

The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 3, 2019

NEWS ANALYSIS

Montague Sees Growth, Decay Side By Side

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE – As the year 2018 floated away into history and a new year slid ruthlessly in to take its place, we decided to step back and take stock of a town in transition.

We checked in with public officials for updates on a number of ongoing stories: the arrival of new industries, such as solar power and cannabis; the shuttering of the town's last paper mill; the slow-spiraling public burden of its second-to-last paper mill; sidewalks and woodland trails; poultry coops and parking spots; and the eye of planning and redevelopment atop Town Hall shifting its unblinking gaze toward Millers Falls.

A once-in-a-lifetime overhaul of the town's zoning bylaws is "coming along well," said town planner Walter Ramsey. The planning board is digesting public feedback received at two recent hearings, and hopes to endorse a new draft of the bylaws at its January 15 meeting.

"There was a lot of discussion about chickens, of course," Ramsey said, "how to regulate chickens.... We figured out that roosters are actually what cause the problem, not so much the number of chickens someone has."

The board is now looking at a rooster ban in "certain dense neighborhoods," common-sense guidelines townwide about runoff and runaways, and a 30-foot buffer between coops and human neighbors' houses.

Over 50 acres of land are newly covered in solar panels, including two giant arrays on town-owned land off Sandy Lane. "Most people don't realize how big these things are, partly because Montague's done a really good job of hiding them, and using land that's not in high demand."

The town is making \$200,000 a year leasing the land for the arrays, as well as tax money on a third one owned by Eversource near the airport. More projects are in the wings, pending net metering approval, and another proposed adjustment to the zoning bylaws seeks to discourage solar panels, which do not make use of the town sewer system, from being sited on the dwindling number of open, sewer lots.

Speaking of the sewers, 2018 was the year of the "perfect storm" at the Water Pollution Control Facility – not just the summer lightning strike that resulted in nearly 10 million gallons of sewage-tainted water overflowing into the Connecticut, but a bad-luck combination of loan repayments, the state-ordered termination of a locally unique and scientifically mysterious treatment process, and the abrupt departure two summers ago of the Southworth Paper Company, one of the department's largest customers, which skipped town and unpaid sewer bills after pressuring commissioners for years to keep user rates low.

The result was a 71% rate hike last fall, with warnings of another to come this year.

"I won't say that it wasn't a little bit difficult in the beginning," treasurer/tax collector Eileen Seymour reported. "Collections have gone pretty well. We have set up

see **UPDATES** page A7

HERE WE GO!



Runners line up in Montague Center on New Year's Day for the Sawmill River 10K Race. According to parks and rec director Jon Dobos, participation in the race was down slightly from last year – although the weather was a full 50 degrees warmer!

DISPATCHES

Back in Wendell... With Thoughts on the Climate and Wishes For the New Year

By ANNA GYORGY

WENDELL – As readers of the *Montague Reporter* and the *Traprock*

Center for Peace and Justice website know, I reported from Germany during November and December on citizen climate action and the UN

climate conference held this year in December in Katowice, Poland.

This is my closing dispatch, back home in Wendell, preparing for the new year.

The challenge of this coming year, and every year after, will be a combination of preventing greater global climate disruption, and adjusting to what is already upon us. It's a social and political challenge depending on major movement at municipal, state, national, and international levels.

Each December since 1977, the Society for the German Language issues its "Word of the Year." In 2018, after a record summer of heat and drought in Europe, it was "Heißezeit" – Hot Age, rhyming with German "Eiszeit" or Ice Age.

Actually, there was a second "runner up" word as well, which folks in our neck of the woods can relate to: "Funkloch" – that "hole"

see **DISPATCHES** page A4

Almost more beach than river, the banks of the Rhine, seen here on December 2 in Bonn, have been at a historical low since a summer drought.

The Week in Turners Falls Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – In the last week of 2018, the Turners Falls High School basketball teams played six games. The boys, who are beginning to recover from multiple injuries, lost to a highly-ranked team before beating Lee and losing a close one in Orange.

And the girls' team? Well, although they have yet to win, the girls' basketball team keeps singing and plugging away!

Girls Basketball Ware 55 – TFMA 28
Lenox 60 – TFMA 25 Putnam 53 – TFMA 37

The Turners Falls girls' basketball team finished the week going 0–3, and currently sit at 0–6. Because it's tough being winless, I want to offer some words of encouragement. Maddy Chmyzinski was at the Lenox game, and seeing her name on the 1,000-point banner in the gym, I was reminded of when she first played varsity. Turners was 3–16 that year with several one-sided blowout losses. But within a couple of years they became a playoff contender.

So keep plugging away. The wins will come.

On Wednesday, December 19, the Lenox Millionaires came to town and defeated Turners 60–25. The two previous games before Wednesday were grueling overtime losses for Blue. After losing those two heartbreakers, the team could've been down, but they weren't. In fact, when the audio cut out during the National Anthem, the girls gleefully belted out the last few verses of the song.

Turners played a pretty good defense against Lenox,

but they got into foul trouble very quickly in the process. That put center Dabney Rollins on the bench early in the quarter. For the rest of the first, Powertown only

see **TFHS SPORTS** page A3

Turners' Lucy Spera goes up strong to the hoop against Putnam Vocational-Technical High School on December 28.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

"Boutique Firm" For DPW Design; Sludge Expenses Cut By \$200,000

By JEFF SINGLETON

The town of Montague has awarded the contract for design/architectural services for its new highway garage to Helene-Karl Architects of Groton. The award was made at a brief meeting of the town selectboard on Thursday, December 27.

The decision of the public works facility building committee, approved by the selectboard at the December 27 meeting, was a "somewhat surprising result," said town administrator Steve Ellis.

Weston and Sampson, one of the three finalist firms, had produced the "preliminary design" used to win town meeting and voter approval for the \$11.2 million project. However, Weston and Sampson was the only bidder that did not expect it could get through the design phase by early this summer so that bidding and construction could start this year.

"The committee felt that it was critical that we do so, because we are in a rising interest rate environment," said Ellis. "Waiting an additional year for the finished product was not acceptable to the committee."

"We were surprised that Weston and Sampson wanted to put it off for another year," said building committee chair Ken Morin. Morin said that he hoped that Helene-Karl could "put us on line, probably

see **MONTAGUE** page A4

A Future For Solar Coops? An Interview With Greg Garrison

By JEFF SINGLETON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Over the past two months, a promising plan for a solar cooperative in Wendell, with construction meant to begin this winter, has hit a potentially fatal snag.

The electric company National Grid announced this fall that it would charge over \$3 million to connect the project to the electric grid, the infrastructure that transports electricity between producers and consumers. The cost of the solar array itself was estimated to cost only \$800,000.

In a letter to National Grid dated October 31, 2018, the Wendell selectboard complained that the need for upgrades to the grid was caused by much larger solar projects proposed for central Massachusetts that are being constructed by out-of-state companies.

National Grid responded that the Wendell project would need to pay its share of the cost of system upgrades, and might have to wait for up to five years for their completion.

To learn more about the situation, I sat down this week with Greg Garrison, the president of Northeast Solar, which has spent the past five years planning the project with interested Wendell residents, and had hoped to construct it. Garrison also serves on the Montague finance and capital improvement committees.

see **SOLAR** page A5

The Montague Reporter

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Regional Naming Contest For \$150 Closes In Week

Frank L. Boyden, headmaster of Deerfield academy, today accepted the Franklin county chairmanship of the drive to publicize this region to vacationists while the \$150 contest to select a suitable name entered its final week.

With the contest open to all Franklin, Hampshire and Hampden counties, and to those residents away at college, the newspapers of the valley reported today there had been wide public interest. This they attributed as much to the purposes of the campaign as to the opportunity to win one of 30 prizes ranging in value from \$50 to one dollar.

Those names already entered in the contest will be held for the judges until the night of Jan. 31 so that those who submit entries during the next seven days will have equal competitive opportunity.

The Western Massachusetts Visitors Association believed some more effective name might be found to suggest the year-round residence and playground possibilities of the three counties. It counted on regional pride in the historical past and appreciation of present opportunities for work and play to bring worthwhile suggestions from contestants.

Mr. Boyden, whose interest in this section has often led him into public service and whose development of the academy is nationally known, accepted the invitation of John W. Haigis, general campaign chairman, to be one of three county chairmen.

General Chairman Haigis announced his selection at the regular meeting of the advisory committee of the Visitors association at Northampton last evening. It was shown that 30 states and 350 communities of the United States have recreational advertising campaigns under way or planned for the current year.

The estimated total advertising expenditures for so-called tourist advertising will exceed that of all previous years, it was said, the total of such expenditures being estimated at \$6,500,000.

Anticipated returns on this huge advertising bill, however, are still more startling. It was estimated the expenditure for pleasure travel in 1939 reaching the all-time high of six and one half billion dollars.

It is the purpose of the Western Massachusetts Visitors association that the three counties of Hampshire, Hampden, and Franklin be ready to cash in on this tremendous vacation bill. Other communities and sections of New England that have used advertising and publicity to attract the tourist are exceeding the per capita average, it was declared.

The contest rules are as follows:

1. **Contestants must be residents** of one of the three counties involved.
2. **The name submitted should be easy to say and easy to remember.** It should be as nearly descriptive of this section of the State and its resources as possible, and could well be suggestive of old New England and its traditions.
3. **Contestants may submit as many names as desired,** but each name must be accompanied by a 50 word, or less, essay on the reasons for suggesting that name. All entries must bear the full name and address of the contestant.
4. **Cash prizes will be awarded as follows:** First prize, \$50. Second prize, \$25. Third, fourth, and Fifth, prize, each: \$10. Sixth, seventh, eighth, Ninth, tenth prize, each: \$5. Twenty prizes, each: \$1.
5. **Closing date of the contest shall be midnight, Jan. 31, 1939.**
6. **Entries should be mailed or brought to Contest Editor,** in care of the newspaper carrying this announcement.
7. **The contest is open to all residents except officers and directors of Western Massachusetts Visitors' association,** the judges of the contest and their immediate families.
8. **The Western Massachusetts Visitors' association reserves the right to publicize any of the prize-winning suggestions submitted but is not obliged to use any of the names so submitted.**
9. **The judges shall be three; one to be named from each of the three counties, and their decisions shall be final.** Neither the judges, the newspapers, nor the Western Massachusetts Visitors' association can enter into correspondence concerning this contest.
10. **In case of tie awards, the cash prize shall be divided equally among the winners of the classification awarded.**

Greenfield Recorder-Gazette,
January 24, 1939



Officer Michael Gralenski of the Leverett police department poses with Chip Sprague of Pantermehl Land Clearing by the power lines off of Depot Road on Wednesday morning. The power company is replacing transmission lines, and timber pads must first be laid down for trucks and heavy equipment.

Letter to the Editors

In regard to my guest editorial published in the most recent issue, I would like to submit a clarification about one sentence:

“School staff need to be aware that turning the other cheek is not an option, that racist behavior will not be harbored.”

It has been brought to my attention that this could be interpreted as pointing a finger at school staff,

claiming that staff in general have been “turning the other cheek.”

It was not my intent to lay particular blame on school staff, and I regret that my words could have been interpreted that way. My intention was to hold all parties – including administration, school committee, community at large, and teaching staff – accountable as partners in defining the culture and environ-

ment of our schools.

Our district schools are populated with many dedicated, hard-working professionals who are passionate about promoting racial justice and equity, and my desire is to support them in that work.

Haley Anderson
Turners Falls

Revive King Philip’s Wars In Seeking Name for Region

SPRINGFIELD – The battles of the famous King Philip's Indian wars may be refought before the Western Massachusetts Visitors' association adopts a name suitable to publicize the Hampden-Hampshire-Franklin counties region.

The contest for the best name submitted for the region was won by the name “King Philip's Realm”, and \$50 was awarded to John Paul Heady, son of Judge Heady of Springfield.

No sooner was the announcement of this prize-winning title released in the newspapers and in radio broadcasts than the smoke of battle began to gather.

Letters in protest, and letters in praise of the name are being received. Selection of a name fittingly to describe the attraction of the region and satisfactory to the residents of the three counties still rests with the association, which was not obligated to adopt the prize-winning contest name unless it desires to do so.

“King Philip was never in this section,” wrote one protestor. “Anyone with any education knows that King Philip has no connection with this region,” said another. “If you want an historic name, why not pick an authentic one,” wrote a third. “Rhode Island was King Philip's Realm,” said one, and “France was King

Philip's Realm,” protested another.

But advocates who vision infinite possibilities to publicize Indian lore and historic regions of the three counties under the name of “King Philip” defend their historical rights to its use.

Some of them admit doubts of whether “realm” is applicable but all contend Philip directed or led in person raids which burned Northfield and Springfield, left scars among the antiquities of Deerfield and created place names such as Bloody Brook in South Deerfield.

Granting that King Philip's tribe was based in the region of Mount Hope, Rhode Island, and that after his failure to drive white settlers out of the Connecticut valley to make a refuge for the Indians he returned to Mount Hope and was killed there, it is argued his valley war was the high spot of his career and the most widely known of all Indian frays in New England.

However, the association is keeping the question open for further discussion. Whatever the final conclusion of the historians, it believes much information will be brought forward to answer questions asked in this region by thousands of vacation visitors every year.

Greenfield Recorder-Gazette, February 11, 1939

Select Name of Pioneer Valley For Development

NORTHAMPTON – The Western Massachusetts Visitors association, in a joint meeting here last night of its advisory and executive committees, heard Franklin county was first to complete district organization and formally adopted the name, Pioneer Valley.

Supplanting the longer tentative name, Pioneer Valley will be used in all publicity and for incorporation. It was chosen after protracted

balloting, over a three-week period, with three representatives from each county participating.

Although the name, “King Philip's Realm” was awarded first prize in a recent public contest, it was passed over on the technical objection that King Philip, whose Indian wars raged throughout this section, actually spent only two years of his life here.

In support of Pioneer Valley, it

was pointed out the Hampshire, Hampden, Franklin county region has seen pioneering not only in early Colonial days, but more recently in education (with the establishment of first women's colleges), in industry (it was an early center of automobile making), and in general civic outlook.

Greenfield Recorder-Gazette,
February 21, 1939

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by CHRIS PELLERIN

Happy New Year, Friends! I don’t know about you, but the weeks and months after the holidays are over can be a real downer.

To beat the blues and the urge to hibernate, the only thing that works for me is to **get out of the house.** Here are some upcoming community events to help you avoid the winter doldrums.

January weather is not always conducive to exercising outdoors, but fear not, **the pool at Turners Falls High School** is open to the community on Tuesday and Friday evenings. Family Swim is from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., followed by Adult Lap Swim from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

There is a small fee per session, or season passes are available. More information can be found at www.montague-ma.gov under “Parks and Recreation.” I found this information and a lot more in a booklet that I picked up at the Montague Center Library called “Fun Times Winter Edition 2019.” It has a fuzzy snowman on the front cover.

The **Great Falls Discovery Center** also has great exhibits and activities for children. The Kidleidoscope

program on Friday, January 4 will feature a story, craft, and games. This week the theme is **Raptors.** The program is geared toward tykes 3 to 6 years old and their caregivers and meets in the Great Hall from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Kids ages 8 and up might enjoy the “Mystery Activity” at the Carnegie Library on the first Friday of the month. Meet at the library at 3:30 p.m. on January 4 to find out what the activity is this month.

The Carnegie is also hosting a book sale on Saturday, January 5 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. There are great bargains to be had at this monthly event!

The Turners Falls branch of Greenfield Savings Bank at 282 Avenue A will start the New Year off with a bit of mental therapy: **adult coloring!** Join other adults in the bank’s comfortable community room to meet new folks who share a common interest.

Reservations are not required. Bring a friend and drop in between 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 5. Leave your crayons at home. The bank provides all materials and light refreshments. Be sure to stay inside the lines!

After coloring, you could head into **Greenfield for the Winter Farmers Market** from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The winter markets are held at Four Corners School at 21 Ferrante Avenue.

I think people are craving fresh food in the winter, and the markets are well-attended. I have a basement full of butternut squash, onions, and garlic, but I like to go for the apples, carrots, and fresh greens. I always run into people I know at those markets, so it’s a great place to socialize.

I’m hoping that we’ll see some snow before the weekend, because FirstLight Power at **Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center** will be offering a chance to try out different sports for free at their annual Winter Trails Day on January 5 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Weather permitting, there will be 45-minute cross-country ski clinics or 30-minute snowshoe clinics. Call (800) 859-2960 to pre-register, get more information, or check to make sure the event is still happening.

If you don’t get the chance to try it out this weekend, do try to get to Northfield Mountain sometime this winter. Their 25 miles of skiing trails are well-marked and groomed, and there are 6 miles of snowshoeing trails. There is a charge to use the ski trails, but snowshoers can get a free ticket at the ski shop to use the trails. They have equipment available to rent if needed.

Also at Northfield Mountain on Tuesday, January 8 from 5:30 to 6:30

p.m., the **Northfield Bird Club** is co-sponsoring a free program, open to all, called “A Murder of Crows.” Spoiler alert: it is not about avian homicide. A “murder” is a colorful term used to describe a large group of crows, like a pod of whales or a clowder of cats.

The presentation will focus on the natural history of crows, their unique intelligence, and fascinating roosting behavior where they can congregate by the thousands at nighttime roosts.

Just a couple of reminders before I wrap this up: the **Fifth Street bridge** between Turners Falls and Greenfield will be closed for repairs beginning Wednesday, January 9.

I also wanted to mention that the Franklin County Community Meals Program serves **free meals every Monday evening** at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church on Seventh Street. Doors open at 5 p.m., and the meal is served at 5:30. The meals are open to all. They are a great help to people who may not be able to cook for themselves, or live on a tight budget.

I usually cook for the one that our parish hosts on the third Monday of every month. They would not be able to provide these meals without help from volunteers. If you know of a group that would be interested in volunteering to prepare and serve dinner one night or more in a given year, please contact fccmp.ma@gmail.com, or call (413) 772-1033.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

TFHS SPORTS from page A1

managed two field goals, while the Millionaires put up 17 points.

In the second quarter, Hailey Bogosz hit a basket and sunk the ensuing foul shot, while Sarah Waldron added a point, to give Powertown 4 points to Lenox’s 15. Turners got 6 more points in the third, and in the fourth, Lindsay Whiteman hit two consecutive 3-pointers and a 2-pointer to help Turners get 11 points.

Eight girls scored for Turners. Whiteman came off the bench to score 10 points, including two 3-pointers. Waldron hit a basket and two free throws for 4 points, Bogosz pumped in a field goal and a foul shot for 3, Vanessa Moreno, Aly Murphy, and Lily Spera also hit solo shots, while Dabney Rollins and Lana Spera each scored a point from the charity stripe.

Then on Friday, December 21, the Lady Thunder traveled down to Ware to face the Indians. Turners again had trouble putting the ball into the basket, scoring only 4, 7, and 4 points in the first three quarters. But in the fourth, they were able to put up 13 points to the Indians’ 8 for the final score of 55-28.

Karissa Fleming led Blue in this game with 9 points off four field goals and a free throw. Whiteman, Rollins, and Lucy Spera all scored 4 points, Moreno, Bogosz, and Murphy got 2 points each, and Lily Spera added a point.

The next week, on Thursday, December 27, the Lady Beavers of Putnam came north and handed Turners their sixth straight loss.

The game was knotted halfway through the third period, but then the Beavers caught fire and took the game by 18 points, 53-37. “I guess they just wore us out,” John Carey said of his granddaughter’s team.

Turners led early, 7-6, but then Putnam went on an 11-point streak to open up a 17-7 lead. Blue soared back to regain the lead at 22-21, but a costly foul with 54.4 seconds left in the half gave Putnam back the lead 23-22. They got the ball back and sunk a 3-pointer to go into halftime leading 26-22.

Powertown came back in the third to tie it 27 all, but then Putnam went on a 10-1 streak to give them a lead 37-28 at the end of the period. And in the fourth, Putnam put it away, outscoring Blue 20-5 to take the game 57-33.

Turners’ next game is next Tuesday, January 8, up in Northfield against the 2–3 Pioneer Panthers.

Boys Basketball *TFMA 53 – Lee 39*
Ware 81 – TFMA 56 *Mahar 55 – TFMA 49*

The Turners Falls boys’ team fared a little better than the girls had, going 1–2. They started the week by hosting the Ware Indians, then they notched a home win against Lee and lost a close one against Mahar in Orange.

On Thursday, December 20, the Ware Indians defeated the Turners Falls Thunder, 81-56. Ware came into the game ranked 16th in Western Mass boys’ basketball, and on Thursday they proved why they’re so highly ranked. The Indians scored 51 points in the first half to Blue’s 25, and went on to win 81-56.

Tyler Lavin and Chace Novak each scored 14 points in this game while Anthony Peterson added 11. Lavin hit three 3-pointers, three free throws, and added a 2-pointer, while Novak also hit three 3-pointers, plus two inside the arc and a foul shot.

Peterson scored his points off four field goals and three foul shots. Also for Blue, Jeremiah Russell scored 6 points, Ryan Campbell got 5, while Kyle Dodge, Jaden Whiting, and Jovanni Ruggiano got 2 apiece.

Then on December 21, Turners beat the visiting Lee Wildcats 53-39. The first half in this game was pretty tight, with the Cats holding a 27-23 lead at the break. But Turners owned the second half, outscoring Lee 21-8 in the third and 9-4 in the fourth for a final score of 53-39.

Lavin had another good night, leading Powertown with 19 points. Peterson scored 10, Campbell put up 8 points, Novak got 7, Ruggiano hit two field goals for 4 points, Dodge got 3, and Ryan Kucenski rounded out Powertown’s scoring by hitting two free throws.

Then on Wednesday, December 26, Turners lost an away game against the Mahar Senators 55-49. The game was pretty close but early on, big man Anthony Peterson got into foul trouble and had to take a seat.

Mahar led 32-25 at the half, but Blue came back and took a 40-39 lead going into the final frame. With 3:30 left in the game, it was a single-point game, 49-48, but the Senators scored

6 straight to go up 55-47. Turners got a couple of free throws in the final seconds, but Mahar came out on top 55-49.

Blue kept the game close by hitting seven 3-pointers. Novak hit two and ended with 16 points. Lavin also shot two 3’s and scored 14 points. Russell likewise made two 3-pointers and a free throw for 7 points and Kucenski hit one outside the arc for his 3. Also scoring for Turners were Whiting, Ruggiano, Peterson, and Wilson (2 each) and Jake Dodge (1).

Turners hosts Pioneer on January 3 and then travels down Millers Falls Road to take on Franklin Tech on Friday, January 4.

New Year’s Race

The Sawmill River 10K Run was held on January 1. The 10 kilometer course starts at Main Street near School Street, winds up Old Greenfield Road, and then follows the river south down Meadow Road. From there, the runners make their way north up Old Sunderland Road until they reach the end of the line at Station and Main.

The runners in Tuesday’s race were divided into 10 divisions based on age and gender.

In the Youth Boys Division, the top three runners finished just a minute apart. Odin Moore took gold with a time of 40:03.58. Owen Taravella crossed the line 24 seconds later, and Ezra David finished in 00:41:10.09, a minute and 6 seconds behind Moore.

Meghan Davis represented the Youth Girls Division and completed the course in 39:31.83.

Mark Rabasco of Greenfield beat everybody and broke the ribbon in 33:48.08, followed by Nat Larson (33:59.08), who won the Senior Men Division. The fastest adult woman in the race was Marcy Cabanas (42:03.11), with Vikki Lenhart and Laurie Van Den Broeck finishing toe-to-toe in 43:26.62 for second place. Cabanas won the Open Women Division while Lenhart and Van Den Broeck shared the Master Women title.

The top Senior Plus Man was Rich Larsen (41:16.84), and the fastest Senior Plus Woman was Debra Hevey, who completed the course in 49:42.10.

For other scores, go to the Town of Montague website.



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Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Week ending Dec. 21:

Grade 6
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Grade 7
Audrey Lapinski

Grade 8
Sophia Wolbach

Related Arts
Alex Sabin

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MONTAGUE from page A1

digging in June or July.”

Ellis said that Helene-Karl Architects was the smallest firm that put in a bid for the job. He called them a “boutique firm” that has “done a lot of DPW work, and work for Eversource.” He added: “They are a certified women-owned business, and a veteran-owned business. That was not a determining factor in our selection, but the state does encourage communities to hire off of their certified lists.”

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz asked if the firm would stick to the original design proposed by Weston and Sampson. “One of the concerns I have,” Kuklewicz said, “is, is there enough space for the staffing levels that you might need three, four or five years from now?”

“The committee came down with the numbers – 25,500 square feet – and we think we should stick to that,” Morin replied. “It will work for the town for the next fifty years.”

Ellis said Helene-Karl could give the town different options for “redistributing the space.” “If you think about it,” he said, “you’ve got vertical square footage, how high you are, versus how wide you are... They will give us some ideas to consider that might actually change the footprint.” He added that members of the building committee would need to “visit other facilities” to weigh the different options.

The board voted to award the contract to Helene-Karl pending successful negotiation of the project fee, and voted to authorize Ellis to negotiate the fee.

Cheaper Hauling

Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) superintendent Bob McDonald told the selectboard he was in the process of awarding the contract for sludge hauling from the facility to Veolia Water North America-Northeast, LLC. As a result of that company’s bid, he estimated that the total cost for sludge disposal will be \$200,000 less in 2019 than in 2018.

McDonald said the lower bid was partly due to the WPCF reducing the amount of liquid in the so-called “sludge cake.” “And this was a surprisingly good bid,” said Steve Ellis.

“That’s one of the big steps we’re hurtling toward to get our whole budget under control,” said McDonald. “We hope to be doing even more composting.”

Residential sewer rates in Montague have increased by approximately 71% this year due to factors including the termination of the so-called “Montague Process” for treating sludge, which generated income for the facility, and the loss of a key industrial sewer user, the Southworth Paper Company. The 2019 rates were set at an October 22 selectboard meeting, and were not discussed

during McDonald’s presentation.

The board did not vote on the sludge contract, which should be completed by its January 7 meeting.

Other Business

The board approved a memorandum of understanding with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District for the use and emptying of a wood pellet recycling shed at the town transfer station. The board also appointed Steve Ellis as the town Environmental Certifying Officer.

At the end of the meeting, Ellis announced that state work on the so-called “Green Bridge” – also variously known as the “Fifth Street bridge “and the “hump bridge” – would begin on January 9 and continue until the end of the month. The deck of the bridge, which crosses the Turners Falls canal and leads to the White Bridge into Greenfield, has developed a large hump which puts auto exhaust systems at risk.

Ellis said emergency vehicles attempting to access the north side of the canal would “most likely” be rerouted to the 11th Street Bridge.

The meeting ended with the announcement that the town’s cable advisory committee is looking for new members. The next selectboard meeting will be held January 7.

DISPATCHES from page A1

within which there is no reception (“Funk”), Wi-Fi, or cell tower. Yes, that happens in Germany too, where one of the national discussions while I was there was about how the country has fallen behind in the digital age, less fully connected and online than others.

During December, the Parliament discussed a new federal subsidy to the states, which are responsible for education, to provide students with tablets for classrooms.

Katowice: Worth the Effort?

There is ongoing discussion about the usefulness of the huge annual climate conferences. This one was the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP) since the process was agreed upon in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. There is the expense of hosting such a massive meeting, the polluting air flights, all the talk, and then the lack of action as the earth heats up at an alarming pace – even worse than scientists’ earlier projections.

But it does keep a focus on the problem. And here are just two results reported by climate justice activists who attended the COP24 in Poland this year:

The Gastivists’ monthly newsletter (www.gastivists.org) arrived full of news about the conference. Their panel discussion, “No room for fossil gas in a 1.5° C world,” brought together members of the UK anti-fracking resistance with Wanun Permpibul of Climate Watch Thailand, Antonio Zambrano Allende from the Movimiento Ciudadano Frente al Cambio Climático (MO-CICC) in Peru, May Boeve from 350.org, and Cornell University methane scientist Bob Howarth.

They also managed to get a giant plastic gas pipeline into the COP, in an anti-gas demonstration. And they organized “a toxic tour of COP24 – guiding activists and journalists through the [conference’s] country stands to reveal what is really going on with their greenwashing efforts and their push for more gas infrastructure.”

And the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) announced: “We stopped nuclear power at the COP24 Global Climate Summit!” They tell the story of how “for the first week of the summit, the nuclear industry was given free rein to pro-

mote its poison power, hijacking the focus of the COP24 Global Climate Summit. NIRS and the Don’t Nuke the Climate coalition put out an urgent call to action from Poland, with a petition calling for 100% renewable energy and no subsidies or financing for nuclear power.”

Germany played an instrumental role. Thousands signed the petition against support for nuclear power, which was then accepted by Germany’s Environmental Minister, Svenja Schulze.

Her promise that Germany would oppose pro-nuclear policies in global climate negotiations and oppose financial support for nuclear under the Paris Climate Treaty “meant that nuclear power didn’t get written into the climate ‘rulebook’ countries negotiated at COP24,” NIRS reported. “And it means that Germany – one of the largest donors to the \$100 billion Green Climate Fund – will not let any of that money go to nuclear power.”

It’s fair to say that safe-energy activists and organizations with the resources to make the trip to these conferences see themselves as part of an “inside-outside” strategy: “on the streets, and in the suites.” Many try to do both during the COPs, and their international networking with other activist attendees and delegates from concerned countries counts for a lot, too.

For official delegates from the Small Island Nations grouping, participation in the conferences is critical, as the very existence of their homelands is threatened. They need to pressure industrial states to take action, and pledge real money both for recovery from recent extreme climate events and for preparation, as soon as possible, for the future.

It’s Not Just Coal...

In her annual New Year’s address, German Chancellor Angela Merkel mentioned the “vital question” of climate change as her first and top issue.

That was a first, but this summer was a tipping point for much of Europe and the world. Germany experienced major drought: farmers suffered from lack of rain, and rivers receded, including the one I used to live near, the Rhine. Its bank became beaches, and its shallow depth limited the movement of such vital

materials as gasoline and coal.

A German energy research institute reported in mid-December that Germany is now getting 38% of its electricity from renewables, mostly (16%) from onshore wind. This compares to 20% use of renewable electricity in the US.

It seems like a good statistic, and renewables have now edged out coal use, but it still falls short of Germany’s goal for reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by 2020.

The big energy fight now in Germany, an early leader in renewable energy, is around the continued mining and burning of coal, which I wrote about in my earlier dispatches.

The struggle to protect the 250-acre historic Hambacher Forest continues; the forest is still being occupied by hardy tree-dwellers, some rebuilding their impressive treehouses after their destruction in police raids this fall. A court decision has stopped clear-cutting the forest to expand open-pit coal mining, for now.

An Informed Public

One purpose of this last dispatch was to talk about how it feels to come back to this country, and differences in life here and there.

What I miss most here is a more truly public media, telling more than the latest news from Washington, although that is daily fare there as well. The news media in Germany is having big problems too, with many reporters laid off, and the challenges of instant news from social media.

But there, state-sponsored radio and TV stations offer varied news stories, reporting on citizen demonstrations, German Amazon workers striking before Christmas, as well as the French working people’s ongoing “yellow vest” protests demanding more democracy and the resignation of neoliberal President Emmanuel Macron.

The main German radio station features an international press review every morning... Of course, thanks to the Internet, I can tune into it here, but I would like it in English, too.

There are also more diverse voices heard there, and people seen, than here, where a virtual media blacklist keeps social critics and intellectuals such as Noam Chomsky,

Angela Davis, Chris Hedges, and others limited to the vibrant alternative media found mostly online, from Democracy Now! to the Intercept and others.

Prof. Chomsky’s recent 90th birthday was noted in various German newspapers; his occasional lectures at German universities are standing-room-only events – I attended two in past years.

A key reason for the openness to left and “alternative” voices and people is the multiplicity of political parties in Germany’s parliamentary system, which allows for proportional representation, as opposed to our “winner take all” two-party system.

State and national legislatures are open to political parties winning 5% or more of the vote in elections. As both the Green Party and Left Party have been in the national and many state legislatures for years now, their voices and politics are an accepted part of the national media.

A new right-wing party, the Alternative for Germany, with their anti-immigrant, avowedly nationalistic program, is now also in the federal and some state parliaments. This poses a problem for many, and a challenge to the other parties and the German public as a whole.

Another big difference in my life here and there is that there are (still) lots of trains in Germany, along with modern streetcars and subways in cities. But that is another issue, and perhaps another article, as during this visit I heard a lot about – and experienced myself – many delays, cancellations, and problems around train service.


But it is clear: there is no way to move millions of people satisfactorily without major public investment. As towns, cities, states and nations address the climate challenge, good and affordable public transportation has to be a priority.

The one painful part of my life in Wendell is that I depend on a car for transportation. I never had one in Germany, relying on my wonderful bike with an attachable bike cart for shopping, and on streetcars, subways, and trains for longer distances. It was great to hit the bikepaths of Bonn on my old “steed” once again. I’m too chicken, or too old, I guess, for the hills of Wendell.

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SOLAR from page A1

MR: *Can you explain, from your point of view, what happened to the Wendell solar project?*

Greg Garrison: Whenever you’re building a solar facility – rooftop or larger scale – you have to get an agreement with the utility company for an interconnection to the electric grid. But you can’t get any information from them about whether the grid can accept the electricity you produce until you go through your entire process.

You go to the town, you get your permits to build it, you get your clients – or in our case, owners of the system – you design the project. Then, at that point, you reach out to the utility through their application process and seek an interconnection to the grid, which will transport the electricity you generate.

Then they do all their stuff, which is completely hidden from public view, and they’ll come back to you at some point and say “yes” or “no.”

In the case of Wendell, their representative reached out to me and said, “yes, we can interconnect your proposed system but only after the substation that services that area is upgraded, because there’s no more solar energy that can be pushed into that substation. It’s over capacity. To upgrade our substations, we estimate it’s going to be about \$3 million for you, and if you want us to get started on the engineering and get you a real price, you need to put down \$1 million.”

The system we planned was only going to cost \$800,000, so you’re not going to spend more than that to get a study just to see if this can actually be done. You don’t get a line-item list for the cost, they just give you a price, plus or minus 25%, and then you’re stuck.

MR: *There has been a fair amount of criticism directed at the electric companies for taking their time on these interconnection agreements. The much bigger project (5.9 MW) up on the former Montague landfill had to wait a bit on the interconnection agreement with Eversource. But I did not hear that the cost to upgrade the substation threatened the project itself.*

GG: Yes, they waited and waited, and finally they had to do some upgrades on their system. All those upgrades were paid for by the company that built the array. But if you’re building a 6-megawatt system, your investment in that is \$10 to 15 million – probably closer to the larger number because it was on a landfill. The utility comes back and says they want a million dollars to interconnect it, that’s not a lot additional.

I don’t know the details in this case, but the company probably can shift the cost to protect their rate of return. But when you’re a small system designed to support local residents, you don’t have that margin, and you need to know that number up front.

MR: *So why is this happening now in the National Grid territory?*

GG: Right now in central Massachusetts, all large-scale solar has stopped, because the grid is not capable of handling all the proposed new systems. So what National Grid is saying is that we need all these new substations, new transmission lines, do a study, all this stuff.

MR: *So beyond the fact that they did not let you know about this until*

the last minute, when your project was about to start, isn’t there a real problem here?

GG: We went to the utilities up front and said, “what do you want to see from us when we build this?” They said, “if you can keep it at this size” – in our case, it was 250 kW – “there should be no problem connecting it.” So a lot of people did a lot of work and Northeast Solar spent a lot of money, and then they came back and said, “sorry, no, you need another \$3 million to make this happen.”

This was going to be the first true solar coop in the state. It was going to be owned by local residents – not by a third-party investment company – [who] would be joining the coop, like joining the Green Fields Market. They would get paid by the Massachusetts incentive programs like SMART.

All that money was going to be put back into the local economy, and the town of Wendell was going to be using a plot of land [97 Wendell Depot Road] that is now off the tax rolls, that has no benefit because it’s surrounded by wetlands, that would put money back into the town through a lease agreement.

“The skeptical mind would look at this as an intentional act to make people think solar is risky.”

Greg Garrison, Northeast Solar

We’re dealing with this on a regular basis. We have a major, large-scale project for a company in Agawam. When we go to a client, we say, “Here’s what we believe the final cost is, but once we submit the interconnection agreement to the utility, we just have to sit there and twiddle our thumbs for three months while they won’t answer our emails, provide us updates, or give us any idea where the project is, or what it will cost.”

The skeptical mind would look at this as an intentional act to make people think solar is risky.

The main thing we want is transparency. The electric companies need to identify those places where there are bottlenecks, and they need to work with the [Department of Public Utilities] to eliminate those bottlenecks and improve the grid.

MR: *Just quickly, could you explain the difference between what is called “community solar” and this project?*

GG: The regular “community solar” that you see advertised out there all the time – that’s a group of investors who own the system, and they will sell the kilowatt-hours being produced by the system to a client that signs up at a reduced rate. Those numbers, under the SMART program, the new state solar program, only impact the energy side of your bill. The bill includes not only the kilowatt-hours you consume, but also the delivery of the electricity.

In a solar coop, residents actually buy a solar panel, or a number of solar panels. So there is an upfront cost to the solar user, but they get 100% of the solar energy produced off their bill, plus they get some of the state and federal tax credits. Northeast Solar would construct the system in Wendell, but the

only money we make is from the construction. In the end, residents in Wendell would have owned the solar array.

MR: *In general, how do you feel about the new state incentive program, known as SMART, which went into effect this year?*

GG: The new SMART program definitely has significant issues, but for our residential clients, SMART is a great investment right now. The state is still paying you to go solar. There is actually an extra meter that reads what you send into the system, and the electric company sends you a check. No more credits that are traded on a market, as under the previous policy [SREC-II].

On the commercial side, the incentive has already filled up with customers, so the state is looking to separate some of that program out to allow for smaller local systems to participate.

MR: *What policy changes do you propose to avoid the situation that has taken place in Wendell?*

GG: One of the biggest complaints the solar industry has with this process is its transparency. We need the utilities and the DPU to start working with us. They need to tell us what the current capacity is on those lines, and when the capacity is shrinking, they should be required by the tariffs that are approved by the DPU to start working on remedies to upgrade those systems to accept more power.

As ratepayers in Massachusetts, we pay a fee every month for distribution of electricity. That payment is to maintain and upgrade and have a viable grid. In the case of solar, the utilities have said that is outside the normal maintenance and upgrade, so therefore the solar installer has to pay for the upgrade.

But the grid should be designed like any portal out there that allows for the transfer of energy from multiple producers to multiple customers, and they should be responsible for maintaining the grid to do that. To put it another way, we look at upgrades like this on the electric grid, this serves what I call the “commonwealth,” or rather the *common wealth*.

These substations have not been upgraded since the ‘60s or ‘50s. So now they want the solar companies to upgrade them. One of the options in all this, obviously, is to rate-base it. Give the DPU a price for upgrading your system and work it into the electric rates.

The other thing is, they can look at stuff that’s a little less dramatic. You can install batteries. So instead of all that new solar power rushing into the substation faster than the load can take it off, you have storage devices that don’t require a lot of infrastructure upgrades. You can take that excess power, store it, and at night when the solar power goes offline, you can use the batteries to feed that power back into the grid.

MR: *So, is there any hope for these solar cooperatives?*

GG: I hope so. Right now we’re exploring projects in Montague, Greenfield, Colrain, and Conway – all the same size, and same coop model.

I’m also a member of an organization called MassSolar, and we are working with our legislators to bring transparency to the interconnection process. That’s coming up in the next legislative session.



LOOKING BACK 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was December 24, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Gill Override Shrinks

Two weeks ago, the numbers were bigger. Now, the override amounts the voters of Gill will face in a special election on Tuesday, January 6 have been reduced. But it is even more vital that voters come out and support the override, according to selectboard member Ann Banash.

“I think it’s really important that people come out and vote. What we’re going to lose are some things that are really important for a town, like the recreation department and the senior center funding, stipends for the board of health and the board of assessors. Everyone works really hard. All the things on that list are really important to the town, but we can’t afford them without this override,” Banash said.

There are still two questions on the override ballot. The first seeks \$35,013.33 in funding for a long list of town services, including \$5,000 to help repair a damaged pump on one of the fire trucks, \$800 for the operation of the Slate Library, \$560 for the historical commission, and smaller sums for the conservation and agricultural commissions.

There are a number of other amounts, but the big-ticket items on the list are \$5,157 to fund the Gill-Montague Senior Center for the remainder of the year, and \$3,684 to pay for the recreation commission’s work. The largest amount on the laundry list is \$9,169 to provide stipends for the board of health, the assessors, and the selectboard.

Unity Park Public Hearing

Peter Wells, a landscape architect working with the Berkshire Design Group of Northampton, came to Turners Falls on Thursday, December 18 to talk about redesign ideas for Unity Park. Wells and his firm have designed over 300 parks in New England. They did the landscaping design for the Great Falls Discovery Center, for example.

Now, the Montague selectboard has hired Berkshire Design, using \$8,250 of program income money, to prepare a master plan for Unity Park. It would be used to seek funds to prepare bid ready plans for the park redesign in next year’s Community Development Block Grant. After that application is successful, those plans will be used to apply for construction funds for the park’s facelift in 2010.

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio estimates the park renovation could cost at least a quarter of a million dollars.

Wells walked the parks and recreation commissioners and a small audience of interested officials and residents through flip-chart photos of present conditions at the park, along with a schematic map of potential improvements. But he emphasized, “I am here to listen.”

Among the possible improvements Wells outlined for the park are: a new backstop for the southeast baseball diamond; crack sealing for the basketball court; clearer definition of the present parking area in back of the field house, and creation of a new parking lot next to

the basketball courts; replacement of old, unsafe playground equipment; and new signage to create a stronger definition of the entrance to the park and field house office.

Other ideas talked about include the construction of a sandlot volleyball court, and the possibility of constructing an outdoor pavilion where children’s programs could take shelter on rainy days.

A number of people talked about the idea of including a skate park somewhere in the Unity Park redesign. Town planner Dan Laroche mentioned the possibility of closing off the end of Williams Way, and combining that land with a 40-acre strip of town-owned land bordering Williams Garage, to make a larger space for a skate park to be included in the park plans.

Running the Blades

It snows and snows. They plow and plow, and plow some more.

All weekend, through two back-to-back storms, the Montague DPW stayed on the job to keep the 108 miles of locally plowed roads open. This is their story of winter work.

The planning had been completed right on time, late Friday morning, as the first snowflakes begin to fall from the two predicted week-end storms. Six of the department’s crew are harnessed to pagers for a week at a time: they will be the first ones called in once the DPW is notified by the police department of worsening road conditions.

“But mostly, everyone is used for plowing duties once the storm is underway,” said highway superintendent Tom Bergeron. He too will be out plowing, and he does so as he gives this reporter a lift out to join one of the crew members already at work in Lake Pleasant.

Snow is falling rapidly, and the plow’s spray partially covers the headlamps on Bergeron’s pickup truck. The snow, as it always appears to do, is flying directly into the windshield.

“These guys are experienced at this,” Bergeron explained, adding that he himself is one of the “junior” members of the department, at five years. A sense of pride in his department workers clearly shows.

“They are distributed, mostly in pairs, to specific areas of Montague,” Bergeron continued. Today, Robert Brownlee and Philip Przybyla will be working Montague Center; Billie Ann Hudson is working downtown Turners Falls and a portion of the Hill, along with Wayne Allen on Avenue A; Joe Dodge is detailed to the Patch and downtown alleys; Dennis Dobias is plowing the flatiron area near Scotty’s; while Reggie Stevens works the Hill. Bergeron runs his own route and fills in as needed during his rounds and other duties.

Familiarity with the streets and parking issues makes for a better plowing job, as well as efficient coordination between the crew members. They learn to anticipate each other’s moves at specific locations, allowing them to work together seamlessly as a team.

The value of that team experience, and familiarity with the roads, become apparent later, as the work in Millers Falls and Lake Pleasant progresses.

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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

Featured Poet: Evelyn Augusto

To You Who Wears The Key to His Gun Cabinet

on a leather cord
around your neck –
you wear
your tomorrows.

Worry knots the minutes
of your day –
ties you into the labyrinth
of a self-induced
straight jacket.

Denied fear,
unexpressed,
brought you to this
place without windows
with mirror walls
with no where to look
but out and back at your
own terror.

I'm sorry I couldn't make
you feel safe.

When I was a child you spilt
your dreams into my palm,
quick like wet-silver,
they rolled about tracing
the lines of our future
then leapt to their death
crashing to the wooden
floor boards –
mercurial and forgotten.

Dead-Red

I wasn't made with
an ambidextrous
spirit. No, nor skilled
in simultaneously
gripping and letting go –
not trained, since
childhood, to do that
which my heart resists.

It's hard to hold on.

And when my chest
rattled like a
diamond snake –
and I was uncertain
of what was at stake.

I learned:
I am the bull's eye.
I am the stop sign.
I am the excuse
for his violence –
I am the story nobody
wants to hear or
change.

I am no longer me.
but only that
gun shot
right here
to my middle.

Your Gun is Talking

Excuse me, I can't hear you –
your gun is speaking louder than you do
and yes,
you scare me, it isn't how
it ought to be – we are more
like each other than you can see.

I can't hear you
I can't hear you
your gun is speaking
louder than you do
and yes, it saddens me
because all I see – is a woman who
doesn't know who she could be.
I can't hear you
I can't hear you
your gun is speaking louder
speaking louder

There's no more you.

U R Not Your Gun *For Shaun*

You are: The sound of your mother's
voice calling your name and your father's
chance for a better life – not his,
but yours, because it's too late for him,
but not for you...not yet, unless you forget

U R Not Your Gun.

You are your greatest fantasy and
someone's best friend and another's
first love. You are shelter
from the storm.
You are memory and risk and reward.
You are tougher than your
disappointments, you are kinder
than you imagine, you are everything
that child you once were
wanted to be and more. But

U R Not Your Gun – not grey and cold and lifeless.
Not unforgiving like that.
Not hollow or
predictable. Not dangerous.

U R Not Your Gun.

You are someone I can love.

Gunning in Walmart

*"Give up trying to do anything.
nothing works works."*
from a note written
by Scott Allen Ostrem

If only you came to buy
another cell phone, a pen and
note card, some crayons &
paper. Anything. Anything
that would give you a voice.
If only you bought the
fixings for a satisfying supper,
or a gift for a lost lover.
Anything. Anything to help
you express your distress.

Anything to free your
words from the prison of
your madness, anything
to thaw your frozen tongue,
anything to return your
manhood, other than that gun!

Anything. Anything. If only...

Editor's Notes

We are pleased to present this month a series of strident and resonant poems by Evelyn Augusto dealing with an extremely important issue in our time: gun violence. Evelyn writes: "I am the sister of a 33-year-old man who killed himself with a shotgun. I am a daughter of a man who killed two men (in said self-defense) with a shotgun. I am the wife of a man who attempted to erase me with a shotgun blast to the chest. I know gun violence intimately. I am a poet." These poems are from a manuscript in progress entitled *Your Gun Is Talking*. Evelyn's dedication reads: "To my brother Cookie... who did not stay with us long enough."

CHRISTOPHER CARMODY PHOTO

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UPDATES from page A1

some payment plans with a few people.”

To soften the blow, Montague won the state’s approval to cut interest charged on overdue sewer bills from 14% to 7%, and handed out forms for abatement requests. “Some were approved, some were not,” said Seymour. “The wastewater pollution control superintendent and sewer commissioners make those decisions.”

Anxiety about public spending is mounting, though, especially as the sewer bill comes alongside the Turners Falls Fire District’s vote to purchase a \$950,000 ladder truck, a Proposition 2-1/2 debt exclusion vote last May to finance a new highway department garage which could cost up to \$11.2 million, a year with two police chiefs on payroll, and the prospect of having to demolish the 245,000-square-foot Strathmore complex.

Lonely Island

The Strathmore, once the Keith Paper Company, has been owned by the “Inhabitants of Montague” since February 2010, when the town took it under tax title. The town has been unsuccessful in finding a buyer with the means to overcome the significant barriers to redevelopment, including its inaccessible location between the power canal and river, and the property is deteriorating and considered unsafe.

This year the selectboard authorized a feasibility study of a total demolition of the complex, but when it inherited the structures, the town also inherited dozens of easements held by the private company, currently Turners Falls Hydro LLC, that operates a 937-kW hydroelectric turbine in a building essentially nestled within the Strathmore.

“The easements do spell out the whole process for decommissioning of the plant, and it means that the owner of the Strathmore Mill needs to essentially stabilize the powerhouse,” Ramsey explained. “Just the cost to engineer the solution was going to break our budget, so I don’t have a good, hard number for the cost to rebuild the walls – we know it’s going to be cost-prohibitive.”

Turners Falls Hydro LLC is owned by a subsidiary of Ontario Power Generation, a Canadian crown corporation. The property is valued at \$1.27 million by the town assessors, and comes with the rights to use water from the power canal.

Last month the town wrote a letter to the company outlining the issue, but, according to Ramsey, the company has been “unresponsive.”

In the meantime, Montague has applied for a grant to abate asbestos contamination. “That will greatly reduce the amount that the town will have to spend,” said Ramsey.

Abutting the property to its north is another town-owned site, the onetime John Russell Cutlery factory, more recently the Indeck coal-fired cogeneration plant. “We are

doing what’s called a Phase II environmental investigation, which is a sub-surface investigation to make sure that the soils are not contaminated,” Ramsey said. “That’s one of the first steps you need to do before you plan any reuse of the site.”

To its south is Southworth, once Esleek Paper.

“Regretably, there’s very little recourse or ability to get Southworth to take any actions relative to any of its properties at this point in time,” said town administrator Steve Ellis.

“Understanding the encumbrances associated with the building – which include tax liens, mechanics’ liens, and other such things – simply moving the building onto a new owner or its next phase of life is a somewhat complicated endeavor.... To our knowledge, they have not come up with a buyer.”

Gas and electricity have been shut off to the mill.

Continuing further south, a company known as River Child LLC purchased the former headquarters of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority last May for \$12,735, its owners announcing their intention to develop a cidery and performance venue on the site.

Those plans may be on pause because the building is not connected to the town sewer, but the company reportedly hopes to rent the front section of the building to a vintage clothing shop in the near future.

Two years ago this week, a fire hastened the deterioration of the next building on the “island” cut off by the power canal: the onetime Griswold cotton mill, remembered locally as the Railroad Salvage store. The striking white ruins are owned by Jeanne Golrick of Millers Falls.

Finally, there is the smaller “annex” to the former mill, deeded in 2017 by the town to Power Street LLC, an entity associated with Bob Obear, Jr. of Obear Construction, for \$1,000.

“Unfortunately, that one is not in a position to proceed,” Ramsey said. “Obear looked into options for connecting to sewer, and they were just financially unfeasible. Until there can be a way for properties in the district to connect to sewer, redevelopment plans can’t proceed – hence why the town is trying to do a study, and secure funding, to bring sewer to that portion of the district.”

Town staff are now referring to the six properties – Indeck, Strathmore, Southworth, the former HRA, the Railroad Salvage, and the annex – as the “Canal District.” Created by the Turners Falls Company, which built the power canal, these parcels appear to be unprofitable sites in our era due to the canal. They are surrounded on all sides by property owned by FirstLight Power Resources, itself owned ultimately by the Public Sector Pension Investment Board, another Canadian crown corporation.

There is currently an earmark on a state bond bill to fund a sewage

pump station and pedestrian bridge restoration into the District, but Ramsey clarified that “that does not guarantee the release of the funds – the state needs to be convinced to release them.”

To that end, he said, Montague has applied for a MassDevelopment grant for an “infrastructure master plan for the district,” including the design of a bridge that would reconnect both pedestrians and utilities with the properties on the island.

Oddly, among the properties abandoned by the Southworth Company are two parking lots on the nearby mainland comprising about 50 spots.

The town highway department does not clear snow from the lots, and neither Ramsey nor Ellis could say whether the police department will actively prevent residents from using them for parking this winter on behalf of the vanished company.

(An inquiry to the police department on the topic did not receive a response as of press time.)

New Growth

Despite the challenges and mounting public-sector burden associated with Turners Falls’ original manufacturing zone, the village has enjoyed enough of a commercial and real estate revival in recent years that the focus of economic and cultural planning activities in town is beginning to shift eastward to Millers Falls.

RiverCulture, which expanded this year to a townwide marketing effort with a director on town payroll, has applied for a grant to meet with residents and develop a community master plan. Another project aims to build up a boating access point on the Millers River.

“We’ve been able to bring some new resources to bear to Millers,” said Ramsey.

“It’s been good to see the private sector responding to some of the investments the town has made in recent years – particularly the redevelopment of the old Powers Block properties,” he said.

“We’re happy to see the growth and success of the new businesses, like the Smokehouse. Element keeps expanding, and that’s leading to new businesses coming in, and it’s good.”

At the airport industrial park, two large projects are underway: the expansion of Ja’Duke Center for the Performing Arts, with a new theater and classroom building; and a recreational cannabis farm and retail store approved for a company called 253 Organic, scheduled to open in the fall.

Though the first cannabis store in the region to open this year, in Northampton, has created long lines and parking pressure, Ramsey said that 253 Organic has a “parking contingency plan” in place, but that he does not expect it to be an issue by the fall, when similar products will be available at a larger number of locations statewide.

“That would be a good problem

LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC MEETING
Leverett Conservation Commission

The Leverett Conservation Commission, in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c.131 §40), will hold a public meeting on **January 14, 2019** at a meeting beginning at 7:15 p.m. at the Leverett Town Hall, 9 Montague Road, Leverett, MA to review a Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Fuss & O'Neill for **Eversource Energy** for work associated with repair and replacement of fourteen transmission structures along Line 354. This includes the improvement/expansion of existing access roads, construction of gravel work pads, and grading work within 100' of wetlands or streams. The application is on file and is available for public inspection in the Conservation Commission Office on Mondays, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. or by appointment at (413) 548-1022 ext. 3.

This notice is also available at <http://masspublicnotices.org>.

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This notice is also available at <http://masspublicnotices.org>.

NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL HEARING

Tuesday January 15, 6:45 PM
Montague Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA

The Montague Planning Board will hold an informational hearing on a proposal from the Montague Planning Department to subdivide three 0.4-acre parcels from **municipal land along Davis Street** that are leased to the Gill-Montague School District for the purpose of developing up to three **affordable owner-occupied single-family homes**. Following public feedback, the Planning Board will make an advisory recommendation to the Selectboard. The property to be subdivided is identified as Assessors Map 6 Lot 325.

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**Tax Classification
Hearing**

The Gill Selectboard and Assessors will meet January 7 at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall to determine the percentages of the local tax levy for each class of real estate and personal property for Fiscal Year 2019, as defined in Section Two-A of Chapter fifty-nine of the Massachusetts General Laws. Time will be set aside at the public hearing for residents to present oral or written testimony.

to have,” Ramsey stated.

Several sources of funding have recently been made available to improve pedestrian and wheelchair accessibility and safety on a number of roadways in town, including \$45,000 from the state Office on Disability to renovate the sidewalk near Spinner Park on Avenue and \$311,000 through the Complete Streets program, which will fund a number of crosswalk and sidewalk improvements in Montague Center and downtown.

The town has also applied for a half-million dollars under the Safe Routes to School program, and is waiting to hear back.

This spring the renovation of Rutter’s Park in Greenfield will begin. The old play structures will be replaced by modern ones, and a pavilion will be built, along with a number of other elements.

A “pilot” program to grant winter onstreet parking in Turners Falls by lottery has so far been unsuccessful, according to Ramsey, who said this week that only two residents had applied for the permits. “The town is still accepting applications,” he said, adding that the selectboard may review the initiative soon. The permits cost \$25 and can be used for a limited number of spots near the corner of L and Prospect Streets.

“While there are challenges and difficult things, it seems like there are always an equal or greater number of things that come in on a daily basis that just make me happy to be here, and excited for our town,” Steve Ellis said.

“We’re doing a lot of work all the time, so it can always be a bit of a workflow management challenge, but everything is incredibly engaging.”



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FACES & PLACES



By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – Tuesday's First Day Hike down the canalside rail trail from the Great Falls Discovery Center set a new local record for attendance at the local New Year's Day event. By several counts, roughly 150 people started out on the afternoon hike.

According to Department of Conservation and Recreation interpreter Janel Nockleby (*pictured below left, in neon, instructing*), about 60 and 80 people turned out in 2016 and '17, and last year's Hike was canceled in subzero weather.

After briefly hearing directions in the Discovery Center's Great Hall, the hikers set off down the bike path (*pictured at right*), walking, rolling, and sometimes carried at a wide variety of paces.

Stopping at "the place where the pine trees are" to rest, reflect, and hear Nockleby sing the praises of state parks, the crowd was excited to see that a beaver was hanging out on the canal bank (*above and at left*). Some hikers began to disperse, many returned to the Discovery Center for hot chocolate and crackers.

"It's surprising they would be interested in hanging out in an area already dammed, but they're around," Nockleby said later, noting that even though beavers in the area may look sad, they are probably fine and just need some space.

JACKSON PHOTOS



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Above: Reader Suzette Snow-Cobb of Turners Falls shared this photograph of a sunrise over Barton Cove.



By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – After the glitter of the Christmas season is packed away, it’s time to look towards the new year.

While we feel less optimistic than at any point in recent memory, we manage to scrape the bottom of the barrel to find a few points of light in what feels like the descent into darkness.

One: The start of new life. It’s time to order seeds for next year’s garden.

If you’re like us, since late fall your mailbox has been crowded with catalogs from hopeful merchandisers of clothing and other paraphernalia for Christmas giving, and the colorful catalogs from all of the seed sellers we’ve ever ordered from even once.

Immerse your senses in the mouth-watering colors of all the

THE GARDENER’S COMPANION

Facing a New Year

vegetables you’ll ever eat, and the fragrant loveliness of a multitude of flowers. Thoughts of the coming garden season make the spirits rise. Gardening feeds the body and the soul. Whether you plan to grow from seed or wait for summer plants from other growers, this is the season to plan for the next.

It’s a shot in the arm to remember that warmth and sunshine will return and the cold, hard earth will bloom again.

Two: Renew your old acquaintance with the nearly-lost art of letter writing.

No doubt you owe thanks to friends and family for gifts, visits, and shared events. Email is quick and handy, but lacks the warmth which comes from receiving a handwritten, personalized message from the heart.

We have a shoebox full of cards and notes received at the time of my dad’s passing, the death of my mom, and most recently, the loss of my dear husband. Each of these events brought memories and consolation in the form of carefully chosen words.

One we particularly cherish

came from the son of a colleague. This young man had met Woody one time at a party. They had made a strong connection in a brief time. His words include: “Woody was a very real, stand-up kind of guy and I will miss him.”

Receiving those words from the heart was an immeasurable gift.

Three: Plan a trip.

Traveling needn’t be hideously expensive. A road trip and budget-wise motels or camping facilities can add some spice to your life without breaking the bank.

We have friends who, upon retirement, resolved to visit all of the state capitals and national parks. They’re still at it, and have wonderful memories and experiences to share.

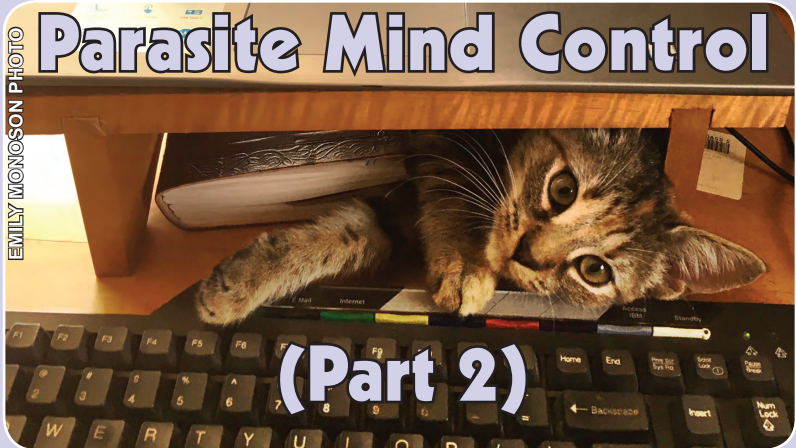
Traveling is indeed broadening, and can open your heart to other people and places in unexpected ways.

Four: Learn something new.

When a former colleague and I were individually planning trips to Mexico, we wanted to pick up some useful phrases and expressions to improve our ability to communicate the basics.

We signed up for a semester of

see **GARDENER’S** page B3



In Part 1 of this article (December 20), Sophie Letcher explained how the parasite toxoplasma gondii is picked up by humans: The parasite reproduces in cat intestines, and humans may pick it up by handling cat litter, eating vegetables grown in contaminated soil, drinking contaminated water, or eating undercooked or raw meat from animals who are carriers.

Once infected, the parasite remains inside the body in intracellular cysts, slowly dividing itself, and there is evidence that it may be tweaking human behavior...

Putting Together Pieces of the Puzzle

By SOPHIE LETCHER

BOSTON – How can a single-celled organism cause us to crash our car or even drive people to schizophrenia or suicide? Although there isn’t a single satisfying answer as to how *T. gondii* is able to elicit such complex and specific alterations in the minds of hosts, multiple lines of evidence are beginning to chip away at how the parasite changes host behavior. One of the primary explanations for *T. gondii*-induced behavioral changes in humans is the indirect effect of the immune system working to keep the parasite “dormant.” The constant production of chemicals needed to keep infected tissues safe from total destruction by the parasite are also involved in other essential processes.

For example, the immune response leads to the breakdown of a key precursor of serotonin, a “feel good” neurotransmitter that is often lacking in the brains of those with depression. Constant activation of the immune response also messes with the glutamate pathway, a neurotransmitter involved with anxiety.

Another plausible way that *T. gondii* manipulates hosts is simply through residing in the right areas of the brain. The brain is an extremely complex organ, and disrupting proper functioning of a specific place may be enough to

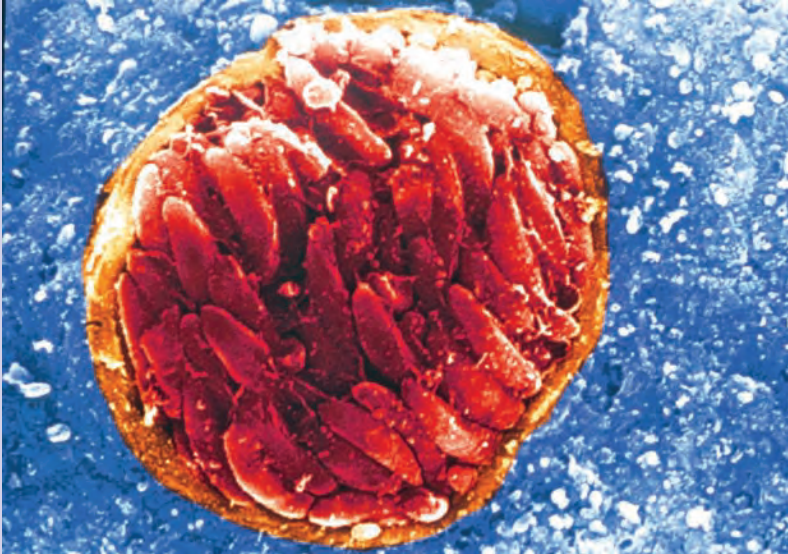
elicit a specific behavior.

Cysts seem to preferentially form in areas of brain associated with emotions, fear, and odor processing (olfactory bulbs, amygdala, and nucleus accumbens). Further, studies have indicated that rats only have “fatal feline attraction” and associated anxiety behaviors when the parasite is localized to certain areas of the brain involved with higher cognitive processes.

However, because most physical and cognitive functions of the host are left intact, it seems unlikely that behavioral changes are solely due to *T. gondii* localization. It is more likely (and perhaps more terrifying) that the parasite manipulates specific cells and neural circuits in just the right way, where behavior is altered but physically the host is unchanged. Neurotransmitters are the chemical messengers of the brain, running the show of emotions, actions, and everything in between. One of the most studied and most accepted neurological changes in the brains of *T. gondii*-infected animals – rodents and humans alike – is the increase of host dopamine levels.

Dopamine is a neurotransmitter involved in the reward pathway and motor control, and increased levels of dopamine relate to many of the observed behavioral changes, from movement issues to

see **PARASITE** page B4



The protozoan Toxoplasma gondii appearing as a tissue cyst in the brain. (Reprinted with permission from David Ferguson, Oxford University.)



By MISHEL IXCHEL

TURNERS FALLS – If parenthood has taught me anything, it’s to remember to throw expectations out the window.

Such as the classic “terrible twos” that everyone warned me about. My kid is one of the most mellow and grounded people I’ve ever met, and he throws a fit every now and again, but I wouldn’t necessarily describe my experience as terrible. I mean, don’t we all lose our cool from time to time?

Releasing expectations takes the pressure off. I’ve adopted the same attitude when it comes to single parenthood. Because what if everything and everyone in our life is there to help us transform and evolve? What if we blessed every situation and challenge that came our way? What if our words were truly our wands,

Winter Blues, Greens, and Yellows

and based on how we used them, we created our lives, and therefore our reality?

The buzz of the holidays seems to have faded, and it’s finally starting to feel like we’ve officially stepped into winter. Different traditions teach us that this is the time to tune in, slow down, and listen.

I found this nearly impossible to understand, let alone practice, during all those years I lived in NYC. I moved there as a child, and though I lived in the city most of my life, it never quite felt right. It’s only recently that I’ve come to understand that my internal compass was completely derailed from the lack of tuning in with the seasons. Living in a city that doesn’t slow down put a toll on my body, which I’ve been shaking off since I moved up to western Mass.

I was eight months pregnant when I first stepped foot in Massachusetts. At that point, I was ready to leave New York, and I’d trusted my partner completely when he assured me that this was the ideal place to relocate to. I suppose in some way I’ve always liked going against the grain and throwing expectations out the

window, so when promises of fresh farm-to-table food, good community, and conscious parenting dangled before me, I did not hesitate to pack my bags and completely uproot.

At a time when most pregnant mothers are resting and nesting, all my belongings were packed in a truck, and I rode in the passenger’s seat, ready for whatever life had in store for me. I felt more like an undergrad backpacking through Europe than a waddling woman about to give birth.

Three years later, I have not looked back. As far as parenting goes, I’m mainly winging it, learning as I go. If anything, motherhood has been the rite of passage that has helped me transform into the person I yearn most to become: in particular, a person who is in tune with the seasons, and deeply connected to each cycle.

According to the Chinese “Five Elements” theory, a philosophy that teaches us how to connect with each season, winter is associated with the water element and therefore the emotional body. Human beings are seen as multidimensional beings, inhabiting more than just the physical body. A healthy

see **INDIE MAMA** page B6

Pet of the Week

Skittles is a seven month old male rabbit. Rabbits are most similar to horses! We have similar eyes, teeth, and ears, as well as a similar diet and behavior. Clearly, our size is much different (which means less poop for you to clean – yay!). Rabbits like me are very smart: we can learn to come to our name, sit on your lap, and do simple tricks! We can also be litter box trained. We are very social animals and

love bunny companions. If I’m already living with a friend, we need to stay together. We can also live in harmony with other household pets such as well-mannered dogs, cats, birds, and guinea pigs. We can live 8 to 10 years! Please speak with an adoption counselor for more info or to inquire about adoption. Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or info@dpvhs.org.



“SKITTLES”

Senior Center Activities JANUARY 7 THROUGH 11

GILL and MONTAGUE The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call 863-9357. Messages can be left on machine when the center is not open. M, W, F: 10:10 a.m. Aerobics; 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise T, W, Th: 12 p.m. Lunch Monday 1/7 1 p.m. Knitting Circle Tuesday 1/8 10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga 12:45 p.m. COA Meeting Wednesday 1/9 9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach 11:30 a.m. Friends’ Meeting 12:30 p.m. Bingo Thursday 1/10 9 a.m. Tai Chi 10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga 1 p.m. Cards & Games 4 p.m. Mat Yoga Friday 1/11 1 p.m. Writers’ Group	WENDELL Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride. ERVING Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 2 days in advance. Call (413) 423-3649 for meal information and reservations. For information, call Paula Betters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic. Monday 1/7 8:45 a.m. Stretch & Sculpt 10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance 11:30 a.m. Breakfast Brunch 1 p.m. Pitch Card Game Tuesday 1/8 8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise 10 a.m. Stretch & Balance 11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch Wednesday 1/9 8:45 a.m. Line Dancing 10 a.m. Chair Yoga 11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch 12:15 p.m. Bingo & Snacks Thursday 1/10 8:45 a.m. Aerobics 10 a.m. Healthy Bones 11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch <i>Relax by the Fireplace!</i> Friday 1/11 9 a.m. Quilting Workshop 9:15 a.m. Flex & Stretch 9:30 a.m. Bowling Fun 10:15 a.m. M3 Exercise Games
LEVERETT For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us . Wednesday 10 a.m. Flexibility & Balance Chair Yoga at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Friday 12 p.m. Senior Lunch. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.	

JANUARY LIBRARY LISTING

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

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Montague Center (413) 367-2852
Millers Falls (413) 659-3801

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

ONGOING EVENTS EVERY TUESDAY

Wendell Free Library: *Intermediate Strength Training Classes for Adults of all Ages* with Kathy Sward. Must pre-register. 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Leverett Library: *Beginner Strength Training Classes for Adults of all Ages* with Kathy Sward. Must pre-register. 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.; *Spanish Conversation Group*, 4 to 5 p.m.; *Qigong* with Dvora Eisenstein. 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

2ND TUESDAYS

Carnegie Library: *Youth Advisory Committee Meeting*. Youth ages 10 to 15 are invited to meet monthly at the library to volunteer, plan programs, meet new people, and make a positive impact in their community. Snacks served. 5 to 6 p.m.

3RD TUESDAYS

Dickinson Library: *Genealogy Group*, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Wendell Free Library: *Sylvia’s Awesome Play Group*, sand table and activities for newborn to 5 years old and their guardians, 10 to 11:30 a.m. (not on school vacations). *Healthy Bones and Balance Class* with Marianne Vinal, geared to older town residents, tea afterward. 10 to 11 a.m.

Carnegie Library: *Story Time with Karen*. Young children with caregivers. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. *Homeschool Science*. Hands-on STEM activities for homeschoolers of all ages and caregivers. Pre-registration required. Re-starts January 9. 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Tales and Tunes Story Time* w/Heleen Cardinaux, 10:30 a.m. to noon. *Tai Chi*, advanced class, 1:45 to 2:45 p.m.

Dickinson Library: *Knit With Us*. All skill levels welcome. Facilitated by Kathy O’Shea. 6 to 8 p.m.

EVERY THURSDAY

Millers Falls Branch: *Music & Movement* with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson. For children. 10 to 10:45 a.m.

Leverett Library: *Yoga for Stress Reduction* with Nancy Paglia. 5 to 6:15 p.m.

1ST THURSDAYS

Carnegie Library: *Genealogy Gathering*. Informal discussion of local family research led by Sarah Campbell. 6 to 7:45 p.m.

Dickinson Library: *Environment Awareness Group*. Topic facilitated by Emily Koester. 6:30 p.m.

3RD THURSDAYS

Dickinson Library: *Rep. Paul Mark: Office Hours*, 1 to 4 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

Wendell Free Library: *Explore Yoga* with Shay Cooper. Mixed level. 10 a.m. \$ or barter.

Dickinson Library: *Story Hour*. Stories, crafts, music and movement with Dana Mengwasser. Pre-schoolers and their caregivers. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. *Friday Afterschool*. Variety of activities

for kids after school. 2 to 3 p.m.

1ST FRIDAYS

Carnegie Library: *Mystery Activity*. Some possibilities are crafts, science experiments, tech-tools. For ages 8+ and teens. 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

EVERY SATURDAY

Wendell Free Library: *Adult Strength Training* with Rosie Heidkamp, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. *AA Open Meeting*, 6 to 7 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Advanced Tai Chi*, 10 a.m.; *Beginning*, 11 a.m.

1ST SATURDAYS

Carnegie Library: *Book Sale*. Books, DVDs, CDs, etc. \$1 or less. 10 to 1:30 p.m.

2ND AND 4TH SATURDAYS

Dickinson Library: *Food Pantry*, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

EVERY SUNDAY

Wendell Free Library: *Sunday Morning Yoga*, taught at an advanced beginner/intermediate level. In January the instructor is Christine Texiera. 10 a.m. \$ *AA Open Meeting*, 6 to 7 p.m.

EXHIBITS

To apply for a show, find forms on library websites.

Leverett Library: *Jackie Pueschel, “Adventures Around the World.”* Landscape paintings from the Grand Canyon, China, Canada, and French Polynesia. Through February. Reception Saturday, January 10, noon to 3 p.m.

Dickinson Library: *Journey Through Darkness* by Cate Woolner. “A photo essay exploring my experience of depression.” Through January 15.

EVENTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3

Leverett Library: Local author *Andrew Forsthoefel* will discuss themes from his book *Walking to Listen: 4,000 Miles Across America, One Story at a Time*. Signing available. 6:30 p.m.

Dickinson Library: *Environment Awareness Group*. This month: *Conversation with Don Simms* about training with Al Gore’s Climate Reality Project. 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

Dickinson Library: *Friday Afterschool*. Legos. 3:15 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

Wendell Free Library: Sci-fi classic movie, *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

Leverett Library: *A Sail to the Bahamas & Back*. Take a virtual trip down the Intracoastal Waterway on a 36-foot sloop with local sailor Mike Fair. Imagine cruising the east coast and warm Sea of Abaco, or battling a gale. Learn a little about sailing and one man’s bucket list dream. Sponsored by Rattlesnake Gutter Trust. 2 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

Wendell Free Library: *Deep Community In A Salvadoran Mountain Village*. Petersham resident Diane Nassif presents

photos and details of her recent journey to a small village in El Salvador. She considers the meaning of community and colonialism in today’s world, and the impact of current US immigration policies on Salvadorans. 6 p.m. (Snow date January 24.)

Leverett Library: *Electronic Device Help* (drop-in), 6 p.m.; *Ukulele Strum-Along with Julie Stepanek*, focusing on 2- to 3-chord songs, with ukuleles provided. 6:45 to 7:45 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11

Dickinson Library: *Bristlebots*. Make a small robot by combining a toothbrush head and vibrating pager motor. Learn basic engineering, motors, circuits, and balance principles. Open to grades 3 through 5; should pre-register. Part of *Science is Everywhere* program. 2:15 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

Leverett Library: Opening Reception, *Jackie Pueschel*. See Exhibits for details. 12 to 3 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

Leverett Library: *Juggler Meadow String Band* performs their upbeat mix of Americana, soul, bluegrass, blues, classic rock, and originals. 2 to 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18

Dickinson Library: *Friday Afterschool: Games and Mandalas from Nepal*. 2:15 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Alabama Civil Rights Circuit*: photos and talk by Nina Keller. Retrospective on ‘60s Civil Rights-era Alabama, based on Nina’s research and recent trip. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19

Carnegie Library: *Pirate Party*. Play games, make some booty (crafts), and eat some grub! For children of all ages and their families. Costumes encouraged but not required. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

Leverett Library: *Electronic Device Help* (drop-in). 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

Dickinson Library: Movie matinee: *Jumanji*. 3:15 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Understanding Racism*. Three-part series facilitated by Dawn Lovegrove, HCC faculty. Film “White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son” will be presented in segments, each followed by guided discussion. (Parts 2 and 3 will be on February 1 and 8.) 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

Carnegie Library: *Youth Book to Movie Club*. Youth ages 10 to 15 can pick up a copy of the book *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* in early January. Then we will watch the movie and discuss both over snacks. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

Leverett Library: *Book Discussion Group* will discuss Henry James’ *The Other House*. Copies available at the circulation desk. All are welcome! 6:30 p.m.

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GARDENER’S from page B1

beginning Spanish at GCC, busted our butts with homework and test preparation, and found it a definite stretch to mind and memory. But we did acquire some basic conversational tools.

We also had the unexpected experience of studying with an enormous range of students. In addition to one former student we knew, there were service vets wanting to complete unfinished degrees and medical personnel wanting to improve their communication with foreign patients.

Our young instructor was flexible and inventive and plunged us into speaking Spanish from day one.

Five: Start a new project.
Most of us have some hobby or other.

As part of the effort to sort out the lifetime collections of two people into one living space, we have put up yet another shed – a large one –

and plan to put up shelves.
As it was, my initial garden shed is so full of tools and camping equipment and a lawnmower with all of its accoutrements you can’t sort out one thing from another. Needless to say, you spent valuable time trying to find the one item you need, so by the time you have successfully found it, you no longer care about taking on your intended task.
We have much apprehension for what the coming year will bring. We will remain active politically and remember to reach out to those in greater need.
We can patch together the pieces of our own world and continue to see that our minds and spirits grow. We can’t fight the forces of darkness by sticking our heads in the sand. Maybe we can revive a sense of potential positives in a point of light or two in this small corner of the world.



MOVIE REVIEW

Aquaman (2018)



By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I went to see the *Justice League* for a “what the heck,” and didn’t like it. That featured Jason Moma as Aquaman.
I decided to go see *Aquaman* because the trailer looked good, and because Aquaman looked unique – along with having an off-beat nature to it, like *Antman* did, which I liked.

The film starts out with showing us how Aquaman’s, a.k.a Arthur’s, parents met. His father was a lighthouse keeper, and his mother (played by Nicole Kidman) was Atlanna, queen of Atlantis, who was running from an arranged marriage. They fall in love and have Arthur.

We get to see what Nicole Kidman looks like when she’s kicking butt, which had to be done when her past – that is, the arranged marriage – comes calling. She leaves to protect her family from that.

We also see Arthur growing up. One moment of his childhood consists of him talking to fish, and them to him, at an aquarium. The ability comes in handy more than once. Then we see him being trained in the ways of the Atlanteans by an Atlantean mentor, played by Willem Dafoe, which includes how to swim in the water like one, and how to fight like one.

The first scenes we see of the underwater world are of two different groups of Atlanteans on computer-generated sea creatures – one was on giant sea horses, and the other was on sharks. It was cool.

At the time when this is going on, Arthur is being Aquaman, and helping people out. But he wants no part of Atlantis due to their taking his mother from him.

The past comes calling for him as well in the form of Mera, an Atlantean character well known to be

connected to the Aquaman character. She informs him his half-brother Orn, played by Patrick Wilson, wants to declare war on the surface. Orn is using a modern day pirate who has a vendetta against Aquaman to help him with that.
Mera and Aquaman must find a trident, which is like the Holy Grail to these people, so he will be accepted by them as their king – but again, this is a man who wants no part of Atlantis.

However, when a tidal wave attack by Orn nearly costs him his father, if not for Mera’s ability to manipulate water, he changes his mind. So they go to search for this trident, which is guarded by a creature called a Karathen.

The Karathen turns out to be very helpful with taking on Orn, and when we meet the creature we also get to see Jason Moma in the classic suit worn by the Aquaman character. The search also leads to a very pleasant surprise for Arthur.

I told you I liked the CGI graphics from the first scenes featuring Atlanteans, and I liked the ones used to make the city of Atlantis even more so. That was just an incredible sight! They did that aspect of it very well, and that probably helped with making a massive underwater battle scene look as good as it did. It was the same for every other scene that was supposed to be underwater, or part of some world that existed underwater.

I was right about the possibility of liking this movie because it was similar to *Antman*. It had a different kind of superhero in the film.

I asked my editor if I could review it, because who wouldn’t want to read a review of the movie *Aquaman*? He’s a unique, and reasonably well-known, comic book character.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Machete Disposal; Wet Sedan; Bridge Decay; Camping Outdoors; Asking For Money

Monday, 12/17
9:25 a.m. Report of past breaking and entering with forced entry (broken window) at Second Street Baking Company on Fourth Street. Report taken. Caller also turned over a machete that they found in the area to the officer for disposal.
4:06 p.m. 911 misdial received. Confirmed pocket dial while washing dishes.
Tuesday, 12/18
8:09 a.m. A 37-year-old Turners Falls woman was arrested and charged with operating to endanger; operating with a suspended license; failure to operate within marked lanes; and failing to stop for police.
9:30 p.m. Caller complaining of subject who has been loitering in town near the Pizza House claiming that he has to get to Monson to see his wife who was in a car accident. Caller spoke with others who report that the subject has been asking for various amounts of money with a similar story in other parts of downtown. Advised an officer would check the area.
11:30 p.m. Caller reporting that she knows of multiple occasions today and tonight that a male has “jumped out” in front of moving vehicles saying that he needs money for different things. Caller states that male also went into St. Kaz tonight. Officer clear; unable to locate; will continue to be on lookout.
Wednesday, 12/19
4:36 a.m. Caller reporting a fox that was struck by a vehicle near Shanahan’s Construction on Avenue A; same is alive in road but unable to move. Officer advises fox is deceased; requests DPW to pick up.
2:06 p.m. 911 misdial from town hall elevator.
2:59 p.m. Vehicle fire on Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. TFFD and MPD responding. Bridge closed temporarily.
4:43 p.m. Caller states that a small sedan might be stuck in a puddle under the power lines on Old Northfield Road; did not advise whether people were with the vehicle, nor could she provide a more detailed description. Vehicle gone upon officer’s arrival.
Thursday, 12/20
9:23 a.m. DPW requesting officer to meet them at the town landfill on Sandy Lane to check on a homeless camp that has been set up. Officer advises camp was set up far back behind the solar farm, near the high tension lines, into the woods. No one at camp at this time.
1:57 p.m. A 36-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a default warrant and a straight warrant.
4:08 p.m. Caller from

Main Street advising that a lawn care company has left a lawn mower running in the yard next door for the past twenty minutes. Caller states that the noise is bothering him and he would like an officer to get them to turn the machine off. Responding officer advising area is quiet at this time.
6:33 p.m. Report of gunshots or fireworks in area of Montague City Road. Officers confirmed fireworks; made contact with involved male, who stated that they had set off some fireworks but that they are all out and done for the night.
7:35 p.m. Caller from Faren Care Center requesting officer to respond after two residents got into an altercation; will need a police report to file with the state. Report taken.
7:40 p.m. Caller accidentally called 911 after getting a new cell phone that he does not yet know how to operate. Officer confirmed misdial.

[Records from 6 a.m. 12/21 through 6 a.m. 12/22 not provided.]

Saturday, 12/22
6:30 a.m. Caller states that a vehicle parked on Migratory Way heading towards the fish ladder looks like it is about to go down the embankment. Rau’s en route for tow. Operator settled up with Rau’s and confirmed that all damage to vehicle was pre-existing; car ended up there when they swerved to avoid a deer.
10:24 a.m. Message left in general mailbox reporting rebar sticking up in one of the travel lanes on the General Pierce Bridge; vehicles are reportedly swerving into the oncoming lane to avoid it. [Redacted] observed a one square foot hole, appears to be where a previous patch came out, with two pieces of rebar exposed. MassDOT, TFFD, Greenfield PD, and AMR advised. MA DOT advised they would have someone out today to look at it.
Sunday, 12/23
10:21 a.m. Officer requesting patrol unit to Fourth and L streets; subject involved in drug activity.

4:18 p.m. 911 misdial received. Spoke to male party confirming misdial after placing phone in cupholder.
6:32 p.m. Caller from J Street states there is an unwanted female banging on the door to the apartment along with two other guys. Issue over property. Unwanted female was roommate at this location but is no longer staying there. Report taken.
9:54 p.m. A 33-year-old Millers Falls man was arrested and charged with operating with a suspended license; operating an uninsured motor vehicle; and operating with a revoked registration.
10:15 p.m. Caller states that there is a male in the parking lot of Highland School Apartments checking vehicles to see if they are unlocked. Due to call volume, Erving PD will be taking this call. Erving checked lot and spoke with caller. Suspect walked off into the tree line. Erving PD will continue to check area.

Monday, 12/24
11:09 a.m. Multiple callers reporting large piece of metal sticking up from the road on the General Pierce Bridge. Bridge checked; nothing found.
11:37 a.m. Caller from Dell Street reports that a neighbor’s dog is running loose chasing deer. She caught the dog and has it in her yard. Message left for dog owner.
5:15 p.m. Money reported stolen from a home on Avenue A. Report taken.
9:10 p.m. Three calls complaining of fireworks near the ballfield on Montague Street. Officer checked area and found all to be quiet.
Tuesday, 12/25
12:01 p.m. GPD received 911 misdial; spoke with caller, who advised she was playing with the phone and did not mean to call 911. Officer checked residence; all appeared to be in order.
2:03 p.m. 911 misdial; caller advised she was trying to set up her voicemail on a new phone (VOIP).
6:50 p.m. Vehicle vs. deer on Main Street. Deer deceased; driver (caller) and three children uninjured; vehicle reported to be smoking. Caller will attempt to drive vehicle to her parents’ house on Kettlehole Lane. MCFD will remain on scene to take care of the animal.
7:38 p.m. Officer checking on male in area of Randall Road who is dressed all in black and walking in the breakdown lane. Male agreed to return to his home and get a flashlight. Male stated that according to his civil liberties, he can travel any way he wants.

Wednesday, 12/26
4:14 p.m. Caller from Hillside Avenue advising that there is a dark brown chicken in his backyard; he will leave it alone, but if someone reports it missing, they should look in the area of his home.
8:22 p.m. Reports of a male panhandling at Family Dollar and at Freedom Credit Union; male returned to Family Dollar, then en route to Food City. Officer out on Avenue A with male matching description. Subject, a 39-year-old Turners Falls man, arrested on two default warrants.
Thursday, 12/27
1:31 a.m. Officer checking on suspicious vehicle parked behind Town Hall. Clear; occupants playing Pokemon Go.
2:21 p.m. Warrant arrest of male party at Cumberland Farms.
2:25 p.m. Reports of panhandlers at three separate locations downtown: bus stop at Third Street and Avenue A; Avenue A in front of Subway; and in front of bakery on Fourth Street. Two subjects located and advised re: panhandling.
Friday, 12/28
4:06 a.m. Party taken into custody after report of harassment at F.L. Roberts.
6:02 p.m. GPD received a dropped 911 call from Avenue A. Contact made with involved male, who stated there was no trouble; he was just testing to see if the 911 system works yet.
Sunday, 12/30
3:04 p.m. Report of explosion coming from area of J Street. Eversource advises that a 65 amp fuse on a pole in the area has blown; portions of J, Sixth, and Avenue A will be without power until a technician can arrive to change it.

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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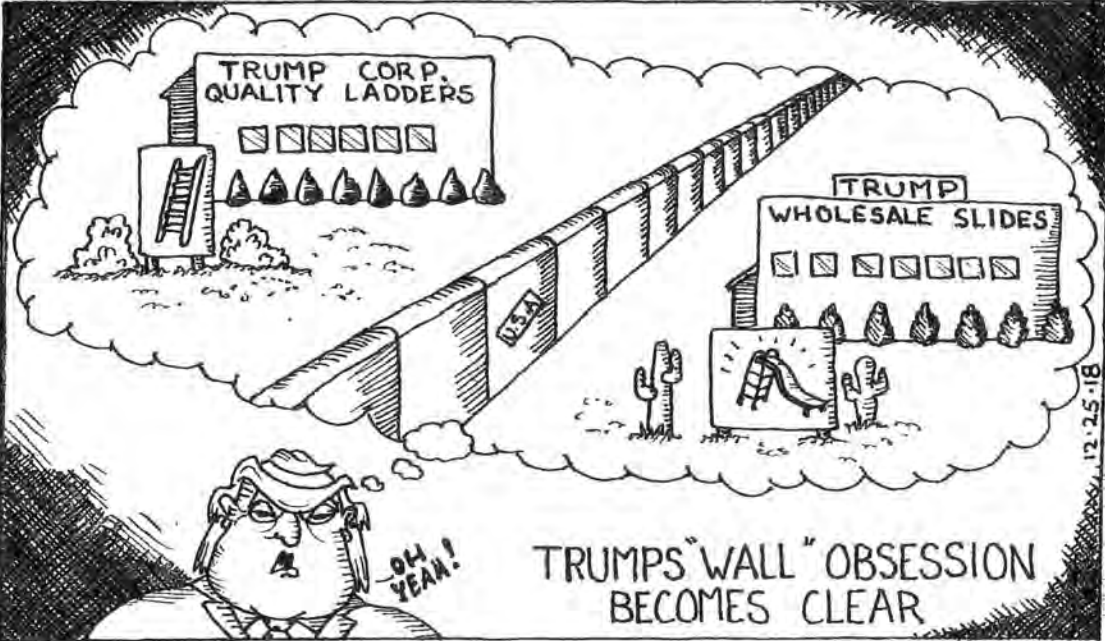
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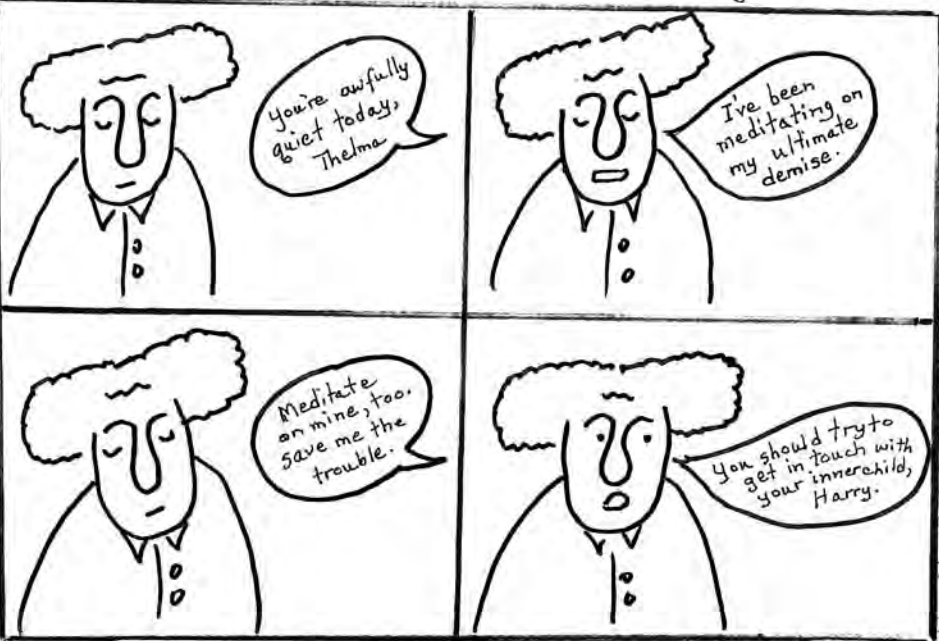
BORDEAUX WHINE

by denis bordeaux



OVER THE HILL

by Ann O'Nymours



PARASITE from page B1

hyperactivity to schizophrenia. Although the mechanism by which *T. gondii* changes host dopamine levels isn't clear, genomic analysis has revealed that the parasite may synthesize proteins that are critical in the production of dopamine.

These studies imply that *T. gondii* uses these proteins to speed up dopamine production inside infected brain tissue, facilitating the increased global dopamine levels that alter behavior.

A Link to Schizophrenia?

Schizophrenia affects about 1% of the population and is one of the least understood mental illnesses, mystifying neuroscientists for ages. Symptoms of schizophrenia vary, but generally include hallucinations, disordered thoughts, and losing touch with reality.

Strangely enough, *T. gondii* infection is the greatest risk factor for developing the disease, bypassing genetic and environmental factors. Patients with schizophrenia have a higher prevalence of *T. gondii* infection across a range of meta-analyses, and some rare cases of acute toxoplasmosis have been documented with symptoms that are very similar to schizophrenia – auditory hallucinations, thought disorders, blunted affect, etc. These cases are especially prevalent in infected immunocompromised individuals, where *T. gondii* has free reign of host tissues.

Scientists speculate that infection may switch on predispositions for developing schizophrenia – meaning that *T. gondii* infection doesn't directly cause schizophrenia, but if genes, brain structure, or environmental conditions make one more susceptible to the disease, *T. gondii* may simply flip the switch that effectively “turns on” the disease.

So how does *T. gondii* flip this switch? A hallmark of a schizophrenic brain, and likely the underlying cause of many behavioral deficits, is an increase in neural concentrations of dopamine – and as discussed before, increasing host dopamine levels also seems to be *T. gondii*'s forte.

Interestingly, antipsychotic drugs used to treat symptoms of schizophrenia that target the dopamine system (haloperidol, valproic acid) also seem to inhibit *T. gondii* replication and ability to get into the brain, harboring the idea that antipsychotics may be at least partially effective as antiparasitics.

Another interesting connection is that many schizophrenic patients experience deficiencies in their olfactory systems: if *T. gondii* is a causative factor for schizophrenia, this could be explained by the olfactory manipulation involved with “fatal feline attraction.”

Though the connection between *T. gondii* and schizophrenia is still fairly recent and not well understood, it creates exciting opportunities for the generation of novel therapeutics for one of the world's most devastating neurological diseases.

Like the Smell of Cat Pee?

One of the most fascinating manipulations that occurs in rodents and seems to be (at least partially) conserved in humans, is the selective change in the perception of cat odor. The olfactory system is one of the most intriguing and complex sense systems; each “scent” (chemical) has a specific wiring and a specific receptor that tells the brain what scent was picked up.

In a 2010 journal article in *Folia Parasitologica*, researchers Webster and McConkey speculate that *T. gondii* may specifically trip the wiring for the “cat odor” pathway and

Creative Movement Open House

TURNERS FALLS – Great Falls Creative Movement will host its annual winter open house on Saturday, January 12, offering a morning of free creative dance classes for young children and their families. Come see what creative dance is all about! Learn about Creative Movement winter programs and check out this beautiful space, the Movement Studio, located on the second floor of the Brick House Community Resource Center at 24 Third Street in downtown Turners Falls.

A Free Class for 5- and 6-year-olds will be held from 10 to 11 a.m., followed by a class for 3- and 4-year-olds from 11:15 to noon. Parents, siblings and caregivers are welcome to participate.

“Creative Dance is a wonderful way for children and adults alike to connect mind, body and spirit,” says instructor Anna Hendricks. “Creative Dance, rather than focusing on a specific set of steps, provides a concept-based framework for students to explore their own movements,” she explains. “Students explore how their bodies can move fast and

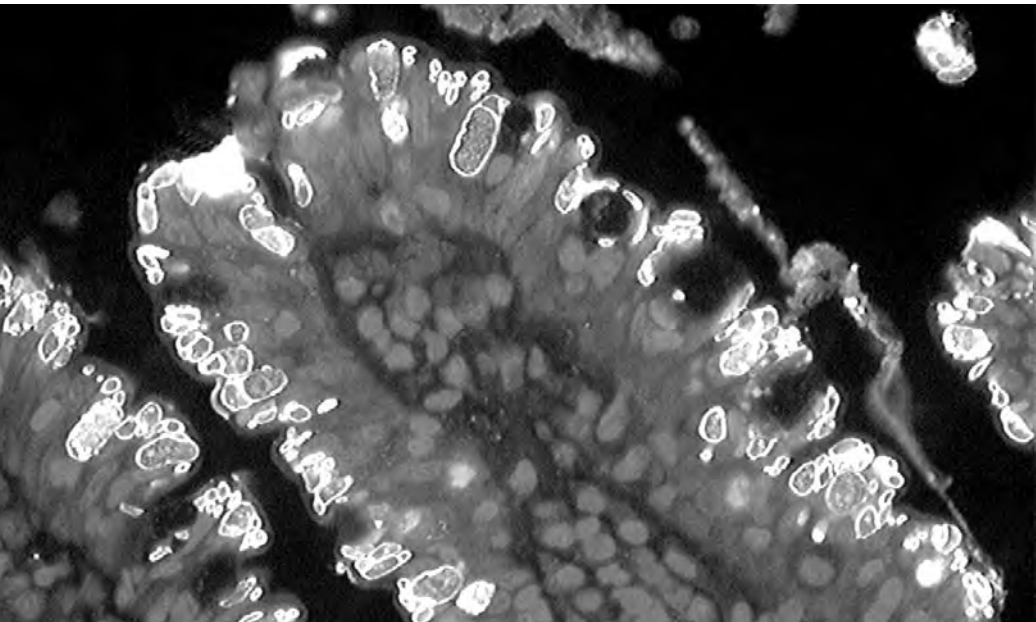


Luca Ciepiela, Sadie Wilson, and Tessa D'Urso dance.

slow, on balance and off-balance, big and small. This is dance for every body.”

Now in its 10th year, Great Falls Creative Movement offers year-round creative dance classes, a summer program, and performance opportunities for children ages 3 to 12 at the Movement Studio, as well as creative dance residencies, workshops and classes at elementary schools, preschools, community centers, senior centers, libraries, and more.

To learn more, visit greatfallscreative-movement.com, or find them on Facebook.



Here are coccidian stages of *T. gondii* in the cat intestine, where the parasite forms oocysts (cysts containing a zygote). Image reprinted with permission from David Ferguson, Oxford University.

make the host no longer perceive cat odor. Thus, if a cat is stalking an infected rodent, the rodent will not sense the cat approaching and will make for extremely easy prey.

Alternatively, the parasite may target the innate pathway in the olfactory system: the wiring that rodents are born with that sends alarms to the fear response pathway when predator odors are sensed. Further, this fear pathway may be rewired in a way that ties it together with the sexual arousal pathway – meaning that when rodents sense something that they should fear (cat odor), they instead feel sexually aroused.

Interestingly, this specific rewiring of fear and sexual arousal also appears to be conserved in humans. One study of 36,564 participants found that those infected with *T. gondii* (both men and women) have increased attraction to sexual masochism and BDSM-related practices. While this behavioral manipulation does not have to do with odor detection, it may be another example of a human spin-off of rodent-targeted *T. gondii* induced changes.

Is There a Cure?

Because the behavioral changes associated with chronic *T. gondii* infection are not well understood, there isn't a specific cure for targeting chronic infection; as discussed, the encysted form of the parasite that occurs with chronic infection is extremely difficult to tar-

get and out of reach from antibiotics or other typical antiparasitic drugs. The most effective combat against infection is prevention: fully washing vegetables before eating, ensuring meat is fully cooked, and being careful around outdoor/stray cats.

If you're like me, learning all this information will immediately make you question if we actually make any of our own decisions, or are simply a puppet of the parasites residing in our brains. Even scarier, *T. gondii* is just one of the millions of organisms we host in our bodies.

Where do our thoughts and desires end and microorganisms' begin, and how can we tell the difference between the two?

For now, we may as well accept the fact that we are not alone in our bodies – and next time you do something reckless, just blame the *T. gondii*!

Sophie Letcher is a Kenyon College and Turners Falls High School graduate. She currently works in a neuroimmunology lab at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

More information about T. gondii can be found on the CDC website: cdc.gov/parasites/toxoplasmosis/epi.html.

A full list of citations for this article is also available where it appears on Emily Monosson's blog: toxicevolution.wordpress.com.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EVENTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Open Mic Night*. 7 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *The Big Draw*. Figure drawing session with a model in monthly sessions. \$ donation. 7 p.m.

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

Gill Tavern, Gill: *Trivia Night*. Come with a team or by yourself, \$5 to play. Winning team receives \$25 gift certificate to the tavern, and all proceeds go towards a monthly good cause. 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *First Friday Mystery Activity*. Children 8 + and teens are invited to join us for a mystery activity: crafts, science experiments, tech-tools, etc. 3:30 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne: *The Lunchbox*. Final movie in Pothole Pictures' season of food-themed movies. A mistaken delivery becomes a recipe for love. Live music before the show by *Whistlestop*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Kalliope Jones CD Release Party*. All Original, post-rock teenage girl group. \$. 8:30 p.m.

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Acoustic Country* with *Heath Lewis*. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The O-Tones*. New England swing and Motown band. \$. 7 p.m.

Wendell Library, Wendell: *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. A ship encounters an advanced submarine commanded by Captain Nemo in the oceans of the late 19th century. Part of the Fantasy and Science Fiction Film series. Short film before the movie: an episode of *Fireball XL5*. 7:30 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne: *The Lunchbox*. Final movie in Pothole Pictures' season of food-themed movies. A mistaken delivery becomes a recipe for love. Live music before the show by *Dan Lederere*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Patsy Clone, Sister Jawbone, Ona Canoa, and Marlene Lavelle*. \$. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites Dance Party*. Reggae. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Hung Trucker, Strange Fate*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6

McCusker's Market, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*. Musicians, all levels welcome. 10:30 a.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Nighswander Reception*. Andrew Nighswander presents paintings and drawings inspired by the landscape of the Valley, with faces and figures, ruined buildings and strange creatures that evolve through the process of creation. Artist reception. 11 a.m.

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Co-Op Straight Ahead Jazz*. Balcony in the afternoon. 12 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Joe Belmont Experience*. Jazz. \$. 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.



The series of paintings and drawings by Andrew Nighswander currently on view at Hawks & Reed in Greenfield is the transcription of an inner landscape. While the project originated as a series of ink drawings that served to record the most memorable features of his passage through the landscape of the Connecticut River Valley, it soon grew into a series of monumental charcoal works and abstract paintings. Forms unfold, and over time, a landscape emerges as the pattern of light and dark develops a sense of depth. The result is a landscape caught in flux. Join the artist in a reception on Sunday, January 6 at 11 a.m. at the Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center in Greenfield. Pictured above: "The Future Wouldn't Be That Nice" by Nighswander.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Youth Advisory Committee*. Youth ages 10 to 15 are invited to meet monthly at Carnegie Library to make decisions, volunteer, plan programs, meet new people and make a positive impact in their community. Snacks served. 5 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Nadia* (Portland), *Bromp Treb*, *Actual Rose*, *Cryovacs*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Comedy with Jon Ross*. In the Wheelhouse. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*. Stories, projects, snacks for young children and their caregivers. 10:15 a.m.

Leverett Library: *Tales and Tunes Story Hour*. Ages 0 to 5

and caregivers. 10:30 a.m.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Homeschool Science*. Hands-on STEM learning. Call to register. 1 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *All Levels Chess*. All levels, with Star Trek watching included – perhaps. 3:30 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Library Benefit: Bridge of Flowers, Head of Wantastiquet, Lucy, Nick Bisceglia*, and more TBA. Support the construction of a new library in Greenfield. Info session with speakers from town hall and library, and performances by bands and artists that love libraries. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Hip Hop Dance Night* with *Craze-faze*. 7 p.m.

SUBMITTED IMAGE

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Salsa Wednesday*. With *McCoy* and *DJ Roger Jr*. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu*. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Music and Movement*. For children and caregivers, with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson. 10 a.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *John Lentz Trio*. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Drag Queen Bingo*. 8 p.m.

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Karaoke Night*. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*. 6:30 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Ragged Blue*.

This trio has an engaging combination of bluegrass, celtic, old-time, originals, and popular songs with three part harmony from *Corki Demers, John Rough, and Terry Atkinson*. The monthly Coffeehouse series is a benefit for the Friends of the GFDC who support free nature programming at the Center. Suggested donation \$6 to \$12; baked goods for sale. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Danny Pease and the Regulators, The Medicinal Purpose*. Style of Old Dirty Punk Reggae. 18 and over. \$. 9 p.m.

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Acoustic Country*. With *Heath Lewis*. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center: *Brunch Reception for Open Call NXNE 2019*. Annual juried art exhibit opens with a brunch reception. Over 300 artists from New England and New York submitted works, from which 13 were chosen. Variety of media and styles included. 11 a.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Montague Common Hall Open Mic #30*. Featured artist *Ralph Carson*. Big town performance art in a small village. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Comedy Night*. *Julia Scotti, Anita Wise*, and more. \$. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Country Night with Wild Leek River and The Old Fashioneds*. Be ready to dance and cry. \$. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Deep C Divers*. Original funky pop, rock, and reggae. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Owls's Owls*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

McCusker's Market, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*. Musicians, all levels welcome. 10:30 a.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Two-Step Festival: The Nite Caps, and Empty Bottle Ramblers* presenting country and Cajun music with dance lessons from *Emily Fox*. \$. 2 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Traditional Quebecois Music Session*. 3 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 14

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Scotty K's Open Mic*. 8 p.m.

EXHIBITS

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro, VT: Five new exhibits include a six-decade survey of the work of abstract artist Emily Mason, *Open Call NXNE*, and artwork by *Orly Cogan*, and *Elizabeth Turk*. *Open Call NXNE* featuring 13 juried New England and New York artists, will hold an opening brunch reception on January 12 at 11 a.m. This is free to all.

DVAA Gallery, Northfield: Two weekends of *Art Finds* in January: January 18,19, 25 and 26. Art and art materials for sale as a fundraiser for the Center. Got stuff to donate? Email buckyredsox@yahoo.com.

Flourish, Turners Falls: *A Good Year for the Roses*. Paintings by *Alison Williams*

and collaborative mixed media work with *Glen Scheffer*. Through January.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *East African Textiles: Talking Kanga Cloth* in January and February, with an opening reception and talk about the textiles by *Peggy Hart* and *N. S. Koenings*, Saturday, January 5.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Paul Hoffman*. Bold narrative paintings. Through January.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Andrew Nighswander: Automatic Landscapes*. See picture and caption this page. Through January. Reception Sunday, January 6, 2 p.m.

Herrick Gallery, Wendell Library: *Phyllis*

Lawrence: Textile arts and hooked rugs. Through February.

Leverett Crafts & Arts Center, Leverett: *Resident Artists' Show*. Informal exhibit of work from artists who have studios at the Center. Through February.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: Gallery closed through January, opening again in February.

Sawmill River Gallery, Montague Center: *Pushing the Boundaries*. Recent works by Sawmill member artists.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Winter's Tale*. Members' exhibit through January. Gallery closed week of January 22 for renovations. Opening in February with *Red Hot* theme.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Kate and John Moruzzi of Leverett took us along with them last month to Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, where they visited the ancient Mayan ruins at Tulum (pictured) and Chichen Itza.

ON THE ROAD

Going somewhere? Take us with you!

Send photos to editor@montaguereporter.org.

INDIE MAMA from page B1

emotional body is one that allows itself to stop, listen, and feel.

Generally, we walk around with stagnant, unfelt emotions, which then get stuck in the physical body. During the winter, we can devote the time and practice to strengthening this aspect of ourselves, such that when stress comes or we are triggered, we are able to respond in a different way.

I am fascinated by this theory, and the traditions and practices I've learned along the way. It's taught me to cope with the stress of parenting, and single parenting in particular, when I most need it.

If I can learn how to heal different aspects of myself, and in the process become more balanced and present, I will then be able to model for my son how to release attachments and expectations, how to move through life more open, more fluid, and more present, and how to feel.

Ecuadorian-born and New York City bred, Mishel Ixchel is mama to a toddler, and currently resides in Turners Falls where she practices and teaches the art of sacred self-care. You can find her on Instagram @rootsandembers.



MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed the holiday season. We've got lots in store for you for the year to come. Here's to a spectacular 2019!

The following holiday events are available on our website so you can make the memories last:

- Manchester Citadel Band and Songsters Thanksgiving Concert, 11/17/18
- Montague Community Band Holiday Concert 2018
- Welcome Yule 2018: Acts 1 & 2
- It's a Wonderful Night in Turners Falls 2018
- Holiday Spectacular 12/14/18
- It's a Wonderful Night for the Birds 2018

Looking to get involved in your community? Don't forget that you can find your local government meetings – like selectboard and school committee meetings – online or on Channel 17. This way, you can stay informed on local policy decisions.

We hope that this is the year you'll stop by the station and borrow a camera to record some programs of your own! 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 and capture the moment.

Contact us at (413) 863-9200, infomontaguestv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We'd love to work with you!

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