being rehomed due to changes in her owner’s financial situation.. To apply to adopt this love bug, 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.

Senior Center Activities SEPTEMBER 8 THROUGH 12

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

Monday 9/8
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Pot Luck

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

Wednesday 9/10
Foot clinic by appointment
10:45 a.m. Outdoor Yoga (weather permitting)
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 9/11
10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share (by subscription)
1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 9/12
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
2 p.m. Chair Dance

ERVING

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

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

1 p.m. Yoga
Tuesday 9/9
9 a.m. Stretch & Balance
10 a.m. Line Dancing
11 a.m. Social Stringer
1 p.m. Garden Club

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

Thursday 9/11
9 a.m. Barre Fusion
10 a.m. Pilates Flow

Friday 9/12
9 a.m. Quilting Open Sew

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 September 16. 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.

WENDELL

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. The next clinic is October 1. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments. For Senior Health Rides, contact Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

TRAVELS from page B1

the largest breeds of horses, which would later be my steed when we took a trail ride the following day. Le Baluchon spans 1,000 acres of preserved land, including 200 acres of farmland and 40 kilometers of forest trails for hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and mountain biking. The scenic, fast-flowing Du Loup River runs through the property, offering kayaking, canoeing, or relaxation by the water. A variety of outdoor activities are available to guests, with equipment provided. The morning walk to the main lodge for breakfast was along a trail beside the roaring river, and the path was lit along the way in the evenings. Our trail ride in these forests was memorable, perhaps because the horse, named Guy, was so strong and capable that I didn’t need to do much except steer him away from eating grass.

Expansive Horizons

We left Le Baluchon on another hot, sunny morning, resuming our journey, zooming over the flat roads. Everything was wide open. This is a big part of Canada. You get a sense of this when you see the great sweep of land and the low population density, quite a contrast with Massachusetts. Québec has approximately nine people per square mile, while our state has 924. The drives provide expansive views and a horizon that goes on forever. Our lunch stop was at La Presbytère in Trois-Rivières, where you could find seal, the animal, on the menu. La Presbytère had been awarded Canada’s “Blue Fork Certification,” meaning that a high percentage of the menu was sourced locally. In addition to the seal, fish from the nearby Saint Lawrence River were also on the menu.

Another day, we stopped for lunch in the middle of a park next to a rushing river. Marcheur des Bois had a food truck and a picnic table set up for us. The company specializes in offering mushrooms, plants, and other forest edibles found in the nearby woods. The lunch included wild asparagus, stinging nettles, and wild mushroom *arancini* (rice balls) stuffed with fiddlehead ferns and pesto. The whole menu came from these woods, with an abundance of lakes... Québec has more than a million lakes. We made another interesting stop at La Terre des Bisons, a bison farm in Rawson. It is one of several ranches in Québec specializing in these giant bovines. There is a lot to learn about bison, and the first thing I was told was that they are not friendly. We were not to approach or pet them. We were taken on a ride in a special Bison-mobile, towed by a tractor, right next to where a group of

bison stood waiting for food. Babies suckled while the big ones stared us down. Later, we sampled their tender meat in a museum with many exhibits about bison life and how they are thriving in Québec. I was happy to hear about the family that runs this operation, and their interest in continuing their family tradition with a new generation of bison farmers.

A Great Escape

We continued our adventure, heading south to the more populated parts of Québec. Our destination was the city of Laval, just outside of Montréal. We took a kayaking trip at the Parc de la Rivière-des-Mille-Îles, the largest protected green space around Greater Montréal. As we paddled up to and around an island, our guides pointed out a very impressive riverside house with huge glass windows that once belonged to Québec’s most famous star, singer Celine Dion. It was one of the hottest summers on record in Québec. We soldiered on to visit a strawberry farm and take refuge in the shade, where a picnic awaited us in a gazebo. We arrived at Agneaux de Laval, where they grow many vegetables and have a kids’ farm play area, including climbing towers and many baby animals to pet.



HARTSHORNE PHOTOS

At La Terre des Bisons, in Rawlings.



Seal is what’s on the menu at La Presbytère in Trois-Rivières.

WEBSITES

Le Baluchon Eco-Villegiature
www.baluchon.com/en/
Quebec Tourism, Bonjour Quebec
www.bonjourquebec.com/fr-ca
Escaparium in Laval
www.escaparium.ca/laval

Our final activity in Laval brought us to the Escaparium, a highly ranked and very elaborate escape room in an industrial park. The themes were “Magnifico’s Circus” and “The Forgotten Cathedral.” Each production had up to eight actors and followed an elaborate two-and-a-half-hour-long plot. It did not take long before everyone in our small group was helping solve the puzzles and uncovering hidden secrets as we navigated the circus atmosphere. Escape rooms are a very fun way to spend an afternoon; you forget where you are and dive straight into the magic. Québec is so close, and there is so much to see and do there. A four-hour drive gets you to the heart of it all, and it’s all worth discovering!



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A Chance to Reflect On Accessibility

By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE CENTER – When something hurts, that’s your body sending a message to stop what you’re doing and rest. But I didn’t listen. When, during a vigorous exercise class, my hip started hurting, voices told me, *Keep going. The 90-year-old woman in the second row is doing fine. Weight-bearing exercise is important, don’t be lazy.* So I kept going, and I developed tendonitis that I now understand could take some weeks to heal. I will be visiting the physical therapist instead of returning to class.

I’m lucky that my bones are strong and I don’t need surgery, for that I am grateful, but I’m still mad at myself and puzzled by all the conflicting messages that flow from the media.

That said, I am learning a lot from the experience of being partially disabled. I can walk, but not too far without resting. Stabbing pain runs down one leg. So I limp, I hold my breath, and I walk as little as I can get away with. Swimming is still comfortable, however. If it weren’t for swimming I’d get no exercise at all, though getting in and out of my clothes and into the pool is an unattractive comedy.

This experience has led me to give some more thought to efforts to make communities more environmentally friendly with more green space, and fewer cars. So-called walkable villages that limit downtown parking look pleasant, and they might be fine for bike riders or fast-moving pedestrians, but they are not always as accessible for those with canes, crutches, or walkers, or for someone like me who simply limps along slowly.

Recently I met a friend in Amherst only to find that the distance from the parking lot to our meeting place was daunting; it might have not been possible if it weren’t for the many benches in the center where I stopped to take some rest and text my friend that I was on my way.

Most cars do stop for pedestrians in crosswalks, but they can show impatience in waiting on a slower walker, and gun their engines when it is finally time to drive on. I’ve also noticed that some traffic lights change awfully quickly.

These past two weeks have been a learning curve for someone accustomed to going wherever I want to go without hesitation; they make me want to beg our planners to consider access challenges before getting rid of in-town parking. Maybe shuttles are needed. If Massachusetts didn’t get so cold, golf carts at each end of town would be nice.

Getting a handicapped parking sticker is a lengthy and complicated process, which is probably a good thing, since otherwise ev-

eryone with a splinter would want one. At least, that’s what I thought until now. Last weekend a friend who is active in Montague Villages and in the Mass in Motion working group said she thinks everyone over 80 should get one, and I think that’s a good idea. It would make access to goods and services easier for all elders.

Elderly people without any disabilities may still struggle to walk long distances in extreme heat, cold, or rain. Making it easier for them would not only be a compassionate response to that problem – it would also be good for business. I’ve been in town wanting to visit a store or get a snack and changed my mind when it was too hard to find a parking spot near my destination; I can’t be alone in that experience.

People over 80 are more fragile than we used to be, and there are a lot of us. Keeping our needs in mind in the planning of vital downtowns and safe cities makes sense both socially and financially. People who don’t feel safe just stay home, and their social isolation can result in physical and mental health issues. The costs compound.

These past two weeks have been a learning curve for someone accustomed to going wherever I want to go without hesitation.

I’m aware that I’m not handicapped in a permanent way, and I don’t mean to pretend that I suddenly understand all the challenges disabilities present. But my recovery period has been illuminating. It reminds me of some college students long ago who questioned accessibility on their campus. They got hold of wheelchairs only to identify ramps that led to doors that were too heavy to open as well as braille signs far out of reach and more. The college fixed the problems and became a more welcoming place.

I also remember my mother, who lived in Brooklyn; she loved going into the city, but got to a point where she could no longer manage subway steps. After that the uneven sidewalks became a problem. In time, she stopped going out at all.

I expect to be back to my old self in a few weeks, but I won’t forget my gratitude for every building with a ramp, every bench where I could rest, and every driver who waited patiently for me to get my pokey self across the street. When you learn about proposals for development, consider attending the public discussions and adding your input. For vulnerable populations, quality of life is at stake.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Fists In the Air; Cow Owner Called; Town Laptop Missing; Golf Cart Driven on Sidewalk; Pee Advice; Acting Strange

Monday, 8/18

6:08 a.m. Caller reports a large piece of wood, similar to the type you use under a boat, on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge; concerned it could cause an issue. Officer advises concrete from the bridge was moved from the roadway; metal from bridge joint is exposed. MassDOT advised.

10:30 a.m. Officer flagged down on Turners Falls Road and notified about loose chickens. Animal control officer (ACO) notified. Chickens now across the street, along the woodline. 11:26 a.m. Caller from the Montague Housing Authority states a tenant is threatening to assault her; states female caused a disturbance in the office and was aggressive and threatening. Involved female at station to speak to officers. 2:05 p.m. Officer out with male party and employee from Shady Glen in regards to a trespassing issue. Parties advised how to obtain a no-trespass order.

Tuesday, 8/19

7:50 a.m. Caller from Eleventh Street reports an ongoing issue with two loose pitbulls. ACO advised. 7:57 a.m. Caller reports the bushes at J and Fifth streets are overgrown, making it difficult to see oncoming vehicles. DPW advised. 11:19 a.m. Vehicle entered overnight on Oakman Street; medication stolen. Report taken. 2:37 p.m. Report of a big gap between metal plates on Turnpike Road near Judd Wire. Officer drove through and reports no safety issues. 6:44 p.m. Caller from West Street reports a gray mastiff broke off its collar; isn’t sure if it is still on the property. Would like a call if located.

Wednesday, 8/20

5:34 p.m. Baystate Franklin Medical Center reports a Domino’s driver in the ER says he was bitten by a dog at a Chestnut Street address; wondering if the dog is vaccinated. No answer at owner’s door. BFMC updated; no contact made. Call forwarded to ACO. 10:49 p.m. Off-duty Sunderland police officer advises someone in a vehicle at the gas pumps at Cumberland Farms appears to have fallen asleep. Officer advises no impairment.

Thursday, 8/21

6:16 a.m. Caller reports a young male yelling and throwing his fists in the air in the area of Avenue A and Third Street. States nobody was around the individual, and is unsure if there may be mental health issues. Officer out with party; advises no issues.

10:43 a.m. 911 report of a car vs. bicycle accident on G Street. Gas leaking. Male party bleeding from a head

injury and complaining of chest pain. Transferred to Shelburne Control. Officer requesting Clinical & Support Options. Officer advises this was a scooter, no other vehicle was involved; a car drove by and “dumped” the scooter. Erratic behavior; patient signed a transport refusal. Sister arrived on scene and is driving party to hospital.

Friday, 8/22

10:23 a.m. Attempting to serve trespass order on Broadway. No answer at door. Female party into lobby looking to speak to an officer after PD was at her house. Served in hand. 12:09 p.m. Caller from Judd Wire reports a vehicle parked in the front lot has been running since this morning. Female operator took a nap this morning and is now ignoring caller when she knocks on the window. Contact made. Permission to leave vehicle parked there. Walking to Cumberland Farms.

2:45 p.m. Caller from Federal Street reports her neighbor’s cow is in her yard. Does not feel comfortable getting ACO involved as she doesn’t want her neighbor to get into trouble. Attempted to call cow owner; no answer. Officer states problem was resolved prior to arrival.

6:30 p.m. Party into station to speak to an officer about a blue bike stolen off her property on Bridge Street. 6:33 p.m. Caller has concerns with campers and trailers in the road at Emond and Vladish avenues, causing one-lane traffic; would like to speak to an officer.

7:27 p.m. Caller states the lights are out at the end of the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge in Gill.

7:54 p.m. 911 caller reporting motor vehicle accident with property damage on Country Club Lane. Officer requesting tow.

Saturday, 8/23

12:16 a.m. Caller from Third Street states she just got home and noticed a door on the third floor is open; believes someone tried to break in. Officer reports it appears to be just an issue with the door. 12:35 a.m. Officer out with a group of kids at Turners Falls High School; states they saw him and took off running. Kids no longer in the area. Check of property completed.

Sunday, 8/24

9:16 p.m. Caller from East Main Street would like to make a noise complaint against her upstairs neighbor; states there is stomping. Unable to make contact with other party.

Monday, 8/25

1 a.m. Caller from Eleventh Street reports a dog in the area has been barking for hours on end. Own-

er bringing dog inside.

1:47 a.m. Caller from G Street states her neighbor’s smoke alarm has been sounding for 45 minutes. No smoke or fire seen or smelled. Control advised. 2:37 a.m. Eversource advise they are clearing an area on Plains Road, and request DPW to remove a tree that is blocking traffic and a driveway. DPW advised.

11:48 a.m. East Main Street party states her upstairs neighbor has been drinking and is pounding on the window and kicking her door. Peace restored.

12:09 p.m. Another call from East Main Street about door banger. Building management to work with case worker to get situation mediated.

12:24 p.m. Report of a former town employee with a laptop that belongs to the town. Unable to locate.

12:44 p.m. Multiple calls about a fight on East Main Street. Arrested a 37-year-old Millers Falls woman on a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon.

2:49 p.m. Report of a male driving a golf cart down the sidewalk on Third Street, beeping at people to get out of the way. Unable to locate.

6:38 p.m. Sewer backup on Millers Falls Road. Referred to TFFD. 8:04 p.m. Walk-in reports her son’s e-bike was stolen while he was fishing under the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Bike located and returned to owner.

Tuesday, 8/26

3:09 p.m. Report of a male urinating on the sidewalk near Scotty’s. Officer advised male party about using the bathroom before waiting for the bus.

8:52 p.m. Neighbor at Emond and Vladish avenues called with concerns about electrical wires to their house being close to a shed that was being moved. Shed moved successfully; no need for services.

9:30 p.m. Caller from South High Street reports a male in his 50s with a backpack is in her shed, refusing to leave. Officer found male party who had relapsed. Sponsor picked him up.

10:07 p.m. Water main break on First Street by town hall. Water department notified; DPW en route.

Wednesday, 8/27

12 a.m. Report of a hydrant leaking on Third Street. Water department to check it out.

Thursday, 8/28

1:13 p.m. Call from Greenfield Savings Bank about a customer they believe is being scammed to take out a large amount of money. 2:23 p.m. Report of a stray cat in a customer’s car at Nouria. ACO notified; cat reunited with owner.

4 p.m. Mediation request-

ed between neighbors on Stone Valley Road about a fence being removed. Peace restored.

6:37 p.m. Request for assistance with removal of unwanted person on East Main Street. Gone on arrival.

Friday, 8/29

1:44 a.m. Caller requested to speak to an officer about things missing in her apartment, and legal aspects of changing the locks. Advised of options.

6:52 a.m. Burglar alarm at 253 Pharmacy. Janitor used wrong door by accident.

7:57 a.m. Large tree across the road, Mineral Road. DPW notified.

1:40 p.m. Unwanted person at Family Dollar. Referred to an officer.

10:25 p.m. Report of loose cows in the road near Senn Farm. Gone on arrival.

Saturday, 8/30

3:31 a.m. Caller reports several persons near Basically Bicycles, possibly casing the place. Officers advised.

10:01 a.m. Officer flagged down by a pedestrian on Third Street who stated people were sleeping in the laundromat. Parties moved along, no damage witnessed.

11:03 a.m. Report of a bicycle taken from an Old Greenfield Road yard near the bike path. Caller states the bike was on the side of the road, and someone might have thought it was free. Report taken.

12:47 p.m. Caller states a male with long black hair urinated on the side of a building on Avenue A. Unfounded.

2:58 p.m. Report of vandalism to a tent on East Taylor Hill Road. Caller just wants it on the record. 11:01 p.m. Caller from East Main Street states that people burn out all the time near the railroad tracks.

Sunday, 8/31

3:47 a.m. 911 call about a husband moving furniture around the house and acting strange. Officer responded and found a medical issue. Services rendered. 3:03 p.m. Report of a physical altercation between two elderly women on O Street. Officer mediated a verbal argument.

Monday, 9/1

5:02 a.m. Caller from Park Villa states she woke up to a strange male, roughly 60 to 70 years of age and wearing grey clothing, entering her bathroom. Her door was unlocked. Officers unable to locate.

9:49 a.m. Disabled truck assisted in getting out of the road to wait for a tow.

11:03 a.m. Neighbor dispute on Mormon Hollow Road. Officer advised.

7 p.m. 911 call about someone driving a lawnmower near Carroll’s Market. Unfounded.

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BOOK REVIEW from page B1

international markets its algorithm was tweaked to accommodate the less puritanical sexual standards of the West – though, since the algorithm is “shrouded in corporate secrecy,” he’s not sure. What’s certain is that this software has created a new way of speaking – the “algospeak” that gives his book its title. He argues that algospeak is shaped by social-media algorithms, and by content providers figuring ways around the barriers they have built.

The creation of words such as *unalived* and *skibidi* is just one way. In a fascinating chapter, “How to Play Linguistic Whac-a-Mole,” Aleksic describes other ways of saying what you want to say in non-triggering form. While *unalive* may stand in for *suicide*, so can certain mixes of symbols with letters, as in *SUICID3* or *SU!C!D€*. *Lesbian* was written “le\$bian,” which TikTok’s text-to-speech function translated as “le dollar bean.”

Since slang words for anything sexual are anathema to the algorithm, for a while the first four letters of Charles Dickens’s surname

made references to him unacceptable. This was possibly because swaths of human editors have been fired from TikTok; 85% of editorial work there has been automated, as *The Guardian* recently reported.

The problem of Dickens has been addressed, but users have had to be ingenious, hence the blossoming of new words. *Seggs* for *sex* switches the final sound to one similar. In using *#ss* for *ass*, a symbol steps in for a letter. A symbol used this way is called a gawlix; this is a common way to avoid no-no words. Emojis are also handy, with the twin cherries signifying breasts, the eggplant stepping in for penis. Users have had to resort to such swaps, which hark back to the pictographs from which letters evolved in the first place, even in discussing health issues.

“The more sensitive a topic is, the more it will be censored,” Aleksic concludes, “and the more we’ll find ways to talk about it.”

The effects of TikTok and other sites are felt not only on vocabulary. They also affect the rhetorical strategies of their content provid-

ers and, therefore, the experiences of their users. “Influencers are trying to create content that will linguistically or emotionally resonate with people because that creates increased interaction in a way that will be amplified by the platform and help their posts go viral,” writes Aleksic.

On-screen text therefore grabs attention with sentence openings such as “It should be illegal to X...” or “I hate more than anything when X is...” By luring readers to their posts, content producers increase their retention rate – and thus their income. So fine-tuned have their efforts become that whereas Taylor Swift used to blink before getting started on her videos, such a luxury is now unaffordable because producers must grab every second of viewers’ attention.

Their methods include opening sentences that aren’t just tantalizing, but imply an ongoing conversation (“No because ...,” for instance), stress placed on multiple words in a sentence, and “uptalking,” or ending sentences on a questioning note – not to mention speaking mani-

cally, which Aleksic says he does himself. It’s easy to see how these sentence patterns could carry over into everyday English. Uptalking is a particularly common example.

One benefit of social-media sites is they send their users more posts on topics that the users show an interest in. The “filter bubbles” created in this way may help people find online communities with whom to share their enthusiasms. More disturbing is that by rewarding attention-grabbing tactics some social-media sites push memes that appeal to appetites for rage or incivility, even by peddling misinformation, drawing users into engaging with harmful content. “By optimizing for engagement to keep viewers online,” Aleksic writes, “social media platforms turned engagement into a target, eventually resulting in engagement-maximizing content that nobody actually wanted.”

In a chapter called “Wordpilled Slangmaxxing,” Aleksic exemplifies this by showing how misogynistic content and vocabulary have become a “radicalized and insular echo-chamber,” further radicaliz-

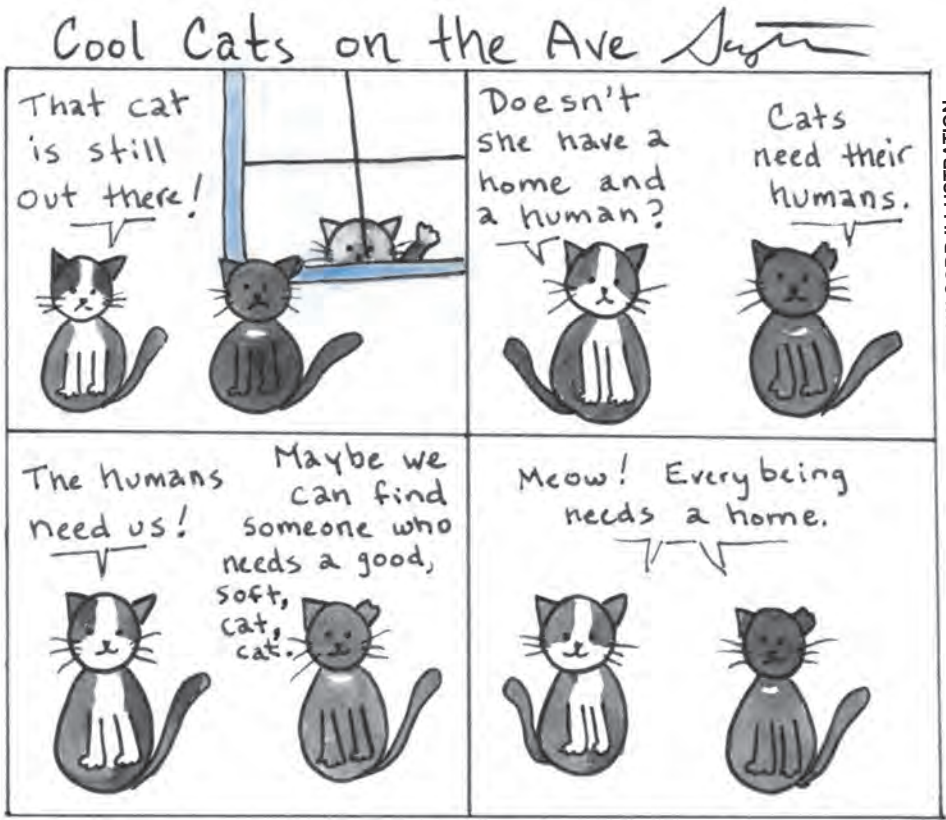
ing their original users and gaining new ones because such “extreme views... are so easily spread through memes.” The inevitable conclusion is that sometimes “internet communities can harm us.”

Despite that warning, the author notes: “Social media isn’t monolithically good or bad. It’s a mess like any new technology.” There’s also the potential problem of *enshittification* – a word Aleksic adopts from Cory Doctorow. It identifies the progressive deterioration of websites’ user experiences as their owners milk them for more money by including more advertisements, increasing their prices, or cutting back on services.

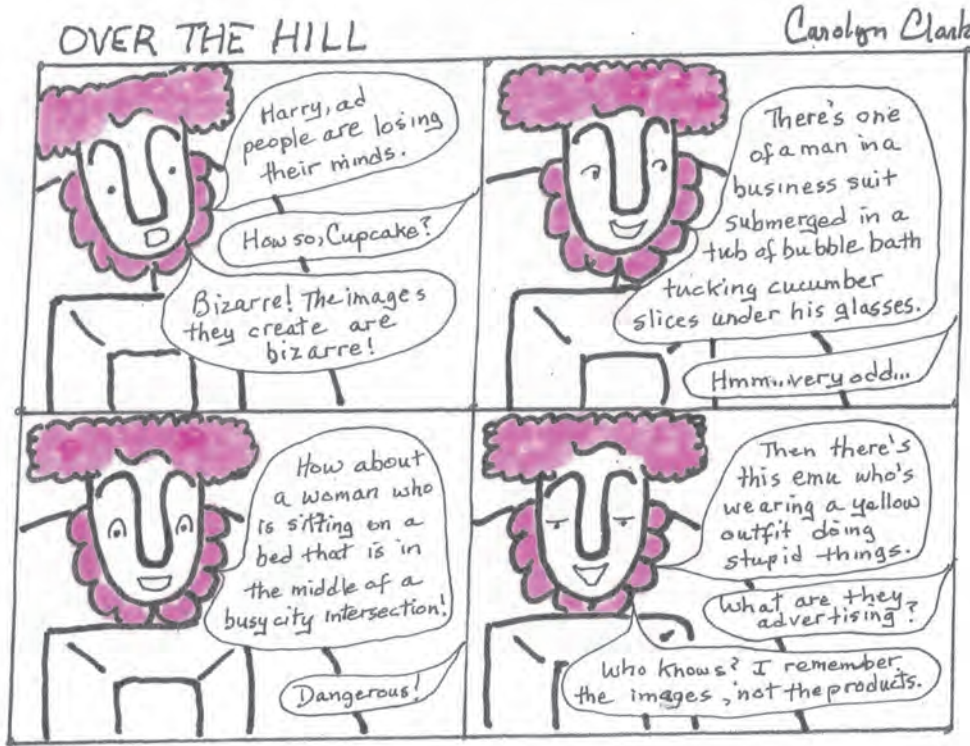
But while there’s lots in *Algospeak* to alarm, equally, there’s lots to amuse, and much that enlightens readers about how language changes and how social-media sites work. Happily, the author’s final assertion, that online spaces show “humans tenaciously coming up with new ways to express themselves,” is entirely justified in this intelligent and fascinating book.



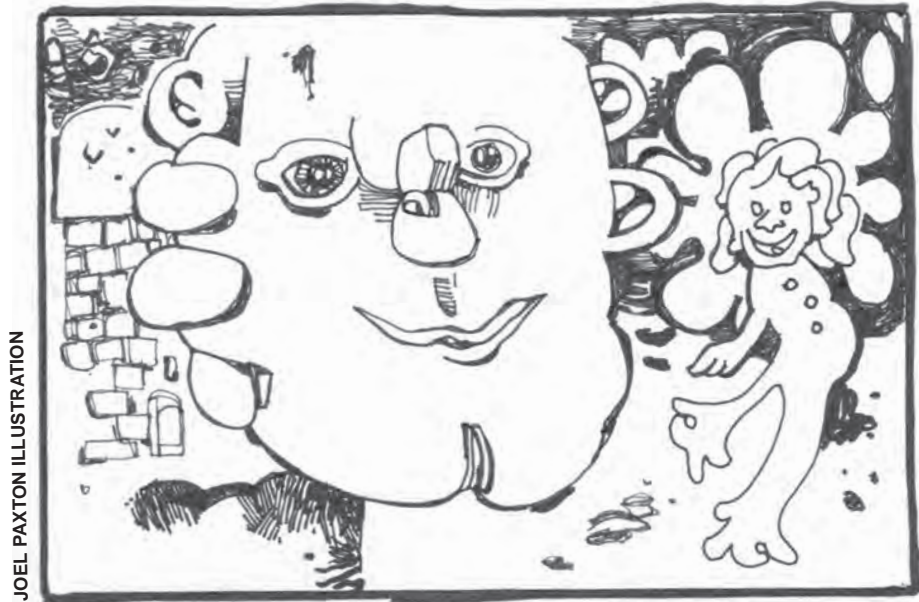
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Aquí se habla español

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



¡Buen camino!

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

GREENFIELD – Este verano he podido cumplir uno de los retos que quería llevar a cabo desde hace tiempo: hacer sola el Camino de Santiago.

Algunos de ustedes se estarán preguntado qué es esto del Camino de Santiago, así que en primer lugar, quiero explicarles los orígenes de este camino de peregrinación.

Cuenta la leyenda que alrededor del año 820 d.C., un ermitaño de nombre Paio, encontró un enterramiento en un bosque llamado Libredón. Según este ermitaño, esta tumba pertenecía al apóstol Santiago y a dos de sus discípulos. En aquellos años reinaba el rey Alfonso II en el noroeste de la península ibérica, y habiéndose enterado de este descubrimiento, decide construir una iglesia en el lugar, que más tarde sería restaurada por Alfonso III años más tarde.

Esta iglesia fue la base de la actual catedral de Santiago de Compostela. Alfonso II y Alfonso III fueron los primeros peregrinos documentados y contribuyeron con diferentes donaciones a la construcción del monumento.

A partir del siglo X, empiezan a llegar al lugar peregrinos europeos, muchos de ellos dejaron sus escritos sobre la peregrinación. Sin embargo, no fue hasta el siglo XI cuando las peregrinaciones se hicieron más frecuentes. Los peregrinos llegaban a Compostela desde Francia, Italia, Irlanda, centro y este de Europa, diferentes lugares de Hispania e Inglaterra a pie o a caballo, y en barco.

Los peregrinos eran acogidos en una red de llamados hospitales que estaban patrocinados por nobles y reyes o en monasterios de la orden de Cluny donde recibían aposento y comida. Hay crónicas que hablan de la peregrinación de San Francisco de Asís en 1214 a Compostela, donde los franciscanos inauguraron su primer convento. Este sentimiento de comunidad y hospitalario es lo que hace del Camino de Santiago una peregrinación peculiar.

La peregrinación a Compostela continuó a pesar de la Peste Negra, las guerras o el hambre durante la Edad Media. Es en el año 1300 cuando el papa decide conceder la Indulgencia Plenaria, es decir, el perdón de todos los pecados, a los peregrinos que llegasen hasta Santiago de Compostela.

En el siglo XVI es cuando el Camino vive su crisis más profunda debido a la Reforma Protestante de Erasmo y Lutero, así como por la corriente humanista que recorría Occidente. Otra razón fue la Inquisición que sospechaba de los peregrinos y los acusaba de espías. A partir del siglo XVIII ha sufrido



PHOTO COURTESY V. MAÍLLO

Final del Camino, delante de la Catedral de Santiago.

altos y bajos y ahora está de nuevo en un proceso de crecimiento.

Hay muchas rutas a seguir dependiendo del lugar en el que quieras iniciar tu viaje. El más frecuentado es el Camino Francés, pero hay otros como la Vía de la Plata, el Camino Inglés, el Camino Portugués, el Camino de Invierno o el que elegí llamado Camino primitivo. Se llama así porque es la primera ruta iniciada por el rey Alfonso II. Empieza en Oviedo que está al norte de España, y transcurre en muchas zonas por calzadas romanas.

En mi caso no empecé la ruta en Oviedo, sino en Lugo, a unos 104 km de Santiago. Lugo se encuentra en la región de Galicia y es famosa por estar rodeada por una muralla romana.

Antes de empezar el viaje es necesaria una preparación física, y aunque encontré gente de todas las edades y condición física, es una peregrinación a pie, o en bicicleta y la mayoría de las etapas discurren por bosques y colinas, por ello se debe tener cierta forma física. Es importante planificar las etapas dependiendo del tiempo, la época del año, los lugares donde puedes quedarte a dormir, fuentes de agua, etc.

Otro aspecto fundamental es el cuidado de los pies, ya que son los que te van a llevar y debes prevenir las ampollas que pueden surgir a lo

largo de la caminata. En mi caso, caminé una media de 20 km diarios, así que al llegar al destino de cada etapa, me quité el calzado de andar, que debe ser cómodo y ya usado, me lavé los pies con agua y jabón, me puse unas sandalias que fueran muy cómodas y dejasen respirar mis pies. Es importante aplicar crema hidratante cada noche y vaselina antes de ponerle los calcetines que deben ser de algodón o de lana Merino y deben estar secos y que no formen arrugas para evitar heridas y ampollas por la fricción.

La ropa debe ser cómoda y normalmente en capas ya que el clima puede cambiar desde las primeras horas de la mañana en que hace fresco, incluso en verano o las horas del mediodía en que el sol aprieta. Es importante llevar un chubasquero, ya que en el norte de España hay siempre riesgo de lluvia.

Cada peregrino debe llevar agua potable, unos 3 litros por día, ya que aunque se atraviesan ríos, no siempre es aconsejable beber a no ser que diga explícitamente que es agua potable.

Hay muchas aplicaciones de teléfono que puedes llevar donde puedes comprobar actualizaciones, mapas e incluso buscar lugares para dormir y comer. Recomendando especialmente Gronze Maps, Camino Ninja, Buen camino y Alerta Corps que está en comunicación directa

con la Guardia Civil en caso de que ocurra cualquier incidente.

Es raro que ocurra algo, pero aconsejo que si lo haces sola, evites caminar de noche y mantengas las medidas de seguridad adecuadas.

Lleva contigo frutos secos, chocolate, alguna pieza de fruta, queso, etc. para poder comer algo en lugares donde no haya abastecimiento.

La mochila no debe pesar mucho, así que lleva lo indispensable: ropa para cambiarte, una gorra o bandana, algunos artículos de aseo, calcetines, una navaja pequeña y una linterna. Es importante también un pequeño botiquín de primeros auxilios con tiritas, protección solar, antimosquitos, aspirinas y vaselina. Es aconsejable llevar bastones que te pueden ayudar en las subidas y con el equilibrio. Mi mochila pesaba unos 6 kilos sin incluir el agua que normalmente era entre 2 ó 3 litros cada día.

Si quieres conseguir tu “Compostela” que es el diploma que se otorga los peregrinos que han hecho a pie más de 100 km y llegan a Santiago, debes tener tu Credencial del Peregrino y que debes sellar dos veces cada día. Los sellos se pueden conseguir en las diferentes etapas en cafés, restaurantes y albergues. Están a la vista y es fácil conseguirlos cuando paras a descansar o a beber agua.

Los baños son más escasos en algunas partes del Camino Primitivo, así que piensa en medidas que puedes llevar como por ejemplo bolsas de las que se utilizan con los excrementos de perros.

Empecé en Lugo porque es la ciudad natal de mi madre y de mis abuelos maternos. Además de la muralla romana que se puede recorrer por encima, debes visitar la catedral y el Museo Provincial. Hay muchos restaurantes, cafés y supermercados, así que ahí pude comprar las últimas provisiones.

Hay un Albergue de peregrinos público y el precio de la cama es de 8 euros. No da cenas ni desayunos, pero dispone de cocina para los peregrinos. En la mayoría de los albergues es posible reservar tu cama y abren al público sobre la 1 de la tarde.

Mi primera etapa fue de 19 km hasta San Romao de Retorta. Los peregrinos salen por una de las puertas Miña de la muralla romana de Lugo y cruzan el puente romano sobre el río Miño. La ruta transcurre por pequeñas carreteras y restos de calzadas romanas. No hay muchos lugares para parar, aunque hay un vending con café y bebidas y tiene baños.

Pasé por iglesias tardorromanas y románicas que vale la pena visitar aunque haya que desviarse unos metros. Me alojé en el Albergue O Cándido que está en San Romás

justo al lado del albergue público. El precio de la habitación individual con desayuno incluido es de 16 euros. Sirven comidas y cenas y aunque es un lugar rústico, O Cándido destaca por la calidad humana de la acogida a los peregrinos.

La siguiente etapa fue desde San Romás a Melide con un total de 29 km. Esta etapa la realicé sin ver a una sola persona hasta que llegué a unos kilómetros de Melide. Es una etapa exigente a nivel físico, no solamente por la longitud, sino porque se trata de una subida intensa durante 12 kilómetros.

Melide es el cruce con el Camino Francés así que conviene reservar cama en el albergue antes de llegar. Melide es uno de los mejores lugares del camino si quieres probar pulpo a la gallega.

Desde Melide me dirijo a Arzua en una etapa de 15 km. Al confluir con el Camino Francés ya encuentro más gente en la ruta. La etapa es corta pero con unas subidas empinadas en algunas partes del camino. Los paisajes son maravillosos y la senda discurre cerca de colinas verdes y flanqueada por castaños y eucaliptos.

Mi recomendación de alojamiento en Arzua es el albergue San Francisco. Es un albergue privado en el centro del pueblo, muy cuidado y con derecho al uso de la cocina aunque en Arzua hay muchos lugares para comer adecuados a diferentes bolsillos.

La siguiente etapa me lleva a O Pedrouzo con una longitud de 20 km. Hay mucha más gente porque ya estamos los peregrinos del Primitivo, del Francés y del Norte. Si quieres probar la mejor tortilla de patata de España, no olvides parar en el O Cebreiro que está en el municipio de O Pino. Este es el último pueblo antes de llegar a nuestro objetivo: Santiago de Compostela.

Inicié la última etapa con anticipación, y nerviosismo. No es una etapa larga, solamente 20 km, pero hay que subir hasta la cima del Monte del Gozo antes de llegar a Santiago. A lo largo del camino se ven a peregrinos que ya sufren heridas y lesiones por los kilómetros recorridos, y al mismo tiempo la ilusión de llegar a la Catedral de Santiago de Compostela.

La llegada a la Plaza del Obradoiro donde se encuentra la sede es emocionante. La media de peregrinos que llegan cada día a Santiago es de entre 2.000 o 3.000 dependiendo de la época del año.

Mi viaje no ha sido religioso, sino espiritual. En esa etapa en la que no me encontré con nadie en 26 km. y sentí miedo por estar sola en bosques desconocidos, nunca me sentí al mismo tiempo tan libre y tan poderosa.

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- 9/18 Making Altered Books 5:30-8:00 \$60
- 9/27 Collage Club 1:00-3:00 \$10 happens every last Sat of the Month!

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EVENTS

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Franklin County Fair*. 3 p.m. \$.

Northfield Mountain Recreation Center, Northfield: *Hawks!*, with naturalist David Brown. 6 p.m. Free.

Forbes Library, Northampton: *Ex-Temper, The Classics*. 6 p.m. Free.

Bellows Falls Opera House, Bellows Falls: Documentary, *Far Out: Life on and after the Commune* (2024). Discussion afterward with filmmaker Charles Light, poet and commune resident Verandah Porche, and musician Patty Carpenter. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Temple Israel, Greenfield: Clarinetist *Sam Sadigursky* and accordionist *Nathan Koci* present *The Solomon Diaries*. 7 p.m. Free.

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *Feminine Aggression, Lung, PMS*. 7 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Celebration for First Open Friday*. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Coffee & Tea Social*. 10 to 11 a.m. Free.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope Story Hour: Butterflies*. Ages 3 to 6. Story, activities, and crafts. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Franklin County Fair*. 3 p.m. \$.

Loot, Turners Falls: *Rotating Art Book Project*. Culmination of 12-month collaboration with local writers. Discussion and refreshments. 5 p.m. Free.

EXHIBITS

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: 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.

Waterway Arts, Turners Falls: *Portals, Doorways, & Leaks*. Works by Mathew Hollander and Trevor Powers. Through September, with a reception this Friday, September 5 from 5 to 8 p.m.

LOOT, Turners Falls: *Rotating Art Book Project*, year-long culmination of collaborative art books, on display this Friday, September 5 from 5 to 8 p.m. only.

Northfield Mount Hermon, Gill: *Bicycles, Beaches, and Bovines*, multi-media work by Gill artist Doug Dale. This Monday, September 8 through October 10 at the Rhodes Art Center, with a reception next Friday, September 12 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Author Talk: In Search of Lizzie Borden* with Dennis Binette. 6 p.m. By donation.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton*. 6:30 p.m. No cover.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Julian Gerstin Sextet*. 7 p.m. Free.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *The Suitcase Junket, Ciarra Fragale*. 7 p.m. \$.

JJ's Tavern, Florence: *Dishpit, Voluntary Victim, Your Arms Are My Legs, Raide*. 7 p.m. \$.

Tanglewood, Lenox: *John Legend*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *Blindspot, Luladool, Connect 4, Jack Alboher*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Carol Devine & The Mighty Fine*. 8 p.m. By donation.

The Drake, Amherst: *We Are Scientists, Sean McVerry*. 8 p.m. \$.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Tropa Magica, DJ Bongohead*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Painted Faces, Spreaders, Clew of Theseus, Burial Grid*. 9 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Franklin County Fair*. 8 a.m. \$.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Wildlife out Your Window*, with Brad Timm.

Facts about local wildlife followed by a walk along the canal. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Memorial for Luc Bodin*. "All those who knew Luc are welcome to attend." 2 p.m. Free.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: Susan Valentine, *Paintings*, and Sue Kassirer, *Works in Clay*. Through September, with a reception this Sunday, September 7 from 3 to 6 p.m.

Sunderland Library, Sunderland: *Woodland Soundscape*, an interactive art exhibit by Ms. Green Jeanne with canvas prints of wildlife and accompanying sound clips via QR codes. Through September.

Artspace, Greenfield: *Japanese Pop Art and Moment in Light*, landscape paintings and pop art by Kimiko Donohoe. Through October 3, with a reception this Friday, September 5 from 5 to 8 p.m.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Silent Auction Art Exhibit*, works donated by local artists and assemblages by Andy Rothschild for sale to benefit LAVA, opening this Saturday, September 6 with a reception from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., on view through December 20. Anna Bayles Arthur, *Selected Paintings*, through October with a reception Friday, September 26 from 5 to 8 p.m.



Singer-songwriter Seth Glier, a five-time Independent Music Award winner and Grammy nominee from western Mass, plays the 1794 Meetinghouse this Saturday.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Eric Love, Henderson's Blues Band, Wildcat O'Halloran*. Twentieth anniversary party with vendors, kids' booth, bonfire, food. 4 p.m. to midnight. No cover.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *CitySpace Bluegrass*, open jam. 4 p.m. Free.

Greenfield Town Common, Greenfield: *Rally and Speak Out*, with speakers from the Massachusetts Nonviolent Medicaid Army and others who have been impacted by the denial of healthcare. 5 p.m. Free.

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Stoney Roberts' Demo Derby*. 6 p.m. \$.

Four Phantoms Brewing, Greenfield: *Belmont/Kurtz Quartet*. 6:30 p.m. No cover.

De La Luz Soundstage, Holyoke: *Kassa Overall*. 7 p.m. \$.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *New Jazz Underground*. 7 p.m. \$.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Seth Glier*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Lulu Van Trapp, DJs \$¢¥ and blush*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Franklin County Fair*. 8 a.m. \$.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Record Swap*. 11 a.m.

Antenna Cloud Farm, Gill: *Dreaming in Diaspora*, feat. *Jordan Wax, Rachel Leader, Ariel Shapiro, Weaver, Richie Barsha*, and special guests. Yiddish song workshop, jam session, community dinner, and sunset concert. Rain location at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls. 12:30 p.m. \$.

Erving Public Library, Erving: *Shade Garden Planting* with Jocelyn Demuth of Checkerspot Farm. Interactive activity to create a new pollinator garden at the library. Tools provided or bring your own. 1 p.m. Free.

Latchis Theater, Brattleboro: *Scott Ainslie, Samirah Evans, Dan DeWalt & Kwartetto Mambo, Patty Carpenter*, more. Life Aid for Palestine benefit. 1 p.m. By donation.

Space Ballroom, Hamden CT: *Ted Leo, Nova One*. 1 p.m. \$.

Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum, Hadley: *Afro-Semitic Experience*. 2 p.m. \$.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Belt Course*, paintings and prints by Amy Borezo and John Armstrong, through September 28.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield: *Fall Into Fiber*, group show. September 12 through November 2, with a reception Sunday, September 21 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Clarkdale Fruit Farms, Deerfield: *Doorways*, a self-guided audio-visual tour with sculptural doorways and sound pools by multiple artists. Daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through November.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Counterspells & Concatenations*, works by Marianne Connolly and Rebecca Muller. Through September 27, with a reception tonight, September 4, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Harvest Colors*, group show by members, through September.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Old and New*, paintings by father-and-son duo Robert and Matthew Steinem. Through November 2, with a reception this Saturday, September 6, from 2 to 4 p.m.

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1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Chris Devine & Michael Nix; Mark Fraser & Matthew Duncani; Becky Eldredge, Ann Cenzano & Mary Ellen Miller.* "Chamber music madness." 4 p.m. \$.

Feeding Tube Records, Florence: *Henry Birdsey, Nora Knight.* 4 p.m. By donation.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Animal Piss It's Everywhere, Gay Mayor, Demented FX, Hurry Scurry.* 5 p.m. \$.

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Stoney Roberts' Demo Derby.* 6 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Shannon Lay, elie mcafee-hahn.* \$. 7 p.m.

Darlings, Easthampton: *Wishbone Zoë, beetsblog.* 7 p.m. \$.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Brick House Community Resource Center, Turners Falls: *Pop-Up Dental Health and Health Insurance Support.* Dental hygienist, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; registration required at slangknecht@brickhousecommunity.org. or (413) 800-2496. Insurance navigator, first come first served, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Free.

Greenfield Public Library, Greenfield: *Rising River's Edge: The Climate Crisis in Franklin County* (2025). Local filmmakers Hugh Finnerty, Clara Witty, Matthew Barlow and Rebecca Rideout examine the plight of farmers in Franklin County, their struggles, and their resiliency in planning for the unpredictable new normal. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Tree House, Deerfield: *Kaleo, Quarters of Change, Június Meyvant.* 6:30 p.m. \$.

Bookends, Florence: Reading and discussion, Sarah Schulman's *The Fantasy and Necessity of Solidarity*, with Schulman and Ryn Hodes. 7 p.m. By donation.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bar Jay Bar.* 8:30 p.m. No cover.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Studio Arts Building Atrium, UMass Amherst: *Longevity of Practice with (Soma)tic Rituals* with poet CAConrad. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Element Brewing, Millers Falls: *The Naming of Millers Falls.* What was this land and river called before, and how did the name change? What else has "Millers Falls" named around here? Celebrate 150 years of "Millers Falls" as the village's railway station name, and learn the history of the name and place with local historian Will Quale. 7 p.m. No cover.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Mucho Gusto Spanish Program.* For children age 4 and under. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Erving Public Library, Erving: *Afterschool Activities.* Games, makerspace, snacks. 1:30 to 3 p.m. Free.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: Reading group, *Notes of a Native Son* by James Baldwin and *Bone Black* by bell hooks. 3 p.m. Free.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Friends of the Wendell Free Library Annual Meeting.* Email wendell@cwmars.org for Zoom link. 5 p.m. Free.

Marigold, Brattleboro: *Holy Locust, Ditrani Brothers.* 8 p.m. \$.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Cut Worms.* 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Eilen Jewell.* 8 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope Story Hour: Skunks.* Ages 3 to 6. Story, activities, and crafts. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Camp Keewanee, Greenfield: *Moon Tricks, Prince/Bowie, Consider The Source, Barely Dead, Rebel Alliance,* many more. 11 a.m. \$\$.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: Film night with local filmmakers *Dien Vo* and *Flonia Telegrafi.* 6:30 p.m. By donation.

Camp Keewanee, Greenfield: *Max Creek, Leon Trout, Mihali, Bombtrack, Jelly, Bella's Bartok, Outer Styleie, Jabbawaukee, Tumbletoads,* many more. 10 a.m. \$\$.

Riverview Picnic Area, Northfield: *Geology Cruise* with Richard Little. Register at www.bookeo.com/northfield. 11 a.m. \$.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Animal Piss It's Everywhere, Merci/Super, Matt Jones, Anna Claire, BFG, Willie & Wednesday, Kryssi & Jeff, Tom & Pat, Spectre Folk, Julie Beth, Federico Balducci, Tarp Big Band, Karen Zanes, Frog Tones.* 12 p.m. By donation.

Leverett Library, Leverett: Reception for exhibit, *Art and Crafts Inspired by the 1774 North Leverett Sawmill.* 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Free.

Seeds of Solidarity Farm, Orange: *Shrines to the Natural World,* altar-making workshop with Phyllis Labanowski. Register at deb@seedsofsolidarity.org. 1 p.m. Free.

Riverview Picnic Area, Northfield: *Geology Cruise* with Richard Little. Register at www.bookeo.com/northfield. 1:15 p.m. \$.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Ecology of Sound: Music from Nature.* Ricardo Frota inspires all ages to absorb the rhythms, sound, and music from different global cultures and the natural world. 2 p.m. Free.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *No Man, Evan Greer, Sapien Joyride, Bubble Scary, Soji, Sgraffito Kill, I Have No Mouth, Loss of Life.* 4 p.m. \$.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Ada Lea, Norma Dream, Jenifer Gelineau.* 6:30 p.m. \$.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: Open mic with featured performer *Ralph Carson.* 6:30 p.m. By donation.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Pioneer Valley Jazz Shares presents *Darius Jones Trio.* 7:30 p.m. \$.

Big E Arena, West Springfield: *Busta Rhymes, Rick Ross.* 7:30 p.m. \$\$.

The Drake, Amherst: *Autumn Drive, Skruple, Over the Median.* 8 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Devendra Banhart, Kath Bloom.* 8 p.m. \$.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Dar Williams, Antigone Rising.* 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Feldspar 00000, 40 Lashes, Happy Birthday James, Crater.* 9:30 p.m. \$.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



Wednesday Knudsen and Willie Lane, a.k.a. Willie & Wednesday, play the free experimental music fest Freestone or Ooze at Peskeompskut Park on September 13.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *The Bug Museum,* bug-inspired puppet workshop. Materials provided; no experience necessary; all ages welcome. 6:30 p.m. Free.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Writers Read* featuring *Maria Williams, Daniel Lenois, Lindel Hart.* 7 p.m. By donation.

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

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

Northfield Mountain Recreation Center, Northfield: *Morning Hike.* Register at www.bookeo.com/northfield. 10 a.m. Free.

Four Star Farms Brewery, Northfield: *Dickinson Library Trivia Night.* Teams of one to six players; bring your own food. This month's categories: the West; 9/11; cars; heroes; villains. 6 p.m. No cover.

Bellows Falls Opera House, Bellows Falls: Documentaries, *Lovejoy's Nuclear War* (1975) and *Save the Planet* (1979). Discussion afterward with filmmakers Charles Light and Daniel Keller and anti-nuclear activist Sam Lovejoy. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Harry Remer.* 7 p.m. By donation.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Letters of Marque, Told Not To Worry, Film & Gender, AFK, Pageant.* 7 p.m. \$.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Found Footage Festival.* 7:30 p.m. \$.

Big E Arena, West Springfield: *Gov't Mule.* 7:30 p.m. \$\$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *HWY 91.* 8 p.m. No cover.

The Drake, Amherst: *Wheatus,* acoustic set; *Gabrielle Sterbenz.* 8 p.m. \$.

Big E Court of Honor Stage, West Springfield: *Tonic.* 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Beverly Ketch, Hieronymus Harry, Anthony Loffredia, Dan Gay, Hurry Scurry.* 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Montague Elks Lodge, Turners Falls: *Charity Chase,* 5K run and 1.4-mile "fun run/walk." Register at www.tinyurl.com/ElksRun. 10 a.m. \$.

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Western Massachusetts Comic Book Show.* 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$.

looking forward...

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Quarters, Hadley: *Western Mass Electronics,* with featured artist *Burial Grid.* Bring your own synth, drum machine, sampler, etc. 7 p.m. No cover.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

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

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *How Maps Lie,* with cartographer and map store owner Andrew Middleton. 6 p.m. Free.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Space Camp, Jayson Keery, beetsblog, Casper Lucia, Rivka Nisinzweig, Kristine Leschper.* Music, puppets, poetry, potluck, vegan sorbetto. Benefit for Finders Collective, Books Through Bars, and the Carrier Bag Kitchen Collective. 5 p.m. By donation.

Great Falls Harvest, Turners Falls: *Stella Kola, Henbane, Paper Jays, Vanessa Brewster.* 8 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *B-52.0s, Zepptunes.* 8 p.m. \$.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Arena Civic Theater presents *Hedwig and the Angry Inch.* Benefit for TransHealth. 7 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

First Churches, Northampton: Ambient Church presents *Michael Stearns,* with live light projections. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *DJ Lucas, 22BB, Don Gadi.* 9 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Fred Eaglesmith & The Velvet Frogs.* 7 p.m. \$.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23

Space Ballroom, Hamden CT: *Acid Mothers Temple, The Macks, The Regal Drug.* 8 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *Crop Dusters.* 7:30 p.m. \$.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

The Drake, Amherst: *Florry, John Andrews & The Yawns.* 8 p.m. \$.



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TUE-SAT 4-9

Artist Profile: Pauline Star

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I have decided to profile another photographer. This latest one I found last year at the LAVA Center in Greenfield. Her name is Pauline Star, and she got her start showing her photos to people the previous November. She uses them to adorn cards, bookmarks, and various other things.

Star’s work can be viewed on her Instagram and



COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

Foggy Dirt Road, *photograph by Pauline Star.*

Facebook pages, both of which she calls Artful Impressions, and at www.payhip.com/ArtfulImpressions/ for sale. She has gotten “encouraging words and positive feedback” about them, she told me, which gave her the confidence to reach out to the center to try to get her photos hung.

Star told me she started this because she needed a healthy and creative outlet. As to why she takes photos of nature, she said she loves nature, animals, and sight-seeing, so she decided one day to capture all the beauty that she saw. “I do a lot of flowers and up-close photos of animals when I can,” she said. “In this day and age, it’s easy to overlook the little things in life.”

She goes about taking her photos by looking around and then going with what she feels. One instance has involved a sunrise, with Star hoping it would be “a colorful one.” She also goes on what she calls “adventures” when trying to take photos.

It was the first time her work had been shown at the LAVA Center; the only other place that has shown her photos is the restaurant Tito’s, on Federal Street. She has no formal education in photography, but has been learning as she goes, taking photos with her iPhone. The nature photos consist of forest scenes, a flower, and a picture of a chicken. Some of the bookmarks are quite nice and well made in the way that she used the photos in them. I can understand why those, among the items she sells, do quite well.

Those items I mentioned she used her photos on are sold at craft fairs. She hadn’t sold any framed prints – not yet. She told me she wishes for more opportunities like the one at the LAVA Center to make that happen, but that she will continue doing photography even if it doesn’t. She sounds like a woman who is following her passion in life and enjoying herself in doing that.

WEST ALONG from page B1

Porch-sitting has sadly become a thing of the past in most families, now that television and smart-phones provide round-the-clock entertainment. Nobody has time to sit on the porch to watch the neighbors across the street, to listen to the loud buzzing cicadas or the ratchet-call of the katydids, to mutter at the radio telling us of the rise and fall of Red Sox fortunes.

But in this family we do, from time to time, take the time to do that. And the porch has to be primmed and trimmed each year to at least be ready just in case, and to keep up appearances.

Just yesterday, by 7 a.m., workers started banging around and talking on the next door neighbor’s roof. The neighborhood filled with the sounds of hammers and conversations about fishing, the coming clambake, the bar last night, and whatnot.

It reminds me that once, over 150 years ago, this house itself was nothing but a bare frame, scaffold-

ing, ladders, and workmen busy whistling, building a dwelling for the five generations to come.

Labor Day weekend is a reminder to get summer projects done before it’s too late.

Summer is at full tide, but the cold is just around the corner. There’s a need to get things done that have been put off.

One cannot write of the year at high tide without forsaking this greenness of garden and woodland and getting down to the sea, to the shores of the Atlantic. And so, one bright morning I did pry myself up from my Adirondack chair on the back deck, jump in the car, and motor down to the seaport town of Newburyport, headed for Plum Island.

Once arrived, as always, we follow the convenient boardwalk that rises through the dunes to the horizon. Most of the time one can only hear the dull roar of the rolling waves until the last minute when suddenly the boarded way drops to the beach.

The steady winds – the last breath of Hurricane Erin – have sent relentless waves pounding and running up the beach, dumping shells and sand dollars, flotsam and jetsam onto the shore.

Birds are scarce, many sandpiper populations having already blown through with the August high tides. Tree swallows linger by the hundreds, riding the waves of the wind-blown dunes, clearing the air of the dratted biting greenhead flies.

Sanderlings and ring-necked plovers, along with their cousins, the endangered piping plovers, patrol their respective beach zones. I, their human counterpart, alternately snooze or walk the upper beach, watching the soothing and endless drama of the rolling waves.

Soon enough, I’ve had my fill of the summer beach: too hot, too much burning sun. By early afternoon we catch a double espresso for the road, turn the car around, and head west to our greener valley. Only two hours away I can get my

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HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

GREENFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE & ORANGE TRANSFER STATION

REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY SEPTEMBER 10

Register online at franklincountywastedistrict.org

Your appointment time and directions will be mailed after registration is processed.

For residents and businesses of the following towns: Athol, Barre*, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Petersham, Phillipston, Rowe, Royalston, Shelburne, Sunderland*, Warwick, Wendell, Whately.

This collection event is free for residents. *Barre and Sunderland residents must pay to participate in 2025. Space is limited. Greenfield and Leyden residents are not eligible and should call (413) 772-1528 for info on disposal. For business registration and pricing information, call (413) 772-2438.

LATEX PAINT IS NOT ACCEPTED AT THIS COLLECTION.

WHAT TO BRING

- Any substance labeled: CAUSTIC, TOXIC, CORROSIVE, POISON, FLAMMABLE, WARNING, DANGER, CAUTION
- Paint (non-latex), spray paint, varnish, paint thinners, solvents
- Herbicides, pesticides, yard/garden chemicals, wood preservatives
- Asphalt sealer, roofing tar, household cleaners, pool chemicals
 - Motor oil, antifreeze, automotive fluids
- Photo chemicals, arts & crafts supplies, furniture polish

WHAT NOT TO BRING

Fluorescent light bulbs, batteries, mercury-containing items, **latex paint**, empty containers from hazardous products (put empties in trash, not recycling), gas cylinders, radioactive material, explosives (including ammunition & fireworks).

For more information: franklincountywastedistrict.org, info@franklincountywastedistrict.org, (413) 772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD).

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Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*



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