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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Pardoned Dog Bites Again

By JEFF SINGLETON

At the September 26 Montague selectboard meeting, a dramatic reading of the upcoming special town meeting warrant by member Matt Lord was overshadowed by a new item on an “amended agenda”: a dog named Titan, who had broken free of his leash and bitten a passing jogger on Meadow Road.

The selectboard had previously declared Titan a “dangerous dog,” based on complaints at an August 3 hearing by neighbors, and several recorded instances of his biting visitors at the house, where his owner Jason Pike lives. As of the August hearing, Pike may not have properly licensed the dog, or provided evidence of his

vaccination to the town clerk.

After ruling Titan was “dangerous,” a designation defined under state law, the board required that he be kept in a kennel or a fenced-in area, and not be allowed outside unless accompanied by his owner and “humanely muzzled and restrained by a chain.” Specifications for both the chain and enclosure were stated in the motion.

At Monday’s meeting, Montague police chief Chris Williams testified that the department had been alerted to a dog attack on a jogger on Meadow Road on the afternoon of Friday, September 23. The victim told the responding officer that the dog had been on the porch, but ran to the

see MONTAGUE page A8

New Fire Chief Rises Through the Ranks

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – The Turners Falls Fire Department garage was crowded and cheerful Saturday morning as staff, family, friends, and colleagues from area departments gathered to witness the official swearing-in of a new fire chief and captain.

Todd Brunelle, a Turners native who joined the department’s call force in 1997 and went full-time in 2000, is the second new chief in as many years, following the retirements of chiefs John Zellmann and Brian McCarthy. The ceremony also honored the promotion of Trish Dana to captain earlier this year.

In an interview with the *Reporter*, Brunelle said that when he first joined the fire service, he never imagined he would one day be a fire chief. “It’s hard to look that far into the future as a young person,” he said.

Brunelle worked at a Greenfield lumberyard after high school, and eventually decided to join the Navy, where he served as a corpsman and was deployed in the Pacific. He continued in the Navy Reserve from 1996 until 2012, the year of his promotion to captain in the Turners department; in 2013, he began his “second military career” as firefighter in the Air Force Reserve.

see FIRE page A7



Former fire chief Bob Escott, Jr. (left) swears in Todd Brunelle as Turners Falls' new fire chief.

Biodiesel Plant Opens as Worker Coop

By SARAH ROBERTSON

GREENFIELD – A project nearly 20 years in the making, Northeast Biodiesel officially began operations this week as a worker- and consumer-owned cooperative, producing 1.75 million gallons of fuel oil annually for heating systems and diesel engines with the potential to double production in years to come.

“While the cost of petroleum is rising, financially and politically, western Massachusetts will soon have low-carbon, clean-burning, locally manufactured fuel for heating and transportation,” said Sam Bartlett, chair of the Northeast Biodiesel board of directors. “It might take a long time until we make what is conventionally considered a profit, but many of us feel that we’ve already profited because we’ve provided eight worker-owner jobs here.”

On Tuesday, partners and supporters met at the facility on Silvio O. Conte Drive in the Greenfield industrial park to announce the opening and celebrate the “innovative and complex partnership” that led to the creation of Northeast Biodiesel.

see BIODIESEL page A6



General manager Richard Durepo said the idea of a worker-owned enterprise intrigued him.

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Dangerous Intersection Will Soon Be Revamped

By GEORGE BRACE

Roadwork and road safety issues were on the agenda again at Leverett’s selectboard meeting on Tuesday, with the board announcing that a portion of Shutesbury Road will be closed next weekend for a culvert replacement. Tentative dates for other road projects were discussed.

The board also approved a grant proposal for heating and air conditioning at the library, and began deliberating on a potential conflict of interest involving historical commission member Susan Lynton.

A project to replace a culvert on Shutesbury Road will take place over the long weekend of Friday, October 7 through Monday, October 10, and the road will be closed

Friday afternoon and reopened Tuesday morning.

Highway superintendent Matt Boucher said that the project would be substantial, and suggested that “if anyone wants to see something pretty cool happening, that will be the place to be.”

Boucher added that once the culvert project is completed, his department will reconfigure the intersection at the bottom of Shutesbury Road to include three stop signs. That project should take about a week in mid-October, and would be reversible if it doesn’t work out.

The move was approved at a previous selectboard meeting in response to increased concern in recent years over longstanding safety issues at the intersection. Boucher

see LEVERETT page A5

Making Space for Hope to Return



Montague’s Nadya Tkachenko surveys a building in western Ukraine for potential renovation into semi-permanent housing for internally displaced people.

By NINA ROSSI

MONTAGUE CENTER – In March, shortly after the invasion of Ukraine, Nadya Tkachenko went on a two-week humanitarian mission with locals Dean and Annette Cycon to help refugees crossing at the country’s border with Poland. With \$80,000 in crowdfunded donations, she was able to give fleeing families cash stipends, and to help connect some with temporary housing.

Tkachenko went back with her husband, the artist Mishael Coggeshall-Burr, in May. This time they carried 300 pounds of supplies to distribute. Ultimately, though, Tkachenko felt a deeper solution would be needed.

“What started as a refugee crisis has become a housing crisis,” Tkachenko says. “The need is especially dire now, as winter is quickly approaching. Many shelters are becoming unsuitable due to colder weather, and hundreds and thousands of people have no place to go.”

More than seven million Ukrainians are estimated to be internally displaced, and most have headed to the country’s west, which has been

see NADYA page A5

High School Sports Week: Field Hockey On a Streak

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – This week we focus on two local teams, Franklin Tech football and Turners Falls field hockey.

For Tech, after an opening night blowout victory, the nicked-up Eagles have lost two straight. Turners field hockey seem to be on an opposite trajectory. They opened the season with five losses, but have bounced back using coordinated attacks and teamwork to improve their record to 3–5.

Football

GDHS 49 – FCTS 0

The Franklin Tech Football Eagles traveled to Groton last Friday, and were defeated by the Crusaders of Groton-Dunstable, 49 to 0. Franklin has suffered some key injuries this season, and Friday’s match-up was no exception.

Quarterback Gabriel Tomasi went down early in Friday’s game with a left arm injury. He was replaced under center by Tyler Yetter. Yetter completed four passes for 42 yards.

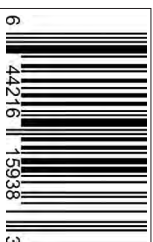
see SPORTS page A4



Turners Falls’ Alex Quezada sends the ball as teammate Brooke Thayer moves up the field, followed by Kathryn McGinnis of Mahar. The Thunder rolled to 3-0 during last Thursday’s home game.

Hold On: You’ve Been Scrolling For Way Too Long Now

Op/Ed: A Proper Scolding.....	A2	October Library Events.....	B2
Local Briefs.....	A3	Montague & Gill Police Logs.....	B3
Wendell Selectboard Notes.....	A4	M/M/M: Another One Dug Up.....	B4
Gill Selectboard Notes.....	A6	A Teen Launches Rockets.....	B4
10 Years Ago This Week.....	A7	Your Sick Friend: Yowch.....	B5
West Along: The Rain, Finally.....	B1	Our Monthly Poetry Page.....	B6
Rockstar Biopic Inspires.....	B1	A&E Calendar & Four Comics.....	B7
Local Gal About to Hit Three Digits.....	B1	Montague Reporter In The Streets.....	B8



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General Debate

It's one thing for commentators in the United States to compare our reliance on fossil fuels with our other, more widely recognized, pandemics of addiction. It's another thing entirely to be called out by someone who, by virtue of where they were born, have been directly impacted by our consumption.

When Humane Colombia candidate Gustavo Petro was elected president in June, he became his

country's first left-of-center head of state. He apparently has some things to get off his chest.

Last Tuesday, September 20 he delivered a fiery speech at the United Nations General Debate. UN speeches rarely make the news in our country, but this one did – and it's worth reading, whether or not you find yourself in agreement.

Here's about three-quarters of his speech, translated into English!



Brian Cocco has been the grocery manager at Food City in Turners Falls for 15 years. He says he tries to keep the shelves in the 25,000 square foot store as full as he can, but suppliers have narrowed their selections of products.

OP ED

President of Colombia to UN: End 'Irrational' Drug War

By GUSTAVO PETRO

NEW YORK, NY – Secretary-general of the United Nations António Guterres, Your Excellencies, heads of state and heads of missions accredited to the 77th United Nations General Assembly; Deputy Secretary-general of the United Nations Amina Mohammed, to all of you:

I come from one of the three most beautiful countries on Earth. There is an explosion of life there. Thousands of multicolored species in the seas, in the skies, on the land.

I come from the land of yellow butterflies and magic. There, in the mountains and valleys of all the shades of green, flow not just abundant waters but also torrents of blood.

I come from a country of bloodsoaked beauty. My country is not just beautiful – it is also violent.

How can violence and beauty exist side by side? How can the biodiversity of life intertwine with the dances of death and horror? Who is to blame for breaking the charming spell with terror? Who, or what, is responsible for suffocating life in the routine decisions of wealth and interest? Who leads us to destruction as a nation, and as a people?

My country is beautiful, because it has the Amazon rainforest, the Chocó rainforest, the waters, the Andes Mountain range, and the oceans. There, in those rainforests, planetary oxygen is released, and atmospheric CO₂ is absorbed. One of those plants that absorbs CO₂, among millions of species, is one of the most persecuted on Earth. Wherever it grows, its destruction is sought. It is an Amazonian plant. It is the coca plant, the sacred plant of the Incas.

As if at a paradoxical crossroads, the jungle that we are trying to save is, at the same time, being destroyed. To destroy the coca plant, you spray poisons, massive amounts of glyphosate that run through the waters; you arrest its growers, and imprison them. To destroy or possess the coca leaf, a million Latin Americans are murdered, and two million African Americans are imprisoned in North America.

"Destroy the plant that kills," you shout from the North. "Destroy it!" But the plant is just one more plant of the millions of species that perish when you unleash fire on the rainforest.

"Destroy the rainforest," "[destroy] the

Amazon" have become the slogans followed by states and businessmen. The cry of scientists baptizing the rainforest as one of the great climate pillars does not matter. For the power brokers of the world, the rainforest and its inhabitants are to blame for the plague that torments them. The power brokers are plagued by the addiction to money, to self-perpetuation, to oil, to cocaine, and to the hardest drugs in order to be able to anesthetize more.

Nothing is more hypocritical than the discourse about saving the rainforest. The rainforest is burning, distinguished delegates, while you wage war and play with it. The rainforest, the climate pillar of the world, disappears with all its life. The enormous sponge that absorbs the planetary CO₂ evaporates. The rainforest – our savior – is seen in my country as the enemy to defeat, as weeds to be eradicated.

The space of coca, and of the peasants who cultivate it because they have nothing else to cultivate, is demonized. My country doesn't interest you except to fill its rainforests with poison, to take its men to prison, and to cast its women into exclusion. You are not interested in children's education, but rather in killing the rainforest and extracting the coal and oil from its entrails. The sponge that absorbs the poison is useless; you prefer to spread more poison into the atmosphere.

We serve to excuse the emptiness and loneliness of your own society that lead you to live in your bubble of drugs. We conceal from you your own problems that you refuse to reform. It is better to declare war on the rainforest, its plants, its people.

While you let the jungles burn, while hypocrites obliterate plants with poisons to hide the disasters of their own society, you ask us for more and more coal, more and more oil to calm the other addiction: that of consumption, that of power, that of money.

What is more poisonous for the human being: cocaine, or coal and oil?

The will of power has ordered that cocaine is the poison and must be prosecuted, even if it only causes minimal deaths by overdose – more due to what it's mixed with as a result of its imposed illegal status. Meanwhile, coal and oil must be protected, even if its use can extinguish all of humanity.

These are the ways of world power, of injustice, of irrationality, because world power

has become irrational.

You see in the exuberance of the rainforest, in its vitality, the lustful, the sinful – the guilty origin of the sadness of your societies is imbued in the deep unlimited compulsion to have and to consume. How to hide the loneliness of the heart – in its drought in the midst of societies without affection, competitive to the point of imprisoning the soul in solitude – if not by blaming the plant, the man who grows it, the liberating secrets of the rainforest? According to the irrational world powers, it is not the fault of the market that cuts down existence; it is the fault of the rainforest and those who inhabit it.

Bank accounts have become limitless. The money held by the most powerful on Earth couldn't even be spent over the course of centuries. You fill the existential sadness produced by this artificial call to competition with noise and drugs.

Addiction to money and possessions has another face: drug addiction in people who lose the competition, the artificial race, into which you have transformed humanity.

The disease of loneliness is not cured by spraying glyphosate on the rainforests. The rainforest is not to blame. The culprit is your society, educated in endless consumption, in the stupid confusion between consumption and happiness that allows for the pockets of power to be filled with money. The culprit of drug addiction is not the rainforest – it is the lack of rationality of your world power.

Illuminate your power with reason. Turn on, once again, the lights of the century. The war on drugs has lasted 40 years. If we do not correct course and it continues for another forty years, the United States will see 2,800,000 young people die of overdose due to fentanyl, which is not produced in our Latin America.

You will see millions of African Americans imprisoned in your private prisons – the imprisoned African American will become the pawn of prison companies.

A million more Latin Americans will be murdered; our waters and our green fields will fill with blood. You will see the dream of democracy die, both in my America and in Anglo-Saxon America. Democracy will die where it was born, in the great Western European Athens. By hiding the truth, you will see the rainforest and democracies die.

The war on drugs has failed. The fight against climate change has failed. You have increased the fatal consumption of drugs. You have gone from soft drugs to the hardest drugs. A genocide has occurred on my continent, and in my country, millions of people have been sentenced to prison. To hide your own social guilt, you have blamed the rainforest and its plants. You have filled your speeches and policies with a lack of reason.

I demand here, from my wounded Latin America, an end to the irrational war on drugs.

Reducing drug consumption does not need wars or weapons; it needs all of us to build a better society: a more supportive, more affectionate society, where the intensity of life saves us from addictions, and from the new slaveries....

You discovered in the 21st century the worst of your addictions: addiction to money and oil. Wars have served you as an excuse for not acting against the climate crisis. The wars have shown you how dependent you are on that which will put an end to the human species.

If you observe that the people suffering from hunger and thirst migrate by millions to the North, toward where the water is, you lock them up, build walls, deploy machine guns, shoot at them. You expel them as if they were not human beings, quintuple the mentality of those who created the policies of the gas chambers and the concentration camps....

I propose this, and summon you in Latin America to do so, to dialogue to end the war. Do not pressure us to align ourselves in the fields of war. It is the hour of peace. Let the Slavic peoples talk to each other; let the peoples of the world do it. War is just a trap that draws us closer to the end of time in the great orgy of irrationality. From Latin America, we call on Ukraine and Russia to make peace.

Only in peace can we save life on this, our common land. There is no "total peace" without social, economic, and environmental justice. We are at war, too – with the planet. Without peace with the planet, there will be no peace among nations. Without social justice, there is no social peace.

Gustavo Petro is the president of Colombia. This English translation of his remarks on September 20 was provided by the United Nations, and has been abridged.

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

The **Garlic and Arts Festival** is this weekend in Orange, October 1 and 2. It features crafters, artists, food offerings, performances, and more in a beautiful rural setting, with a reasonable admission fee – fun for everyone! See www.garlicandarts.org for details.

Tierney Soddors wrote to tell us about the **Northfield Clothing Closet** at the Field Library, 243 Millers Falls Road in Northfield. They have lots of free children's clothes available, and also take donations. They are open on Mondays, 4 to 6 p.m., and by appointment; call or text (413) 239-4990. They can be found on Facebook as well.

After a two-year hiatus, the **Northampton Print & Book Fair** makes its return to downtown Northampton this Saturday, October 1, with over 20 artists showing their work at 33 Hawley Street for a celebration of contemporary artist publications, prints, and multiples.

The event features a diverse community of artists, publishers, and collectives from across western Massachusetts and New England. Browse books, zines, chapbooks, comics, screenprints, risograph prints, photographs, mini-sculptures, wearable art, and more. The event is free to the public, with 100% of sales going directly to the artists.

In partnership with the Montague Public Libraries, the Great Falls Discovery Center will host a presentation on **Indigenous Lifeways, Loss, and Renewal at the Falls** next Thursday, October 6, at 6 p.m.

David Brule will present information on local Indigenous history, the recovery of Native place names, and recent efforts at heal-

ing from the tragic events of May 19, 1676 during King Philip's War, including updates on the National Park Service Battlefield Study.

Local artist Susannah Croluis' **Art + Soul community** will host a month-long exhibit at the LAVA Center in downtown Greenfield, as well as events and workshops at the community arts space throughout October.

"Heart's Desire: a Retrospective Art Show" tells the story of how "an idea unfolds over time into a living vision of healing and community through the creative process." Sketches, painting, altars, fabric art, paper art, collage, mixed media, are presented.

Connected events include an online auction, a Healing Talisman workshop with Edite Cunha at 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 6, a Spiritual Autobiography workshop at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday the 8th, and a concert featuring Kate O'Connor and Rico Spence on Sunday, October 16 at 1 p.m. Workshops are intended for those 14 years and older. Find more information at localaccess.org.

"For 60 years, the First Congregational Church had 'sponsored' Montague Old Home Days, until COVID reared its ugly head!" Peg Bridges writes.

They are attempting a minor comeback with the **Montague Fall Festival** next Saturday, October 8, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., in Montague Center. You will find live music, a car show, pumpkin painting, food booths, chili and corn chowder, and more.

The Sixth Annual **Migrations Festival** will be held at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Saturday, October 8, from 1 to 4 p.m.

"Come celebrate the human and natural diversity of the upper Connecticut River Valley and the Americas. Colorful artworks in the Migrations exhibit depict scenes integral to village life, Mayan culture, and the history of Lake Atitlan in Guatemala," reads the event description.

Meet in the Great Hall and the courtyard. There will be a raffle of artwork from Guatemala, an exhibit of Katrina skulls, entertainment at 1:30 p.m. by Marka Music, outdoor refreshments, a children's book giveaway, and art activities.

The **Pioneer Valley Symphony** opens their 84th season with "Metamorphosis of Peace," a program with the participation of the PVS Chorus featuring Sibelius's *Finlandia*, which celebrates peace, freedom, and unity.

Award-winning Venezuelan-born violinist Samuel Vargas Teixeira presents Bruch's *Violin Concerto No. 1*, and a piece called *Symphonic Metamorphosis* by Paul Hindemith wraps up the concert.

Masks are required. The concert will be held next Saturday, October 8 at 7 p.m. at the Greenfield High School auditorium. Tickets are \$5 for students, \$20 for seniors, and \$25 otherwise.

The Shelburne Historical Society presents the Second Annual **Indigenous Peoples' Celebration** on Sunday, October 9, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the former Arms Academy at 33 Severance Street, Shelburne Falls. Local Native American artisans, musicians, and performers will set up in and around the museum.

Activities include an opening ceremony and blessing by Chief Paul Bunnell, Koasek-Abenaki; Helen's Willow Wind, flute music by Helen Yetman Bellows, Blackfoot; an interactive drum circle with the Visioning B.E.A.R. Intertribal Coalition; basket and jewelry making by Tatanka Gibson, Haliwa-Saponi; and more.

Carol Aleman has been researching the history of **Greenfield's Black community** for the

past three years, and will lead a free walk and talk through the Green River Cemetery on Sunday, October 9 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Aleman has collected dates of death and obituaries, and will lead participants to several selected grave sites to tell stories from the lives of those members of the community who have contributed to its richness.

Friday, October 14 is the **last concert in the Great Falls Coffeehouse 2022 mini-series**, so save the date for the Juggler Meadow String Band at 7 p.m. in the Great Halls at the Discovery Center. The band, made up of Joe Acker (guitar), Tara Acker (mandolin), Brian Rosenkranz (bass), and Rocky Stempel (drums), plays a hard-driving, soulful mix of Americana music. There is a suggested donation of \$6 to \$15, and children are free.

MassHire says, **Take a workshop!**

"No matter where you are in your life – actively seeking a job, looking for a new career or learning new skills for your present job – our workshops are valuable resources," they write. "You can learn Digital Tech Skills, Updating or Maintaining a LinkedIn profile or Interviewing Skills. There are also special seminars from time-to-time, such as How to Buy A Used Car."

Workshops are offered at their Greenfield and Northfield locations, in hybrid format – in person and also virtually. Check out their calendar at www.masshirefhcareers.org.

I saw a notice about Mattel Playback recently, and thought that others might want to know about this opportunity to **mail back used plastic toys** to the manufacturer for recycling. Barbie, Matchbox, Fisher-Price, and MEGA toys made by Mattel are eligible.

Download a label for free shipping at Mattel.com/Playback to start your return. Package the toys, print out the label, and bring it to the post office or leave it for your carrier. The company will pay the postage.

These returns are recycled into new toy products, downcycled into other plastic products, or converted into energy. You don't have to clean them, but you must remove any batteries. If your toys are in good condition, consider donating them locally instead.

The Mill District Art Gallery in North Amherst on Cows Road offers **free cupcakes on Sundays** during their Sunday Art Space events at the gallery. You may bring a project or start one at the gallery table in the morning, then stay for artist demonstrations in the afternoon. There is also an "arts circle" on the last Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., where you may bring a craft you are working on and meet other creative people. Drop in, or register at www.Generalstorelocalgallery.com.

Finally, the Annual Great Falls October **Word Festival has been canceled** this year. Instead, organizer Paul Richmond will be working on a Great Falls April Festival, during National Poetry Month. Stay tuned for more details!

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Letter to the Editors

Many Hands to Hold a Derby

On Sunday, September 18, Montague Parks & Recreation and partners held their Annual Soapbox Races in Turners Falls. Approximately two dozen racers from throughout the entire region, and beyond, participated in this major fundraising event, which supports our Sponsor-A-Child scholarship program.

The race would not have been possible without the investment of time, energy, resources, and funding from many within our fine community.

We would like to thank Greenfield Savings Bank, the Turners Falls Airport, Montague WebWorks, and Nova Motorcycles for their generosity of funding and critical resources.

As many of you know, volunteer assistance is essential to the success of an event of this magnitude. Therefore, considerable appreciation goes out to our planning committee; Mik Muller, Seth Rutherford of 253 Pharmacy, Peter Chilton of Nova Motorcycles, and Dan Burke, key volunteers; Steve Ellis, Jennifer Peterson, Linda Ackerman, and Paul Wonsey (our Tech

Dude); and of course, Representative Natalie Blais, Monte Belmonte, and Russ Brown for taking the stage as our play-by-play announcers and judges.

A special thank you goes out to our countless volunteers who spent a good portion of their day doing the grunt work by helping us with set-up, clean-up, and coordinating other onsite logistics. (253 Pharmacy donated 137 hours themselves!)

Finally, we would like to thank the racers who participated in the Montague Soapbox Races. We appreciate your creativity and courage.

Please note that the planning committee is looking for more members, so if you have a passion for event planning, please let us know. MPRD appreciates everyone's support, and we look forward to seeing you at the racetrack in 2023!

Jon Dobosz, CPRP
Director of Parks & Recreation
Town of Montague

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SPORTS from page A1

His targets were William Ainsworth, Nathaniel Fuess, and Ethan Smarr.

With Ryan Demers not playing, the Eagles relied on Josiah Little, who carried the ball on 16 out of 29 rushing plays. The other 13 carries were orchestrated by Zaydrien Alamed, Jet Bastarache, and Nathan Sabolevski. Defensively, Shaun Turner led the team with five tackles.

According to coach Joe Gamache, the Eagles will be close to 100% healthwise as they play their league opener Friday against Mahar.

Field Hockey

TFHS 6 - Mohawk 0

TFHS 3 - Smith Academy 1

TFHS 3 - Mahar 0

After losing their first five games of the season, the Blue kilts have strung out a three-game winning streak. Now they have a week's rest before they play their next game.

The Blue Thunder traveled up the Trail on Friday, September 16, where they shut out the Mohawk Warriors, 6-0. Ledwin Villafona was the high scorer for Powertown with a three-goal hat trick.

Of course, Villafona didn't do it alone. According to head coach Renee Tela, Brooke Thayer consistently brought the ball up the field during the Mohawk game, and

set up the scoring drives. Thayer scored one goal, as did Ella Guidaboni and Avery Tela.

Defensively, Blue kept the Warriors off balance, and goalkeeper Ele Bartolon only had to kick away three shots on goal.

Then on Tuesday, September 20, the Thunder doubled up the Smith Academy Purple Falcons 2-1. This game could have gone either way, as Bartolon was forced to make six saves. Offensively, Blue slapped nine shots on goal with Thayer and Guidaboni each finding the net. Cady Wozniak was the player in the circle, getting assists on both goals.

Turners extended their streak last Thursday the 22nd by shutting out the visiting Mahar Senators 3-0. Villafona had another big day, as two of his shots landed in the net, with Thayer scoring the other goal.

Tela and Guidaboni worked the middle in this one, keeping pressure on the Senators' defense. This dominance reflected in the corner shots as Blue was awarded 10 while Mahar only had three. Powertown kept constant pressure on the goalkeeper with 13 shots on goal, while Bartolon only needed to slap away four shots.

The team will take to the field next Monday, October 3 down in Northampton



Plan to Cut 160 Trees Opposed in Wendell

By KATIE NOLAN

Tuesday night at Wendell town hall and over Zoom, tree warden Cliff Dornbusch convened a hybrid tree hearing to discuss the approximately 160 roadside trees marked by National Grid as potential hazards to the company's three-phase power line along Wendell Depot, Lockes Village, and Locke Hill roads.

Several of the marked trees are on the town common. If the list of potentially hazardous trees is approved by Dornbusch and the selectboard, the trees will be removed. National Grid arborist Ryan Kress and forestry manager Lucas Fiske responded to questions from several dozen participants about how the trees were assessed for risk, and how to appeal the National Grid assessments.

Kress said that Wendell was "one of the worst towns in the state for tree-related power outages." He said National Grid did not want to cut healthy trees, and that the marked trees all had the potential to fall or drop limbs on power lines

within the next five years.

"We're just trying to keep the lights on," Fiske told the hearing.

Maple sugarer Dan Boyden of Wendell Depot Road said an independent arborist had assessed the five marked sugar maples along the roadway near his property, and found only two to be hazards.

Several people commented that cutting so many trees along a main roadway would change the look of the town. Fiske said the town could apply to the state Department of Conservation and Recreation for a challenge grant to help purchase replacement trees.

Boyden and others said that National Grid's database of hazardous trees was inaccurate in some instances, making it hard to identify the trees to file an appeal for.

Dornbusch ended the meeting by asking Kress and Fiske to clear up inaccuracies in the database of potentially hazardous trees, and remark trees where the notices were damaged by rain.

A follow-up hearing will be held in several weeks.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Note-Taker Hire; Culvert Delivery; Consultants

By JOSH HEINEMANN

At their September 21 meeting the Wendell selectboard interviewed, then hired, Cynthia Bolling as the board's recording secretary. The position had been empty for months, and town clerk Anna Wetherby wrote minutes until she could no longer fit the work into her schedule. Town coordinator Glenn Johnson-Mussad took over, but writing the minutes took time away from his other responsibilities and put him behind schedule.

Bolling lives in New York City, and will attend meetings by Zoom. Johnson-Mussad met her at an event, and their conversation led to her expressing interest in the position, as she was looking for some part-time work after retiring. Having read Bolling's resume, selectboard chair Laurie DiDonato said her experience was at a copy desk of a news company.

Bolling stayed connected through the entire meeting, though she only activated her camera and microphone during her interview. She said she had already seen sample minutes, and would need help with some acronyms.

Selectboard member Gillian Budine said that if the selectboard starts to meet in person, meetings will probably become hybrid, and the town now owns a Meeting Owl apparatus that will allow remote participation as well.

Projects Underway

Project manager Phil Delorey reported that the new culvert has been delivered to the large trench on Mormon Hollow Road, near the Diemand Farm. The road should be reopened in late October, though paving will wait until spring.

Work on the highway garage roof has been postponed until spring. The low bidding contractor did not follow through with work after he won the bid.

Neighbors were not happy with paving the Kentfield Road bridge. Instead, Davenport, the contractor, will install runners, a change order that will add \$6,000 to the bridge cost. Runners will allow a snow plow to clear the bridge.

The new garage door is in place at the police station, but the mini-split is still back-ordered. An oil burner can provide heat until a mini-split arrives. Leverett police are expecting to move in on October 1.

Delorey said the WRATS property is 14 acres. The process of capping the old landfill includes building a road around it, and that road could be extended to reach an area suitable for the proposed wood bank. Selectboard member Dan Keller offered to write a letter of support for a grant that would provide funds for creating a wood bank facility.

Reporting on information technology developments, Budine said a firewall was installed in the office building network, and town officials' emails are being transferred from Zoho to Microsoft Office 365. The public-use computers are wiped clean at the end of every day of use.

Brain Power

In a search for help negotiating the rules of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and other grants, Johnson-Mussad said he had found one service that seems to fit Wendell, HCH Enterprises of Warwick, Rhode Island. For \$1,995 they would provide ten hours of consultation.

Budine said her understanding was that ARPA money could pay for that consultation, and the town needs some guidance with the evolving guidelines.

Keller said he thought the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) might provide a similar service, and Johnson-Mussad said he would invite FRCOG regional services

director Bob Dean to the next meeting.

Multiple Hats

The board approved two "20D" small-town exemptions to the state conflict of interest law.

The first allows Keller to serve as an assessor as well as a selectboard member. Keller abstained from that vote.

The second allows Jeff Budine to serve on the Franklin County Technical School school committee, although he runs a business that is a vendor to the school. Gillian Budine abstained from that vote.

Other Business

Johnson-Mussad said National Grid has tagged 50 or 60 trees to come down or be pruned to protect their wires, to ensure uninterrupted service. A tree hearing was scheduled for Tuesday evening, September 27 (see article on this page).

DiDonato said the town is renewing its electrical aggregation agreement with Colonial Power, which results in lower overall costs for electricity. The price took a big jump to 22.8 cents per kilowatt-hour, still lower than the National Grid price of 28 cents.

The board moved the date of their next meeting, which would normally be the first Wednesday of the month, October 5 - Yom Kippur this year - to Thursday, October 6. The time will remain 7 p.m. as usual.

When the open meeting ended, the selectboard went into executive session for two reasons: to discuss "the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health rather than professional competence of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaint or charges brought against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual," and to prepare for negotiations with non-union staff.

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LEVERETT from page A1

said he had heard a lot of opinions for and against the change, but believed it would make the intersection safer.

The board also addressed a letter from a resident further up Shutesbury Road asking the town to take action to reduce speeding and noise from the engine brakes used by large trucks.

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis said she didn't think the town had the authority to regulate the use of engine brakes. Select-board chair Tom Hankinson said the police department had recently received a \$10,000 grant to purchase a solar-powered speed limit sign, which will be placed in the area.

Boucher suggested signage warning of the steep grade, and suggested something like "Trucks Use Lower Gear" might help address the problem by encouraging truck drivers to use other means to slow down.

Good for the Town

Members of the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust asked for the town to temporarily waive the \$25 fee for the use of town hall when they conduct their monthly meetings, and also for the highway department to help with maintaining the Rattlesnake Gutter Road area, in line with past practices.

Eva Gibavic spoke on behalf of the Trust, saying that the group had been using free space at the library for their meetings and hoped to return there, but that due to COVID-19 restrictions, a space could not be set up there to accom-

modate the number of members on the Trust's board.

Hankinson said that cutbacks at the library had led to an increase in requests for the use of the town hall. "Everyone is going to say they're doing good for the town," he said, in seeking exemption from the use fee.

McGinnis said the fee has never been waived in the past. Town clerk Lisa Stratford said she favored a blanket decision.

The board decided not to grant an exemption at the present time, but Hankinson said he would add a review of the policy on town hall use fees to the agenda of the following meeting.

Gibavic also requested that the highway department help in preserving the road, "as they have in the past," by clearing plugged culverts which cause water flows that damage the road. She said the Trust intended to start a conversation with the conservation commission on longer-term solutions to problems maintaining the area, but said there was some urgency to the current request.

Boucher said he entirely agreed something needed to be done, and that he would be happy to go up and fix the rutting, probably within the next few weeks, but that through roads were a higher priority for more involved projects. Clearing the culverts, he said, might not be a project for this year.

Boucher added that calling the department and requesting such work is sometimes all it takes. "I'll be happy to email you," Gibavic replied with a smile.

Geothermal Experiment

The board approved a request from Lisa Sullivan-Werner, the chair of the library trustees, to apply for a grant to fund a new heating and cooling system for the library.

Werner described the current geothermal system as "historically and currently problematic," and said that it has not functioned well for the last three years, leading to the need for supplemental electric heat.

McGinnis estimated the library's electricity bills to have increased to approximately \$20,000 per year. Sullivan-Werner said the trustees had received conflicting information from contractors as to the cause of the problem, and suggested that the town should "let the library be a library, and not a learning lab for heating and cooling systems."

Planning board member Richard Nathhorst said he was not opposed to the application, but noted that the system worked well for the first six years it was in use, and that not enough information was available on its recent problems to make a call.

Other Business

The board received a disclosure document from historical commission member Susan Lynton, to aid in determining if there were conflicts of interests involved in Lynton serving as a member of the town's historical commission while also being a member of the non-profit Friends of the North Leverett Sawmill and other private organizations.

Possible conflicts and regulations governing the situation were briefly discussed, but no decision



was reached.

Hankinson said he needed more time to look at the issues involved. "We should think about this for a few weeks," he said.

The board decided to seek Community Preservation Act funding for two proposals to continue work on rehabilitating the grounds of the town hall. If approved, the money would go towards paying the balance of a project to rebuild the stone

wall in front of the building, and address other landscaping concerns.

Hankinson announced that Dave Powicki, the chair of the conservation commission, was stepping down, and led a round of applause for Powicki's work.

The board signed a contract for upgrades to the assessor's office information systems which will create online, up-to-date, property value mapping.

NADYA from page A1

relatively free of fighting. Many have exhausted their savings and are dependent on support from their host communities. Living a chaotic, day-by-day existence in temporary shelters, it is hard for many to even think about finding work.

"This is a social-economic crisis," says Tkachenko. "To rebuild their lives, people need more comfortable, longer-term accommodations."

Housing is capital-intensive, and Tkachenko decided to start a nonprofit called Project Nadiya – which is her name, but also means "hope" in Ukrainian – in order to gather the resources for creating semi-permanent housing in the Zakarpattia province.

Project Nadiya's focus is two primary needs: semi-permanent housing, where displaced people "can regain dignity, strength and stability," and additional supports ranging from counseling to job training and employment assistance, which it terms "social adaptation and integration."

A Pilot Project

The new organization worked with the regional government to identify a site for a pilot project: an abandoned school, which it is now renovating to house 100 people by wintertime. The building will provide more bathrooms and showers than conventional shelters, as well as kitchens where families can cook, and other "uplifting" common spaces.

The total cost is about \$450,000, and Tkachenko says about half of this funding has been raised.

"The project has started," says Tkachenko, who leaves again for Ukraine next Wednesday, October 5. "The roof is being replaced, new walls are being built... But the need for funding remains, and we will appreciate any support to get this building to the finish line before winter."

Project Nadiya decided not to wait for full funding before starting to work on the building. "We hope that showing progress will be motivating for donors," explains Tkachenko. Project Nadiya now has a board of directors and outreach staff, and can take tax-deductible donations, including online at www.projectnadiya.com/donate.

"I never realized how much it would take to get a nonprofit started so that we could officially fundraise," Tkachenko adds. "Eighty percent of my time is spent in raising awareness about the needs and seeking funding. In March I did crowdfunding, and greatly benefitted from my community here. I am so grateful to them."

"But housing is very expensive, so in order to do a good job, to have lasting effect – well, I could not do that as an individual."

Scaling Up

Tkachenko is hoping to accomplish several things on her third trip. First, she wants to report back to donors about the progress on the building, and provide transparency about how things are managed.

The contractor and most of the employees working on the building are displaced people themselves. Electricians are coming from the US to do some wiring work while she is there. Building supplies are generally available, as Ukraine is a heavily industrial country and usually exports supplies. But, for instance, a glass factory was bombed recently, making those supplies hard to get.

"There will be a filmmaker from LA coming to do a short film about the project that we can use to reach more people," she explains. "And I want to make connections with social-integration support organizations who provide programming, [mental health] counseling, employment assistance, and other services to residents who will be using this housing complex."

Finally, Tkachenko plans to travel to Kyiv to meet with potential funding agencies and partner organizations, with an eye toward scaling the project up in the future in order to have a bigger ripple effect. The Ukraine Crisis Media Center has invited her to film an in-person interview to raise aware-



Mishael Coggeshall-Burr, husband of Project Nadiya founder Nadya Tkachenko, is selling his paintings to benefit the organization at an opening this Saturday in Montague Center. Above: Close the Sky, from Coggeshall-Burr's series "Ukraine: Courage Has Two Colors."

ness of the project.

"This is truly a pilot project," she tells the Reporter. "A stepping stone to allow us to scale up and relocate it, refine it, throughout the region and the country. For us it feels like the stakes are very high. And the results feel like we are helping many more than 100 people – we can help thousands of people, potentially, with this model of social housing."

Project Nadiya has found two other newly-formed organizations doing similar work in different regions of Ukraine, and is in conversation with them about best practices and other things.

"We are not the only ones coming up with these ideas for social housing," says Tkachenko, "which will help in this crisis – and also for [after the war], for this country will be impoverished, and people will need this type of support."

Benefit Art Show

Tkachenko's husband, Mishael Coggeshall-Burr, could not go with her to Ukraine in March, as he had to take care of their four children, so she brought his camera. Coggeshall-Burr makes paintings based on images he takes with the camera's unfocused settings, and he taught her how to take photos this special way.

But without having been there, Coggeshall-Burr found he felt disconnected from the images Tkachenko brought back from the trip, and was hesitant to paint from them.

In May, he went to Ukraine with Tkachenko to witness "the scents, places, sounds, the healings." He came back with imagery from Poland, where the couple attended some rallies, and from the border, and from within Ukraine. He ended up using some imagery from both the March and May trips as references for a new series of nine paintings and seven drawings, which he has named "Ukraine: Courage Has Two Colors."

An opening for the show will be held this Saturday, October 1, in the couple's barn at 70 Main Street in Montague Center. From 5 to 8 p.m. will be the best time to see the artwork. Half the proceeds from the sale of each piece will go to fund Project Nadiya, and donations will be welcomed.

"It will be a party, and Mishael will be there, and it will be festive," says Tkachenko. For the following two weeks, people can email Coggeshall-Burr at mishaelcb@gmail.com to make an appointment to see the work at the barn. On October 14, the series travels to the Abigail Ogilvy Gallery in Boston's South End. The work will be on exhibit there from October 19 to 30, with an opening at 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 22.

Tkachenko, meanwhile, will be in Ukraine until October 21. "I do feel more relaxed traveling there than the first time," she tells the Reporter. "But there will always be a Plan B, if things change."

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Caution Over Safety Complex Upgrades; Highway Finally Getting That Truck

By JERRI HIGGINS

The Gill selectboard met Monday evening and reviewed an energy conservation project proposed for the public safety complex, signed loan papers for a new highway department plow truck, and approved several grant applications for fire and police department emergency services.

The board approved the energy commission to apply for a state Green Communities grant for a conservation project at the public safety complex, but not necessarily to accept the grant.

Energy commission chair Vicky Jenkins explained that since meeting with the selectboard two weeks earlier, the commission had chosen Energy Source, LLC as their state-approved contractor, and created a plan to insulate the fire, police, and highway department office spaces.

She said that the commission had received an \$8,805 incentive from Eversource for weatherization, and that incentives would also be available for heat pumps.

Commission member Claire Chang described revisions to the weatherization plan since the group last met with the selectboard. The insulation contractor, Foam USA, LLC of Easthampton, found deteriorating ceiling insulation on the south wall area of the highway department on a walk-through of the building. The new plan includes removing the compromised insulation and having the area spray-foamed.

"I also asked for spray foam to go further down the walls than they had originally proposed, to get a little bit more energy efficiency," Chang said. "We are not getting as perfect insulation as you would in your house, but it will certainly help with some of the heat loss that is being experienced in that building."

Selectboard member Randy Crochier asked if the company could guarantee that the foam injection process would not damage the safety complex's block wall. Jenkins said she would find out what insurance the company has against potential damage.

Discussion of costs and benefits continued. Chang said the total cost estimate for the project was \$157,046, of which \$35,555 would come from utility incentives. The commission would apply for the \$121,491 balance through the Green Communities grant.

Crochier expressed concern with the heat-pump heating and cooling costs, as well as the 25-year expected payback period for the project. He pointed out that consultants had been incorrect about projected energy cost savings for the weatherization projects at the town hall, the Riverside municipal building, and the Slate library, though he added the humidity removal the heat pumps provided in those buildings made the costs more palatable.

"I think it is a whole different story when you get into that concrete block, with massive doors and space," he said about the public safety complex.

Town administrator Ray Purington said that a report for the

project included data showing various town buildings' "energy use intensity," or EUI. The lower the EUI, he related, the better and more efficient the energy usage. Between the 2020 and 2022 fiscal years, the EUI at town hall dropped from 66 to 58 to 56.

"I would not have guessed that four window air conditioners were that inefficient," he said. In FY'22 the building, including the basement, was using a new mini-split system. "On energy usage," Purington said, "maybe [the heat pumps] do work."

Selectboard member Greg Sneider remarked that the revised weatherization plan would only heat and cool the smaller office areas of the safety complex.

"I think our police, our fire, and our highway people deserve to have offices that are comfortable," said Jenkins, who added that having the heat pumps at the building's offices and break room would create "a comfortable workspace" which could be a benefit to hiring future employees. "It shows that we respect the work and the time that people spend there," she said.

Jenkins and Chang shared their hopes that Green Communities might offer solar power grants in the future, and that solar panels could be installed at the Riverside municipal building and other town properties "that would start to offset those electric costs."

Chang also noted that the recent federal Inflation Reduction Act will allow "municipalities, as non-profits, to take advantage of a 30% federal tax credit starting in 2023," which could offset rising costs of materials and labor.

In the end, the board authorized the commission to apply for the grant, but agreed that whether Gill accepts it would depend on the amount awarded, the grant's terms, and the town's financial position if town funds would be needed to complete the project.

"My concern is that we just came off a year where we are taking on debt exclusion," said Sneider, "and the COLA rate is 6%, and we have not seen that play out yet if we add to it." He said that the project would likely benefit the town "in the long run," but expressed his worries that the town could be "caught between the cost benefit and a dollar amount."

New Plow Due

The selectboard approved and signed papers for a serial State House loan – as Massachusetts's municipal bond program is known – of \$161,284, to allow Gill to purchase a 2023 International plow truck for the highway department.

Purington said the truck, which replaces the department's old Sterling dump truck, should be delivered by the end of the week.

Voters approved the borrowing, which required a debt override, at the annual town meeting in June 2021 and by ballot vote that July. Easthampton Savings Bank was awarded the bid for the lowest interest rate of 4.25% over three years.

According to *Mass.gov*, the State House Note Program offers

financing assistance to municipalities "through the certification of long term note issues known as serial notes."

Rams and Drones

The selectboard approved a \$10,500 firefighter safety equipment grant application for the fire department to purchase a Hurst "e-draulic" ram, batteries, and a charging unit. "That is the same program that we got the gear extractor from," fire chief Gene Beaubien told the board. "Last year we got two-thirds of the Jaws of Life, and this year we are trying to get the ram that goes with that."

\$688 of a \$2,700 Emergency Management Performance (EMP) grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency will pay for the town's CodeRED emergency notification system. Deputy fire chief William Kimball asked the selectboard to approve using the remaining \$2,012 toward an upgraded drone system.

Kimball told the board that Gill, Erving, Montague, Buckland, and Shelburne had all contributed to the Greenfield fire department's drone program when it began several years ago, and that Greenfield now wants to upgrade their drone to keep up with technological advances.

"The drone we have now is great," Kimball said, "but on a [windy and rainy] night like tonight, it is grounded." The current drone has an Ingress Protection (IP) rating of 48 and cannot sustain winds higher than 20 mph, he said, and the proposed new drone has an IP 68 rating and can fly in up to 50 mph winds.

Purington asked Kimball whether any funds might be left over to purchase a pager. Kimball said that Greenfield is still short \$6,000 for the project, "even if Gill's \$2,012 is included." He said he believed Erving had donated \$2,900, and that Montague is checking whether or not they can contribute. "They have shown interest," said Kimball, "but have not committed."

The board approved the fire department to apply \$688 of the FY'22 EMP grant for CodeRED, up to \$2,012 toward the regional drone project, and any remaining balance toward a pager.

An approved Municipal Road Safety grant of \$17,450 will go toward the police department's purchase of two speed display boards, along with extra mounting poles to relocate the boards as needed.

Other Business

Crochier said he had missed marking the passing of Philip Mattern in August.

"Philip Mattern was a long-term selectboard member in the town of Gill," he said. "He put in 15 years. He was born in Gill, and passed away in early August. He and his wife owned the store across the street for many years, and I think it is important to recognize everything that Phil did for the town. He served on many committees besides this board. Gill has been better off for many years because of his service."

Firefighter Derek Worden was approved as a part-time police officer through June 2023.



The employees will gradually buy out the consumer coop until they own a majority stake.

BIODIESEL from page A1

Biodiesel is a fuel derived from plant and animal fats that can be used in conventional oil-burning heat systems or diesel engines. It emits approximately 75% less CO₂ than traditional diesel, and smells more like popcorn than gasoline, some say.

The idea for a local production company sprang from meetings of the sustainable energy cooperative Co-op Power in 2002, and grew to involve state and local governments, private lenders, and other cooperatives, working together to raise the \$6.5 million needed in investment to buy the land and build the facility.

The building itself was completed in 2010, and for seven years employees worked to refine the production process and build a business plan. But by 2018, financial constraints and the relatively low price of diesel fuel forced Northeast Biodiesel to close. Co-op Power nearly voted to sell the project for parts after it received an offer of \$1.5 million.

"After 15 years... we kind of lost faith in ourselves," said Lynn Benander, president of Co-op Power and a co-owner of Northeast Biodiesel. "The members voted – it took us a year and a half to vote on it. We had an offer. And we didn't want to take the offer because we wouldn't be able to pay our member vendors."

The near-closure inspired Emily Kawano, a co-director of the Well-spring Cooperative Corporation, to step in and offer training on how to create a worker coop.

"I heard through the grapevine that Northeast Biodiesel was on the verge of just selling the whole enterprise off," Kawano said. "And I thought to myself, this just cannot be. This is just really important, not only as a coop, but just for the general economy and ecosystem."

In the last five months, the business has received \$1.36 million in loans to finance operating expenses, primarily from Life Insurance Community Investment Initiative, a fund established by the state legislature to support projects for the public good, and the state-run agency MassDevelopment. The Franklin County Community Development Corporation and the Local Enterprise Assistance Fund loaned \$75,000 each, and the Cooperative Fund of the Northeast loaned \$64,000.

A federal incentive included in the Inflation Reduction Act also helped significantly to get the business off the ground. The hefty legislation includes a one-dollar-per-gallon tax credit for biodiesel producers through the end of 2024.

"I spent 40 years working in the

chemical industry, and the worker co-op aspect really intrigued me," Northeast Biodiesel general manager Richard Durepo said on Tuesday. "The worker coop model will provide worker owners with a living wage and benefits, and a chance to be part of growing this business by having a voice in plant operations."

The Northeast Biodiesel Worker Co-op, incorporated in April 2022, now owns one-quarter of the company. As loans are paid off, the workers will gradually buy more shares from Co-op Power until they own three-quarters of the business. Eight worker-owners have been on the payroll since June, training, refurbishing the plant, and preparing test batches of biodiesel.

Durepo told the *Reporter* the production process is virtually waste-free. No water is used in the process of converting cooking oil into biodiesel, and no wastewater is produced.

Northeast Biodiesel will work with Replenish Biofuels, another cooperative business based in Holyoke, to collect used cooking oil from restaurants and food manufacturers and deliver it to the Greenfield facility. The coop does not yet have the ability to accept household cooking oil, but Durepo said it could in the future.

Workers mix the oil with methanol and methylate in a metal chamber, and heat it to facilitate a reaction that strips the glycerin from the oil. The glycerin is sold to a facility in New Hampshire, where it is refined to make food products and soap.

Northeast Biodiesel will sell the fuel through the Boston-based World Energy Corporation.

"We've got some incredibly smart people in this area who are doing their very best to make sure that [we] are decarbonizing," state representative Susannah Whipps told attendees at Tuesday's press conference. "We have to look out for future generations. We have to do everything we can to make sure that we leave this incredible planet healthy and vibrant, and companies like this are doing that."

Northeast Biodiesel and Co-op Power will host a launch celebration this Saturday, October 1 from 1 to 8 p.m. at the processing plant, located at 179 Silvio O. Conte Drive in Greenfield. Attendees are asked to RSVP online at tinyurl.com/NortheastBiodiesel. There will be presentations and discussions about biodiesel, the renewable energy industry, and worker cooperatives from 1 to 5:15 p.m., followed by a potluck and live band.

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FIRE from page A1

“It’s very involved, with the military firefighting community,” Brunelle said. His ongoing experience with the Air Force Reserve – he is currently the assistant chief of health and safety for the Reserve fire department at Westover – includes larger-scale emergency logistics than might be encountered in a small town department, as well as specialized training, particularly in hazardous materials.

“Almost anything that would not necessarily be hazardous in its normal state, when it’s involved in fire becomes very hazardous,” Brunelle explained. “The chairs we’re sitting on, the desk in the room – once it burns and starts to off-gas.... We’re doing our best to catch up with technology, to be able to protect ourselves.”

Brunelle said that when he was starting as a firefighter, he was most interested in “the doing – I want to be there where things are happening, and doing the hands-on work.” Over the years, though, he became more drawn to “figuring out how we can make these things better... more safety, more training, more efficiency, so those that are doing that work are making the most of their time, and they’re staying safe.”

The Turners Falls fire district covers most of Montague by population, and as one of a handful of professional fire departments in Franklin County, its members respond to a high volume of mutual aid calls from neighboring communities. There are also many medical

calls. Brunelle said that since the late 1990s he has seen the annual call volume rise from under 500 to nearly 1,600, with only a few added staff on the roster.

“I often will brag on the caliber of our people,” he added. “All of our career members are trained at the Mass Fire Academy. so they come here to begin work with an incredible, competent base of knowledge.... and I see the difference in community, people doing the job who legitimately care for the people they serve.”

Brunelle is clear-eyed about the major challenges ahead for the fire service: increased health and safety regulation to protect firefighters – which, he stressed, he supports – and increased intensity of fires, due to the combination of synthetic materials and building weatherization.

“The fires today are so extremely toxic,” he explained. “They burn so hot, and so fast, that the dangers are tenfold what they once were. A room will completely flash in fire in two to three minutes now.... We like to call it, unofficially, liquid gasoline.”

Tighter modern construction, in turn, often starves fires of oxygen, so when firefighters arrive and enter a structure, they are often re-igniting these intense blazes.

All of these conditions – higher call volume, more dangerous calls, and more complicated regulatory mandates – add up to cost pressures in the budget, and that, at the end of the day, is where a chief comes in. Brunelle estimated the position is “85%” administrative work.

“It’s a lot in front of the computer,” he said, “paying bills, doing the payroll, looking for grants, managing inventory, managing the fleet, making sure things get their preventative maintenance as scheduled. The officers also take on programs, and they help out tremendously with that, but there’s a lot to be done!”

Grants, in particular, are key to fire departments’ success these days, and Brunelle said chiefs are “always on the watch for them – you keep your pencil sharpened.”

A recently approved USDA grant will pay to replace an ambulance; a larger grant application in with the Federal Emergency Management Agency would completely cover labor costs for six firefighters for three years. The Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program, as it is known, has not yet announced its winners, but good news would be a game-changer for the department, which has struggled with staffing levels and turnover during the pandemic like so many other organizations.

“We have firefighters here that are excellent at what they do, and care about the community sincerely,” Brunelle told the Reporter. “They start work every day with the intention of doing the best job they possibly can, and they do a tremendous job at that. We are blessed to have them.... Without a crew as good as they are, I don’t know that I would want to sit in this chair.”



Montague Community Television News

Spooky Workshop

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – MCTV is partnering with the Brick House to host a Spooktacular Short Film workshop, on Wednesdays in October from 3 to 5 p.m. Interested youth are encouraged to check it out at the Brick House!

The MCTV Vimeo page is up to date with all of the most recent meetings from the Gill and Montague selectboards, the Montague finance committee, and the Gill-Montague school committee.

We also have a new video up from the live music performances at the Save the Forests event at Peskeompskut Park earlier this month, hosted by the Concerned Citizens of Franklin County, Save the Mas-

sachusetts Forests, Save the Pine Barrens, and the Community Land and Water Coalition.

All community members are welcome to submit their videos to be aired on Channel 17 and featured on the MCTV Vimeo page. MCTV is always available to assist in local video production as well.

Cameras, tripods, and lighting equipment are available for checkout, and filming and editing assistance can be provided. And remember, MCTV is still looking for board members!

Something going on you think others would like to see? If you get in touch, we can show you how easy it is to use a camera to capture the moment. Contact us at (413) 863-9200 or infomontaguestv@gmail.com.

**LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK**

Here’s the way it was on September 27, 2012: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

Passenger Rail Returning To Franklin County by 2014

Like the little engine that could, the Franklin County passenger train, with a little help from its friend, the federal stimulus package, will soon make the grade.

On Thursday, September 20, at the Franklin County Selectmen’s Association meeting held at the Polish American Club in South Deerfield, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission executive director Timothy Brennan updated the crowd on plans to bring passenger rail back to Franklin County.

Discussing the ambitious transit goals of the Massachusetts rail system, Brennan quipped: “We have traction, no pun intended.”

Brennan outlined the details of the rail project along the north-south corridor, which he referred to as the “Connecticut River main line.” The state of Massachusetts is working together with Vermont and Connecticut to return passenger train service to the main corridor to serve more riders.

Transportation finance is a big ticket item in the FY’14 budget recommendations for Franklin County. The state of Massachusetts allocates substantial funds each year toward the repair of roads, bridges, the rail system and other major infrastructure projects

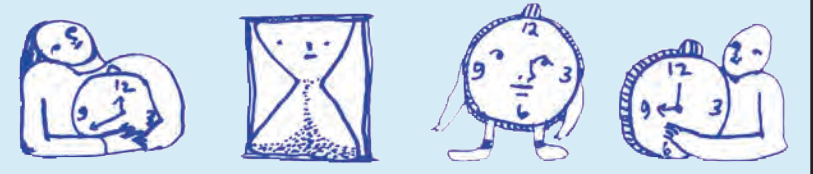
Montague ZBA Continues Center School Hearing

The former Montague Center elementary school retains its pride of place, four years after its classroom doors closed on the last of its students. Now, although no one professes to want the building to remain empty, very few in the village of Montague Center seem willing to accept the size and scope of the one project the town received after two requests for proposals for the building’s reuse have been issued.

On Wednesday, the zoning board of appeals again continued a hearing on a request for special permits and a variance to turn the former school building into 22 units of upscale, solar-powered rental housing. The special permits and variance are needed to allow for multi-family use within the zone, to reduce the dimensional requirements of the lot, and to allow some units smaller than 700 square feet in the building.

The continuance came as the board struggled to take comment from more than 60 people packed into the crowded upstairs meeting room in town hall, which one resident noted was larger than the smaller of the 22 apartments Greenfield developer Mark Zaccheo has proposed for the former school.

“It seems so very dense,” said-Center Street resident Lee Wicks.



Taking On New Responsibilities

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – Trish Dana grew up in the area, and while she didn’t know she wanted to be a firefighter, she knew she wanted “to help people, to be involved – to help people on their worst days.” A career that began as an EMT led her in 1998 onto the call force of the Amherst fire department, which had an ambulance service.

“My particular personality likes to be busy, so it suited me,” she recounts. “I like structure.” From there, she joined the Turners Falls department in 2001, and in 2011 became a full-time firefighter.

“When I was first hired [at Turners], we didn’t even run the ambulance,” Dana told the Reporter. “Right now,

we’re at 40% medical, or almost 50/50.”

This spring Dana was promoted to the rank of captain, and she was formally sworn in last Saturday.

Captain Dana is responsible for managing training within the department. “Captain Mike Currie did a great job with it for ten years. He really brought it up to a level that we hadn’t had, and he kind of passed the torch,” she said. “He’s showed me how he’s done it, and I’m putting my own spin on things.”

Dana said that while she does not necessarily prefer administration to the hands-on work of medical calls and firefighting, she is “comfortable in it.” Regional contacts in the fire service she met through her previous involvement on the Western Massachusetts Technical Rescue Team, she said, have been helpful in providing her with resources and support in training her coworkers.

“Our job does certainly change,” she added. “To make truly effective change, you have to go up in the ranks.”

Dana said that “the dust is settling” in the department after a period of transition, and that it is a time of developing new working structures internally before making a major recruitment push. Although Turners’ call force is paid, it is difficult to find people to join, especially as so many residents now work outside the community.

“I’ve spoken with other department – back in the day, there were wait lists to get on,” Dana added, “and now you’re not even getting the number of applicants necessary in order to pick the best candidates. That’s a little discouraging... Why, do you want to join?”

Asked her favorite part of the job, Dana paused. “Sometimes it can be a hard job, and sometimes it can be very unforgiving,” she said. “But there are times where what you are doing does make a difference – whether it be to one person, or a group, or the community – and those moments are what get you to the next moment.”



Trish Dana is Turners Falls’ newest fire captain.

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MONTAGUE from page A1 street and attacked him, causing puncture wounds near his elbow.

Town administrator Steve Ellis shared graphic pictures of a punctured and bleeding arm on the Zoom screen.

Upon further police investigation, according to Williams, it was revealed that Titan had been tethered by a steel cable to a tire in the backyard, but “the dog broke it.”

“There was a juvenile there,” Williams continued, “who called the dog off and secured him.” The following morning, the chief said, officers went to the address and “secured the dog,” which is “now in the town’s possession.”

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz noted that the previous order to the dog’s owner may have been violated. He moved that Titan should remain impounded by the animal control officer, and that a hearing should be scheduled. At that hearing, the selectboard will decide if a violation has occurred, and if so what the remedy should be, “which may include that the dog be euthanized.”

Kuklewicz noted that town counsel cannot attend the usual Monday meeting next week, so the board also voted to set the dog hearing for Tuesday, October 4 at 5:30 p.m.. Mr. Pike attended Monday’s meeting but did not speak.

Town Meeting

The board formally voted to place 17 articles on the October 13 special town meeting warrant, and to recommend all of them. The town meeting will take place “in person” at 6:30 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School auditorium.

The first seven articles involve approving recent collective bargaining agreements with the three main staff unions – the New England Police Benevolent Association, the United Electrical Workers, and the National Association of Government Employees – and their impact on staff wages in the current year’s budget.

Other articles cover budget increases in three departments to pay for higher electric rates under a new contract; increase funding for the town’s Sealer of Weights and Measures, under a contract with the state; purchase equipment for the local access television station, passing along money from the cable company Comcast; contribute to floor replacement at Hillcrest Elementary School; pay to replace the roof of the town-owned Colle Building; and cover

engineering services for capping the old burn dump on Sandy Lane.

Town meeting members would be asked to approve a prior-year bill to the Clean Water Facility, received after the annual budget process, and to reduce the budget of the Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation.

“Non-money” articles would create a special stabilization fund for money received under a recent national opioid settlement, and change the membership requirements for the capital improvements committee in the town bylaws.

All 17 articles were unanimously endorsed, with virtually no discussion except the opioid settlement article, which requires setting aside no less than 25% of the funds received. Ellis explained that this minimum figure, which reflects the language of a state statute, was used on the advice of town counsel, but that the version that will go before town meeting will specify 100% of the revenue will be put into the stabilization fund.

Batting Cages

Kyle Cogswell, president of the Newt Guilbault Community Baseball League, came before the board to request that the youth league be allowed to construct a batting cage next to its field on Montague Street.

Cogswell said the construction would require cutting down one tree, but this could be replaced by two trees that have been donated to the town being planted nearby.

“When I was coaching in the league, it is certainly something I would have wanted to have had as an amenity,” said Ellis.

Lord said he was concerned about the potential use of Eversource Electric poles which seemed to be in the diagram he saw. Cogswell said these were not “standing poles” for electric transmission, and that he was trying to be “fiscally conservative” by using them, but had since reconsidered this due to concerns about insect infestation, and would purchase new six-by-six posts.

The board unanimously approved the request.

Other Business

The board approved the entire hiring committee recommended by the board of health to conduct the search for a new public health director, and added downtown business owner Erin McLean to the hiring committee for town planner.

Maggie Martin and James Mus-

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soni were added to the Montague Cultural Council for three-year terms. The prior appointment of Anne Harding to that board was rescinded because a member is not allowed to serve more than two consecutive terms.

The board authorized Brian McHugh of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority to pay the firm Berkshire Design \$4,283.20 for “bidding services” for work on the Avenue A Streetscape Project.

The board approved a one-day beer and wine license at the request of Rustic Romance, a vintage home décor store in Millers Falls. The “sip and shop” event will take place on

Friday, November 18. “We will just be pouring, we will not be selling,” said co-owner Cindy Bayer.

The meeting ended with Ellis presenting a report on “legislative earmarks” for Montague. The board executed an agreement for \$100,000 with the state Executive Office of Administration and Finance for upgrades to the Clean Water Facility, and \$50,000 with the same agency for municipal building roof improvements. The former earmark had been inserted into the FY’23 state budget by senator Jo Comerford, and the latter by representative Natalie Blais.

The next selectboard meeting will be held October 3.



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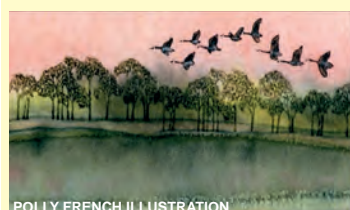


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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

SEPTEMBER 29, 2022



WEST ALONG THE RIVER
**COME
SUMMER'S END**

By DAVID BRULE

THE FLAT, ERVINGSIDE – For some who are not able to be outside for the end of this season's chapter, maybe too taken with worldly concerns or just not able to get outdoors, I'll file this report to let you know how it all turned out.

Sometime around *August 25*, you would have felt the fog in the maple leaves, the peace of a late summer morning. There was heavy dew on the ground, the little meager moisture the summer has provided us thus far. Early now in the morning there is the ringing sound of thousands of crickets, an occasional call of the jay. There are hardly any other birds up at this hour.

Who says the early bird gets the worm? I'm up way before most of them.

Understandably, for the adult birds reaching this summer's end, their mating, fighting for territory, and the exhaustive feeding of the new generation has probably worn them out. They just take it easy now, enjoying the fat of the season, snoozing a little longer.

Here in my human world, there's the feeling that the summer's work is almost done. I have to keep in mind the annual task of painting part of the porch, as men in this family have always done in August. Those who came before me got their week's vacation off from the Millers Falls Tool shop up the street. They spent their vacation painting the porch. I've still got a few days left to fulfill my inherited chore.

With this date in August marking a big birthday for the boy of the house, we'll feast on lobster cooked in the steaming lobster pot over the campfire. With the appropriate chilled white wine, we'll clink our glasses with a French toast of *tchin-tchin*. We'll lounge on the deck, thinking about lobsters and anticipating a pleasant day coming soon to be spent down on the coast. Now that the wee piping plovers have fledged, those magical winding boardwalks through the dunes of Plum Island will lead us to the beaches that have been off limits all summer.

By *August 27*, how much better it feels after the rain, in its mercy, came faintly in the night leaving the deck wet and the flowers' thirst somewhat quenched. The air is fresher but the sun is also rising to dry all again.

Out in the yard, there's small bird talk and late summer murmurs, the whirring of hummingbirds' wings. The bird beings be-

gin to awake and arrive slowly for their morning routine at the bath and flower garden.

How pleasant to bring August to a close and anticipate a September that is still summer, no rush to see it end. Those final summer chores still linger, so I make a list of what's still to be done. Writing it down in a list is almost as good as actually doing it, but could lead to further procrastination. I can imagine that it's all done. With the best of future intentions, it's all simply put down on paper and stays there, going no further. If this were a job, I'd be fired!

Fast forward to *September 19*. All those intervening days resemble one another, endless days of summer, until this date of change. Out here it's a wet morning, in soupy, humid air. There's a familiar feeling of nostalgia for the past hurricanes of my youth, as clouds scud by coming up low from the south. The atmosphere is heavy.

This year it's Fiona, far down the Atlantic seaboard. She may never reach here, yet there's hope that she will bring soaking rain in from far out on the ocean.

September 22 has in fact finally brought the heavy rains, ending the three-month drought that saw our ponds dry up, the river fall to a slow sluggish stream making its way between the river stones. The air is heavy with mist and fog, gray-blue weather warm and southerly-feeling even though no hurricane has made it this far north.

Thunder rumbles and rolls with the sweet sound of rain after this sizzling long summer. Katydid still call their late summer song at night in the jungle humidity. Hummingbirds have forsaken us, favorite cardinal flowers have faded and gone to seed. The welcoming sugar-water oasis looks lonely there among the orange jewelweed flowers.

September bumble bees still toll the late sedum cushions, although they seem to be mostly of one species, the shiny-bottomed kind. They are the ones who like to drill neat round holes in the cedar clapboards, the carpenter bees.

The frog pond, also long dry all summer, now refills itself inch by inch. A happy frog squats on the round stone I put in the middle years ago. Nice perch for the batrachian, who seems content with himself there, surveying the growing pond.

Several yellow-shafted flickers bob and hop on short woodpecker legs through the newly-greening see **WEST ALONG** page B8

Above: A John Deere tractor set up for hay rides at the Gill Harvest Festival on Sunday afternoon.

MILESTONES

Marion Celebrates a Century!

By ANNE JEMAS

GREENFIELD – “I LOVE Turners Falls!” exclaims 100-year-old Marion Ryan when asked about growing up in Turners. Actually, Marion is not quite 100 years old. That milestone will be reached on October 7, when her birthday celebration will include the mayor of Greenfield as well as Marion's daughter Bonnie Spanswick, who is flying up from Florida for the occasion.

When I spoke with Marion at her current residence at Greenfield Rehab – formerly Poet's Seat – she described what it was like to live in Turners Falls when it was a thriving industrial center. Her parents, Rose and John Cunniff, had a house on the same short street as the Montague Machine Company, where they raised their only child.

Marion went to services at Saint Anne's Church and attended “the French school” until third grade when she switched to public school in the Patch, where she had lots of friends.

At Turners Falls High School, Marion was an athlete who was on the tumbling, hockey, and baseball teams. But the highlight that stands



JEMAS PHOTO

Marion Ryan celebrates her 100th birthday next week at Greenfield Rehab.

out in Marion's mind was playing guard on the basketball team her senior year with fellow student Marilyn Couture. That was the year that the team finally won their league championship.

“If there was something I did do well, it was playing basketball,” she says with a smile.

Marion says she loved working, and always had good bosses. While a medical condition prevented her from pursuing her dream of becoming a nurse, she switched over to office work, and never had a problem finding a job.

Right out of high school, she got see **MARION** page B3

MOVIE REVIEW

Freak Out In Moonage Daydream (2022)

By REBECCA TIPPENS

COLRAIN – *Moonage Daydream*, a documentary tribute to David Bowie, is now playing locally at the Amherst Cinema. I went to a late afternoon showing that had the most mixed-age audience I have perhaps ever seen there at that hour, and as the film closed, hoots and applause filled the cinema. The hoots were new, too!

From online comments, I gather that some, but not most, official re-

viewers are disappointed that more biographical information is not included in this film. There are but a few minutes referencing Bowie's familial upbringing that focus more on shots of his working-class childhood neighborhood than his non-sustained relationship with his parents. Similarly, there is no mention that he had been married before he married Iman nearly 25 years before his death. And there is but almost incidental mention of this second marriage, which is presented more as an example of a

philosophical shift, and next to nothing on his children.

Curious minds can always find the facts about David Bowie's life by Googling it. Rather than a biopic, the film is an exploration of Bowie's philosophical and spiritual journey. It brilliantly begins with shots of the cosmos... introducing you to the reality that the film is going to be an exploration of the great mysteries and our quest (through Bowie's quest) to understand or come to terms with questions concerning the purpose and meaning of Life.

Bowie's commitment to follow his own muse, rather than the demands of the audience or market, is the film's hallmark. Such seems to be the through-line of the director, Brett Morgen, who has also given us bios on visionaries Kurt Cobain and Jane Goodall.

Indeed, though Bowie was popularly famous for his music and his challenges to notions of gender, he explored his creative vision through various mediums beyond music and costuming: video-making, sculpting, painting... paintings that he mostly created while in Berlin, informed



NEON IMAGE

Morgen's kaleidoscopic montages are “unarguably visually exciting.”

see **MOONAGE** page B5

Pet of the Week



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MONTAGUE

1st Saturday: *Used book sale.* Fiction, paperbacks, kids' books, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks. Hundreds of recent donations. Sponsored by the Friends. Carnegie, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Multiple days: *Turners Falls Canal District.* Month-long series of collaborative programs, "Rediscovering the Past, Planning for the Future." Explore our local history and ecology, learn about Indigenous lifeways, help plan for canal district redevelopment. More info at tinyurl.com/TF-canal

Every Wednesday: *Story Time.* Meet Meghan Doyle for stories, songs, and a craft. Carnegie, 10 a.m.

Every Thursday: *Playgroup Plus.* Guided and free play with music and activities. Designed for preschoolers; older children welcome. Carnegie, 10 a.m.

Saturday, October 15: *Honeybees and How They Prepare for Winter.* Presentation for all ages, hands-on equipment, observation hive to observe bees up close. Carnegie, 11 a.m.

Saturday, October 15: *Clean-up Day at Montague Center Library.* Our beloved branch library needs your help! Call (413) 367-2852 to sign up for a two-hour shift. Free pizza at noon. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Multiple days: *Paws to Read.* Read to trained therapy dogs Emmy or J-Lo to improve literacy skills. 3rd Monday, 3rd Thursday. Call (413) 863-3214 to reserve a 15-minute spot for your child or teen. Carnegie, 4 to 5 p.m.

Thursday, October 19: *Author Series.* Bruce Watson reads from his fast-paced book *Bread and Roses* about the textile strike of 1912. Refreshments. Montague Center, 6 to 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 22: *Halloween Party.* Scavenger hunt, wearable crafts, photo booth. Costumes encouraged. For children of all ages. Carnegie lawn, 1 to 4 p.m.

Week of October 24: *Grab & Go Spooky Science: Glow Ghosts.* Free kits available at all branch locations. While supplies last.

Thursday, October 27: *Montague Center Book Club.* For October: *The Sentence*, by Louise Erdrich. Contact Kate for more info: kmartineau@cwmars.org. 7 to 8 p.m.

Monday, October 31: *Not "Too" Spooky Stories.* Local storyteller and musician John Porcino tells spooktacular stories for kids and families. Montague Center Library front steps, 5 to 7 p.m.

Weather, etc. sometimes causes changes in library events; you may want to call ahead to confirm events.

ERVING

Sunday, October 2: *Beatles Sing-Along.* Hosted by Linda Bowden on ukulele. 1 p.m.

Monday, October 3: *Paws to Read.* A great opportunity for reluctant readers to read with a therapy dog. Call (413) 423-3348 to reserve a spot. 4 to 5 p.m.

Every Wednesday: *Bilingual Storytime and Playgroup.* Hora Del Cuento y Grupo De Juego Bilingue. 10 to 10:45 a.m.

Sunday, October 9: *Puzzle Swap.* Bring a jigsaw puzzle to exchange, or we'll give you one to get you started. 1 to 3 p.m.

Sunday, October 16: *Craft Afternoon.* Make a note card or art piece with dried pressed flowers. RSVP required. 1 p.m.

Monday, October 17: *Stuffed Sleepover.* Bring your stuffed friend for a night of fun at the library. For toddlers to age 8, registration required. Dropoff 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 30: *Halloween Movie & Mask Making.* Watch Halloween classic *Hocus Pocus* and make a mask for your costume. All materials provided. 1 p.m.

Monday, October 31: *For Teens Only, Halloween Edition.* Chat with librarian Andrea, movie of the month with free pizza and soda. 3:30 p.m.

Monday, October 31: *Trick or Treat & Photo Booth.* 4 to 6 p.m.

LEVERETT

All October: *Story Walks.* Find a new Story on the trail behind the library every Thursday.

Every Saturday: *Tai Chi.* Free classes, everyone welcome. Space limited, masks required. Call Dennis for info: (413) 367-9760. Intermediate to advanced 10 a.m., beginners 11 a.m.

Every Monday and Wednesday: *Online Qigong.* Free class, everyone welcome. More info on leverettlibrary.org, or email CommunityQigong@gmail.com. 10:30 a.m.

Every Thursday: *Play Mahjongg.* All abilities welcome. 2 to 4 p.m.

Saturday, October 22: *Wing-Masters Art Opening.* Julie Ann Collier's art is closely tied to her work rehabilitating birds of prey. Join her for a presentation with her birds and to see her beautiful artwork. 2 p.m.

Wednesday, October 26: *Baby and Me Playgroup.* Free

play, socialization, parent support, stories, songs. For children ages 0 to 3 and their caregivers. More info: budine@erving.com. 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, October 26: *Board & Table Games.* Drop-in gaming for all ages. More info: gstamell@gmail.com. 1:15 p.m.

NORTHFIELD

1st Saturday: *Puzzle Swap.* Dozens of new-to-you puzzles for kids and adults. For more info, friendsofdml01360@gmail.com. 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, October 1: *Dog Show.* Register to bring your dog, or just watch the show. More info at northfieldpubliclibrary.org/calendar. 1 to 3 p.m.

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

1st Wednesday: *Readers' Choice.* October 5: *Three Daughters of Eve* by Eilf Shafak. Pick up a copy at the library. 10 a.m.

Every Wednesday: *Stories and Playtime* with Deb Wood, for ages 0 to 5. 10 a.m.

Every Wednesday: *Open Tech Hours.* Pop in for help on anything library-related. Misha will help you figure out Libby or sign up for Hoopla. If you have something not library related, she will try her best! Bring your device. 1 to 3 p.m.

First Thursday: *Spice Club* pickup starts. Stop in for a sample and suggested recipes while supplies last. Look for a new spice every month!

Every Friday: *Kids' Fridays.* First Friday: LEGOs. Second Friday: Crafternoon. Third Friday: Games. Fourth Friday: Movie, *Shrek*. 2 p.m.

Tuesday, October 11: *Puffins and Other Seabirds.* Local photographer Carol Pike shares images from trips to islands off the coast of Maine. Masks encouraged. 6 p.m.

2nd Wednesday: *Readings: Nonfiction, Fiction, and Poetry.* October 12: *The Bell Jar*, by Sylvia Plath. Pick up a copy at the library. 3 p.m.

2nd Thursday: *Environmental Awareness Group.* October 13: *The Invention of Nature* by Andrea Wulf. Pick up a copy at the library. 6:30 p.m.

3rd Tuesday: *Friends of the Library.* For more info, contact friendsofdml01360@gmail.com. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Friday, October 21: *Campfire and S'mores.* Chillin' at a campfire behind the library with fancy s'mores fixins. 5:30 p.m.

Senior Center Activities

OCTOBER 3 THROUGH 7

WENDELL

Foot care clinic the first Wednesday of each month. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments. Senior Health Rides are now available. Contact Jonathan von Ranson at (978) 544-3758 to set up a ride.

LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held on Zoom on Wednesdays. Foot care clinic is held monthly. For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 2, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

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 10/3

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting & Handcrafts
5 p.m. Death Cafe (pre-register)

Tuesday 10/4

10 a.m. A Matter of Balance
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 10/5

9 a.m. Veterans' Hours
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Aerobics
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 10/6

10:30 a.m. Brown Bag
1 p.m. Cards & Games
5:30 p.m. Exercise

Friday 10/7

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Aerobics

ERVING

Erving Senior Center is open 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Open for cards, coffee, and snacks daily.

Brown Bag lunch is the first Thursday of each month. Veterans Services the first Wednesday of each month. Erving van services available: Must call 24 hours in advance for a ride to any scheduled appointment. For more information, please call (413) 423-3649.

Monday 10/3

9 a.m. Interval
10:15 a.m. Seated Workout

Tuesday 10/4

9 a.m. Good for U
10 a.m. Line Dancing

Wednesday 10/5

9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact
10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursday 10/6

9 a.m. Core & Balance
10 a.m. Barre Fusion

Friday 10/7

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

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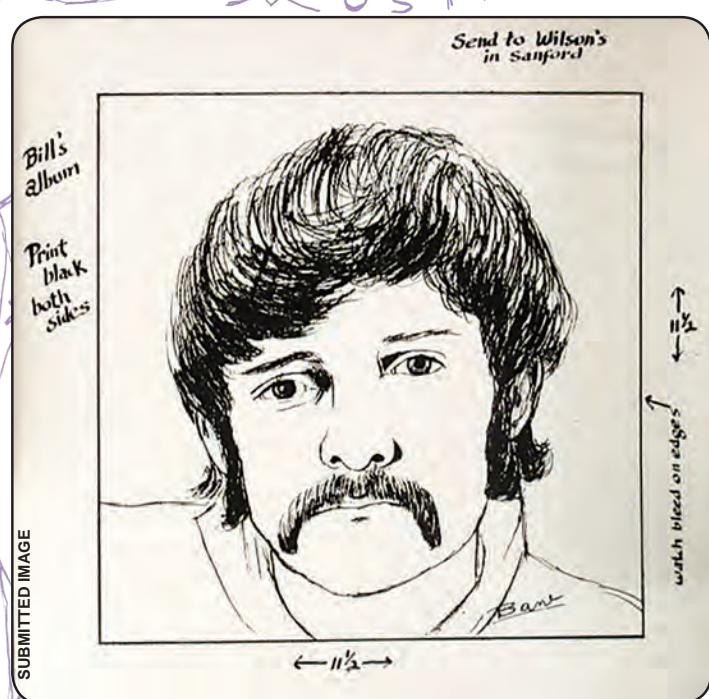
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SATURDAY & SUNDAY - 7 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

DINNER
FRIDAY & SATURDAY - 4:30 TO 9:30 P.M.

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MONTV / MUSIK / MOUNTAIN



#LIII: Bill Stone

Interview by J. BURKETT

TURNERS FALLS – Back in 1969, Bill Stone recorded a solo album when he was going to the University of Southern Maine. The late '60s were such a different time in almost every way, and the music was such a special part of that.

Bill's record, *Stone*, is definitely from the era, and has the magical quality of those times. It's mostly quiet folk-rock, and the last song on the A side continues on the B side! It's a mix of Donovan vibes and a Tom Rapp style of singing, but yes, they are unique songs for sure.

One of his friends at the university seems to have talked him into

recording the album, but had problems and disappeared into military service. The whole project seemed doomed, and Bill barely got a copy himself – never mind the rest of the world.

Fast forward to 50 years later, when some copies of the LP magically surfaced, and wow, the word was out about this magic record. The first repressing on Drag City disappeared in a heartbeat. If all this sounds crazy and exciting, Bill seems as amazed as anyone. It seems really cool that some things finally do get the attention they deserve. What discoveries are next, we wonder...

Bill Stone is playing his first-ever area show in Amherst next

Saturday, October 8 at 5 p.m. at Mystery Train Records. The free concert also includes Junk Orbit, Wednesday Knudsen, and Shannon Ketch.

MMM: Hi, Mr. Bill! When did you start playing music? Were you in the school band?

BS: I started with trombone and piano in elementary school, somewhat under duress. My career had a shaky start. When I was in high school, I bought a cheap guitar and taught myself to play. I began writing tunes and playing in folk groups aspiring to sound like Peter, Paul, and Mary or the Kingston Trio.

MMM: How did your solo album come to be? You said someone else helped put it out? How did you record it?

BS: A classmate in college aspired to be a manager for local bands, and started doing bookings. Devonsquare and I are the only ones still performing, as far as I know. I was the only one with original material, so he thought I should do an album.

The recording was done in various locations on a two-track Panasonic with a "bed spring" reverb. He had some financial problems, so he joined the Army – and I ended up with a few copies, and the album covers. The lion's share of the LPs disappeared, and recently resurfaced thanks to the generosity and kindness of his widow.

MMM: Were you influenced by other music coming out at that time? Like, what did you think of the Beatles? Did you collect records back then?

BS: I never collected records as such, but Donovan's first album in-

fluenced the way I play with a thumb pick. I later learned the style was made popular by Maybelle Carter. She was my influence, even though I didn't know it until years later.

My songwriting style just evolved, but I'm not sure where it came from. I was not a rock fan at the time, but I've learned to admire it as time passed. I'm in awe of the songwriting of Lennon and McCartney as well as George Harrison.

MMM: Did you play the songs on the LP in any live contexts then?

BS: I supported my wife and I, playing in the local bars in Portland, Maine, doing a lot of covers but also my original tunes.

MMM: What do you listen to now?

BS: I listen to a lot of trombone, from Joseph Alessi to Carol Jarvis. Also Leonard Cohen, Dylan, Donovan. I like the "station" mix for those performers.

I have recently started playing the trombone and euphonium as a source of inhalation therapy, as I have severe asthma and the horn playing seems to help. I expect I'll be called up by Laurence Welk any day now.

MMM: Can you talk about your new band? How did that come about? Have you played a lot of live shows over the years?

BS: The new "band" is really "bands." The woman I sing with, Stacey Jacobsohn, has been singing with me over ten years now, but others have come and gone over the years.

We currently have Paul Gross on cajón and Bruce Coffin on violin. We do most of my original materi-

al, as well as covers.

MMM: I know you write your own songs... Did you ever do any other writing? Do you have any favorite authors?

BS: All the songs on the LP are original, and all the songs on my recent CD are original, or original arrangements of traditional tunes.

I have done some writing in the educational/career development realm, and I've done a self-help career choice book, a book of activities to accompany the Harrington-O'Shea, and various juried articles in professional journals.

MMM: Any good music stories? Jokes, or advice? Anything else you would like to add?

BS: All my multiple career directions involve stories, and a few jokes.

Playing in bars is always an adventure, from dealing with tipsy music enthusiasts to vintage Fender amps which are inclined to zap musicians. One job I had involved traveling around Maine in a purple Winnebago dispensing career and college planning advice.

I've played on top of hot dog stands, and did one solo gig at midnight over the radio. For that adventure I sat totally alone, singing to the VU meter for the largest audience I've ever had.

Once a high school planned a field day, but a thunderstorm broke out, so I kept the whole school entertained for two hours. The principal loved me.

But the most interesting experience has been the sudden, new interest in my fifty-year-old LP. I really appreciate all the support and interest it has received.

FROM A TEEN'S POINT OF VIEW

The James Webb Space Telescope

By FINTAN ANDREW JONES

MONTAGUE – Today, I will be writing about the James Webb Space Telescope. I first heard about this in early December, in an engineering class at my school. My engineering teacher was so fascinated by the telescope he decided one of our engineering projects would be to build a mini-rocket. This was by far the best project I have ever done for school. I will talk more about that later, though. Now I am going to start off with a brief history of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST).

Before I can continue into the history of the JWST, you have to understand one thing. This telescope is an infrared telescope. An infrared telescope uses infrared light to detect other living beings. Every living being with a body temperature above absolute zero (-460° F) emits electromagnetic waves, and this means this telescope can virtually detect aliens within a 13.6 billion light-year radius.

Sorry for all of the science talk, there is really no other way to describe it.

Scientists first had the idea for this project in 1996, after seeing the tremendous success with the Hubble Telescope. This first proposal was a beehive-like pattern, measuring 24 feet across. In 2002, the mirror size was reduced to 18 feet, and officially named the James Webb Space Telescope.

NASA decided to let the

Northrop Grumman building company build the telescope. After more than seven years, the JWST passed the Mission Critical Design Process. To put this simply, this means the telescope had all of its working parts to achieve the mission. When NASA was ready to make a huge leap into the project they built the final parts for the JWST and got it ready for its launch date.

At approximately 7:20 a.m. on December 25, 2021, the rocket ship carrying the JWST launched from the Europe Spaceport in French Guiana. I remember sitting in engineering class and watching the replay of the launch. This leads me to our project, which we made based on the rocket that launched the JWST.

After we were done watching the recap a couple of times, my teacher explained how it is going to take upwards of six months for all of the telescope's lenses to get focused and for the sun shield to start working.

In space there is a ton of radiation coming from the sun, and the instruments controlling and capturing pictures on the JWST had to be kept at a very low, freezing temperature. This is where the sun shield comes in handy. Using ultra-thin aluminum sheets, the difference in temperature facing the sun versus behind the shield was 570° F! Five of these sheets help the JWST operate properly.

I can only imagine how precise they had to be when building this thing. If they got the measurements

off by 1 millimeter it could have compromised the entire mission, and set the government and NASA back \$10 billion (with a B).

Steering away from the telescope itself, the space shuttle I made in my engineering class was made out of paper and 3D printed parts. It is important to mention that our rockets were launched at an angle, and were supposed to land upright on the ground. We started by making the construction paper body of the rocket, then made a mold for the nose of the rocket. This was my favorite part, because we put *papier-mâché* into a mold and let it dry. I made my nose cone have a flat side so it would get pushed by the air to land straight.

When this was done, my group and I designed a 3D-printed landing system so it would land on the floor without bouncing over. I made a chicken wire landing platform so the landing system would have something to latch onto.

My class went to a big field, and tried to make our rockets land upright. In conclusion, I shot my rocket over 50 feet into the air, and landed it onto the chicken wire on my fourth try.

That is it for this column. I would like to mention in my previous column on the cello, I mentioned that I would be auditioning for the Pioneer Valley Youth Symphony Orchestra. I had my audition on September 9, and I got in! I will write more about this when I actually go to a couple rehearsals and experience it more.

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TV REVIEW

Quantum Leap 2022

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – *Quantum Leap* originally premiered on NBC in 1989, and then continued to be rerun for some time. Now it seems people have decided to do a sequel TV series, also on NBC – one that is set nearly 30 years after the original premiered.

The premiere date for this one was Monday, September 19. A whole new team gets involved in this project this time and the Leaper – the person who can jump into other people's lives within their lifetime – is a physicist named Ben Song, played by Raymond Lee.

I already know of two things that are going to be new in this sequel

connected to the whole idea behind the *Quantum Leap*. One is that people are going to have no idea why Ben makes this leap – he knew that things with the project weren't ready. The second is the dynamic between this man and his hologram; there is a nice twist between them, and it turns out he has a much more personal connection with her than Al and Sam had in the original series.

But there is also a little bit of a connection to this show's previous history. Sam, who once leaped into the character of a soldier nicknamed "Magic" who fought in the Vietnam War, is part of this series.

I also know, from a few online videos, what kind of people Ben

LEAP to next page

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EXHIBITS

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Migrations*. Paintings curated by Guatemala Art and Culture Connection, celebrating the human and natural diversity of the upper Connecticut River Valley and the Americas. Colorful works depict scenes integral to village life, Mayan culture, and the history of Lake Atitlan in Guatemala. Through November 1. Sixth Annual Migrations Festival next Saturday October 8, from 1 to 4 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Interotone*, mixed-media work by Turners Falls resident Desi Lowit. Through November.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Out of the Shadows*, work by 12 artists who traverse the border between worlds and find refuge in hidden realms. Through October. Reception this Sunday, October 2, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Ocean House* by Stacey Pea, through September 30. *Botanical Portraits* by Jean Gran, October 3 to 28. Gran is a flower photographer and grower. Reception next Friday, October 7 at 5:30 p.m.

Goose Divine Energy, Greenfield: *Donna Estabrooks*, paintings. Through November 22. Reception this Friday, September 30, 5 to 8 p.m.

LAVA Center and Looky Here, Greenfield. *Heart's Desire*, Susan Crollius and Art + Soul. Retrospective of the last nine years by the Art + Soul community. Listen to live and virtual readings from Art + Soul writers. Special events throughout October listed on localaccess.org.

Memorial Hall, Deerfield: Landscape paintings by *Robert Strong Woodward* (1885-1957). Through October.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield: *Sticks & Stones*. Artists interpret the theme of sticks and/or stones in sculpture, mixed media, mosaic, fiber art, and more. Through November 6. Reception and farmers market this Thursday, September 29.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *William Hays*, color-reduction woodcut and linocut prints of the New England landscape and architecture. *Carolyn Webb*, drawings and prints using patterns surrounding grief, colors, reflections. Through October.

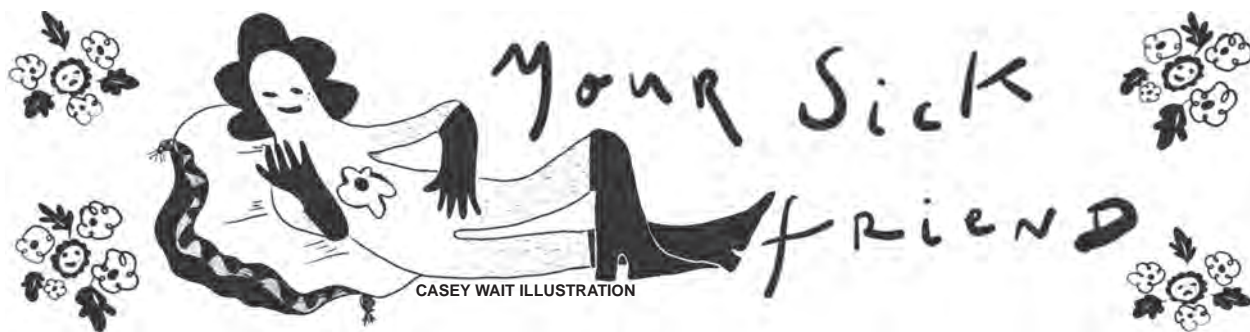
Shelburne Arts Coop Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Local Color*. Member artists and crafters present their work. Through October.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Deciphered Objects*, Laura Holand. Artist's books telling the stories of everyday objects. Through October.

Anchor House of Artists, Northampton: *Any Body: Poems, Portraits, Poes*, paintings by Rachel Jenkins, through October. Reception this Saturday, October 1 at 4 p.m. *Following the Line*, work by Jonathan Stark, and *Christopher Remembered*, retrospective of Christopher Mckeever's work, from October 7 to 22; reception October 14 at 6 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Mundane Monsters*. Kristoffer Ørum combines augmented reality, 3D printing, video, wireless transmissions, and sculpture to summon forth everyday beasts from the cracks between the real and the imagined. Through October 7.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center: *Felt Experience*, group show of felt artists. Also exhibiting: Beth Galston, Frank Jackson, Mie Yim, Nebizun, Roberley Bell, and Oasa Duverney. Through October 10. www.brattleboromuseum.org.



By CASEY WAIT

TURNERS FALLS – Hey readers, welcome to the September installment of *Your Sick Friend!* Ever on-brand, I am writing to you from bed as I recover from my first major surgery – and a partially dislocated sacrum – folks, the fun never stops!

While I usually use this column to relate my experience of illness and disability to the ongoing pandemic, this month I'm mostly going to focus on what it's like to be in my body when I'm dealing with this level of pain and immobility. Because, quite honestly, it's hard to think about anything else when my entire lower body feels like its being slowly pulled apart and sloppily put back together.

Two weeks ago I had surgery for endometriosis, one of my many conditions. Endometriosis is a poorly understood, though not uncommon, disease where tissue that behaves similarly to the endometrial tissue found in the uterus develops outside of the uterus, usually somewhere else in the pelvic cavity.

Like true endometrial tissue, each month this rogue tissue tries to shed itself. With nowhere to go, however, it ends up tearing, scarring, and adhering to the structures inside the pelvis. This causes bloating and intense pain, and can impact organ function.

I once had endometriosis pain so bad I fell out of the shower and had to crawl to my bedroom because standing and walking hurt too much. It took me the better part of an hour to crawl down a short hallway.

During surgery, three tiny incisions were made to my lower abdomen and a very small camera was inserted. Looking inside my pelvic cavity, my surgeon was able to find the endometrial lesions and adhesions and use a little cau-

terizing tool to burn them off. As unpleasant as that may sound, the hope is that this surgery will free me from at least some of the pain I live with, though there will always be a chance new lesions will form.

Recovery has been, for the most part, pretty smooth. Because I'm no stranger to bed rest, boredom, or pain, the past two weeks have honestly not felt that different from my usual life. I've watched movies, had visits from friends, and even gone on a few dates (or rather, had dates come to me – even homebound boys can have fun, dammit!).

A week after my surgery I started to experience a sharp increase in pain. Initially I chalked it up to running out of the heavy-duty painkillers I was prescribed to get through the first few days post-operation. A charming aspect of my genetic disorder, hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, is that my body processes non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (like ibuprofen and acetaminophen) differently than most – meaning they do fuck-all to reduce pain. So once I ran out of oxycodone, I was basically left with ice packs and distractions for pain management.

When the pain kept getting worse each day, I started worrying something might be wrong. I was able to reschedule my post-op appointment and see my doctor sooner than planned so I could be sure nothing concerning was happening.

And, readers, wouldn't you know it – the nauseating pain I was in had little-to-nothing to do with my surgery! It turns out my sacrum decided that now would be a nice time to dislocate from my hip bones. I'm in bone-grinding pain because my bones are literally grinding against each other.

This happens a lot. Because my connective tissue is funky – yet another charming aspect of hEDS –

I almost always have at least one bone out of joint. I rarely get full-on dislocations but even partial dislocations, known as subluxations, can cause breathtaking pain. My pelvis, along with my ribs, shoulders, and jaw, is one of the least stable parts of my body. I'm nearly always subluxed to some degree.

This time, I'm close to a full dislocation. I can hardly put weight on my left leg without a sharp stab of pain and aggressive muscle spasms shooting up and down my back. I am in pain no matter what position I am in. When a muscle spasm hits, I sound like a person giving birth – groaning, swearing, Lamaze breathing and all.

This morning I lay on my living room floor, listening to Fugazi and yelling “fuuuuck!” every five minutes as invisible flaming knives dug their way into my pelvis and scraped up and down my back and legs. For now, this is all I've got for pain management. It doesn't work.

Because dark humor is key to coping with chronic pain, I do find it kind of funny that I just had major surgery, and yet the *wild* pain I'm in isn't from being cut open and burned on the inside.

Just my usual Humpty Dumpty of a body falling apart on a whim!

And like Humpty Dumpty, I can't be put back together again. My subluxations tend to happen in joints that can't easily be shoved back into place. They just kind of hang around, causing me grief, until they find their way back home. This can take hours to days. The longest subluxation I've had lasted two months. I freaking *hope* it doesn't last that long this time. Wish me luck, friends.

With love and rage – and probably shouting expletives from the floor –

Your Sick Friend

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The Montague Reporter Podcast

LEAP from previous page

will leap into. Some of them have already been done by Sam – a professional boxer, a rock star, a bank robber, a test pilot, and a soldier. Like I mentioned, one of Sam's leaps was into a soldier in Vietnam; that will happen again, only for this guy it's one in Kuwait in 1991. One brand new kind of individual for Ben to leap into is an astronaut, on the Space Shuttle Atlantis, in 1995. With that leap, he is in space the whole time.

We also see the character of Magic early in the episode as well, though it is still not made known why he makes this leap in the first place. We do get a little bit of hint that there is a certain timing involved in it; he also covered his tracks as to why he did this leap under these circumstances.

Some of Sam's entrances into these people made for cool scenes on the original show. Ben's turn at

this is no different. At one point, he lands in the driver's seat of a van, where a masked gunman is in the passenger seat. Then he has to avoid cops in a police chase, which is really something to watch on screen. But this new series seems to have quite a nice list of new twists – Ben hasn't exactly leaped into a robber, and it turns out another robber isn't a real criminal.

For a sequel TV series, 2022's *Quantum Leap* works well. It was cool to watch. A preview I saw for coming episodes told me that Ben will be doing a leap, like Sam did, out of his own lifetime. Ben will also be involved in a piece of major history, like Sam once was – the big San Francisco earthquake of 1989.

Watch this show to see what happens next, and maybe your questions will be answered.



MOONAGE from page B1

by German Expressionism; their subject matter often the immigrant neighbors in his 'hood.

I loved this work of his – appreciating its color – the paintings' brashness and those he chose to honor and the absorbent fun he apparently enjoyed while making such art, as evidenced by shots of him covered in clay and paints.

The director in part used Bowie's visual work to inform the style of this film, implicitly honoring Bowie's artistry by presenting his story in a way that he would have appreciated. Morgen, too, has chosen bright colors and an eclectic expressionism often built on montages that feel kaleidoscopic – if not overpowering – but are unarguably visually exciting. He also includes footage of the artists and work that informed Bowie's style and quest, showing his wide range and curiosity.

There is footage of interviews with guest TV hosts, like Dick Cavett, though many of these interviews are audio-only, serving as backdrop to the images and as part of Bowie's evolving philosophical journey.

That journey was also informed by explorations of various lands and cultures. We learn that he particularly liked Japanese culture – without an explanation why – and that he felt a sense of presence there, and could journey about the cities without being hounded by fans. This traveling and exploration of cultures and their religions, Buddhism in particular, offered perspectives that help to answer why we as individuals transverse this planet.

Curiously, in one earlier interview, Bowie states

that he is not interested in forming a committed relationship, as his primary commitment and energy focus is to his art. As he journeys and evolves, just before pairing with Iman, he reflects that opening himself to another might lead to greater self-knowledge – still an individualistic perspective. But he then speaks of the revelatory happiness and joy that love brought him, bringing him a connection with all, including his audiences which previously he had felt a separation from.

And the good news is that this transcendence of nihilism brought Bowie peace, love, and an acceptance of life's meaning. In that way it provides a trajectory to the film, up to his fairly early death at 69 from liver cancer – though the actual death is not mentioned. (By the by, I was surprised to see how in nearly every shot, Bowie had a glass of alcohol in hand, almost giving the message that to be creative, you have to have your booze...)

The film closes with a good-bye from Bowie, and asks the audience to stay for his final message following the credits.

Spoiler alert: The meaning that Bowie found, and that which he and the film invite us to take home with us, is that it is our mission, purpose, duty, need, is to *enjoy life*, to not waste a moment of a day, but to get up and embrace the *all*. That is a powerful spoonful of medicine with which to leave us.

Moonage Daydream is at Amherst Cinema at least through October 6. It is best seen on the large screen, but is also streaming on Peacock.



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the
poetry
page

It is difficult
to get the news from poems
yet men die miserably every day
for lack
of what is found there.

– William Carlos Williams

edited by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno
Readers are invited to send poems to the
Montague Reporter at: 177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376
or to: poetry@montaguereporter.org

Our September Poetry Page

runner, runner

staccato cursor
metronomic
here| gone here| gone
goads me to compose

no suggestions
no prompting, just |
bluntly declaring
unsated space

pulling me
pushing me
judging me
by not judging me

impatient |
insistent |
blink | blink | blink |
more | More | MORE |

what if
I have no more?
what if these last words are
my last on any subject?

– G. Greene
Greenfield

My New Lover

I didn't choose her,
didn't plan for this to happen;
we met and – before I knew it –
she moved in and took over my routine.

She's not fond of laughter,
prefers me in tears, and
if I get any sleep at all,
it's always on her schedule.

The longer we're together
the more friends she alienates,
as she schemes to isolate me
from the world before.

I spend so much time with her
it's hard to think about much else,
or remember what life was like
before she began calling the shots.

People say we should break up,
that I should push her away, move on,
but it's not as simple as that
when grief takes you as a lover.

– G. Greene
Greenfield

Changing Rooms

Why does this space bring such a flood of tears
prefacing waves of surprising emotion
for this desk, this mess of memories, these worn-out chairs?

A sea of sadness consumed by years
of living a writer's life, in quiet devotion,
why does this space bring such a flood of tears?

To sing my song as it disappears
into the labyrinth of careless commotion
of this desk, this mess of memories, these worn-out chairs

echoes, echoes, across a landscape of fears,
thoughts that crowd out all meditation.
Why does this space bring such a flood of tears?

To leave any sign of struggle that bears
the weight of my legacy, the confusion
of this desk, this mess of memories, these worn-out chairs

is to abandon my old friends and my rhyming peers
their seasoned ways and magical tension,
thus does this space bring such a flood of tears.

Soon to be destroyed, no pretense, no more cares
for the funeral pyre's leaving passion,
such is this space it does bring a flood of tears
for this desk, this mess of memories and these worn-out chairs.

– Julian Nangle
Dorchester, England

Sestina for Rimbaud

The river below is cast in shadow,
though sun illuminates the hills,
and my little dog cavorts upon the grass,
rolling now and then within the green,
taking care to avoid even the slightest stone,
not caring too much to roam.

I have more than a little desire to roam,
move well beyond my looming shadow,
not remain as fixed as a tree or stone,
wander up and beyond the hills,
seek out new varieties of green,
discover new flowers and fresh grass.

I long, like Rimbaud, to walk barefoot on the grass
follow my feet wherever they care to roam,
knowing that I will not stay within the green
but find light and dark and lengthening shadow,
as I stride and strut up and down the hills,
not fastened to earth as is a stone.

Maybe I'll rest for a while perched on a stone,
then refreshed, traipse through the bending grass,
following the birds that call from distant hills,
happy to wander, to be, to roam
without fear of the dark or of any shadow
even when I can no longer see the green.

Green, oh how I love you, green,
even the moss that gathers on a stone,
that changes its color in light and shadow,
as does each waving blade of grass,
I encounter each moment as I roam,
closed within the valley between the hills.

The stream flows downward from the hills
its water changing here and there from blue to green.
Along its gently winding banks I roam
hoping to cross by hopping from stone to stone,
to alight on the other side amidst new grass,
feel the new light before the descending shadow.

In the glade the peaks cast their shadow,
causing me to pause, content now not to roam
just gaze in wonder at trees and shrubs and grass.

– Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno
Turners Falls

A Special Note

In case you missed the *Montague Reporter* Fundraising Poetry Reading on September 17, we invite you to contribute to this paper which brings you news and opinions, and, of course, poetry. Checks can be sent to the *Reporter* at 177 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376, or donations can be made online via montaguereporter.org.

Contributors' Notes

Julian Nangle, poet and bookseller, lives in Dorchester, England. His newest verse collections are *Eleven Poems* and *Poppy and Other Poems of Grief and Celebration*.

Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno edits this page.

Gary Greene is a Greenfield native and author of *Poems In A Time of Grief*. His work has appeared in the *Montague Reporter*, where he was the featured poet in January 2021; Oprelle Publications' poetry anthology *Matter*, online at wittypartition.org, and in *Nine Mile Books & Literary Magazine*. His poem, "A Poem About Not Getting a Dog," will appear in the June 2023 edition of *Rattle*. He has competed in and placed in the top three in the Poet's Seat Poetry Competition and the Robert P. Collén Poetry Competition. His latest book, *The Lonely Years*, is currently seeking a publisher.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Reporter is looking for volunteers to help us curate this listing. Interested? Contact us at editor@montaguereporter.org!

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Eggtooth presents *Deus Ex Machina*. \$ 7 and 9 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Haley Heyndrickx, Illegal Son*. \$ 7 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Bella's Bartok, EIEIEIO*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
Pioneer Brewery, Turners Falls: *Groove Prophet*. Free. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Eggtooth presents *Deus Ex Machina*. \$ 7 and 9 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Open Decks*, new DJ workshop. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Donna the Buffalo, Gary Douglas Band*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bluegrass & Beyond*. Free.

9:30 p.m.
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1
Garlic & Arts Festival, Orange: *Dave Bulley Band, Yasu Suzuki Method, ReBelle*. \$ 11:45 a.m.

Shea Theater: *Deus Ex Machina*. \$ 7 and 9 p.m.
10 Forward, Greenfield: *Stimmerman, Road Dogs, Death Spiral*. \$ 7 p.m.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Attia Taylor, PussyVision, Neonach*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Carnivora, Chained to the Bottom of the Ocean, Coma Hole*. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2
Garlic & Arts Festival, Orange: *Carrie Ferguson, Taproots, The Green Sisters, Rice: An American Band*. \$ 11 a.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Shawn Colvin*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Basement Cats, Outro, The Maladaptive, Zane Provost*. \$

7:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5
Shea Theater: *Orphan Wisdom*, songs and storytelling. \$ 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6
Montague Village Store, Montague Center: *Lexi Weege & JJ Slater*. Free. 5:30 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Sarah Davachi* on pipe organ; *Chuck Johnson*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Daniel Gay Cacophony*. Free. 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 7
Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Rosie Porter*. Free. 5 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Lori McKenna*. \$ 7 p.m.

Daily Operation, Easthampton: *billy woods, Breeze Brewin'*. \$ 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Greg Kelley* quartet, *Baldwin/Gelin-eau/Meginsky* trio. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Hadley Public Library, Hadley:

Flywheel Arts presents *Mike Baggetta, Ava Mendoza*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Mullins Center, UMass-Amherst: *Trippie Redd*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Kal-bells, Erica Esso*. \$ 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8
Nova Arts, Keene: *Lady Lamb, Pete Bernhard, Caliche, Sierra D'Amours*. \$ 5 p.m.

Mystery Train Records, Amherst: *Bill Stone, Wednesday Knudsen, Junk Orbit, Shannon Ketch*. \$ 6 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Majid Bekkas*. \$ 7 p.m.

Anchor House, Northampton: *Terzett, Hollow Deck*. \$ 7 p.m.

DCU Center, Worcester: *Walker Hayes, Parmalee*. \$ 7 p.m.

Mount Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Scott Cook, Pamela Mae*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Tap-Roots, Sugar Kings*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9
Easthampton Congregational Church: *Landowner, Sensor Ghost*. \$ 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Thus Love, Guy Ferrari, Greg Freeman*. \$ 7 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Billy Bragg, Alice Phoebe Lou*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *W.I.T.C.H.* (legendary Zambian psych), *Paint*. \$ 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Black Uhuru*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. Free. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13
Palladium, Worcester: *Carnifex, Spite, Oceano*, more. \$ 6 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *The Huntress and Holder of Hands, Dead Gowns*. \$ 7 p.m.



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WEST ALONG from page B1

grass pecking at ants. They may linger into November, it all depends.

On a morning like this, the earth drinks deep. The rains had come, monsoon-like, gently at first, softening the ground to let the waters in and down. Now the rains come hard. Our street, correctly called River Street, is full of runoff, heading down to the river a quarter mile away.

Now softly it falls, soon to recover its force and drum again on the still-green leaves as trees, plants, and shrubs recover from the long dryness. They'll

need to store water for the long winter season ahead. They drink deeply these days.

This sunny Monday morning, September 26, the catbird arrives on the edge of the porch in front of me. Our eyes meet. He's all decked out in his shiny new suit of gray, pleased with himself, smart and sassy in his new winter plumage.

Is this a moment of sudden Zen enlightenment, or is it just the catbird, bags packed and ready to go, ringing down the curtain on summer's end?



MONTAGUE REPORTER

Right: Even at labor demonstrations in Vienna, they're reading the Reporter. "A broad coalition led by Austria's labor unions," correspondent Ferd Wulkan of Montague Center reports, organized the marches, "primarily about the rising cost of living. This one was in Vienna, with similar smaller ones all around the country."



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



Left: From left to right, Susan Dorais, Chris Garvin and Sheree Bloomberg, all from Montague Center, visited Ireland together and brought us along.

ON THE ROAD

Going away? Take us with you! Send photos to editor@montaguereporter.org.

EXHIBIT

What We Don't See When We Look



Beckoning, a painting by Julie Kumble.

By RICHARD ANDERSEN

MONTAGUE CENTER – Have you ever noticed how artists see things differently than most ordinary mortals? Have you ever looked over the shoulder of a painter and compared what the artist was creating on her canvas with the subject you were both looking at?

The landscape or building or person or whatever may be recognizable in the painting, but it's also different enough to be unrecognizable if you were told what you were looking at without looking at the artist's subject at the same time. The shapes, colors, and more are often given a different emphasis depending in large part on the emotion the artist is trying to convey through her imagination to our minds and hearts.

We can experience this sensation firsthand in Julie Kumble's selection of works currently on display at the Montague Center Library. Her subjects range from the open spaces of Montague to the mountain peaks of the American Southwest, but Kumble's representations of these locales are also beautiful in their own rights. Some would say more so, because they are interpretative in ways that

nature does not readily seem to be. Kumble's representations are not to be taken lightly. The longer you look at them, the more you see. A lot of thought went into their execution, and it shows.

Kumble explains this part of her creative process: "I immerse myself into the landscape contemplatively, in one place, sometimes for hours. The natural world offers lessons and metaphors through contrast, color, vibration, shape, and, as a painter, I strive to interpret those marks I make on paper, panel, and canvas."

The effect is instructional as well as aesthetically pleasing. Kumble's works create for us a series of mind-sets that we can apply to the natural and created landscapes we come across in our own lives. What was once "seeing is believing" has now become "believing is seeing."

Julie Kumble's work is up through October 21 at the Montague Center Library. The Library is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you have work you would like to see exhibited in the library's ongoing Artists' Series, contact librarian Kate Martineau at (413)367-2852.

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