

The Montague Reporter

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also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 21, 2019

Students Rally Again for Gun Control, and Strategize



Four Rivers junior Gina Magin reads a speech about gun violence on Monday.

By MIKE JACKSON

GREENFIELD – “Obviously, if you’re not fearing at all, and you get to the point where you don’t think anything exists as a problem – how do you balance that? Fearing, but not fearing so much that you’re, you know...”

Hannah Karcinell weighs the question quietly. The younger girl continues:

“Because honestly, I do fear a lot about gun violence. It stresses me out to the point where I’m not doing enough, because I’m scared so much.”

Karcinell leans toward the girl, and asks her own question softly.

“Do you mean scared, like, feeling something’s going to happen?” “Well – just that *it’s happening*.”

“Yeah.”

“And it’s so upsetting.”

It’s a hard question to field, and before she finds an answer, a second student chimes in. “I haven’t experienced anything like you’ve experienced, so if I really picture it, then I start to freak out.”

“Yeah,” Karcinell agrees, again. “I feel like being informed, but not engaging with content, like on social media, too much, about things...”

Thirteen months ago, Hannah Karcinell’s world was turned upside

down when a young man armed with a Smith & Wesson M&P15 entered her Parkland, Florida high school and began shooting. Now the 19-year-old UMass freshman is something of a movement elder, and she is sitting in a library basement surrounded by solemn, focused middle and high school students, determined to help end gun violence and intent on absorbing the insight afforded by her trauma.

“Have you ever experienced adults thinking just because you’re younger than them, that you shouldn’t be protesting at all?” a boy asks her.

“Look back into history,” Karcinell says. “With so many different movements, it was all young people that were empowered, and passionate, and started these movements... Young people just, I feel like honestly, care more than adults do sometimes.”

The thirty-odd students sitting with her in a circle are all suspended from school today, because yesterday they walked out of class and marched to the Greenfield Common to demonstrate in favor of gun control legislation. There they held signs, waved at drivers who honked their support, and cheered as their classmates read fiery speeches into a megaphone. And for 17 minutes

see **STUDENTS** page A3

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Dudleyville Road Mud Spurs Pleas

By ROB SKELTON

Tuesday’s combined budgeting meeting of the Leverett selectboard and fin com drew a packed house at the town hall, including a passel of Dudleyville Road residents denied access due to mud.

A petition was delivered to the selectboard by Dudleyville resident Ray Bradley to authorize a civil engineering study to assess the fix.

“I have to be able to get home. I have to have access to my house. We’ve reached a point where it has to be fixed,” Bradley said, noting that mail, propane and emergency vehicles were impacted.

Former road boss Will Stratford recommended Tighe & Bond, and said that state Chapter 90 funds could pay for it (instead of a special article), with the okay of current

see **LEVERETT** page A8

Grand Sandy Lane Bus Barn Plans Scaled Back



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

The FRTA garage on Deerfield Street in Greenfield was damaged by a 2014 fire.

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE – Plans for a new regional bus maintenance and operations facility on Montague’s Sandy Lane are being significantly reduced in scope, after the Federal Transit Administration awarded the state only a fraction of the funding required for the project.

The Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) intends to build a new bus barn on 5 acres of land purchased from the town of Montague, in exchange for improvements to “water, sewer, communications,

road, and sidewalk” along the dead-end road that the town hopes will help in the development of a future industrial park.

But the federal Buses and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program only allotted \$6 million for the project, far less than the \$20 million-plus construction cost projected in its preliminary design.

This week the FRTA advisory board is scheduled to discuss a new vision for the facility, reduced from 55,000 to only 20,000 square feet. The fleet of buses will now

see **FRTA** page A3

Tech School Students Lobby for State Policy Change – And Win

By JEFF SINGLETON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – “At first it was scary,” said Keltyn Socquet, a student in the cosmetology program at the Franklin County Technical School (FCTS), of her experience in Boston testifying before the state board that regulates her field.

Socquet and four other students had traveled to 100 Washington Street, near the Prudential Building, to lobby for a change in state policy concerning the age at which students in cosmetology programs can begin accruing the 1,000 hours of work required in their field for graduation.

State policy had mandated the accrual to start at the age of 16, but this meant that some students could potentially face the graduation date without the required hours. Socquet, for example, would have had to return to the tech school after graduation to complete the requirement.

Raye Young, the cooperative education coordinator at FCTS, told the *Reporter* that cosmetology is the only accrual age program with a lower age limit. The other programs with similar criteria for graduation – electri-



LYNN WILES PHOTO

Franklin County Technical School cosmetology student Ciara Chagnon practices her dyeing.

cal and plumbing – have no such limit.

Instructors and students in the cosmetology program, along with others around the state, had been lobbying the Board of Cosmetology for a number of years to lower the age at which hours can be accrued to 15.

see **TECH SCHOOL** page A6

The Week in Turners Falls Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

As the snow melts and the calendar switches to spring, student athletes and their supporters break out the spring gear and prepare for the third season of the 2018-19 school year. High schools around the state officially ended the winter sports season days before spring arrived with state championships and local All Star games.

I went to the Cage on March 9 to watch the Western Mass basketball finals. There were a surprising number of Turners Falls fans in the audience, with most chanting “go Green Wave.”

Western Mass teams did pretty well in the next round, against their Central opponents, but in the end, the East won most of the state championships – the exception being the Hoosac Valley girls, who beat St. Mary’s 66-49 to take the state title.

The Hopkins girls’ team also did pretty well, making the state finals before losing

see **SPORTS** page A4

DAVID HOLT PHOTO

Turners Falls’ Sarah Waldron drives past an East Team defender during the 22nd Annual LAABO All-Star Games at Greenfield High School.

Smoky Nirvana in Millers Falls

By NINA ROSSI

MILLERS FALLS – There are no leftovers in the barbecue business, so customers at the North Village Smokehouse in Millers Falls have learned to arrive when the doors open at 5 p.m. to get first crack at a full menu of smoked meats. Beef brisket, ribs – both pork and beef – chicken thighs, turkey breast, locally made Pekariski sausage-of-the-day, and Texas hot links



ROSSI PHOTO

Tender smoked pork ribs are a popular menu item at the North Village Smokehouse.

are on the menu, and most of these items will sell out by 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Sunday when the smokehouse is open.

When someone told me that tasting the chicken almost brought tears of gratitude to his eyes, I decided I wanted some of that smoky nirvana. I invited my sister down from Keene to try it out, knowing that she was a meat lover. She was concerned that the meat was going to be smothered in sticky, carb-laden sauce since she is on an extremely low-to-no carb diet plan. Luckily, when I checked the North Village Smokehouse Facebook page, it showed meat porn that was incredibly sexy, and done in the “dry rub” method: a coating of spices on the outside of the meat instead of a basting of sauce.

At North Village, homemade barbecue sauce is available at the table, but never put on the meat while cooking.

We arrived at 5:20 p.m. last Saturday, and the parking lot was about half full. Inside, the old Roadhouse Tavern had changed a lot since I was there about ten years ago. This was before current owner Sean Keller bought it, reopened the venue as the Pioneer Tavern, and then closed it down for a while to transform it into the North Village Smokehouse, which opened last fall.

see **SMOKY** page A5

The Montague Reporter

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CLARIFICATIONS

In the article about the Common Good network in our March 14 edition ("Checkout Philanthro-Pay," page A1), we referenced someone saying that "the tax collector at the Montague town offices would only accept credit card payments with a \$3.50 fee attached to the bill."

This wasn't exactly incorrect, but it was ambiguously worded and led to confusion. Credit card payments are *only* accepted with the fee attached, but paying by credit (or debit) card is not the *only* way to settle up. They also accept

cash, checks, money orders, etc. Speaking of which...

Some of our subscribers have noticed that we have adopted a new, automated system for renewal notifications. Instead of receiving a numbered estimate in the mail, you'll get a postcard; if we have your email address, instead of an email with an estimate attached, you'll just get an email.

The system cuts down on work and waste, but seems to be more often overlooked... please keep an eye out, and don't forget to renew!

Grocery Workers Hint at Holiday Strike

By ANNABEL LEVINE

CHICOPEE – Stop & Shop workers from around the region rallied on Wednesday during a break in the ongoing contract negotiations between Stop & Shop and five local United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) unions. Employees have been working without a contract since February 23.

Wednesday's rally took place outside of the Chicopee Stop & Shop, a central location for the over 1,300 Stop & Shop employees working in western Massachusetts to gather. With a police car blocking off the back section of the parking lot and two police officers looking on, representatives of UFCW Local 1459 and guests spoke to a crowd of fellow employees and union supporters. It was a sunny and warm spring day, and about 200 people came out to support Stop & Shop employees.

To the left of the microphone, a giant inflatable rat with the company's name on its chest swayed in the breeze. "I smell a rat," UFCW 1459 President Tyrone Housey yelled to the crowd, "and that rat, unfortunately, is Stop & Shop!" Housey went on to tell the crowd

that "sometimes you need to stand up to a bully," and that the decisions being made by Stop & Shop parent company Ahold Delhaize are "nothing but corporate greed." Other representatives of 1459 addressed the crowd, followed by representatives of other local labor groups including the Massachusetts Teachers Association and Jobs with Justice.

After a few short speeches, employees and their supporters, some carrying banners, marched together to the store's front entrance. When they reached the doors, the crowd walked in circles chanting songs like "Stop & Shop, you can't hide – we can see your greedy side!"

In attendance from the Greenfield Stop & Shop was Taunette Green, a pharmacy tech who has worked for the company for 46 years. This round of bargaining is her eighth time at the negotiating table, and she said she is disappointed in the proposals put forth so far by management.

"The company's made billions of dollars, and they don't want to give any of it to the employees," she said. "I don't understand. It's pure

corporate greed."

Green told the *Reporter* that she was disappointed with the company's raise proposals – "they've been giving us 25 cents, 35 cents for years now" – and said that the company is trying to "grandfather everything," meaning that new hires would have fewer, and unequal, benefits.

Green said she was especially concerned about cuts to the pension plan. "I've been with the company 46 years," she said. "I earned those pensions."

While a strike was not explicitly announced, multiple speakers said, in not so many words, that one was imminent. Wednesday's rally came during a week-long break from negotiations, which union leaders told the crowd had been scheduled to give the union time to catch up on other business.

However, after 25 formal sessions at the negotiating table, UFCW representatives say they are "losing patience." At one point, the crowd was asked when the next busy holiday was, with the implication that the union may strike in anticipation of the next holiday rush. A few supporters yelled "Easter," which this year takes place on April 21.



LEVINE/PHOTO
About 200 people turned out for the rally, which was held during a pause in negotiations. The union's contract expired a month ago.

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NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

March is "Massachusetts Maple Month"! Ashley Arthur poses with two gallons of maple syrup from Sugarbush Farm in Wendell, which she serves with weekend brunch waffles at her Turners Falls restaurant, the Five Eyed Fox.

Letters to the Editors

A Local Dining Option in Leverett

The Leverett Village Coop on Wednesday nights is perhaps one of the best kept secrets in Franklin County. Candlelight, linens, flowers, and live music transform the schmooze café into an intimate, elegant dining experience.

LVC opened at the crossroads of Rattlesnake Gutter and North Leverett circa 1990, and continues to serve the community and its members seven days a week.

Now under new management, the Coop has instituted Wednesday night dinners with seatings at 5 p.m. and again at 6:30. Local and visiting chefs prepare these amazing and delicious meals using ingredients grown here in the valley delivered to the table by coop staff. The meals are accompanied with generous wine tastings from distributors who know their stuff!

Visit LVC or call 367-9794 for reservations. You will be glad you did!

**Angela Taylor
Leverett**

International Forest Protectors Unite

On Saturday, March 9 at Wendell Town Hall, forty members of the nonviolent activist group Wendell State Forest Alliance (WSFA) met with German forest protectors representing Ende Gelände Hambach Forst to strengthen their international connection.

WSFA is working to stop the Department of Conservation and Recreation's logging in Wendell State Forest. Both groups are motivated by several recent international science reports that identify stopping deforestation as the most efficient and effective way to mitigate climate change.

For more information on local efforts to save our state forests, please go to www.savemassforests.com or search for "Save-BrookRoadForest" on Facebook. You may also email savebrookrdforest@gmail.com.

**Miriam Kurland
Williamsburg**

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(ORIGINAL CONTENT ONLY, PLEASE)

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Compiled by **CHRIS PELLERIN**

Happy **Spring Equinox!** With the longer days and stronger sunshine, we are quickly losing the snow and ice. The DPW began sending out the street sweepers to clean up the sand and salt residue on March 18. A sign of spring!

Soon it will be time for **tee ball, baseball, and softball.** The Montague Parks and Recreation Department reminds us that registration ends soon for these activities, so be sure to call (413) 863-3216 to sign up if you haven’t already.

Violin teacher Heather Sommerlad will lead a jam session starting at noon on Friday, March 22 at Artspace with an **introduction to improvisation**, using scales to jam on top of simple chord progressions. Musicians welcome on any instrument. There’s a piano at the ready. Suggested donation is \$5 to \$10. Each session meets on the fourth Friday of the month. Artspace is lo-

cated at 15 Mill Street, Greenfield.

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

On Saturday, March 23, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Turners Falls branch of Greenfield Savings Bank, Owen Wormser, the **planter coordinator for Turners Falls**, will be showcasing the extensive work done by volunteers over the past three years. I’m told that an astounding 800 bulbs and perennials have been added to the planters in recent years! Owen welcomes any questions, ideas, or suggestions you may have. The event is free and open to all.

From 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on March 23, volunteers will meet on Avenue A to sweep sand and pick up debris from Avenue A and Third Street in Turners Falls. Bring rakes,

and especially push brooms! **Spring cleaning** continues on Sunday, March 24. Volunteers will meet at 3:30 p.m. in the lobby of the Shea Theater. Who knows what kind of interesting things will be unearthed in its mysterious chambers? At 5:30 p.m., there will be a community dinner followed by a free concert by Fancy Trash. This show is open to the public, whether able to help with the clean-up or not!

Last week, I told you about the Community Read that is happening in ten local towns. This week’s events include Shelter from the Rain: **How to Tie Knots & Hang Tarps** (with Adventure In Adventure Out) at the Dickinson Memorial Library, 115 Main Street, Northfield on Saturday, March 23 from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

On Sunday, March 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Leverett Library, at 75 Montague Road, Dawn Ward will present the program In the Winter Woods: Mammals, the Hermit, and **Surviving the Cold.** Please note that this is not an outdoor wilderness survival technique training program.

Also on Sunday at 4 p.m., there is a **book discussion** with Jonathan von Ranson at the Wendell Free Library, 7 Wendell Depot Road. SamDucharme will present **Thru-Hiking the Appalachian Trail** on Tuesday, March 26 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Dickinson Memorial Li-

STUDENTS from page A1

they were silent – one minute for each of the victims who died last year in the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

All attend Greenfield’s Four Rivers Charter Public School, and unlike last year, when Karcinell and her peers held the media spotlight in the lead-up to the massive March For Our Lives in Washington, DC, theirs was the only local student body to demonstrate Monday. About a hundred, or nearly half the middle and high school, joined in the action despite being informed by administrators that they would receive a one-day suspension if they did so.

“I was angry that congressmen felt that being financed by the NRA was more important than children’s lives,” senior Cynthia Roy-Clark said to a cheering crowd. “I’m proud of those survivors. They stood up and gave this movement a voice.”

“In school we’re taught to fight for what we believe in, and they’re suspending us for walking out, which is kind of ironic for me,” said a senior named Adam, sitting with friends on a bench behind the main rally. “A lot of us were concerned about it showing up on our college record, but we figured a lot of colleges would like to see that their applicants were activists, and trying to do the right thing.”

“I’m kind of on the NRA side of this,” said a friend of his named Cai. “It’s a pretty liberal school, and I’m pretty conservative.... It’s just my personal belief: when shootings happen, the gun laws get restricted, which makes it so we can’t really protect ourselves from more events like this.”

Still, Cai said, “I thought it was important to come and show that I support it in some way.” “Also,” he added with a grin, “I wanted the free day tomorrow.”

All told, about half of Four Rivers’ 220 students participated, and received the punishment. “I think this went very well,” said junior Gina Magin, one of the organizers,

afterward. “It’s a huge turnout, and I honestly am so inspired that so many people came.”

The student group that led Monday’s walkout was recently certified an official chapter of the March For Our Lives network, and today many have joined them for a day at the public library, completing homework and participating in a “Freedom School,” making art, watching documentaries, and engaging in debate over where the movement against gun violence is heading.

During the session with Karcinell, they discuss difficulties finding support within their own families, when to engage hostile opponents and when to ignore them, and the difference between their own experiences and those of youth who regularly face the threat of gun violence in their neighborhoods.

One student asks Karcinell – who identifies herself as biracial and Jewish, and shares that her family moved from Pennsylvania to Parkland after she was the target of a hate crime – about the Black Lives Matter movement.

“Gun violence is a central issue that affects everyone, and there’s multiple types of gun violence,” she replies. “There’s domestic abusers and gun violence; there’s police brutality; there’s urban gun violence – there’s all kinds of it. And I definitely think that Black Lives Matter and the gun reform movement are one.”

They discuss media coverage. “They wrote an article about us in the newspaper, and it mostly quoted white adults,” one student observes. “Our principal, a random guy on the street – we wrote them a press release explaining our opinions, and they only used three lines of it!”

“What I’ve been trying to do is read speeches,” Karcinell advises. “Even writing opinion editorials to different newspapers can help you get your voice out, and have everything in there that you want to say, without being taken out of context.”

They debate the Four Rivers ad-

ministration’s response to their walkout. Some express anger that on the morning of the protest, administrators announced that joining a more moderate action designed to give students an avenue to participate without punishment – a three-minute moment of silence on the sidewalk in front of the school – would result in an in-school suspension.

“They’re super hippie,” one complains. “They’re like ‘yeah, let’s have gun control’ – but as soon as we were the ones that were in charge, and all of their power was gone, that’s when they locked down and tried totally to take over.”

“They have certain responsibilities they do have to uphold, especially the charter,” reasons another. “But you’ve gotta practice what you preach.”

The administrators at Stoneman Douglas, Karcinell says, “have been trying to not acknowledge it at all.” There are shocked gasps when she recounts that the administration dismantled a memorial to the victims without warning the student body, and groans when she says they didn’t even change the fire alarm sound, despite being advised to do so by the principal from Columbine High.

Karcinell says that though many of her schoolmates from Parkland are still politically active, “everyone is in a lot of different places right now – some are still at the school, but there’s a lot of people who graduated last year, who are doing this.”

But while she has taken part in panels, presentations, rallies and other events, she says this is the first time she has been able to just talk with a group of other students in private, peer to peer. “I like this setting,” she says.

And she encourages the Four Rivers students to keep up their activism. “I think it’s even more important that you did this this year,” she tells them. “To do it a year later, when so many people have forgotten about it – I think that’s more important.”



brary. You can contact the libraries for more information about each event, or find out more at www.facebook.com/librariesinthewoods/.

Jane Urban, the Erving Elementary School librarian, tells us that their annual **Spring into Reading** party will be held on Sunday, March 24 from 2 to 4 p.m. The school is located at 28 Northfield Road in Erving (Route 63). This year, the celebration features story-teller, musician and local favorite, John Porcino. In addition to John’s performance, there will be story-walks, a photo op with a “larger than life” story book, and refreshments.

By the time you read this, the “Walk for a New Spring” will have already begun, but anyone is welcome to walk for all or part of the march. The walk, which is in its 18th year, begins at the **New England Peace Pagoda** at 100 Cave Hill Road in Leverett, and ends April 9 on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. The goal of the march is to promote world peace and sustainability, and to work toward eliminating nuclear weapons and war.

If you are interested in joining the walk or getting more details, you can call Tim Bullock at (413) 485-8469 or send an e-mail to walk-4anewspring@gmail.com.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

FRTA from page A1

be parked outside, and office and maintenance space have both been significantly reduced.

The Montague selectboard discussed the news at its meeting Monday night. Under the existing plan FRTA, which as a governmental organization cannot pay taxes, would help the town pay for the improvements to Sandy Lane.

“What if we scaled back the ask, to support what they need to do?” asked selectboard chair Rich Kulewicz.

“We can talk about what the options there might be, in relation to that,” said town administrator Steve Ellis. “Putting the wrong infrastructure into the ground right now would definitely be problematic.”

Montague has recently built two solar arrays elsewhere on the parcel, and the proposal for a FRTA facility was reviewed by the planning board in 2017 and conservation commission in 2018.

The regional transit authority has been seeking to close down its current facility on Deerfield Street in Greenfield for several years. That building dates to 1911, and was originally owned by the Connecticut Valley Street Railway Company, which was succeeded in 1923 by the Greenfield-Montague Transportation Area.

In January 2014 the building was damaged by a fire, resulting in flooding and smoke damage, and FRTA has been seeking an alternate location for its garage since then.

FRTA says it still plans to move ahead with the project, and is negotiating with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation for additional funding.

The selectboard also discussed the progress of the transit authority’s “pilot” program, which adds two additional round trips of Route 23 to Sunderland for six months. This bus provides access to and from Amherst and the University of Massachusetts by connecting to Pi-

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SPORTS from page A1

against Cathedral 65-36.

Then on Friday, March 15, four local high school seniors were selected for the Hampshire-Franklin IAABO Board, 22 annual All Star games played at Greenfield High School.

The IAABO has an interesting way of deciding East vs. West. The easiest way would seem to be to use the Connecticut River, which cuts through Hampshire and Franklin counties. But technically, Gill is on the west bank while Montague lies on the east. And Frontier is also split by the river, with Sunderland on the east and the other three towns in the west.

So I guess they used Millers Falls Road as the divider, as Franklin Tech was a Western team, while Turners Falls was assigned to the East. However, in the girls’ game, Turners played on

the West team. Go figure.

Both games featured individual talents and great sportsmanship as the kids suited up for their last high school basketball game of their lives. In the girls’ game, there was only one foul called in the first half, and in the boys’ game, there was only one hard foul in the entire game. And the crowd applauded and laughed as the player who committed the foul physically lifted the foulee to his feet.

In the girls’ game, Greenfield coach John Hickey started three Greenfield players for the West team, and built a pretty good lead. But, because it was an exhibition game, 10 new players entered the fray when the buzzer sounded.

East took the lead in the second quarter, and never looked back as they took the contest 72-52. Turners senior Sarah Waldron ended with two

points, while Greenfield’s Sam Smith scored 20.

While the girls’ game was a demonstration of crisp passes to unfamiliar teammates, the boys’ game showcased slam dunks and 3-pointers. By the third quarter, the biggest question was whether West was going to hit 120 points. They didn’t, but they did win by 26 points, 107-81.

Sim Maniatty of Franklin Tech played for the West and scored 9 points while his teammate, Jared Bergmann, sat out the game with an injury. Tyler Lavin represented Turners Falls High School for the East, and scored 6 points.

Also of note, Turners coach Gary Mullins received the Tom Cove Award “for his significant contributions to the game of basketball in Hampshire and Franklin counties.”

Next week: Spring preview!



GUEST EDITORIAL

One Degree Or Two:
What’s The Difference?

By ANNA GYORGY

GREENFIELD – Many who have been following the facts around global warming and climate change over the years are used to bad news coming from older experts trying to communicate the urgency of the situation especially in a national political climate as brutal and controlled by fossil fuel interests as our own.

After all, this climate change business is not new. “In the 1860s,” writes the Earth Science Communication Team at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, “physicist John Tyndall recognized the Earth’s natural greenhouse effect and suggested that slight changes in the atmospheric composition could bring about climatic variations. In 1896, a seminal paper by Swedish scientist Svante Arrhenius first predicted that changes in the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere could substantially alter the surface temperature through the greenhouse effect.”

Thus it was a pleasure, despite the bad news described, to have the main points of the October 2018 UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report given, clearly and knowledgeably, by someone in an age cohort that will face the major climate changes long foretold – and that will hopefully do everything possible to keep the planet as cool as possible.

At the quarterly general assembly of the Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution (FCCPR) at the Guiding Star Grange in Greenfield on January 27, half of the two-hour meeting was dedicated to a presentation from UMass doctoral student Shaina Rogstad, now getting her degree in climate science.

With graphic slides and powerful statistics, Rogstad brought home the international experts’ conclusions about the dramatic differences between levels of global warming of 2.7° Fahrenheit (1.5° Celsius) and what had heretofore been considered acceptable increase of 3.6° F (2° C).

Take, for example, the Arctic, warming faster than other areas in part because ice reflects sunlight and dark, open water absorbs light and heat, increasing ice break-up and melt. And if the Antarctic ice sheet were to be lost, there could be a 3-foot rise in sea level before

the end of the century. “So we really don’t want that,” Rogstad added.

The flooding from ocean rise caused by 2° C of warming could affect 10 million more people than that caused by an increase of 1.5° C. (Sea level rise is a tricky matter, as despite global averages, it doesn’t rise everywhere to the same degree: “not like a bathtub.”)

The difference between 1.5° and 2° C is also stark when it comes to projected biological losses, which would be two to three times worse in a “2° world” compared to 1.5°. The impact on crop yields looks similar: two times worse in a warmer world.

Coral reefs, which have existed for 560 million years and are key to ocean life and fish reproduction, are being destroyed, bleached to death. That is happening now, with an expected 70% to 90% loss before 2050. But in a 2° C world, 99% are expected to be gone by the mid-2100s.

There is no “safe” level of warming, and now, with slightly more than 1° C of warming worldwide since the advent of industry, we can already measure changes in long-term trends. There must be dramatic cuts in greenhouse gas emissions and fossil fuel use by 2030 to keep up from the higher 2° C reality.

But that won’t be easy.

The Paris Equity Check website (paris-equity-check.org) shows the inadequacy of 2015 Paris Agreement pledges made by the most industrialized countries. The section “How much global warming is each country’s pledge leading to?” features colored maps showing that, by 2100, many current voluntary pledges would result in planetary warming of between 3° C and 5° C. That’s hot!

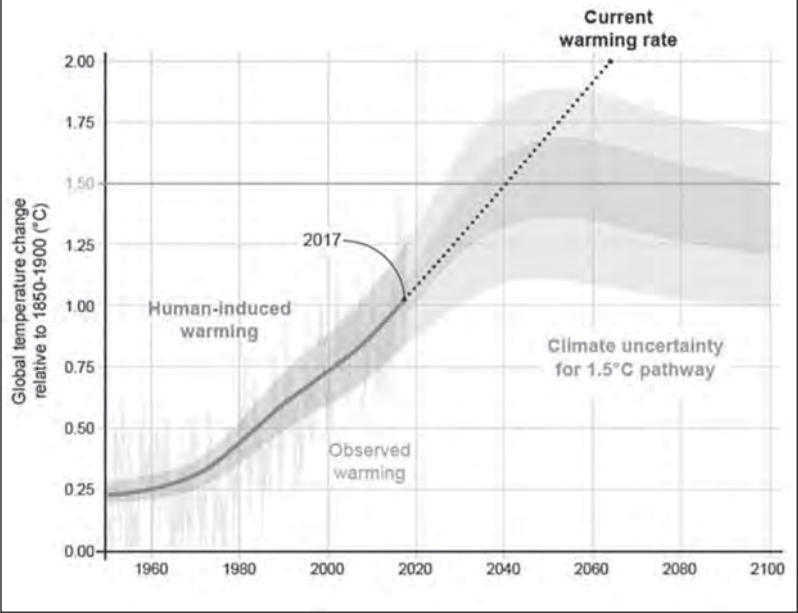
Implications for Massachusetts

Already our state, with an average warming of 1.3° C since 1895, is above the national baseline. With more heat comes more rain: 2018 was the second-wettest year on record.

In a warmer world there will be more heat waves, with the number of days over 95° F increasing from between 10 and 20 a summer to between 10 and 70. There will be less snow and more rain, which we are already experiencing.

Although saying that the current situation “doesn’t look great,” Rog-

Possible Trajectories



This graph, included in the IPCC’s October report, shows a range of possible warming trajectories associated with different rates of reductions in emissions.

Greenhouse gas emissions come primarily from the burning of fossil fuels for energy and transportation. They are also from agriculture (especially animal based agriculture), cement production, and more. They change the composition of our atmosphere and trap heat, leading to the rise in global temperatures and cascading effects such as the ones mentioned above. We need to stop emitting them in order for the climate system to recover, and we need to do it soon.

The reductions needed are massive and they will take bold action, not incremental change. If emissions reductions had begun decades ago we could have had a smoother transition, but, for a variety of infuriating reasons, they weren’t.

In order to stay below a 1.5°

C temperature increase we need to reduce emissions by 45% below 2010 levels before 2030. After that, emissions would need to reach net zero by 2050.

The report does not say that all hope is lost if emissions aren’t adequately reduced within 12 years of the report’s publication. Rather, it says that 1.5° C above preindustrial levels will almost certainly not be attainable unless dramatic emissions reductions are implemented immediately. It is a wakeup call for us to reduce emissions now so that the impacts we are currently facing don’t become far worse than they will already be.

(From Shaina Rogstad, “A Quick Overview of the UN Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 C”)

stad reported on progress in MA on reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). The state’s goal of reducing GHG by 25% between 1990 and 2020 seems within reach, as reductions are already at 21%.

We will need to move away not just from coal and oil, but also natural gas, a powerful source of methane pollution. To reduce the 41% of GHG coming from transportation, she said, the state should move towards public transportation, walking, and biking. There should be “a clear proposal” from our representatives, and Rogstad singled out Rep. Richard Neal as needing pressure on climate action.

There was a lively discussion on the role of food, forests, and agriculture in climate change. “Planting forests is the only natural proven way to draw down CO2,” Rogstad said. She also endorsed saving older trees, which sequester much more carbon than young ones.

As for food, Rogstad was ada-

mant about the need to move away from animal products and towards a fully plant-based diet: local if possible, but in any case vegetarian. Even the best locally produced meat, she argued, is responsible for more emissions than vegetables shipped in from afar.

Rogstad also criticized what she called the “industry-funded denialism” of the lobbyist-industry-political nexus. She said she supports the investigations and court cases being brought against Exxon and Shell, for their decades of hiding the truth about fossil-fueled climate change for decades.

Rogstad’s presentation was filmed by Frontier Community Action Television, and is available to watch on their Youtube channel. Her website is available at www.scienceshaina.com. Anna Gyorgy is a member of the Traprock Center for Peace & Justice and Wendell Energy Committee.

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SMOKY from page A1

There were two booths still unoccupied, and the bar seating to the left of the door was about a third full. Our friendly waitress assured us that this was an unusually slow opening; it is normal to have to wait in line for seating at 5 p.m. Perhaps St. Patty’s day celebrations drew some of the crowd away, but we were glad to not have to wait in line.

We ordered enough food for three people, eschewing the sandwich offerings (bread = carbs) to dive right into the smoked chicken thighs, beef brisket, and pork ribs. There were lots of sides to choose from; we picked smoky collards, marinated cucumbers, and coleslaw from a list that included pit beans, mac and cheese, tater tots, and crispy cheese curds.

If we’d chosen sandwiches, they would have come with coleslaw and a side of one’s choice for \$11 or \$12. In fact, all the prices were very reasonable. The meats we ordered were sold as a half-pound; chicken thighs were \$7, pork ribs \$11, brisket \$13. That makes for a very generous portion. Sides were two sizes, between \$3 and \$7 depending on what they were.

I saw lots of folks I knew in the old roadhouse, which kept up a cheerful and casual atmosphere. An aroma of goodness was in the air, along with whiffs of smoke from the smokehouse they built along the left side of the tavern. A train rumbled by, gently shaking our booth.

Our meal came on a metal tray, arranged on butcher paper with the sides in paper cups and trays. A stack of paper plates was already on the table along with utensils. No-frills dining is no doubt one of the ways to keep costs reasonable while lessening the kitchen workload, and it’s the right style for Texas pit barbecue. Dry rub cooking also means you don’t ruin your clothes with sticky, drippy sauce, or need a roll of paper towels to clean up your face and hands afterwards.

Yup, this is some seriously good smoked meat, we decided after tucking in to the meal. The brisket melted in our mouths, with plenty of tender, juicy flavor, and the pork ribs slid off the bone just like they should. The chicken was succulent. Everything went well with bites of slightly spicy collard greens and cukes. The coleslaw was chunky, peppery, obviously homemade, and delicious as well.

The smoke flavor in the meat was not super intense, and definitely not of the mesquite variety. We joyfully

managed to eat about half the food on the tray, taking the rest to go.

Smoke Along the Track

On Sundays, the restaurant opens at 12:30, and closes at 8. I showed up right after noon to talk with some of the principals while they put the finishing touches on the meats in the smokehouse.

Once again, people piled in the place as the door was unlatched, but I headed to the side to see the smoker with Sean Keller. He had to get back to his hosting duties right away, but introduced me to chef Sean Elliott and co-owner chef Sammy Kochan, who were almost ready to take the meat off the grill.

The grill was inside one of two large iron barrels with an attached firebox. A chimney rose from each barrel to assure a constant stream of hot smoke over whatever was placed inside of it.

“We are happy when we run out of food,” Sean Elliott said with a grin. “That’s how it works – barbecue is not for tomorrow!” Sean was ebullient despite having arrived at work at two in the morning. This long, slow pit barbecue process takes about twelve hours to complete.

There’s no “sleeping at the wheel” on this watch, either. “Every twenty minutes or so,” he explained, “you have to put wood on the fire and move it around. It all depends on the type of wood, how dry the wood is – it’s a constant monitoring. There is no ‘assist.’ This is old school, artisanal...”

He and Sammy nodded together. “Which is great!” Sean said. “We both worked in Boston forever: we were chefs, it was fine dining, cooking *foie gras*, scallops, all these beautiful pieces of meat, and now we are here. It’s a 360, but this is where we want to be. The landscape of dining out is changing.”

The pair noted that there is less \$30-a-plate fine dining going on, and an increased need for more casual, affordable dining-out experiences. People are going out to eat on a regular basis, not just for birthdays and special occasions, and they want something good.

Sammy Kochan owns another restaurant serving Mexican-style food, the Mission Cantina in South Amherst, where Sean also chefs part of the time. He has owned it for about 8 years, and it’s where he and Sean first experimented with smoked foods, making dishes like smoked brisket and pork shoulder tacos.

Partnering on the food concept at

North Village with Sean Keller made a lot of sense; the location alongside the railroad tracks on Route 63 is perfect for a smokehouse operation.

“Barbecue is perfect here because there’s not a lot of neighbors,” explained Sean. “This is hard to do in a highly populated area because no one wants to smell it. It’s good for a couple of weeks, and then, not so much.”

The pair explained that central Texas barbecue is what they are emulating here in Millers Falls. They did their research, taking trips across the southern states. It’s all about the wood, they noted. “This cooking is based on the use of oak. West Texas uses more hickory, and in the Carolinas they use ash, and a couple other types of wood. Oak is a mild flavor, and we like it: it’s not too smoky. Mesquite is West Texas: strong and acrid, and almost bitter. Oak is mellow, it burns well, and it doesn’t punch you in the face with smokiness,” said Sean.

The bartender at the Cantina lives in Lake Pleasant, and likes to come by the smokehouse and split wood for them during the week “because he’s a fitness buff,” said Sean, laughing. “He’s the backbone of our business.” It’s a business that currently prepares and serves 800 pounds of meat each week, using only one of the two giant smokers available.

“Barbeque tends to be a sunshine thing; people get in the mood when it warms up,” said Sean. They plan to serve food and drinks outside on the patio located between the smokehouse and tavern, which adds about 50 more seats to the place. Night-time entertainment in the form of live music might happen a bit more frequently once things pick up a bit.

“Groove Prophet played here last night,” Sean Keller popped in to the smokehouse to say, “and we have two more bands in the works, with \$5 cover charges on those nights. We are really good about updating our Facebook page and making events for things.”

So, if you want to update your concept of barbecue, take a trip over to North Village Smokehouse for some central Texas style, pit-smoked meat. If you visit the photos on their Facebook page, do it on one of the four days they are open, so you can satisfy the powerful urge stimulated by looking at those close-ups of perfectly smoked proteins. Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays from 5 to 9 p.m.; Sundays 12:30 to 8 p.m. Located at 32 Federal Street (Route 63) in Millers Falls.



Town of Leverett
Hearing Notice - Proposed Bylaw Changes

A public hearing will be held at the Town Hall on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 7 p.m. to discuss proposed changes to the “Code of Leverett” as outlined below:

Chapter 8: Finances / 8-2. Finance Committee provisions

From: A. Members of the Finance Committee shall serve without compensation, and members may not hold any other elective or appointive town position during his or her term of office other than on the Personnel Board, the Capital Planning Committee, the Financial Advisory Committee and any other unpaid, temporary, ad hoc committee that has no budget.
To: A. Members of the Finance Committee shall serve without compensation, and members may not hold any other elective or appointive town position during his or her term of office other than on the Personnel Board, the Capital Planning Committee, the Financial Advisory Committee, Municipal Light Plant and any other unpaid, temporary, ad hoc committee that has no tax funded budget.

Chapter 16: Capital Planning / 16-2. Powers and duties

From: The Committee shall study proposed capital outlays including the acquisition of land or other property requiring and expenditure of four thousand dollars (\$4,000) or more and having a useful life of at least five (5) years. All officers, boards, departments and committees, including the Select Board and the School Committee, shall, by September 1 each year, give to the Capital Planning Committee information concerning all such capital projects anticipated by them to require Town Meeting action during the ensuing six (6) years. The Committee shall consider the relative need, timing and cost of these expenditures and the effect each will have on the financial position of the town. Any request for a capital outlay which did not appear in the information provided in prior years’ reports of projected needs will not be recommended by the Capital Planning Committee to the Select Board or to the Town Meeting, unless a report shall have first been submitted by the requesting agency explaining the omission.
To: The Capital Planning Committee shall compile data (the “Capital Inventory”) concerning proposed capital outlays – including the acquisition of land, equipment or other property and repair or replacement of structures – when such expenditures exceed spending and useful life limits established by the Selectboard. The Selectboard shall consult with the Capital Planning Committee and the Finance Committee in establishing such limits. All officers, boards, departments and committees, including the Selectboard and the School Committee, shall, by September 1 each year, give to the Capital Planning Committee information concerning all such capital outlays anticipated by them to require Town Meeting action during the ensuing 10 years (minimum) or more depending on the useful life of an item; such information shall include: item description, location, cost when purchased, current replacement cost, expected useful life, fiscal year in which item was purchased, fiscal year in which it is anticipated that the item will need to be replaced, funding options available (e.g. grants, leasing, renting, state/federal funding, CPA funds, etc.) and justification (i.e. need, risk, impact & priority). The Capital Planning Committee shall compile data concerning the timing and cost of these expenditures and provide this information to the Selectboard and Finance Committee by March 1. Any request for a capital outlay that did not appear in information provided in prior years’ reports of projected needs will not be added to the current fiscal year inventory or recommended for funding, unless a report submitted by the requesting agency, explaining the omission, is accepted by the Capital Planning Committee and Selectboard.

Chapter 16: Capital Planning / 16.3 Annual report; investigations and hearings

From: A. The Committee shall prepare a report containing the Committee’s recommendations for capital budget items for the next fiscal year for presentation to Annual Town Meeting. Also, a capital program plan for the following five (5) fiscal years shall be prepared and included in the report.
B. The Committee may undertake such investigations and hold such hearings as it may deem necessary.
To: A. The Capital Planning Committee shall prepare a report containing the Capital Inventory that highlights potential budget items for the next fiscal year for consideration by the Selectboard and for presentation at Annual Town Meeting.
B. The Capital Planning Committee may undertake such investigations and hold such hearings as it may deem necessary.

A copy of the complete Code of Leverett is on file at the Town Clerk’s office.

Clean Living Desired:
Spring Cleaning Weekend

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – It’s the time of year when we stumble out into the sunshine and take stock of the yards and streets around us, squinting as the spring breeze whips up road sand, lottery tickets, and ciggie butts into our face for a unique exfoliating experience. And soon, the sound of the street sweeper will wake us as the sun is rising, and we will lay there, leaden with regret for not having swept our sidewalk grit out into the gutter in time...

Let’s change the channel on this bleak imagining: there is no better time than this week to get on top of spring cleanup! While no detailed schedule is available we do know that street sweeping will begin very soon in Montague and other towns. You can make the neighborhood cleaner and safer by sweeping all those nasties into the gutter for the sweeper machine to take away.

Downtown Dirt

Avenue A and Third Street sweeping has been confirmed for March 28, according to Suzanne LoManto, RiverCulture director. “That gives us the next 10 days to sweep our sand back into the street for the machines to collect,” said LoManto. “Other debris, like sticks and leaves can be put in paper lawn bags, which the guys will collect.”

The more brooms the merrier to get the sand off the bricks and into the street. LoManto says the weather looks sunny for this Saturday, March 23, and she will be spearheading downtown cleanup by

working on sweeping sidewalks in front of the Shea Theater, which is also getting a huge cleanout on Sunday, March 24.

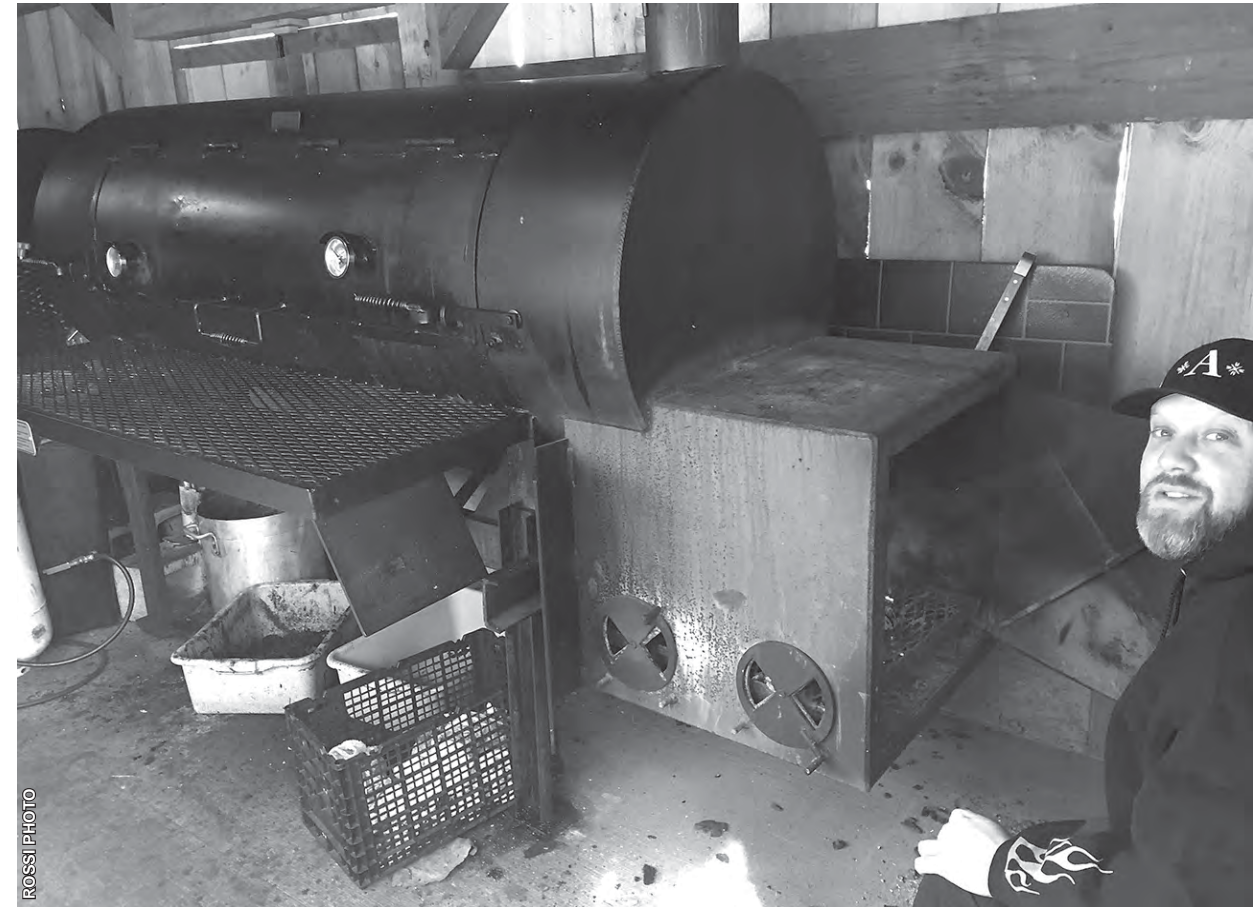
Trash Day at the Shea

Word has gone out: “Come one, come all to Trash Day at the Shea!” Shea members, friends, and lovers of the theater are invited to come for a big purging party, with a community potluck and free concert afterwards by local legends Fancy Trash, this Sunday, March 24.

Apparently, the bowels of the theater are clogged with old props and other interesting things, and you can help Linda Tardif and board members to do a thorough cleanse and carry all this junk out to fill a big dumpster (of course, if they are indeed *very* interesting, fill your car!) starting at 3:30 p.m.

At 5:30 p.m. everyone will gather on the dance floor of the theater, where a potluck will be set up on a large table. If you would like to come and contribute to the community meal, please RSVP to the “Shea Clean Up and Community Potluck” Facebook event with the dish you’re bringing so everyone has an idea of what’s on the menu.

Then at 6:30, enjoy a free concert by folk rockers Fancy Trash, described as: “Folk-tinged indie rock. Don’t let the acoustic instruments fool you, Fancy Trash is a rock band. Dave Houghton (vocals, guitars), Paul Kochanski (upright bass) and Jason Smith (drums) explore new ways to bring out the folk for the anti-folk.” There will be beer and wine for sale at the bar.



Chef Sean Elliott gets ready to throw some more wood in the smoker on a Sunday afternoon at North Village Smokehouse.

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TECH SCHOOL from page A1

On March 12, cosmetology instructor Lynn Wiles, who had organized the student letter-writing campaign, traveled to Boston with Socquet and her peers so that they could testify before the commission.

Socquet has been researching state cosmetology policy for her senior capstone project. The project, which includes a written report and presentation to the school’s English Department, is required by the tech school for graduation.

FCTS students arrived at the state board meeting early, and watched several other presentations. Socquet said this made her a bit nervous: “One woman on the board was very forward, openly challenging those who testified, almost to the point of attacking them.” When Socquet’s

turn came, she started reading from a written statement she had prepared, but soon made her case without her notes. “It was much easier for me that way,” she said.

Socquet said she was not subjected to sharp questioning, perhaps because she was the first high-school aged student to testify before the board. The students may also have been treated kindly because, as it turned out, the board had already changed the policy, lowering the accrual age to 15, a few days earlier.

The policy change will become effective on June 1. If those seeking to graduate in May, like Socquet, can document credits they achieved at age 15, they will be able to count them toward the required hours for this spring’s graduation.

“There was a lot of chatter about

what we had accomplished on the way home from Boston,” said Wiles. “It was great for me as an instructor.”

We asked Keltyn Socquet if she had learned anything from the experience, beyond the fact that you can sometimes influence state policy if you are persistent and stick to your beliefs.

“Well, we got an education about how it actually works,” she said. “We had pictured a big courtroom with a board that just listened to us and then voted. Instead, it was in a regular room, with a few chairs in front for the board. They actually had conversations with us, explaining the policies and how it works. It was very different than what we expected.”



REPORTBACK

Middle School Students Build “Bridges”

By IZZY VACHULA-CURTIS

TURNERS FALLS – In late February, I participated in a three-day training with 6th, 7th, and 8th graders at Great Falls Middle School about anti-bias work in our school. This program is run by the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ), and is called “Bridges.” The goal is to address how prejudice and stereotypes can affect people, and how to improve this in schools.

The 6th-grade math teacher, Mr. Daniel Carew, and the 8th-grade social studies teacher, Ms. Jennifer Renehan, are the advisors for this program, and participated in the training with 22 other students from GFMS. Turners Falls High School students also received this training, in partnership with students from Mohawk Trail Regional High School.

This program was a really incredible experience, and I think everyone else really liked it, too! The Bridges training was all about accepting differences in race, gender, sexuality, and religion. We also focused on stereotypes, and how important it is to not judge someone on how they look.

The program was run by two adults from NCCJ: Nyaunu Stevens and Michael Vidal, and a trainee named Rachel. Each morning of the training, we went to the GFMS library at 8:30 and sat in a circle of chairs. Once or twice a day, Nyaunu and Michael would ask us to “rainbow.” This means that we’d go across the circle and sit next to someone we don’t usually hang out with, so that we could get to know them.

We would usually play a game in the morning. One game that we played was where we all closed our eyes and Nyaunu and Michael put a sticker on our head. Then we had to group ourselves up without talking. We grouped ourselves up by color: one group with green stickers, and one group with blue. There were two kids that had different stickers than the rest of us and didn’t have a group.

Then we talked about how this relates to school, and how we all have our cliques, and some kids are left out. I really liked the activities we did in this training because they were fun, and had educational lessons to them.

Seventh-grader Syna Katsoulis said, “Well, it really opened my eyes to different perspectives of things. It was also great to be with all the

amazing people who were part of it.”

We also watched videos, and then did responses to them in the packets they gave us. One video we watched, called *To This Day*, was about how when you are mean to someone, it can stick with them for their whole life. The video was really sad, and I think a lot of kids in the training were affected by it.

On the third day of our training we talked about things in the school we want to change in our school, including racism, homophobia, sexism, etc. Then we talked about how to solve these problems.

This program was really amazing. Bridges inspires students to make a change for what they believe in. The 7th and 8th graders who were involved in Bridges and our advisors, Mr. Carew and Ms. Renehan, were invited to go to a conference in Boston in April called “Breaking Bias,” which is all about building community.

I’m really excited to continue learning about this!

Now I’m going to interview our principal, Ms. Kathi Smith, and Mr. Carew about our experience...

Izzy V-C: *Why do you think it’s important to have kids participate in this?*

Ms. Kathi Smith: I think that it’s important for students to participate in this because we want to have a school culture that is accepting and safe for all students. In order to do this, we all need to be able to reflect on our own biases in order to understand how they impact those around us.

We can then take this new awareness and work towards changing the school culture to make sure that we are accepting everyone and honoring differences in our school community.

Mr. Daniel Carew: I think it is important for students to participate in the NCCJ Bridges workshop because it creates a space where students can get to know each other and recognize their similarities regardless of how different each of them might be. Once that is recognized, then hopefully the students will gradually change their perspectives of other students, by pushing aside stereotypes and breaking down their own biases.

IVC: *What problems do you hope the Bridges program will address?*

KS: I hope that the Bridges pro-

gram will help us all to better understand how bias might manifest in our school culture in terms of language and daily interactions. It’s difficult to look at our own biases, but it’s incredibly important, because we may be impacting people in a negative way without even realizing it.

I think that the Bridges program is a good first step towards looking at these issues and identifying parts of our culture and community that we can improve on.

DC: I hope the students that participated in the program will work together to educate their peers about the harm that is done by biases and stereotypical thinking. I also hope that the students will encourage one another and their peers, who were not in the training, to be active defenders of students who might be targeted because of their differences.

Lastly, I hope the students will challenge unkind words and actions in ways that would promote respect and kindness.

IVC: *What do you think is the most important part of this program?*

KS: I think that one of the most important parts of this program is the opportunity to self-reflect and improve self-awareness.

We all look at the world through our own “lenses,” and sometimes it’s good to try to change lenses in order to see things from other perspectives and in different ways. This is a life skill that promotes critical thinking, empathy, and understanding.

I hope that the Bridges program participants will take what they have learned about bias and find ways to infuse this awareness into the school culture by promoting changes that will create a positive and accepting learning environment for everyone.

DC: I think the most important part of the program is the bringing together of middle school students to recognize their similarities in the midst of their differences.

The ability to recognize one’s similarities with another person and to be empathetic towards someone who is different is a life skill, and one that will make one’s life journey easier. So to be able to develop that mindset in middle school, well, it’s a really good thing.

Thank you so much to Mr. Carew and Ms. Smith!

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Energy Committee’s Building Code Proposal Stumps Selectboard; Montague Takes a Pass

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard decided on Monday night to “take a pass,” in chair Rich Kuklewicz’s words, on a proposal by the Montague energy committee to have the board vote on the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) for new buildings. A limited number of “government members” of cities and towns may vote on the 2021 code, after paying a fee of \$135, if they register by March 29.

Chris Mason, who chairs the energy committee and made a presentation to the selectboard, said the state of Massachusetts is required to follow the IECC. He went on to argue that the voting process is “designed for people like us,” and that investments in energy efficiency are more economical, in the end, than paying higher utility costs.

“I can’t argue with a thing you said,” responded Kuklewicz. “Other than – to make an informed decision, you would need to understand all this data. I simply, for one, don’t have the bandwidth of time to do the research.... I’m not going to vote on something I don’t understand.”

Town administrator Steve Ellis said he had met with the building inspector, the public health director, and the superintendent of the Water Pollution Control Facility. “In all honesty,” he said, “everyone was concerned whether they had the depth of knowledge, or the time available, to be able to sort through the variety of different arguments that might be presented to them by what are special interest groups.”

“I would feel more comfortable if we had two builders who said, ‘boy, I would be really interested in hearing about that,’ and two energy committee members who were really interested in voting on that,” Kuklewicz said later in the discussion. “Then it would be sort of a point-counterpoint kind of discussion.”

“Challenge accepted,” said energy committee member Ariel Elan. “I will talk to two builders.” “I don’t think you could assign them to vote unless they were on the energy committee,” said Mason.

“I’m ready to move on to the next thing,” said board member Mike Nelson, who added that he “really appreciated” the work Mason had done on the issue. In the end, the board declined to take a vote on Mason’s proposal.

Trash Pickup

Steve Ellis reviewed the proposed contract with Republic Services for the town’s curbside solid waste collection and disposal. He handed the board a spreadsheet showing that collection costs would increase by 3%, driven mainly by wage increases, while disposal costs would rise by over 30%. The

combined increase in cost would be 9.2%, from \$374,365 in FY’19 to \$408,874 next year. Ellis said the current year’s disposal costs had been “subsidized” at a level below market rates.

Ellis proposed extending the current contract for three years, amending it with the new rates. He said the FY’20 cost increases are included in the proposed town budget currently being discussed with the finance committee.

“We like the management team that [Republic Services] has put in place,” said Ellis. “We’ve had a much cleaner year than the previous year.”

The board approved the amendment to the current contract with Republic.

Other Business

The board heard the news that the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) was reducing the scope of its planned new bus facility on Montague’s Sandy Lane. This and other agenda items scheduled for this Thursday’s quarterly FRTA meeting were discussed. (*See article, page A1.*)

Ellis told the board that in December 2018 the state passed a law regulating “short-term rentals” such as those associated with Airbnb. The law allows localities to impose an excise tax on such rentals.

Ellis said that at this time he is not recommending that the town “rush forward” to adopt the local option tax, which would have to be approved by town meeting, adding that it would probably not generate a significant amount of revenue. He said he had spoken to the building inspector and health director. “Everyone wants time to chew on this,” he told the board.

The board approved a request by police chief Chris Williams to appoint Brent Griffin as a reserve officer.

Bruce Hunter of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority received approval from the board to disburse \$5,307 to GZA Environmental for services on the Rutters Park Improvement project in Lake Pleasant, and award the contract to implement the first phase of the park renovation to Aqua-Turf Irrigation LLC.

The board voted on 13 sewer bill abatement requests reviewed by Bob McDonald, superintendent of the Water Pollution Control Facility, of which nine were abated.

Parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz came before the board to request approval for the use of Peskeompskut Park in downtown Turners Falls for a summer series of “Movies in the Park.” The movies will be shown on June 28, July 12, and August 16.

“When the Park is less used, it’s not treated kindly,” said Ellis in support of the request, which the board unanimously approved.

The next selectboard meeting will be on March 25.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Regional Electricity Aggregation Effort Raises Question of Solidarity Among Towns

By **GEORGE BRACE**

At their March 18 meeting, the Gill selectboard heard reports from recent meetings regarding the town’s aggregated electricity purchasing plan, and a preliminary look at the idea of reforming the Gill-Montague Regional School District (GMRSD) to include six towns.

The board also reviewed a response from FirstLight Power to concerns it had raised over the company’s proposed restructuring of its Northfield Mountain and Turners Hydro divisions into two separate limited liability companies (LLCs).

Gill energy commission member Claire Chang reported on a recent meeting organized by the Colonial Power Group, which included representatives from 12 to 14 area towns pursuing aggregated electricity purchasing through Colonial.

Chang said Colonial wanted to get an idea of whether the towns wanted to get a single rate quote for the entire group, or if some towns wanted individual quotes. The presenter noted that towns, such as Deerfield, might do better outside the group due to having more commercial electricity usage, for which rates are lower.

Chang said that the calculations on the difference between a lower rate for Deerfield on its own, and a residential town in the group, showed a very small difference – possibly 50 cents per month on an average residential electricity bill.

Board member John Ward, who also attended the meeting, said the presenter from Colonial wanted to make clear that the total rate for all the towns involved would be lower if they formed a single group than if any split off.

Ward said Colonial wondered whether Deerfield would be willing to not even look at an individual rate, and go with the group, on the theory that the difference in individual bills was so small that “what they don’t know won’t hurt them,” and their participation would likely help lower the rate for the entire region. According to Ward, though, the Deerfield representatives responded that they felt they had a fiduciary responsibility to seek the lowest rate.

Chang said another major discussion concerned what kind of generation the group wanted to purchase, from a choice of roughly 15 types, ranging from “brown-brown” to “green-green.” Towns will have one default supplier, and one or two alternative suppliers which customers can choose to swap to. She said it was still to be discovered whether all the towns in the group needed to select the same default supplier.

Chang went on to say that Leverett is deep into its own aggregation process, and the difference in pricing between the default and alternative suppliers it chose was very small. She concluded by saying she was assuming that Gill would want to stay in the group, to which board member Randy Crochier replied, “I’m Deerfield – I’d want to see both prices,” eliciting a surprised chuckle from Chang.

Crochier said it would be great if the county saved more money, but “not at the expense of the light bills in this town. I think most people

would worry about their own community, unfortunately.”

“It depends on how large you draw the circle for your community,” Chang replied, adding that “we all really live in a larger community,” though she said she understood his responsibility to the community of Gill.

“I don’t think our price could ever come up lower than the aggregate,” Crochier said, “but I would have to see it.” He said that if the town chose an aggregate rate a penny higher, “somebody’s gonna come and want to know why,” and that he would need to have an answer.

“Helping the larger community is an answer,” he added.

Assessing Hypotheticals

A brief discussion was held about a preliminary school regionalization study presented at last week’s Gill-Montague school committee meeting.

Chair Greg Snedeker said that at first glance, an obvious question was, “why would Gill participate... when the assessments would go up, in every single scenario?”, but he thought that might not necessarily end up being the case. He said he’d like some time to think about some ideas and learn more, and discuss the report at the civic leaders’ meeting on April 2 before commenting more fully.

Town administrator Ray Purington pointed out that the report based its projections on the most common assessment methods used, but that within a new district agreement, towns would be free to use whatever methods they agreed on. He said that different, or more complicated, assessment methods might improve the picture for Gill.

Power Struggle

Board members reviewed a response from FirstLight Power to Gill’s letter of protest and request for intervenor status in its application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to split its Northfield Pumped Storage and Turners Falls Hydro divisions into two separate LLCs.

Snedeker and Purington both commented on the timing of the application coming at the end of FirstLight’s five-year relicensing process, and in the midst of the federal government shutdown; Snedeker said the timing served to “basically constrain public feedback.”

Concern over the possible impact of the proposed restructuring on taxation were also reiterated. “Those cannot be two separate entities when you assess them,” said Snedeker. “The two go hand in hand, in terms of their use value.”

Purington said he was sure there were genuinely good reasons for the split, but also sure there were valid reasons to be skeptical that “there isn’t something behind Door #1 that looks and smells an awful lot like a goat.”

Multiple references were made to the response letter not addressing Gill’s concerns with the timing or potential issues involved in the restructuring, and it seeming like a “slap on the wrist” to express the company’s displeasure with Gill’s actions.

“I’ll sleep fine tonight if they don’t like what we did,” said Crochier.

A Mysterious Code

The board discussed whether or not to pay \$135 for a membership in the International Code Council, which would allow it a vote on the International Energy Conservation Code, a model building code in use throughout the United States and worldwide.

Board members had only received information on the membership days before the meeting, and faced a registration deadline of March 29 in order to be eligible to vote on the next version of the code in November.

Crochier noted that there had been some pushback when the town had a hearing on adopting the state’s “stretch code” in place of the base building code, and said he felt the matter should be advertised strongly to residents before making a decision.

Ward suggested getting the membership, and that he and Crochier would have until November to wrestle about how to vote. Ward and Snedeker voted in favor of joining, while Crochier abstained, saying he had not had enough time to research the organization.

Cruiser Wrecked

Police chief Chris Redmond updated the board on an accident involving one of the town’s cruisers. Redmond said the driver, special officer Alex Wiltz, was checked out, and although bruised and sore, is back to work, but the car was declared a total loss.

Redmond said the state police investigated the incident, which occurred during a snowstorm, and the other driver involved was cited for speed greater than was reasonable for road conditions.

Crochier and the chief saw the video of the accident, and commended officer Wiltz for quick action to minimize the impact.

The board approved the appointment of part-time special officer Mitchell Waldron to replace special officer Dan Larvey, who recently announced his resignation in order to pursue other opportunities.

The board also approved a request to raise the pay rate for off-duty special police details, from \$45 to \$50 per hour, in order to bring it in line with other nearby departments.

Other Business

The board approved the purchase of approximately \$4,700 worth of video equipment to replace aging and problematic components of the town’s current system. They also raised the pay rate for operators from \$15 to \$20 per hour.

Greg Snedeker said the cable committee was working on a request form and procedure for use of the equipment in filming town-related events.

A seasonal liquor license for Turners Falls Scheutzen Verein was approved. Crochier abstained, citing his membership in that club.

The meeting closed with public service announcements: a Friends of Gill pancake breakfast will take place this Saturday from 8 to 10:30 a.m. at the Gill church, and forms to apply for the Gill Firemen’s Association scholarship are available online and at the town hall.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Elementary School Budget Reduced Nearly to Target

By **KATIE NOLAN**

At their Monday meeting, the Erving selectboard adopted the \$10.9 million FY’20 budget, with a revised Erving Elementary School (EES) budget of \$3.174 million. This is a 3.41% increase over FY’19.

In February, the school committee had proposed an EES budget with a 6.1% increase. At the March 11 joint selectboard and finance committee meeting, an increase of only 3% was recommended.

According to administrative coordinator Bryan Smith, the school committee revisited the EES budget

and voted the \$3.174 million budget on March 13.

Smith said that the FY’2020 budget is now complete. However, he said that the annual town meeting warrant has not been finalized yet. (The March 13 *Montague Reporter* article reported incorrectly that the warrant had been finalized.)

According to Smith, on Monday the board also appointed Arthur Johnson as inspector of animals for one year. and approved a three-year agreement (July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022) with the town of Orange for ambulance services.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was March 19, 2009: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Skate Park Lands On 11th Street

By the end of April, if all goes well, the Turners Falls Skate Park will take up new temporary quarters in what is now a muddy lot on the corner of 11th Street and Avenue A.

On Monday night, the selectboard approved a there-year lease with property owner James Capen, which will allow skaters to use the land in return for the town forgiving property taxes on the lot for that period of time.

Elated, members of the skate park committee sent out a message to supporters calling for volunteers to help move the existing ramps – the ones that are in good enough condition – to the new location on Saturday, April 25, National Community Service Day.

The committee has been working with organizers at the Brick House to secure a permanent home for the popular facility since last fall, when negotiations with Tim de Christopher failed to work out a lease extension at the skate park’s former location behind Chick’s Garage on Third Street.

Capen said the empty building at the corner of the lot used to house a motorcycle shop, and a Hispanic church. “Whoever rents it now will have to put up with the kids for the next three years,” he added.

Gill Studies Long Division

“Gill has not decided we want to leave the Gill-Montague Regional School District,” Dorothy Storrow told a joint meeting of the Montague and Gill selectboards on Monday afternoon at the Gill town hall. “We just want to say what would happen if we did.”

Toward that end, the town established a commission to study the educational options for Gill students last year. Storrow, a member, updated town and school officials on the commission’s work, and urged both towns to place articles on this year’s annual town meeting warrants to establish regional district planning committees to explore changes to the current agree-

ment binding Montague and Gill.

With a push from the state to form larger districts, action on consolidation advancing in other Franklin County towns, and persistent complaints about the unaffordability of the present arrangement coming from both Montague and Gill, the latter town has taken the lead in examining exit strategies.

“We have studied the regional agreement,” formed in 1981, “to see what would have to happen for Gill-Montague to be reorganized,” she said. The regional agreement stipulates that Gill would have to pay off the debt the town incurred in the high school/middle school renovation project, even if Gill were to withdraw and attend another school district.

But concerns about retiree pensions, and questions about how the town’s equity in the high school/middle school would be accounted for, are not addressed, and Storrow said these and other concerns would have to be negotiated by the GMRSD school committee.

Erving Articles Seek Zoning Changes

On March 16 the Erving selectboard reviewed a draft warrant for the annual town meeting and, satisfied, voted to close the warrant for monetary articles.

Of the 34 articles on the warrant, two were petitioned by finance committee chair Eric Semb, who co-owns with his father Ralph the former Jillians on the 2 restaurant on Route 2, once the Countree Living, across Semb Drive from his French King Entertainment Center.

On March 9 Semb brought two petitions to the selectboard. One, with 176 signatures, called for a change in the aquifer protection bylaw to allow for the construction of a gas station in the protected zone where the Countree Living site is located.

The other, with 108, called for a change to the Central Village bylaw passed four years ago to allow for the creation of East and West Village zones. In the West zone, where the Countree Living site would be, the petition calls for the right to establish a drive-through business by special permit.

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LEVERETT from page A1

road boss David Finn. Stratford said the whole road needs to be redug; Finn said it is necessary to go 15 to 20 feet deep to remove the clay which causes the problem.

Apparently Dudleyville Road was built on the cheap, with “no drainage,” as an alternative alignment to the original Briggs Road, higher in elevation, now discontinued in its middle section. As climate tempers, the mud profuses, and it seems the selectboard, disinterested in modernizing the road due to its cost, has had its hand forced.

Fledgling budget hawk Steve Weiss asked How much?, and Stratford offered \$15,000. Dudleyville resident Richard Natthorst, who represents Leverett on the county level, said he’d been in contact with Peggy Sloan of the Franklin Council of Governments (FRCOG) to see if it could help.

“Pick FRCOG’s pocket if we can,” said selectboard chair Peter d’Errico.

Limits To Growth

Ann Delano, assuming the baton of fin com leadership following the resignation of longtime chair Tom Powers, conducted the budget hearing. She stated that the dire financial outlook, “same as last year,” required a conservative approach, and so “budget guidance” was set at 1.5% growth, required from all departments.

“Two years in a row we’ve had favorable regional assessments [for the school], but we can’t count on that,” Delano stated. “It’s going to go up. The economists are projecting a recession in the next three years.”

Steve Nagy of the fin com cited slow growth rates and compounding expenses as a recipe for disaster as the town approaches its levy limit, at which point it will be more difficult to make cuts.

In the “general government” category, a 3.8% net increase will pay for an additional four hours each for the Treasurer and Collector, which adds \$4,842 to each sal-

ary. In the past, the collecting was contracted out by the treasurer, who worked more hours than she was paid for, so this adjustment was okayed by the boards, with Delano stating that people should be paid for the work they do.

In the “public safety” category, an ambulance contract with Amherst, deemed too expensive, was “beaten back a little bit,” said d’Errico. There was talk of switching services, although resident Nancy Grossman, applauding Amherst’s track record, said she’d be sad to see it switched out.

“It’s not so great for the people in North Leverett,” said selectwoman Julie Shively, who lives there.

School Special Article

Members of the school committee were present to defend a special article requesting \$33,126 to balance its budget. Fin com members Natthorst, Nagy, and Phil Carter attacked the committee for “budgeting by special article,” which also occurred last year as a “one-time thing.”

Voters approved last year’s article by 98%, members noted, and seemed to take the criticism in stride, abetted by former school committeeman Kip Fonsh’s testimony to the “gestures of good faith shown, which is what negotiations are all about – that there’s a sense of good faith on both sides of the table.”

Delano noted that while her board does not have purview over individual line items, putting funding in town meeting articles is not ideal.

Bethany Seger of the school committee said she was concerned that acrimonious budget deliberations could spook new principal candidates, as Margot Lacey is in her fifth and final year at the school’s helm.

Other Business

An unexpected re-assessment which upped the value of the school building, and hence the cost of its insurance to the tune of \$3,300, slammed by the selectboard recently as a dirty trick, was negotiated

by the town administrator into three one-year payments.

Although switching carriers was floated, there was agreement that, overall, the town was happy with the company. Weiss requested a shop-around to be sure, and also asked to know the amount in the stabilization fund (\$618,000).

The fire department asked to spend \$20,000 of previously allotted monies to pay for infrastructural improvements so as to put to use a gift of a \$30,000 air compressor donated by the town of Duxbury. The selectboard was chary of this quick switcheroo, and instructed Fire to consult with Wes Goscenski of Capital Planning.

Police chief Scott Minckler asked for a third full-time officer, to “get ahead” of a shift in the state police academy whereby part-timer training will be phased out.

Note: In our March 7 edition, an officious editor erroneously identified Steve Weiss as a member of the fin com.



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Above: We take a peek over the ridge. A classic view of downtown Greenfield from up on Poet's Seat Tower.

Unearthing the Archives
By Charlotte Kohlmann

Part II: Reba-Jean Shaw-Pichette, Shelburne Historical Society

The power of things inheres in the memories they gather up inside them, and also in the vicissitudes of our imagination, and our memory...
Orhan Pamuk, "The Museum of Innocence"

SHELBURNE – "When my Grandmother died, my daughter went into the closet and got out one of her dresses and slept with it that night," says Reba-Jean Shaw-Pichette, curator of the Shelburne Historical Society. "She was very little, but she could smell her great-grandmother through the dress. She could connect directly to her. It brought her back."
A connection to a dress like this feels ineffable. At such a young age, Reba-Jean's daughter understood that she could reconnect to her great grandmother without human contact, words, or photographs, but instead by holding and smelling something so mundane in nature. This proves a strength in human connection to objects that is intuitive and not determined by the measure of life experiences.
Sometimes the most undistinguished object can transport an emotive force and can divulge a poignant piece of history, personal or not. And yet, many archivists and private individuals can overlook, and even discard, such objects.
The Historical Society of Shelburne is a depository for centuries-old family archives and small collections, assemblages of everyday personal effects. Family archives are not formal: they are fluid and chaotic, because they weren't designed to be in an institution. This historical society embraces the ebb and flow of these family heirlooms. The collection



Blue spectacles once owned by a local Shelburne resident and on view in the Society's collection.



Curator Reba-Jean Shaw-Pichette with a dig lantern from the collection.

has held onto dresses, wooden doll slippers from 1759, blue-tinted spectacles, socks identified as "worn by Elizabeth Stone, 1858," and an endless display of other artifacts left to be shared generationally and preserved.
What Reba-Jean says excites her as a curator is the prospect of reevaluating pieces of history in the collection that were previously overlooked, and have not yet been recognized for their significance.
A wooden barrel that had long collected dust in the back stairwell, covered with old maps, is now in the main exhibition room of the Arms Academy School House where the entire collection resides. Reba-Jean uncovered this rare, hollowed tree-trunk barrel with its corresponding top and bottom lid, which dates back to the 1700s and was used for food processing and storage.
This is where the curator's job is most crucial. Reba-Jean is constantly reassessing objects, literally flipping some items over in order to see the

see **UNEARTHING** page B5

GREAT FALLS APPLE COLUMN

To Forage or Not to Forage?

By MOLLY FREELAND

GILL – One of my fondest childhood memories is of my mom and I picking what we called wild

chamomile (*matricaria discoidea*) and bringing it home to make tea. It feels very special to go outside and find that what I need is out there, just waiting to be picked. Once you've

found those hidden-gem foraging spots, you really can't beat the quality – and often, the taste!
There is something beautiful about things that are free; it feels simple. My husband will always argue with me that nothing is truly free. However, my thought is that when you remove the monetary exchange things often feel less stressful, and that is the beauty of free.
Besides coming home with delicious free food and medicine, my favorite part of foraging is getting out and really connecting with nature. I often pass by things in nature, but when foraging I slow down and take a much closer look. For me, foraging feels like a walking meditation; time to just be with the plants.
I often daydream of foraging in a world where every plant you would like to harvest is safe to consume. Sadly, this is not the world we live in. I love plants, so in my day-to-day life they come up in conversation a lot. I am frequently shocked at the seemingly unsafe

see **APPLE CORPS** page B4



Ramps growing in the wild.

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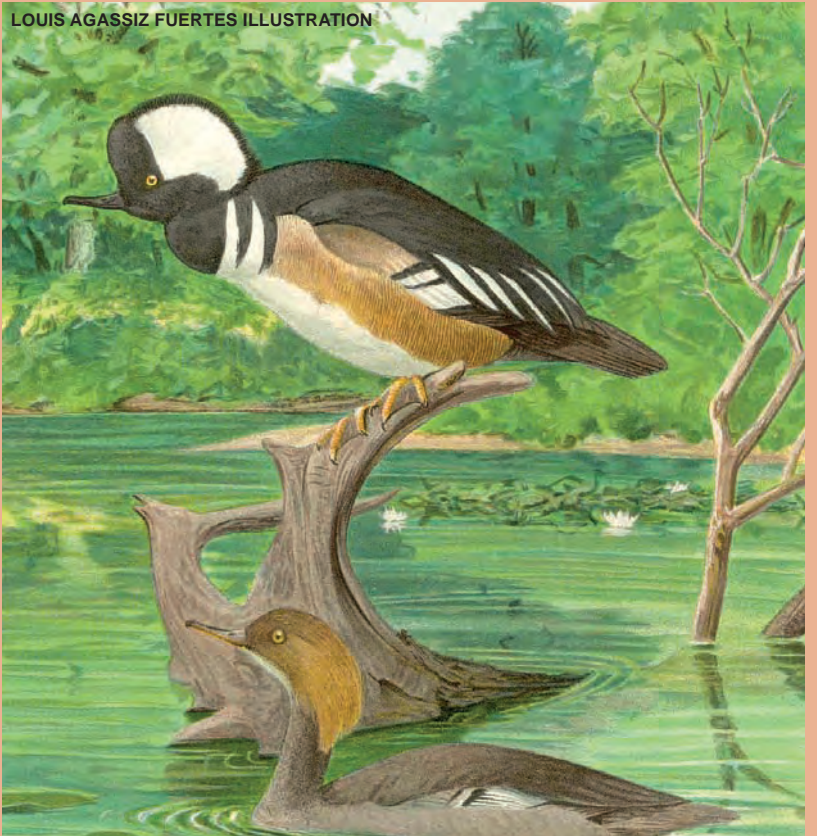
By DAVID BRULE

MILLERS RIVERBEND – Any day now, spring will arrive, and we'll know it by subtle, fleeting signs. It may arrive by the official date indicated on the calendar, or more likely it'll be on the Thawing Wind blowing in from the south, carrying rain showers.
We've learned that we have to wait for spring, up here in the northeast corner of the country. It's gradual: slowly melting snow brings mud, and exposes winter debris across the yard and landscape. And then it snows again!
For a time, splays of feathers are uncovered on the lawn, murder scenes where the hawk consumed winter victims, plucking the plumage and leaving little circles of fine feathers. Some hapless sparrow, starling, or dove unwillingly sacrificed their life force that is now a part of the fierce hawk's blood, soon to pass through to another generation of winged hunters in a new nest on the mountain.
The snowscape will eventually give way to more bare ground. Higher up, already there are flocks of red-winged blackbirds filling the stark maple branches where just last week there was only one lone redwing pilgrim.
The faithful song sparrow, having spent solitary time between winter's river edge and backyard hedge finally gave forth with his spring song on February 22. Now others of his species, having winged in from the south ahead of the crowd, have joined in scratching diligently under the feeders and tuning up their vocal pipes from fence post or the bare lilac.
Days like this are all a tease, brief sun then snow showers whipping out of dark clouds rac-

ing down the wind, now from the north, soon from the opposite point of the compass.
Please be to the wind:

Come with rain O loud
Southwester!
Bring the singer, bring the nester,
Give the buried flower a dream
Make the settled snowbank steam...

Ah yes, we are patient up here. Recently spared the brutal blizzard cyclone blast out west, we'll bear the worst March can throw at us. To pass this capricious season, we follow the calendar's list of ancient benchmarks: we've seen Candlemas Day and Ground Hog Day, then there came Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, Washington and Lincoln's birthdays.
They have all come and gone, and now we're into the Lenten Fast. Does anyone actually give up anything for Lent these days? There is a pause in the largely symbolic fasting, that is the Irish festivities around St. Patrick's Day, now mostly over, and we'll get back to the calendar's countdown to Easter.
Outdoors new birds are arriving, more of the hardy ones: iridescent grackles and brown-headed parasitic cowbirds. The more fragile songsters are two months away yet. At the bend in the river, the hooded mergansers preen and dance, flaring white-feathered crests to impress the ladies. The first buzzards of spring loft up the sky's currents like black kites no longer tethered by strings, they are tossed around by the updrafts, challenging the acrobatic ravens over Mineral Mountain's ridge.
But patient we will have to continue to be. Spring takes its
see **WEST ALONG** page B3



Hooded mergansers (Lophodytes cucullatus).

Pets of the Week

Comedy Returns to the Root Cellar



“WILLOW & DOLCE”

Dolce still lives with her mom, Willow, and having her around gives Dolce lots of confidence. They are both litter box-trained, which means they could be great “free range” bunnies in your home. They still need somewhere safe when you are away. Rabbits are very smart. They can be taught to come to their names, sit on your lap, and do simple tricks. They can also live in harmony with other household pets, such as well-mannered dogs, cats, birds, and guinea pigs. They will be your best friend their whole lives – that’s 8 to 10 years!

Please speak with an adoption counselor for more information or to inquire about adoption! Check Dakin’s cage requirements and adoption fees for your new pet at dakinhumane.org/adoption-process.html. Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.

Senior Center Activities

MARCH 25 THROUGH 29

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 3/25

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 3/26

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Healthy Eating Session 4

Wednesday 3/27

9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach

12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 3/28

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Cards & Games

4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Friday 3/29

1 p.m. Writing Group

WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Lunch is at 12 p.m., with

By ANNA FORBES GYORGY

GREENFIELD – Comedy returns to the Root Cellar next Thursday the 28th with a night of standup hosted by Matt Woodland, featuring Brooklyn comics Olivia Grace and Albert Kirchner as well as local acts Laura Fattarusio and Caitlin Reese.

This will be the first time that the bar and performance space will host comedy since Sarah Lanzilotta and Paul LaBrecque took over booking for the venue in January. Though music continues to be the venue’s main focus, Lanzilotta said that she was excited when Brooklyn-based comic Olivia Grace reached out to book a gig at the venue.

“She had heard the Root Cellar was a really cozy venue,” said Lanzilotta, “and she likes to play at bars and venues that are more low-key, and less like comedy clubs – where it’s really regimented, or where she’s really removed from the audience.” Lanzilotta added that she felt that Grace’s particular brand of banter and audience work would fit perfectly in the intimate space.

Audience engagement is important for Grace, who made a name for herself in the “roasting” scene in Los Angeles. She has been featured on Comedy Central as both a writer and a performer, appearing on three seasons of *Jeff Ross Presents: Roast Battle*, and as a featured writer on *Comedy Central’s Roast of Bruce Willis*.

Though a roast might sound confrontational to some, the style of standup relies heavily on building trust with audience members. The standup form was pioneered in the 1950s at the Friars Club, an exclusive club for performers and entertainment industry professionals in New York City whose motto is “We Only Roast the Ones We Love.”

As for Sarah Lanzilotta, she says she’s not afraid of getting singled out: “I expect that she might roast people in the audience, which I am so thrilled about. I hope I get roasted.”

The rest of the night’s acts were curated by Laura Fattarusio, who will also be performing. Those familiar with the local comedy scene will recognize Laura as the long-time host of the much loved Comedy Open Mic at Bishop’s Lounge in Northampton.

She is also the host of *Lab Talk with Laura*, a podcast that puts comedians in conversation with scientists to talk about their research, as well as a Ph.D. candidate in Geosciences at UMass.

Caitlin Reese is a veteran stand-up comedian as well as an improviser with an “offbeat, goofy, feminist” sense of humor. She has appeared in clubs all across the country and has been featured on Amazon Prime Comics Watching Comics, in the 2018 National Ladies of Laughter Competition at Gotham Comedy Club, and in the COMIX competition at Mohegan Sun. Reese is currently in the Academy with Upright Citizens Brigade, a prestigious, multi-city improv company.

Albert Kirchner, another Brooklyn-based comedian, will round out the night. Kirchner is known for his off-beat and often surreal sets, which have been featured at Bumbershoot Music and Arts Festival and the Bridgetown Comedy Festival.

Though comedy may never be the main thing on the menu at the Root Cellar, Lanzilotta emphasized that she is excited to host a comedy event which centers women’s voices, and is always open to booking events which fit the space other than music: “The Root Cellar is really dedicated to making good vibes here where everyone feels safe and comfortable. We really want this to be a place where people feel comfortable being themselves.”

Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show starts at 8 p.m. The event is \$10 at the door. The Root Cellar is located at 10 Fiske Avenue, below Mesa Verde.

REFLECTION

Heroes For Our Age: Wally and Juanita Nelson

By EVELYN AUGUSTO

TURNERS FALLS – I am always looking for a hero. Maybe it is the generation of my coming of age that makes me inclined to do so; I was born in 1963, when there were the ghosts of a good many good men roaming about. Maybe I have always required a measuring stick to track my personal development. Maybe it’s just that as I age and witness what is happening in the small towns, the large cities, and the families that I pass through, I am perennially searching for someone to save us.

Enter Wally and Juanita Nelson: civil rights activists, tax-resisters, pacifists, humanists, and resident western Massachusetts heroes. They were mavericks from a different era, well known to some, and a novelty to others. Still, most people who’ve lived in and about the Deerfield area know something of the intrepid couple and their history.

Well known is their participation in civil rights actions. Juanita challenged racists by sitting in each car of a Jim Crow train. It was 1939, and she was only sixteen years old. In 1948 the Nelsons became partners and members of Peacemakers. Peacemakers was a group of American pacifists that advocated nonviolent resistance in the support of peace. It was at that time that the Nelsons became war tax resisters.

While researching their lives, I read or listened to one person after the other tell me triumphant tales of the Nelsons and their unceasing efforts to effect positive change in the world. I found my mind wandering to my “what if” place. It’s the place I reserve for big hopes, big dreams, and big possibilities. I found myself wondering, *what if Wally and Juanita Nelson were alive today?* What would they think of Trump’s America? What would they do about it?

Juanita was a poet, homesteader and journalist. In the midst of World War II, Juanita was hired to write for a weekly newspaper in Cleveland, Ohio. “The best thing that ever happened to me was being a reporter,” Juanita recalled during a First Person Oral History interview posted on the Deerfield Memorial Hall Museum website (memorialhall.mass.edu). “That’s where I met Wally – how I met Wally – who became my life partner. He was in prison, in jail at the time, in the Cuyahoga County Jail, because he was a conscientious objector; that is, he would not go to war.”

As humanists working arduously to support the Civil Rights movement, the Nelsons recognized that the problems people of color faced were less about their skin, and more about the large divide between people who were economically stable and people who were in economic hardship.

Long-time friend Ellie Kastanopolous, who had known and worked alongside the Nelsons since the late 1990s, answered rarely-asked questions about her friends. Can we learn anything from the Nelsons as to how we might survive what America has become?

Ellie began by offering, “I have withdrawn from watching or listening to the news for the last four or five years, so I can’t say much about the state of our country other than the gossip I get. But I can say that Juanita wouldn’t have much to say about it, or President Trump’s America either. She gave up being political.”

I asked Ellie about Wally’s experience as a sharecropper, and the legacy of slavery both he and Juanita witnessed. Having experienced such intense discrimination, I wondered if it made them in any way discriminating themselves?

Ellie answered, “Absolutely, 100% not. Both Juanita and Wally were intensely involved in the early days of the Civil Rights movement. They did amazing stuff and worked their hearts out. But they came to the point within that time of realizing the issues weren’t black or white, they were ‘haves and have-nots.’ So they started to pull back, step away.”

Their focus became more centered on what they could do themselves, and in 1974, the Nelsons moved to Woolman Hill in nearby Deerfield, where they started an organic vegetable farm and helped organize the Greenfield Farmers Market.

In 1975 they encouraged the organization of the Pioneer Valley War Tax Resistance. As Wally himself said, “I guess a long time ago I got it out of my head I was going to save the world. So, I act to save Wally and his integrity. I would hope that other people would be inspired to do what they ought to do.”

In my next installment on the Nelsons and their message to us from the spirit world, I will examine what Juanita, specifically, wanted us to know about the responsibility of living, and I will explore Juanita’s book, *A Matter of Freedom, and Other Writings* (1988).

Trystan Marl Greist of Greenfield, reviewing the book on Amazon, urged that “If you only buy one book this year, for your collection of books by thoughtful, free-speaking souls, buy this one. I personally knew and loved Juanita Nelson, and I am so glad to have a copy of her words. She was truly a unique American visionary, and whether you agree with her or not, every sentence makes you think. Deeply.”

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THE

SPIRIT SHOPPE

APPLE CORPS from page B1

(to my personal standards) places people will harvest.

The number one thing I think and inquire about when assessing if a place is safe to forage is “what have humans done here?” Is there a road, with its multitude of pollutants? I personally feel better about harvesting near a dirt road, and prefer to harvest at least 12 feet from any road. Is there a building with toxic building materials, agricultural runoff, Round-up or other toxic weed killers?

On public land many questions can be answered by the town. On private land, land that you have hopefully already received permission to be on, the land owner can probably tell you what you need to know. Different people may have different standards when it comes to foraging spots, but it is important to use your best judgment in order to forage safely.

Once you find a safe place to harvest, I implore you to contemplate responsible harvesting. Responsible harvesting means only taking what you will use and leaving plenty for other people and wildlife. When harvesting many types of wild mushrooms (chaga, chicken of the woods, and maitakes, to name a few), if you leave a chunk of the mushroom intact, it will regrow for multiple harvests. If you are harvesting roots, leave plenty so that plant can continue to grow there.

Some of our most wonderful and delicious wild edibles take a long time to grow, which means that they are at risk of over-harvesting. Ramps (allium tricoccum), our native “wild leek” which is said by chefs around the world to be the most delicious member of the onion family, take five to seven years to reach maturity. Responsible ramp harvesting calls for just taking the leaves of immature plants and leaving the bulb in the ground, keeping the plant alive. Or harvesting a small amount of mature bulbs. Our beloved chaga mushroom takes about five years to grow ten inches in diameter. We currently have very little chaga growing locally, so if you find it please let it grow.

When it comes to responsible harvesting there are too many factors for me to name now, but if we focus on the plants or weeds we have in abundance, we will know abundance ourselves. There are so many delicious and medicinal

things to forage in our area and my sincere hope is that if we forage safely and responsibly, this will continue for generations to come.

Upcoming Events:

Monday, April 1 at 6 p.m.: **GFAC April Monthly Meeting** at the Unity Park Fieldhouse in Turners Falls. All are welcome to our monthly organizational meeting. If you have any interest in gardening, foraging, food justice, or are just looking to meet some friendly neighbors, we encourage you to come out and see what we’re about!

Saturday, April 27 at 10 a.m.: **Spring Clean Up** at the Unity Park Community Garden. All are encouraged to come help us clean up the garden in time for the new growing season. We’ll be laying wood chips down on the paths, weeding, and planting spring vegetables. We’ll have snacks and warm drinks on hand.

Sunday, May 19 at 1 p.m.: **Free Wild Edibles Walk** at Unity Park. Meet at the Unity Park Community Garden for a gentle loop around the park and onto the bike path, ending at the fish ladder, which will be open! We’ll be talking about the abundance of forageables available downtown including nettles, wood sorrel, dandelion, and more. Route is paved and accessible.

Saturday, May 25 at 10 a.m.: **Avenue A Permaculture Talk and Planter Workday**. Come help us maintain our two permaculture-inspired tree planters on Avenue A! The two planters are located on the corner of A and Third Street, in front of the Montague Catholic Social Ministries. We’ll have a short “Permaculture 101” presentation, and then we’ll get our hands dirty weeding, planting, and getting the planters ready for the summer.

Saturday, June 15 at 11 a.m.: **Free Plant Swap** at the Unity Park Community Garden. Come bring your extra seedlings, starts, and perennials to our free plant swap, and bring home new plants for your garden! You do not need to bring a plant to attend, as we will have donated extras on hand.

To contact GFAC, check out our Facebook page, or send us an email at greatfallsapple-corps@gmail.com.

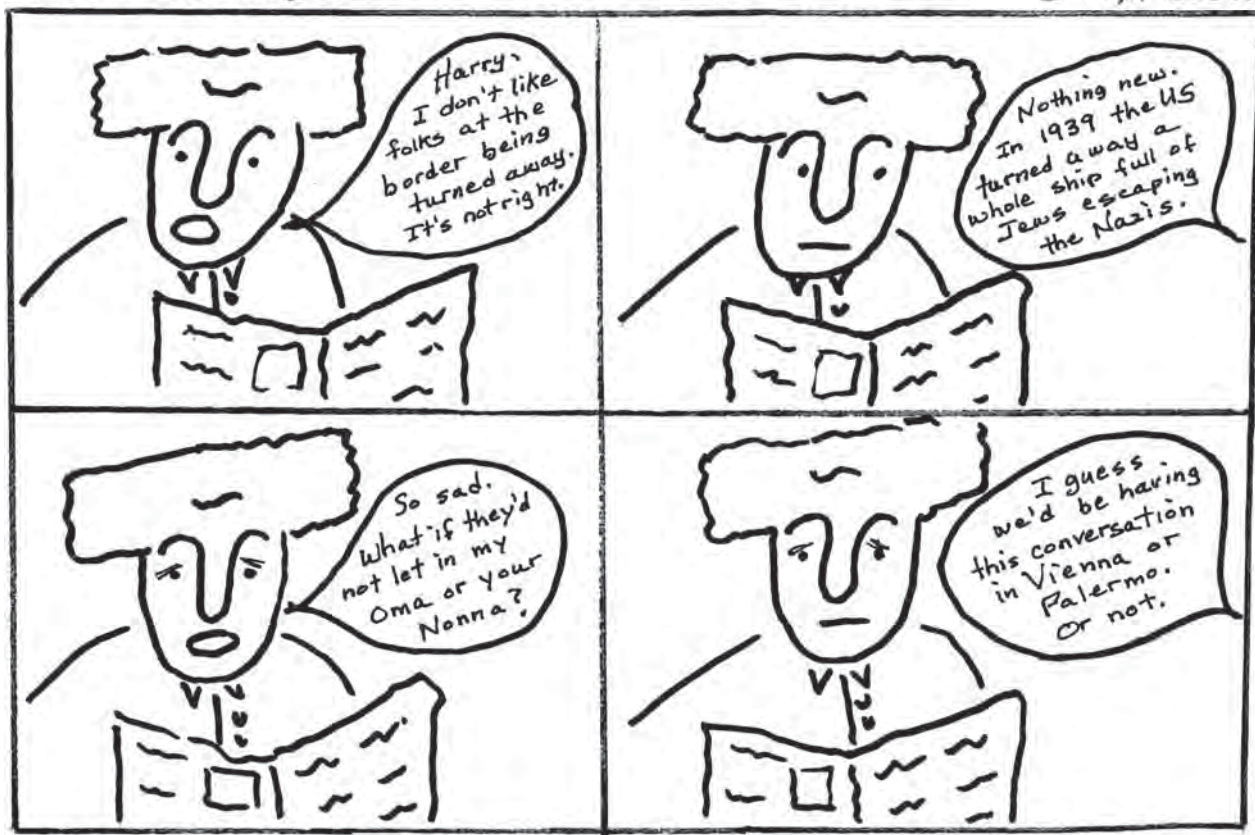


T-RUMP



OVER THE HILL

Carolyn Clark



BOOK REVIEW

Alex Kotlowitz, *An American Summer: Love and Death in Chicago* (2019)

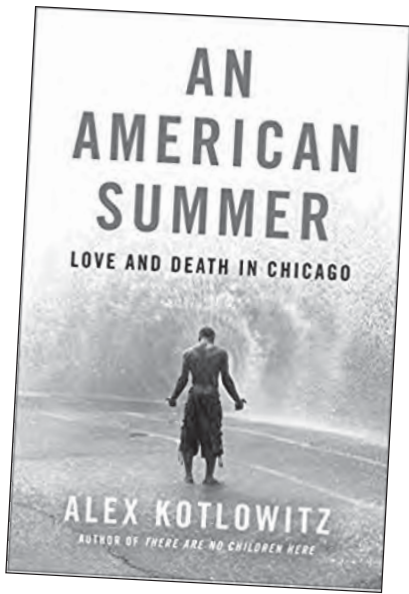
By MARK KRAMER

Alex Kotlowitz’s “An American Summer: Love and Death in Chicago” is a tough book to keep reading, an uncomfortable and relentless close-up, chapter after chapter documenting the social havoc and personal suffering leading to teens and children being murdered or committing murder, almost all by gunshot, through three summer months of 2013.

“By Chicago standards it was a tamer season than most,” he writes.

Kotlowitz (bestselling author of *There Are No Children Here*) is a brilliant reporter who covers one of America’s most heartbreaking beats. Readers know this author walks the walk. If his new book is disconcerting to read, it’s also hard to look away from. Kotlowitz’s accounts of love, friendship, parenting, rivalry, humiliation and the pressure to maintain respect are fascinatingly real. “This is a despair tour,” he says.

Through chapter after chapter, we experience a panorama of suffering: the adoptive father of a killer; a shooter who’s gained insight, 17 years after his crime; “a sleepy-eyed open-faced twenty-two-year-old, wears his hair in braids and has a quiet demeanor about him, a shyness really,” who survives an attack that leaves a bullet lodged in his back, breaks street code by naming the shooter, then lives scared; the mother of five at the funeral of her murdered partner; a father in shock right at the fresh scene of his son’s murder, interviewed by an industri-



ous crime reporter. And more. And more. It’s an unsparing inventory of mayhem and grief.

Kotlowitz says of the book, “It’s not a policy map or a critique. It’s not about what works and doesn’t work. Anyone who tells you they know is lying.... [It’s] sketches of those left standing.... Such grimness. Such despair. Such darkness.”

He portrays some wondrously resilient characters who have prevailed. At its heart, though, “This is a book about death – but you can’t talk about death without celebrating life.”

He speculates, but only briefly, on the layered causes of this violence: “if you’re black or Hispanic in our cities, it’s virtually impossible not to have been touched by the smell and sight of sudden, violent death ... [where] a sense of future feels as distant ... as a meteor shower.”

He inventories adverse factors

for “young men and women who are burdened by fractured families, by lack of money, by a closing window of opportunity, by a sense that they don’t belong, by a feeling of low self-worth. And so when they feel disrespected or violated, they explode... because so much other hurt has built up.”

He seems to downplay reform through political discussion, in our polarized times, saying it’s “impossible to have a reasonable conversation about poverty in the country.”

So he offers what is possible: an adoration, in an almost religious sense, an abiding sharing of deep sadness, a compassionate revelation of the painful situation of each of his characters.

Writers trade off as they compose, between enchanting readers and specifying complexity. Alex Kotlowitz has written daringly, accomplishing both, and readers who join his harrowing journey surely will emerge with deeper and kinder understandings, and perhaps feel morally implicated by their understanding of the grim realities his summer tour shows us.

Nan A. Talese/Doubleday, 287 pages, \$27.95.

Mark Kramer founded the *Nieman Conference on Narrative Journalism* at Harvard, and has been writer-in-residence at *Smith College*, the *Nieman Program on Narrative Journalism*, and *Boston University*, where he still teaches. (Copyright © Mark Kramer 2019)

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week at MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Happy spring from Montague Community TV! We hope you’ll check out our latest video, “What is Bioenergy and Why Should We Care? 2/28/19,” at montaguetv.org or on Channel 17.

In this video lecture, Mary Booth, an international expert on bioenergy and resident of western Mass., reviews different paths going forward on how to curb climate change. She reviews the necessity of having a negative global net emissions – meaning taking carbon

dioxide out of the air that is already there. The video covers policy challenges to this in Massachusetts, and strategies in which we might overcome the challenges ahead.

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!

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UNEARTHING from page B1

collection in a new light, and to find meanings previously hidden or just forgotten over time.

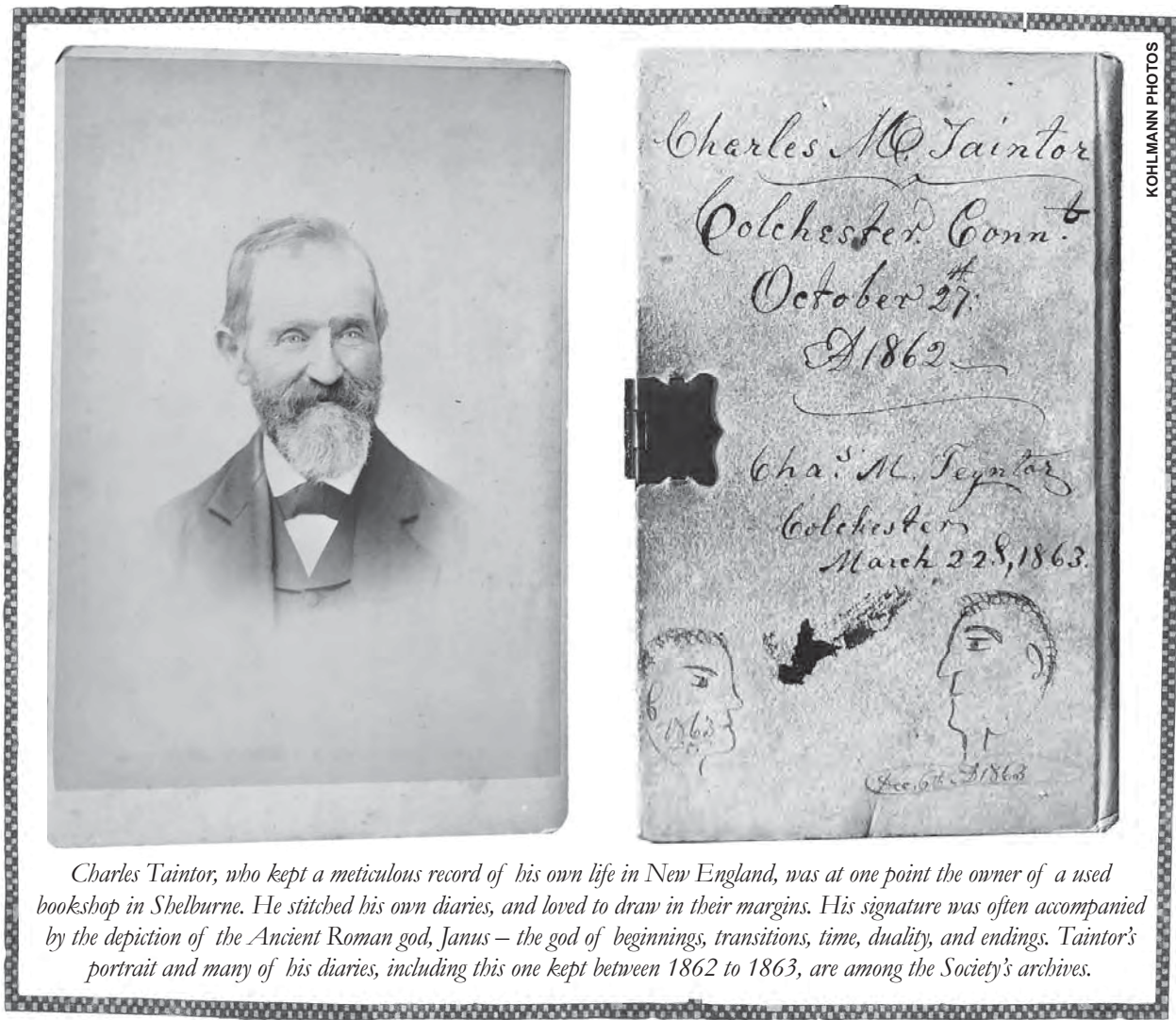
Having volunteered at nursing homes, Reba-Jean says she deeply understands how memory is so entwined in an object. “A person who has lost considerable amounts of their memory, can still be connected to their own heritage, their own past, or their own community’s history when they touch something that brings them back,” she says.

“And when you have taken all those things that can connect someone to a story away, the stories are gone. All of a sudden I hear, ‘Oh, I remember my mother going out to the speakeasy, and she was wearing one of those hats!’ Conversations ensue, and the nurses nearby me are in tears because they thought this person had lost the ability to even speak.”

But the art of storytelling and collective memory through material items goes back further for Reba-Jean. Her grandmother, the “preserver” of the family, was the impetus behind her fascination with stories and the objects that help shape them. Her grandmother was secretary to the mayor of Philadelphia, and later went on to be the president of a Masonic Lodge.

“She was her own woman of power,” says Reba-Jean. “She was a single mother who left her husband while she was expecting. This was during a time when women just didn’t do that. She supported her entire family through the Great Depression.”

At a young age, Reba-Jean was exposed to the worlds of famous storyteller celebrities in the Philadelphia community, from retired silent film stars to local politicians. This love of storytelling has since passed on to her own children. And now three generations of women are involved in the practice of memory keeping.



Charles Taintor, who kept a meticulous record of his own life in New England, was at one point the owner of a used bookshop in Shelburne. He stitched his own diaries, and loved to draw in their margins. His signature was often accompanied by the depiction of the Ancient Roman god, Janus – the god of beginnings, transitions, time, duality, and endings. Taintor’s portrait and many of his diaries, including this one kept between 1862 to 1863, are among the Society’s archives.

Her children are using what came before them, and the materials their own family has helped preserve, and reinterpreting them into their own fictional stories. Her youngest daughter is a part of the Historical Society team, and is enthralled with working with the collection.

Archives can develop out of family homes. Otherwise unwritten histories can be told out of small pocket diaries. The Shelburne Historical Society is a testament to many women’s acts of preservation, in moments when they felt there were holes in their communities’ heritage and memory that needed to be filled.

The very first curator, Leila Bardwell (1888-1988), felt a need to collect everyday items at a young

age, and label them with great detail. She was developing an accession sheet 100 years ago. It seems like she envisioned the Historical Society before it came into fruition.

Another female figure important to the collection is Fidelia Fiske (1816-1864). A Mount Holyoke alumna and professor, Fiske was one of the first female missionaries to visit modern-day Iran. After mastering the Syriac language, she started a young women’s seminary in Orumiyeh (modern-day Urmia), which made an effort to rescue very young women from educational neglect and channels of forced marriage. She embraced the local culture, and made an effort for her pupils to preserve and continue

their own generations-old local traditions. Her story comes alive in the things she left behind, from a 19th-century hijab, early tintypes, and school books used by her students, to her traveling inkwell and dip pen case.

As I try to understand archives and the keepers who preserve, curate and share them, I wonder if the organization of materiality – at least historically speaking – is often matrilineal. When I posed this question to Reba-Jean, she said she believed matriarchs and female relatives do strongly uphold the preservation of family memory and collective memory. Her own career and family history are a reflection of that. Women continue to be written out of history

and public memory, but the ways institutions edit out their contributions to their society can be countered with their quiet acts of preserving objects and stories.

From Leila Bardwell to Reba-Jean Shaw-Pichette, the curation of the Shelburne Historical Society is currently trying to reveal a local history that is not stuck in a certain time. Reba-Jean is a big proponent of multigenerational programming. An oral history series that appears on the Society’s Facebook page every Monday showcases voices of all ages.

Earlier this month, nine-year-old Lily Giguere was interviewed about Shelburne’s 116-year-old Grange Fair. She discussed what she liked about the craft fair, and how her great-great-great-grandmother, Mrs. Mary Stacy (née Alexander), was the 1948 Grange Fair winner. This makes history accessible and intergenerational, and can revitalize a community’s approach to its own stories.

Reba-Jean Shaw-Pichette says she fell for Shelburne, and does not plan on leaving. “I feel threads connecting me to the people of the past and present,” she says. “Which gives me the enthusiasm to tell their stories.”

Be sure to check out the Shelburne Historical Society, located in the former Arms Academy building on 33 Severance Street in Shelburne Falls. They are open from 1 to 4 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and weekend hours will be available soon. Call (413) 625-6150 for questions or if you would like to schedule an appointment. The last Sunday in April will feature an event on “Growing our Clothes,” discussing the local linens and textiles of the community. Be sure to check their Facebook page for special events on Father’s Day and Mother’s Day!



MOVIE REVIEW

Captain Marvel Glows Slightly Less Than its Hero

By NATAN COHEN

TURNERS FALLS – The 23rd movie in Marvel’s Cinematic Universe (MCU), *Captain Marvel*, debuted with high expectations two weeks ago. Its release comes on the heels of 2018’s blockbuster successes *Black Panther* and *Avengers: Infinity War*.

The film stars Brie Larson as the incredibly powerful Carol Danvers, a newcomer to Marvel’s cast of superheroes poised to take a leading role in the MCU’s next phase of movies. Larson/Danvers is also the first woman to be featured in her own Marvel film in the 11-year history of the series.

No pressure, right? *Captain Marvel* has a lot going on – arguably too much, which I’ll get to in a moment. But, on the whole, it succeeds in a couple of ways that will be familiar to Marvel fans.

The first is the humor and dialogue. Witty banter is the thread tying these movies together, and Captain Marvel does not disappoint. Marvel Studios has a knack for setting up just enough of a joke for the audience to fill in the rest on their own – implying punchlines with a look, or a metaphorical wink at the camera, instead of screaming it out loud. In fact, there were two instances when the audience around me broke out laughing while I was looking away from the screen during a moment with no dialogue.

Much of the humor comes from supporting characters like Nicholas Joseph Fury, played by Samuel L. Jackson, who demon-

strates that he still has a lot to offer here. However, even with Marvel Studio’s incredible CGI de-aging software making the 70-year-old Jackson appear to be in his mid-40s, it’s hard for a close eye not to notice how old the actor is. Stiff posture, awkward cuts to stunt doubles, and less vigorously delivered lines occasionally suck the energy from otherwise snappy scenes.

There’s also a moment involving a possibly magical cat experiencing zero gravity.

The second strength is Brie Larson herself, and particularly her heartfelt interactions with two other female characters – Danvers’ former pilot friend Maria Rambeau (Lashana Lynch), and Maria’s daughter Monica Rambeau (Akira Akbar). These touching scenes ground Danvers as a relatable human in the midst of high-octane, alt-rock alien-punching.

Captain Marvel is set in 1995, a prequel to all but one of the MCU films that have come before. Directors Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck, previously known for obscure indie films, lean into the ‘90s backdrop, never letting us forget when we are by including scenes with dial-up internet, a Blockbuster video storefront, a dismantled Game Boy used to hack a pay phone, ‘80s and ‘90s model cars, and a joke about spinning up a CD-ROM.

Musical hits like TLC’s *Waterfalls*, Garbage’s *Only Happy when it Rains*, and No Doubt’s *Just a Girl* attempt to feed energy into many of the action scenes and other dramatic moments. The songs are cute but, ignoring that some of them weren’t even published in



the year the movie was set, their overall effect falls flat at times.

When summoning the spirit of the alt-rock ‘90s – complete with a *Melancholy and the Infinite Sadness* poster cameo – an expectation is set for the grungy and surreal aesthetic of the early MTV days. But hearing ‘90s teen angst over an otherwise mundane 2019 CGI spectacle felt more jarring than nostalgic for me. There may have been a missed chance to do at least one true ‘90s music video homage.

Unfortunately, this disconnect extends to other ways the film strives to echo ‘90s sci-fi action hits, with particular callbacks to *Robocop* and *Terminator 2*. Those two films were defined by a dystopian and apocalyptic sensibility, respectively, that permeated almost every scene.


Unfortunately, *Captain Marvel* had little chance of doing justice to either their style or their stakes. Unlike the weird new sci-fi of the 90s, we already know how things are going to turn out here. Little can happen in this film

that we don’t already know about from the 22 films before it: the planet and Danvers will be just fine, as she is obligated to come help save the day in this summer’s MCU grand finale film, *Avengers: End Game*.

All that said, it is noteworthy that this is a superhero movie with a female lead where the only *hint* of romance or sexuality happens in her connection to another woman, who is her best friend and chosen family. Every man in the film is either an adversary or someone worth supporting based on Danvers’s values and best judgment in the moment. In many cases the antagonists are clear, and welcome, stand-ins for the kind of toxic, controlling masculinity that women contend with daily.


In terms of the awful history of gender representation in film, this one is probably more important than, say, 2017’s *Wonder Woman*. And, in the end, watching a woman go super-saiyan and destroy a bunch of goofy spaceships is not going to get old for a very long time.

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The Children's Page



This month's
Children's Page is
brought to you by
Nina's Nook!

You can color in this illustration, inspired by one of Mystic Pinball parlor's most popular games. "Wizard."

The arcade's owners, Mark and Corina Hankowski, are in the illustration.

For more Turners Falls scenes to color, check out the book "Psychedelic Turners Falls," a coloring album available at Nina's Nook and [Looky Here](#).

Pinball began as a game of indoor CROQUET called "BAGATELLE!"

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EVENTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Kids Music Series with Under the Tree Music Company*. A 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.

Tilton Library, S. Deerfield: *Book Discussion*. 6:30 p.m.

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

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *The Wretch Whom You Created*. Film 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

Artspace, Greenfield: *Noontime Jam Session*. Violin teacher Heather Sommerlad leading a session with intro to improv, using scales to jam on top of simple chord progressions. Piano available, all instruments welcome. Donation. \$. 12 p.m.

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*. CUBE is an experimental electronic music project and Slippery Stairs use synths, samples and beats to build techno grooves. \$. 8 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quiet House, Amber Belle & the*

Bottoms. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Montague Square Dance*. Bob Livingstone calling, with *Phil Watson House Band*. No experience necessary. Sliding scale fee \$. 7 p.m.

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse: *Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem*. Harmony, rhythm, indelible songs – these are the hallmarks of this New England based folk quartet, now in its 15th year. They are in the lineage of string bands who blur the boundaries of American roots music. A benefit for the Friends of the Wendell Library, the coffeehouse features a Desert-O-Rama and room to dance in the Wendell Town Hall. Donation. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *The Visitor*. (See Friday listing.) Live music before the show at 7 p.m. \$. 7:30 p.m.



SUBMITTED IMAGE

Gypsy Lane Cabaret seeks to highlight burlesque as a vehicle for self-expression and self-empowerment, offering body-positive entertainment at Hawks & Reed in Greenfield this Saturday, March 23. Get ready for laughs and sexiness as well as live music, swordplay, comedy, and much more, starting at 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Gypsy Lane Cabaret*. Burlesque theater with a body-positive bang. Live music, swordplay, sexiness, bellydancing. \$. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Kali-lope Jones, Raspberry Jam, Moving Day*. Local youth bands. \$. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Roots All*

Stars. All-star reggae line-up with Dave Boatwright, Boo Pearson, Andrew Moon, Noah Telly, Rob Moss, and Simon White. 9 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Shokazoba, I-Ganic Sound System*. Funk, reggae. \$. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Modifieds*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Wanda Houston and the Mothership*. Gospel brunch with jazz, soul. \$. 11 a.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Square Dance*. With caller Olivia Brook Baxter. 3 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Trash Day at the Shea*. Help spring clean at the theater and enjoy a free show by *Fancy*

research. 4:30 p.m.

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

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

Leverett Library: *Tales and Tunes Story Hour*. Ages 0 to 5 and caregivers. 10:30 a.m.

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Misty Blues*. Blues with a hint of funk, soul and tent revival. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Hot Damn Scandal, Pinedrop*. \$. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: Comedy special with *Olivia Grace, Albert Kirchner*, and local stars *Caitlin Reese* and *Laura Fattarusio*. 8 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Dirty Double Crossers*. 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

Guiding Star Grange, Greenfield: *Contra Dance*. With Steve Howland calling and music by David Kaynor and *Guiding Star Grange Dance Ensemble*. Come at 7 for a dance lesson. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Do It Now*. John Sheldon, beat poet laureate Paul Richmond, and Tony Vacca provide a powerful fusion of music, words and percussion in an enthralling show. Their special guest will be *Derrick Jordan* on electric violin. \$. 8 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bluegrass & Beyond*. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

Spinelli, Lush Honey, Phenomena 256, Shantyman, Tidwell's Treasure, and more. \$. 8 p.m.

The Perch, Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Rock Around the Block Sock Hop Benefit*. Get out the bobby sox and the blue suede shoes for an evening of 1950s food, dance and fun at Silverthorne Theater's spring spectacular benefit party. \$. 7 p.m.

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.

La Mariposa, Turners Falls: *Landscape Collage by Jesus Vio*. Vio uses landscape to explore new themes and aesthetics for the general global consciousness, using multimedia collage. Through April 26.

Leverett Crafts & Arts Center: *Jump Start*, annual exhibit of student work from Louise Minks' studio classes, from March 4 to March 23.

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. *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 Museum of Art, Northampton: *Plastic Entanglements: Ecology, Aesthetics, Materials*. The story of plastic in sixty works by thirty contemporary artists. Through July.

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THEATER REVIEW

The Little Mermaid: Outstanding Musical Entertainment

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

TURNERS FALLS – It is always a pleasure watching students perform their annual high school musical in Turners Falls. Their energy and enthusiasm is inspiring, and the quality of the performance always surprises because they are so young; one expects to not be so impressed, and yet, we are.

The Little Mermaid, performed by the students of Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School this past week (March 14 to 16) was so much fun to watch. Kayla Dedischew, who teaches music and theater in the Gill/Montague school district, is directing her fourth musical at TFHS/GFMS this year. She is assisted by Sue Dresser, a local director and choreographer, on many school and community theater musical productions.

All versions of The Little Mermaid are based on a story written by Hans Christian Andersen, first published in 1837. This production is based on the Disney film version of the play, with music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman and Glenn Slater, and book by Doug Wright.

In this presentation of the show, the directors took advantage of those sneakers with wheels called “heelies,” allowing singers and dancers to race across the stage with elegant choreography while dressed in the most amazing costumes. The bright colorful sets and imaginative costumes enhanced the visual impression of the show, while the students embodied the heart and soul of it all.

The cast was drawn from both middle and high school students, some of whom are very young and yet offer excellent performances. There was a great deal of movement on stage much of the time, adding to the excitement.

There was also strong choral singing, with great harmonies, especially



BLANCHETTE PHOTO

At center, Korey Martineau plays Sebastian, a crab, while Kimberly Semb and Izzy Vachula-Curtis each portray a jellyfish in The Little Mermaid.

ly from the six young women who played the sisters of Ariel, the mermaid who falls in love with a human prince and creates the entire reason for the story. Mermaids all, living under the deep sea, their father the king of the ocean, the sisters ponder and sing about the one child who longs for a life on land, challenging all they believe in. She who dares to be different: not a new story, especially with love in the mix, and yet a compelling one that all, even the very young, can understand.

The charming eighth grader who played the mermaid Ariel is Samantha Thorpe. It was her sweet soprano voice that made Prince Eric, played by Nik Martin, search for her. Martin was fine as the prince, seeking his

love, especially touching in his scenes with Ariel when they danced together.

Thorpe was onstage much of the time, taking part in most scenes. She seemed quite comfortable onstage as she sang and danced gracefully, playing her part with focus and commitment.

Ariel’s two best friends – Sebastian, a crab, played by Korey Martineau, and Flounder, played by sixth grader Julian Mayo – followed her throughout, always looking out for her. Martineau’s strong voice added strength to many scenes, enhancing the large ensemble song and dance numbers. He added humor to the show while dancing away in his bright red crab costume with large claws instead of hands, which he

used dramatically.

The cooking scene that included Chef Louis, played with great comic effect by Tommy Hall, brought Martineau into a slapstick chase scene that involved much of the cast and was very funny. Mayo as Flounder, dressed in a colorful blue and yellow fish costume, sang several solo numbers joined with cast members, and did an excellent job.

The cast was dressed in so many amazing costumes. Much credit goes to costume makers Jonathan Chappell and Megan Finn. All fish of the sea seemed represented, along with seagulls, swans, and flamingoes.

Especially impressive were the jellyfish, their clear umbrellas donned with long colorful tendrils

and lights on top, and the pufferfish which opened and closed to perfectly simulate the behavior of that fish. There were frogs, sea turtles, and otters, all dancing around on a stage well-decorated by sea flora.

King Triton, played by Ian Farrick, had a tall, pastel blue and multi-colored throne befitting such a ruler. Ariel had a secret hideaway equally lovely, decorated with jewels and human debris she’s collected.

It was impressive watching how well the cast and crew worked together as they moved through scenes, sets quickly brought in and out. Timing is everything, and they did this seamlessly. All in all, an excellent performance, of which all involved should be proud.

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