

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 19 – NO. 17

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 4, 2021

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

School Costs Again Pressure Leverett Budget

By GEORGE BRACE

Town budget discussions picked up steam at Leverett's March 2 selectboard meeting, with members of town committees and boards on hand to present draft budget proposals. The school committee asked for a 7.7% increase for the schools, overshooting the finance committee's target maximum of 1.5%. This led to discussion of the particular challenges of school budgeting, and concerns over creating budgets in an uncertain economy.

Leverett's fin com had asked all town departments to shoot for no more than a 1.5% increase in their annual budgets, which will come up for approval at annual town meeting, tentatively scheduled for the first Saturday in May. The committee based its target on a 1.3% inflation rate, and a desire to be cautious in uncertain times. The fin com and selectboard also commented on rising spending and cost trends, and the sense of Leverett's "inexorable" march towards the 2.5% property tax limit, capping Massachusetts towns' ability to raise taxes without an overhaul of state tax law.

The school committee broke their explanation of the requested budget increase into two parts. The first, a likely expense of \$81,000 for an out-of-district placement of a Leverett student which will be

see LEVERETT page A5

GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill Officials Plan Letter To Governor On Vax Sites

By JERRI HIGGINS

The Gill selectboard discussed concern about the Baker administration's current COVID-19 vaccine distribution plans at its Monday night meeting. Other COVID-19 related items were also addressed, along with information on the state's Chapter 90 road funding allocation for FY'22, among other business.

In his capacity as a health agent with the Cooperative Public Health Service (CPHS) at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, selectboard chair Randy Crochier told his fellow board members that he had worked his first COVID-19 vaccination clinic at Mohawk Trail Regional School in Buckland. "It went pretty well," he said. "We did about 250 vaccinations up there."

Crochier went on to report that the selectboards in Deerfield, Sunderland, Conway, and Whately have all sent letters to Governor Charlie Baker affirming the need to operate vaccination sites in southern Franklin County, which Crochier also supports.

"[Baker] has this plan of changing vaccine sites. If we cannot do 750 vaccines a day, five days a week, he may not let it operate," Crochier said.

Crochier illustrated local frustration with the vaccination plan by

see GILL page A5

HOLDING ENERGY



Above: Reader Aredvi Azad captured this image of the Turners Falls hydro dam's closed gates, illuminated at night.

Virus Ebbs; Teachers Prioritized For Vaccine

By JEFF SINGLETON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – The Montague health department did not issue its weekly COVID-19 report to the selectboard this week because there was no selectboard meeting to report to. The Reporter obtained information on the latest virus infection numbers from the department, and they showed a sharp decline in the number of positive tests.

In the period between February 14 and 28, five new individuals in Montague tested positive, a level which the town has not seen since last summer. During the past holiday surge in December, new cases peaked at over 40 per two-week period.

The health department did not comment on the potential policy impact of these numbers, or the state's recent decision to restart Phase III, Step 2 of its "Reopening Massachusetts Plan" as of Tuesday. This phase, which was abandoned during the fall COVID-19 spike, allows indoor performance venues such as

see VACCINES page A7

Attention to Synthetic Toxins Grows

By SARAH ROBERTSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Private well owners in Leverett, Wendell, and Erving could qualify for free water testing as part of a state initiative to find groundwater sources potentially contaminated by a class of toxic manmade chemicals known as PFAS.

Under new state regulations passed in October, all public water suppliers must also test under Massachusetts' first-ever PFAS drinking water limit of 20 parts per trillion (ppt), an amount that should be "safe to drink for an entire lifetime," according to the state. As part of the regulatory rollout, the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) is offering free PFAS testing to all municipal water systems, as well as private well owners in qualifying towns. Wastewater plants will also be required to test influent and effluent.

"PFAS is the new up-and-coming chemical that we had no idea about several years ago," Turners Falls Water Department superintendent Mike Brown told the Reporter. "This has been on our radar for about two years now."

The department, which provides drinking water to four of the five villages of Montague, first tested for PFAS in 2019, and results have never exceeded 20 ppt. "We did it before we heard about free testing, so we made sure we did the testing again," said Brown, who recently attended a MassDEP training on water sampling techniques.

The term PFAS generally refers to various kinds of per- and polyfluoroalkyl chemicals characterized on the molecular level by fluorinated carbon chains. While the qualities of PFAS give them a wide range of industrial and consumer applications, these "forever chemicals" never break down, and they form strong attachments to other carbon-based molecules, causing them to bioaccumulate in living things.

Massachusetts' new standards

apply to six different types of PFAS chemicals, though the federal Environmental Protection Agency has identified 29 as present in America's drinking water systems.

"PFAS in general is kind of a hot topic, and people are still coming up with what we should be testing for because there are so many variants," said Mariah Kurtz, assistant town planner for Erving. "They are very common, and they have terrible repercussions to our health."

Beginning in the 1940s, PFAS

on Earth at some level," Shaina Kasper, the water program director for the nonprofit environmental group Community Action Works, told the Reporter.

Since 2017 Kasper has helped lead a national coalition of environmental organizations and community groups organizing around PFAS. The regulatory review process for PFAS in Massachusetts was initiated by a petition filed in 2018 by Community Action Works, the Conservation Law Foundation,



Montague's water pollution control facility has been testing for PFAS since 2018.

were manufactured in the United States and around the globe by companies such as 3M, DuPont, Clariant, and Arkema. Nonstick cooking pans, certain building materials, waterproof clothing, markers, carpets, food wrappers and even microwave popcorn bags have all contained various PFAS in the past, and some still do today. The most famous is polytetrafluoroethylene, sold under the brand name Teflon.

While PFAS are no longer manufactured in the United States today, they persist in water, soil, animals and humans, causing reproductive harm, cancer, liver and kidney damage, and other ailments.

"PFAS didn't exist back when my parents were born, and now they're in every red-blooded crea-

and Clean Water Action.

"We know that these chemicals are really dangerous, and we know enough to be able to regulate them," Kasper said. "But our chemical regulatory system is too broken. There's 8,000 of these chemicals in this family of PFAS chemicals, and they're entirely unregulated in our drinking water on the national level."

Some experts believe virtually everyone on Earth has been exposed to some form of PFAS in their lifetime due to their prevalence in the environment. Among the most well-known and harmful are perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), which have been phased out and replaced with other

see TOXINS page A8

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Board Seeks 'Fresh' Image For Erving

By KATIE NOLAN

On Monday night, the Erving selectboard reviewed three draft town logo designs prepared by Tiny Town Marketing of Orange. A previous logo design featuring the French King Bridge was rejected after numerous complaints by suicide prevention advocates and others.

The three recent designs used the same color palette, hexagonal shape, and "Town of Erving" banner as the earlier bridge design. One featured the Millers River, with tree-lined banks, and two featured Laurel Lake.

Town administrator Bryan Smith suggested adding a heron to the Millers River design, and selectboard chair Jacob Smith suggested adding rocks in the river.

"I like the Millers River," said selectboard member William Bem-bury. "It's where I see whitewater rafting, flowing water across the rocks, eagles, fly fishermen..." He commented that the river image in the draft logo lacked animation.

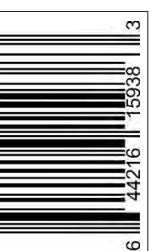
Jacob Smith said he had "felt good about the last logo," but was not inspired by the new set of designs. He said he expected the designer "to do some homework" and find "abstract elements of what makes Erving Erving."

Planning assistant Mariah Kurtz said she had asked Tiny Town to prepare new logos in a similar style

see ERVING page A7

Bit Of A Slow News Week, But We Got One Out

Illustration: Cycle Hawker.....A2	Guest Editorial: The Mess With Texas.....A4	Montague Police Log.....B3
10 Years Ago This Week.....A7	Faces and Places: A Lotta Can Tabs.....A5	Now On MCTV.....B3
Two Letters to the Editors.....A2	Our Monthly Science Page.....A6	Waiting For Superman.....B3
And One Response.....A2	Updated County Virus Chart.....A7	Anchor House Exhibit.....B4
Local Briefs.....A3	The Gardener's Companion.....B1	Five Locally Drawn Comics.....B5
And A Third Letter.....A3	Handsome Pet Of The Week.....B2	A Difficult Puzzle.....B5
Guest Editorial: Aggro Flag.....A4	Critical Excess.....B2	One Room Schoolhouses.....B6



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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on March 3, 2011: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Counsel Advises Delay Of Usher Mill Cleanup

Erving's town counsel Donna MacNicol met with the selectboard February 24 to consider two questions: who owns the former Usher Mill, and who is responsible for cleanup costs at the property?

The seven-acre property on Arch Street in Erving Center was bought by Patriots Environmental, a salvage firm from Worcester, in 2007, shortly after the main former mill buildings burned in an arson fire.

Patriots has not paid any taxes on the property since 2007, although the company did remove southern pine supporting beams, scrap metal, intact bricks, and concrete rubble for hardpack during the winter after the fire.

MacNicol explained that taking possession of a property for back taxes involves three steps: placing a lien on a property; tax taking and then filing with the registry of deeds that the taking has been done; and one year after the taking, foreclosure of the right of redemption.

MacNicol said because the town has completed the second step, "in some ways, Erving is now the owner of the property," and it may be difficult to assess Patriots for cleanup costs if the cleanup is completed before the right of the redemption is foreclosed.

Welcome Center Proposed For "Cumby's" Building

Montague's Economic Development and Industrial Corporation considered two proposals on Thursday, February 24 for use of the former Cumberland Farms property at the corner of Avenue A and Second Street.

With new proposals on the table for a piece of gateway real estate in downtown Turners Falls, the EDIC is getting a push to consider what to do with an aging building with a leaky roof and a complicated history.

MCTV, the Montague Business Association, and RiverCulture proposed renting the building

to collaborate on a welcome center, TV studio, and art and cultural center. They offered to pay to fix the leaking roof.

Meanwhile, the Montague parks and recreation department and local sculptor Joe Landry proposed installing art outside of the building, to be created by children through partnerships with area schools.

The EDIC voted not to accept the parks and rec proposal, and held off on making a decision about a welcome center, deciding that a more formal request-for-proposals process will be needed.

Town planner Walter Ramsey is drafting letters to the state Department of Conservation and Recreation and legislators in hopes of clarifying the state's interest in the property, which Montague took by eminent domain in order to turn it over to DCR as part of the Great Falls Discovery Center. The transfer to DCR never happened, Ramsey said, likely due to state funds for park development drying up.

Dinosaur Tracks Hoped To Fuel Local Tourism

The Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA) in Deerfield has been awarded a 2011 John and Abigail Adams grant of \$28,000 to support their initiative, "Fossil Fuel for the Valley," to develop dinosaur track-themed tourism in the Pioneer Valley. The first projects will be in Greenfield, where "bird tracks," later identified as dinosaur footprints, were found on Bank Row in 1835.

"This is a chance for towns in the upper Valley to show off their part in the history of American science," said PVMA executive director Timothy Neumann. "It's a popular topic that can draw people from other parts of the state, and even outside the state, to come see what we've got."

Activities covered by the grant include a Jurassic Roadshow in downtown Greenfield, where fossil enthusiasts will be able to bring their fossil specimens for identification by a paleontologist, public art celebrating the tracks and mini-grants for jewelers, artists, confectioners, and historical societies, and a map of places people can go to see dinosaur footprints.



Nik Perry gets ready to install a tire at Sadie's Bikes in Turners Falls. The bike season starts this month, and the shop has 50 bikes in stock. Sadie's is now going to be open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 6 p.m. Check out the new Museum shelves in the entryway to the shop!

Letters to the Editors

Vax Chats Tax Prog Pols' Scant Time

We all talk regularly about how badly Governor Baker's administration has done with vaccine distribution.

One serious by-product of his ineptness is that our legislators and their staff are constantly taking calls from their constituents and trying to help solve this

problem. I would prefer that they spend their time making the state more progressive and working on the very many important bills before them.

Judi Fonsh
Leverett

Northfield Solar Coverage One-Sided

I'm usually a big fan of the Reporter's fine-grained reporting on local issues, but I don't get the tack the paper seems to be taking on the proposed solar installation at Four Star Farms in Northfield.

Questions about farm viability, renewable energy, and historic and cultural preservation tend to have complicated back-stories and usually involve multiple tradeoffs with no simple good-versus-bad answers. Four Star's plan deserves serious, thoughtful coverage that could help readers better understand both the plan and the conflict that's arisen around it.

Instead the paper has given the "anti" side a platform for innuendo and name-calling, shading into outright conspiracy theory (the implication seems to be that because Nathan L'Etoile has worked for state agricultural agencies and a national farmland protection organization, he's part of some shadowy network in league to line each other's pockets through sketchy solar deals).

Your article-writers seem shocked that a farmer would make money from solar credits, but that's how incentive programs work, and lots of farms in our area and beyond have pursued this as a strategy.

Again, there's lots to debate about the pros and cons, but so far the paper is only reflecting a version of the cons that seems motivated by strong personal agendas.

These writers are obviously entitled to their opinions, but that's where their words should go – in the opinion section, clearly labeled as an op-ed or a letter to the editor. It would be nice to see some actual journalistic coverage of this that meets the Reporter's usual standards.

Cathy Stanton
Wendell

The editors respond:

Thank you for this feedback, and your kind words!

First: If anyone wants to cover the town of Northfield as a reporter, they're encouraged to contact our office.

Mr. Ainsworth (there is only one of him) began writing for us recently, as a columnist. He wrote Page A1 columns on December 17 and 24 and January 7 and 21 which were very clearly editorial in nature, but prompted no complaints about their labeling or placement.

This was far from the first time we had placed an opinion column, personal reflection, analysis piece, etc. on Page A1. It is always in our interest to clearly distinguish such content from news reporting, and we make deliberate efforts to do so.

After Mr. Ainsworth's focus turned to a second topic – both have been proposed projects in Northfield – we have received two complaints that his column is insuff-

ficiently indicated as a column from readers who also disagree with his position on that topic. It already had a special header including a column title and stylized bars, but after the first complaint, we began running a biographical note at the end of each column.

We will be happy to continue to troubleshoot the layout if it is truly causing confusion. However, we do not think it would set good editorial precedent to banish Mr. Ainsworth's column to an interior page at the suggestion of readers who disagree with him.

The simplest option on the table seems to be to remind the community at large that we hope to provide an open platform for all of your voices. The Reporter holds no collective position on the project in question. In this case, we will be more than happy to give equal billing to a different perspective on the topic in question.

– Eds.



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By NINA ROSSI

The Pioneer Valley Symphony announces an evening marrying romance and comedy with their production of "Fools in Love" this Saturday, March 6 at 7 p.m. Valley artists from Happier Valley Comedy, Enchanted Circle Theater, and Straw Dog Writers' Guild perform "heartache and romance through singalongs, improv, spoken word and live poetry readings," according to the announcement we received. The program also features the world premiere of "But Not for Me," a PVS Virtual Choir project. Join them at www.pvsoc.org/event-details/fools-in-love as they celebrate and poke fun at love.

On Sunday, March 7, a benefit concert for LifePath hosted by

Northfield Mount Hermon Instrumental Ensembles takes place online at 3 p.m. The virtual concert is free, and 100% of donations given will support LifePath programs and services such as Meals on Wheels, Home Care Services, Benefits Counseling, Protective Services, SHINE, Healthy Living, Money Management, and more. Enjoy the concert from the comfort of your own home as it streams virtually from NMH at vimeo.com/event/373629. This musical event is the kickoff to the spring fundraising campaign culminating in the annual (hybrid) Walkathon, taking place on Saturday, May 1. For information about the concert, contact Sue Rhenow at (413) 498-3281.

Next Tuesday, March 9 at 5:30 p.m., check out a beautifully illus-

trated program highlighting common native plants and insect relationships called "Native Plants as Insect Habitat" with Charley Eiseman.

Charley shares his fascination and enthusiasm for the world of insects in his programs as well as in his popular BugTracks blog and award-winning book, *Tracks and Sign of Insects and Other Invertebrates: A Guide to North American Species*. His scientific discoveries include many new species of insects, even several found in his own front yard!

Find out what can happen if you stop mowing your lawn. This free Zoom event is co-sponsored by the Dickinson Memorial Library and the Northfield Bird Club. To register, email dmemlib@gmail.com.

All Franklin County poets are encouraged to get their entries into the Greenfield Public Library's **Poet's Seat Poetry Contest** before March 17! Students ages 12 and up are encouraged to enter into the youth categories. See the submission details at www.friendsofgpl.org.

Greening Greenfield and Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution (FCCPR) have joined together to develop "Housing is a Human Right: We Can Make It Happen," a nine-session virtual forum that will consider options for affordable housing for Franklin County and the North Quabbin residents. The forum begins on March 27 at 9 a.m. with a keynote panel featuring Brian Sargent, assistant professor of public policy at UMass Amherst; Linda Dunlavy, executive director at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments; and state senator Jo Comerford. It will continue for the next eight weeks, with one workshop each week dealing with some aspect of the housing crisis.

"If you don't have a regular income that is higher than minimum wage, you are likely to become homeless at some time in your life," says Susan Worgaftik, chair of the forum organizing committee.

"Housing is something that everyone should have as a right," adds Doug Selwyn of FCCPR. "It should be affordable, meet health and safety codes, and be accessible to all."

The forum will cover analysis of why housing has become a commodity, the real-life situations of those who have difficulty acquiring a home, and community responses that can increase the availability of affordable, appropriate permanent housing. For more information and to register, visit housingishumanright.com (note that there is no "a" between "is" and "human" in

the URL). Workshops are all free of charge.

The **Garden Cinema in Greenfield** has announced they will be reopening on March 26 after being closed since January 10. This is due to Governor Baker lifting evening curfews and raising of attendance limits up to 50% capacity.

Did you know that **free internet and a free or low-cost computer** is available for MassHire Career Center customers? Customers who are unemployed and seeking work or in training qualify for free internet through Comcast, Spectrum, or Verizon Wireless, and a subsidized or low-cost laptop through Comcast Internet Essentials, or a free Chromebook for customers without a computer.

If you also need help learning how to use these tools, the Career Center can refer you to free digital education courses. Call MassHire Franklin Hampshire Career Center at (413) 774-4361 or (800) 457-2603 for more information and to sign up for the program.

Ever been to Park Orchard in Easthampton for their annual Art in the Orchard sculpture show? They've put out a 6th annual **Call to Artists** for the next round of sculpture installations. At least 20,000 visitors come to the orchard to see the installations from August 1 to November 28. Be part of the show by applying by April 1. Accepted artists receive a \$500 stipend. The deadline is April 1, and the submission fee is \$20. Apply online at artintheorchard.org/apply, or contact Jean-Pierre Pasche at support@artintheorchard.org.

If you like learning how people make things, you'll enjoy an exhibit at the Springfield Science Museum inspired by Mr. Rogers's Factory Tours. Every object has a story of how it is made. "How People Make Things" celebrates that story and the people, the manufacturing processes, and the technologies used to make everyday objects in our world.

The exhibit is available until May 9. Find out about visiting at springfieldmuseums.org/exhibitions/people-make-things. "Come in and explore using your hands, tools and machines to cut, mold, deform and assemble. You'll discover how familiar the story of manufacturing is to all of us," the Museum website reads.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

GCC Foundation Announces Scholarships For High School Students

GREENFIELD – Applications are now open for the Mary Stuart Rogers Foundation scholarships for graduating high school seniors who intend to enroll at Greenfield Community College in the fall, and who currently attend any of the following eight Franklin County sending high schools:

Greenfield and Turners Falls high schools; Mohawk Trail, Frontier, Ralph Mahar, and Pioneer Valley regional schools; Four Rivers Charter School; and Franklin

County Technical School.

The \$1,000 scholarships are given out on the basis of scholarship, with a minimum 3.0 GPA, demonstrated financial need, and an essay on the importance of continuing education and/or education and career. Special consideration is given to applicants with a volunteer or community service background.

Applications are available at www.gcc.mass.edu/admissions/mary-stuart-rogers-scholarship and due no later than Friday, April 16.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

By **DIANE LYN ANDERSEN**
and **RICHARD ANDERSEN**

MONTAGUE – Just because we have the right to do something doesn't mean it's the right thing to do.

We all have the right to free speech. It's not just a civil right; it's a human right. And it's not limited to words. It includes symbols like the kinds that appear on flags. Some of these flags can instill pride in what the symbols represent, while the same symbols can rouse anger in others. The symbols are always protected, and so are the people as long as they behave peacefully.

A flag flies today on Turners Falls

Who Are We? Who Do We Want to Be?

Road at the entrance to the Rod and Gun Club. It may belong to the club members, or it may belong to the people who live in the house next to the entrance. There are words on the flag that express anger in a way that though uncivil – some would say offensive – are protected by our First Amendment rights.

The colors of the flag, which flies on the same pole as an American flag, are the patriotic red, white, and blue but also those of the Confederate flag, which is frequently associated with the white supremacist movement. The words on the flag – all in bold capital letters – read: **FUCK BIDEN**.

The purpose of this essay is

not to limit the rights of anyone to speak their minds, but to ask if there might not be more empathetic, or at least considerate, ways of expressing how we feel about fellow members of our human family. How would those who fly this flag and others like it feel if they knew their flag makes some of their brothers and sisters feel threatened? Would they still choose to identify themselves with sentiments that express hatred towards people whose only crime is not looking, thinking, feeling, and acting as they do?

People will always disagree, but disagreement can also be an opportunity to get to know and under-

stand and appreciate one another better. Disagreement can be a defense of our Constitutional rights, or an invitation to accept our human responsibilities. Disagreement can be an excuse to create further division or a first step toward building a stronger, albeit always fragile, community. Disagreement can be a call to action, whether that call be to storm a public building or retain respect for one another and our public institutions.

Disagreement can bring us closer together or pull us further apart. It gives a choice: love or hate.

Diane Lyn Andersen and Richard Andersen live in Montague Center.

GUEST EDITORIAL

By **GEORGE SHAPIRO**

LAKE PLEASANT – In an earlier issue of this newspaper an editorial remarked upon what was an unfolding disaster in Texas that started on February 14. A cold front which brought a bit of a New England winter to Texas caught the guardians of the Texas electrical grid unprepared. A frost-related failure of natural gas-fired electrical generators forced the "Electric Reliability Council of Texas" (ERCOT), the non-profit corporation which runs the Texas grid (among other things) to cut off power to millions of Texans or else face causing damage that might take months to fix the grid itself.

Supply and demand for electricity must almost perfectly meet on the electrical grid or damage may accrue to the wires or the generating plants themselves. The combination of Texans turning on their electric heat and a sudden collapse of supply meant ERCOT had little choice but to reduce the demand to fit the diminished supply.

As residents of Franklin County know well, no electricity means no heat, unless you have a very old furnace or a back-up plan. Texas had no back-up plan.

As the crisis developed, several media narratives emerged which may have given casual observers some false ideas about the nature of the failure at the heart of it. When commentators mention Texas, deregulation, or the fact that ERCOT's grid is mostly unable to import outside electricity and is not subject to federal oversight, it's easy to imagine that the grid is being managed Wild West-style by a bunch of cowboys going it alone.

Texas is the largest producer of natural gas and wind-generated electricity in the US. Keeping pace with that, the Texas grid (or interconnection) is the most advanced in the US, with 100% adoption of smart meters and other state-of-the-art technologies. Gridify, the app that lets you pay for electricity at wholesale prices (and is owned by an Australian investment bank), could only run in Texas because it is built on being able to know exactly who is supplying your power in real time, a surprisingly difficult task.

It is this real-time data that also gives Texas the ability to integrate wind power at the scale. According to the latest figures from the US Energy Information Administration, about 20% of the electricity produced in Texas is made at wind farms, compared to around 3% in New England.

Wind power requires sophisticated management techniques because, while it produces day and night, the amount of power generated changes as the wind blows. At the scale at which wind operates on the Texas grid, these problems become critical. Grid operators must compensate for this fluctuation using other sources of power.

However, given the low operating costs of wind farms, operators have been known to charge negative prices for wind power when demand is low. That is, they pay the grid to take wind electricity. This naturally depresses prices for those other sources, which must take up the slack.

So, the story told by Republican officials that

the failure of wind power caused the crisis in Texas is a lie – but behind it is a little bit of reality.

When people speak of deregulation of the electrical grid, you might imagine a free-for-all akin to the deregulation of banking. However, electricity (unlike credit) must obey the laws of physics, and so the electrical grid requires constant direct management if you want reliable power or power at all.

In New England this task is handled by ISO-New England (ISO-NE), a non-profit corporation headquartered in Holyoke. ISO-NE and ERCOT are functionally equivalent. This is because deregulation is a bipartisan project dating to the 1990s.

Before 1992 the power supplied to your house by your electric utility was likely generated in a plant owned by that utility, and transmitted over lines owned by that utility which was subject to the "Public Utilities Holding Company Act" of 1935. These local utility monopolies were widely derided as slow, inefficient, archaic, and expensive. The National Energy Policy Act of 1992 was nominally about stimulating alternative energy generation, but what it created was the "exempt wholesale generator," that is, a legal framework for generating electricity exempt from PUHC regulations.

The 1992 Act was part of a state and federal push to separate the generation of electricity from its transmission and sale. Electric utilities would still own the wires going into your home, but they would purchase the electricity you use on a wholesale market from independent suppliers. The connection and disconnection of all the independent suppliers to the grid would still have to be carefully managed, but because those suppliers are independent, that manager would also have to be independent, hence ISO-NE or ERCOT.

The problem now became that, previous to 1992, no wholesale market for electricity existed: it would have to be created. This is the second critical role that these independent managers would play, making the market. All contracts for electricity are handled and settled by the grid operator, and the ability to make the rules for that market has a profound effect on its composition.

The main difference between Texas and New England is that ISO-NE takes bids for supplying electricity three years in the future in addition to bids for the hour-to-hour supply. This makes New England what is called a "capacity" market, and Texas an "energy" market. However, the scale of the supply lost in Texas (up to 30,000 MW) makes it seem unlikely that having this "capacity" would have made the difference.

The fact is that a similar event almost happened in New England – on February 8, 2013, when a winter storm took down a power transmission line, cutting off supply. ISO-NE needed to bring up gas-fired electrical plants to make up the difference, but the supply of gas was constrained by winter heating demands. The grid stayed up, but it was a close thing.

Just like in Texas, the New England grid is at the mercy of independent generating plants will-

ing and able to supply the right amount at the right time. But independent generators are looking to sell their electricity at the highest prices possible. Without peaks in pricing – that is, without scarcity – there is little financial incentive for generators to supply. Hence the infamous quote from the Texas Utilities Commission that pricing at \$9,000 per MWh was the system "working as intended."

This volatility is built into the commodities trading model for the supply of New England's electricity, and it is exactly what ISO-NE brags about when it claims to be more "efficient" than what it replaced.

Finally, one of the reasons New England only produces 3% of its electricity from wind is that ISO-NE is vocally opposed to the kind of state subsidies that would make a greater transition possible. Their reasoning is exactly the same as that we hear from Texas Republicans: "Unrestricted entry of state-sponsored resources into the capacity market could lead to economic distortions, undermine the competitiveness of the market, and cause retirements to happen too quickly. Or, it could deter new investment in other resources that don't have a contract but are needed to operate the grid reliably..." (From www.iso-ne.com)

While ISO-NE may "make the market," it appears to be held hostage by the need for profitability in that market. In turn, our region's energy future is held hostage to ISO-NE's belief that only "price signals" in the market can be the source of new investment.

With pipeline plans from the Marcellus Shale fields canceled or on long-term hold, ISO-NE recognizes that the supply of gas to the New England grid is limited during the winter. This can be seen in winter volatility of the wholesale gas prices. The alternative is beefing up transmission lines to Quebec in order to import more hydro-generated electricity.

This adds to risk from a second major point of failure, and Texas shows that even with large renewable inputs, shocks to the gas supply can bring down the grid.

The lesson we should all take from what has happened in Texas is that the transition to an electrical grid built on natural gas has made that grid fragile. Plans by ISO-NE to introduce sophisticated financial instruments to enable renewables in the current market model should be cause for profound concern from everyone familiar with the recent history of our financial markets.

At some point we may have to recognize that maintenance of the grid by a corporation built around managers in a high-tech, data-driven office, coordinating outsourced tasks to independent contractors, is not sufficient to take on the challenges of the future. As the foundation becomes unstable, the grid will fragment into reliable and unreliable segments, and we will have real energy inequality to go with income inequality.

In the end, the electrical grid is too fundamental to be allowed to survive based on a roll of the dice.

Mr. Shapiro resides at Lake Pleasant.

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LEVERETT from page A1

required by law if needed next year, represented 4.3% of the increase. The remaining 3.4%, or \$63,000, was contained in the department's operating budget.

School committee chair Craig Cohen gave a presentation on the factors driving the request and the questions the town faced. Cohen noted that a 1.5% increase in the operating budget would not cover teacher contract obligations, pointing to a recently negotiated one-year contract that reduced teachers' step and cost-of-living (COLA) increases from the 2.5% their prior contract called for to 1.5%.

Cohen said the committee was pursuing other cost-saving avenues, such as hiring new teachers at a lower step on the pay scale. He pointed out that the school has had a level budget for six years, and the only cuts that can be made are in teacher contracts, or giving up one-teacher classes such as art, music, physical education, which are already at half-time staffing.

Cohen asked, "Does a 1.5% increase reflect the values of our community and the education we want?" Others argued that Leverett is competing with neighboring towns for teachers, and would lose good candidates if excessive cuts were made.

School committee member Kip Fonsh said that Leverett's schools attract people to the town, and that if that changes, there will be a migration out, causing property values to suffer. "School is engine that motivates new home buyers," another resident put it.

Cohen calculated that the increases sought would only amount to \$20 in annual property taxes on a \$200,000 valuation, and \$40 on a \$400,000 valuation.

Fin com member Ann Delano and selectboard chair Julie Shively emphasized that the 1.5% target chosen last October was a conservative starting point, not carved in stone, but went on to outline some of the factors leading to that decision. Graphs and charts were referenced by board member Tom Hankinson and the fin com showing the town potentially coming up against the Proposition 2½ cap as early as 2027, depending on the suppositions involved.

Delano stated that the desire of the fin com was to make voluntary cuts now, rather than be forced into mandatory cuts triggered by hitting the state cap.

Multiple attendees commented on the difficulty in increasing the town's tax base with new development that is "acceptable to a small, bucolic town," though members of the fin com and others said they were exploring possibilities, including rezoning to allow for denser residential development.

Arguments in favor of strong school funding were passionate at times, but Hankinson commented that "there wasn't as much bloodshed as in past years."

Shively, providing a final word, noted that in negotiations there are two sides, and each must give something up. She said the process would take time to resolve, requiring trust and understanding, and that results will alternate between the town doing well and teachers doing well.

Capital Planning

The capital planning commit-

tee highlighted two items in their proposed budget. The first was the purchase of a new dump truck in 2022, which was originally slated for 2019, but was delayed due to the size of the \$200,000 expense.

Committee member Wesley Goscenski said one of the town's two current trucks has been stalling out on a consistent basis, requiring drivers to sit and wait until it can be started again, and that there seemed to be a consensus that a new truck was preferable to patching up a vehicle three years past its projected replacement date, or buying a used one.

Goscenski said he felt this was the last time the town would be able to purchase a new truck for under \$200,000, and that if the replacement was further delayed, it could require borrowing to buy, further increasing the expense.

The second item was the addition of money towards the purchase of a "Jaws of Life" unit for the fire department, to replace the current, 19-year-old hydraulic set the town co-owns with the town of Shutesbury. The new unit would be a battery-powered electric set, which is estimated to cost \$36,000.

Goscenski said the current set works, but not well, and has had hydraulic lines blow out, an expensive repair. He noted that the new set would be better at dealing with newer vehicles, and cited the need for good equipment demonstrated by recent car accidents in the town.

In another budget move, the board voted to set the COLA increase for all town employees except school workers at 1.3%, matching the inflation rate.

Other Business

The board held a discussion on a new ride-sharing program being offered by the Franklin Regional Transportation Authority.

The program would be a "call service," in which vehicles matching the number of passengers requesting transportation would be sent by schedule, and the town charged according to how much use the service gets.

It was noted that the use and cost can vary widely, with Whately paying \$9,700 per year and Colrain \$374. It was suggested that a committee be formed to look at the program.

The board discussed the state's new "One Stop For Growth" grant program, intended to make grant-seeking more efficient.

Numerous grant ideas to pursue through the portal were discussed, including money for Teawaddle Hill Road; fire cisterns at the school and North Station; a photovoltaic micro-grid, which could leverage solar projects in town; and gravel road and culvert projects.

A project to restore two museums in town, and do some work to create an area for "recreationalists" to park and rent bicycles or canoes, was also discussed.

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis provided an update on the town's plan to install electric vehicle charging stations at the library, saying grant money should cover the cost of everything except paving two parking spots, and the expense of joining a cloud service necessary to run the stations.

McGinnis said she would research the cost of the service and report back.



The Pre-Employment Program (PEP) at Franklin County Technical School was visited last Wednesday by Megen Moynihan, activities director at the Ronald McDonald House in Springfield. PEP students have been collecting can tabs for the past year, and presented Moynihan with 95 pounds of tabs – roughly 100,000 tabs – to help the charity. Every tab helps families have a warm place to stay while necessary medical care is provided to their children. Over the past eight years, PEP has contributed over one million can tabs to the drive, along with handmade scarves that help families stay warm during the winter season. Moynihan explained the services the Ronald McDonald House offers, and said they receive families from all over the world. If you have can tabs you would like to donate, you can bring them to FCTS, and one of the PEP students will gladly accept them. The program teaches students with cognitive and physical disabilities between the ages of 14 and 22.

GILL from page A1

sharing an anecdote from a Charlemont resident who called the Massachusetts 211 vaccination helpline to make an appointment, only to be given one at the Fenway Park mass vaccination site in Boston, where the resident cannot easily get to, and in his opinion, should not have to. "It is ridiculous," Crochier said.

"That is not very equitable to the residents of Massachusetts that live out here," said selectboard member Greg Snedeker, "who have much lower per-capita income, to have to drive an hour and a half to get a vaccine, while those in the city can just walk down the street."

"Or take a bus," agreed Crochier.

The selectboard authorized town administrator Ray Purington to sign a letter to Governor Baker addressing the COVID-19 vaccine inequities on behalf of the selectboard. Crochier abstained due to his position with CPHS.

An extension of the temporary, COVID-19 related, third full-time police officer was also approved for three months.

Snedeker took over as chair on two agenda items, while Crochier recused himself from the discussion, again due to his work for the CPHS.

"Last year we signed an agreement that would use CARES Act money to fund CPHS doing COVID-19-related additional work for Gill," Purington told the selectboard. "That original agreement was tied to the date of the CARES Act money which initially expired December 30, 2020. Since that deadline has been extended to December 31 of this year, we are being asked, and I would recommend, that we sign the amended agreement that would extend that coverage through to the end of 2021, and it certainly is money well spent."

Purington said that the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act spending cannot exceed \$14,472. The amended agreement was approved, as well as a vendor warrant payment to FRCOG of \$3,879.48 for CPHS COVID-19 response.

"That covers 58 and a half hours of staff time that was spent between October 1 and December 31 of last year for contact tracing, isolation, quarantine, monitoring status, communications, and technical assistance," said Purington.

"Again, money well spent."

Highway Funding

Explaining that it is informational only, Purington said that the Massachusetts Chapter 90 funding allocation for FY'22 will be \$147,099, and that Gill has "just under \$200,000 from the prior year's allocations."

Purington said that highway superintendent John Miner plans to do crack-sealing on Boyle Road and a section of Main Road, and to shim-coat a couple of roads so that they can be chip-sealed later on.

Bridge Barriers

A letter Purington drafted to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation supporting the French King Bridge Protective Screening Project was unanimously approved.

Purington told the selectboard that not only is he "a fan of virtual public hearings from MassDOT," where he said he spent 25 minutes watching a hearing which might ordinarily have taken two to three hours out of his day, but that being able to "rewind and replay the parts that I wanted to hear again" was also a great benefit.

He also said he is encouraged by MassDOT's stated timeframe for the protective barrier project, which could see the design "wrapped up this year, and the project could be constructed next year."

"That is much faster than I would have ever hoped after last year, when our project was basically dropped from the [state] capital plan," he said.

"A lot of people pushed hard over the last year, especially," said Snedeker, naming Stacey Hamel, who organized a stand-out demonstration at the bridge for suicide prevention barriers. "With Stacey and the bridge gatherings, and the push from both [state senator Jo] Comerford and [representative Susannah] Whipps, I think it made a difference to get this project going."

Six-Town Talks

The six-town school regionalization planning board has received a \$77,000 grant through the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education "for more consulting work in both education and finance and transportation facilities," said Snedeker, who serves on that board.

Comprising Bernardston, Gill, Leyden, Montague, Northfield, and Warwick, the planning board is

studying the idea of building a potential new regional school district from the towns that currently comprise the Gill-Montague and Pioneer Valley regional school districts.

Snedeker said that he is hopeful that the planning board will be able to move out of consultation to work on recommendations after the current funding round.

Other Business

Police chief Christopher Redmond was approved for 30 more days to review a license renewal for the Cielito Lindo food truck. The business is working on adjusting lighting that was blinding to traffic entering their parking lot, and may need to contact Eversource to replace the current lamp on a streetlight with a halogen or LED lamp in order to better illuminate their parking area.

Redmond told the board that his main concern is the repositioning of the glaring light, and that he will be satisfied once that has been fixed.

A police department purchase order of \$1,854 was unanimously approved to extend the factory warranty on three tablet computers used in police cruisers.

Fire chief Gene Beaubien did not get a quote in time for the selectboard meeting for his department's purchase order to replace the countertop in the fire station radio room. He said that he would have the information at the board's next meeting.

A general discussion ensued about priority lists for the upcoming budget season. Specific items mentioned included a timer for the fire department's hose dryer cabinet, a motion light sensor in the police department's garage bay, and bigger projects that Beaubien said have been "started and stopped, numerous times, for various reasons."

Crochier said that the topic would go back on the agenda in a few weeks, and suggested that department heads get contractors to review the items, and any other items on their respective lists, in order to get ballpark figures to bring to the selectboard.

Purington was approved to sign a state grant contract for \$4,900 awarded to the Gill Cultural Council for FY'21.

Gill resident Tracy Dowd was unanimously appointed to the energy commission through June 30, 2021.



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NatureCulture: The Science Page

WARREN ONDRAS PHOTO

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

How Did That Fish Get There?

By LISA McLOUGHLIN

NORTHFIELD – Have you ever visited a landlocked pond and wondered how the fish got there? Did an eagle drop a live fish and then couldn't find it again? Was the pond stocked by humans? Did the fish flop or walk on their fins across land? (Don't laugh, there's a fish called a Snakehead that does that.)

The answer might be just plain ordinary ducks. Scientists in Switzerland fed mallards live carp eggs, which are typical soft fish eggs, and 0.2% of the embryos survived the digestive process within the male

ducks to come out alive at the other end. They eventually hatched.

This process is called *endozochoy*, or internal gut transport. Waterfowl have also been shown to disperse plants and insects this way. One egg survived six hours in a duck's digestive tract, although most had passed within an hour. Given the duck's flying speed of 60 km/hr, it could disperse fish and possibly seeds, insects, etc. at a maximum of 360 km distance from where it ate them, although 10 km is more likely.

Still, the possibility is that ducks are more of a threat for invasive species spread than previously thought.

Bats Navigate Into the Sunset



CC PHOTO BY EARL MCGEHEE

Bats at sunset.

By LISA McLOUGHLIN

NORTHFIELD – A new experiment on bats has revealed two important facts about their migrations. First, adult bats know which way to fly based on the sunset, and second, this knowledge is not innate.

The experiment, performed by researcher Oliver Lindecke of the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research in Berlin, was reported in *Science News* in July 2019. Lindecke built a box that bats have

to climb out of to start flying. The box has chalk on the edge. Having previously shown that bats fly in a straight line from their take-off trajectory, marking where they take off from with the special box showed him the direction they flew.

Lindecke gave some bats a view of the sunset, and other bats got a mirror reflection. Adult bats flew toward the sunset wherever it was, whether correct or mirrored. Juvenile bats just flew in random directions, showing that bat migration direction is a learned behavior.

Sleep, Darkness, and Cancer

By LISA McLOUGHLIN

NORTHFIELD – Last month on the Science Page we outlined some of the negative health effects of not getting enough sleep. A new, 13-year-long study of close to half a million people suggests that high exposure to artificial light at night may increase your risk of developing thyroid cancer by 55%. A previous study suggested an increased risk of breast cancer. Both are assumed to be caused by measurable changes in hormone levels associated with being thrown off our natural circadian rhythms.

The new study, featured on February 8, 2021 in the American Cancer Society's *Cancer* journal, shows that women are more affected by these changes in light and

hormones than men.

Humans have evolved to sleep in the darkness, so decreasing light at bedtime helps us sleep and be healthier. Some things we can do to reduce artificial light at night are simple. On the inside, remove bedroom light sources such as illuminated clocks and screens, and use blackout curtains if needed to block outside artificial light to help people sleep.

LED lights save money, but take care to get ones that have less of the blue light that interferes with sleep. Choose a color temperature of 3000K or lower – this information is found on all new bulb packaging. You can also get an app for your screen devices that lowers the amount of blue light you are exposed to via your computer, tablet, or phone.

Enigmatic Emperor Penguins

By LISA McLOUGHLIN

NORTHFIELD – It's been 16 years since the classic *March of the Penguins* introduced us to emperors, the largest penguins, which live up to 20 years in the wild. One outstanding fact about these animals is that male emperor penguins help incubate eggs. Once the female has laid an egg, she transfers it to the male's feet where he covers it with a fat flap to keep it warm. The egg stays at 88 to 95 degrees Fahrenheit while the outside temperature is approximately -76 degrees F.

Penguins are carnivores, and after laying the egg, the female goes back to the sea to feed. She then returns a few weeks to two months later to take over so the male can go feed. If she doesn't come back quickly enough, the male will abandon the egg for his own survival. Males can lose almost half their body fat while looking after the egg.

Since the movie, a few more facts have been discovered about penguins. For example, to conserve heat they balance on their heels and tail so that not all of their feet are on the ice. In addition, emperor penguins are so warm when huddled together that the air temperature above their group can get up to 95 degrees Fahrenheit, despite the fact that each individual penguin loses very little heat.

While it's been known that emperors huddle together in groups of up to 25,000 birds, the movements within these groups are still not well-understood – for example, when an individual gets to move from the outside to the inside.

This research is further hampered by a new finding that the metal bands used to track penguins injure them. Depending on the species, the death rate for banded penguins can be 44% higher than non-banded penguins, and they raise far fewer chicks. This is in part due to the additional drag the band creates as the normally streamlined penguins swim, creating a need for more effort and thus more food.

The latest finding about penguins has to do with the males' behavior while watching over the egg. Sometimes the chick hatches before the mother returns, and if this occurs the male will feed it with a kind of milk it can produce in its throat until the mother can return to feed it regurgitated fish.

However, the chick usually stays under the fat flap of the mother penguin for about a month while the father feeds and until it grows more adult feathers. It was previously thought that all emperor males stuck with their egg-rearing duties faithfully, but this conclusion was based on one colony whose members were 62 miles from the sea. A recent study of a colony nearer the sea has revealed male emperors taking breaks to go fishing, which sometimes means death



CC PHOTO BY SAMUEL BLANC

An emperor penguin.

for the egg, which cannot be left on the ice.

Penguins are not strictly monogamous, and will leave each other if they are not successful at raising a chick. The climate emergency and overfishing have affected penguin breeding success, as studies show they need to swim farther to stock up on fish and be ready to switch off taking care of the chick.

Eggs are also being laid later in the season, which means the plethora of food needed to feed newly-hatched chicks may not be as abundant. Penguins are further afflicted by high concentrations of DDT and by a poultry virus, neither of which could have occurred without human activity, which penguins are very curious about. While they are afraid of helicopters flying overhead, once the helicopters land, penguins swarm over to visit.

March 2021 Moon Calendar

Last Quarter

Friday, March 5

New Moon

Saturday, March 13

Vernal Equinox

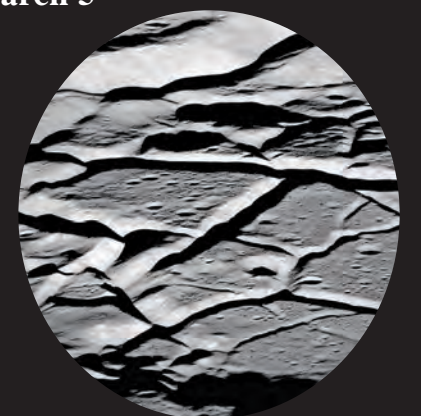
Saturday, March 20

First Quarter

Sunday, March 21

Full Moon

Sunday, March 28



Above:
A fractured
crater on our moon.

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VACCINES from page A1

“concert halls, theaters, and other indoor performance spaces” to now operate at 50% capacity, with a limit of 500 people. Other indoor recreation activities which will be able to open at 50% capacity include laser tag, roller skating, and trampoline use.

Restaurants will no longer have capacity restrictions, and will be able to host music performances, with social distancing, mask wearing, a limit of six customers and 90-minute seating per table. The guidelines still prohibit singing at these venues. The state advisory did not mention changes in protocols for some other public venues, such as bars that do not serve food, which may have to remain closed.

State mask and social distancing requirements have not changed, and gatherings at private residences are still capped at 25 outdoors and 10 indoors.

The advisory also reports that the state plans to move ahead to Phase IV, Step 1 of the reopening on March 22, “provided public health metrics continue to improve.” This would involve reopening indoor and outdoor stadiums, arenas, and ballparks under “strict capacity limits.” Gathering limits for “event venues and in public settings” would then be increased to 100 people indoors and 150 outdoors.

The local vaccine rollout, which the health department also reports on, seems to have stabilized this week.

Two of the four clinics operated by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) – in Deerfield and Buckland – have administered vaccines, and a third in Bernardston will do so next week. These three clinics will provide second appointments for those already administered their first dose, but none are accepting new appointments for future rounds, until they are certain of vaccine delivery from the state.

FRCOG’s fourth clinic, at the Franklin County Technical School in Turners Falls, will be open for vaccinations on Friday and Saturday, March 12 and 13. Appointments can be booked “after twelve noon” through links on the FRCOG website, frcog.org.

None of the FRCOG clinics can currently be booked via the state-wide website, and must instead be reserved via “private” links on the FRCOG website, although this could change soon. Eligible residents may also call FRCOG at (413) 774-3167 ext. 153, but the agency requests that they not call the host locations.

FRCOG is also working on a collaboration with Orange to open an “East County Clinic” in that town. Frequent updates are posted to the organization’s website.

The John Zon Community Center in Greenfield, operated by that city’s health department, has been vaccinating residents from the region at a brisk pace, but as of this writing is fully booked. This will change, and residents may be able to get on a waiting list, but face ever-changing wait times at their link on the state website. You may also call them at (413) 775-6411.

Other sites in the region include CVS, Baystate Franklin, and Big Y in Greenfield; the University of Massachusetts Amherst Campus Center; and the large state site at the Eastfield Mall in Springfield. All available appointments at these sites were filled as of Wednesday evening.

The state provides assistance in registering through a 2-1-1 telephone hotline, and several local agencies will provide telephone assistance for seniors, including Life-Path at (413) 829-9285.

Frustration and Anxiety

Last Thursday, Massachusetts governor Charlie Baker testified before a hearing of the legislature’s

new COVID-19 and Emergency Management and Preparedness Committee, on which our local state senator Joanne Comerford serves as a co-chair.

Legislators were very critical of the state rollout at the hearing, focusing on the complexities of booking appointments, problems with the state vaccine website, and frequent abrupt policy changes which have seemed to create chaos at the local level. One legislator called the confusion surrounding the Phase 2 rollout “an utter breakdown of planning and communication.”

Baker, as he has said at recent press conferences, admitted that “the process has not been perfect, and for many it has been enormously difficult,” but went on to cite data to show that the state has been effectively providing shots to a relatively high percentage of the population compared to similar states. He argued that most of the frustration and “anxiety” was caused by the very limited vaccine distribution from the federal government.

The hearing also featured Tiffany Tate, the executive director of the company that owns PrepMod, the online vaccine management system used by the state and many local vaccination sites. Tate apologized for the crash of the software the previous week and suggested that the company was unprepared for the number of users when the state advanced to the second step of its Phase 2 rollout. The decision abruptly created a newly eligible population of over 1 million.

In this region the John Zon Cen-

ter and the sites organized by the FRCOG use PrepMod for booking, while CVS and Big Y, which receive vaccines directly from the federal government, do not. The University of Massachusetts and the hospitals also have different platforms for booking appointments.

At a press conference on Monday, Baker announced that a third vaccine, produced by Johnson & Johnson (J&J), had been approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration and would soon be shipped to Massachusetts. He said there would then be a “pause” in the shipment of that vaccine until the end of the month. The “J&J” product, unlike the vaccines by Pfizer and Moderna, requires only one dose, and does not require extremely cold storage.

Monday’s press conference was held at the Morning Star Baptist Church, a primarily black church in the Mattapan neighborhood of Boston. The church is a venue for administering vaccines in conjunction with the neighborhood’s community health center and Boston Medical Center. Baker’s comments at the church, like his press conference the previous week, indicated that the state supports smaller community-based venues for vaccine distribution in addition to larger state-run sites such as Fenway Park and Eastfield Mall in Springfield.

Back To School

The governor recently announced a state policy that would require all elementary schools to be open for in-person learning in April, but had continued to reject calls from teachers’ unions and others to move teachers and school staff higher on the Phase 2 vaccination list. A group of Massachusetts state legislators recently petitioned the governor to set aside the one-time J&J vaccine for teachers.

At a February 24 press conference, Baker had argued that classes for elementary students will be safe with proper protocols, including masks, social distancing, and ventilation, because “the science” shows that younger students do not generally transmit the virus. He also said that other groups higher on the Phase 2 priority list are more at risk to die from the disease.

But on Tuesday, March 2, President Biden tweeted that he was “directing every state to prioritize educators for vaccination. We want every educator, school staff member, and child-care worker to receive at least one shot by the end of this month.”

On Wednesday morning, Baker changed course and announced that Massachusetts would begin vaccinating teachers on March 11 at all sites in the state. Teachers and staff will join the large current pool of eligible recipients, many of whom are reportedly struggling to book appointments, but the governor proposes to designate specific vaccination days for teachers at the larger sites.

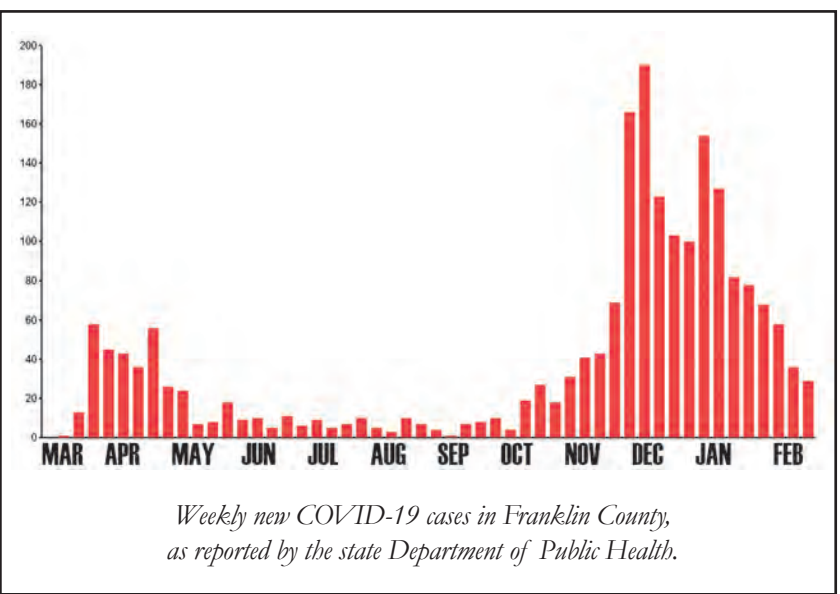
“We were on the phone with the Biden Administration for an hour yesterday, and this didn’t come up at all,” Baker explained, in a response to a question from a reporter. “The first we heard about it was the Tweet that afternoon.”

A press release from the governor’s office reads:

“There are approximately 400,000 K-12 educators, child care workers and K-12 school staff in Massachusetts. Due to a severely constrained federal supply and the existing population that is currently eligible for vaccines, it is estimated that it will take a month for all eligible individuals to secure a first appointment. This timeframe is only subject to change if federal supply increases dramatically, including the recently authorized Johnson & Johnson vaccine.”

Baker reported on Wednesday morning that the first 58,000 doses of the J&J vaccine had arrived in the state. Moderna and Pfizer are each shipping 150,000 doses each week, according to the governor, though two doses are required to fully vaccinate each person. With the addition of the school staff, Baker said, roughly one million residents are eligible for the vaccine.

According to the US Census Bureau, 6.9 million people live in Massachusetts. Figures released by the state Department of Public Health indicate that as of midnight Tuesday, 1,281,680 had received one dose of a vaccine, and 587,167 had received two.



ERVING from page A1

to the original French King Bridge logo, and if the board wanted a new style to be created.

“What’s gotten lost for me is why we’re doing this,” said Bembury.

“We need media, business cards and letterhead and signage branding, identifying the town,” Jacob Smith replied. “What is the image of Erving we want people to know?”

Bryan Smith proposed asking residents to recommend images or landmarks for the logo.

“I don’t want public sketches, photos, ideas,” Jacob Smith said. “I want the designer to do that.” He said that when University of Massachusetts architecture students presented designs for locations in town, “the looks were fresh.” He said the town logo “has to be organic and fresh.”

The board decided to have Tiny Town prepare another set of designs. Jacob Smith said that if the new designs were not “inspiring,” the town could find other designers.

Special Town Meeting

According to Bryan Smith, town moderator Richard Peabody will be available to run a special town meeting (STM) on March 27 or April 3. The STM will be held outdoors, most likely as a drive-up meeting. Warrant articles include extra money for the police department, to cover retirements and training of new officers; clarifying the title to the former school

building at 17 Moore Street; rescinding authority to borrow \$17.9 million for sludge dryers at the POTW#2 treatment plant; paying for assessment and consulting regarding decorative street light repairs; buying a solar-powered message board; and funding the purchase of an emergency generator for POTW#1.

During Monday’s joint meeting of the selectboard and finance committee, the fin com voted to recommend all seven articles.

FY’22 Budget

At a previous selectboard meeting, Bryan Smith had reported a \$42,000 gap between expected FY’22 budget requests and estimated revenues, prompting the board and fin com to consider reductions in several requests.

These included delaying buying a new assessors’ software package by a year; reducing the assessors’ overlay account; removing funds for the design and construction of a boat launch at Riverfront Park; reducing line items for grounds maintenance; eliminating funds for emergency communications upgrades; and delaying town-wide sign replacement.

At Monday’s meeting, Jacob Smith said that he and Bryan Smith had reviewed the budget spreadsheets, reduced those selected line items, and corrected a mathematical error, resulting in a \$94,000 excess of revenue over expenses.

Fin com member Debra Smith recommend-

ed using the surplus to reinstate the \$75,000 request for expanding and upgrading the emergency communications system. She also suggested putting remaining excess funds into the capital improvement stabilization account.

Bembury and fin com member Peter Mallett both commented that the IT coordinator stipend of \$1,040 and the IT technician wages line item of \$20,790 were low, considering the amount of work for both positions. Elected officials’ stipends were frozen for FY’22, but the other stipended positions – IT coordinator, emergency management director, and assistant emergency management director – are appointed.

The fin com and Bembury voted to increase both the stipends for the three appointed positions and IT technician wage line by 2%.

Jacob Smith, the town’s IT technician, abstained from commenting or voting. He and Bembury are currently the only members of Erving’s selectboard.

The board and fin com plan to finalize the FY’22 budget at their next joint meeting on March 15.

Other Business

Jacob Smith and Bembury determined the structure of the March 3 virtual interviews with police chief candidates Robert Holst and David Rice. They decided that each candidate will be interviewed for approximately 40 minutes.

The candidates will be asked to answer some of the questions submitted by citizens to the board by the chat function of GoToWebinar.

The selectboard will decide which candidate to hire as the next police chief at their March 8 meeting.

Bryan Smith told the board that he, library director Natane Halasz, the library construction general contractor, and the owner’s project manager walked through the building for its one-year review of warrantied work. The group identified several deficiencies covered by warranty, including delaminated wood doors, a noisy ceiling-mounted heater fan, interior paint needing touch-ups, and cracks in wooden support beams.

The owner’s project manager will provide a list to the contractor to correct the deficiencies.

The town will hold its annual Almost Anything Goes bulky waste pickup this year, starting May 3.

Last year, Almost Anything Goes was canceled because of the pandemic. Jacob Smith commented that he has been asked by several residents when it would return.

Bryan Smith said Casella Waste Systems, the contractor that hauls the town’s trash, will pick up bulky wastes starting May 3 at the western end of town, and continue pickup May 4, 5 and 8. The cost to the town will be \$17,600 for the pickup and hauling, plus \$90 per ton of waste disposed.

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TOXINS from page A1

chemicals with similar properties over time.

"These chemical companies knew exactly what they were doing for many years, and they hid information," Kasper said. "We found out about PFOA in the early 2000s. These chemical companies responded by switching one or two of these molecules, and creating different molecules for the same thing."

Well Testing

According to an analysis by the nonprofit Environmental Working Group, PFAS could be present in more than 1,500 public drinking water systems in the United States, where 110 million people could have detectable amounts of the chemicals in their tap water.

Massachusetts is not the only state starting to regulate PFAS. Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont have all recently established standards for a variety of PFAS, and they have been proposed in Rhode Island and Washington. There is no federal standard for a maximum level for PFAS in drinking water, besides an EPA "health advisory" of 70 ppt.

The Biden administration aims to set enforceable limits for PFAS by designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under the Safe Drinking Water Act and requiring the collection of new data on drinking water, according to a February 22 EPA press release.

"We're hopeful that we're going to be able to pass a national enforceable drinking water standard," Kasper said. "There's a lot more that needs to be done."

About 500,000 people in Massachusetts are served by private wells, according to MassDEP. If PFAS are detected in a private well the state will not offer financial assistance to remedy the problem, but instead will make water quality specialists available for free consultations on how to address the problem.

MassDEP is scheduling meet-

ings with local boards of health, which regulate private wells, to determine which water sources are most likely to be contaminated and reach out to owners to offer free testing. The agency plans to meet with the Wendell board of health this Friday, according to director of public affairs Edmund Coletta.

"Due to available funding, the program is for wells that meet the selection criteria," Coletta told the *Reporter*. "Homeowners in eligible towns are encouraged to apply, but they may not be selected if other wells better match the selection criteria."

"With all of the regulations we have to abide by and understand, it's not easy, especially as they are constantly changing."

Chelsey Little, Montague WPCF superintendent

As of this week, MassDEP has reached out to homeowners in 12 of the 84 towns that qualify for private well testing, Coletta said. It is awaiting final results from the 18 private wells already tested, and has received 450 applications from homeowners requesting tests. The free testing program lasts until the end of June.

Owners of private wells that pose an "imminent hazard," with PFAS levels higher than 90 ppt, will be referred to MassDEP's Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup for more urgent assistance.

Sludge Accumulation

Wastewater treatment plants will also have to more closely monitor their contaminant levels under the new regulations. Any plants that send sludge to be composted for land application must now test it on a quarterly basis, and

also start testing influent and effluent for PFAS this spring.

"Is it concerning to us? Yes absolutely, especially because we have industry that discharge to us, and PFAS will tend to accumulate in our sludge, as it is more concentrated," said Chelsey Little, superintendent of the Montague water pollution control facility. "Currently, there aren't widely-used PFAS removal systems in wastewater, nor are there any limits designated as of yet."

A letter MassDEP sent last summer to the Montague treatment plant explains why the state now requires plants to test their sludge for PFAS more frequently.

"Given that residuals are known to contain PFAS and that land application of residuals products could result in contamination of drinking water sources, food chain crops, or surface waters, MassDEP is building a comprehensive strategy to address PFAS in residuals," read the July 1 letter. "Part of the strategy will include exploring options to assess leaching of PFAS from residuals products, as well as other approaches."

"Welcome to my world," said Little. "With all of the regulations we have to abide by and understand, it's not easy, especially as they are constantly changing."

Public Water

"Sometimes as water operators we get overwhelmed by regulations, but at the same time, those regulations keep the water safe and good to drink," said Mike Brown. "All we want to do is produce safe clean drinking water to the public, and it means a lot to them to trust us that we're doing our job like that."

For municipal water operators, addressing PFAS contamination can be expensive, requiring technology such as granular activated carbon filters that can cost millions of dollars, or entirely new distribution systems.

"We need to be transparent with the public, and they need to be able to see test results," Brown said. "If

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we did have detection, we would have to notify our customers."

"It's something we talk about a lot here in town water in general," said Kurtz, the Erving assistant planner. "In terms of our economic viability, we would really like to continue looking at expanding our public water supply.... There's a lot that goes into it, and it can be very expensive to build a municipal water system."

Of the 409 public systems in Massachusetts that have been tested so far, Coletta told the *Reporter*, 98.2% of the population is currently served water that does exceed the 20 ppt limit, and 90% drink water that has never exceeded the limit.

"What we have found in general regarding the prevalence of PFAS," he said, "is that it can be detected at low levels in the Commonwealth in many locations, including some drinking water supplies, rivers and lakes, food, [and] soil."

"We're working with a group in Fairfield, Maine with really, really high levels from the sludge from paper mills," Kasper said.

Community Action Works and their partners believe the 20 ppt standard is too high to be completely safe, and instead advocate for a 1 ppt "maximum contaminant level."

"Passing a standard like this has a measurable impact on actually saving lives," Kasper said. She

cited a recent Danish study, now in peer review, that indicates that high PFAS exposure can worsen COVID-19 symptoms and make vaccines less effective.

About one-third of all known PFAS contamination sites are near military and Air Force bases, according to Kasper.

Firefighting foam used in emergency drills has leached into the ground over time and contaminated water supplies, including those around the Barnes Air National Guard Base in Westfield. In September 2019 the Air Force agreed to pay the city \$1.3 million towards costs associated with the contamination, and the federal government may still be liable for \$13 million in estimated damages.

"There's not really a risk of that here," said Kurtz, who is originally from Westfield. "We do have the paper plant, but I believe they have to monitor that.... Some paper is treated with chemicals, but they're aware that this is an issue."

Kurtz said she has done research on PFAS in the past, and has advocated to rid them from building materials. "With the paper plant in town, I know that PFAS has come up quite a bit in conversation," she said. "It's a struggle, because research is still happening as we talk about this."



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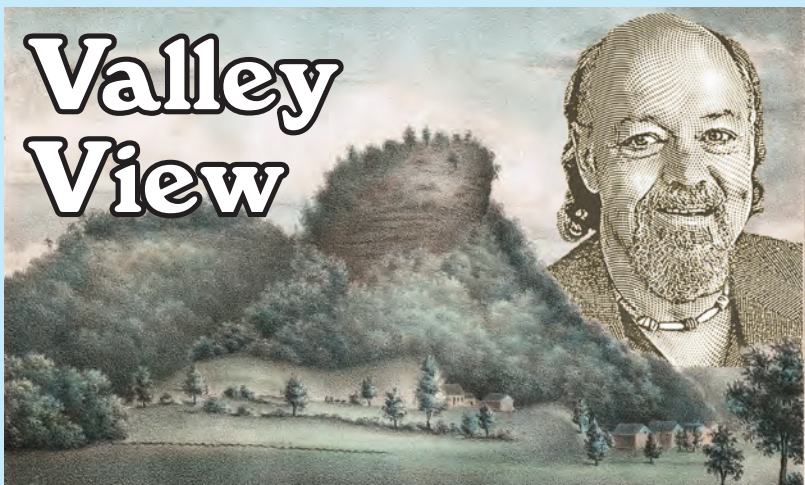
SEAMUS O'FITHCHELLAIGH PHOTO

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MARCH 4, 2021

Above: Seamus O'Fithchellaigh of Turners Falls captured this image of Riverside last month.



Valley View

ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK PRINT

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – It's March. Spring's around the corner. But let's look back for a moment. Our question to ponder: How did we battle our annual end-of-winter doldrums, cabin fever, in these trying, COVID-complicated times?

It's not like home-isolation and social-distancing monotony could be broken in a movie theater, a library, a restaurant, or an uplifting night of musical entertainment at the Iron Horse. Not even now. At least not until vaccinations take hold. So, I suppose all we can do is keep on keepin' on as the weather warms, snow piles melt, and woodsheds hollow. The signs of spring are sprouting if you probe.

Just this morning I heard a new bird-call from the burning bush out my morning-parlor window. It sounded like a softer, friendlier version of that familiar, three-note roundup whistle unleashed between V-ed finger in the mouths of impatient dog owners and parents alike. Not sure what kind of bird it was, just a new sound, likely a happy harbinger migrating north. Soon the plump front-yard cardinals that have been with me all winter will greet the morning sun with their happy tunes, always pleasing as spring creeps in.

Of course, the most welcome spring sound of my youth was the crack of the bat, followed by the aggressive splash of frisky trout landing from their airborne attempts to spit the hook. Eventually, after a remarkably successful wild-turkey restoration project, the gobble of big toms responding to my plaintive yelps, clucks, and purrs joined my most-cherished spring sounds.

There's nothing quite like the sound of a daybreak gobbler sounding off from its tree-top roost. Such first-light magic gets the heart racing, the blood boiling. Everyone dedicated to understanding wild places should experience it.

Which reminds me, I do hope that my earlier "crack of the bat" reference doesn't confuse young readers. It describes the distinctive sound made by now-obsolete wooden bats connecting with a baseball. When you hit the sweet spot, especially backed by a roofed grandstand, it can literally sound like the report of a 30-30 rifle. Yes, that good. The Forrest

Park diamond comes to mind. It also *feels* good to make solid contact. Real good. Particularly against a good pitcher.

Today, wood bats and pine tar are for the most part used only by professionals. In my day, they were diamond staples whether playing in Goshen or Greenville. I was on the front lines of the aluminum-bat era during a brief, undistinguished college baseball career. It wasn't that I couldn't cut it at that level. I just had trouble obeying off-field rules and restrictions. Nonetheless, I was there in 1974 when the NCAA accepted metal bats for the college game.

Which isn't to suggest that any of us used one. No sir. Despite smooth sales pitches about improved bat speed and muzzle velocity from slick, accommodating factory salesmen, their parked cars behind the backstop holding trunksful of complimentary aluminum bats to sample, none of us used one. We didn't like the "ping" of aluminum, were stubborn wood-bat devotees who ordered our preferred models packaged by the half-dozen in long, narrow cardboard boxes. I still remember the model I swung – "S2" impressed on the knob base. Over the model number we'd write our uniform numbers in bold, black magic marker, always keeping a couple bats handy in the dugout rack, with backups secured in our lockers.

But, enough baseball chatter. I sat down to discuss pandemic cabin-fever remedies, not distant diamond memories, still dear. So, let's get back to activities that helped soothe the annual winter doldrums complained of by so many friends during recent telephone conversations.

That mid-February cold snap that gripped our valley for a couple of weeks really seemed to do a number on people with whom I was communicating. My cranky, aging hunting and softball buddies were sick of winter, sicker yet of COVID isolation, and anxious for birds and brooks to start singing their inspiring melodies.

Coming off a ruptured Achilles tendon sustained more than three months ago, I didn't want to hear the whining. Having limped around since late November while performing daily woodshed and

see **VALLEY VIEW** page B2

ArtBeat by Trish Crapo

Art That Asks Questions

KEENE, NH – Under the routes 9 and 10 overpass on Elm Street in Keene, there's a woman holding her hands over her mouth. Huge lace doilies spread out behind her like wings. The black-and-white-toned mural was painted in 2017 by Craig Roach, whom you may have read about in this column two weeks ago.

Roach won Best in Show for his mural-painted "artful ice shanty" in the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center's recent competition. That day, I learned that he grew up in Turners Falls, as did his wife – they are high school sweethearts. Intrigued by that connection and impressed by his work, I tracked him down to find out more.

Roach lives in Gilsum, New Hampshire now and is the principal of Townshend Elementary School in Vermont. The Elm Street mural was his first in the downtown Keene area. Before that, he'd painted a rotating series of images on a tractor trailer parked in a field near his home in Gilsum, a project he loved for the way it enabled him to bring art to an unexpected, very rural setting.

The idea for the Elm Street mural



CRAPO PHOTO

On the parking lot side of Lindy's Diner in Keene, the woman in Craig Roach's mural seems to dream of a kaleidoscopic world more colorful than the surrounding town.

came to him as he drove frequently through the overpass on his way to doctor's appointments for his wife, who was pregnant at the time, and then later for appointments for their son. The walls of the overpass were scrawled with "graffiti and swears," Roach recounted, and he couldn't help but think of all the kids coming through it on their way to the elementary school nearby, and the effect of

seeing negative graffiti every day on residents of the neighborhood.

"I thought, 'Maybe I could help with that,'" Roach said.

Painting murals isn't the easiest outlet to choose for creative expression. It took Roach two and a half years to get approval from the town of Keene, the NH Department of Transportation, and Elm see **ARTBEAT** page B4

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Looking Back Down the Years

had to return home all too soon. We were allowed a mere three days in paradise before we had to return to our working lives.

Perhaps the miracle of those three days made it all the more special. In any case, we returned to this wonderful spot several times before we were able to spend our real vacation time on the ocean, which remained our favorite venue. Alas, this arrangement lasted for only a couple of years before the family chose to sell the property and split the money.

At that point we began to look at the ocean spots in Maine which we both loved. For another large span of years we traveled to Owls Head and stayed in a cottage right on the water. We enjoyed the excitement of watching the schooners come in to the quiet waters of our cove, raise the flag, and drop the anchor. The crew would swim and then serve dinner.

The gentleman we rented from there had been in that spot since he retired from the Air Force. He had

an apartment in the garage and rented out the small cottage which was also on the grounds after his wife died. It was a wonderful place and gave us a vacation spot for years to come, both for my late husband and later, my current partner.

Then that wonderful old gentleman died at the age of ninety-five. He had already made plans for the property and in fact had sold it with the property values to his sons, which allowed him to remain there until the time of his death. His ashes were settled in the state veterans' grounds in Augusta. Not all of us can hope for this ending, living at the edge of the sea until the time of passing.

This special spot won't be the same as it was, but it will still be as beautiful and appreciated for generations to come.

The coast of Maine will always be a beautiful place and that special cove is a place for ships to set anchor for the night. We feel especially grateful to have been part of sharing in this very unique spot.



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – Apparently as you age the memories of past events are often clearer than those that are more current. At any rate, that is my most recent experience.

Years ago when my late husband Woody and I were first married, we celebrated by traveling to the north shore of Scituate. We were very fortunate, as a current colleague had recently inherited a share in a great aunt's rickety home on the cliff. The small building was set on a spot where the river and the ocean met. It was especially dramatic at high tide when the river rose on one side of us and the ocean tide on the other.

Unfortunately, school was still in session, and as I was not retired we

Pet of the Week



PHOTO COURTESY DAKIN HUMANE SOCIETY

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Giuseppe came to Dakin because the other cats in his home were not very nice to him. He was very stressed. Being so nervous

made him have accidents outside of the litter box. Although this has not been an issue in his foster home, he will have specific litter box needs.

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VALLEY VIEW from page B1

occasional snow-removal chores in a cumbersome walking boot, I couldn't even drive with that boot on. What an inconvenience. I didn't want to hear my buddies' cabin-fever wails.

My No. 1 diversion was an old standby: reading and research, winter disciplines I perfected as an adult with Internet access. Yeah, yeah, it would have been nice to have libraries and public lectures, but I had enough resources at home to get by.

Then, in recent weeks, quite by coincidence, I found an exciting new online tool that has kept me busy and selfishly engaged. Hunting for information in exciting new repositories can be addictive indeed, and this one appeared in the nick of time. Like a gift from the heavens.

Actually, the fultonhistory.com site was not new to me. I had used its online newspaper archive for many years. The site provides portable document format (PDF) images of Greenfield-newspaper microfilm dating back to 1792. What I didn't know was that it has search capabilities – a keyword search window that makes searching easy. All hits are highlighted in color for easy reader recognition.

Oh my! What a supreme luxury. The search tool eliminates exhaustive, page-by-page, line-by-line eyeball searches for names and topics hidden in dense, at times smudgy newsprint.

I discovered the previously-unknown search capability after temporarily losing access to the site.

After trying unsuccessfully to reconnect for more than a week, I reached out to an old *Greenfield Recorder* colleague who had worked with the Fulton people when they were digitizing the paper's microfilm archives. When I complained that the site was down, she checked into it, gained effortless access and sent me the hyperlink. I opened it and immediately spotted the keyword-search window. Eureka! Instantly, newspaper research had become much easier.

Ever since, I've been searching old Greenfield papers for people, places, and topics related to my current Greenfield Meadows neighborhood, my hometown South Deerfield neighborhood, and my Sanderson gene pool – the last of which pulls me into the small East Whately community first known as Canterbury. The probes struck immediate gold while uncovering additional people and places worth pursuing.

Trust me: it's cumulative, and quite dynamic. I can only imagine what additional information I'll dig up in the coming months. Check it out. You won't believe the gossipy, community information old local newspapers dabbled in. It's great, revealing important insights hitherto unknown.

Below, I provide a bulleted list of some information I have thus far found. Bear with me. Although most of what I present is family stuff and of a personal nature, it demonstrates the type of information available in old newspapers, which aren't al-

ways totally reliable but do provide more than enough info for researchers to work with. Once information is assembled, it must be confirmed, refuted and/or adjusted through further research, including deeds, wills and other public records. Here's a quick sampling:

- Henry A. Ewers, the last tavernkeeper at my home, hosted an early-October 1855 cricket match between opposing teams of 11 from Greenfield and Shelburne. After a one-sided Greenfield win on an adjoining lot to my home, Ewers put out a sumptuous feast enjoyed by all during temperance times. This athletic contest between townie teams has to be one of the earliest Franklin County examples of a game that by the 1880s had evolved into baseball – our grand old game and national pastime.

- A building today known as the Bloody Brook Tavern in Historic Deerfield now occupies its third Deerfield location. The first two were in South Deerfield, or Bloody Brook, the village's first name. The structure was raised in the mid-18th century as Samuel Barnard's tavern, erected somewhere on North Main Street north of the Bloody Brook Monument.

Before the railroad came through town in 1846, North Main was the center of town, roughly between today's Kelleher Drive and Jackson Road. Post-railroad, the center slid south to its current location and the see **VALLEY VIEW** next page

Senior Center Activities

MARCH 8 THROUGH 12

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center is closed and will reopen when advised by state and local authorities that it is safe to do so. This measure is taken not lightly but with the utmost concern for the most vulnerable in our community.

The Council on Aging staff will be available for referrals and information from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, at (413) 863-9357 by telephone, and coa@montague-ma.gov by email.

ERVING

Senior Center director Paula Betters writes:

“Erving Senior Center is still closed to the public. We are here daily taking calls and doing outreach work for seniors and their families. Call with any questions or concerns, need help with SHINE, SNAP. We are also taking calls to help seniors sign up

for their COVID vaccine. We are here to help make a difference.” Paula can be reached at (413) 423-3649 or paula-betters@erving-ma.gov.

LEVERETT

Leverett senior activities are currently canceled. Further updates are being distributed via TTY telephone and email. For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is open for a foot care clinic the first-Wednesday of each month. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments. Otherwise, there are no activities. The Senior Health Rides is also suspended until advisories change. For more information, call Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

Local Supermarket Senior Accommodations

Supermarkets in Massachusetts are now required to provide special hours for seniors and immunocompromised shoppers. Call ahead – this information is accurate as of November 30; hours and accommodations are still changing.

Big Y: Senior hours from 7 to 8 a.m. (413) 772-0435

Foster's: Senior hours from 7 to 8 a.m. (413) 773-1100

Green Fields Market: Senior hours from 8 to 9 a.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 to 11 a.m. on Sunday. Curbside pickup available. Order by 8 p.m.; order ready for pickup between 1 and 5 the following day. Delivery also available. (413) 773-9567

McCusker's Market: Curbside pickup only 10 to 11 a.m. Order between 12 and 1 p.m. for pickup the following day. Email pickup@franklincommunity.coop (413) 625-2548

Stop and Shop: Senior hours from 6 to 8 a.m. (413) 774-6096

MOVIE REVIEW

Malcolm & Marie (Netflix, 2021)

By SEAMUS TURNER-GLENNON

CHARLEMONT – Move over Max Landis! Move over Lena Dunham! Sam Levinson, son of *Rain Man* director Barry Levinson and creator of *Euphoria*, one of the most accidentally hilarious, godawful television shows to ever air, has risen to the throne as the single worst product of Hollywood nepotism to ever exist.

Euphoria, the aforementioned series for which he first gained recognition, is a humorless-yet-laughable attempt at dramatism. The show gained infamy for its insistence on shoving as many Serious Adult Themes into its plot and characters as would be conceivably possible, while somehow also managing never to handle even a single one of them with anything vaguely resembling intelligence, sincerity, or profundity. The fact that he created a show that is the absolute worst thing in that category of awful television shows at a time when *Riverdale* is also airing should, alone, qualify Levinson for the title of the worst of the Hollywood nepotists.

But the first (and very likely last) genuinely impressive thing Levinson has ever accomplished on his own, his debut feature film *Malcolm & Marie*, makes *Euphoria* look like *Six Feet Under* in comparison.

It's almost impossible to fully do justice to just how BAD *Malcolm & Marie* is. It's a movie where, after finishing it, I was left almost speechless, stunned by how deeply terrible it is in almost every aspect.

The lesser of the two most colossal offenses which *Malcolm & Marie* commits is its cinematography. Shot in a gimmicky black-and-white, the movie frames shots as if it is directed by a 14-year-old who read the Wikipedia article for Stanley Kubrick about half an hour before walking on to the set. It's full of turgid, dull tracking shots seemingly designed to act as the most empty facsimile of something “fluid” as possible, and “naturalistic” shots framed through doors, windows, and so on.

The uniting factor between all of Levinson's dull camera tricks? They're all not just useless and wankish, but actively, hideously, ugly. The final shot of the film, a compartment shot from the couple's living room of the pair standing in their backyard, is so eye-searingly ill-composed that watching it made me, for the first time in my life, almost wish I were blind.

Yet, the cinematography seems almost like a



non-issue when one compares it to the screenplay. The movie is almost like a filmed play in that it consists of one set (the house) and only two characters (guess who they are). Everything is conveyed through the dialogue, which is an infamously hard feat to pull off and one that only a handful of films has done in a way that was truly great (*Secret Honor*, *Hell In The Pacific*, *Venus in Fur*).

But it's an especially hard feat to make happen when you have never interacted with a single human being before in your entire life, as is apparently the case with Sam Levinson.

Levinson commits almost every cardinal sin of screenwriting in this two-character bottle screenplay. He writes an obvious self-insert character in Malcolm, who he uses as a mouthpiece to air his dull and moronic musings on filmmaking and film criticism – and to paint his own critics as privileged, extremely-online idiots. Every interaction between our protagonists sounds like a snippet of dialogue from a movie trailer stretched out into a full conversation.

The character-building ranges from lazy to genuinely insane. We learn at one point that Marie grew up without a backyard, and thus urinates in the backyard of their home. Malcolm, growing angry, goes out to the same backyard and very aggressively does some bizarre sort of karate at the air.

There's a quote from *Macbeth* which at this point may be cliché of me to use, but there's no situation where it could possibly apply better: *Malcolm & Marie* is the textbook definition of a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.

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VALLEY VIEW from prev pg tavern building – operated after Barnard’s 1788 death by Nathan Frary – was moved to a site just south of Pleasant Street, on the lot where the Wrisley home now stands.

Although it’s not clear who moved the building or when, the August 6, 1932 article claimed that no one then living in town could remember it standing anywhere else. C.C. Holsley sold the building to contractor William Gass, who moved it to Old Deerfield behind the Indian House and built today’s Wrisley home. The tavern’s first site is tough to get a read on. I’d guess not far north of Frontier Regional School. Figure out where A.W. Fay lived just before the turn of the 20th century, and you’ll have it pegged.

• My parents’ North Main Street home across from the Bloody Brook Monument was indeed once a pocketbook shop, as my father had always claimed. Well, he should have known. His great-grandmother’s brother, David Brainard Arms, bought the building in the late 1880s and converted it to a pocketbook shop that opened in 1893. Spectacle cases were a specialty item there. D.B. Arms lived in the so-called Yellow-Gabled House bordered by Frontier driveway and parking lot on the north and west. He died in 1918.

The small home snuggled up to the north side of my parents’ home was once the Post Office run by Postmas-

ter William D. Bates, who lived and was born in the house. Bates’ mother was Mary Arms, sister of my third great-grandfather, Erastus Arms.

• The July 8, 1882 fire that destroyed Canterbury’s original Sanderson homestead (ca. 1760-65) where my great-grandfather was born forced the cancellation of his parents’ 20th anniversary celebration. Nonetheless, a surprise party unfolded the next year with the family comfortably settled in its new Chestnut Plain Road home.

Living under the same roof, according to the newspaper report, was the kids’ Aunt Mary Ann (Bardwell Lyman), Civil War widow of Henry Lyman. I can now say with some confidence that a Lewis Kingsley family photo displayed for years in my parents’ home was likely taken at the party. It shows the Thomas and Abbie (Bardwell) Sanderson family of seven, plus Ms. Lyman, standing far right, holding a parasol.

That’s it for now. Who knows what’ll turn up next? I think I can pin down A.W. Fay’s home. This new toy couldn’t have appeared in a timelier fashion. Whately’s 250th birthday is this year. Deerfield’s 350th will be celebrated in 2023?

So, stay tuned, and, in the meantime, take a spin through www.fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html. Who knows? It may just pull you in and build on your sense of place.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Fast Horse; Houseless Encampment; Coyotes; Overdose; Offensive Flag; Paintballs; Thrash Barn; Panic Button

Monday, 2/22

11:07 a.m. Report of horse running loose on Turners Falls Road; owner is walking behind it but cannot catch up to it; unknown who owner is. No horse observed upon arrival; units will be checking area. Officer located horse’s address and confirmed it has been corralled.

2 p.m. Report of suspected blown transformer and neighbors without power on South Ferry Road. Shelburne Control advised for MCFD; they will also be contacting Eversource.

8:33 p.m. Delivery driver advising that she is stuck in a driveway on Federal Street and cannot reach the road because the driveway is too slippery. Homeowner is not home. Motorist was given the phone number to Rau’s to see if they could help; advised to call back if they can’t.

10:26 p.m. Caller from Montague City Road complaining of loud noise from the upstairs apartment again, disturbing his peace. Officer advises that noise was from people going up and down the stairs trying to assist with a vehicle that the keys are locked in. Officer now assisting with lockout.

10:55 p.m. Caller from Montague City Road states that the upstairs neighbors are being loud and using some kind of machine above her head. Officer unable to make contact with upstairs apartment. All quiet upon arrival. Upstairs neighbor just called stating there was someone banging on their door and requesting officers check the area. Advised her an officer was trying to contact them; advised of complaint; she stated that it’s an ongoing issue that she has spoken to the landlord about. She will message him again.

Tuesday, 2/23

8:38 a.m. Caller concerned about a red pickup truck that has been parked in the Food City lot all night and may impede snow removal later on. No issues of concern with vehicle. May be parked there while owner is commuting to work with someone else. No in-house phone number for owner; Shelburne Control does not have one either.

11:37 a.m. Report of tractor-trailer unit blocking traffic on the Montague side of the General Pierce Bridge. TT unit was assisted with turning around. Traffic will clear up momentarily.

4:56 p.m. Report of two-car accident on Avenue A. No injuries, smoke, fluids, or airbag deployment. Second caller reporting that the occupants of the Subaru are acting aggressive-

ly toward the driver of the Volvo. Both vehicles able to drive away. Report taken.

Wednesday, 2/24

12:31 a.m. Caller states that his son has been calling and texting him all night about the upstairs neighbor constantly pounding on the floor. Caller states they have been working on getting his son into a new apartment because of this ongoing issue. Caller states that when son calls the police, they speak with the upstairs neighbor, who always blames the caller’s son for having mental health issues. All quiet on arrival; no answer at door.

10:12 a.m. Report of homeless camp set up behind caller’s house on Greenfield Road. Caller advises he is unsure if it is on his property, but the people have been leaving trash, beer cans, etc., and the trash has been attracting coyotes. Units on foot behind caller’s residence. Units checked area extensively; nothing located.

11:14 a.m. 911 hangup call from Franklin County Technical School. School resource officer located student, who was in gym class. Misdial confirmed.

6:55 p.m. Caller states that a vehicle has been following him for approximately 10 minutes and that he is going to pull into the station because he does not feel safe. When caller came to station, observed the vehicle pull over onto Turners Falls Road and wait a few seconds before circling the block again. Unable to see plate info on camera. Appeared to be a tan/grey old cop car sedan. Units advised; checked area but were unable to locate vehicle. Will be on lookout.

7:41 p.m. Officer assisting Gill PD with a vehicle stop. 10:03 p.m. Officer assisting Erving PD with a double overdose.

Thursday, 2/25

8:39 a.m. Caller complaining of offensive flag at a residence on Turners Falls Road. Advised caller flag

covered under freedom of speech. Officer advised.

10:31 a.m. Caller from Thirteenth Street reporting that his neighbor’s dog was loose and jumped at him and headbutted him. Did not seem to be aggressive; seemed more excited. ACO spoke with both parties. Owner agreed to keep dog on leash when outside and keep a better eye on it. Caller satisfied with outcome.

4:42 p.m. Business owner on Avenue A reporting that a male party has been allowing his dog to relieve himself all around their property. Advised we can have an officer review the camera footage once it’s ready. Caller will call back. 6:40 p.m. Officer approached by a male on Avenue A about a suspicious male on a bicycle looking in cars. Area checked; unable to locate.

Friday, 2/26

11:17 a.m. Report of damage to Federal Street residence from someone shooting paintballs; caller believes it happened overnight. Report taken.

12:43 p.m. Caller calling on behalf of his mother reporting past breaking and entering into vehicle on Avenue A. Plate given by caller does not come back to the vehicle described. Report taken.

1:58 p.m. 911 call reporting drug/narcotics violation in Turners Falls. [Details redacted.]

7:39 p.m. Caller states that extremely loud music is coming from the barn at Jarvis Pools again. Units spoke with male who advised they have a small skate park inside the barn and will keep the music down.

Saturday, 2/27

9:39 a.m. Two-vehicle accident at Crocker Avenue and Montague Street; one vehicle airbag deployment, fluids, and possible injuries. Conferenced with Shelburne Control. PD units en route. Upon arrival, officer requested DPW due to road conditions. Contacted

DPW foreman, who advised he will send in a crew. 10:40 a.m. Report of power out and tripped fuse on Ferry Road. Eversource advised; 30 minute ETA.

12:58 p.m. 911 misdial via car panic button; caller advised she was not familiar with how to use the new electronics in her vehicle and accidentally activated the panic button, which connected to 911. Confirmed misdial.

10:28 p.m. Officer requesting DPW respond around town for icy road conditions. DPW supervisor notified.

11:07 p.m. Caller states that a small silver SUV is back again on Randall Road; caller believes it is a drug dealer. Investigated.

Sunday, 2/28

1:53 a.m. 911 silent call from Judd Wire; phone just rings on callback. Officer checked building, which is secure and appears closed.

12:59 p.m. 911 hangup call; on callback, spoke with female who advised her child pressed a button five times and accidentally dialed; small child could be heard in background. Confirmed misdial.

3:34 p.m. Pan Am dispatch requesting officer respond to the train tracks across Lake Pleasant Road for a report of a couple of people on the tracks, called in by a photographer who works for them. Caller states that people got off tracks and walked into the woods. No longer a hazard. 5:28 p.m. Caller from Central Street states that a few items of his were stolen from the foyer of his apartment building in the past 24 hours. Referred to an officer.

10:17 p.m. Officer responding to French King Bridge to assist Erving PD with a suspicious person.

Monday, 3/1

4:03 a.m. 911 hangup call; could hear male party yelling “hello,” then line disconnected. Male had slipped in bathroom. Medical attention offered but refused. Officer clear.

TV REVIEW

Superman & Lois (The CW)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – The last Superman TV series I saw was a prequel TV series featuring Clark Kent’s life as he grows up and becomes Superman in his hometown of *Smallville*. It also featured how he ends up meeting Lois Lane.

The one I saw before that did it differently, and was called *Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman*.

The latest one I decided to look into will be called *Superman & Lois*. Besides being featured on the CW TV network, this one will have the pair with two teenage sons. They decide to move to and live in the father’s hometown of Smallville.

A thing that I discovered before even seeing the series is that Superman’s sons will have powers. This Clark and Lois will be played by Tyler Hoechlin and Elizabeth Tulloch. One more thing is that at some point, Clark will decide to tell his sons that he is Superman.

The opening scene consists of Superman recapping his life up to the present day. They decide to have Clark and Lois meet where they are best known to be together, at the *Daily Planet*. Their meeting was basically Clark’s first day at the newspaper.

Lois and Clark talk a bit about telling their sons he’s Superman, but then their hand is forced in a unique way. Appearing as Superman in the episode, he deals with a new villain in a suit of armor who has studied him. But you would be wrong if you think this individual is a new villain.

This show isn’t without a Luthor, like Superman always seems to have in his story. A major cross-



over event between TV shows that have happened on CW got rather wild and out there, so let’s just say that happens with Luthor in this series. I am curious to see why he is around Clark, and why he is doing what he is doing.

Some of the effects and scenes in the debut episode look to be straight out of a movie about Superman, which is cool – it kind of helps with the enjoyment of the episode. The reaction Clark’s sons have to him being Superman is similar to how Lois reacted in this series. It’s basically similar to how he showed her as well. Both of those scenes work well, and they are enjoyable sights to see on screen.

I have been told this is going to be a family drama of some kind. I am not sure how well I am going to like the show if it’s going to be that, but the Luthor thread seems intriguing enough to carry the show through several episodes. Just from what I have seen in the first episode of this show, people will probably watch more episodes just to learn more about this thread. It’s definitely not just some Luthor showing up in this show.

Montague Community Television News

We’ll Edit Your Videos!

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – This week, MCTV assisted in the Zoom conference for Montague’s fully remote Special Town Meeting. The recording of this meeting, as well as meetings of Montague’s selectboard, finance committee, and police equity and use of force advisory group and the Gill-Montague school committee, are all available on the MCTV Vimeo page, which can be found linked to the MCTV website, montaguetv.org, under the tab “Videos.”

All community members are welcome to submit their videos to be aired on Channel 17 and featured on the MCTV Vimeo page. MCTV is always avail-

able to assist in local video production as well. Cameras, tripods, and lighting equipment are available for checkout, and filming and editing assistance can be provided.

The MCTV board is looking for new members, specifically someone interested in filling the role of treasurer. The station is also looking to hire a producer to make Spanish-language content. Please email infomontaguetv@gmail.com with a resume to schedule an interview!

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 or infomontaguetv@gmail.com.

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ARTBEAT from page B1

Street residents.

"I've had to be rejected more than I care to mention," Roach wrote by email. "Even when people have said yes to the idea, they've said no to the design, or I've walked away because of the artistic integrity. I'm not really interested in painting a farm scene or Mt. Monadnock. I'd rather bring art to the public that is visually interesting and asks the viewer questions."

Roach's murals, graphically strong and often boldly colored, feature women who, in one way or another, defy the viewer's gaze. These are not Andy Warhol popera images of Marilyn Monroe looking right at you. The woman on Roach's ice shanty entry was covering her entire face with her hands. A woman in the mural Roach painted on the side of West LA Brewery in Swanzey is cropped so that we don't see her eyes. Her lips are slightly parted as if she might be about to say something. But, what?

On the parking lot side of Lindy's Diner on Gilbo Avenue in Keene, a woman in a black-and-white striped shirt stands with her back to us, staring into a kaleidoscopic pattern of bright triangles. It may be that she's just encountered this wild phenomenon and is studying it, but I preferred to think, as I stood in the drab parking lot

surrounded by brick buildings, that she was in the process of creating it with her mind. And that maybe we could both walk on out into it.

Growing Up in Turners Falls

It wasn't always easy being an "art kid" in Turners Falls, Roach said. He remembers that the emphasis in high school, especially, was heavily on sports. But his dad was an artist and taught at a private school in Connecticut, "so, art was just something I was always around," Roach recalled.

Family trips were to art museums, he said, and the solution for boredom was always to create something, a habit he's passed along to his now 8-year-old son.

In his senior year at Turners Falls High School (he graduated in 1998), Roach had what he referred to as "the most catastrophic experience in my life."

He was 17 and getting ready to apply to colleges, where he hoped to study art. He'd made arrangements with his dad to photograph the artwork he'd accumulated over three years, so he'd have slides to submit with his applications. But when Roach went to pick up his art at the school he found that, because it was at the change of the semester during a long weekend, his portfolio had been thrown away.

"It wasn't even in the dumpster anymore," Roach said. "It was



PHOTO COURTESY CRAIG ROACH

Craig Roach's mural on Elm Street in Keene, as it was being painted in 2017.

gone, gone."

Whatever anger or bitterness Roach may have felt at the time, no trace remained as he recounted the tale. Luckily, he was also good at sports, he said, and ended up being able to attend Central Connecticut State University, where he played baseball.

His first forays into art after college followed more or less in his dad's footsteps. He painted landscapes with oils on canvas, and "some of them still hold up," he said. But he was drawn to the work of some of the street artists who were roughly his contemporaries. He mentioned Banksy, Shepard Fairey, Steven Powers, and Jenny Holzer. Their work had a message that appealed to him. And the idea of bringing art into public spaces appealed to him.

"Creativity's really fantastic," Roach said. "People are creating all around us all the time. As adults, as teachers specifically, we need to nurture creativity. Art can be an ad. Art can be a mural. Art can be the Mona Lisa.

"We just have to really nourish our interests and what we like," he continued. "One of my favorite parts of painting these murals is having conversations with people on their way by. They tell you stories. We just talk as people. I don't know what their situation is, or what their political party is, but we talk."

"We just have to open spaces," Roach added. At first I thought he meant spaces for public art, but then it seemed he was talking more about openness between people. And in fact, the two seemed related in his view.

Roach said that while he's painting, people often stop and ask him who the women are, and what they're thinking. But he's more interested in how they would answer those questions.

"I want people to fill in the blanks," he said.

Giving people who might not interact with art very often the opportunity to see it, or to help him paint a mural, can be transformative, he said.

"That's your triangle now," he'd

tell people who offered to help him while he was painting the mural at Lindy's Diner.

Roach was adamant: "Art can change people's lives."

If you travel to Keene to find Roach's murals, check out the 16 more traditional, historic murals that dot the downtown. For more information and a walking tour map, go to walldogsinkeene.com. It'd be a great thing to do with kids, teaching them map skills along with the bits of history imparted by the murals. One of my favorites, at 37 Roxbury Street in Keene, honors the Ashuelot River.

You can also find a utility box in Greenfield, near the bicycle shop on Federal Street, that Roach painted with the kinds of doodles and positive messages he used to leave on students' papers when he was a teacher. If anyone has or knows of a wall in Turners or Greenfield that's available for a mural, Roach would love to know. Contact him at croach@townshendschool.org.

CRAPO PHOTO



The woman in this mural Craig Roach painted on the side of the West LA Brewery in Swanzey, New Hampshire seems about to say something. But what?

Exhibit Announcement: "POV: Out of Body" at Augusta Savage Gallery

AMHERST – The current online exhibit at the Augusta Savage Gallery, *POV: Out of Body*, is part of the Gallery's theme entitled "Healing Bodies." Because many of our bodies – whether planetary, ideological, physical, cultural or otherwise – require attention, the gallery has invited visual and performance works that offer new ways of viewing "wellness" as defined by artists.

Genevieve Burnett, Mary Dunn, and Deborah Sklar, women connected to the Anchor House of Artists in Northampton, project their experience into a claustrophobic world in *POV: Out of Body*.

Anchor House founding director Michael Tillyer writes that the exhibit contains "artifacts that trace the personal history of three women as artists living in a world that saw

them mostly through a lens polarized by a community's understanding of mental illness. All three were diagnosed with major psychiatric disorders, all three were magnificent artists, and, while other artists have escaped the oblivion of social stigma – Yayoi Kusama comes to mind – these three women lived in a shadow shaped by provincial beliefs even in the fairly progressive region of western Massachusetts."

The work of the Anchor House of Artists is to build opportunities for freedom for artists living with mental illnesses. There is no substituting the freedom of a personal studio space without bounds, though, Tillyer writes, and there is no greater power for artists to become a part of a milieu of creative professionals, and thus artists in their own right. He concludes that the mission of



bureau mirror, painting by Genevieve Burnett

the Anchor House is to subsidize the studio space for artists living with mental illnesses, to represent the work that they make, to fight the stigma they face, and to bring new art to

western Massachusetts and beyond.

"Three women that I came to know over the years on my way to formulating the idea of the Anchor House of Artists articulated the difficulty of having enormous talent with the personal liability of mental illness," writes Tillyer about the artists in the exhibit. "Each one navigated the world in ways I could not imagine myself attempting in their circumstances."

"They each were remarkable people. They would not have known it but two of them inspired in me the will to create a subsidized studio that would give them all a chance to gather as artists, work, and have access to exhibition opportunities and sales."

This exhibit is online at www.fineartscenter.com/AnchorHouseArtists. For more information, call (413) 545-5177.

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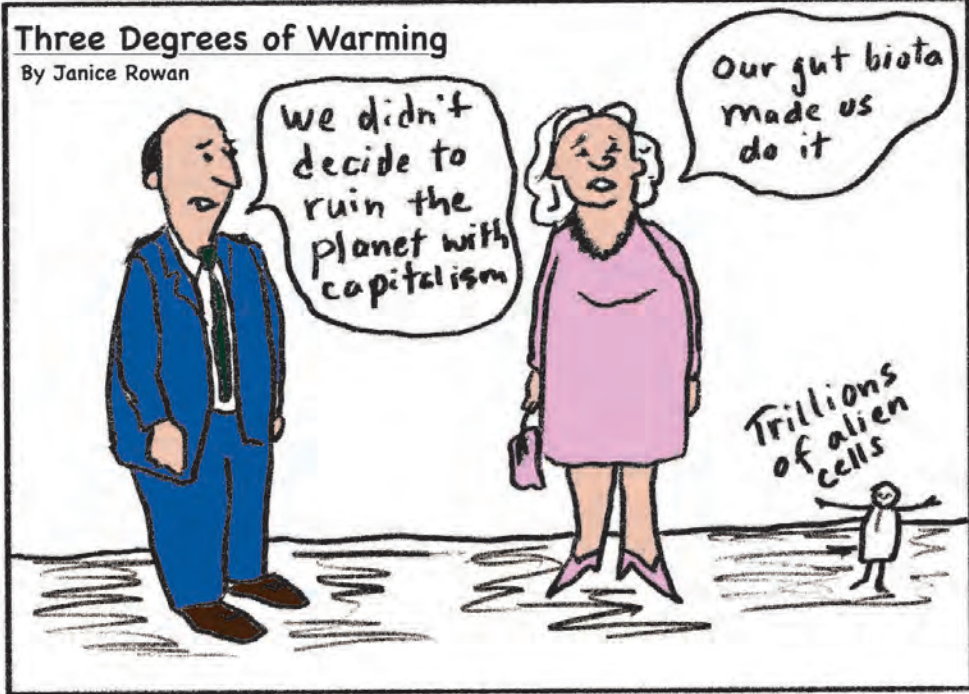
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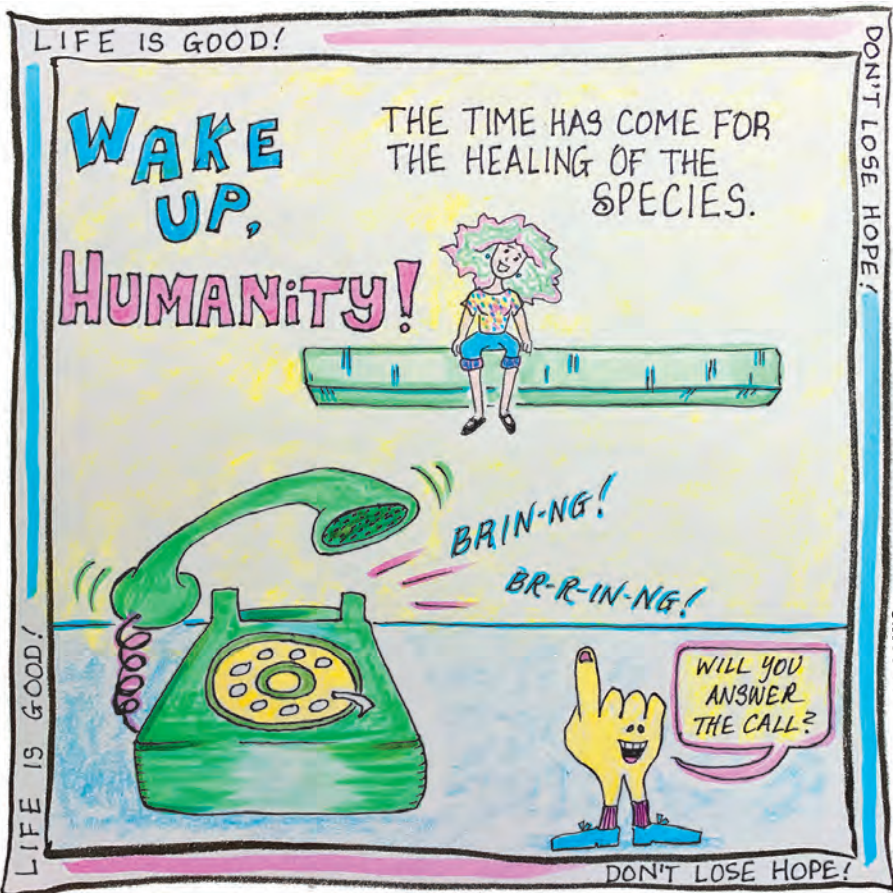
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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Outhouses, Wood Stoves, and Sledding to School

LEVERETT – The Leverett Historical commission announces the publication of a new book featuring interviews with former students of several one room schoolhouses in Leverett. The 319-page-book is titled *10-to-1, Interviews with Leverett Scholars Who Attended One-Room Schoolhouses* and is published through local Amherst publisher Off The Common Books/Levellers Press. Copies are available through the Leverett Library.

The book is full of photos, timelines, and transcribed audio interviews of former students or “scholars” of several of these one room schoolhouses. Of special interest to the contemporary elementary student interviewers was scholars’ descriptions of the no-frills experiences of no indoor plumbing. The outhouse was used in all seasons and a daily task was filling up the water bucket from nearby streams or a neighboring home for indoor handwashing or drinking. Heat was provided by the woodstove and lunch was “whatever you brought from home.” Recess was

unsupervised and included playing dodgeball in the middle of the road in Moore’s Corner or skating on the mill pond of Slarrow’s Sawmill.

On the downside, some of the teachers could be strict with discipline and there were accounts of walking to and from school the proverbial mile in the snow on a cold winter’s day. Sometimes that could be enjoyable. Charles Roys recollected sledding down the hill to school, “When it snowed in town then the road stayed snow covered. They didn’t put salt on them like they do now. So where I lived over in East Leverett, I lived on a hill. It would be quite reasonable and safe back then, to get on my sled and slide down to the bottom of the hill to the school...there wasn’t a lot of traffic back then either.”

At one time, there were ten one room schoolhouses to serve individual communities in the neighborhoods of East Leverett, Central Leverett, Cave Hill, Dudleyville, North Leverett and others. Several of them are now private residences

and a few are gone. The Moore’s Corner Schoolhouse is now the Leverett Historical Society Museum and the North Leverett Schoolhouse serves as a meeting space and Sunday School for the North Leverett Baptist Church.

In 1774, Town Meeting voted to raise ten pounds for the South School on Old Long Plain. By 1823, there were five school districts. By 1923, one teacher taught 48 students of all ages at the Center School. By 1950, the Leverett Elementary School, a consolidated school, was built and came with a cafeteria, auditorium, and four rooms dedicated to two grades each.

The book project was delayed by the pandemic. Two UMass Public History students who were hired to help conduct research and follow up interviews left the area in March 2020 when UMass went remote. Commissioners volunteered time to locate and scan images in stages and work on shared drives. There were hand-offs of folders at the end of driveways.

The book launch celebration and gathering at the Leverett Library had to be postponed until a future date when scholars, their families, and the more contemporary student interviewers and their families can safely congregate. The summer months of 2021 are a potential target.

Several of the interviewed scholars died in the past year. The book is



The Long Plain Schoolhouse, formerly located at 7 Old Long Plain Road, was the first school in town, after a 1774 town meeting voted to raise 10 pounds for its creation.



dedicated to Lee and Marjorie Glazier of Hemenway Road who happened to live in a one room schoolhouse, the Coke Kiln School.

The transcription was done by UMass Public History students Helen Kyriakoudes and Devon King from audio recordings made as part of the Leverett Historical Commission’s project “A Sense of Where You Are.” The audio recordings can be listened to on the Leverett Historical Commission’s page on the Town of Leverett website.

The scholars were interviewed by students in Alyson Bull’s 6th grade class at Leverett Elementary School in 2017-2018 and facilitated by Leverett Historical Commission members Edie Field, Susan Mareneck and Sara Robinson.

The book project was funded by a Go Local grant through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners applied for as a joint application through Ann Tweedy of the Leverett Historical Commission and former Leverett Library Director Natane Halasz. It features interviews with Lois Mono, Richard Stratford, Leighton LaClaire, Wayne LaClaire, Viola Williams Black, Bernice Howard Glazier, Marcia LaClaire Sims, Marjorie and Lee Glazier, Hilda Williams, Charles Roys, Betty Glazier House, Charlotte Abbott, and Shirley Lashway.

For more information, please email leveretthistoryinfo@gmail.com or visit leverett.ma.us/p/92/Oral-Histories.

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