

# The Montague Reporter

Year 24 – No. 24

MAY 21, 2026

\$2

editor@montaguereporter.org

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

montaguereporter.org

## Private Equity Firm Buying Dam, Canal, Cabot Station, and Northfield Mountain

By JEFF SINGLETON

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – Town officials in the region learned this week that the US section of the power company FirstLight, currently owned by a Canadian firm

that invests public pensions, is in the process of being sold to Hull Street Energy, a private equity firm in Bethesda, Maryland.

FirstLight is currently in the midst of a relicensing process with the Federal Energy Regulatory

Commission (FERC) for its projects in the county, which include the Northfield Mountain pumped-storage station, the dam on the Connecticut River between Montague and Gill, and the Turners Falls power canal, leading to the Cabot Station hydroelectric plant.

The company has secured agreements involving water flows and recreation along its extensive riverfront holdings, as well as a water quality assessment by the state Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), though negotiations are still underway over appeals of that assessment.

With FirstLight USA, LLC, Hull Street Energy would also acquire 11 other hydroelectric stations in Connecticut and Pennsylvania, as well as three solar generation and storage plants in the Northeast. The private equity firm currently holds

see **BUYING** page A3



REPORTER FILE PHOTO BY JOE PARZYCH

The FirstLight Power portfolio includes the dam and power canal at Turners Falls.

## More Recent Arrival Will Join Selectboard

By MIKE JACKSON

**GILL and MONTAGUE** – Town and school district elections were held Monday and Tuesday in Gill and Montague, and the biggest news may be the one item that wasn't on the ballot.

In Gill, according to town clerk Doreen Stevens, 250 of the town's 1,313 voters, or 19%, turned out on Monday. The main attraction, a debt exclusion question for a new roof at Gill Elementary, passed 187 to 42.

Though Jenn Waldron's was the only name on the ballot for an open selectboard seat, Flagg Farm farmer Dan Flagg ran a late sticker campaign and garnered 69 votes to Waldron's 171. There were no other competitive races.

Montague has 7,318 voters on the rolls, and the town's election on Tuesday drew 704 of them, or 9.6%, to the polls. Though they also face a debt exclusion question this spring – on borrowing to build a new downtown library – it comes in a separate election Wednesday, June 24.

Voters in both towns elect members to a shared school commit-



Nate Card

tee, and the results are kept under a strict media embargo until they have been added together. Tara McCarthy, executive assistant to the Gill-Montague superintendent, confirmed Thursday morning that the three candidates on the ballot won the three open seats: Gill incumbent Bill Tomb with 731 votes; Montague incumbent Cliff Spatcher with 641; and a new Montague member, Sue Richardson, with 613.

Four people ran – reportedly as a result of miscommunication – for see **RACE** page A4

## Free Fare at the Shea Theater: A Musical Journey to Outer Space

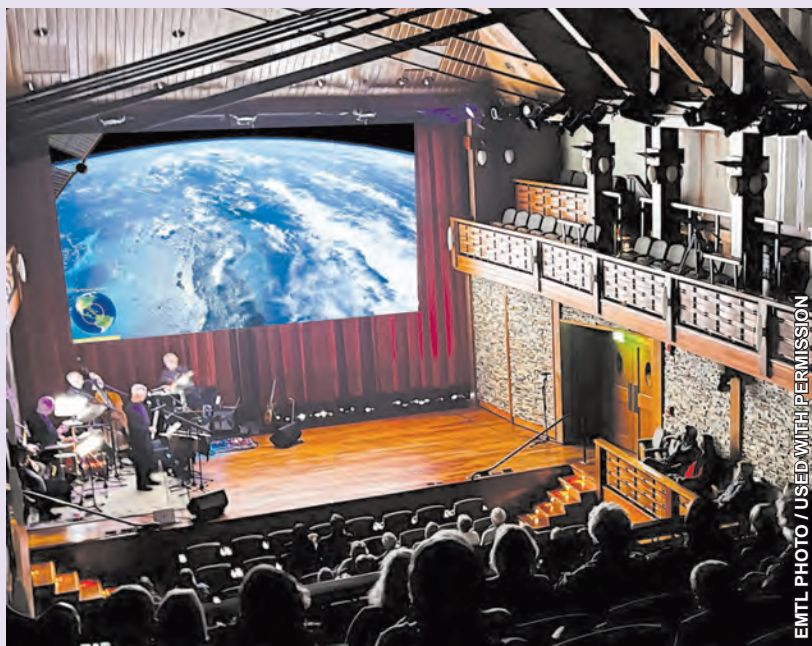
By BEN GAGNON

**TURNERS FALLS** – Awe inspiring. Mind expanding. Fascinating.

Words can only go so far in describing the visual and audio experience of high-resolution photos of Earth taken from space and displayed on a big screen, combined with improvisational, ethereal music produced by top-notch musicians playing drums, guitar, saxophone, acoustic bass, and the bamboo bansuri flute of India.

This combination of imagery and sound first came together when Northampton musician Steve Thomas wrote the soundtrack for the 48-minute film, *Windows on Earth – The Movie*, produced by the Association of Space Explorers, a group of astronauts committed to science and space education.

As a young guitar player, Thomas was inspired by cutting-edge musicians Brian Eno and



A live performance of Earth Music Theater Live last October at the Shalin Liu Performance Center in Rockport.

Jean-Michel Jarre, known for electronics and special effects. The music aligns with stunning views of landscapes from the Sahara to the Himalayas.

The movie is free to watch in 4K streaming on Thomas's website, [EarthMusicTheater.org](http://EarthMusicTheater.org), but from 4 to 6 p.m. next Sunday, May 31, see **SPACE** page A4

### LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

## Rep Candidate Stumps, Woos, Brainstorms

By GEORGE BRACE

Leverett's selectboard met on Tuesday with one of the five declared candidates running for state representative, discussed the town's next steps on the Field building, and heard an affordable housing update and a request to settle the Evans-Marlowe lawsuit.

Sabra Billings of Bernardston, who is seeking to fill the 1st Franklin District seat vacated this winter by Natalie Blais, introduced herself as a ninth-generation Franklin County resident with a background in business operations and supply chain project management. Billings said she left "party politics" 10 years ago, but identified as a "progressive" who had never voted

Republican.

Along with introducing herself, she said she wanted to hear the selectboard's "hopes, dreams, and priorities," and its thoughts on how the town can work well with its state representatives.

Board member Jed Proujansky said one of his top priorities for the legislature was funding for education, which he said accounts for 60% of Leverett's municipal budget and is a "disaster" at the state level. Another priority, he said, was affordable healthcare, given that insurance premiums have been rising at an "astronomical rate." Single-payer healthcare, he added, needs serious consideration, "not just lip service."

see **LEVERETT** page A5

### GILL SELECTBOARD

## New Member; Next Steps

By KATE SAVAGE

At their meeting on Tuesday, the members of the Gill selectboard welcomed Jenn Waldron to their ranks. Waldron won the previous day's election against write-in candidate Dan Flagg, with 171 votes to Flagg's 69. She previously sat on the finance committee, and before that served for five years on the school committee for the Gill-Montague regional district.

Waldron replaces Greg Snedeker, who did not seek reelection, and is the first woman on the Gill selectboard since 2014, when Snedeker replaced Ann Banash. Waldron is a counselor with a focus on trauma, PTSD, addiction, and anger management, according to her profile on *Psychology Today*.

Gill voters also approved a debt exclusion ballot question, allowing the town to temporarily increase property taxes to fund the Gill el-



Jenn Waldron

ementary school roof replacement. One hundred eighty-four voted in favor, with 42 opposed.

Town administrator Ray Purington said the next step will be see **GILL** page A6

### MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Racers OKed To Navigate Montague's Wildernesses

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard held a brief meeting on Monday, dealing with only five agenda items. The highlight may have been a proposal to use public property for an "adventure race" in late September that will involve trekking, mountain biking, paddling, and orienteering. The director of the organization sponsoring the event, Brent Freedland, said a similar race has not taken place in Massachusetts in 15 years.

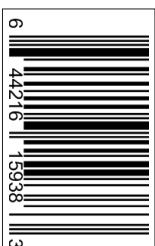
The board also approved a letter

to all holders of wine and malt licenses, extended a program to build and install "wind inserts," and approved a contract for improvements at Unity Park.

It was member Matt Lord's last meeting on the board after five and a half years of service, as an election for his replacement would take place the following day.

Freedland, who attended the Zoom meeting from a park where his son was playing little league baseball, began his request for the

see **MONTAGUE** page A5



### Check For Ticks!

Aligns With Stunning Views.....A1	Soaked to the Skin.....B2
Threatened Retrenchments.....A2	Yelling In Background.....B3
Anything Discerning to Say.....A3	Emanating From the Site.....B3
Creates a Visceral Sound.....A4	Just Too Many Variables.....B4
Fit Snugly Into Windows.....A5	Little Choir of Blooms.....B5
Spotted Floating Around.....A6	Owl Pellets, Spirit Circle.....B6
Squirreled Down the Line.....B1	Family Fishing Day, Dwarves.....B7
Tepid to the Possibility.....B1	Backroom Whispers.....B8

# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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August 2002

## Lining Up

It is interesting to note the order in which Montague's voting precincts favored Nate Card over John Snyder for selectboard, a choice between two thoughtful, mild-mannered newcomers: **5-6-1-4-2-3**.

For at least the last decade, nearly every ballot question and local and national election have shown a consistent, if not always strong, polarization within the town, with Precincts 1 and 5 lining up on one side and 2 and 3 on the other.

This suggests that Card and Snyder somehow became left- and right-coded. We saw more effort at campaigning from Card, but never heard anything bad said downtown about Snyder, so we wonder if this effect merged as negative polarization from 2 and 3.

The elephant in the room is the upcoming library vote. This one is clearly going to come down to voter mobilization. Hold onto your hats, folks.

## Letter to the Editors



### Response to Mary Feeney:

Thank you for your letter and for the opportunity to share the various ways a new main library in downtown Turners Falls would support Montague's seniors.

A large portion of the Carnegie Library's current users are seniors and the inaccessibility of this building and its collections affect them acutely. Indeed, it was robust feedback from this demographic that inspired the Library Trustees and library staff to pursue the state's library construction grant in the first place.

A new ground-level facility with ample parking and accessible collections would allow seniors and anyone with mobility challenges to easily and safely enter the building and secure the materials and services that they seek.

While presenting to town meeting members a couple weeks ago, I asked the audience to envision the ways that a new library facility could serve the community. I encouraged them to imagine how seniors might gather and catch up over newspapers in the reading room, over fabric in a well-attended craft workshop, or gain valuable knowledge by attending workshops on health literacy, Medicare benefits, or avoiding online fraud.

The local history room, reading room, and cozy armchairs tucked in window nooks on the first floor aren't only for seniors, but they would certainly be enjoyed by them and were designed with their needs

and interests in mind. The same goes for the programs that would be held in the new community room: concerts, local history talks, art openings, films, arts and crafts workshops, tai chi, yoga, and more.

The library would also be able to offer new services that would benefit seniors, which we just don't have the space for currently. For example, I'd love to offer free tax preparation through the VITA program, small-group technology instruction, and referrals for social services.

A new space would also centralize staff workspace and improve technology access, so more staff would be readily available to assist seniors using the library's computers, printer, scanner, and research materials.

The Montague Public Libraries already have a great relationship with the Council on Aging, and we regularly collaborate on programs and initiatives. Having a new, accessible library facility with sufficient program space would allow library and COA staff to dream bigger, and work together to pursue grants, services, and programs that we haven't had the space or tools to consider before.

Of course, if you have suggestions for the kinds of services, materials, and programs you would like to see in the new space, the Library Building Steering Committee and I are all ears!

Caitlin Kelley, Director  
Montague Public Libraries



Tom Sullivan explains to third- and fourth-graders at Sheffield Elementary School in Turners Falls the plan for creating a pollinator pathway garden at the school. The students will gain experience in planting and tending the hundreds of plants in the garden, which was funded by the Franklin Conservation District.

## TURNERS FALLS AND

Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

A nice little **heat wave!** This is the earliest I can remember ever putting an AC in the window.

Faculty and staff at Greenfield Community College voted: 89.5% say they still have "**no confidence**" in college president Michelle Schutt, two years after taking a similar vote.

"[T]hreatened retrenchments of positions and a radical reorganization of the academic program in order to close the deficit will significantly undermine the quality of instruction at the College and curtail student support," they warn.

### Do First and Third intersect?

The water department was working on its lines this week on Third Street, and texts and social-media announcements went out on Sunday that it would be closed during the Monday through Thursday daytimes, "from L St to 1st St."

This concerned the people of this vicinity.

It was explained, repeatedly and at everyone who complained in confusion, that Third Street extends up the hill to the intersection at Kostanski Funeral Home, up to which First also extends, from Unity Park. This isn't exactly true, though – Third Street changes into Unity Street before that intersection; the houses on the west side of the street between Prospect and Central are 6 through 12 Unity.

I get why that was too complicated... but it also clearly bugged everyone to think that the founders of this village might have allowed two of the numbered streets to touch each other. Glad they didn't.

In March I wrote about the Village Project, an effort spearheaded

by local resident Derek Birr to intentionally make spaces for those in town who might be wanting to meet and hang out with more of their neighbors – for whatever reason – to do just that.

This Saturday, May 23 from noon to 6 p.m., the V.P. is hosting a cookout in that little zone at the end of Second Street at Unity Park where food trucks park, which its owners are calling the Nice District.

"Come hang out, meet your neighbors, and make some new connections," Derek writes. "We're hosting a **potluck-style BBQ** packed with good food, fun games, and great conversation. Bringing a dish or something for the grill is completely optional. We'd just love to have you there."

And at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Great Falls Discovery Center, just a couple blocks away from that cookout, there will be six live owls for you to study up close, if you are 5 years of age or more.

The Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center and Rescue Franklin County Wildlife have collaborated to bring **Eyes On Owls**, the people with the owls, to the Disco Center to give a slide presentation, hooting lessons, and more to interested parties.

"Everyone loves owls!" they claim rather boldly. "Learn about field marks, owl pellets, tips on how to protect owls, and the importance of owls and other birds of prey in the ecosystem."

The owl event is free and easy to gain access to, though children, even if they are 5 years of age or more, must be accompanied by adults.

And then it's **Memorial Day weekend**. Last week I mentioned the service on the Montague Center

common, 11:15 a.m. Sunday, where Lee Evers, the holder of the town's gold cane and a genuine WWII veteran, will be the guest speaker.

I should have added a mention of the one in downtown Turners, 10 a.m. Monday at Soldiers' Memorial Park, next to the library. This one is co-organized by the Montague Elks and the town's Soldiers' Memorial committee, an elected office.

Wendell Farm founder Nina Keller has been reading from her memoir, published this past winter by Human Error, entitled *Where Have All The Hippies Gone*, and talking about **having been a hippie**, and will continue do so next Tuesday, May 26 at 6 p.m. at the Greenfield library.

"I have literary and news documents to present," Keller writes, asking us to spread the news, "and some agricultural surprises."

According to an email the *Montague Reporter* received from a Canton, Massachusetts-based public relations firm this week, the governor of our state "is set to proclaim May 29 'Growing Wild Day'..." Residents, because of this, can get **free native plant "starter kits"** at participating nurseries.

Last year, the fifth year of this "Wild Day" promotion, I remember looking closely at the list of nurseries and scouting their locations before determining none were anywhere near us and angrily dragging the announcement email to my TRASH folder without sharing the news with our readers.

This year, however, I notice that Dave's Natural Garden in Granby is participating, a mere 10-hour walk or 41-minute drive from this vicinity according to the latest mapping

continued **next page**

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## OP ED

## A Library: No Longer Just a Room Full of Books

By THE BRICK HOUSE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**MONTAGUE** – For 35 years, the Brick House Community Resource Center has been one of the few places in downtown Turners Falls where families can meet and get the support they need. The only place where teenagers can show up after school when there's nowhere else to go. And one of the few rooms downtown where neighbors can teach and learn from each other – all for free.

A town this size needs more than one place doing this work. The Carnegie was built in 1906, when a library meant a room full of books. A library today means community – a place to gather, to learn, to belong. The building we have was not built for that.

The new library on the June 24 ballot is a chance to invest in a more resourceful Turners Falls – one that serves the families here to-

day, and gives the next generation more than the last one had.

Here is what a 21st-century library means for this town:

- A children's reading room where a parent can finally sit down with a stack of picture books no one has at home.

- A teen space that's *theirs* – a quiet corner to study with a librarian nearby, somewhere to hang out, somewhere warm on a winter afternoon.

Right now, the Brick House is the only option, and it's full. One place isn't enough.

- A community room that any group can book – for a class, a meeting, a support group. Right now, free public meeting space in downtown Turners Falls is almost nonexistent.

- A building that is actually accessible to elders, to parents pushing strollers, to neighbors with disabilities. The current Carnegie has served us proudly. It cannot serve all of us.

We know this is not free. The

town's share is real, and the timing – alongside the Franklin Tech investment – is real. But \$159 a year for the average homeowner buys a building that will serve every family in this town, every day, for the next century. A building that makes downtown Turners Falls a more attractive place to live, work, and own a home.

That is one of the better deals this town will see in our lifetimes, especially with the state covering nearly half the cost.

The Brick House exists because in 1989, after four women in this community were killed by their partners, neighbors decided to take care of each other, and they built something. That decision is still paying dividends – in every bag of groceries we hand out, in every teenager who walks through our door, and in every parent who finds a place to sit with their kid for an hour.

The new library is the same kind of decision. Our parents, our

families, and our teens cannot fit into the resources of a century ago. They need a town that is building toward them – not asking them to make do with less.

We imagine a more resourceful Turners Falls. Where a kid does homework after school in a quiet room with a librarian who knows them by name. Where a new parent finds a storytime walking distance from their home. Where a community group can meet without having to beg for space. Where the library is a building this town is proud of, not one it apologizes for.

That Turners Falls is on the ballot on June 24. The Brick House Board is voting Yes. We hope you will, too.

*The members of the Board of Directors of the Brick House Community Resource Center are Jim Katsoulis, president; Deborah Frenkel; Julia Handschuh; and Alexandra McGuigan.*

from previous page

## VICINITY.

software. Wait until the 29th, though, to collect these plants and seeds you've been promised by the governor, and I would maybe call ahead.

Spotted: A call by attendees at Wendell's transfer station, the WRATS, for musicians to go there and play together at 11 a.m. Saturdays.

I'm not sure if that invitation was only for Wendell people, but you can always pretend.

While you're up that way... Saturday, May 30 is the second annual **Moth Ball at the Wendell Free Library**: "Fancy/moth inspired dress encouraged."

Storybook reading-aloud and crafting begin at 5 p.m., the new playground is grand-opened at 6 p.m., and at 6:30 p.m., Harvard University entomologist Dr. Avalon Owens will deliver a lecture entitled "Like Moth to a Flame: The Causes of Insect Flight-to-Light Behavior."

Attendees will begin to dance at 8 p.m. due to the fact that Les Taiants, the Cajun band that powers the local Two-Step Nights, will have begun playing Cajun music, and then the headline event comes at 9 p.m.: a bright light attracting visiting moths, which will be interpreted live by Wendell moth specialist Adam Kohl.

Gill reader Judd Greenstein, a member of **Temple Israel Greenfield**, writes: "Temple Israel is excited to launch our first online auction to help raise funds for our programs, facility, and Hebrew school. The auction will be live until June 7. Here's an auction link" – which we have shortened to [www.tinyurl.com/TIGauction](http://www.tinyurl.com/TIGauction) ...

"Items range from local gift certificates to vacation home stays and various goods and services," Greenstein adds. "Thanks for supporting the Jewish community of Franklin County!"

There's some really good stuff in this raffle, including cat care, advanced life planning, a crockpot, and a vintage velvet dinner jacket. They should offer those as a bundle.

Joe R. Parzych has signed up for the 2026 **Flutie 5K for Autism**, which takes place on June 13 in Bernardston, and encourages our readers to join him. See [www.tinyurl.com/TheFlutie5K](http://www.tinyurl.com/TheFlutie5K) ...

Incidentally, a file photo on Page A1 this week was taken from the sky by Joe R.'s late grandfather, Joe A., who we miss here at the *Reporter*.

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



### BUYING from page A1

assets worth \$4.6 billion, Natalie Joubert, vice president for external affairs and policy analysis, told the *Reporter*.

Private equity firms trade and manage companies not listed on stock exchanges. On its website, Hull Street Energy describes its approach as "invest[ing] in middle market power companies that are strategically positioned for growth as North American fuel supply, generation, transmission, and behind-the-meter assets transition to support a more sustainable future."

Hull Street will need to jump through a number of hoops before it expands its already formidable energy footprint. The FirstLight sale will need to be approved by FERC, the Federal Trade Commission, and the US Department of Justice.

"We are optimistic about the outcome of the relicensing process and do not expect the transaction to impact the process," Joubert told us.

Meanwhile, the Canadian fund selling the FirstLight assets in the US to Hull Street, PSP Investments, will retain the hydroelectric holdings north of the border that it had consolidated under the FirstLight banner in 2023 and 2024 – formerly H2O Power and Hydromega, with a combined 18 generating plants in Ontario and Quebec.

A spokesperson for FirstLight shared a statement on Wednesday that the company is "grateful for the support and partnership of PSP Investments throughout the last decade of its ownership, as we worked to grow the FirstLight platform into a leading provider of clean generation in the Northeast. We are excited to step into this next chapter with Hull Street Energy..."

Sarah Wright, founder and managing partner at Hull Street, is quoted in the firm's announcement of the agreement as saying that "the retirement of dispatchable generation in New England has left the region struggling to integrate sufficient new clean resources to meet growing demand, raising concerns about the impact of narrowing reliability margins on grid stability and affordability.

"Addressing this challenge," Wright continues, "requires thoughtful retention and optimization of existing clean, firm, long duration resources like Northfield Mountain which plays a critical role in maintaining grid reliability across the region."

### Local Partners

This analysis may generate skepticism among some local environmentalists. At one packed informational meeting at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls in October 2024 at which Mass-DEP presented the research findings informing its water quality assessment, officials were barged with criticisms of the Northfield Mountain storage facility for causing pollution, killing fish, eroding river banks, endangering indigenous artifacts, and causing the river to run backwards.

Connecticut River Conservancy executive director Rebecca Todd, whose agency is one of several appealing the state's assessment of the hydro projects' impact on the river, was more circumspect in her initial reaction to the announcement of the sale.

"Hull Street Energy LLC has announced that they are interested in safe, sustainable, reliable and affordable energy, and we agree that sustainability is critical to hydropower operations," she wrote to the *Reporter*. "We have advocated for the Connecticut River since 1952 and welcome a conversation about the ways this purchase will protect our rivers, habitats, and communities."

"Hull Street Energy is committed to and excited about being good partners in the communities in which we own and operate facilities and communicating regularly with local stakeholders," Joubert told us.

Local officials informed on Tuesday of the potential sale were hesitant to offer comment without more information.

"I can't say I have anything discerning to say," Gill town administrator Ray Purington told us.

There was a similar reaction from Northfield's Andrea Llamas, who said she had been out of the office when a FirstLight representative called with the news and left a voicemail. "We'll find out," she said.

Walter Ramsey, Montague's town administrator, expressed skepticism that an ownership change would result in significant changes in policy concerning the hydro projects. He said he had been assured by director of assessing Adam Tocci that the town's recent agreement with FirstLight to schedule payments *in lieu* of taxes, stabilizing disputed assessments of its property for the next decade, will remain intact.

Attempts to reach Erving officials for comment did not receive a response as of press time.

### Changing Hands

The collection of facilities known as FirstLight was first owned by Northeast Utilities (NU), which built the pumped-storage station at Northfield in the 1970s. Facing deregulation, NU grouped its power plants together in 1999 as the Northeast Generation Company, and sold that company in 2006 to Energy Capital Partners (ECP), a private equity firm founded by Goldman Sachs executives. NU is now known as Eversource.

In under two years ECP upgraded the plants, restructured the company, renamed it FirstLight, and sold it at a large profit to SUEZ Energy North America. In 2016 parent company GDF Suez, rebranded as Engie, sold the package to PSP Investments, a Canadian crown corporation.

Mike Jackson provided additional  
writing and reporting.



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**RACE** from page A1

three three-year spots on Montague's board of public library trustees, while no one filed papers for an open two-year seat. The three incumbents were victorious – Lydia Ievens with 473 votes, Jim Martineau with 435, and Miryam Vesset with 464 – and while the fourth candidate, Cara Hins, only won 244, a whopping 214 write-in votes were apparently cast for the empty seat, which analysts believe bodes well for Hins.

"There were no decisions to make, hardly at all," Montague selectboard member Rich Kukulewicz told the *Reporter* as he emerged from the polls Tuesday at Franklin County Technical School. "I wish there were."

"No news here," David Jensen, staying busy as a poll worker for Precinct 2, echoed.

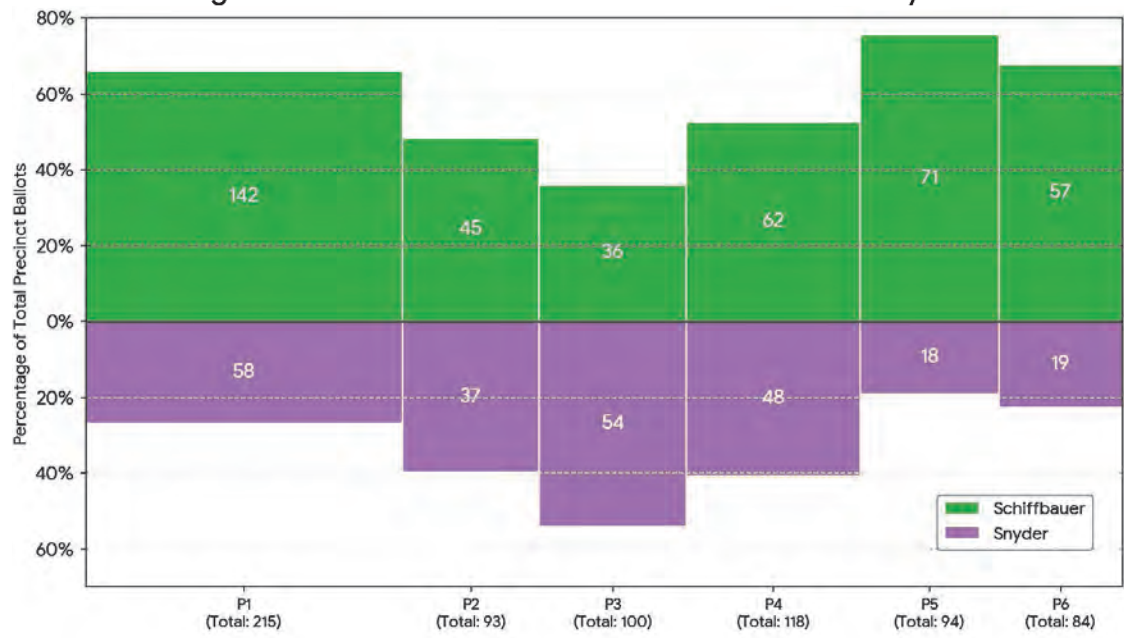
It was a strange sentiment, given that there actually was a competitive race at the top of Montague's ballot, but both candidates were newcomers to the town's political arena, and their campaigns had been fairly quiet.

Four of the town's six precincts now vote at the tech school – Precincts 2, 3, 4, and 6 – and the candidates themselves lived in the other two: John Snyder in 1, and Nate Card (Schiffbauer) in 5.

Recently retired town accountant Carolyn Olsen, the Precinct 4 warden, paced around the perimeter of the gymnasium reading a mystery novel. "Our precinct didn't have a single voter the first hour," she told the *Reporter* around 5:30 p.m., "but it's picking up."

Workers in every precinct said they had encountered voters hoping to weigh in on the library debt. Lawn signs on both sides of the issue have spread in recent weeks, and pro-library volunteers were tabling outside every polling station.

**Montague 2026 Selectboard Election - Vote Distribution by Precinct**



"People are confused," said Precinct 3 warden Sheryl Jablonski. "They think that the library vote is on the ballot. Not everyone, but many have asked, 'Where's the library vote?'"

"Eight or so mentioned it to me," Precinct 6 warden Robin Sargent confirmed. "It didn't help that there's people out there with signs for the library – that sort of reinforced the idea."

In the end, voters must have done more than flip a coin to choose a selectboard member: Nate Card won 413 to 234 townwide, with six write-in ballots cast and 51 left blank. He also won in five of the six precincts, with Snyder leading only in Precinct 3, where he won 54 to 36.

Card, who moved to Franklin County in 2023, works as a planner at an ecological design firm in Greenfield and lives in downtown Turners Falls.

He tabled with the library campaigners outside the polls on Tuesday and expressed his support for the library project more clearly throughout the campaign season than Snyder, a Chestnut Hill resident who moved to town in 2019 and works as chief operating officer at Farmacy 253.

Nevertheless, after the election Card emphasized his intention to represent the breadth of the local community.

"I'm honored and humbled to be chosen to serve all of Montague's residents for the next three years," he said in a written statement. "My invitation to talk about and invest in our town's future extends to all residents, whether someone voted for me or not... I want to live in a town that comes together in tough times, not one divided by differences."

**SPACE** from page A1

the public has a chance to soak in the experience live at the Shea Theater, interspersed with commentary from astronaut Cady Coleman, author of the book *Sharing Space: An Astronaut's Guide to Mission, Wonder, and Making Change*. The event is free and open to the public.

The accomplished musicians in the live ensemble all have roots in western Massachusetts, with Chris Cheek on alto saxophone, Carl Clements playing flutes, Josh Metz on acoustic bass, and Claire Arenius playing drums. A large model of the International Space Station contributes to the ambiance of the show.

"There are some basic guardrails for us to match the visuals with the music, but there's always room for improvisation," said Thomas in an interview with the *Montague Reporter* this week. "We can't help but be inspired by what we're seeing on the screen, so every show is different."

The group has performed the live show eight times over the last 18 months, including a performance last summer at the JFK Library in Boston that Thomas called "a fantastic experience." The upcoming show at the Shea Theater will be Coleman's third time participating.

"Cady has a way of reaching people that's really special," said Thomas. "We want to make this a community event for all the hill towns in western Massachusetts and southern Vermont that will attract families, so children will be ignited by what they're going to see and hear. There's something about pairing the music with the visuals that takes people outside of themselves."

One of the highlights of the show is the haunting sound of the Indian

bansuri flute.

"When we show coral reefs from space and Carl Clements plays the bansuri, it creates an ethereal feeling," said Thomas. "The bamboo creates a visceral sound, a woody tone like a human voice that creates harmonics that bounce around and stir people's emotions. I've had people come up afterwards and say they were moved in a profound way."

Shea Theater managing director Linda Tardif says she is "thrilled" to host the event, which is made possible in part by state and local grant funding.

"We're hoping it's a full house for what is a real family-friendly event," said Tardif. "It will be actual footage from the Space Station, with live orchestration and an astronaut sharing her experience. When we heard about this it sounded so cool – how could we not find a way to do it, and make it free and accessible to people? Because that's what the Shea is all about."

The idea to make *Windows on Earth* a live event came after the 2024 election when University of California Television released "Shades of Blue," a five-minute montage of Space Station footage featuring a "guitarscape" piece by Thomas. After receiving comments that the music brought solace to listeners upset by the election, he talked with his wife about what else he could do.

"Finally she said, 'If you're going to do something, go big!'" recalled Thomas. "I want to provide art that excites, provokes, calms, and inspires people. Something I said to myself at the time was, 'There is no time like the present to affect the future.'"



*Clockwise, from top: Cady Coleman, a retired NASA astronaut who spent half a year on the International Space Station in 2010 and 11, will join the live show for the fourth time in Turners Falls; Chris Cheek; Carl Clements; Claire Arenius; and Earth Music Theater founder Steve Thomas.*

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**MONTAGUE** from page A1

use of public property by noting that his organization, Rootstock Racing, was a “really grassroots 501(c)(3) non-profit” that works in the “amazing, but relatively unknown, niche sport of adventure racing.” Teams and sometimes individuals, he explained, must “navigate” through the “wilderness” on bikes, on foot, and by paddling, using only a map and compass.

The September event, called the Blue Hills Adventure Race, would begin and end in Greenfield, looping south and then northeast through a variety of potential routes in several local towns – including on roads in Montague. Freedland said state officials have told him Rootstock will not need a permit for the use of roads because the event will be so “dispersed,” but he still wanted to come to the towns to get permission.

“I’ll be honest, I’ve been race-directing for the better part of 20 years, and I know that a lot of race directors have the philosophy that public roads are public roads,” he said. “It’s not really the approach I take.”

Lord asked how potential participants who think they can “hack it” can find out about the race. Freedland said the event can be found on Rootstock’s website, [www.rootstockracing.com](http://www.rootstockracing.com), which also mentions that the non-profit is based in Philadelphia and that Freedland organizes the events with his partner, Abby Perkiss.

**Warmth Extended**

In further licensing-related developments, the board approved a permit to allow Common Variety Cafe and Market to serve beer and wine during a private memorial service on May 30. Administrative assistant Fern Smith confirmed that police chief Jason Haskins had authorized the permit.

Smith asked the board to endorse a memorandum to all current holders of wine and malt licenses, announcing that the town has approved a state law allowing them to convert to all-alcohol licenses with no impact on the town’s quota. The memo explains that these new licenses will not be transferrable, that if one is “surrendered,

cancelled, revoked, or no longer used” it will revert to the original wine and malt license, and that the town and state will each charge a \$200 fee for the conversion.

The board approved the memo. Smith said it will be sent to four current licensees.

At the request of town planner Maureen Pollock, the board extended the date for the completion of the state Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness 2.0 grant to June 30, 2027. The grant is being used to construct “winserts,” clear plastic film attached to rectangular frames that fit snugly into windows during the winter. These inserts, which are available for free to income-eligible residents, can significantly reduce heat loss.

Pollock said the planning department has organized two “community builds” in the town hall annex for volunteers to construct the winserts and “build community.” She said she was “delighted” to hear the state was offering extensions.

**Other Business**

Assistant town administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller asked the board to approve a \$118,690 contract with Omasta Landscaping, Inc., of Hatfield for improvements to the Unity Park playground. The work will include replacing the “beloved blue tube slide” as well as the pour-in-place rubber surfacing.

The board approved the request.

At the end of the meeting Lord, who was first elected to the selectboard by a single-vote margin in 2020, heaped praise on his two fellow board members, and they returned the favor. Lord thanked Rich Kuklewicz for “helping me get acclimated,” and praised Marina Goldman for “bringing a markedly different energy to your interests, and the way you conduct business, from the other board members.”

Kuklewicz applauded Lord, who works as an attorney, for his “legal expertise,” and Goldman nodded in agreement.

The selectboard’s next meeting will be held Monday, June 1, as next Monday is a holiday.



**LEVERETT** from page A1

Billings responded that increases in rural school aid, coupled with financial support for exploring and implementing regionalization, were short-term solutions for education reform, but that revisions to the Chapter 70 funding formula are needed for the long term.

She said she was “100% in favor of Healthcare for All,” and that it is often healthcare costs that have been driving increases in town budgets. Billings said she had voted in favor of the school budget in Bernardston this year, but that it was a difficult decision, particularly after hearing from a senior citizen about the difficulty in paying property taxes on a fixed income.

Billings said she envisions legislation to address what she called western Massachusetts’s “disproportionate” contributions to the state’s energy infrastructure, forestry, and other shared goods, which “have never been... compensated the way they should be.”

Selectboard chair Patricia Duffy commented that she hopes the east-west passenger rail project will go through, as it would benefit the state overall while mitigating the population decline in the west. She said she was concerned about the state taking regulatory control of solar farms and other policies away from local towns, as “we know our area the best.”

Billings said she was still getting up to speed on the rail proposal, but agreed on the need for greater local control. She cited the town of Monroe, where she said decommissioning the Rowe nuclear power plant had been poorly managed at the state level.

Resident Richard Nathhorst brought up Leverett’s initiative to create an electrical “microgrid” between town buildings, which he

said would save residents money while promoting local renewable energy generation.

Billings said she was concerned about the extent to which upgrades to the electrical grid are being funded by ratepayers, and the unknowns in meeting projected increased electrical demand. She said upgrading the large number of older homes in the area was a way to increase housing affordability while addressing both energy consumption and cost.

**Affordable Housing**

Barbara Carulli, longtime chair of Leverett’s affordable housing trust, informed the board that the group has been working with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) to create an affordable housing coordinator position to aid towns with development ineligible for Community Preservation Act funds.

Carulli said it was a “complicated field,” requiring expertise, and even more so for towns lacking infrastructure such as town water, sewer, and public transportation. She said Leverett would be the first town to make use of the program, and sought the board’s approval of an agreement with FRCOG to begin work.

Carulli reported that the inventory of affordable homes in Leverett “has gone from shrinking to practically disappearing entirely,” and suggested that a coordinator would help look into approaches such as Habitat for Humanity homes and small senior units.

The board members said they would read the agreement and possibly vote at their next meeting.

**Lawsuit**

Resident Silas Bell called on the selectboard to support a settlement with the Evans-Marlowe family, which has sued the town over a

disputed right-of-way to conservation land across their property, and to drop the town’s countersuit. He asserted that the selectboard and conservation commission had created a “misleading impression” that the family had denied emergency and maintenance access to the land, pointing out that the fire department has a key to the locked gate, and that the con com has made use of it.

Ball said it was his understanding that the land court had set a May 22 deadline for the town and the family to make a joint statement bringing an end to the dispute.

He also commented that he believed a project to create alternative access to the conservation area, recently approved at town meeting, had been “improperly linked” to the lawsuit and should have no bearing on whether it is continued, and asked about another possibility mentioned last winter by the board, as well as the cost of the legal proceedings thus far. He asked the board to respect the majority of residents who voted last fall against taking the right-of-way by eminent domain, and “clearly opposed any form of forcible taking of private property by the town.”

Duffy and Proujansky said the board could not comment on pending litigation, and was focusing on the alternative approved at town meeting.

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis said she will provide Ball with the total cost of the litigation next week.

**Field Building**

The selectboard discussed the next steps in determining the future of the historic Field building, which residents recently voted to retain ownership of and come up with ideas for use of. All in attendance Tuesday agreed that preserving and

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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

## MONTAGUE ZBA #26-06 and #26-07

Notice is hereby given that the Montague Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.** VIA ZOOM and IN PERSON at the Montague Town Hall Upstairs conference room, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA to review a Special Permit Request from **Richard Young** for a minimum frontage reduction from the required 75 ft to 73.5 ft, under Sections 5.5.1 and 5.5.3(a) and 9.2 of the Zoning Bylaws located at **12 Franklin Street (Parcel: 29-0-031), in the Neighborhood Business (NB) District.** The filing is available for review at Town Hall.

Notice is hereby given that the Montague Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.** VIA ZOOM and IN PERSON at the Montague Town Hall Upstairs conference room, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA to review a Special Permit Request from **Joe Burek** for a frontage reduction from the required 150 ft to 120 ft, and a lot size reduction from the required 1 acre to .8 acre to construct a 12' x 20' workshop for firewood harvesting operation under Sections 5.5.1, 5.5.3(a) and 9.2 of the Zoning Bylaws located at **Lake Pleasant Road (Parcel: 33-0-26), in the Agricultural Forestry (AF) District.** The filing is available for review at Town Hall.

In-person meeting details and remote meeting login information can be found at [www.montague-ma.gov/calendar](http://www.montague-ma.gov/calendar).

Joshua Lively, Chairman  
Montague Zoning Board of Appeals

## PUBLIC HEARING

### WENDELL CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Wendell Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing virtually only via Zoom on June 9, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. to determine whether the installation of a dry hydrant at McAvoy Pond complies with the MA Wetlands Protection Act and the Wendell Wetlands Protection Bylaw. A Notice of Intent was submitted by the Wendell Fire Department. The property is adjacent to 323 Lockes Village Road in Wendell and entails dredging, tree cutting, trenching, pipe installation, paving the shoulder and replanting.

To join the meeting, please use this Zoom link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81307558816>

restoring the structure’s “envelope” was the highest priority, and general sentiment was in favor of forming a working group including a Leverett historical commission member for that purpose.

Proujansky said he supported this, but cautioned against asking the group to deliberate on the long-term use of the building, saying that was a separate discussion which he wanted to “open up” to more residents.

Maureen Ippolito, a member of the *ad hoc* committee which had generated a report informing town meeting’s decision not to sell the building, said she was concerned that individuals who didn’t know the building’s background or what would be required to bring it up to code might not provide realistic guidance on its future use. Still, she said, the committee should be formed soon in order to meet the con com’s October 1 deadline for

grant proposals. The board agreed to put the matter on a future agenda.

**Other Business**

McGinnis reported that the town had received a \$250,000 grant for a road grader, which combined with money authorized at town meeting allows the highway department to proceed with the purchase.

She also reported that a final walk-through of the Dudleyville Road drainage project, which has finished Phase One, had found small changes were needed. She said she was filling out paperwork to use remaining grant money to accomplish these, as well as to plan for the next phase of the project.

The board awarded a \$124,500 contract for building the library’s outdoor stage to the lowest bidder, Laroche Construction.



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SUZETTE SNOW-COBB PHOTO

Eye on nature: These Canada geese spotted floating around in the power canal Wednesday morning appear to have gone and made more Canada geese.

**GILL** from page B1

certifying the results so the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) can draft the project funding agreement. The MSBA has agreed to reimburse around \$2.5 million of the project's expected \$3.8 million cost.

**New Loader**

Highway superintendent John Miner announced that the first grant he ever wrote had been approved, giving the town nearly a quarter million dollars to buy a new bucket loader. The grant is funded by MassDOT's Unpaved Roads grant program.

Miner explained that the equipment will be used daily for repairing dirt roads, loading trucks, and clearing obstacles. "I think it will take a big burden off the town for quite a few years," he said. "It's our most-utilized piece of equipment that the highway department owns."

Miner thanked Purington for his help with the grant process: "It's quite a lot of work."

Timing on the purchase is tight. The current quote for the equipment is only good until June 30, after which the cost is likely to rise. However, the state may take longer than that to issue a "notice to proceed." Miner said he would be in contact with the dealer to see if they would honor the price for an additional week or two.

He noted that 15 years ago, the

department got the same kind of equipment at half the cost, "just to give you an idea of how quickly we are going up in price."

The town plans to sell the current bucket loader. Miner expressed hope that funds from the sale could go toward buying the town a wood-chipper.

**Other Business**

The selectboard voted to make John Ward the chair and appoint Waldron as clerk. Waldron was appointed as representative on the personnel committee and animal control advisory committee; Charles Garbiel as representative on the regional planning board, cable advisory committee, and Northfield EMS task force; and Ward as representative to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA).

The board granted a special liquor license to the Northfield Mount Hermon School for its alumni weekend on June 4 to 6. Garbiel suggested he should also be invited to the event: "I used to go there as a trespasser back in high school. That should count for something."

Purington invited residents to come to Memorial Day services this Sunday, May 24. The event will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Gill Church, followed by a rose ceremony at the veterans' monuments across the street.

# FREE REGIONAL REPAIR EVENT

Hosted by the Franklin County Solid Waste District and the Franklin County Tech School

**Saturday, May 30 - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Tech School, 82 Industrial Blvd. Turners Falls

Students, instructors, and local fixers will be on hand. Every effort will be made to repair your item(s). Antiques and heirlooms cannot be fixed at this event.

**BRING:**

- Lamps and household electrical items
- Items needing to be glued
- Knife sharpening (limit 3 per household)
- Garden tool sharpening (limit 2 per household)
- Mending (sewing); darning; wool repair
- Lawn mower blades for sharpening (drop-off)
- Chainsaw chains for sharpening (drop-off)
- Jewelry (gluing and restringing beads)
- Wooden furniture repair

**ALSO!**

- Blood pressure checks
- Sadie's Bikes will offer repairs that do not require parts. For example, adjust brakes, oil chain, etc. They will also provide instruction on repairs.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND UPDATES:**

Contact the Solid Waste District at (413) 772-2438, fcswmd@crocker.com or visit franklincountywastedistrict.org

Free regional repair events will take place next Saturday, May 30 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Franklin County Technical School, and Saturday, June 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Colrain Elementary. Local fixers will be on hand to sharpen blades, darn holes, and try to get household electrical items to work again.

In conversation after the meeting, Garbiel mentioned that he had taken out nomination papers for the Massachusetts governor's race and would soon begin gathering signatures to get his name on the ballot.



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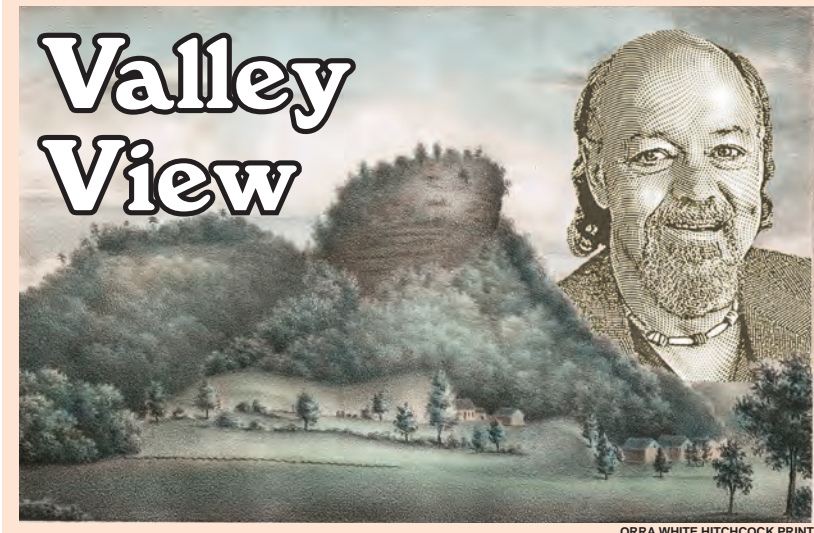


CHARLOTTE MURTIKSHAW PHOTO

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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

MAY 21, 2026



ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK PRINT

## The Warnings Were There

By GARY SANDERSON

**GREENFIELD** – An interesting little booklet focusing on a topic I have been immersed in for five decades came to my attention a month ago while perusing a classy little monthly catalog I receive from Callahan & Co. Booksellers of Peterborough, New Hampshire. In business since 1975, the Live Free or Die merchant specializes in “books about hunting, fishing, field sports and sporting bibliography,” with, I might add, a healthy dose of natural history as well.

Here, word-for-word, is the catalog listing that drew my curiosity:

*Moss, Douglas D. A HISTORY OF THE CONNECTICUT RIVER AND ITS FISHERIES. Connecticut Board of Fisheries and Game; no date. Illustrated with B&W photographs and reproductions. 6 by 9 inches. 14 pp. Paper wrappers. A history of the river, and the populations of shad, Atlantic salmon and alewife. Very good.*

Surprisingly, I was unfamiliar with the title, and could not recall ever seeing it anywhere, not even in a bibliography or footnote. How could I possibly resist ponying up 12 bucks, including shipping, to deliver it home?

The package arrived in the mail a few days later. I opened the padded envelope, removed the booklet from its protective, cardboard-reinforced plastic sleeve, and gave it a quick read. Interesting. Yes, very interesting.

Given the contents, including a short, introductory Moss bio, I was sure it had been published in the early 1960s – some seven years before an aggressive restoration program aimed at salmon and other anadromous fish kicked into full-speed-ahead mode.

After reading it, my first chore was pinning down the precise year it was published. A keyword cyber-search produced a quick answer. One of the first hits was a September 25, 1960 book review

from the *New York Times* archives. So, it must have been published that year, which coincided with Moss’s retirement.

Just out of curiosity, I checked to see if the review was written by well-known *Times* outdoor columnist Nelson Bryant and came up with an even better result. It was the work of Franklin County’s own John W. Randolph, whose landed East Colrain estate some three miles up the hill from me, now owned by his son John, still contains his humble grave and that of his wife.

Though I never met Randolph the NYT columnist, I do know the son, who I often visited and who gave me permission to hunt his acreage, including an old orchard that produced many grouse and woodcock flushes. An outdoor writer himself, young John’s career went from outdoor editor at Vermont’s *Brattleboro Reformer* and *Bennington Banner* before founding the popular *Vermont Sportsman* and then becoming editor/publisher of *Fly Fisherman* magazine, from which he retired. He was quite an athlete in the late 1950s at Arms Academy in Shelburne Falls before graduating from Williams College and serving in the Marines.

In his NYT review, the elder Randolph praised Moss for finally putting to rest ridiculous exaggerations about colonial-era salmon abundance in our Connecticut River valley. He felt it was long overdue to set the salmon record straight, and Moss finally did so. Having digested Moss’s skepticism, he also seemed tepid to the possibility of re-establishing a viable future salmon fishery on the Connecticut and its tributaries.

If such opinions were out there in black and white and discussed in the public square, where did the newfound optimism of the 1980s come from? It’s not like some of the people involved in the restoration program weren’t aware of Moss’s work. They just chose to ignore it with a new, hopeful sheriff in town.

Moss’s booklet summarizes his diligent fishery research during an see **VALLEY VIEW** page B8

Above: Roaring Mountain and Ox Hill – obscuring Mount Toby – loom over the Craig Equestrian grounds on Route 63.

## The Week in High School Sports: In, and Out, of Many Tournaments

By MATT ROBINSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – The regular season for baseball and softball concluded this week, and the PVI-AC and state vocational playoffs began. Several weekend games were played, but I was out of town. However, during the week, I got the chance to watch some games as a fan, not as a reporter, while I chatted with some of the regulars.

The tennis teams were also in action, but their postseason fates have yet to be determined, and the Turners Falls and Franklin Tech track teams will compete in the Western Massachusetts championship meet this Friday.

**Baseball**  
FCTS 8 – Westfield Tech 7  
Lenox 9 – FCTS 8  
Westfield Tech 11 – FCTS 1  
Hopkins 11 – TFHS 0  
FCTS 6 – Mt. Greylock 5

Last Wednesday, Franklin Tech hosted Westfield Tech for their last regular-season baseball matchup. I watched the first few innings before heading to the Franklin Tech softball game even though I wasn’t planning on reporting on it. It was kind of nice just watching the action, not recording every single pitch, catch, and throw.

That first inning was amazing, and something I had never seen occurred. The field was wet, and every



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners Falls High School’s Autumn DiMare plates a run in the sixth inning of the Western Mass quarterfinal game Monday night at Mullins Field.

time the ball rolled in the grass a new, dryer baseball had to be substituted.

Hunter Donahue led off for Tech and got on base, and then George Gutierrez, Jr., bunted it to advance Donahue. The ball squirreled down the line, but the player had trouble picking it up, and then bobbled the throw to first. Donahue and Gutierrez never stopped running. Westfield made several attempts to throw them out, but each time the ball corkscrewed away, handing Tech two runs on a bunt.

When I left, the score was 5-4

Westfield. I returned a little later because Addison Talbot and her dad were there, and I needed Addison to help identify a photo of a player. It was nice catching up with Mr. Talbot. We grew up less than a mile through the woods from each other.

The Eagles came back to defeat Westfield 8-7. Donahue and Colton Kingsbury each batted in two runs, and Aiden Winn knocked in one.

Over the weekend, Tech participated in two playoff tournaments. On Saturday the visiting fifth-seeded

see **SPORTS** page B2

## MONTAGUE REPORTER...

Our March 19 edition toured the Western hemisphere. Below: Mark and Francia Wisniewski of Turners Falls brought it to see this afternoon vista over Cali, Colombia.

At right: Amy Kirchner and Jonathan Owen, also of Turners Falls, brought the same edition to a different Cali this spring: Death Valley, California.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



## ...ON THE ROAD

# Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

## 'TUNA'

Meet Tuna! This handsome 3-year-old stray is ready to trade life on the streets for a cozy home and plenty of attention. He is a very vocal boy who isn't shy about telling you when he wants affection and company.

If you're looking for a cat who will happily chat with you throughout the day, Tuna may be your perfect match. Tuna has been sweet and attention-seeking, and loves soaking up pats from anyone willing to stop

by. He should settle well into most homes as long as adopters give him time to adjust and provide slow introductions to any resident pets.

If you'd like to adopt Tuna, begin the process by calling the Dakin Humane Society at (413) 781-4000 ext. 1, emailing [springfield@dakin-humane.org](mailto:springfield@dakin-humane.org), or visiting in person, Tuesday through Sunday between 12:30 and 3 p.m. The \$299 fee covers vaccination, a health certificate, and a microchip registered to you.

## SPORTS from page B1

Lenox Millionaires upset the Eagles, ranked fourth, in the Western Mass Class C quarterfinal held at Franklin Tech. The visitors took an early lead, and the Eagles' comeback fell short.

Lenox led 5-0 after two and a half innings. The Eagles chipped away in the home third to make it 5-3, and they nosed ahead to 6-5 in the fourth. In the fifth, though, the Millionaires plated four runs to take back the lead for good. Tech got two runs back in the sixth but they came up empty in the seventh, and Lenox held on to win it 9-8.

Six Eagles had hits in the loss with Donahue, Gutierrez, and Wayde Bardwell leading the pack.

The Westfield Techies got revenge on the Eagles on Sunday in the state vocational semifinals. Westfield scored early and often, with Franklin plating a single run in the sixth. Donahue scored that run, and Nicholas Prasol got the RBI.

On Monday, while the Turners Falls girls were at home battling the Hopkins Golden Hawks, the Turners boys were in action down in Hadley against the top-seeded Hopkins baseball team in the quarterfinal round of the PVIAC Class D bracket. This game was halted via the mercy rule in the fifth, with Tyler Newton getting Turners' only hit.

On Tuesday I got the chance to watch a little of the Turners/Franklin Tech JV game. It was the first hot day of the season – the temperature was in the 90s, with some areas reporting triple digits – and two regulars told me at the game that both Sheffield and Franklin Tech were without air conditioning, and the kids and faculty were sweltering.

The Tech juniors scored two runs in the first and then it got windy. Hats blew off, chairs flipped over, and newspapers went flapping in the wind. And then came a downpour so intense that people scrambled for their cars, and the players retreated to the dugouts. The rain lasted only 20 minutes, but it seemed like we got at least a half an inch.

I was soaked to the skin and my notes were starting to run on the page, so I called it a night. It was nice seeing the next generation of student athletes competing.

Both Franklin Tech and Turners were provided consolation games. On Wednesday, the Eagles bested Mount Greylock 6-5 at home, and the Thunder travel to Westfield this Thursday to play Saint Mary's.

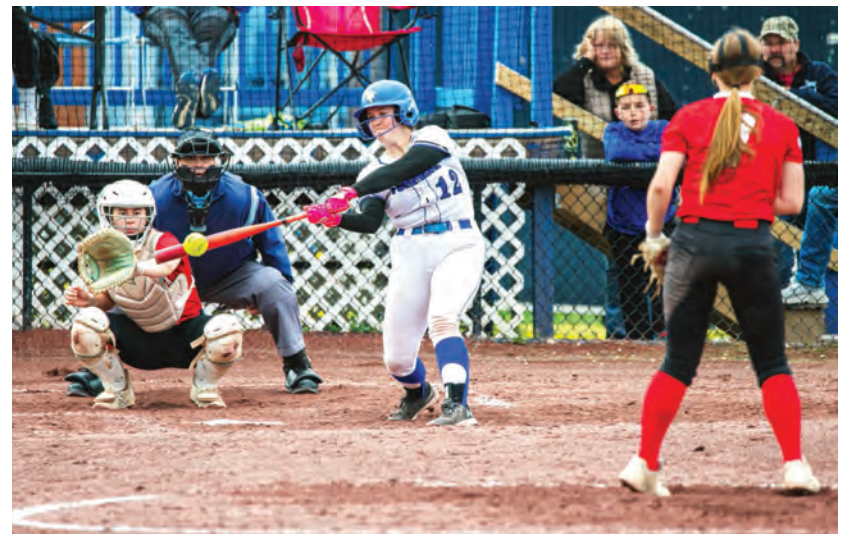
Both teams will learn their post-season fates on May 27 when the MIAA bracket is announced.

### Softball

Wahconah 10 – FCTS 4  
FCTS 15 – Mount Greylock 7  
Hopkins 18 – TFHS 9  
FCTS 7 – McCann 1

Last Wednesday was also the Franklin Tech Eagles' last regular-season softball game, against the visiting Wahconah Warriors. I also watched this game as a fan. I split my time between the baseball and softball games, but I had the privilege of watching softball with Roger Ozdarski.

Although retired, Mr. Ozdarski still attends most Franklin Tech home games, and we always have conversations when we meet. One thing we agreed upon on Wednesday, especially after the Warriors opened up an eight-run lead, was that Berkshire teams are tough this year.



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS

Top: Janelle Massey blasts a single in the bottom of the fifth inning of Turners Falls' home game last Friday against the visiting Mount Greylock Mounties.

Above: Madison Haight connects at the plate during the first inning of Monday's quarterfinal game against Hopkins Academy.

Franklin did score two runs in the seventh to make the final 10-4. Lindsey Taylor and Ava Worden batted in two runs each with Skylei Lapan, Annabella Brown-Stratton, Lyla Mickiewicz, and Emma Petersen scoring.

On Saturday the fourth-seeded Eagles buried number-five Mount Greylock 15-7 in the Class C quarterfinals. The Eagles racked up 15 hits in the win with Breanna Kempf, Charley Knight, and Sandra Johnson clocking doubles.

And on Wednesday the team upended the McCann Green Hornets out in North Adams to punch their ticket to the Western Mass championship game, proving that Berkshire teams may be tough this year, but are not unbeatable. Franklin scored four runs in the third inning and three more in the seventh, holding Green to one run in the fourth. Johnson and Worden hit triples, while Knight and Samantha Duncan cracked doubles.

On Thursday the Eagles will learn who they'll play in the championship game. If Lenox wins against the Greenfield Green Wave, the Eagles will play another Berkshire team. If Greenfield wins, Tech will get a chance to avenge their two regular-season losses against the Wave, which they lost by a total of three runs.

While the team is doing exceptionally well in the Western Mass tourney, they have a battle to wage in another arena. The Lady Birds are ranked fourth in the state vocational tournament, and travel to Dighton this Thursday to take on the top-seeded Bristol County Agricultural Chieftains.

On Monday, the Turners Falls Thunder were eliminated from the Western Mass Class D tournament in the quarterfinal.

The visiting Golden Hawks came out swinging. The first batter tried to stretch a long double into

a triple, but was caught in a pickle between second and third. Another long hit and a fielders' choice gave the visitors a runner on second with two outs, and a pickoff at third kept them off the scoreboard.

In the bottom of the first, a walk, a base hit, and an Ivy Lopez RBI put Turners up 1-0. Hopkins tied it up in the second, but Turners scored twice in their second to regain the lead, 3-1.

In the third, all nine Hopkins batters came to the plate. They took advantage of wild pitches, made several steals, and hit the ball well to take a 6-3 lead. Turners came up empty in the next three innings while Hopkins increased that lead to 8-3.

Turners answered in the sixth, scoring four runs to make it an 8-7 game. The inning ended with a disputed tag at third. In the seventh, the wheels came off the Thunder bus as 10 runs crossed the plate, putting Blue in an 18-7 hole.

During that scoring spree, some of the fans near me disagreed loudly with the home plate umpire's calls. I've been to hundreds of games over the years, and I've learned not to question the officials. It's best to let them make their calls, give the winners their due, and take losses like a champ.

Turners did narrow the gap to nine runs in the seventh for the final of 18-9. They also had nine hits in the game with Lopez, Autumn Thornton, and Abbey Moffett getting two each and Talbot, Madison Dietz, and Maddie Haight one each. Haight, Thornton, and Talbot clocked doubles.

Fortunately for the fans, the season is still not over. This Friday, the Thunder will host the Pioneer Black Panthers in a PVIAC consolation match. After that tournament is done and over, both the Eagles and the Thunder will compete in the statewide MIAA playoffs.



## Senior Center Activities MAY 25 THROUGH 29

### 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 5/25

Closed for Memorial Day

#### Tuesday 5/26

9 a.m. Chair Yoga  
11 a.m. Money Matters  
12:30 p.m. Tech Tuesday  
3 p.m. Tai Chi  
4:30 p.m. Office Hours with Selectboard Member Marina Goldman

#### Wednesday 5/27

10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo  
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

#### Thursday 5/28

10 a.m. Ask a Nurse

1 p.m. Pitch

#### Friday 5/29

10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
12 p.m. Franklin Flute Choir and Members' Lunch  
2 p.m. Chair Dance

### LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held Wednesdays at 10 a.m., hybrid, at the town hall and on Zoom. Foot care clinics are the third Tuesday of each month. The next clinic is June 16.

Luncheons are held on the fourth Friday of each month at town hall. For more information, contact (413) 548-1022 or [coa@leverett.ma.us](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us), or check the town newsletter or the Leverett Connects listserv.

### 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 5/25

Closed for Memorial Day

#### Tuesday 5/26

9 a.m. Stretch and Balance  
10 a.m. Line Dancing  
11 a.m. Social Stringer

#### Wednesday 5/27

9 a.m. Interval Training

10 a.m. Chair Aerobics

11:30 a.m. Bingo

#### Thursday 5/28

12 p.m. Spring Fling Lunch

6 p.m. Sheryl Faye as Amelia Earhart

#### Friday 5/29

8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting and Open Sew

### WENDELL

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. The next clinic is June 3. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments.

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

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## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on May 19, 2016: News from the Montague Reporter archive.

### Towns to Share Potable Water

At its Tuesday meeting, the Leverett selectboard met with the town's well committee and Amherst public works administrator Amy Rusciecki, who agreed to share the \$57,000 cost of permitting and design to extend Amherst water to Leverett.

Since the closure of the unlined landfill in 1992, a "plume" of pollutants emanating from the site is believed to have contaminated the water table, requiring the town to provide testing and potable water to a handful of south Leverett residents whose wells have tested

positive for volatile organic compounds.

### School Committee Upset

Nine percent of Montague's voters, and nine percent of Gill's, turned out Monday in local elections.

The upset of the day came in the race for Montague's representative to the town's shared school committee. Political newcomer Heather Kastsoulis and two-term committee member Marjorie Levenson, with 36% and 33% of votes cast, edged out Joyce Phillips, who has served on the committee nearly continuously since 1994, by just 35 votes.

"The committee has a lot of tough work moving forward," said Levenson.

## 20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on May 18, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter archive.

### Volunteers – With Cell Phones

On a cold, wet Sunday, 13 residents from Wendell and New Salem drove to Suffolk University in Boston and spent the day salvaging shelves from the library the university is replacing. If purchased new, the shelves would cost as much as \$56,000.

Finding the library and a place to park among the one-way streets and the lack of directional signs in Boston was difficult. The work took longer than expected, and the one U-Haul truck was too small for the

whole load. Around 8 p.m. in New Salem, fresh volunteers, coordinated by cell phone, helped unload the shelving into the New Salem town hall gym. On the trip home, Wendell librarian Rosie Heidkamp began calling on a cell phone to arrange to go back to Boston the next day.

### The Bear Facts

This spring, the Erving police department has received calls regarding bear sightings from all over town. To help keep bears and other wild animals away from homes, they suggest you bring in your bird feeders and pet food bowls at night, keep trash in a secure area, and not approach a bear if you see one.

## 140 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on May 19, 1886: News from the Turners Falls Reporter archive.

### Turners Falls and Vicinity

Tramps and pedlers are unpleasantly thick this spring-time.

Owing to a scarcity of logs the Turners Falls Lumber Company have stopped running their mill nights.

The water has been shut off from every family in the village to-day, on account of a broken pipe in the L street sewer trench.

There is about the usual amount of sickness from malaria this season, but more cases than common are reported among the school children.

Dr. C.C. Messer has opened an office in Bankwitz's block, on Third street, where he has very superior accommodations. He is a very skilful young physician.

B.N. Farren, Esq., daughter, governess and servants have come to his Montague City home for the summer.

E.L. Goddard has found a means of keeping trespassers off his meadow on Second street. He has put up a double wire fence,

barbed on the inside.

E. G. Peabody is building on the Millers Falls road a story and a half house for Ed. Loveland, who has begun the cultivation of strawberries there on a ten acre lot.

An act has been passed by the legislature, this year, which gives women the privilege of being assessed for a poll tax by applying to an assessor or an assistant assessor while he is making his canvas. Heretofore a woman desiring to be taxed so as to become a voter has had to go to the assessor's office.

Mrs. S. Davy is soon to start for England, having been advised by her doctors to take a sea voyage.

Some men are too mean and short-sighted to enhance the value of their property by planting and maintaining trees in front of it.

The only strike where entire good feeling prevails is the baseball strike.

The New Haven and Northampton railroad raised the pay of its section men from \$1.30 to \$1.50 a day beginning May 1st.

It is pretty certain that the village of Turners Falls will be lighted with electricity before many moons come and go.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## No Victims; Behavior Increasing Lately; Arrest Made at Station; Fifth Dog Overlooked; Carport Full of Trash; Frog Song

### Monday, 5/11

9:19 a.m. Shelburne Control received a call from a crisis text line that a man just shot his girlfriend, and then himself, on East Main Street. Confirmed "swatting" call. No gunshot victims inside or outside of the building. Officer spoke with management and advised them of ongoing issues.

1:03 p.m. FirstLight Power employee reports that on May 6 around 8:33 p.m., two younger males got through the fence to Cabot Station; went into the fish-counting room, which was unlocked; and unplugged the fish-counting camera. No other damage observed. Employee just wanted incident on record.

3 p.m. Caller states that there is an intoxicated female on the front porch of a Fourth Street residence and they want her to leave, but she is refusing. Second caller states the woman won't leave her porch; wants her removed. Officer providing transport back to involved party's house; her landlord was there and stated she would look after her.

5:02 p.m. Officer advises he has been approached multiple times about a suspicious party interacting with children at Unity Park. Officer observed the male take off running around the bases of the softball field, hooting and hollering and making indistinct noises. Officer approached male and asked to speak with him.

After a lengthy conversation, male stated he was on medication for cancer treatments. It was also reported that the male had taken his teeth out and left them at the skatepark. When officer informed male of this, he stated he didn't know where his teeth were. Teeth were located, along with a sweatshirt, and given back to the male party. He was provided with a courtesy transport to his residence.

8:11 p.m. 911 caller requesting female be removed from property; states she is intoxicated and lying on the lawn, and the caller does not want her there anymore. Assisted female inside. Advised caller of options, including a Section 35 and eviction.

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### Tuesday, 5/12

12:22 p.m. Caller from Oakman Street reports that a crew cutting trees in front of his house just tore down a wire. Officer advises Comcast and Verizon phone lines are involved. Call placed. Homeowner does not use either line.

2:36 p.m. Caller from East

Main Street reports that a female stole two Amazon packages from outside her door. Officer spoke to both parties about incident.

### Wednesday, 5/13

1:36 a.m. Caller from Third Street states she had a break-in around 9:30 p.m.; she didn't report it but would like to now because they stole some cigarettes. Caller states "they" have stolen a number of things over the past few years and have also poisoned their cat. Officer returning call. Caller called back at 3 a.m. and stated that someone broke in again while she was outside, because a bottle of pills was spilled on the floor.

8:55 a.m. Caller from Third Street reports that a female said threatening things that were caught on camera; would like a call back. Officer advises the threats stated "They better have good insurance." Caller not present at time; hoping to seek order against female, whose behavior has been increasing lately.

1:09 p.m. 911 caller from Old Greenfield Road reports her son is being crazy, screaming and throwing things, and won't let her talk. Can hear male yelling in background. Situation mediated. Neighbor came to station asking what can be done regarding ongoing disturbances; advised to call PD during noise disturbances. She will pass this along to her neighbors.

2:13 p.m. 911 report of car accident with injuries on Fourth Street; transferred to Control. Caller reports involved female states she has blood pressure issues, and is currently attempting to leave the scene. Investigated.

4:06 p.m. Party into station looking to speak to an officer about getting property from his mom's home; found to have an active warrant. A 39-year-old Agawam man was arrested on a straight warrant.

5:04 p.m. 911 caller from Old Greenfield Road states her son is chasing her around; she would like an officer to respond. Verbal argument only. Parties were separated. Caller again advised of eviction process if she is not happy with the living dynamic. Advised involved party not to speak to caller and to leave her alone. Caller advised she would be leaving momentarily.

### Thursday, 5/14

5:05 p.m. 911 caller reporting a gold Toyota Corolla has its flashers on just before the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge; operator is slumped over. Referred to other police de-

partment.

5:08 p.m. 911 caller from Fourth Street reporting transformer smoking and no power. Transferred to Control. Eversource stated that a branch was on the line or transformer; will clear that up.

8:01 p.m. 911 caller from Walnut Street reports a male party yelling and causing a disturbance. Situation mediated.

### Friday, 5/15

4:38 p.m. FRTA dispatch requesting officers to the bus stop on Avenue A in front of Food City for an intoxicated passenger. Officer requesting EMS to evaluate female on bus. Party transported to Baystate Franklin by TFFD.

9:26 p.m. Leverett PD advising of a loose, possibly injured, dog in the area of Gunn Road and Federal Street. Responding Montague officer requesting another unit to assist with traffic. 20 or so cars pulled over trying to help the dog. Officer able to get dog into his cruiser. Dog appears to have a severe limp; may have been struck by a vehicle. Bringing dog to VESH. Dog cleared; officer taking dog to shelter for the night.

### Saturday, 5/16

4:08 a.m. Caller reports that her neighbor's dog on Griswold Street has been outside barking and whining since 10 p.m. Caller has not been able to sleep. Officer made contact with owner, who has five dogs and forgot to bring one in earlier. Dog has since been brought inside.

10:41 a.m. Caller would like to speak to a supervisor about two detail officers on Route 63 not paying attention to traffic, creating a dangerous situation. Refusing to confirm ID. Officer listened to complaint and formulated a resolution that was satisfactory to the caller. Officer conducted a follow-up with all involved parties.

6:02 p.m. Caller reporting a white cat with wounds having trouble walking in the Third Street alley. Provided information for animal control.

8:33 p.m. 911 transfer from Control; caller reporting five or six cows in the roadway on Wendell Road. Area checked; unable to locate.

### Sunday, 5/17

11:48 a.m. Caller from Bridge Street reports that a neighbor left a bag of trash in their shared driveway; trash wasn't picked up, and animals got into it. The trash is now in her yard; bag is still in the driveway. Caller reports her ex-husband yelled at the other person, but she shut her window and didn't listen. States she

contacted the board of health and they weren't helpful. States involved female has a carport filled with trash. Would like PD to tell her to pick up her trash. Caller doesn't know involved party's name or address; would like an officer to respond to her house so she can show them. Officer observed various paper products consistent with tissues in a shared parking area. Advised caller of civil options.

2:29 p.m. 911 caller reporting elderly male yelling at children and threatening them on Avenue A near Subway. Party described as having long gray hair, dark clothing, and dark glasses. Second caller reports male party was yelling and told him to "go kill himself." Party seems intoxicated; was inside Subway and is now causing a disturbance in the roadway. Can hear male yelling in background. Third caller reports she is at the Creemee and can see the male threatening children and causing a disturbance. Officers spoke to involved parties and moved them along.

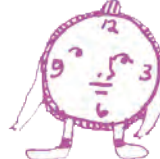
8:10 p.m. Caller from Second Street reports he was trying to leave his house and two squirrels attacked him. Would like an officer; states no need for medical. Officer advises it was a mother and baby squirrel who live above the house, and the baby couldn't climb up high enough. Squirrels not injured or rabid. Officer helped caller get out of the house. He's planning to park his car behind the house to get his mother to go to the store and avoid the squirrels.

### Monday, 5/18

12:11 a.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road states she can hear a dog yelping in the area; sounds like it is hurt or stuck in some kind of trap. Officer checked area and listened; could hear a loud tree frog the caller could have mistaken for something else. No sign of animals in distress.

3:45 a.m. Caller from Third Street states someone stole roughly 2.5 of her insulin pens the other day. Believes one of her neighbors did it. Advised caller of options.

5:53 a.m. Caller from L Street states that this morning she was walking her dog near Fifth and K streets and encountered a male party who lives in the area and has a history of harassing her. Caller states that this morning the party was making comments about her nice dog and laughing; caller felt he was being demeaning. Requesting a call from an officer. Officer advised.



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MEDIA STUDIES

# Visions of the Future on Screen

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – I wonder what movies and TV shows I have seen that could be called realistic visions of the future.

The 1993 miniseries *The Fire Next Time*, with Craig T. Nelson, and Apple TV's *Extrapolations* are what could be realistic portrayals of what global warming will do as it goes on. Its effect is almost realistic in *The Fire Next Time*, with almost everywhere being very hot, and a few cool spots, including one place that is cool because people there have followed certain rules, and gotten lucky.

*Extrapolations* features its effect as it goes on over the years. One episode, "2047: The Fifth Question," features massive flooding in New Orleans and Miami, which is probably realistic. New Orleans isn't somewhere with no history of flooding, and Miami certainly has that possibility. In another, "2066: Lola," it's being so hot it's unsafe to go out.

Something else frequently featured on TV and in movies is what space travel is going to be like. *Star Trek: Enterprise* was a show that had Scott Bakula as Captain Archer, with a crew starting to explore space. Events that led up to this were a nuclear war and first

contact with aliens, the Vulcans, and technology has advanced enough that they can start to do this.

I believe that in real life this will eventually happen – after all, a space station has been created – but it will take some time, which is one realistic part of the show. Another is that you might face dangers and life-threatening situations while exploring. People who have had to repair the Hubble telescope have faced those kinds of events. The lack of gravity in space is covered in this show.

*Space 1999*, a TV show from the 1970s, more or less correctly showed the dangers of space, but that was the only realistic thing about it when it came to space travel.

World peace is a beautiful dream, but it's too much of a long shot when it comes to the real world. There are just too many variables to fix. Getting people to cooperate is very hard to do.

They tried their hand at this vision in the latest *Fantastic Four* movie, which I saw, with Sue Storm making peace in most of the world in 1964. This sounds almost like a miracle. I don't think life was like that in 1964, when the Civil Rights movement and the Vietnam War were going on.

Of all of these, I think the most realistic vision of the future was in *The Fire Next Time*. It was more like a drama than a sci-fi movie like *Extrapolations*.

## Montague Community Television News

# Clerk Wanted!!!

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** – Do you rely on MCTV for our coverage of meetings?

Do you enjoy and appreciate MCTV's films of local events?

Do you want to have pizza once a month with our fantastic board of directors?

Montague Community Cable, Inc., is looking for a new board member, ideally someone willing to fill the role of "Clerk." This role will give you major status in your community, and will be a very cool fact about yourself that you can share during parties or icebreaker games.

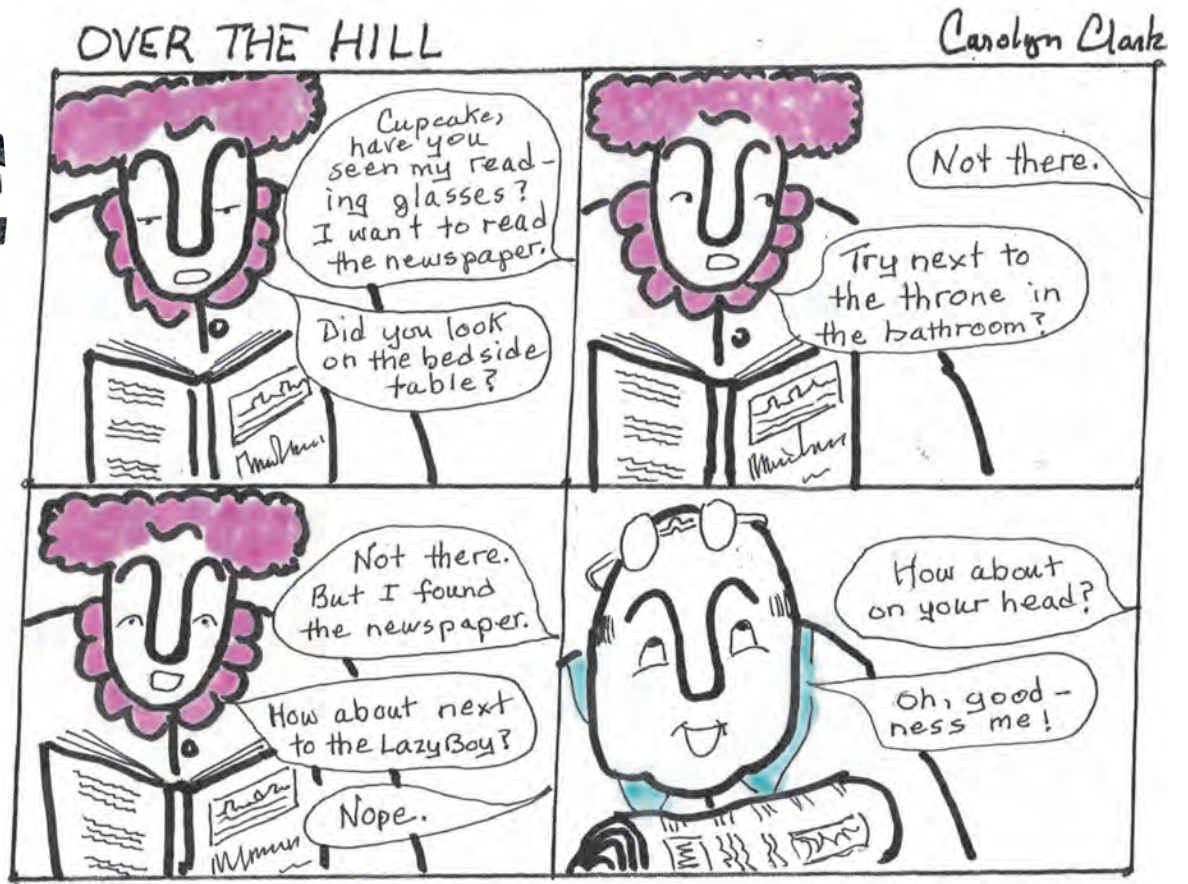
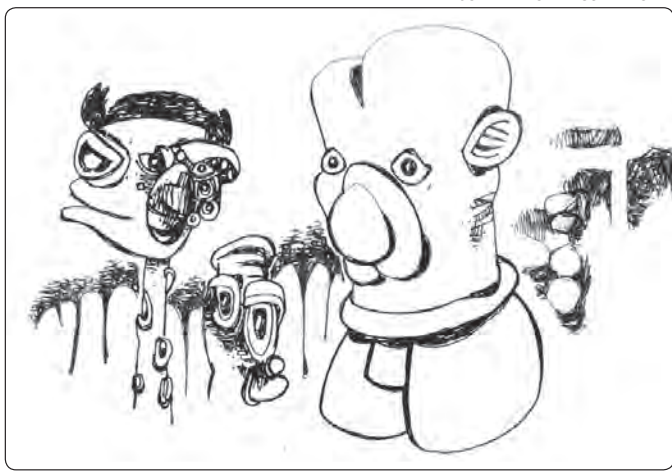
And you won't regret it! Our meetings are fun, our mission is noble, and our work is important. Please send your letter of interest to [infomontaguetev@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetev@gmail.com), call

us up at (413) 863-9200, or stop by the station at 34 Second Street to talk with Dean or Deirdre, Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

You can find all of MCTV's videos online. Our Vimeo Page is easily found linked through our website, [MontagueTV.org](http://MontagueTV.org), by clicking the "Videos" tab. You can also find folders there directing you to all of our recorded Montague and Gill selectboard meetings.

If there is a particular video you would like to find, locate the small black magnifying glass below the title "Montague Community Television's Videos" and click there. If you try to search for an MCTV video in the search bar at the top of the screen, you will search "all of Vimeo," and you will have a harder time. Hope this helps...

And if you see us out there filming, say hi!



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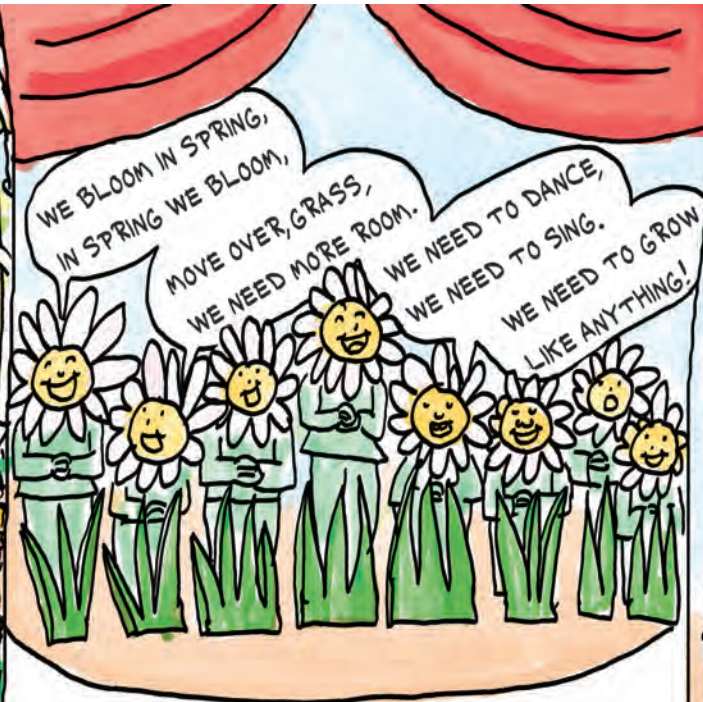
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# The Children's Page

YONDERMOD ILLUSTRATION

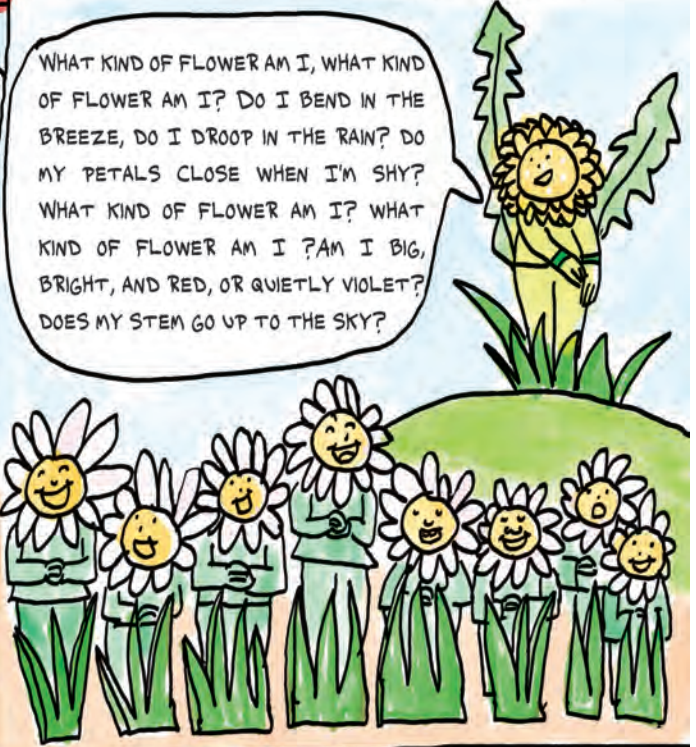


ALL OF CHELLA AND VIOLA'S FRIENDS HAVE GATHERED TO SEE THEIR NEW OPERETTA, THAT IS, ALL OF THEIR FRIENDS THAT ARE NOT EXCITEDLY BEHIND STAGE ABOUT TO PERFORM.



THE CURTAIN OPENS AND UP FROM BEHIND A TALL STAND OF GRASS POP FOUR LITTLE SINGING FLOWERS! AS THEY SING MORE AND MORE POP UP AND SOON ALL OF CHELLA'S SMALL FRIENDS ARE SINGING BEFORE THE CROWD, THEIR FACES ENCIRCLED BY BRIGHT YELLOW PETALS.

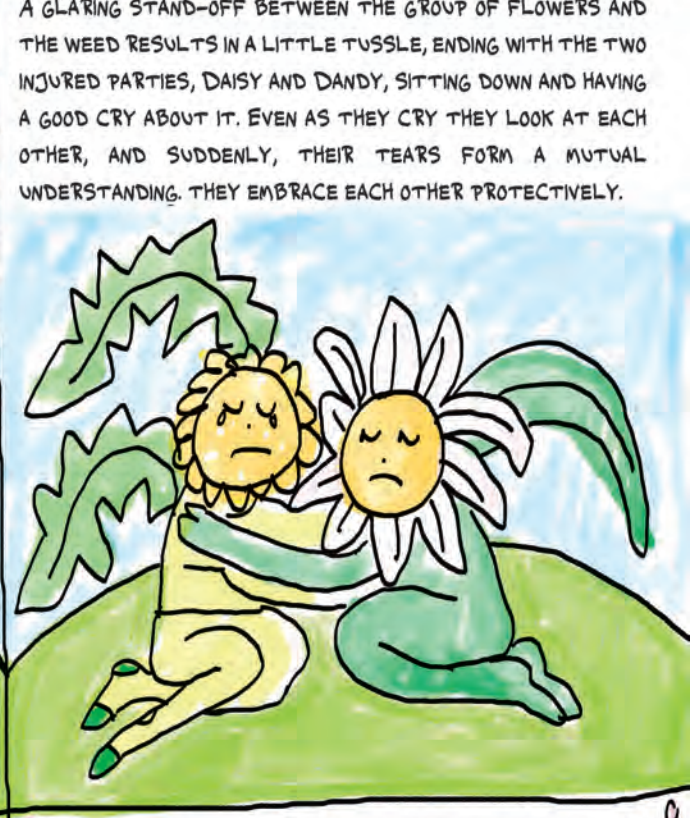
THE BLOOMING FLOWERS BASK IN THE SUN. OUT FROM A LITTLE TUFT OF GRASS RISES A SWAYING, GRACEFUL FLOWER SHE IS NEW TO THE WORLD, AND SINGS A SONG BOTH JUBILANT AND GENTLE...



THE LITTLE CHORUS OF BLOOMS SUDDENLY NOTICE THE FLOWER'S CHARMING DANCE.



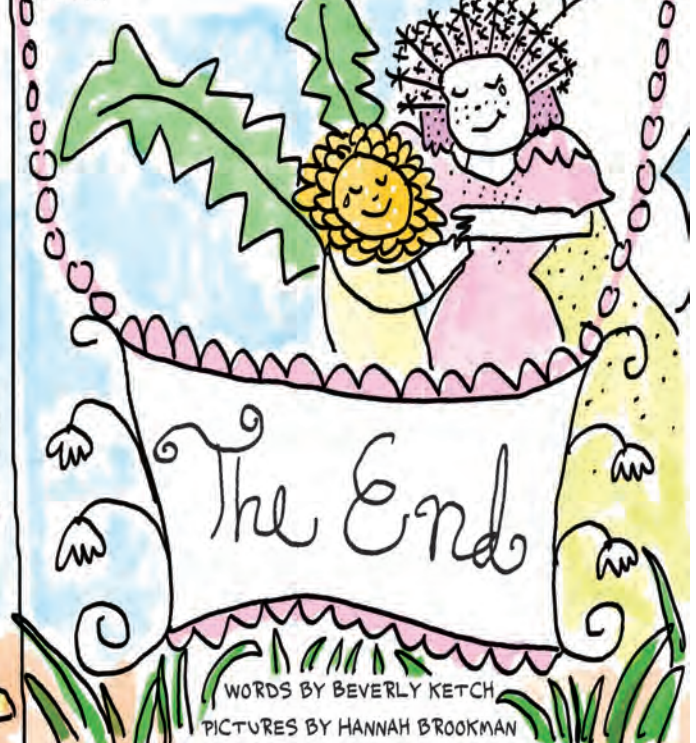
THE LITTLE FLOWER SITS DOWN WITH A THUMP, CRESTFALLEN!



DAISY AND THE FAIRY QUEEN DANCE AND EMBRACE WITH HAPPY TEARS!



THE QUEEN OF ALL FAIRIES ENTERS THE STAGE WITH A RETinue OF GRASS PEOPLE SWAYING GRACEFULLY ALONGSIDE HER. THE LITTLE CHORUS OF FRIENDS STANDS AMAZED BEFORE HER, HER FLOWING SILVER GOWN TRAILS BEHIND HER, AND ON HER HEAD IS A MAGNIFICENT SPHERICAL CROWN. IT WOULD ONE DAY BE DANDY'S CROWN ALSO, AND ITS SEEDS WOULD DANCE AWAY IN THE WIND.



WORDS BY BEVERLY KETCH PICTURES BY HANNAH BROOKMAN

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## THURSDAY, MAY 21

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Nice & Easy Walk*. 1 p.m. Free.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Swedish Dance*. Intro workshop, snacks, open dancing. Live music on five-string fiddle and nyckelharpa. All welcome. 1:30 p.m. \$

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Spirit Circle* with Molly Doody. 7 p.m. By donation.

Four Phantoms Brewing, Greenfield: *Pub Sing*. 7 p.m. No cover.

## FRIDAY, MAY 22

Camp Keewanee, Greenfield: *Dirtwire, Pink Talking Fish, Leon Trout, King Saison, Outer Style, Neighbor*, many more. 12 p.m. \$.

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: *Ruby of Thanks, beetsblog*. 6 p.m. Free.

St. Kaz, Turners Falls: *Paw Paw Culinary Club*, with birria tacos, DJ 12xu. 6 to 10 p.m. No cover.

Greenfield Community College, Greenfield: *Class of 2026 Commencement*. 6 p.m. Free.

Turners Falls High School, Turners Falls: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, musical comedy. 7 p.m. \$.

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *Two-Step Night*, with *Les Taiauts, Honky-Tonk Angels*, country karaoke. Masks required. 7 p.m. \$.

Pink Edwards, Greenfield: *The Maladaptive, Henning Ohlenbusch, Alex Leff*. 7 p.m. \$.

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

THCC, Easthampton: *The Agonizers, Knock Over City, Bastard Leg*. 7 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *2 Car Garage*. 8 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *Bunnies, Wet Tuna, Sunburned Hand of the Man*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sleep Destroyer, Grazer, Feldspar 00000, Lula Fortune, Amateur Club*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

## SATURDAY, MAY 23

Northfield Mountain, Northfield: *Bird Walk* with local naturalist David Brown. Dress for the weather and bring binoculars. Meet at the center to carpool. 8:30 to 11 a.m. Free.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Farmers Market*. SNAP accepted. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$.

Camp Keewanee, Greenfield: *Max Creek, Sneazy, Bearly Dead, Consider the Source, Minka, Consuelo's Revenge*, many more. 9:30 a.m. \$.

Nice District, Turners Falls: *Community BBQ*, hosted by The Village Project. At Unity Park and Second Street. Food, games, conversation. "All are welcome. Bringing a dish or something for the grill is completely optional." 12 to 6 p.m.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Owls Up Close*. Learn about field marks, owl pellets, and the importance of birds of prey. Ages 5 and up. 1 p.m. Free.

Turners Falls High School, Turners Falls: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, musical comedy. 2 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Journey Through Oz*, play by North Star Self Directed Learning for Teens. 3 p.m. \$.



PETE MOORE PHOTO

Area jam-band deconstructivists *Wet Tuna* - Jim Bliss, Erika Elder, and Matt "MV" Valentine - choogle and blorp their way to the Drake this Friday, fitting snugly with proggers *Bunnies* and the men's group *Sunburned Hand*.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Glenn Jones, Dan Ireton, Allysen Callery, Liam Grant, Lys Guillorn*. 5:30 p.m. \$.

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: *Corbett Bresner, Jackson Watson, Bec Bell-Gurwitz, Teo Rivera-Dundas*, readings. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Journey Through Oz*, play by North Star Self Directed Learning for Teens. 7 p.m. \$.

Turners Falls High School, Turners Falls: *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, musical comedy. 7 p.m. \$.

Shelburne Falls Theater, Shelburne Falls: *Pothole Pictures presents Paddington (2014)*. Music at 7 p.m.: *Tandem Jump*; movie at 7:30 p.m. \$.

THCC, Easthampton: *Dance Cancer, Jupiter Queen, The Endorphins*. 7 p.m. \$.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Michael Lesko & Sophia St. Helen, Wallace Field*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *King Tuff, Mod Lang*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Unlucky Shots, Matthew Larsen and The Documents*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

## SUNDAY, MAY 24

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Art Naturally: Tissue Paper Blooms*. Art workshop with all materials provided. Ages 6 and up. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Camp Keewanee, Greenfield: *The Machine, Sunsquabi, Badfish, Reprise, Roots Rock Reality, The Alchemystics, Jabbawaukee*, many more. 10:30 a.m. \$.

Montague Center Common, Montague: *Memorial Day Observance* with guest speaker Lee Evers, a veteran of World War II. 11:15 a.m. Free.

Shelburne Falls Theater, Shelburne Falls: *Pothole Pictures presents Paddington (2014)*. Music at 1:30 p.m.: *Fetch the Barnacles*; movie at 2 p.m. \$.

Incandescent Brewing, Bernardston: *The Meanies*. 2 p.m. No cover.

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Journey Through Oz*, play by North Star Self Directed Learning for Teens. 3 p.m. \$.

Lady Killigrew, Montague Center: *Spiralhead, Leaf Silver, Matt Fero*. 5 p.m. No cover.

## EXHIBITS

**Waterway Arts, Turners Falls:** *Enough: A Collaboration*, visual artists' responses to pieces written in the Paper Trail Creative Writing Workshops, through May 23.

**Discovery Center, Turners Falls:** *All Our Relations*. Work by Deborah Spears Moorehead, Seaconke Pokanoket Wampanoag, and Robert Peters, Mashpee Wampanoag, focusing on pre-colonization, the 350th anniversary of Metacomb's (King Philip's) War, and the Great Falls Massacre of 1676. Through May.

**Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center:** *Landscapes* by guest photographer Ray Brod, through May.

**Montague Center Library, Montague:** *Captured Glimpses of Sunset in Our Town*, familiar landscapes photographed by Barbara Folan, through May.

**Leverett Library, Leverett:** *Convergence*, pastel and acrylic paintings by the Friends Who Paint group, through June.

**Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett:** *Time Traveler*, scanography by Marty Klein, and *Pieced Together*, quilts and heads by Susan Boss and Mark Brown. Through May.

**ArtSpace, Greenfield:** *Big Random*, work by visual arts seminar students at GCC. Through June 5.

**LAVA Center, Greenfield:** *Four Rivers School Art Show*, through May; *The Peace Birds Exhibit*, artistic and community responses to ongoing events in Palestine, through July.

**Looky Here, Greenfield:** *Trevor Powers, Looky There*, risograph-printed photographs, plus artists' books and a free zine, through May.

**Gallery A3, Amherst:** *Sue Curran and GK Khalsa*, collage and paintings, through May.

**Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne:** *Q Li Holmes*, recent paintings by the Ashfield artist; *Stay in the Day and Have the Long View*, mixed media by Dale Schwarz. Both through June.

## CALLS FOR ART

**Gallery A3** in Amherst seeks artwork for their annual juried show this August. This year's theme is *Everyday Sublime*: "When the world can feel unnervingly tamed or overwhelmingly all-consuming, where and how does the Everyday Sublime present itself?" Details at [gallerya3.com](http://gallerya3.com).

**Ashfield Short Film Festival:** Amateurs and established filmmakers, young and old, are encouraged to submit films of up to five minutes with some connection to western Massachusetts. Submit through [ashfieldfilmfest.org](http://ashfieldfilmfest.org) by August 15. Awards given at the September 18 and 19 festival include Audience Choice, the Youth Award, this year's Hillywood Award, and other cash prizes.

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# CALENDAR



looking forward...

Feeding Tube Records, Florence: *Washatorium, Sirens Blaring*. 5 p.m. By donation.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Solo Songwriters' Night*. 8:30 p.m. Free.

## MONDAY, MAY 25

Greenfield Middle School, Greenfield: *Memorial Day Parade*. Proceeds to the library, town common, and Veterans Mall. 9:30 a.m. Free.

Soldiers' Memorial Park, Turners Falls: *Memorial Day Service*. 10 a.m. Free.

## TUESDAY, MAY 26

Gill-Montague Senior Center, Turners Falls: *Navigating Scam Threats*, with presenters from the Northwestern District Attorney's office and Greenfield Savings Bank. 11 a.m. Free.

Greenfield Library, Greenfield: Author talk, *Where Have All the Hippies Gone* by Nina Keller. 6 p.m. Free.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Honoring Elders* featuring Sandra Boston. 6:30 p.m. By donation.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Knitting, Crafts & Game Night*. 7 p.m. Free.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 27

Montague Center Library, Montague Center: *Pamela Means*. 6 p.m. Free.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *The Early, Bent Light, Aaron Russell*. 7 p.m. By donation.

Ulcivert, Conway: *Glass, Crisis Actor, Saxisinsanity, Death Spiral, time held me green and dying*. 8 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Oranssi Pazuzu, Wayfarer*. 8 p.m. \$.

## THURSDAY, MAY 28

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Nice & Easy Walk*. 1 p.m. Free.

Erving Senior Center, Erving: *Sheryl Faye*, historical performer, portraying Amelia Earhart. 6 p.m. Free.

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Katie Clarke & Larry LeBlanc, R & D, Small Change*. 6 p.m. Free.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Hilary Price, Ang Buxton, Andrea CK, Paul Bennett, Christine Benevuto*, host Joanie Schwartz. Comedy. 7 p.m. \$.

THCC, Easthampton: *SWRM, Haitlin, The World Wide Web, Harsh Noise Boyfriend*. 7 p.m. \$.

Holyoke Media Center, Holyoke: *Matt Samolis, Lean & Variant State, Matt Weston, Bonnie Kane's Space Anomaly*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

## FRIDAY, MAY 29

Court Square, Greenfield: *Arts Walk Vendor Market*, with live music by Lexi Weege. 5 to 8 p.m. Free.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Dead Man's Waltz*, Allman Brothers, The Band, Grateful Dead tribute. 7 p.m. \$.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: Reading and discussion, *A Wendell Path to Belonging* by Jonathan von Ranson. 7 p.m. By donation.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Major Stars, Mountain Movers, Rose Thomas Bannister*. 7 p.m. \$.

THCC, Easthampton: *Cazador, When The Deadbolt Breaks, Afghan Haze*. 7 p.m. \$.



What do you have that is broken? It may be eligible for attention at next Saturday's repair event at Franklin County Tech. Above: Nolan Beauregard, Amir McCamey, and Jon Ryan restore a chair at last year's event.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Simon White & Rhythm Inc*. 8 p.m. \$.

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *Pioneer Valley Bad Poetry Recitation Contest*. Masks required. 8 p.m. By donation.

The Drake, Amherst: *True Jackie, Nanny, Saliba*. 8 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Hudson Freeman, Lots of Hands, youbet*. 8 p.m. \$.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Arthur Buezo, DiTrani Brothers, Moon Hollow*. 8 p.m. \$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Chained to the Bottom of the Ocean, Anthropophagous, Worm Altar*. 8 p.m. \$.

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

## SATURDAY, MAY 30

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Farmers Market*. SNAP accepted. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$.

Unity Park, Turners Falls: *ReCloaking: ReCircling*, presentation and workshop by Wampanoag biologist and artist Elizabeth James-Perry. Learn about coastal ecology and heritage, and use natural materials to dye and print. Materials provided; participants will leave with a handcrafted piece. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free.

Franklin County Tech School, Turners Falls: *Repair and Fix-it Day*. Small electrical repairs, knife and tool sharpening, mending, bike maintenance, blood pressure checks, more. Food and drink for purchase. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free.

Many venues, Montague Center: *Good Music Makes Good Neighbors*, porch fest, with *Connect Four, Nectar, Shovel-Ready String Band, Michael Nix, Valley Arabic Music Ensemble, Orkestar Banitsa*, more. Details at [montaguemusic.org](http://montaguemusic.org). 12 to 5 p.m.

## SUNDAY, MAY 31

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Earth Music Theater Live*, with Steve Thomas and astronaut Cady Coleman. 4 p.m. Free.

Feeding Tube Records, Florence: *The In Out, The Eye*. 5 p.m. By donation.

Floodwater Brewing, Shelburne Falls: *Will Dailey*. 7 p.m. No cover.

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

## MONDAY, JUNE 1

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Ryan Bingham and The Texas Gentlemen*. 7 p.m. \$.

## TUESDAY, JUNE 2

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Little Feat*. 7 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *My New Band Believe, Wendy Eisenberg*. 8 p.m. \$.

## WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Jason Mraz, Gregory Page*. 7 p.m. \$.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Mdou Moctar*, solo. 7 p.m. \$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Rhubarb Duo, Dialog Talk, Rouge, Letters of Marque, Green Forest*. 7 p.m. \$.

Whately Town Hall, Whately: *Cory Pesaturo & Leah Zeger*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

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

## THURSDAY, JUNE 4

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Pat & Tex LaMountain, Orlen Gabriel & Avery, Boys of the Landfill*. 6 p.m. Free.

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Dylan Scott*. 7 p.m. \$.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 5

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

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Matthew Thornton; Adam Bosse, Brian Gibson, Dakota Gill trio; Sleep Destroyer*. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Slowpoke Records, Heavy Friends, Liz Durette*, reading by Scott Seward. 7 p.m. \$.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Brookside Project*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Cold Spring Hollow, Belchertown: *Editrix, PTC, Mummies and Wolves, Feminine Aggression*. 7 p.m. \$.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 6

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Family Fishing Day*. Free shuttles to Barton Cove. Activities include fish printing and fly tying. All ages welcome. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free.

Darlings, Easthampton: *Anthony Pasquarosa, Blood of a Poet, Phemale*. Rough Chop food truck opens at 6 p.m.; music at 8 p.m. \$.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 7

Feeding Tube Records, Florence: *Sunburned Hand of the Man, Cla-Ras*. 4 p.m.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 13

Unity Park, Turners Falls: *Unity Skatepark 10 Year Anniversary Show*. Skateboard memorial dedication at 2 p.m.; music, *Rocking Puppies, Film & Gender, Feminine Aggression, Slob Drop, Jeanines*, 2:30 p.m. Free.

## FRIDAY, JUNE 19

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ollie Schechter, Magick Lantern, Bo Malcolm, Blue Ranger*. 9:30 p.m. \$.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 27

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Ruth Garbus*, album release show. 8 p.m. \$.

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

West Whately Chapel, Whately: *Beppe Gambetta*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

## SATURDAY, JULY 18

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Trio Sefardi*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

## SATURDAY, JULY 25

Pines Theater, Northampton: *Lyle Lovett and His Small Large Band, Hayes Carll*. 6 p.m. \$\$.

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Steel Pulse*. 7 p.m. \$.

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 18

Daily Operation, Easthampton: *Rome Streetz, Nickali Vocals*. 7 p.m. \$.

## FRI-SUN, SEPTEMBER 4-6

Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, Montague: *Monolord, Dwarves, Dopethrone, Savage Master, Squid Pisser, Void*, many more. Details at [rpmfest.org](http://rpmfest.org).

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

Palladium, Worcester: *Insane Clown Posse*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

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**VALLEY VIEW** from page B1  
 18-year career at the Connecticut Board of Fisheries and Game (CBFG), cut short in 1960 by an unnamed "physical disability." A 1935 Cornell University graduate, Moss followed a CBFG career path from deputy warden to aquatic biologist to a final six-year stint as Fisheries Division chief.

As a CBFG researcher, his goal was pretty straightforward. Like many others, he had heard and was dubious about fanciful tales of colonial fishermen walking across riffles on the backs of salmon. Thus, he embarked on a quest for tangible evidence to support such wild claims.

Because he found reliable colonial records to be virtually nonexistent, he had to rely on second-hand information published in town histories of Connecticut Valley cities and towns. The best among them was Sylvester Judd's *History of Hadley*, which describes the river-fishing scene below South Hadley Falls and at the mouth of small tributaries. In doing so, he compares and contrasts voluminous annual shad runs to significantly sparser salmon migration.

Judd had an edge over other authors of Connecticut Valley town histories because he was older. Born in 1789, he would have been there for the end of the shad runs past South Hadley Falls, and would have spoken to many fishermen and merchants who knew the game. That gave him an advantage over later historians like Deerfield's George Sheldon (1818-1916) and Whately minister Josiah Howard Temple (1815-93), who had to rely mostly on second-hand chatter.

I understood Moss's research path, which in many places crossed my own 1980s trail, and echoed my conclusion that local anadromous fish runs were dominated by American shad and smaller herrings, not salmon. Such a conclusion was not difficult to ascertain, but it was not what true-believer salmon-restoration promoters wanted to hear. Thus, no mystery why Moss's pessimistic observations relating to unfavorable environmental, commercial, and industrial factors were ignored by the pie-in-the-sky salmon experts representing state, federal and private organizations hellbent

on success and rudely dismissive of learned critics.

I entered the fray 20 and more years after Moss's booklet hit the street. By that time a well-oiled, multifaceted salmon-restoration initiative was powered by altruistic, unyielding proponents who stifled insightful warnings of colleagues bold enough to even suggest that re-establishment of a viable sport-fishery for salmon here was fantasy.

After decades of diminishing returns and ridiculous excuses, more and more negative backroom whispers found their way into the conference room. By the dawning of our new millennium, the handwriting was on the wall. Finally, in 2012, the plug was pulled on the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program, draining a 35-year-deep swamp saturated with hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars.

Perhaps Moss's pessimistic approach should have been heeded.

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



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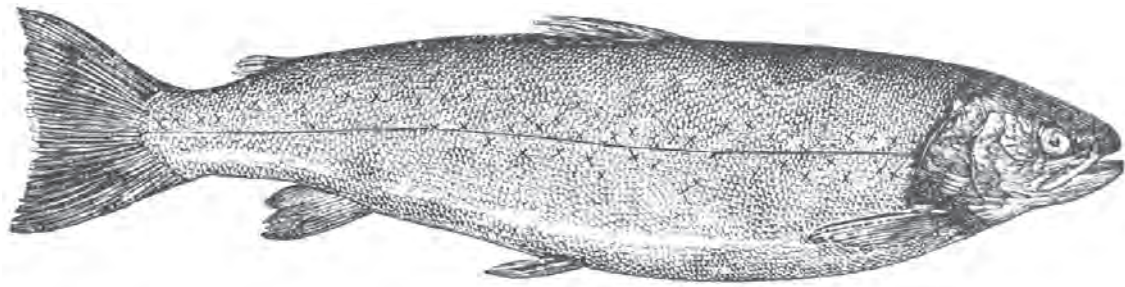
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