

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 17 – NO. 20

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 14, 2019

GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Six-Town School District Could Save Money, Consultants Report Sullivan Touts Impact On Curriculum

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – The regional school committee approved a final FY’20 budget Tuesday night, leaving some decisions about how to hire counseling and disciplinary staff at the secondary level for future discussions.

But first, they listened to and absorbed a detailed report from consultants on the potential costs and benefits of forming a new six-town district with Leyden, Bernardston, Northfield, and Warwick, whose adjacent Pioneer Valley district is shrinking more quickly and struggling with debt.

Mark and Matt Abrahams of the Abrahams Group had been tasked by the “civic leaders” of the towns and districts to produce rough estimates of the financial impacts of

several aspects of a mega-merger.

Consolidating a single central office, they concluded, would produce savings, as would a single high school, while a combined middle school would roughly break even. The towns could slightly lose money by merging all teaching staff under a single contract, however, and Gill and Montague may risk losing recent gains in state Chapter 70 aid.

All told, the consultants’ back-of-envelope calculations suggested a total savings of around \$396,000 per year – around 2% of the six towns’ FY’20 assessments.

The more significant benefit, superintendent Michael Sullivan argued, would come in a restored ability to staff “a full complement of academic teachers,” including art, music, health, foreign language, and math and reading

see GMRSD page A4

Western Mass Stop & Shop Workers Vote To Authorize Possible Strike

By ANNABEL LEVINE

GREENFIELD – Members of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 1459 voted unanimously for a strike authorization at a meeting in Chicopee last Sunday. Workers from Stop & Shop stores around Western Massachusetts came out to hear Local 1459 president Tyrone Housey speak about the state of ongoing contract negotiations between the company and the union. With their vote, members gave Housey and fellow negotiators the authority to call a strike at any time.

Unionized Stop & Shop employees have been working without a contract, under what Housey told the Reporter is akin to a “gentlemen’s agreement,” since February 23. The company and union are required to bargain in good faith according to rules set forth by the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), and so both sides returned to the negotiating table this Wednesday and Thursday. The results of the negotiations were not



An employee at the Greenfield Stop & Shop branch displays a pin on Wednesday. The union local has officially authorized the use of a strike, though contract negotiations continue this week.

available before press time.

Housey told the members he doesn’t want to call a strike, but will if he needs to. In the meantime, he encouraged employees to work on building support from customers.

Union members plan to hand out leaflets outside stores, and a “Rally for a Fair Contract” is scheduled for noon on Wednesday, March 20 Stop & Shop on Memorial Drive in Chicopee. According to the rally’s Facebook event page, the public is invited to come “stand in

solidarity with Stop & Shop workers for a fair contract.”

While most of the proposals under dispute on the table are economic, the union cites one major area, a shift toward prepackaged meat, as one that will have a negative effect for both employees and customers. Stop & Shop management’s plan includes getting rid of butchers in its stores, meaning meat will no longer be available fresh, only “gassed up,” in Housey’s words, and wrapped in plastic. The plan to introduce

see STRIKE pg A5

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

A Transition Year Ahead for The Great Falls Farmers Market

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Great Falls Farmers Market, which provides local produce on Wednesday afternoons in downtown Turners Falls during warm weather months, is in a period of “transition,” according to Donna Francis. Francis is the coordinator of the market, and chair of the Montague Agricultural Commission. She appeared before the town selectboard on Monday to present an “update” on the market. But the update quickly became an announcement that Francis would retire as the market coordinator. This, in turn, evolved into a discussion of whether the coordinator should be paid, and whether the market should move from its current location near the Discovery Center on Avenue A.

Francis told the board that she had been

coordinator since 2013. “I’m ready to retire and hand this over to someone else,” she said. Francis said that “the amount of work the coordinator has to do has been increasing,” citing in particular the decision of the market to accept SNAP (food stamp) benefits, which requires equipment to allow purchases with EBT cards. She said someone needs to be at the market every week for six months to run the cards through the system, and that there have been “complications” with the bank that accepts the cards.

Francis also said the coordinator maintains a Facebook page and a website, and organizes promotion and outreach to potential vendors. “Part of the point of this is to suggest that the coordinator position should be a paid position, with some kind of stipend,” she said.

see MONTAGUE page A7

Food City Surprises Employees With a New Benefit: Ownership

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – “I’m not saying we’re the greatest thing since sliced bread,” said Food City chief executive officer Zak Sklar. “But it’s a win-win situation.”

Sklar was referring to the decision to transfer ownership of the company that controls the Food City branch in Turners Falls, and eight other stores around New England, to an ESOP, or Employee Stock Ownership Plan. Although Sklar remains CEO of the company he and his father have owned since 1985 – and though they will remain on its board of directors – he should probably be called the “former owner.”

According to a March 3 press release, the Sklars have recently “transitioned 100% of their ownership to



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

If they stick around, employees at the grocery store will begin to accrue stock. The chain’s longtime owners describe it as a retirement benefit.

their employees through a qualified retirement plan.”

The press release stated that “Over 300 employees will now be owners, which will foster tremendous pride resulting in a positive stake in the company. These team members have been so loyal and this is a natural evolution

in this company. Together we will strive to be more innovative and responsive to our customers’ needs.”

“I felt ethically that I wanted long-term employees to have retirement,” Sklar told the Montague Reporter. “I haven’t been able

see FOOD CITY pg A7

NEWS ANALYSIS

Forest for the Trees: How SMART Is the State’s New Solar Program?

By KATIE NOLAN

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Look at your most recent electric bill. There is a new fee – “Distributed Solar Energy Charge.” The money collected from this charge funds the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program.

The purpose of SMART, according to the Department of Energy and Resources (DOER) website, is to “support the development of solar in Massachusetts.” The tariff-based incentive for producing electricity from solar energy is paid directly by utility companies to photovoltaic system owners, using money collected from all bill payers.

SMART program manager Kaitlin Kelly attended the February 14 meeting of the state

Natural Heritage and Endangered Species advisory committee (NHESAC) in Westborough to address its concerns about how the SMART program will affect forested land and wildlife habitat.

David Small, an associate member of the NHESAC and a member of the Athol Board of Planning and Community Development, told Kelly: “100% of local projects are on forested land. There is a huge gap in what we need to be doing [to protect forested land].”

Under SMART, a utility company pays a given solar generator a base rate for each kilowatt of energy produced. In addition, there are “adders” and “subtractors,” factors that increase and decrease the per-kilowatt payment. These adders and subtractors

see SMART page A4

Checkout Philanthro-Pay

By K. CAMARA

TURNERS FALLS – One day while waiting in the checkout line at Green Fields Market, I witnessed something curious, so I paid attention. The cashier stated the total due to the customer before me, and that customer, with smartphone in hand and child in tow, said simply, “Common Good.” I watched the cashier turn to her station and pull out a phone of her own from beside the register, and they proceeded with some sort of transaction that, for all I knew, was good. And then I checked out.

As I proceeded out the door, a light bulb went off. Oh, I thought, this is that Common Good – the same system that is in use at my chiropractor’s office. I had seen flyers there and noted that it was accepted as a form of payment. But what on earth were they doing with their phones that made it so quick and simple? My idea of it was that it involved a card, and that it was a form of “local currency” somehow



Upinngil Farm buys their Real Pickles using Common Good credits, and customers at the farmstand may pay with Common Good as well.

supporting local businesses. To learn more, I picked up a flyer the next time I visited the office.

Bullets on the front of the handsome flyer, under the subtitle “The Payment Card for Community Power,” listed some of the benefits of the Common Good system of payment. It stated that it is more than just a payment card, and that its usage generates funds for community projects, with the member-

ship deciding together on which projects to fund. Noted also was that it was free and easy to use (yup!), with no card fees for businesses, and an invitation to join at CommonGood.earth.

Inside the flyer were the logos of familiar local businesses, including Green Fields Market, Fosters Supermarket, Baker Office Supplies, Upinngil, the Shea Theater, Ryan & Casey Liquors, see CHECKOUT pg A5

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

Editorial Group

Mike Jackson, *Managing Editor*
Nina Rossi, *Features Editor*
Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno, *Poetry Page*
Victoria Maillo, *Spanish Page*
Beverly Ketch, *Children's Page*
Lisa McLoughlin, *Science Page*
Gloria Kegeles, *Editorial Assistant*

Production Group

Lyn Clark, *Interim Distribution Manager*
Charlotte Kohlmann, *Layout Assistant*
Christopher Carmody, *Layout Assistant*

Technical Administration

About Face Computing

Founded by

Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August 2002

Going Shopping

You may have noticed a common theme running between several of the articles on this issue's front page.

A family that owns a small supermarket chain sells their stock in the company to a trust, which will pay them off over the course of the next decade and a half as the privately held stock is parcelled out to their workers. It's a perk for long-term employees, as long as the company stays in the black....

Workers at another chain are prepared to strike. The company wants to reduce their overall compensation, and claims it is having trouble competing because of payroll expenses; meanwhile, its parent company is spending billions of dollars of cash buying back its public stock – and thereby, incidentally, boosting its market price, an indicator often used to determine executive bonuses....

A local group has set up a pool of credit, with the aim of incentivizing local sourcing of vendors, and local consumption. Members can vote to grant or lend extra money to worthwhile projects which aim to build social benefit, if not generate profits....

And a small town struggles to keep a weekly farmers market in the park; the volunteer recommends paying someone to administer it, and people wonder if passing traffic is impeding business....

All of these stories involve struggles to make food retail work better. One question lurks in the background: Can food be marked up enough at the point of distribution to support the *labor* of distribution? How many living-wage jobs can be sustained by the proliferation of middle men?

Americans spend less on food than just about anyone else in the world – a little over 6% of household spending, on average. The reasons for this are several, ranging from subsidies for agribusiness to big-box stores to the types of food we opt to eat to our income inequality: those better off have plenty of extra to spend on optional purchases, while for those on the bottom rungs, food aid is one of the better-surviving pieces of the social safety net. (And yet we still have neighbors going hungry.)

Since 2016, Americans have also been spending more at restaurants, in total, than at grocery stores. People are squeezed for time, juggling part-time jobs and less inclined to plan meals, shop, and cook at home. That leaves 3%, split among transportation, stocking, packaging,

marketing, cashing in – and, oh yes, the food itself, agriculture and processing. No wonder groceries are a low-margin industry!

It's important to have a place to get food nearby – all the research and concern around food deserts in low-income neighborhoods bears this out. In Turners Falls, where this newspaper's office is, we're lucky to have Food City – even now that the pizza oven's out of service! We hope it can stay open for the long term, and we are glad to hear workers there are going to start earning stock, regardless of whether it puts any control of their workplace in their hands.

But at the same time, there are limits to the logic of "small is beautiful." What would an ideal, a truly beautiful, society's grocery sector look like?

Sure, it would be nice to have one central warehouse right in town to pick up food – would it be any better to have two smaller ones? If a job sorting or scanning or stocking or counting or washing the endless flow of food is tedious enough that a simple robot to do it, how much does it benefit a person to assign them that work? People need jobs because it's the only way to get money to eat – but wait, in our ideal society, would *that* still be the case?

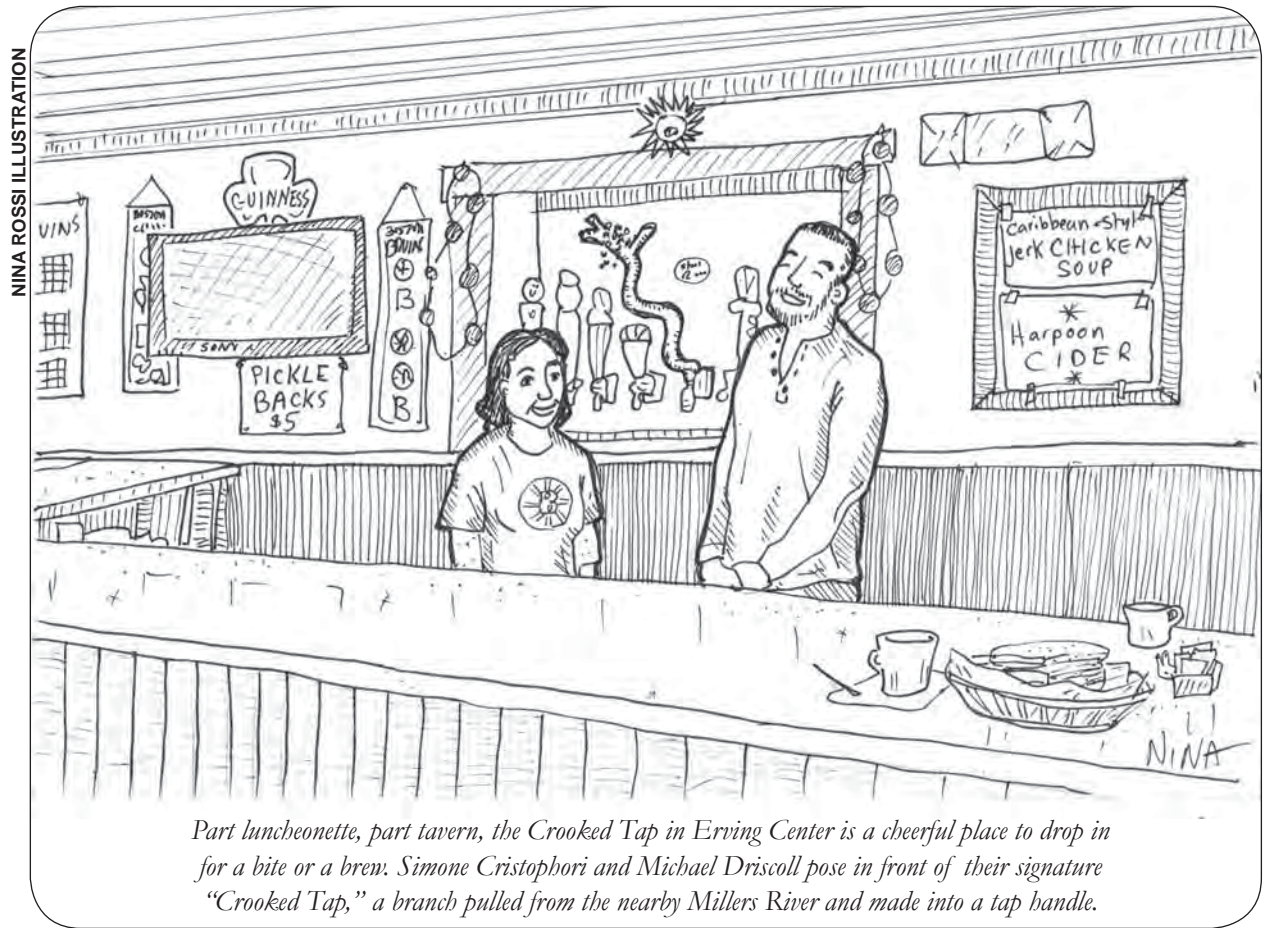
Everything in the real world is fastened together by markets, and it's considered rude, fantastical, or even dangerous to suggest it shouldn't be. But time and time again, the operation of the market seems to separate people's realities, rather than bring us together.

Some have packages of fresh, healthy, read-to-cook meals delivered to their doorstep, while others buy canned vegetables at the dollar store or drive across state lines to find food within their family's budget.

The problem is the same at both ends: too few people in this country are being compensated enough for their time to pass the savings along in their free time. For the majority of people, the economy appears to be shrinking.

Does a union at one supermarket drive the prices up? Would a highly profitable privately held business be gifted to its employees? Is a dollar store ever able to source from local vendors? How many people have the time to stroll to the farmers market after work? Is a local philanthropic credit pool safe during a market crash?

These are all tough questions, and in time, they will all be answered.



Part luncheonette, part tavern, the Crooked Tap in Erving Center is a cheerful place to drop in for a bite or a brew. Simone Cristofori and Michael Driscoll pose in front of their signature "Crooked Tap," a branch pulled from the nearby Millers River and made into a tap handle.

Letters to the Editors

Voting: Of Educational Benefit?

After reading about the Montague Town Clerk's concerns regarding voting at Hillcrest School, I wondered if any attempts have been made to find a workable solution that would not require moving the polling place.

It seems to me that there are clear incentives for both sides to keep it where it is: for the town, Hillcrest offers ample parking and a location that is convenient for the voters that it serves; for the school district, election day (as Rich Kulewicz pointed out) offers an educational opportunity, as well as a chance to promote the school as a real part of the community.

Since there don't seem to be any

clearly better alternatives, making it work seems like the best solution all around. Various approaches seem possible, such as enhancing the security of the building, or making Election Day a school holiday. Perhaps none could be made to work, but have they been seriously discussed?

As Americans, we pride ourselves on living in a democracy, and we teach our children that voting is one of our most cherished rights. Yet, in local elections – where, arguably, citizens have the greatest opportunity to affect the outcome – it's considered a good day if as many as one in four eligible voters actually shows up to cast a ballot.

Are we telling ourselves one thing and doing another?

What messages would be sent by saying, in effect, that voting is so potentially dangerous that it cannot be allowed in the school, or that whatever else the school is doing is so important that it can't be adjusted to accommodate elections when they are required? Will future generations be encouraged to consider voting an important privilege and responsibility, and make time for it in their lives? Perhaps this is an opportunity to help make that happen.

Mike Naughton
Millers Falls

Vote For Educational Benefits!

Thank you for publishing the Gill-Montague Education Association's staffing wishlist.

In response to Peter d'Errico's question in his letter to the editor about when the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA) will organize to address a legislative remedy to chronic public education underfunding: it has! The MTA launched its Fund Our Future (massteacher.org/current-initiatives/fund-our-future) campaign last fall and has been organizing with local chapters and members to hold community forums, write and call legislators, pass school committee resolutions, participate in walk-ins/stand-outs and many other activities.

Our teachers and local union chapters are articulating where students have suffered in these times of underfunding and scarcity, and they are envisioning a brighter future.

The MTA is mobilizing to pass the Promise Act (S.238/H.586), which would increase Chapter 70 aid by \$1.5 billion and increase the baseline Foundation Budget by \$2.4

billion after a 7-year phase-in period. Three-quarters of this new funding would go to the 20 percent of districts with the largest percentages of low-income students, all school districts would receive minimum per student increases in aid each year (\$50), and it provides relief to certain districts that lose significant amounts of Chapter 70 aid to charter schools.

By contrast, Governor Baker's bill (H.70) would provide roughly a third of the funding for Chapter 70 aid (\$510 million) and less than a half of the funding for the foundation budget (\$1.1 billion) at the end of 7 years. It would also give the commissioner of education and appointed state officials authority to withhold funds, increase bureaucratic red tape, and limit union collective bargaining rights.

A third bill, the Tucker Bill (H.576), also proposes to increase funding to K-12 schools, but it lacks sufficient detail to calculate the amounts.

The MTA is working in support of another bill, filed by our senator,

Jo Comerford, known as the Cherish Act (S.741/H.1214). It would reaffirm the state's commitment to public higher education by freezing tuition and fees at current levels for each of the next five years if the state maintains an increased funding commitment of an additional \$580 million. Governor Baker has a plan to increase funding for higher education by half that amount, and it makes no promise of a freeze on tuition and fees.

Our local senators and representatives have signed on to co-sponsor these two bills, but they need to hear from everyone that these bills are priorities. Please contact them with your support!

And know that the MTA, in partnership with teachers, parents, students and community members across the Commonwealth, is organized and actively advocating for more funding for our schools.

Christine Turner
Montague
MTA Board Member

Published weekly on Thursdays.

Every other week in July and August.
No paper fourth week of November,
or the Thursday closest to 12/25.

PHONE: (413) 863-8666

Please note new email addresses:
editor@montaguereporter.org
features@montaguereporter.org
ads@montaguereporter.org
bills@montaguereporter.org
circulation@montaguereporter.org
events@montaguereporter.org
poetry@montaguereporter.org
subscriptions@montaguereporter.org

Send address changes to:

The Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Advertising and copy deadline is
MONDAY at NOON.

This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper, such as they are.

Annual Subscription Rate:

\$30 for walking subscriptions;
\$40 for driving route subscriptions;
\$60 for mailed subscriptions.

Call us or contact
subscriptions@montaguereporter.org
with any questions.

**WE WELCOME
YOUR LETTERS!**

(ORIGINAL CONTENT ONLY, PLEASE)

Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

editor@
montaguereporter.org

Sign Me Up!

\$20 { 8 months (31 issues) for our walking routes
6 months (23 issues) for our driving routes
4 months (15 issues) for mailed subscriptions

The Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email (optional): _____



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by CHRIS PELLERIN

I hope you all are enjoying the more seasonal temperatures. I just got home from the **Spring Bulb Show** at Smith College, and I can't wait to dig in the dirt. Of course, I need to wait until the snow and ice melts and the soil thaws! But spring is so close I can almost taste it. With spring comes lots of activities – here are some suggestions for you.

The whole family will enjoy the Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School's production of **Disney's The Little Mermaid**. The play will be performed in the high school auditorium at 7 p.m. on March 14, 15, and 16, with a matinee at 2 p.m. on March 16 as well. Tickets will be sold at the door (cash only) for \$10 for students and seniors and \$12 general admission.

Saturday, March 16, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Turners Falls branch of Greenfield Savings Bank, Montague police chief Chris

Williams will offer **his perspective on the topic of bullying**. Of course, some forms of bullying are obvious, as they include the physical and verbal abuse. Other times, bullying can be much more subtle, remaining just under the radar, as in social bullying. One is no less harmful than the other.

The town is very fortunate to have Chief Williams volunteer to bring this timely topic to GSB's Community Room. Feel free to come, learn, listen and participate! Light refreshments provided.

Readers in ten local towns, including Erving, Leverett, and Wendell, will be reading and discussing the book, "The Stranger in the Woods: The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit," by Michael Finkel.

Copies of the book are available at participating town libraries, and more information about the program and the complete schedule of events can be found at bit.ly/2H0tDPF or by calling Natane Halasz at the Leverett Library at (413) 548-

9220. Participants can also join the conversation by following "Libraries in the Woods" on Facebook.

This week's events include Montague Police Department's Officer Jim Ruddock with **K-9 Artie demonstrating tracking** on Sunday, March 17 from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Leverett Library, 75 Montague Road in Leverett. All are welcome to attend.

Celebrate National Agriculture Day on Wednesday, March 20 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Greenfield Savings Bank. The bank is **celebrating our local farmers** with a display set up in the lobby featuring a member of the Just Roots team.

There will be samples of winter greens that come alive with natural sugars as a result of the frost! Lightly roasted beets will also please your palate. Take part in a mystery seed identification activity and test your knowledge of a vegetable's humble beginnings. There will be plenty more talking point options and if interested, CSA farm shares available for purchase. Support our local farming community where "all things good" grow!

Looking ahead...

The **Friends of Gill pancake breakfast** will be held Saturday, March 23 at Gill Congregational Church from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

Both regular and blueberry pancakes, sausage and/or bacon will be served. Prices are \$7 for adults, \$3 for children under 10, and free for children under 4. There are a few unbaked, frozen apple pies left for sale at \$12. Proceeds go to the college scholarship fund.

"Municipal Socialism: A Conference on **Curbing Corporate Power & Expanding Democracy** in Our Towns" will be held on Saturday, March 30, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. at Greenfield Community College. At the workshops, experts will help activists and town officials explore the creation of publicly owned

and non-profit solar power, hydro power, affordable housing, broadband, public banking, expanded school services, and incentives for forming worker co-ops. Each workshop will address one of these topics with ample time for discussion.

Sponsored by the Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution (FCCPR). Morning snacks and a light lunch will be provided. The cost is \$15 per person, but nobody will be turned away for inability to pay. Register in advance at fccpr.us/conference-registration.

Also, there will be a **FCCPR General Assembly** meeting on Sunday, March 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Montague Common Hall, 34 Main Street, Montague Center.

If you are a leader of a community agency or faith-based organization, the owner of a business, restaurant, food processing facility, or residential facility, or an organizer of local festivals seeking to increase special event waste diversion, you may be interested in attending the **Business and Event Composting Workshop** at Honest Weight Artisan Beer, 131 West Main Street, Orange on Wednesday April 3.

Meet the experts: Amy Donovan of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, Rick Innes, owner/operator of Clear View Composting, Shomita Bhattacharya of the Center for EcoTechnology, and Deb Habib from Seeds of Solidarity. If you would like to increase your profitability and sustainability, pre-register for this event at bit.ly/RVSP-Composting.

Everyone will leave with concrete, feasible ideas on how to initiate or advance their composting and recycling efforts. And if that's not enough to convince you, there will be a complimentary light dinner provided by Nalini's Kitchen and you can grab a beer from Honest Weight! Contact Kat Kowalski at (978) 248-2055 x. 29 or kowalski@mountgrace.org with any questions.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

Montague Dems Hold Annual Election Caucus

On Thursday, March 21, 2019, the Montague Town Democrat Committee will hold its monthly committee meeting followed by the annual caucus to determine which Democrats will appear on the ballot for the May 20 town election.

The monthly meeting will be held at 6:30 in the Second Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls. State representative Natalie Blais will address the committee and answer constituent questions.

The Town Democratic Caucus will follow at 7 p.m.

Nominations will be made for the following open seats: Select-

man, 3 years; Town Clerk, 3 years; Treasurer/Tax Collector, 3 years; Assessor, 3 years; Board of Health, 3 years; Parks and Recreation Commission, 3 years; Tree Warden, 3 years; Montague Housing Authority, 3 years; Public Library Trustee, three 3-year positions and one 1-year position; Soldiers Memorial Trustee, Veteran, 3 years.

All registered Democrats and Unenrolled Town of Montague voters are invited to attend and vote on nominees. Any questions can be sent to the Chair of the Montague Dems, Mark Wisniewski, at mpwisniewski@gmail.com.

Montague: Interim Library Trustees Needed

MONTAGUE – Would you like to help support the Montague Libraries? Are you available for one or two evening meetings a month? Two interim Trustees are needed until the next town election in May.

If interested, please send a letter by Friday, March 22 to the Montague Public Libraries, 201 Ave. A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

For more information call Linda at 863-3214.

Spring Update from the Planter Committee

By OWEN WORMSER

TURNERS FALLS – 2018 was a great year for the planters on Avenue A, and a thank you is in order to the many supportive people and organizations that made this past growing season very successful!

One of the best developments was the addition of 10 new volunteers who joined in and contributed significant time towards caring for the planters. Their participation – coupled with the handful of devoted folks who have already been actively tending planters – helped make downtown look better than it has in years.

The few planters that had previously needed significant attention were cleaned up this past year, and started receiving care again. A number of other planters already in somewhat decent shape were spruced up further, including the newest ones on the corner of Avenue A and Third.

Additionally, 200 new flowering bulbs were added to the 600 that had already been planted in recent years, and over 200 new perennials were planted in 2018, joining the 600 perennials that had been installed during the previous two seasons!

Without devoted volunteers none of this could have been accomplished. Similarly, without the generous financial support provided by local businesses and organizations we wouldn't have been able to make this much progress. These donations are critical to the momentum that we've built and with this in mind we welcome future support; all donations are invested in full directly into the planters and your support can help significantly.

In 2019, we'll be focusing on

planting more plants and bulbs. We are also looking to bring in more volunteers – as well as publicity – now that the planters are starting to look more and more beautiful. If you or anyone else you know wants to help, please be in touch.

This update would not be complete without listing the donors and volunteers who deserve recognition and appreciation for their support. It can't be said enough that without these people and organizations, none of this would be possible!

Gratitude to the following volunteers for their ongoing donations of time, money, expertise and lots of sweat equity: Denise Aiken, John Carey, Emma Donnelly, Linda Hickman, Beverly Ketch, Suzanne LoManto, Rachel LaBrie, Annie Levine, Erin Maclean, Melinda McCreven, Kevin Potter, Carly Raber, Tom Sullivan, and Erin Wilensky.

A big thank you is also due to the following donors. Please show them your appreciation by giving them your business: \$500 from Greenfield Savings Bank; \$470 from the town of Montague; \$325 from Abound Design; \$100 from Center for Responsive Schools; \$100 from Glow Beauty Bar; \$100 from LOOT; \$50 from Mystic Pinball; \$50 from Stenhouse; \$40 from Martin's Farm Compost; \$40 from Gary's Coins; and \$20 from the Country Creemee.

And lastly, anyone interested in learning more about the planters is invited to a slide show and presentation I'll be giving at Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls, Saturday, March 23 at 10:30 a.m. Thanks!

Owen Wormser is the chair of Montague's planter committee.

LIVE IN
EST. 1754
MONTAGUE?

www.MontagueMA.net
local gossip, news & business listings

Nina's Nook
Uniquities,
Frivolities,
Un-necessariums
~ Creative items ~
bringing joy to life
Open 12 to 5 p.m.
Thursdays through Saturdays
125A Avenue A Turners Falls
413.834.8800
www.ninasnook.com

WE HEAT FRANKLIN COUNTY

- System 2000 (Energy Kinetics)
- Thermo Pride
- Weil-McLain
- Other Major Brands
- Expert Burner Service

MACKIN FUEL TRUCKING SAND & GRAVEL
(413) 773-3622

GREENFIELD FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE
Locally Owned Since 1918
269 High Street - Greenfield
(413) 773-9639
Local Farmer-Owned
Products for the home, farm, pets, yard & garden
If you Feed it - Seed it - Weed it We GOT it!
www.greenfieldfarmerscoop.com

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week
Week ending March 1:
Grade 6
Lizzie Reipold
Grade 8
Ashan Santiago
Related Arts
Jacob Reich

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666


REAL PICKLES
Locally grown vegetables
Fermented & raw
100% organic
A worker co-op in Greenfield, MA
www.realpickles.com | (413) 774-2600

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
DOORS & OPENERS
Devine Overhead Doors
Gerry Devine
106 West Street Hampshire: 586-3161
Hadley, MA. 01035 Franklin: 773-9497

Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Most Convenient
IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE
UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD
413-883-7323
Easy in-town location
Secure 24-hour access
OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA
Contractors, Flea Marketers, Tradeshow Vendors and Artists encouraged to inquire


RECORDER

PAPER
Week of March 18
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054

NANCY L. DOLE
BOOKS & EPHEMERA



BOOKS

20 State Street,
Bucklandside
Shelburne Falls
413-625-9850
ndole@crocker.com
closed Mondays and Fridays

Mesa Verde

Eat In or Take Out!

**BURRITOS,
BOWLS,
SOFT TACOS,
QUESADILLAS**

**Now Serving
BBC Steel Rail**

(413) 772-2531
10 Fiske Ave - downtown Greenfield
Hours: Mon - Sat 11:30 am - 9 pm

**Riverside
Laundromat**

131 West Main St. Orange
Behind OIC

&

**Village
Laundromat**

63 French King Hwy
Greenfield

**Tired of quarters?
\$1 coins & quarters accepted**

**Big 40 & 60
Pound Washers!**

PZ

**Partridge-Zschau
Insurance**

**With a Future
as Great as Our Past**

Since 1891

25 Millers Falls Road
Turners Falls, MA 01376
tel: 413-863-4331
www.pzinc.com

SMART from page A1

were designed to promote solar development on already-developed land, on brownfields, on buildings, and as “canopy,” such as panels mounted over parking lots. There is also an adder for “dual use” development on land also used for agriculture, such as panels mounted high over cranberry bogs, and there is a subtractor for land defined as greenfields.

According to Kelly, these adders and subtractors are meant to “steer [development] to optimal locations.” Kelly said that the SMART regulations were developed after “listening sessions with stakeholder groups,” beginning in 2016. “We went through a public process.”

However, according to one NHESAC participant, these adders and subtractors are “not a huge deterrent” to building solar projects on forested land. Statistics from the database of SMART applications indicate that, statewide, 52% of the large projects (those greater than 500 MW) did not have a greenfields subtractor.

One commenter said that, during the development of the regulations, the Nature Conservancy, the Trustees of Reservations and MassAudubon had “strongly recommended” using BioMap2 – an NHESP mapping program that identifies the state’s core and critical wildlife habitats – as an input to the program’s incentives and disincentives. But BioMap2 was not incorporated

into the regulations.

Under SMART, land use is divided into four categories: “Category 1 Agricultural,” land currently farmed or restricted to agriculture under Chapter 61A, the state program for real estate tax reductions on protected farmland; “Category 1 Non-agricultural,” land sited within a solar overlay district or land that complies with established local zoning explicitly addressing solar power generation; “Category 2,” land not currently developed but zoned commercial or industrial; and “Category 3,” all other land.

The largest subtractor is for developing on Category 3 land. There is a lower subtractor for Category 2 land, and no subtractor for Category 1 land.

The lack of a subtractor for agricultural land is meant to encourage “dual-use” projects, in which the same land is used for both agriculture and power generation. Kelly said that DOER had heard from “members of the agricultural community” requesting an incentive for agricultural solar projects.

However, SMART does not apply the greenfields subtractor for parcels where solar development is allowed by right or by special permit under local zoning regulations (“Category 1 Non-agricultural” land). According to the SMART application database, 38% of the statewide applications are for land designated “Category 1 Non-agricultural.”

GMRSD from page A1

supports, at the combined middle and high schools. “Now I’m sounding like a used car salesman, but you get all of that, and you don’t lose any staff,” he joked, referring to the combined middle school. His sample staffing proposal for the high school would cut three jobs.

And Mark Abrahams told the committee that the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) might agree not to cut Chapter 70 aid at all. “It’s hard for me to believe that DESE would penalize a district, to lose foundation aid, when DESE is promoting regionalization,” he said.

The state calculates aid based on a complex formula that factors in the number of students living in a district, demographic factors, and enrollment in the schools. If the state does not make a special exception, the six towns joined together would likely fall below the threshold for increases in Chapter 70, instead collecting a “minimum” increase of \$20 per student per year.

“Gill-Montague was a minimum-aid community up until Fiscal ‘20,” he reminded the committee. “Then your foundation grew enough to have extra Chapter 70 aid.” The proposal could mean a loss of \$204,000 per year for Gill and Montague.

“The estimated impact of merging teacher contracts and health benefits would be minimal,” the consultants concluded, after giving an arcane explanation: fitting Gill-Montague staff into Pioneer’s pay scale and benefits package would cost the towns on salaries, save them on healthcare and cost them on dental, for a loss of \$22,000; if Gill-Montague’s contract is used, they would still lose on salaries, save less on healthcare, but also save on dental for a combined loss of \$11,000.

Perhaps the most foreboding numbers the Abrahams Group presented were the breakdowns of how the six towns would be assessed for their annual contributions. There are a number of different methods a district can use to split a bill, but of the four the group studied, all four result in Northfield seeing significant savings over what it is now paying Pioneer – and all four would cost Gill more, to the tune of anywhere from \$12,000 a year to \$140,000.

Montague, by far the largest town of the six, would fare differently under the different models: if the state “statutory” method is used it might stand to slightly save, but if towns are assessed based on a five-year average of their foundation enrollment, it could cost the town nearly half a million dollars a year more than it is now paying into Gill-Montague.

Asked how forested land was considered under SMART, Kelly replied, “It depends... If it complies with local zoning, it is put into Category 1.”

When she was asked, “Are we opening the door to 61A lands to be developed?”, Kelly replied, “We rely on the towns, and rely on the developer to tell us that land is in 61A [protected farmland]... Forest management under 61 [protected forest land] is not explicitly covered under our program.”

Zara Dowling, a member of the New Salem energy committee and conservation commission, commented that local towns passed solar zoning bylaws in order to qualify for state Green Communities grants long before SMART existed. She said that the towns did not intend to open large amounts of undeveloped land to solar development when they passed those bylaws.

NHES program staffer Jesse Leddick said that, “towns want to step in” to limit solar development on forested land, “but they can’t.” In Wendell, for instance, several locations in town are zoned for solar by right, and the rest of the town is zoned for solar development with special permit approval by the planning board. One NHESAC participant noted that the entire town of Pelham was zoned for solar development.

Kelly told NHESAC that a review of how well the SMART program was working was scheduled

for when 400 MW worth of projects – out of 1,600 MW the entire program will allot – have received a Statement of Qualification of their eligibility. This review, she said, is intended to allow for adjustment of adder and subtractor values to better promote solar projects on a diversity of location types, as well as to remove or amend other problematic provisions.

Kelly said that the program was “growing faster than we expected,” and that this review would therefore be held sooner than DOER had expected. In the first week of the program, DOER received over 800 MW worth of applications. Kelly told the committee that the program review was expected to begin in March.

Asked whether there would be a pause in issuing Statements of Qualification to projects in the queue until after the review is completed, Kelly said there would not be. “Any changes will not go into effect until next year,” she explained. “We need to complete the regulatory process. There is no provision to halt the program for review.”

Asked by Dowling whether MassWildlife or NHESP could have official status during the program review, Kelly replied, “We haven’t formulated what the review is going to look like.” She added, however, that members of the public would be allowed to make comments during the review.



“If you’ve seen other districts merge and regionalize,” business manager Joanne Blier asked, “how do you get around these big spikes? I don’t see a town wanting to pay a 12% increase in their assessment.”

“You look [for] a methodology that provides more equity – more similarity in the results for each community,” Mark Abrahams told her. “The more communities you have, the bigger a challenge that is.”

Sullivan showed the committee possible staffing configurations for a 6–8 middle school at Northfield and a high school at Turners Falls. He did not, he said, shift Gill Elementary’s sixth grade to the middle school. “This is just work I did at my desk over a couple-day period,” he said, based on combining current staff levels and comparing the result with demographically similar districts elsewhere in the state.

“This analysis is crude, preliminary, and only considers faculty staffing,” Sullivan added. He showed what could be accomplished if the the towns’ 38 current staff and 448 students were combined at one middle school, with six classes at each grade level and a restored complement of counselors and special subject teachers.

At the high school, his model would cover the 379 students with 45.5 full-time-equivalent teachers rather than the current 49.2.

“None of the elementary schools are taken into account, from either town,” Montague’s Cassie Damkoehler observed.

“We wanted to say, ‘everything else being equal if we made this combination,’” Sullivan explained. “We compared apples to apples.”

And he shared a model of a merged central office, which would reduce the towns’ current 28 administrators, clerks, and technicians to 19, at significant savings, even with an “assistant superintendent” position during the transitional period.

Committee members expressed skepticism about some of those particulars. Montague’s Jen Lively asked whether a single facilities director would be able to cover all of a merged district’s schools, and Damkoehler and Thomasina Hall asked whether some positions, such as the pupil services director and director of technology, would require new assistants.

“Even a district with 2,000 students is kind of small, if you look across the state,” Blier told them, “and most of these positions are one-offs throughout districts – it is pretty typical for each of these positions to just be a single person, even if there’s 4,000 students.”

“What I find most compelling about this,” Sullivan said, “is not about the money, but the potential to offer our students a much more comprehensive and robust education, at the middle and high school levels, than we have now. The trajectory at all four schools, the middle and high schools of both districts, is difficult... We’re having a hard time offering the things we’d like to offer.”

No votes were taken.

FY’20 Budget

The committee voted to approve a final general fund budget of \$19,932,858 for the next fiscal year, drawing \$150,000 from the “excess and deficiency” fund (E&D), the equivalent of free cash.

The budget includes proposed assessments to the town of Montague of \$10,035,821, an increase of 4.4% over the current year, and to Gill of \$1,634,027, an increase of 0.8%.

Though the committee did not alter the figures, it discussed at some length proposals to add staff positions at the secondary level that deal with counseling, behavior, and discipline. The administration intends to hire a second dean of students, on the premise that the current dean is unable to meet her responsibilities at both the middle and high school, as well as a board-certified behavior analyst, a position eliminated in a prior year.

Staff have also urged the hiring of another adjustment counselor, and committee members firmly supported that request, while expressing some skepticism about the need for a second dean.

“In layman’s terms, I’d say we’re putting out fires,” newly hired assistant principal Mike Duprey told them.

“We have heard, repeatedly, that to do discipline and school climate work well, when an incident of negative behavior happens, we don’t have the manpower for good communication and some restorative practices to restore relationships,” said Sullivan. “There is nothing more directly speaking to that need than having another person that does that exact work.”

Montague’s Mike Langknecht recommended voting the budget after hearing from Sullivan and Blier that money could be shifted from certain funds that wouldn’t count as “revenue,” such as the school choice revolving fund, to hire another adjustment counselor, and then patch those funds from E&D down the road.

Blier noted that she was “not as comfortable” as Sullivan about the plan to further expand payroll, pointing out that the district has been enjoying

see GMRSD page A8

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Bringing Peace to Tired Muscles
Start the year right!

Let me help


Gretchen Wetherby LMT

Massage Offices in Shelburne Falls and Millers Falls
www.gretchenwetherby.massagetherapy.com

gretchenwlm@gmail.com 413-824-7063

French King

Restaurant & Motel



OPEN BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER
WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY 7 A.M.

 **OrigamiUSA**

*Origami is for anyone,
anywhere, anytime!*

Join us at: **OrigamiUSA.org**
Email: **admin@origamiusa.org**
Tel: **212.769.5635**

- Find a local community origami group
- Fold from diagrams in our publications
- Shop for origami paper and books
- And much more!

STRIKE from page A1

more plastic into stores comes at a time when many towns in the area, including Greenfield, Athol, and Amherst, have approved measures to phase out plastic bags.

Stop & Shop management has not replied to requests from the *Montague Reporter* for comment over the last two weeks, but the company website still says that the labor costs associated with paying for union labor is hindering the company's ability to compete in

the regional market. Housey told the *Reporter* the company is portraying its wage and benefit package being better than other, non-union, chains as a negative, while the union sees the benefits it has successfully won during past negotiations as an argument for its members to pay dues.

Ahold Delhaize has been buying out unionized chains in the region for years, including A&P and Edwards, and despite its complaints of high labor costs, Housey point-

ed out that the company continues to grow and have profits in the billions of dollars. According to Ahold Delhaize's website, the company is currently carrying out a \$1.1 billion stock buyback program.

Housey said that if the company can afford to pay shareholders billions of dollars to buy back its own shares, then it shouldn't be cutting wages, pensions, and health and welfare benefits "off the backs of the workers."



Homecooking
A Community
Cooking Show
In Turners Falls
For a spot on this MCTV production
Email: HannahBrookman@gmail.com

CHECKOUT from page A1

and Mesa Verde – all merchants I visit on a regular basis, and that you might as well.

I also read through a list of projects that had been funded in 2017, some of which I was familiar with, and even supportive of: the Shea Theater revitalization, the pay-what-you-can Stone Soup Cafe, the town-owned permaculture garden in Wendell, Just Roots Farm in Greenfield, and a worker-owner start-up called the Compost Cooperative, whose goal is to empower former prison inmates.

Further reading encouraged me to follow three steps to becoming a member myself, allowing for individual participation in an "economic democracy." I added the flyer to the neatly-filed pile on the table and went about my business, as usual. I was going to need more than a simple 1, 2, 3 steps to get me included in the next round of participatory funding.

The extra push I needed came in the form of a front-page *Greenfield Recorder* article regarding that fledgling worker-owner cooperative composting business, which I read with interest. It listed Common Good as one of its many funders – there they were again.

Just a few days later came the request to write an article on Common Good for the *Montague Reporter*. Perfect: I could learn and share at the same time.

Here's some of what I learned:

Common Good supports the local economy by encouraging a system that is of mutual benefit to the entire community. A system that is, in fact, a form of mutual credit.

Members contribute funds to a general pool in exchange for Common Good credits, which then circulate through an electronic payment system. Members can use cards or phones, via an app, to make purchases from participating businesses.

These businesses benefit from the support and loyalty of customers, as well as by saving money on credit card fees. They then continue circulating the credits through the system by using them to purchase products from other local vendors that use Common Good credits.

A simple example would be a grocery store that does business with a local pickle producer. In order to keep their shelf stocked with pickles, they can use their credits to purchase more pickles from the producer, who, in turn, might use their credits to purchase products needed in the manufacture of their pickled products, or to purchase office supplies at another local member store, or perhaps even as a way to pay their employees. These dollars now remain close to home, with the potential for multiplying benefits while keeping them out of the hands of corporate chains.

For the membership, utilizing credit rather than actual dollars creates a community "wealth pool" to re-invest through the granting of start-up loans, and continuance support loans, of the type issued to the compost cooperative mentioned earlier. Members can choose their level of participation, and are encouraged to vote in the annual round of funding of local projects.

And this, I was assured by member Emily Monosson of Montague Center, is what differentiates Common Good from being just another "local currency." I spoke with her regarding the system and her experiences using it as a consumer; she is also a member of the board of Common Good.

Emily shared her delight regarding its "ease of use," not only for at-the-register purchases with a phone and app provided to the business by Common Good, but also as an online resource for the purchase of member products. She spoke of the card enabling her to easily purchase and ship local food products as gifts, and the convenience of moving "dollars" to a friends' account on an occasion when she owed her money, and instead paid her with Common Good credits.

Her excitement was contagious. As we spoke, I shared my story of attempting to donate a small, affordable monthly amount to a local online fundraising campaign, and being denied the ability to contribute my small amount as a result of card-user minimums. A local Common Good platform for donating already exists, and so I suggested that this important local provider of services consider membership. Had he and I both been members, he could have gracefully accepted my donation and avoided fees by using Common Good.

Emily continued the conversation, bemoaning the fact that the tax collector at the Montague town offices would only accept credit card payments with an additional \$3.50 fee attached to the bill. Perhaps the town would consider Common Good membership? They, too, could then use their credits at Baker Office Supply!

Although not technically a "bank," we were talking about money, and a system that, though grassroots in nature, also has the capacity to circulate dollars in the thousands.

We chuckled before going on to discuss the amount that credit card companies charge vendors and how it all adds up, and noting two new Common Good members in our community: Red Fire North farm store located on Route 63, which launched last year, and Drawdown Montague, a new group devoted to actions responding to climate change. Drawdown Montague is one of the sponsors of an upcoming event on from 1 to 4 p.m. on March 31 at Element Brewing in Millers Falls: Montague's first-ever "Fix-it Clinic," where experienced "fixers" can help folks tackle their broken stuff. (Information on this event is available at repairpublic.org.)

Emily, as a board member, was able to address other questions I had regarding the Common Good card and its use. Setting up an account, she assured me, is easy. Since it is an electronic system, signing up can be completed online. It requires fill-

ing out a few forms to connect your membership to your bank account for the initial transfer of funds; "purchasing" Common Good credits; signing the "Common Good Agreement," a goodwill agreement signed by all members, whether business or individual; and uploading a photo for the card, which is then sent in the mail.

There is no minimum amount to open an account. Once the card arrives, fully integrated into the system, it can be used to make purchases. The businesses charge the customer by scanning a QR code printed on the card, using a cashier phone with the Common Good app.

Now the power has shifted, simple as that. Dollars out of "circulation," yet continuing to flow. Enriching and benefiting the community in small ways, yet within an alive and growing system.

Software to Root Beer, and Beyond

William Spademan, a software engineer and resident of Ashfield, founded the non-profit organization, the Society to Benefit Everyone, which does business as Common Good. With a few others, he first launched, the community of Common Good Greenfield in 2013. Its first purchase at Franklin Community Cooperative (Green Fields Market) was a case of root beer to celebrate the occasion.

Shortly after launching, Common Good Greenfield shut down to make adjustments and improvements, and to work on the development of the app. It was then re-launched and has functioned as a pilot system in the Greenfield area for the past five years.

In 2018, Common Good extended its reach to the Amherst and Northampton area by recruiting members and businesses, and con-

tinues with outreach to expand the system. Currently there are over 300 members and 65 businesses, as well as sibling communities in Indiana and Michigan.

The most recent funding round of 14 projects amounted to nearly double the previous years funding, with \$19,000 used to fund projects in food systems, sustainable and renewable energy, small business development, social justice, and the arts. All of these are local, and some are right here in our own backyard.

Just Roots, a local Greenfield community farm, received support for a monthly Local Food Clinic to address food insecurity; Eggtooth Productions, to host a Radical Interconnectedness Festival to shed light on societal issues through art; Root Studio, an up-and-coming nonprofit yoga-based mentorship program led by Andrea Chesnes, to serve teen girls in Turners Falls who struggle with poverty, abuse, addiction and sexism.

The system's ease of use was certainly clarified by now, and its potential benefits also convinced me of its good. Yet, when I considered actually investing in the system, I met a block within my mind. It was *risk*.

Although not technically a "bank," we were talking about money, and a system that, though grassroots in nature, also has the capacity to circulate dollars in the thousands. And so I asked, *What about risk? What if I want out?*

At that point, Emily directed me to staff person Ivan Ussach, who lives in Warwick, and also serves as the director of the public library there. When I asked him to address the risk factor and access to personal funds, he provided this statement:

"CG members may cash out any unspent Common Good Credit in their account when needed. To ensure that decisions made together by community members to fund community projects do not in any way impair a member's access to funds in their own personal account, all such project funding is required to be backed by sponsors who choose to do so to maintain the system's financial stability. Any member may choose the option to be a backer at any amount level."

Well, good enough for me. The current membership of 300 members and 65 businesses, including sibling Common Good communities in Indiana and Michigan, have made total transactions so far of \$2 million.

For those seeking more information on Common Good, its platform and potential, the home page at CommonGood.earth has a Twitter account that includes coverage by local newspapers. Exploring beyond the signup page reveals a wealth of details, including contact information at the bottom of each page.



Common Good member Daniel Ritchie buys ice cream at Bart's in Northampton.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!

DOLAN & DOLAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

174 AVENUE A
TURNERS FALLS MASSACHUSETTS
01376
413-863-3133

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

Call 413.549.3766
LEGAL SOLUTIONS IN PLAIN ENGLISH, PC

Business Law, Liquor Licenses, Special Permits,
Zoning & Land Use, Civil Litigation. (And More.)

KRISTI A. BODIN, ESQ.

150 Fearing Street, Suite 23, Amherst, MA 01002
Tel 413.549.3766 · fax 800.760.1225 · cell 413.695.9848
KAB@LAWYERAMHERSTMA.COM · WWW.KABESQ.COM

Open every day, 10 to 6

BOOK MILL
440 Greenfield Rd.
Montague, MA 01351

413-367-9206 www.montaguebookmill.com
Books you don't need in a place you can't find.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

National Grid Makes Its Case

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The first item on the Wendell selectboard's March 6 agenda was a meeting with three representatives from National Grid. That part of the posted agenda, postponed from February 20, drew enough interest from citizens that the meeting was moved from the selectboard office to the meeting room down the hall, where every interested person at least had a seat. The subject was National Grid's intention to lease or buy a three-acre section of the town-owned property at 97 Wendell Depot Road, to allow them to install a mobile substation.

The stated purpose of the mobile substation is to allow repairs, maintenance, and possible upgrades to the system without disrupting delivery of electric power. The company leased the property in 2010 for a similar purpose, fencing in the area in question and installing a temporary substation while they increased the capacity of the Wendell Depot substation.

Selectboard chair Dan Keller said the National Grid discussion had to be contained in the first hour of the meeting, since another group was scheduled for 8 p.m. Greg Walsh from National Grid began with a proposal to lease the three acres and the access road to that land for \$1,200 a month, \$14,400 a year. Walsh briefly went over the extent of transmission wires that National Grid owns and maintains, and noted that improvements to the substation would add to its value and increase the property tax it pays Wendell.

When asked if Wendell agreed to the contract, Keller asked whether the proposed community solar project that would also be sited at 97 Wendell Depot Road could be connected through the mobile substation. Walsh answered that the project is not first in line, but would fall in its proper place: National Grid, he said, must review all applications for connection in order, and not discriminate.

Board member Christine Heard was not at the meeting. Keller and Laurie DiDonato, the board members who were there, deferred signing the contract until Heard's return, and until town counsel had time to review it. National Grid plans to maintain the mobile substation from October 2019 into 2021.

The state's former Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SREC) program has been superseded by a newer program called Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART). The program was expected to fill gradually through 2023 or 2024, but applications for new solar projects filled the target of generating capacity within a week. SMART provides a lucrative business model for large-scale solar installations, and their proponents were ready when the program was opened.

Walsh said there is still capacity to allow home solar installations. Citizen Jim Thornley asked what is the difference between 50 home installations and the same 50 installations concentrated in community solar. Possibly in response, Walsh said that adding too many solar installations to the grid at once could increase the line voltage trip breakers and cause interruptions in service.

Citizen Mary Thomas objected

that the upgrades could include extending three-tier (three-phase) wires to other parts of Wendell, New Salem Road, Montague Road, and West Street, allow forests to be cleared for solar installations throughout town, and permanently degrade the town's character. She said the prior solar installer who put in a project painted themselves as environmentalists, and mounted a public relations campaign against Wendell's conservation commission, whose jurisdiction over any project concerns only its impact on wetlands.

Walsh said the potential for solar development in forested land is not unique to Wendell. Older rules did not favor large-scale projects, but the new ones do. "These guys are not responsible for the projects," DiDonato said.

National Grid may not be pushing to extend three-phase wires because they are required to maintain a ten-foot clear area on all sides of them. Walsh said that before it does any work, National Grid needs to conduct a major study of the region's transmission and distribution needs and projections. All large-scale solar projects are being scrutinized, and "projects come and go all the time."

Before leaving, Walsh said he would give his card to Greg Garrison of Northeast Solar, the consultant who helped develop the community solar plan.

Preservation Efforts

When 8 p.m. came the National Grid representatives left, and four Wendell citizens, Kathy Becker, Jim Slavav, Joe Coll, and Adrian Montagano, came in with the intention of getting help preserving the old town hall curtain. That curtain is one of three that remain, and is the only one that the original painter, Thurston Munson, came back and touched up. It sat on the town hall stage, was moved to the small dirt floor town hall basement, then to the office building utility room, where at least it was dry. It was rescued from there, and now sits dry in Keller's barn. He said it can stay there, and at least be out of the weather.

Becker said the curtain was paid for by advertisements from businesses so old that their telephone numbers were three digits. She proposed hanging it, taking a picture, and Photoshopping that picture into a restoration. A true museum restoration would be prohibitively expensive, although Mantagano mentioned the possibility of a grant, even from the Smithsonian.

Mantagano said there are "historic drips" from when the roof leaked, and a hole cut out in the bottom for children to emerge from as part of a performance. He described the painstaking process of restoring the curtain square inch by square inch, but said it was possible.

For now Becker, said preservation is the feasible goal: photograph it, wrap it in breathable Tyvek. The selectboard members agreed to create a curtain preservation committee, and signed appointment slips, printed right then by town coordinator Nancy Aldrich, for Becker, Coll, and Slavav.

Montagano stayed to ask board permission to make a photographic essay of the house at 97 Wendell

Depot Road, originally the Martin Hager house. He would be accompanied by building inspector Phil Delorey. He has been in contact with descendants of the original builders, and said some of their kin are buried in the meetinghouse cemetery, and that someone was interested in buying the building.

Keller said there was also someone else interested in buying the building: citizen Anna Seeger, who would renovate it as a rental property.

Other Business

Margo Culley has resigned from Wendell's board of registrars, and the selectboard needs to appoint someone else from the town's short list of registered Republicans.

Town clerk Gretchen Smith hopes to include a debt exclusion vote for the new town bucket loader. Wording both for and against that vote must define precisely what a "for" vote means, and what an "against" vote means.

Christine Heard has suggested that the selectboard remain as municipal light plant (MLP) through construction of the town's fiber-optic internet system. After construction the selectboard favors an appointed MLP.

Options for creating that MLP include placing a warrant article for the annual town meeting that would authorize the MLP but not include appointment, and not placing an article until construction is completed.

FACES & PLACES



DAVID HOITTE PHOTO

Congratulations to Turners Falls High School boys' basketball ace Tyler Lavin for his selection to the 2019 Western Massachusetts Senior All-Star Games. Sixty of Western Massachusetts' best senior players will participate in the event at the Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams in the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, next Friday, March 22.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Annual Budget, Truck Ban Go To May Town Meeting

By KATIE NOLAN

On Monday, the selectboard and finance committee voted to approve the warrant for the May 1 annual town meeting, with a \$10.9 million FY'20 budget. The warrant also includes a bylaw to prohibit heavy commercial vehicles from using North Street and Church Street.

The cost for the FY'20 general operating budget, including general government, public safety, public works, health and human services, culture and recreation, and benefits, is \$4.5 million. The next most expensive items are Erving Elementary School at \$3.2 million, secondary school education at \$1.3 million, and the wastewater enterprise fund at \$770,000.

Other major expenses are for Franklin County Technical School at \$581,000, and capital improvements – including roadwork and sidewalk repairs, computer replacement at Erving Elementary, site preparation for a highway department storage building, and other items – at \$431,000.

Selectboard chair Scott Bastarache noted that the \$3.2 million for Erving Elementary School was less than originally requested by the school committee, but, after speaking with school administrators, he felt they could work with the lower budget. (The school committee planned to finalize their budget on Wednesday.)

The truck restriction bylaw

would prohibit the use and operation of commercial vehicles having a carrying capacity of more than 2½ tons from Church and North Streets. Heavy commercial vehicles making deliveries to properties on those streets would not be restricted.

According to information provided in the warrant, a traffic engineering study was conducted for the area, and the state Department of Transportation (MassDOT) has approved it. However, the restriction is not enforceable until the bylaw is approved.

Expenses for FY'20 employee wage cost of living adjustment (COLA) and merit raises were not included among the expenditures on the warrant. According to an introductory letter to the budget prepared by the board, "The Town is currently engaged in a study to review all non-union jobs, classifications, and the compensation schedule. The Board and the Finance Committee have agreed to review the findings in May and recommend compensation adjustments at the June 2019 Special Town Meeting."

Street Engineering

Highway foreman Glenn McCrory presented proposals from engineering firms Tighe & Bond and Weston & Sampson for reconstruction of River, Strachan, and Warner Streets.

The Weston & Sampson proposal, for \$72,500, included 200 hours of onsite engineering oversight.

The Tighe & Bond proposal, at approximately \$20,000 less, included only four hours of onsite oversight. However, Tighe & Bond included coring to determine the layers in the roadbed, while Weston & Sampson expected the town to conduct the coring.

Noting that the project is more complicated than previous roadwork the town has done, Bastarache said, "To me, the additional hours of engineering oversight are worth it."

"If it is done right," McCrory commented, "there will be a 20- to 30-year life for the project." The board voted to accept the Weston & Sampson proposal, with the proviso that coring would be included, even at the expense of cutting out up to 10 of the oversight hours.

Other Business

After discussion with the board of assessors and assistant assessor Jacqueline Boyden, the selectboard decided not to post assessors' property cards online.

According to Boyden, she receives approximately 12 requests for property cards per year, and the cost to post the cards is \$1,500.

Bastarache said, that, although he was in favor of government transparency, posting the cards would not be financially responsible.

The board awarded the bid for supplying and installing a new Generac propane generator at the police station to Authorized Services of New England for \$19,985.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Edward J. Terault
(413) 223-5494
www.REILCLEAN.com



• Complete Custodial Services •
• Bonded and Insured •

"We Don't Cut Corners, We Clean Them!"

Cleaning Franklin & Hampshire Counties since 1972

Dudek Tax Service
10 Masonic Ave
Turners Falls
MA 01376
Frank J. Dudek

413.863.5394 - Office
413.775.3327 - Cell
frankd_74@yahoo.com

Brian R. San Soucie
LOCKSMITH - CRL
certified - bonded - insured

863-2471
28 Montague St
Turners Falls, MA

Trusted for over 25 years, installing all types of
locks & entry devices for business & homes



- Dead Bolts
- Household Lock Sets
- Master Keys & Re-keys
- Safe Combinations Changed

MONTAGUE from page A1

"And you're thinking this \$2,500 you're proposing should be funded by the town?" asked selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz.

"Yes," said Francis.

Kuklewicz, who said he was playing "devil's advocate," went on to suggest that the funding might come from "contributions or booth fees." Francis replied that the booth fees were currently "very modest," and that if they were raised, there would be fewer vendors. She said the market served "a lot of people in downtown Turners Falls, a lot of low-income people."

Downtown Turners Falls resident David Detmold said he and Suzette Snow-Cobb had come to the meeting to support the farmers market, which both had coordinated in the late 1990s. "The idea of the town paying a stipend for the coordinator, that's a new one on me," Detmold said. "I'm not familiar with other towns that do that." He said there might be grant funding or business support for the position.

Detmold then raised the issue of the market's location. He said the current location was once "a busy part of town," but now was not as busy, with cars speeding off the Gill-Montague bridge. This precipitated a discussion of potentially moving the market down Avenue A to Peskeompskut Park, or the nearby St. Anne's church parking lot.

Town planner Walter Ramsey said that one reason Francis had

come before the board was to "let the public know we are in a transition phase here," and that perhaps someone would "step up" to become the volunteer coordinator. He told the board he had agreed to "facilitate a discussion with stakeholders, and we're going to go through all the issues – time and place, who's going to coordinate – and hopefully we will be able to formulate a little more of an idea."

The board did not take a vote on the issue. The market traditionally opens at the beginning of May.

Health and Culture

The meeting opened with a lengthy "public comment" from Detmold. First, he said he supported the proposal, from retiring public health director Gina McNeely, that the town reinstitute the public health nurse, a position discontinued in 2016. He said support for a nurse was "the first issue I signed a petition for when I first moved to Montague."

Detmold also suggested that the town consider adopting the Community Preservation Act, which allows cities and towns to preserve land, preserve historic buildings, and finance low-income housing through a property tax surcharge and distributions from a state fund. He noted that a number of towns near Montague had adopted the measure since it was taken off the table in Montague more than a decade ago.

Kuklewicz requested that Ramsey give the selectboard "an update on that."

Suzanne LoManto, the director of RiverCulture, came before the board to present the organization's "Mid-Year Report." RiverCulture organizes cultural activities throughout Montague, and LoManto's position has become a tax-funded staff position.

LoManto said that RiverCulture has recently brought in \$97,000 through "sponsors, program income, grants, and in-kind donations." She said the Montague Common Hall in Montague Center had just received a grant from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, which she had alerted the Common Hall's board about.

LoManto told the board that Hillary Emerson-Lay had resigned from the RiverCulture steering committee and that Lucinda Kidder had offered to take her place. The board accepted the resignation and appointed Kidder until June 30.

Code Switching

Energy committee member Chris Mason came before the board with a proposal to allow officials from Montague to vote on the 2021 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). He explained the process by which the town could have up to three votes on the code, which materials he distributed say "is the model code for new buildings built in the United States and beyond."

The flyer states that "the code maximizes building efficiency and safety, and minimizes carbon pollution and energy bills."

Although the flyer stated that a community of Montague's size would be entitled to four votes, Mason presented a scenario whereby the town might have eight. The selectboard was hesitant to vote on the measure without further discussion.

"I'm not sure how many proposals are in there," said Kuklewicz. "The code I am familiar with is the electrical code." He suggested that the board hold off a decision until it had consulted with the town building inspector.

The board did not take a vote on the issue.

Other Business

Administrative assistant Wendy Bogusz suggested that the Annual Report, which is distributed at the May annual town meeting, be dedicated to former selectboard member Patricia Pruitt and to former town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, both of whom have recently passed away.

The board voted to endorse the idea.

Ramsey requested that the board execute a state Recreational Trails grant to improve boat access to the

Millers River in Millers Falls. The board approved the request.

The board also voted to approve a \$31,136 contract for engineering/design services for Complete Streets projects, and apply for a state Green Communities grant for improved lighting at the public safety complex, Unity Park, and the Sheffield school administration building.

The board executed an agreement with Northeast Roofing Consultants for "design and supervision" of roof replacements at the Shea Theater and town hall annex.

Town administrator Steve Ellis told the board that he had completed the state-mandated trainings related to procurement.

Ellis discussed a letter from the FirstLight Power Resources about its proposal before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to divide its holdings in the region into two corporations during the federal relicensing process. The letter reiterated FirstLight's argument that the corporate reorganization is unrelated to the relicensing.

The board retired to an executive session to discuss the release of minutes of a large number previous executive sessions. The next selectboard meeting will be on March 18 at the town hall.

**FOOD CITY** from page A1

to provide that."

Current employees contacted by the Reporter were hesitant to comment on the news, having recently been handed a 15-page packet of information about a significant and seemingly complex corporate reorganization they had not yet had time to digest.

"It came very suddenly, and I have not had time to wrap my head around it," one employee at the Turners Falls store, who asked to remain anonymous, said this week. Others echoed his sentiment.

A Piece of the Pie...

Employee stock ownership plans date to the early twentieth century. Companies like Sears Roebuck, J.C. Penney, and Pillsbury allocated stock to employees' retirement accounts, in a form of what was called "profit sharing."

The modern version of the ESOP was pioneered by San Francisco economist and lawyer Lewis Kelso, according to the website of the Menke Group, which bills itself as "one of the leading firms in the United States in structuring Employee Stock Ownership Plan Transactions." Kelso developed a plan for a northern California newspaper chain to use stock-based retirement accounts as a vehicle for employee ownership when the chain's owners retired.

Changes in the tax code, particularly those in the Early Retirement Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), encouraged ESOPs by allowing employee trust funds to borrow money for the original stock purchase from former owners.

The number of employee-owned companies has increased dramatically since the 1970s. The Menke website lists a number of factors that account for this: more favorable tax treatment; the growing importance of the service sector in the

American economy; and the decline in the unionized work force, with its more traditional retirement arrangements negotiated through collective bargaining.

There are several large employee-owned supermarket chains in the country. These include PUBLIX, which employs 190,000 people mainly in the southeastern states, and WinCo, in the west.

Piquet called the ESOP a "get rich slow scheme," noting that "it takes a while to build value" in employee stock.

The popularity – and complexity – of ESOPs has spawned a number of investment companies that specialize in employee ownership consulting. Food City is being advised by the Washington, DC-based Ambrose Advisors. Marcus Piquet, a senior managing director at the firm, described the corporate reorganization and its impact on employees.

Piquet said the company's stock has been transferred to a trust fund for employees. Purchase of that stock is "leveraged" through borrowing from the company's previous owner, and the borrowing is then paid back over time from company profits. As the loan is repaid, portions of the stock then devolve to individual shareholders – the employees, based on their percentage of the company's total compensation. The process will take at least 15 years.

Most eligible Food City employees, those who work at least 1,000 hours per year, become "vested" in their portion of the stock over a six-year period. For example, in the second year of the program,

employees will only own 20% of their stock, increasing to 100% by the sixth year.

In 2024, therefore, any current employees still working at the store will own 100% of their share of the company's stock – though, until the Sklars' loan is repaid, the employees' stock will not reach its maximum value.

A Seat at the Table?

Like most stockholders, Food City employees will not vote on day-to-day corporate decision-making. The trust is controlled by a trustee, who also sits on the company's board of directors, which continues to set corporate policy. That trustee will also control all the trust's shares which have not yet been allocated to employees.

Piquet said the Maine bank Spinaker Trust will be the designated trustee during the transition.

If, however, there is what Piquet called a "major corporate event" – such as a significant company reorganization, dissolution or liquidation – employee-stockholders might be required to vote. Votes would correspond with the amount of stock each employee owns at that time, which will be based on their share of the company's total compensation.

Piquet called the ESOP a "get rich slow scheme," noting that "it takes a while to build value" in employee stock. However, both he and Sklar said they believe that stock ownership will give Food City employees a greater incentive to improve the company, including its customer service. They also stated that a strong, committed employee culture also already exists at the chain.

"The ESOP does not create the culture," said Anlai Jiao, a manager at Ambrose Advisors. "Usually, you already have a strong employee culture at businesses that consider ESOPs."



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was March 12, 2009: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Many Ways – And Slender Means

The Joint Ways and Means Committee of the Massachusetts House and Senate convened a budget hearing at the Turners Falls High School on Monday. Amid calamitous economic indicators and op-ed predictions of a national recession of historic proportions, the committee – or at least most of its Western and Central Massachusetts members – assembled on the stage of the recently renovated auditorium to take testimony from state and local education leaders, local officials, and members of the public.

The meeting lasted for six hours, most of that speeches about public education. By the time the general public began speaking, many letting their legislators know what they thought could be done to improve the delivery of education in the district, only four of the dozen or so legislators remained on the stage.

Landscape Alchemy

A cool project is about to take shape on one of the run-down concrete pathways leading from the Hill to downtown Turners Falls.

After a request for proposals was evaluated, the Turners Falls RiverCulture project has awarded a \$4,500 contract, which the selectboard signed on Monday, to Sebastian Gutwein and Associates of Greenfield, to design and build a "Woven River" art installation that incorporates natural elements like stone and living trees with historic relics and, of course, bricks and mortar, woven together with living willow and a wattle

hurdle flowing downhill, to connect the entire pathway project in a fluid representation of the past giving birth to the future.

Proposed Increase To Radiation Limits

Vermont's health department held a hearing this week to take public comment on a proposed rule change which would allow the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant to release 30% more radiation into the atmosphere during routine daily operations. The hearing was held at the Vernon Elementary School, the elementary school located closer than any other in the country to an operating nuclear power plant.

More than 30 people gathered in the gymnasium of the school, just a few hundred feet from the perimeter fence of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station. The Vermont Department of Health has proposed amendments to the state's radiological health rule, and this hearing was a state-mandated opportunity for the public to make official, on-the-record comments about the proposal.

Several residents of Gill and Colrain testified, in addition to nearly a dozen Vermonters.

All members of the public who spoke at the hearing were opposed to the rule change. Many argued that the proposed change in the way radiation is measured does not take more vulnerable people, such as children and pregnant women, into account.

Kathleen Krevetski, a nurse from Rutland, Vermont, stated that the new radiation standards "do not follow current state radiation regulations, which mandate that reasonable effort must be made to make sure exposure and doses of radiation are 'As Low As Reasonably Achievable'."

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!

Renaissance Excavating, Inc.



COMPLETE SITE WORK

Septic & Drainage Systems | Sand, Gravel & Loam

Main Road, Gill
Douglas Edson 413.863.4462
renexc@gmail.com cell 413.834.2201

Fred Holmgren
Piano Tuning & Repair



Stay tuned!

(978)544-5494
fredholmgren@gmail.com

Bryan Hobbs
Remodeling LLC



Blown Cellulose Insulation • Spray Foam Insulation
Airsealing • Energy Audits • Replacement Doors & Windows

Email: bryanhobbsremodeling@gmail.com
Now Accepting Credit Cards

Office: (413)775-9006
Lic # 083982
Reg # 139564

mass save
PARTNER

Bryan G. Hobbs
PO Box 1535
Greenfield, MA 01302

MONTAGUE REPORTER



Reporter volunteer Joan Morel of Greenfield recently returned from a trip to Ethiopia for a family wedding. Here she is in Addis Ababa's Meskel Square. The square is named after the traditional Meskel Festival; emperor Haile Selassie first used the square as the location for the annual Meskel bonfire.

Closer to home but traveling through time, Gill's Joe M. Parzych – the son and father of Montague Reporter contributors – enjoys reading the paper while looking at a traveling postcard exhibit at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. His son Joe R. tells us that he has enjoyed collecting antique postcards since the 1970s.



ON THE ROAD

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

GMRSD from page A4

a surge in tuition from Erving, which is expected to “dip” again after two years.

“We have to do whatever we can to fix these problems,” Damkoehler said. “If this is the first step – I know we have to balance the budget, but kids are going to go elsewhere.”

“If we don’t really invest in the issues that our schools are currently experiencing, people are not going to stay,” Lively agreed.

The committee approved the budget by an 8-0 vote, with Thomasina Hall abstaining. Hall, who recently volunteered to fill a vacant seat, has taken out papers to run for it in May districtwide elections.

Other Business

The committee approved a payment of \$511.20 to Bulkley, Richardson, the law firm that helped litigate against a medical billing firm last year, for work responding to

recent Freedom of Information Act requests concerning that process.

The committee plans to discuss in depth at its next meeting a recommendation to create an “equity steering committee” to lead on issues of discrimination and harassment among students. There will also be an update on the process of hiring a new principal to succeed Annie Leonard at the high school and middle school.

Hillcrest first-grade teacher Lori Saylor received this year’s Harold Grinspoon Excellence in Teaching Award. The committee gave her flowers, and congratulated her.

During the public comment period, a group of students from this weekend’s run of Disney’s The Little Mermaid serenaded the committee with a short song, and urged the public to check out the show.

The next school committee meeting will be held on March 26 at the high school.



March 23: RECOVER Project Pancake Breakfast & Fundraiser

GREENFIELD – Join The RECOVER Project for their 3rd annual All you can eat Pancake Breakfast & Fundraiser!

The breakfast takes place from 9 a.m. to noon next Saturday, March 23 at the Episcopal Church of Saints James and Andrew, 8 Church Street, Greenfield.

Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$3 for kids ages 4 to 10, and free for kids 3 and under.

The RECOVER Project is a program of the The Western Massachusetts Training Consortium, funded by the Massachusetts Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS) and the Department of Public Health. The RECOVER Project is looking for sponsors and local maple syrup donations for this event. Please connect with them if you are able to donate, at recoverprojectsocial@gmail.com or (413) 774-5489.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE! (12 WEEK MINIMUM.) CALL 863-8666.

BLUE DRAGON APOTHECARY
 CUSTOM CRAFTED HERBAL PRODUCTS
 TRADITIONAL MEDICINES & HOLISTIC HEALTH
 OFFERING BODYWORK AND CONSULTATIONS

RETAIL HOURS: TUE-FRI 10-6; SAT 10-4
 413-773-3730, INFO@BLUEDRAGONAPOTHECARY.COM
 158 MAIN ST, SUITE 10 GREENFIELD, MA 01301
 BLUEDRAGONAPOTHECARY.COM

FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CO-OP

144 MAIN STREET GREENFIELD, MA 01301 (413) 773-9567

3 STATE STREET SHELburnE FALLS, MA 01370 (413) 625-2548

SHANAHAN CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY Co. INC.
 SCSC "Rock solid service with level advice"

Complete Masonry Supply
 Offering a complete line of pavers, wall stone, retaining wall block and more. **Ideal**

298 Avenue A., Turners Falls 413-863-4322
 and at our new location 529 S. Main St, Brattleboro or 802-579-1800
www.shanahansupply.com

About-Face Computer Solutions

Turn your computer troubles around!

(413) 863-5447
 151 Avenue A, Turners Falls
WE FIX COMPUTERS!
www.about-facecomputers.com

magpie

- Pizzas
- Entrees
- Salads
- Full Bar & Patio

magpiepizza.com
 21 Bank Row, Gld. 413-475-3570

woodfired pizzeria

A BEAUTIFUL Smile Starts With Healthy Teeth

GEETU SHOKEEN, DMD

Montague Dental Arts
 General Dentistry
 300 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 • 413-863-2288

Peter Waters Painting Services

Interior/Exterior
 Custom Residential
 Fully Insured

Office: 978-544-6534
 Cell: 413-461-5172
 Wendell, MA
peterjwaters88@gmail.com

DIEMAND FARM

Take the Chill Off!
 Homestyle meals available to heat & eat year-round

Come see what's cooking in our farm store!
 126 Mommon Hollow Road, Wendell, MA 01379
www.thediemandfarm.com

Enjoy the Comfort of Insurance Protection

Competitive rates and discounts for all of your insurance needs!

SINCE 1888
A.H. Rist
 INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

159 Avenue A
 Turners Falls MA
 413.863.4373
ahrist.com

Totally FREE Checking ADVANTAGE #7

Up to **\$25 Buy Back** of your unused checks and debit card from your old bank when you open a GSB checking account.

View ALL the advantages of GSB Checking on our website.

(413) 774-3191 • (413) 584-4441
greenfieldsavings.com

Greenfield Savings Bank

*All items over \$10.00 may be subject to 1099 reporting.
 Member FDIC/Member DIF • Equal Housing Lender

Bob's HOME PROS

413-221-3837 WWW.BOBSHOMEPROS.COM

25 Years Experience in Commercial and Residential Building & Remodeling

Serving Home Grown Farm-inspired Food & Drink

H & O

44 Hope Street, Greenfield, MA 01301
 Ph 413 774 3150 | hopeandolive.com

Follow the Sun into the Future

CallEarth SOLAR PREMIER DEALER

GREENFIELD SOLAR STORE
 2 Fiske Avenue, Greenfield
solarstoreofgreenfield.com
 413.772.3122

Local, residential and small commercial Solar PV Installers for 14+ years in Franklin, Hampshire and Hamden counties.

Panasonic Solar AUTHORIZED INSTALLER

Call for free site assessment.
 Artist: Christine Pellerin



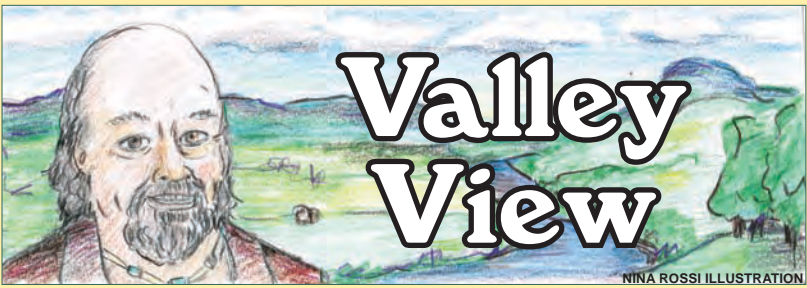
CINDI OLDBAM PHOTO

MoRe

FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

MARCH 14, 2019



By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – As our trees bud, brooks roar and songbirds sing happy songs, I arrive at a fork in the road, a new path through the same place – that is the Pioneer Valley, my home.

I reach the split relaxed, content and comfortable in my ninth month of retirement. With a refreshing splash of liberation, I have cleansed myself of a 40-year employer in transition, which, like most newspapers, finds itself mired in a shrinking-circulation, reduced-revenue rut that's relegated print-news across the land to a feeding- and breathing-tube existence.

I emailed my two-week notice in mid-June, subtly cleaned out my desk and skipped joyfully out the front door without fanfare on June 28, never so much as an over-the-shoulder glance since. My journey through that workplace led to marriage, a family, the purchase of two homes, the birth of two sons and two grandsons, the tragic death of my sons, my father, four grandparents, three uncles, an aunt, three first cousins, my mother- and father-in-law, a brother-in-law and several dear pets. To slightly modify a line from the late, great Jerry Garcia, what a long, strange trip it was.

My newspaper career provided 35 enjoyable years capped by four difficult ones, particularly the final three, with a new micromanaging boss working under a menacing noose of shrinking revenues and belt-tightening measures that cast a wide shadow. Newsroom morale was poor, staff turnover rampant. It was time to go. With the blame-game and backstabbing underway among feckless problem-solvers and spineless yes men in power slots, retirement age couldn't have arrived at a better time.

But why harbor resentment or sympathy? I played the hand dealt me, and rode out a long run at a meager wage. Most importantly, the employment opportunity allowed me to live in the place where I was born and raised, wanted to stay and study. That hasn't changed. I'm committed to learning as much as I can about my place before my ashes are scattered in a blustery ridgetop wind.

Retirement reading began with Hunter S. Thompson and Henry Miller, two American literary bad boys I always keep handy. Also on the list was counter-culture Beat giant Gary Snyder, an octogenarian poet/essayist and Buddhist convert who's always within arm's reach; plus lots of history and anthropology, culture with

a focus on shamanism, rich oral history and what it all means to our place and the broader Northeast. Although this leisure pursuit in newfound freedom bore sweet fruit, an important element was missing: writing about it.

So now, here I sit, in the same Windsor chair from which I maintained a weekly conversation with Franklin County readers for two generations. Yes, from this very seat and another previous one in my hometown South Deerfield, I penned weekly columns about local men and women, their children and grandchildren, too. Truth told, great-grandchildren as well, while chiming in on local issues when the urge arose. Most column tales emanated from this place. Even when I wandered to the periphery, we seldom left the Northeast. When we did, we connected it to our place.

The aorta of this fertile valley is the Connecticut River, New England's largest, longest river, which flows more than 300 miles from the Canadian border to Long Island Sound. This vast, fertile corridor in its earliest days drew herds of late Pleistocene prey as the Ice Age melted and vegetation slowly colored bottomland marshes in the wake of pro-glacial Lake Hitchcock's drainage some 14,000 years ago. Following close behind were bands of Paleo big-game hunters who killed woolly mammoths, mastodons, caribou, moose and elk on tundra terrain. The peopling of our valley had begun.

Over time, Native American villages sprang up along the Connecticut. Then the tributary arms and fingers of vegetating watersheds led our First People to the uplands on both sides of the river. Soon after European colonizers arrived at the dawn of the 17th century, the native people who greeted them were selfishly betrayed – driven willy-nilly to all points of the compass in a process known to scholars as diaspora, that is mass exodus to escape persecution and death.

Though I never for a retirement nanosecond stopped probing our valley's deep history and ecology or keeping up on local issues and squabbles, I soon recognized a gaping hole in my routine. It was the void of open and honest conversation with readers spanning four decades. This interaction was my lifeblood. I enjoyed critical and supportive comment by email, telephone or in the marketplace, folks introducing new angles and obscure sources. Sometimes they even scolded me from an opposing view.

see VALLEY VIEW B3

Xylor Jane and Terry Winters: Artists at the Crossroads of Math and Art

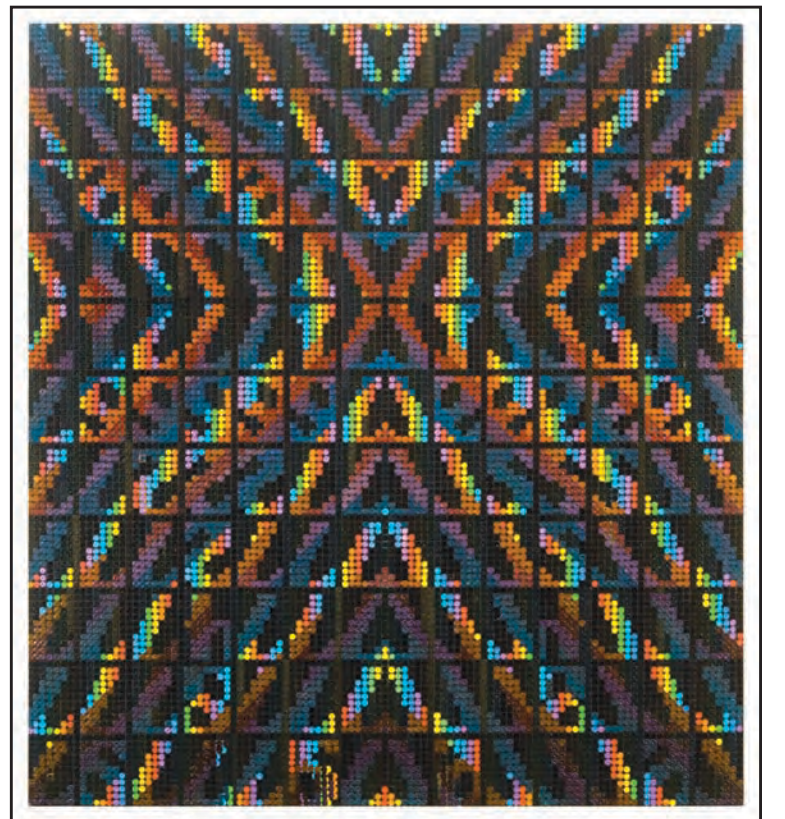
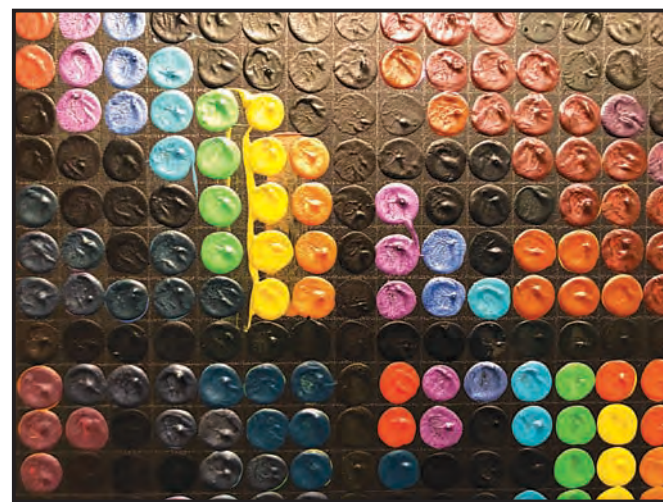
By TRISH CRAPO

AMHERST – The University Museum of Contemporary Art at UMass-Amherst is a suite of generous gallery spaces tucked in the lower level of the Fine Arts Center. As a UMass graduate school alumnus and Valley resident for well-on forty years, I don't know how I have not been more attuned to this museum. If my recent visit is any indication, the work there is on a par with what you'd encounter in any big city gallery. And the museum has a quiet, subterranean feel that encourages you to take your time.

I made the trip last week to check out a show by Greenfield artist Xylor Jane, and, happily, was introduced as well to the drawings of Terry Winters, a leader in the art world for four decades, whose work I had not encountered before. According to museum director Loretta Yarlow, Xylor Jane is currently doing a residency out in New Mexico, which may explain why I was unable to successfully contact her. I did my best to orient myself to the work using the information presented at the gallery and a little bit of searching online.

One of the first things you learn about Xylor Jane is that her work is steeped in mathematics. She works with tetradic primes, Fibonacci sequences, and Magic Squares, according to information at the museum. The math leaps out at you right away in the form of Arabic numerals, often displayed in grids, as in the painting "Magic Square for Finding Lost People."

I learned that in mathematics, a magic square is a



Above, Xylor Jane, Via Crucis XII, 2009. Oil on panel, 47 by 43 inches.

Lower left: Close-up of Via Crucis. Photos courtesy UCMA.

square divided into smaller squares, each containing a number, so that the figures in each vertical, horizontal, and diagonal row add up to the same value. In "Magic Square for Finding Lost People," for example, all the rows add up to 15. But I already believed that magic emanated from the bright, vibrating colors of the painting, regardless of which numbers were there.

The numbers Xylor Jane chooses can be weighted with personal meaning. Labeling for "Via Crucis XII" states: "The twelfth of the fourteen stations of the cross, Jesus dies. 7 numbers in quadruple reflection. 7 digit prime palindromes that begin with 7 and have one other numeral. (7 total)."

From afar, the numbers, displayed in rows, are evident. But when you step right up to the painting's surface, the numbers dissolve and you see a precise grid penciled over the black canvas, with round, raised circles of paint applied inside each tiny square. The precision of the work is astounding, and you realize the painter must have stood this close in order to accomplish it.

see CROSSROADS page B2

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Looking Towards Spring



By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – As our time in Florida was coming to an end, we prepared both mentally and physically. We hated to leave the warmth, but were also getting eager to return home and resume the late winter chores.

Naturally, we kept a weather-eye to Mother Nature's plans. As it happened, a stretch of wet weather was coming to the Southland, putting a damper on life outdoors. Naturally, also, we were a bit on tenterhooks about how this expected wet weather plan would play out as we traveled northward.

We left early on Thursday, February 28 and picked up rain occasionally, mixing with sleet in South Carolina. We stopped a bit short of the West Virginia border after traveling 465 miles. We woke to cloudy skies and pallid sun, but were apprehensive about the long grind

through Pennsylvania, the land of weather grimness.

Sure enough, it was safe, if foggy, though the Virginias, but as we crossed the state line into Pennsylvania, the gloom descended with the flashing of large, lighted highway signs warning of an impending snow storm expected that night. We tucked in for the night in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

We woke to a good five inches of fluffy snow Saturday morning. The bulk of the storm was over, but there continued to be foggy stretches with flurries. Our progress through such

see GARDENER'S page B4

Pet of the Week



CHRISTOPHER CARMODY COLLAGE

“Boo Boo”

Boo Boo is sensitive, and can get a little spicy when overwhelmed. She is affectionate, but too many people can make her head spin. She loves to play with toys.

Change is hard, so we will send her home with a plan to help her set-

tle in quickly and easily with you. If you think you'd be good for Miss Boo Boo, please give us a call or stop by to visit!

Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.

Senior Center Activities MARCH 18 THROUGH 22

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 a.m. Aerobics;

10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

T, W, Th: 12 p.m. Lunch

Monday 3/18

8 a.m. Foot Clinic (by appt.)

12 p.m. Pot Luck & Bingo

Tuesday 3/19

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Healthy Eating Session 5

Wednesday 3/20

9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach

11:30 a.m. Friends' Meeting

12:30 p.m. Bingo

1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Mobile Food Bank

Thursday 3/21

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Cards & Games

4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Friday 3/22

AARP Tax Prep by Appointment

No classes or programs!

p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Lunch is at 12 p.m., with reservations required two 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 3/18

8:45 a.m. Step & Sculpt

10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance

11:30 a.m. Breakfast Brunch

12:30 p.m. Pitch/Bridge Game

Tuesday 3/19

8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise

10 a.m. Stretch & Balance

12 p.m. Soup & Sandwich

12:30 p.m. Friends Meeting

Wednesday 3/20

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

12 p.m. Homemade Lunch

12:30 p.m. Bingo and Snacks

1 p.m. Drumming Class

Thursday 3/21

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

12 p.m. Congregate Lunch

1 p.m. Crafty Seniors

6 p.m. Swing Dance begins

Friday 3/22

9 a.m. Quilting Workshop

9:15 a.m. Flex & Stretch

9:30 a.m. Bowling Fun

10:30 a.m. M3 Exercise Games

12 p.m. Lunch

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.

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

OBITUARY

Dona Lee O'Dou, 63

WENDELL – Dona passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family and friends after a long struggle with breast cancer, on February 21, 2019.

A native of Worcester, Dona was an ordained Buddhist nun who studied under the guidance of Maha Ghosananda. She was a compassionate personal care attendant who loved gardening, writing poetry, teaching yoga and meditation.

She is survived by her mother Lena O'Dou (née Lapomarda), son



Graeme O'Dou and wife Rachael Arnold, son Shawn O'Dou and wife Mary Jane, and three grandchildren. She was predeceased by her brother Thomas Joseph O'Dou.

A Celebration of Dona's life will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 16, at the Wendell Town Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Memorial donations in memory of Dona can be made to Rowe Camp and Conference Center, PO Box 273, Rowe, MA 01367.

CROSSROADS from page B1

Another viewer, seeing me looking so closely, smiled and said, "It makes you want to run your hand over it, doesn't it?"

It did.

Yet, stepping back again, the energy of "Via Crucis XII" flares from the center like a figure splayed. There are heart shapes and crescents, arranged in a symmetry similar to that found on moth wings. It's astonishing that so much exactitude can release so much kinetic energy, create so much pulsating light.

In "So Long," there are no numbers but rather black shapes that resemble curved doorways originating from the edges of the canvas and repeating, getting smaller as they move inward. My eye distinguished eight "sides" or walls of doors diminishing, pulling me with them. But after a while, I also began to see a visual effect of curving shafts of light, like the rainbow effect in a sprinkler, creating shimmering pinwheels that rotated around the surface. It was mesmerizing to sit in front of this painting, like glimpsing a portal into infinity, unsettling and beautiful.

Terry Winters: Facts and Fictions

Terry Winters' work, which fills the museum's two larger galleries, seems at first a huge contrast to Xylor Jane's. The sense of the human hand is very much evident in these drawings that are layered with the history of mark-making and erasing, as if they are as much about the human mind in exploration as about their supposed content. Winters works in graphite, charcoal, pastel, wax crayon, watercolor and gouache: soft, malleable materials that lend themselves easily to exposing the mutability of the drawing process.

Some of the drawings depict natural forms that seem borrowed from biology or everyday life, such as lace curtains. Others are explorations of line and pattern. Most, especially the many notebook-sized drawings displayed in glass cases, are executed in black and gray tones only. Winters chose not to have labels on the walls; viewers can choose to carry along a diagram that supplies titles, most of which are enigmatic anyway: "Untitled"; "Botanical Subject"; "Schema." After a while I stopped looking at the diagram and just studied the drawings.

When I expressed my first impression that the two artists' work couldn't be more different, museum director Yarlow pointed out that



Terry Winters, Untitled, 1984.

Wax crayon, charcoal, chalk, and graphite on paper.

while stylistically this might be true, in fact, the two shared some similarities. For example, both artists shared an interest in exploring subjects more often believed to be the domain of math and science, she explained.

In a follow-up to our conversation, Yarlow wrote by email, "You'll note that some of Xylor Jane's paintings and Terry Winters' drawings have surfaces with two or more interfering patterns, such as wavy parallel lines, or grids, or helixes. They both make use of complex formulas of layers, patterns, and symbols. These are the kind of spaces that are investigated by mathematicians and physicists."

For me, there was something particularly exciting about that word "spaces," which hints at how mysterious the natural world still is, after centuries of study and observation, and how mysterious the human mind.

Art + Math =

The Xylor Jane and Terry Winters exhibits are part of a yearlong program at UMass about the intersection of art and math. There will be three related events in early April that are free and open to the public.

On Monday, April 1, from 1

to 5:30 p.m. in the John W. Olver Design Building, "Art + Math = Symposium" will bring presenters from a diverse range of disciplines including quantum physics, education, economics, biology, music, studio arts, and architecture to engage in public discussions that bridge the disciplines of art and math. The symposium will close with a screening of a video about Xylor Jane made by filmmaker Kate Geis.

On Tuesday, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. in Bezanson Hall, a concert entitled "Art + Math = Music" will feature percussionist Ayano Kataoka and electronic artist Jazer Giles.

And on Monday, April 8 at 6 p.m. at the UMCA, poet Peter Cole will read from his work, including "A Winters Trail," inspired by Terry Winters' art. A conversation between the poet and artist will follow the reading. For more information on all events, see umass.edu/umca or call (413) 545-3672.

The exhibits will be on view until April 28. The University Museum of Contemporary Art is open Tuesday through Friday, 11 to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 2 to 5 p.m.; and until 8 p.m. on first Thursdays. Admission is free.



PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!

Free Mobile App
with **Mobile Check Deposit!**

GREENFIELD **NORTHAMPTON**
Cooperative Bank Cooperative Bank
A Division of Greenfield Cooperative Bank

Avenue A, Turners Falls | 413-512-5012

f BestLocalBank.com **MEMBER FDIC MEMBER SIF**

THE PEOPLES
PINT

OPEN DAILY
LUNCH and DINNER
24 Federal St., Greenfield
773-0333 / thepeoplespint.com

The Pint Says: TURN THE KEY!
When you idle your car's engine for more than 10-20 seconds, you're wasting fuel.
Save on Gas - Save our Climate

SPIRITS, BREWS & FINE WINES

53C S. Main St. South Deerfield, MA
295 Amherst Rd. Sunderland, MA

New Location Now Open:
6 Main Road, in Gill
(formerly Jan's Package Store)
Come check us out!

Deerfield: (413) 665-2456
Sunderland: (413) 665-5030
Gill: (413) 863-5730

THE SPIRIT SHOPPE

VALLEY VIEW from page B1

I enjoyed the dialogue, built trust with credible sources who fed me off-the-record tips, and relied on readers to guide me to topics worth pursuing. Along the way, I made many friends and, yes, some foes, among them some who outranked me and wanted my narrative to follow editorial opinion. I fought back, never gave in or backed down, and miraculously made it to retirement on my own terms. When disputes arose, I never forgot my gruff, baritone college mentor, UMass professor and Journalism Department founder Howard Ziff, a friend who, with a mischievous twinkle, implored: "If all you make is friends in this business, you're not doing your job."

So, ready or not, here I come – back after a brief hiatus, working for a small weekly in a market I know. The paper is headquartered in a riverside milltown that's made great strides since I worked for its highway department in the late 1970s, living in Montague City. Maybe my old readers will find me in my new digs. Maybe I'll pull in some new ones. The only change will be the source and frequency. Now bi-monthly instead of weekly, my column focus will not change. I intend to read, observe and react – bouncing from local history (deep and shallow), to fish and wildlife issues, to rivers and forests, to bioregions and watersheds, and thought-provoking walks around Sunken Meadow with my frisky gundogs. Who knows? I may even chime in politically now and then. The time is right.

I see where the French King Highway in Greenfield and its infamous Mackin lot is back in the news. Nice. I still have a few bul-

lets in the chamber for that controversial site and the roaring falls facing it from the east. Plus, the Battlefield Grant is ready to start a new round of research focused on the region's campaign of King Philip's War 1675-76. And how about the local activists giving loud support to a new global forest-management strategy that favors protection of old forests with large, wise trees playing a key role in a natural carbon-sequestration formula. It's a new paradigm worth exploring.

It'll be a breath of fresh air to work for a young, forward-thinking, open-minded editor who shares bits and pieces of my own worldview and musical tastes and has promised to kick open the paddock gate and let me roam. Too bad old, crusty Ziff is gone. He would have been humored by the developments. I can see his wry smirk, the twinkle of approval to a veteran columnist changing teams. No shame in that. In my world, principles outweigh pay. Best of all, unlike athletes, writers improve with age.

I genuinely liked and enjoyed the young, aspiring scribes I left behind in my previous newsroom, and do miss the playful banter with them. Now we'll cross paths as competitors, me in the role of gray gaffly with a lethal sting. I love a challenge. Competition makes everyone better.

I'm ready to roll. See you in two weeks. Till then... off I go.

Gary Sanderson is a senior-active member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America and the New England Outdoor Writers Association and have written about the Pioneer Valley and its hills for 40 years. He can be reached at gsand53@outlook.com.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

The Snow Wars Rage On: Mailboxes Damaged, Prank Attempt Foiled, Snow Kicked, Roof Cleared

Monday, 3/4

3:38 a.m. Caller from Turnpike Road states that the plow truck plowing the Turners Falls High School parking lot hit his mailbox, and he would like an officer to come see.

4:58 a.m. DPW has a truck on Third Street that needs to be removed for plowing.

9:56 a.m. Dispute in progress on Bridge Street over placement of plowed snow. Caller's neighbor believes private plow driver left snow on a property; plow driver claims the town put the snow there. Peace restored.

4:08 p.m. Caller from High Street states that there is a raccoon acting strangely underneath his car in his driveway. The raccoon will not move. Message left for animal control officer. MPD officer responding. Raccoon escorted to woods.

11:01 p.m. Caller reports that several kids at TFHS appear to be moving large amounts of snow to the area in front of the front door; possible prank. Senior prank attempt. Involved parties are removing the snow.

Tuesday, 3/5

12:42 p.m. Report of sick-looking raccoon on Goddard Avenue. ACO advised.

4:35 p.m. Caller from Power Street states that a man in a black and yellow jacket is acting suspiciously in this area. Party was kicking snow into the road for no good reason. Officer advised him to stop doing that and to move along. Party complied.

7:02 p.m. Caller states that there is a raccoon acting strangely in the area of Crocker Avenue and High Street; possibly rabid. Raccoon was determined to be a safety hazard to the public, so it has been dispatched at this time by an MPD officer.

Wednesday, 3/6

10:23 a.m. Caller states that she received a phone call from a person stating they were from a medical company and that they had a back brace on order for her. They asked her to confirm some personal information, which she did. Unsure if this was a scam call or not. Advised caller to check in with her bank and keep an eye out for any strange activity on her bank/credit accounts.

10:48 a.m. 911 misdial received from Farren Care Center. Employee states that they have just changed the phone code to dial out to "91" and then the number you are calling. MPD may get many misdials from this location because of this change.

12:26 p.m. Caller from

Montague Center reporting a badger in his driveway. Badger retreated into the woods while caller was on the line.

2:59 p.m. Report of three kids playing on the ice near the water across from Unity Park. Caller spoke with kids and told them to get off the ice. They complied. Unknown if they will make their way back onto the ice. Referred to an officer.

3:46 p.m. Caller advised that there is a raccoon on an unused floor in the Montague Center Library. Caller has already set out a Havahart trap; inquiring if there is anything further the ACO can assist with. Caller advises the raccoon has been in the building for over a week now. Provided caller with number for ACO.

5:09 p.m. Multiple reports of traffic lights out in Gill. Shelburne Control advised and have already contacted MassDOT.

6:01 p.m. Abandoned 911 call from Farren Care Center. Upon callback, spoke with receptionist and supervisor who both advised no emergency. Supervisor is aware that the phone system was changed today to where they need to dial "9" then "1" for the area code; will bring that to the administrator's attention to try to limit the number of 911 misdials.

8:35 p.m. Abandoned 911 call from Farren Care Center. Officer confirmed misdial.

8:38 p.m. Report of woman dressed in dark clothing yelling at a dog near the Village Store on Main Street. Area checked; negative contact.

Thursday, 3/7

10:05 a.m. Walk-in party from Central Street reporting ongoing vandalism to her vehicle. Report taken.

2:18 p.m. Caller states that there is a large white swan that appears to be injured. It is located along the shoreline near the First

Street parking lot. ACO contacted and will be responding. ACO checked entire area; nothing found. 3:07 p.m. Report from L Street of a Basset Hound that has been tied up outside since at least noon today. Ongoing issue. Caller advises dog has been howling/barking intermittently. Caller spoke with dog owner and asked her to bring dog inside, but dog is still outside. Area search negative.

Friday, 3/8

12:21 a.m. Shelburne Control requesting one MPD officer assist Erving PD with a motor vehicle stop; EPD officer has two parties under, and will need assistance with transport. MPD officer transporting two females to Erving PD. 9:25 a.m. Caller looking for assistance for a goose that is on the ice off of First Street. Provided caller with number for Environmental Police.

11:30 a.m. Abandoned 911 call from Farren Care Center. Approximately later, received another 911 misdial from a patient room. Misdial confirmed.

11:48 a.m. Report of odor of propane coming from neighbor's property on Turners Falls Road. Caller advises neighbor acquires scrap metal and has several propane tanks. Caller suspects neighbor has been bleeding tanks so he can scrap them. MCFD and MPD officer advised. Officer advises no odor detected from street; no propane tanks observed; no answer at door. MCFD concurred; negative findings.

4:17 p.m. Report of barking dogs on Grove Street since this afternoon. Caller advises this has been happening for the past three days. Copy of call left for ACO.

Saturday, 3/9

4:18 p.m. Received transfer from Shelburne Control; elderly female advising that two nights ago there was a man on her roof

cleaning snow off. Caller states that she could hear him, but she did not call the police. Advised caller to call if someone ever shows up again to her house again uninvited. Caller assured that she would.

7:29 p.m. Caller reporting that her granddaughter is stuck on Plains Road about a mile in. Officers en route to make contact. Caller called back and advised that a tow truck was able to reach her and she should be OK. Officer advises tow truck is on scene. Vehicle unstuck.

8:21 p.m. Caller states that he was out walking and saw two dogs in a vehicle parked on T Street. Caller is concerned because the temperature is supposed to drop tonight. Officer clear; states dogs are no longer in vehicle.

Sunday, 3/10

10:31 a.m. Message in general mailbox reporting incident between residents at Farren Care Center last night. Officer spoke with supervisor, who advised one resident hit another resident with a remote. Supervisor advised they are handling the matter internally; requesting to have on record only.

6:17 p.m. Caller from Davis Road states that a town plow truck came by and plowed into his mailbox and destroyed it. He has the incident on camera. Message left for DPW foreman to call caller on Monday morning.

7:01 p.m. 911 caller reporting that there is a highly intoxicated man yelling and kicking things in the hallway of an Avenue A apartment building. This is an ongoing problem with this person. Male party now in custody. OC spray was used due to male being highly combative. 52-year-old Turners Falls man charged with disturbing the peace, disorderly conduct (subsequent offense), and resisting arrest.

Travis LeDoyt: The Greenfield Elvis

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – When I learned Travis LeDoyt, the Elvis impersonator from Greenfield, was going to do a second Good Luck Charm benefit, I was surprised. I thought the first time he did the "Good Luck Charm" benefit at his old high school, Greenfield High School, as a fundraiser for their music department, it would only be a one-time thing. I went to review his first benefit, and this time it popped into my head to do a profile on him through his former high school chorus teacher, Paul J. Calcari.

Paul has been the musical director of Franklin County Community Chorus since he formed it in Fall of 2013. He has been involved with music professionally for 45 years, and started when he was six.

"I was a teacher at the high school for 27 years," he says, upon being asked why he formed the group. "My students just want to make music together."

As for his thoughts on Travis LeDoyt as one of his students, his opinion of the man's voice back then was: "I always thought he had an extraordinary voice. He taught himself to play guitar and piano." Calcari says his opinion of Travis's voice hasn't really changed – in fact, it has grown.

When I asked, "What is your opinion of him impersonating Elvis, or of his singing now?" I got this answer: "I think he's better than he's ever been. I heard him last year at the school." He plans on seeing LeDoyt this time around.

"It's just wonderful," he says, in connection with LeDoyt doing the concerts. When I ask about him maybe doing the show a third time, Calcari says "I would hope that he would." He also points out "he has a local following... I think he has enough of a following to continue to do the Good Luck Charm Benefit show in this area with the same level of success."

I agree with that thought, because of an observation I made about the show before it happened the first time around, which was that quite a large amount of people outside were still trying to buy tickets to get in. Someone said, "I don't think we can let anyone else in!" That's how packed it was.

I wondered whether Paul knew how the fundraising went for the high school music department when Travis did the show last year. He did, indeed. "It was extremely fabulous," he said. "People were willing to support him and his cause."

Paul said that LeDoyt is "very supportive of the high school music department. That might be one of the reasons he decided to do this for the high school – I am sure it was."

To me, from what I learned from reviewing his concert the first time and from Paul Calcari, Travis LeDoyt is a great Elvis impersonator. Someone who is a great supporter of people learning music as part of their education. A man who has not forgotten where he comes from.

The Good Luck Charm benefit will be held this Sunday, March 17 at 7 p.m. at Greenfield High School.

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!
SOU ARGUES, EOABSUES
DABGE, NUE LCG CA, LBU
SOAEU DOMPO BUZYMBU
SOU XAES SOAYVOS.
- INSOLVABLE
 CRACK THE CODE? SEND YOUR ANSWER TO: INFO@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

RIVERSIDE RADIATOR
 General Auto Repair
 RADIATORS for CARS - TRUCKS
 and HEAVY EQUIPMENT
 Foreign and Domestic
 Propane Filling Station
 Route 2, Gill
 863-4049 1-800-439-4049
 8:55 Monday - 4:45 Saturday

CHARON ART VISIONARY TATTOO
 Inspired, holistic tattoos
 with a focus on personal energy,
 experience and spontaneous creation.
 www.CharonArt.com
 413.676.9146
 107 Avenue A, Great Falls

Doug's Auto Body
 Doug Smith - Owner
PRECISION REPAIRS
 MA Reg. #RS2190
 Ph. (413) 863-2785 39 Center Road
 Fax: (413) 863-0120 Gill, MA 01354
FREE ESTIMATES FREE LOANER CARS
REPAIRS ON FOREIGN & DOMESTIC CARS AND TRUCKS

GARDENER'S from page B1

cheerful areas as "Dismal Gap" were slowed by constant showers of salt and melted slush from the inevitable semis which travel the length and width of the state.

Although the skies were breaking up with occasional glimpses of pale sun, the gloom and doom messages prevailed: *Slow down, winter weather ahead.* We were ever so grateful to leave Pennsylvania for the relaxing cruise though the Delaware Water Gap into New York State.

We chose to avoid the Taconic and the Mass Pike, and came across to Route 84 in Connecticut with a transfer to 91 in our home state. This choice proved to be no faster and more stressful because the traffic was high. We missed the respite of the rural run along the Taconic.

Still, we reached home by four o'clock even with a stop for fuel, and were unloaded by five to a warm welcome from the cat and a large sigh of relief from the humans.

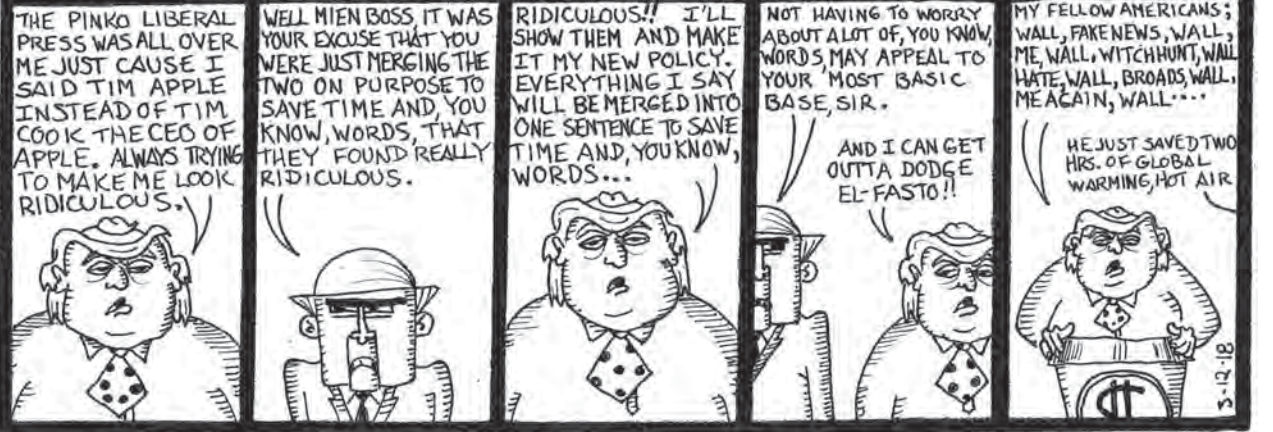
In the week that we've been back there have been two more snowstorms, these more of the nuisance variety, but still not what we hoped to see. There have also been beautiful glorious days of sun and warming temperatures which give us more faith that spring will indeed be along soon. We've labeled these added snow events in the category of poor man's fertilizer, and cheer the news of maple sap running in the buckets.

The days are longer even without the artificial start of daylight savings time; the height of the sun is higher and its strength braver. The annual Bulb Show at Smith College is spellbinding in color and scent, and yes, soon it will be time to start the tomatoes.

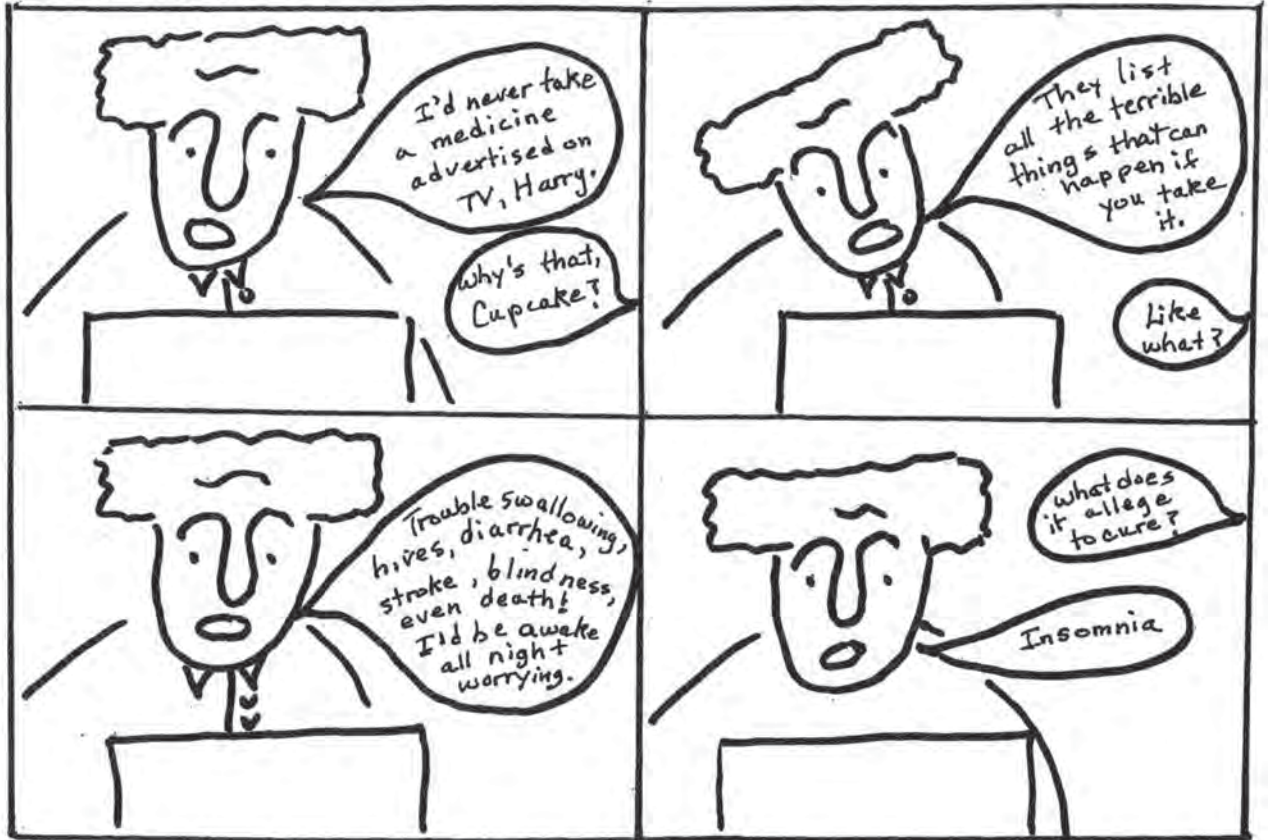
The owls cry loudly for mates, the birds are returning, and there is new energy in the blood. Spring may be looking the other way just now, but it's right around the corner.



T-RUMP



OVER THE HILL



By J. BURKETT

GREENFIELD – Pete Nolan has lived in this area, and played music in different bands here, off and on for 10 to 15 years. He recently moved back, and presently lives in Pelham with his cool family. The most well-known of his projects is "the Magik Markers," but he has been in a lot of other diverse bands... Spectre Folk, GHQ, Vanishing Voice, Cops, Shackamaxon, and Creeping Jesus, to name a few.

We asked him some questions about the Markers, since they are playing a two-night residency at the Root Cellar this Friday and Saturday, March 15 and 16, with special guests Dredd Foole, Ben Chasny, Wednesday Knudsen, Majors Stars, Jen Gelineau, Nana Visitor, and Willie Lane.

MMM: How many years have the Markers been around? How has the line up changed over the years? Has there even been spontaneous combustion involving any Markers members?

PN: I think we've been around since 2001. We made a band to play a gig in Hartford in Elisa [Ambrogio]'s grandparents' basement. I think Tart and Bunnybrains played too.

The early crew was me, Elisa, and Leah [Quimby]. Originally, it was just me and Leah. She wanted to call the band "Lap Sabbath." Leah played a kind of surfy-sounding guitar with lots of echo. We eventually dragged Elisa off the couch to be in the band too. She played fuzz guitar and was the "frontman."

That version of the band kind of spontaneously combusted at a gig a bunch of years later in London. There was a gear malfunction and Leah stormed off the stage into the night, never to play again.

After that Elisa and I went on as a duo for a bunch of years. I played more tapes and stuff to fill out the sound. Then we hired Josh and Steve Gunn to play with us for a little while. That was super fun, but

we never recorded except for a record that only came out in Australia that was live stuff.

Then Elisa and I recorded *BOSS*. To play those songs live, we hired my wife Julie to play synth and Ben Chasny to play guitar. After that we recorded *Balf Quarry*, as a duo again, and hired John Shaw to play Bbass. He's been in the band ever since. He played on the last album, *Surrender to the Fantasy*, a split record we did with Sic Alps, and the new record that we're working on.

MMM: When you tour, are there places you prefer to play? Certain towns or states?

PN: I like to play in New York City, New Orleans, San Francisco, Chicago, Columbus, Detroit, Portland, Boston, Western MA...

In Europe, we kind of like to play everywhere. In the South I like Louisville and Nashville... also Birmingham, Alabama. We haven't played enough in Florida.

MMM: How has Elisa's father influenced the band's direction?

PN: Maybe indirectly. He painted some rad murals on the walls of the basement where we formed. It definitely gave the atmosphere a cool sixties trashy psych vibe. It was really fun to play down there in that big mess. It looked great once we got it relit with black lights too.



The Magik Markers play the Primavera Sound Festival in Barcelona, Spain in 2009. The band is playing a two-night residency this Friday and Saturday at the Root Cellar in Greenfield, with plenty of special guests.

I think we are some kind of a ninth generation ashtray version of a garage psych band, and that's a reflection of our origins.

MMM: Have you been working on new recordings?

PN: YES! We recorded a bunch of stuff out at Jason Meagher's Black Dirt Studio. We started right after Trump got elected, so it's got a pretty downer vibe.

We just started recording some more stuff in my basement. It's more upbeat. I would love to tour this summer, but we'll see. Elisa's got some kind of top secret job working for the Freemasons or something. She's real high up, so they don't give her a lot of time off.

MMM: What do you like about the Valley? Any hints as to what will happen for your shows at the Root Cellar?

PN: We LOVE to play in the Valley. It was on our list of good places above.

We'll probably jam and hang out... tell jokes and stuff. I think we'll play some of our new songs, and maybe a few of our hits too.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week at MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

We never cease to be amazed by the talents of young people. This week on Channel 17, look for *The Tragedy of Macbeth*, presented by the Young Shakespeare Players-East.

The Young Shakespeare Players-East is a nonprofit theater program for young people ages 8 to 18 to participate in full-length plays by Shakespeare, Shaw, and Dickens. There are no auditions – everyone who participates will have a sub-

stantial speaking role – and it's the only troupe of its kind outside of Madison, Wisconsin. Learn more at youngshakespeareplayerseast.org.

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, infomontaguetv@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!

Wait! Don't Throw It Away!

MILLERS FALLS – A community Fix-It Event will be held on March 31, from 12 to 4 p.m., at Element Brewery in Millers Falls. People are invited to bring in broken household items and small appliances, and get help on diagnosing and repairing the problem.

With the mission of discouraging people from throwing away and/or replacing broken things that can be repaired with sufficient skill and the right tools, Repair Public is starting its third year of Fix-it events around the Valley. The events happen at local businesses with donated space, a cache of tools and supplies, and a group of volunteers. They are free and open to the public.

People are invited to bring small appliances, small furniture, clothing, textiles, toys, and lamps. Please do not bring things that need welding, computers, major appliances, large furniture, or items under warranty.

The event is jointly sponsored by Repair Public and a newly formed group, Drawdown Montague.

"We loved the idea of the community events that Repair Public has been setting up around the Valley, and wanted to bring it to the villages of Montague," says Adrienne LaPierre, a founding member of Drawdown Montague. "Helping people keep things out of the landfill fits perfectly with our mission to seek practical, positive community solutions to the global crisis of climate change, at a time that is fraught with political inaction."

Members of Drawdown Montague expect that this collaboration with Ben Gagnon of Repair Public is just the beginning of their efforts to reach other individuals and groups with overlapping missions.

For more information on the event, or to volunteer as a repair helper, please contact Adrienne (lapierre.adrienne@gmail.com) or Ben (ben@repairpublic.org).

For more information on Drawdown Montague, email Susan Campbell at campbellsm3rd@gmail.com.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!

COUTURE BROS.
Since 1910
Professional Painting & Decorating Contractor
Commercial • Residential • Industrial
"SERVING WESTERN MASS FOR OVER 100 YEARS"
www.couturebros.com
400 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA • 413-863-4346

EDWARDS TREE SERVICE
Matthew Edwards
Certified Arborist
Tree Climbing Specialist • Pruning And Removals
Stump Grinding • Practicing Fine Arboriculture
Residential / Commercial / Municipal
60 FT. Aerial Lift • Brush Chipping
Fully Insured With Workers Comp. • Insurance and Liability
WWW.MATTEDWARDSTREE.COM
Wendell, MA
Serving Hampshire And Franklin Counties
413-325-7823 Or 978-544-7452

Pipione's
SPORT SHOP
• Fishing supplies; Live bait
• Fishing & Hunting Licenses
• Paintball & CO₂ Refills
• Guns & Ammo
Open 7 am 7 days a week
101 Ave A, Turners 414.863.4246

NatureCulture: The Science Page



Contributions to NatureCulture are welcome. What are you interested in? Would you like to write about birds, weather, science of any kind? We need your input. Send articles for consideration to: science@montaguereporter.org. Thank you!
- Lisa McLoughlin, editor

A Woman Philosopher, In and Of the Stars

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

Hypatia was a Renaissance woman, living far before the European Renaissance. Born about 350 BCE in Alexandria, Egypt, which was then part of the Roman Empire, she became a famous philosopher, inventor, astronomer, and the first known woman mathematician.

Her family remained Pagan even though most of Rome was Christianized by Helene (later Saint Helene, patron saint of archaeologists). Hypatia was eventually murdered by Christians, at least in part for her religious beliefs. She is credited with the creation of the astrolabe, a navigational instrument, and other technology still in use today such as the hydrometer. She was a professor in Alexandria, and wrote books that were destroyed when the famous Alexandrian library was burned in 48 BCE.

Hypatia and her books are gone, but not forgotten. The latest proof is that a publicly-available catalog of stars and their chemical elements has been named after her. In a 2018 article by Paul Scott Anderson in *SPACE*, planetary astrophysicist Natalie Hinkel of the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas explained why she named her database after Hypatia:

“To understand why I named my database – the thing that I’ve worked the longest and hardest on in my life, the thing that I am the most proud of in my career – you have to know a bit about Hypatia. She was a strong woman who

was intelligent, independent, and brave. She worked hard and she spoke her mind, regardless of the consequence. Hypatia filled a very powerful role, one made even more impressive as a woman in a largely male arena. I named my database for her, because I respect her and I empathize with her. In many ways, her spirit is one that I try to follow.”

The Hypatia catalog arranges large sets of data from various sources about nearby stars in an effort to help scientists find out more about their potential for hosting exoplanets that could

sustain life. It also contains stars without planets for comparison.

Follow in Hypatia’s footsteps exploring the known universe and check out the Hypatia catalog of over 3,000 stars at hypatiacatalog.com.

Hypatia of Alexandria has also found her way to our moon. There is a Hypatia Crater as well as nearby craters named Hypatia A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, M and R, and a nearby system of rills called Rimea Hypatia.

Thanks to J. for suggesting this topic!



CREATIVE COMMONS PHOTO BY MARIE-LAN NGUYEN

Planispheric astrolabe made in Paris, at the Louvre.

WEBSITE REVIEW

moongiant.com

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

NORTHFIELD – Moongiant is a nice little website that allows you to quickly and easily find the phase of the moon, plus its rising/setting times for a major city near you. Since we’re surrounded by hills, expect the actual rising time to be a bit later, and the setting to be sooner.

Other features include a full moon calendar, a moon phase calendar, a meteorite shower calendar

which includes the illumination level of the moon at its peak – although this was outdated when I visited, the list was for last year – and a fun way to check the moon phase on your birthday. Apparently, the website authors are trying to find out whether more people are born during full moons, and so doing the birthday check helps their survey, plus you get some astronomical information.

I like the illustrations on this site, the well-organized information, and its ease of use: worth a visit.

OPINION

Culture Does Not Exist Without Nature

By ARIANNA COLLINS

ASHFIELD – On a scientific level I think many of us humans have come to recognize that we are part of Nature; that we exist only because the circumstances meet the needs of oxygen-based lifeforms. But on so many other levels, we consider Nature separate – either wilderness to protect from us, or resources to extract for us.

We create mountains of trash that we bury or burn because we fail to take into consideration that there is truly no away – even though we see the mountains of garbage piling up, the mats of trash in the ocean, the discarded items along the sides of roads.

Over the years I came to believe that we well-meaning environmental educators did more damage than good when we continued in the vein of our culture’s subscription to the Nature-versus-culture division. That just because our stuff didn’t belong left in the woods, somehow we didn’t either.

By renaming a popular trailside trash-spotting game that I used to teach as a naturalist educator from “The Unnatural Trail” to “Household in the Woods,” and choosing usable items such as coat hangers, pencils, sneakers, forks, jars of jam, etc., I transformed the focus from simply spotting trash to observing familiar items in an unfamiliar setting.

True, household items do not generally belong in the woods, and need to be returned to their proper places among their human creators. However, they are not necessarily trash, and certainly not “unnatural.” Human-made tools, trinkets, and so on all come from the Earth as raw resources. It is what we humans do to these resources that recreate them into something we determine to be useful.

Learning Design from Nature

Biomimicry is defined in the Oxford Dictionary as the “design and production of materials, structures, and systems that are modeled on biological entities and processes.” Basically that translates to: copying Nature to make your stuff.

Nature inspires humans, and the proof is all around us. Look at a city, and see a hive. Watch an albatross take off and soar, and then notice how we rigged our jets to do the same. Observe a humpback whale slice through the water, and then read how a wind turbine company is taking that fin design to create scalloped blades to cut through the air with more efficiency.

We are getting better at designing for efficiency and effectiveness. We just need to better figure out how to create tools, equipment, and structures that will not just last, but also be able to be re-incorporated into the earth as new raw materials once we are through with them.

Using Earth’s Resources Wisely

Nature is the expert re-user and recycler. As part of Nature, why haven’t we humans figured it out better?

We continue to implement cradle-to-grave tools and technologies, presuming the next best thing will save us from the last. But to live more sustainably and responsibly, we need to mimic the

Earth, implementing cradle-to-cradle (C2C) tools and technologies so that little to nothing goes to waste; nothing is buried that is not re-appropriated for something new.

Cradle-to-cradle design ensures that products are safe for human and environmental health before, during, and after human use. There are C2C certified products available now, from “biological-nutrient upholstery” made with rayon and wool, to durable countertops made from 100% recycled glass, Portland cement, and non-toxic pigments, to 100% compostable and biodegradable bath linens, to plant-based cleaning products. Just to name a few.

What else can this grand home called Earth inspire us to do?

Culture in Harmony with Nature

When we allow ourselves to wonder at the simplicities, built-in redundancies, and complexities of the world around us, and see the nested systems, the whole-within-whole, we can grasp that we are cells within the body Earth. And hopefully act accordingly.

Let us put an end to this nature-versus-culture dichotomy. It is completely unhealthy to continue thinking that humans are somehow separate from the Earth in which we live. We live in it, breathe in it, use components of it, die in it, decompose in it, and become fodder for the next generation of souls. Humans need to understand that we are not “unnatural,” the things we make are not “unnatural.” We are part of Nature.

However, this does not mean we should blatantly disregard the proper placement of our belongings and selves, but that we need to recognize where we fit in so that we more harmoniously live within our means and the capacity of the environment. Just because we are natural, doesn’t mean that we are not cancerous to the body Earth. Even most parasites recognize it’s self-defeating to kill the host.

Steps we can take to be more healthy cells or at least more accommodating parasites in the body Earth:

- Start local: Be a locavore as much as you can; source what you can from local labor, resources, and foods.
- When making purchases, consider the item’s use expectancy. Ask yourself, how much do you want or need it? This is not about going on a guilt trip, just making you more aware of your choices.
- Adhere to the adage: “Use it up, wear it out. Make it do or do without.”
- When making big changes to a structure, look up what biomimicry and cradle-to-cradle technologies you can incorporate in your plans
- Take time every day to be in the elements and appreciate the sun, the precipitation, the air, the ground.

Arianna Alexandra Collins, naturalist, poet, and wild edible enthusiast, lives in Ashfield. You can reach her at OfferingsForCommunityBuilding.com or HearkenToAvalon.com. If you are interested in writing for NatureCulture, please send your article (up to 1,600 words) to Science@montaguereporter.org for consideration.

March 2019 Moon Calendar

New Moon
Wednesday,
March 6

First Quarter
Thursday,
March 1



NASA/GSFC/ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

The highest point on our moon.

Full Moon and Spring Equinox

Wednesday,
March 20

Last Quarter

Thursday,
March 28

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

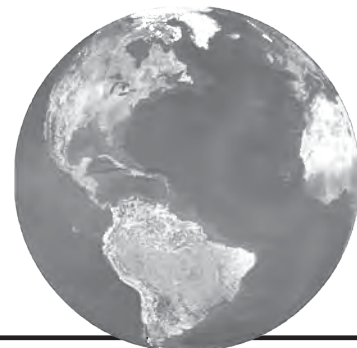
Renaissance Builders
Quality. Craftsmanship. Original Thought.
www.renbuild.net
863-8316

Cell: (413) 834-4444
bedson1@comcast.net
Home Fax: (413) 863-0218
Maniatty Real Estate
92 Federal Street
Greenfield, MA 01301
Barbara A. Edson-Greenwald
Realtor, Broker, ABR, CRS, e-PRO, GRI, SRES, CBR
Ma. License #009535800
www.ManiattyRealty.com

Rau's Auto
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR
(413) 367-2475
531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague
24 hour emergency towing
Best service licensed Mechanics

Aquí se habla español

Esta es la página en español del periódico **The Montague Reporter**. Aquí podrán encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias en español. Si quiere colaborar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a: spanish@montaguereporter.org. Esperamos su participación.



Más allá de una canción: El corrido de David y Goliat

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO
DE AGUILERA

Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) en colaboración con el grupo mariachi Flor de Toloache ha sacado una canción con el fin de informar a los migrantes sobre sus derechos legales.

Flor de Toloache es uno de los pocos grupos femeninos de mariachi y recientemente ganadoras de un Grammy Latino en 2017 por su canción *Las caras lindas*.

Los grupos de mariachi interpretan corridos que son baladas que cuentan una historia relacionada con conflictos sociales y normalmente basada en un ritmo parecido a una polka. Se consideran cercanos a la tradición oral del romance castellano medieval. Una variedad del corrido es el *narcorrido* en el que se narran hechos relativos a los jefes de los carteles de droga y las comunidades impactadas.

Flor de Toloache, cuyo nombre viene de una flor conocida en Latinoamérica por sus propiedades curativas y casi mágicas, es un grupo

de mariachi formado por mujeres que provienen de México, Puerto Rico, Italia, El Salvador, Cuba, Colombia, Alemania y los Estados Unidos. Se conocieron entre ellas cuando estudiaban o empezaban su carrera musical en Nueva York y es un ejemplo de fusión entre la música popular mexicana y los diferentes sabores culturales de las componentes del grupo. Flor de Toloache no olvida sus raíces en el corrido, pero quiere acercarlo a otro tipo de público. El grupo ha realizado giras en los Estados Unidos y también por Europa, Australia y la India.

El corrido de David y Goliat quiere ser de ayuda a los inmigrantes que no tienen acceso a la información sobre sus derechos legales en cuanto a migración. La canción se puede escuchar en la mayor de las emisoras de radio, especialmente en estados con alto índice de migración proveniente de Centroamérica y Sudamérica. SPLC sabe perfectamente que la información es poder y con este corrido busca empoderar a los migrantes en una forma diferente de las habituales a través de la música

popular mexicana.

La canción cuenta la historia de un migrante llamado David que conoce sus derechos y no abre la puerta de su casa a un oficial del servicio de Emigración llamado Goliat porque no lleva una orden de búsqueda. Aun así Goliat derriba la puerta y detiene a todas las personas de la familia que se encontraban en la casa. La familia se niega a contestar preguntas sabiendo que están en su derecho de no hacerlo pese a las amenazas de Goliat. Finalmente la familia de David queda libre, no son deportados y Goliat pierde su trabajo por no seguir las leyes.

SPCL cree que contando historias de esta forma podrá ayudar a migrantes que no están al tanto de las leyes bien sea por desconocimiento del idioma o de las leyes en sí mismas. Les dejo aquí la letra del corrido que pueden ustedes escuchar en diferentes plataformas de música digital.

Tablón de anuncios

- *Food Bank de Massachusetts* sigue ofreciendo comida gratis cada tercer miércoles de mes en el parking del Senior Center en Turners Falls cuya dirección es 62 5th Street. La próxima distribución de comida será el miércoles 20 de marzo de 1:30 a 2:30 p.m. Por favor asegúrense de traer sus propias bolsas.

Este programa se realiza en alianza con FCCMP y Montague COA Si tienen preguntas, contacten con *The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts* en el teléfono (413) 247-9738.

- Center for New Americans celebrará su evento anual Immigrant Voices el domingo 7 de abril en el teatro Shea de Turners Falls. Este año habrá bailes provenientes de Camboya y México y canciones de Irán, Albania y El Salvador. Los boletos cuestan 10 dólares y se pueden conseguir en la página web de CNA: www.cnam.org.

- El Centro de Justicia de Ayuda Legal de la Comunidad en colabo-



ración con NELCWIT de Greenfield invita a todos los inmigrantes, agencias de servicios sociales, abogados y todas las personas que estén interesadas, a un evento informativo de emigración en donde discutirán las más recientes pólizas de emigración, información sobre derechos y leyes laborales relacionadas con los derechos de los trabajadores migrantes.

La sesión informativa tendrá lugar en Great Falls Discovery Center (2 Avenue A) en Turners Falls el viernes 29 de marzo de 1 a 3 p.m. Para más información, por favor contacte con Teresa en NELCWIT.

OPINIÓN

1519, ¿algo para celebrar?

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO
DE AGUILERA

Todavía me sorprende cuando veo las caras de incredulidad de mis estudiantes cuando les digo que Colón jamás puso un pie en Norteamérica, que nunca estuvo en lo que hoy son los Estados Unidos. Por supuesto, la siguiente pregunta siempre es: "Entonces, ¿por qué celebramos el Día de Colón?" Aunque yo creo que la verdadera pregunta es si tenemos algo que celebrar.

Y después de 1492, viene otra fecha clave para la historia de América Latina y España. Se cumplen ahora los 500 años de la entrada de Hernán Cortés en la capital del imperio azteca.

La celebración para conmemorar este evento está trayendo polémica entre el gobierno español y el gobierno mexicano. José Guirao, ministro de cultura español perteneciente al gobierno de Pedro Sánchez (Partido Socialista), ha expresado su reserva a celebrar el evento aludiendo que el gobierno del anterior presidente (Rajoy, Partido Popular) no dedicó ninguna partida de los presupuestos para ello. Aunque la pregunta que debería hacerse el gobierno español es otra: ¿Debemos homenajear a un conquistador?

Como podrán ustedes suponer la figura de Hernán Cortés en México es como nombrar la cuerda en casa del ahorcado, es persona "non grata". Aun así la prestigiosa institución Casa de América en Madrid desde enero lleva organizando una serie de conferencias en torno a este hecho que terminarán en junio en la que ponentes y académicos de uno y otro lado del Atlántico investigan

acerca del impacto de la llegada de Cortés a México en el siglo XVI. Por supuesto este hecho influyó en los mapas, en la ciencia y la cultura de esa época. Los historiadores creen que se debe celebrar este hecho, el mestizaje que nos une y no a la persona de Hernán Cortés.

Al contrario que sobre Colón, tenemos muchos datos sobre la vida de Hernán Cortés. Nació en Medellín (Badajoz), un pequeño pueblo de Extremadura en 1485 y murió en Sevilla en 1547. Sus padres lo enviaron a estudiar a la Universidad de Salamanca pero el mundo académico no era lo suyo y se embarcó en 1504 en un barco con destino a la Hispaniola (República Dominicana).

Allí estuvo unos años como encomendero y después partió hacia Cuba junto con Velázquez. En esta segunda isla adquirió un poder administrativo como mano derecha del gobernador de la isla lo que hizo que pudiera encabezar una nueva expedición al continente. Así pues, Cortés partió de la isla de Cuba y llegó a México en 1519, unos veintisiete años después que Colón llegase a las primeras tierras a las que este siempre consideró las Indias. Aquel fue el año en que los españoles realmente entraron en el continente americano.

Hernán Cortés llegó a México con solamente unos cientos de soldados por lo que la conquista del imperio azteca no hubiera sido posible sin una alianza con otras tribus como los tlaxcaltecas que querían acabar con la supremacía de los anteriores y que estaban hartas de pagar impuestos a estos. Cortés quedó impresionado con la suntuo-

sidad de la capital del imperio azteca al ser recibido amistosamente por el emperador Moctezuma.

Junto a Hernán Cortés aparece siempre en los libros de textos la figura de Malintzi, conocida como la Malinche, regalada en principio como esclava sexual junto con otras nativas, pero que jugó un papel esencial en la conquista de los aztecas. Malinche sabía hablar náhuatl e hizo de traductora para conseguir que Cortés hiciera alianzas con otras tribus que después ayudaron a derrotar a los aztecas.

En cuanto a los libros de texto no tratan igual este hecho histórico en España o en México. En España se habla del imperio, de la monarquía de los Austrias. Es por lo tanto una visión eurocéntrica, imperialista y que se aprovechó durante el franquismo para educar sobre el orgullo nacional.

En cambio, en México se estudia 1519 desde un punto de vista colonial, y de las civilizaciones pre-hispánicas y en algunos casos se considera a la Malinche como la culpable de todos los males y está extendido el uso del adjetivo "malinchista" para designar a alguien que se vende a los extranjeros, a los de fuera.

Algunos historiadores consideran que es una figura maltratada también por ser mujer. Famosa en México es la expresión "hijo de la chingada" que se refiere al hijo que Malinche tuvo con Hernán Cortés. Usan a la Malinche para expiar las culpas de la traición de las tribus y concentrar la traición únicamente en una sola mujer.

Y ustedes, ¿Qué opinan? ¿Algo que celebrar?



Mariachi tocando el violín.

El Corrido de David Y Goliat de Flor de Toloache

Un gringo Goliat de nombre
Que se apellidaba O'Conner
Cuánto daño le hizo al pueblo
Que es que era gente del orden

Goliat se puso furioso
De un golpe tiro la puerta
A todos pidió papeles
"A mí todos me respetan"

Sólo se enlistó en la migra
Queriendo que te deporten
Sabía que la gente pobre
Las leyes no se la saben

David se negó a entregarlos
"Aquí entraron a la fuerza"
David su esposa y tres hijos
A todos se los llevaron

Por eso abusaba tanto
Pescando que es que ilegales
Que en realidad no lo eran
Aliados los federales

Manteniéndose en calma
Ningún papel lo firmaron
No respondieron preguntas
Aunque los amenazaron

Un día hubo una gran redada
En un barrio de latinos
Goliat con toda su tropa
Llegaron echando gritos

David se había preparado
Por si eso algún día pasaba
Había hablado con su gente
Sus documentos guardaba

Para que todos salieran
Y deportarlos toditos
En una de tantas casas
Vivía David y su gente

En un lugar bien seguro
Comunidad lo ayudaba
Los liberaron a todos
Ilegal era el arresto

Pero él sí sabía las leyes
Por eso no salió al frente
"Sin una orden de cateo,
oficial siga de frente"

Abogados ayudaron
Y no prosiguió en proceso
David se sabía las leyes
Y a Goliat lo despidieron

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!

B. RUBIN & SONS INC.
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS
Shocks • Tires • Batteries • Starters
Struts • Tune-ups • Brakes • Oil Change
194 MILLERS FALLS RD. • 413-863-2236
10% SENIOR DISCOUNT FREE ESTIMATES
MASS INSPECTION STATION: NO. 13051

PLACE YOUR
BUSINESS CARD HERE
(12 WEEK MINIMUM).
CALL 863-8666

"Home Town Auto Care - The Way It Used To Be"
JP TIRE & AUTO
Complete Quality Auto Care
147 2nd St.
Turners Falls, MA 01376
413-863-5423
Foreign - Domestic - Tires - Diagnostics
Aftermarket Accessories - Installation

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EVENTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Kids Music Series with Under the Tree Music Company*. A five-week music series for young children combining music, laughter, song and movement. Adults and infants under 1 year are free; small fee per child or \$20 for five weeks per kid. 10:30 a.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Matt Stamell with Craig Eastman, Guy Devito*. Folk rock. \$ 7 p.m.

Turners Falls High School: *The Little Mermaid*. GFMS presents Disney musical. \$ 7 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Jeff Carey, Sigtryggur Sigmarsson, Andrea Pensado, and Foambitz*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

Element Brewing Co, Millers Falls: *Brule's Irish Band*. 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ragged Blue*. 6:30 p.m.

Arms Library Shelburne Falls: *Open Prose and Poetry Reading*. Arrive early to sign up for 5- or 10-minute slots. 7 p.m.

Turners Falls High School: *The Little Mermaid*. GFMS presents Disney musical. \$ 7 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Magik Markers* (see page B4), with *Major Stars, Wednesday Knudsen, and Jen Gelineau*. Psych. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Roomful of Blues and She Said*. Classic blues rock with *Roomful*; blues, rock, jazz, country originals with *She Said*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Guiding Star Grange, Greenfield: *Contra Dance*. *David Kaynor* and friends with the *Back Row Band*. All are welcome with or without a partner. \$ 8 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:

Flathead Rodeo. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

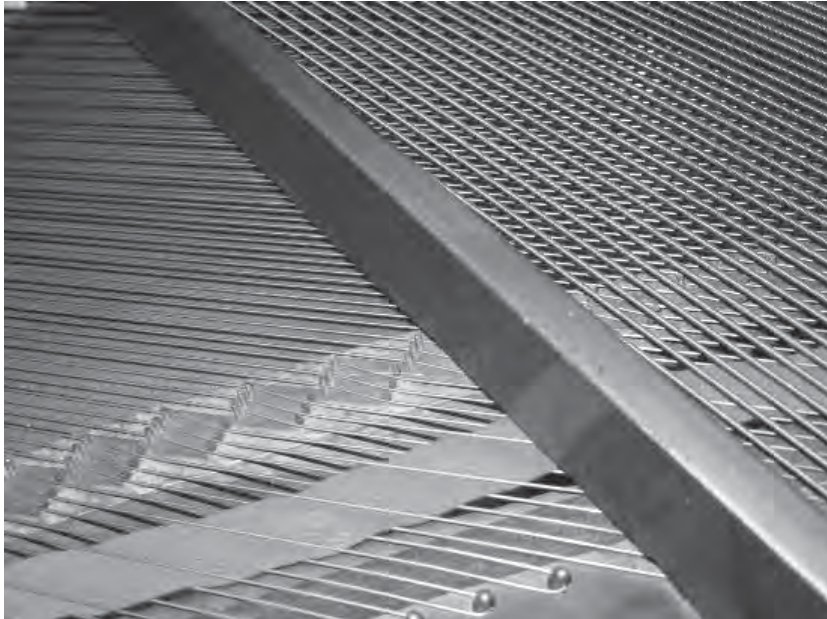
Greenfield High School, Greenfield: *Travis LeDoyt*. Fundraiser for the music department at GHS with GHS alum LeDoyt doing his Elvis impersonation. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Ryan Road Company*. A film by Tyler Geis. \$ 7 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Magik Markers* (see page B4), with *Willie Lane, Ben Chasny (Six Organs of Admittance) with Dredd Foole, and Paul & Sarah*. Psych. \$ 7 p.m.

Turners Falls High School: *The Little Mermaid*. GFMS presents Disney musical. \$ 7 p.m.

SUBMITTED IMAGE



"Gold and Diamonds," by Gloria Kegeles. Over the past several months, the Wendell artist observed the complex, multi-layered structures under the cover of her 100-year-old baby grand piano, inspired to see what she and her camera could find deep in the instrument's innards. "In Tune with Our Imagination: Photography & Mixed Media" at Gallery A3 in Amherst aims to make the unseen accessible by combining Kegeles's photography with Diane Steingart's mixed-media pieces on view this month. The artists will hold a forum about their work on March 21, 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Monte Belmonte's Second 40th Birthday Bacchanalia and Orgy*. Variety show, birthday bash for Monte, and roast of WHMP radio host Bill Newman. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jimmy Just Quit*. Eclectic local cover band playing dance music for St. Patrick's Day. \$ 8:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Great Craic Blackguards*. Classic Irish music for St. Patrick's Day. 9 p.m.

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

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

Polish American Club, South Deerfield: *Festibal Danse Cafe*. French and Breton Music and Dance Party. Come listen, play dance, enjoy. Live music. Dances are easy, friendly, forgiving, Hors d'oeuvres potluck. \$7 to \$12 donation. 4 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Traditional Irish Music in the Wheelhouse*. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Rosemary Caine*. Irish shenanigans. \$ 7 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Go Go Buffalo, A.D.U.L.T., and Perenni-*

into Femininity, Nemisister, PussyVision, and Sam Hadge. Forced into Femininity (Chicago): "A splatter fetishist's rereading of punk or industrial... a gut-punch of synthetic rhythm sickeningly warbling out of control." PussyVision (Western MA): "a hell witch cyberbitch hailing from a different universe." \$ 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Dan Melchior Band, Honey Radar, and Nick Bisceglia*. Melchior first made a name for himself on the same Medway music scene that produced Billy Childish and Holly Golightly (and collaborated with both), but he's since gone on to carve out a unique identity with his own take on lo-fi pop. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band Jam 2*. Fourth floor. 8 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Kids Music Series with Under the Tree Music Company*. 10:30 a.m.

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

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *The Wretch Whom You Created*, by Lily Sarosi, 26 mins. A radical, intersectional, feminist, queer, campy monster movie. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed Greenfield: *Matisyahu*. Jewish jam musician performing reggae, dub, rock, hip hop. \$ 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Portland Cello Project*. Bach, Radiohead, Coltrane. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Harvest & Rust*. Neil Young tribute. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *The Visitor*. A professor in New York finds two illegal immigrants living in his apartment. A sincere and touching drama ensues. Live music before the show at 7 p.m. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *CUBE, Slippery Stairs, and Obliquity*. \$ 8 p.m.

EXHIBITS

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Art as Veil: ixchelailee*. Local multi-media artist. Through March 22.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro: Six new exhibits include large paintings by *Sandy Sokoloff*, glass creatures based on children's drawings, narrative paintings by *Amy Bennett*, collaborative fiber art of *Jackie Abrams and Diedre Scherer*, immersive mixed-media installation by *Joey Morgan*, and paintings documenting several generations of an African-American and Cape Verdean family on Cape Cod by *Joseph Diggs*. Through June 16.

DVAA Gallery, Northfield: Members' exhibit in February/March: *Farms*. Reception March 31, 1 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The Time of My Life: Vintage Views of Western Massachusetts*. Enlarged postcard scenes take visitors on an imaginary road trip, with stops at Mount Tom, Sugarloaf, Turners Falls, Greenfield, Shelburne Falls, and the Mohawk Trail. Reproduction postal souvenir albums, hands-on stereoscope, and a Viewmaster with other area scenes. Through April 21.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *In Tune with our Imagination*. *Diane Steingart's* mixed media pieces are tangible, outer manifes-

tations of her memories and emotions, while *Gloria Kegeles's* photographs use the camera to capture images that are overlooked, unnoticed, or invisible to the naked eye. Through March 30. Forum, March 21, 7:30 p.m.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Marjorie Morgan's The Long View*. Dream landscapes. Through March 15.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Rodney Madison and Friends*. Paintings and mixed media.

Herrick Gallery, Wendell Library: *Gary Lippincott*. Professional illustrator. Through April.

Leverett Crafts & Arts Center: *Jump Start*, annual exhibit of student work from Louise Minks' studio classes, from

March 4 to March 23. Opening reception March 16, 1 p.m.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Spontaneous Combustion: Improvisatory Art by Adam Bosse* opens March 14 through May 5; reception April 14. Improvisations in color, paint, ink, showing with a soundtrack from Bosse's musical projects.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Women of Power*. Fabric Figures by *Belinda Lyons Zucker*. Through April 28. Also, *Creating Together*, collaborations between mothers and their children and an art making space for children.

Sawmill River Gallery, Montague Center: *The Glance of Mercy*. Paintings of animals by *Shali Sanders* of Orange. Also,

All Creatures Great and Small, works from the gallery collection. Through March 31.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Seeing Red*, a members' show with a red theme. Through March.

Smith College, Northampton: *Spring Bulb Show*. Spectacular flowering hyacinths, narcissi, irises, lilies and tulips. Lift your spirits with color and scent. Daily until March 17.

Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton: *Plastic Entanglements: Ecology, Aesthetics, Materials*. The story of plastic in sixty works by thirty contemporary artists exploring our entangled love affair with this miraculous and malevolent material. Through July.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Improvisatory Art and Music by Adam Bosse

From combined sources.

TURNERS FALLS – Nina’s Nook presents “Spontaneous Combustion: The Improvisatory Art of Adam Bosse” during March and April. Bosse is exhibiting some of the visual art that he has created since 2017, work that he feels visually represents the work he has done as an improvising musician. It is his first gallery show in the area.

Bosse is a electric guitarist and music educator at the Northampton Community Music Center, teaching guitar as well as group courses on blues performance, ukulele choir, and most notably, free-form improvisation. He has been performing, improvising, and recording in the Western Massachusetts music scene for the past decade. He performs with noise rock duo Fred Cracklin and the free-jazz 23 Ensemble.

“In the fall of 2017,” says Bosse, “I randomly decided to buy a pack of canvases and some acrylic paints. It felt like my built experience in playing improvised music had suddenly triggered a need to get these spontaneous energies out into the visual world. I was automatically hooked, and within a few months started exploring a variety of tools and mediums that I could use to create paintings, drawings, and digital collages.”

After completing a masters in music from the UMass-Amherst jazz composition graduate program in 2009, Bosse began exploring new creative music scenes, triggering an interest in a more spontaneous way

of approaching the guitar.

“I could explore the guitar and all of its sound capabilities beyond the standard scales, harmonies and techniques I had studied over the previous 20 years,” Bosse explains. “In 2017, I started Fred Cracklin, mixing both composed and improvised material, with the idea of the sound ultimately being explosive.”



As Bosse experimented with the different “colors” a guitar could make (feedback, effected sounds, prepared guitar sounds), he also became fascinated with how colors and lines could interact with each other, blending into other strange colors and textures that were bigger than the small components, creating a pieces from spontaneous activity.

After pouring a selection of colors onto the canvas, he’d go into his backyard and toss the canvas violently like a frisbee, spinning the paint into unplanned textures and shapes. He also started making line

drawings with micron pens, pieces that felt more controlled, with a result that felt less random and risky. “A lot of what these pieces showcase is an interaction between free-flowing lines working in tandem with one another, creating unexpected and unique shapes” says Bosse.

The line drawings eventually merged with the textural painted pieces. “There are elements of controlled, precise composition that could at any point explode and go off the rails into improvisation, much in the same way I create sounds with Fred Cracklin,” says Bosse, “with the lines almost reining in the chaos the bright colors create.”

Nina’s Nook will present a soundtrack for the exhibition curated by Bosse from recorded documentation he feels best represents each piece on display. Recordings include works from Fred Cracklin (with drummer Max Goldstein), 23 Ensemble (Andy Kivela, Andy Allen, Andy Crespo, Matt Robidoux), various other musicians he has played with (Jen Gelineau, Michael Dailey Jr., John Moloney), as well as students in his improvisation classes.

Gallery visitors can either listen on the gallery speakers or scan QR codes to listen on their phones.

The show opens Thursday, March 14, and will remain up through April. Meet Adam Bosse at an afternoon reception on Sunday, April 14. Nina’s Nook is located at 125A Avenue A in Turners Falls. For more information, call (413) 834-8800, or see ninasnook.com.

MONTE BELMONTE'S SECOND 40TH BIRTHDAY BACCHANALIA AND ORGY
SATURDAY, MARCH 16TH
AT 7:30PM
 FEATURING
EVELYN HARRIS
 AND
STOMPBOX TRIO
 AS BAND IN RESIDENCE

OUR FEARLESS LEADER AND RESIDENT WINO MONTE BELMONTE RETURNS TO THE SHEA FOR HIS SECOND 40TH BIRTHDAY. THIS VARIETY SHOW WILL BE A ROAST OF WHMP RADIO HOST BILL NEWMAN. COME ONE, COME ALL.

#GETTOTHESEA

March 23 Full Moon Coffeehouse: Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem

WENDELL – Harmony, rhythm, indelible songs: these are the hallmarks of Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem, the New England-based folk quartet now in its 15th year. The band, called “one of America’s most inventive string bands” by the *Boston Herald*, will bring joy to the Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse next Saturday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m. The cash-only event benefits the Friends of the Wendell Free Library. Sliding scale admission is \$6 to \$15.

In the lineage of string bands who blur the boundaries of Ameri-

can roots music, Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem have always been standard-bearers, with a particular knack for pairing words and music. From bluegrass barnstormers to sultry swing, old-time gospel to bluesy folk-rock, they consistently turn in lush arrangements with “stylish, unexpected choices” (*Acoustic Guitar*).

The Full Moon Coffeehouse is the longest-running non-profit venue in New England. Open mic begins at 7:30 p.m. For sign-up or further information, visit www.wendellfullmoon.org or call (978) 544-5557.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!

Roundabout Books
a bookstore for book people

Wed - Sun: 12 to 5 pm
 26 Kenwood St. Greenfield
 (413) 773-0820
roundaboutbookstore.com

TURN'S
LAWN CARE

Landscape Design & Maintenance
 Accepting New Plow Customers
 Within 7 Miles of Montague Center
 522-2563
www.TurnLawnCare.com

10% off Parts & Labor
 We service all makes & models of outdoor equipment!
 Offer expires March 31st

Ask about pick-up & delivery options!

SIRUM
 FARM - TURF - INDUSTRIAL
 413-367-2481
 MONTAGUE, MASSACHUSETTS

sirumequipment.com

Rte 63, Montague 413-367-2481

The Gill Tavern
 Come For a Drink, Stay For a Meal

www.thegilltavern.com Open Wed - Sun at 5 PM
 326 Main Road Gill, MA 413-863-9006

Jeffrey Collura, D.M.D.
 Cosmetic Dentistry

7 Burnham Street
 Turners Falls, MA 01376
 Telephone (413) 774-6553
TurnersFallsDental.com

Office Hours By Appointment

CEREC : SINGLE-VISIT DENTISTRY

Dennis L. Booska
 Dennis L. Booska, Jr. Phone & Fax
 413-863-3690

Booska's Flooring
 Tile
 Lino
 Carpet

169 Avenue A, Turners Falls
 Member The Flooring Network.

IN GOOD COMPANY
 A SKILLED ELDER COMPANION SERVICE

Offering focused attention, engaging activities, outings, and respite for caregivers.

Sita Lang
 Hospice trained
 CPR certified

sitalang@ingoodcompanynow.com
www.ingoodcompanynow.com
 413-834-7569

Turners Falls Pizza House
 Family Owned & Operated
 Serving Turners Falls area for 40 Years
 Dave Argy, Family & Staff

PIZZA, GRINDERS, DINNERS, SALADS, BURGERS

www.turnersfallspizza.com
 119 Avenue A, Turners Falls (413) 863-8000

Cathy Roberts
cathy@cohnandcompany.com
 413-522-3023

Recognized as one of the ten best agents in Massachusetts for client satisfaction for two years

Your trusted advisor, friend & neighbor

GREAT FALLS HARVEST
 fresh • local • creative

Rich flavors from around the world with a local state of mind.

Thursdays - Fridays 5 to 9 PM
 Saturdays 11 AM to 9 PM
 Sundays 11 AM to 8 PM

Brunch Saturday & Sunday
 11 AM to 3 PM

413-863-0023
 50 Third Street
 Downtown Turners Falls

TURN IT UP!

MUSIC & MOVIES

BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

Geri Johnson, Realtor
 ABR, CRB, CRS, GRI, SRES
 413-863-9736 • GeriJohnson@Realtor.com

Geri Johnson & Associates REALTORS

66 French King Hwy., Gill WWW.GJAR.COM
GERI JOHNSON, CRS 30 years of experience.

HEART & SOLAR
 WORKER OWNED SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE SINCE 2002

PVSQUARED
 HEART & SOLAR

311 WELLS STREET, SUITE B
 GREENFIELD, MA 01301
 413-772-8788
 PVSQUARED.COOP
 MA ELEC. LIC. A13764 MA HIC 140077

Certified Corporation