

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 20 – NO. 16

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 3, 2022

VISIBLE SUPPORT



A Ukrainian flag appeared this week on the Spinner statue in Turners Falls.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Masks Off; Pools Check In

By JEFF SINGLETON

“The vocational school that everyone is familiar with when they were younger is not the same voc tech school now,” Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) superintendent Rick Martin told a meeting of the Montague selectboard at a budget presentation on Monday. “Technology has driven the demand for increased academics.”

Martin, joined by the business manager Russ Kaubris, gave as examples the importance of math skills such as trigonometry in programming advanced machinery; the need for culinary students to pass an advanced-placement English course if they are applying to high-end culinary schools; and similar requirements for students in the new veterinary program who

see MONTAGUE page A7

High School Sports Update: Tech Takes Small-Voc Title

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS—The Franklin Tech girls basketball played three tournament games in just four days, winning the Massachusetts state championship for small vocational schools in the process. They passed the first round in the MIAA state tournament on Tuesday, and after a day’s rest, head to Palmer

this Thursday in a bid to upset the higher-seeded Panthers.

Across town, the Turners Falls Thunder hosted the Rising Tide Herons of Plymouth. The Thunder Ladies gave no quarter against the low-ranked Herons, throwing a shutout for the entire first quarter and passing the first round of the tournament easily. Now the Thunder, their fans,

see SPORTS page A4



FCTS’s Kendra Campbell sweeps past the North Brookfield defense Tuesday night.

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Board To Montague: Fix Your Own Sewer System!

By KATIE NOLAN

Montague wastewater treatment superintendent Chelsey Little asked the Erving selectboard on Monday night to forgive \$43,000 in overage charges for excess wastewater going from Millers Falls to Erving’s POTW#1 plant. POTW#1 serves the western section of Erving, as well as the village of Millers Falls in Montague. After a 45-minute discussion, the board voted instead to defer \$25,000 in overage charges until the next fiscal year.

The board met at the senior and community center, and the meeting was livestreamed by Bernardston Northfield Community TV.

Town administrator Bryan Smith said that flow increases to POTW#1 correlate with rain events, so the likely source of the excess water is “infiltration and inflow” (I&I), groundwater and stormwater that enters the sewer system.

Little said Montague had received a \$250,000 federal grant for work on the Turners Falls sewage treatment system, and for studying the sources of I&I in Millers Falls. However, the grant requires a \$50,000 cash match by the town.

see ERVING page A6

GILL SELECTBOARD

Tech School Costs to Drop; New Pot Shop Guy Stops By

By JERRI HIGGINS

Gill’s selectboard and finance committee met with their counterparts from Montague Monday evening to hear the FY’23 budget presentation from Franklin County Technical School (FCTS). Gill’s regular selectboard session was pushed to 6:45 p.m. to accommodate the earlier meeting.

Highlights from the remote presentation included reduced assessments to FCTS’s member towns.

“We are diminishing our assessments to the towns overall because of unexpended funds due to COVID-19,” FCTS superintendent Richard Martin explained. “When students were using materials and equipment every other day, our expenses went down unexpectedly, so we are going to give that money back to the towns.”

Martin and FCTS business manager Russ Kaubris spoke about several projected budget changes. A \$111,658 surplus in this year’s “excess and deficiencies” (E&D) account due to COVID-19 closures put the account over the state’s mandatory 5% cap, and must be returned to the school’s 19 member towns.

Kaubris said that \$550,000 had

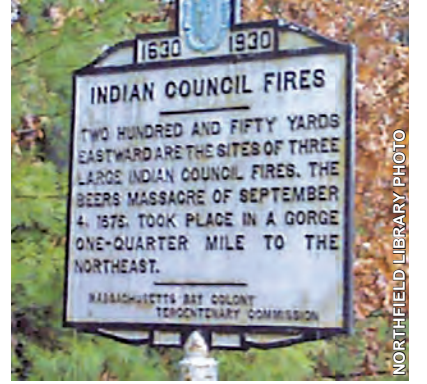
see GILL page A6

Study of 1676 ‘Battlefield’ May Expand Into Northfield

By JEFF SINGLETON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – The project to study the 1676 battle and massacre at what is now called Turners Falls is heading into its ninth year, and potentially its fourth round of federal funding through the National Park Service, and proponents are hoping to expand its scope to investigate an area in present-day Northfield.

The site of the massacre in the spring of 1676, a turning point in King Philip’s War, now lies under the Connecticut River, but researchers hired by the project have uncovered a long trail musket balls and other objects from the era extending from the water’s current edge through Greenfield and into Deerfield.



A 90-year-old historic marker cites the “council fires,” which some speculate may have been where Native leaders decided to move war refugees to the Falls.

Montague has been the lead town administering the grants, which have funded archaeological investigation, see BATTLEFIELD page A5

Supreme Judicial Court Probes Towns’ Authority On Solar Sites

By SARAH ROBERTSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – As western Massachusetts towns grapple with the rapid development of utility-scale solar arrays on farms and forestland, some officials are seeking to ensure that all social, economic, and environmental factors can be weighed in the state’s renewable energy transition.

As the size of solar projects has grown, so too have citizen concerns over issues ranging from deforestation, erosion, and pollution to the disruptions of sight lines and traffic that any industrial development might pose for abutters. To address these concerns many towns are over-

hauling their bylaws, and even placing moratoriums on large-scale solar to buy time for review. However, a state law makes it harder for municipalities to set limits on these projects.

Passed in 1985 – one year before Ronald Reagan took Jimmy Carter’s solar panels off the White House – Chapter 40A, Section 3, of the Massachusetts General Laws states, “No zoning ordinance or by-law shall prohibit or unreasonably regulate the installation of solar energy systems or the building of structures that facilitate the collection of solar energy, except where necessary to protect the public health, safety or welfare.”

“The intent of that provision was see SOLAR page A8

AINSWORTH AT LARGE

MLB Strikes Out Looking



Gordon and Vivian Schuppmann of Bedford, New Hampshire stand outside Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter. They paid \$113 for tickets, parking, and batting practice passes. The money was refunded when Thursday’s game was canceled.

By CHIP AINSWORTH

JUPITER, FL – Gordon and Vivian Schupmann of Bedford, New Hampshire strolled around Roger Dean Stadium on Wednesday morning, looking to see what they would miss.

“The exact same thing happened two years ago,” said Vivian. “We were booked and ready to go when

COVID hit.”

This year they spent \$1,600 for a one-week stay at a beachfront hotel and made a Cardinals game the linchpin of their visit. “My dad was a Cardinals fan,” said Gordon. “He grew up in southern Illinois.”

They paid \$113 for two tickets, batting practice passes, and parking.

“At least we made it as far as the see AT LARGE page A5

World-System Unraveling, What Are Ya Gonna Do

Six Letters.....	A2-A3	Montague Police Log.....	B3
Local Briefs.....	A3	An Uprising, Recorded.....	B3
Leverett Selectboard Notes.....	A5	Sex Matters: Infidelity.....	B4
10 Years Ago This Week.....	A7	Gnome Still At It.....	B4
Sonic Dimension Added to Old Logs.....	A7	Gallery Exhibits Listing.....	B5
West Along the River.....	B1	Our Monthly Science Page.....	B6
Travels With Max: Connecticut!.....	B1	Three Comics and a Puzzle.....	B7
March Libraries Listing.....	B2	Arts & Entertainment Calendar.....	B7



The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August 2002

Inflation

The bad news came from the printer this week, in an email titled *rate increase effective immediately*.

The newspaper is cushioned from catastrophe by the very generous support of our readers who donated to our anniversary campaign this winter, but we would like to put that gift into growth and development, and not immediately feeding a growing weekly deficit.

A run of 16-page newspapers cost us \$474 to print from 2015 to 2020, rose to \$510 when we began with a new printer (for slightly fewer papers) that summer, and crept up to \$518 this winter. Going forward it will cost... \$618.

"Costs are increasing at a 40-year high in the print industry across almost every category, including +22% on newsprint, +13% on ink and +50% on fuel," they wrote, by way of explanation.

Postage, meanwhile, has risen from 85 to 95 to 98 cents per copy during the pandemic. (With the exception of certain local towns, we strongly suspect that the First Class rate we pay is nevertheless ignored and we're treated as media mail, left in the backs of trucks and the bottoms of satchels for sometimes more than a week.)

We're also now paying writers a slightly higher, though still terribly low, fee for articles.

All these rising costs cause the eye to wander over to look at the revenue column.

The *Reporter* has kept its rates psychedelically low, with a cover price of 50 cents from 2002 to 2010, 75 cents 'til 2013, and an even \$1 for the last eight years.

Subscriptions, meanwhile, started out at "\$20 for six months" and have remained there for our entire twenty years. We even introduced *lower* rates in "walking" zones of downtown Turners Falls, the Patch, and Montague Center, which have gone from \$25 to \$30 for a year; the mailed subs have been bumped from \$50 to \$60 to \$70, but only to stay ahead of *losing* money each time a new person subscribes out of the area.

Changing our prices is a perennial topic of discussion around the office, but it very rarely happens. It usually goes like this:

One camp will propose bumping the cover price to \$1.50, or \$2. We dither over whether we'd win or lose on the margins, but probably more than half of our newsstand customers would pony up a second buck, right? Then we work backwards and figure out by how

much it would be sensible to bump up the home delivery fees.

At that point, an opposing camp will offer that the *Reporter* should be free, and that we should shift to a different business model entirely: tripling our print run, setting out newspaper boxes, focusing on blitzing the freebies, calculating our larger readership – and then jacking up the ad prices accordingly, and chasing after a higher tier of advertiser.

It's not a terrible idea, but one worry is that many of our faithful, longtime advertisers are probably paying just what they can to help us out, and might not stay on for that conversion.

And then inevitably someone will opine that free things aren't properly valued...

The variation on this is to shift toward reader-membership, with members contributing at different tiers, and covering the cost of delivery if they want it. This is also tempting. A large number of our readers have figured out for themselves that our prices are way too low, and nominate a higher price for themselves when they renew – this is effectively voting with their feet, heading toward a membership model. (Others have told us that they *can* pay more and *would*, if we would have the self-respect to raise the price.)

It's a confusing, uncertain terrain, and inertia wins almost every time. A buck a pop and \$40 for a year has been the holding pattern.

We're currently trying to dig ourselves out of a large and accidental morass of overdue subscribers. If you think you may be on the list, feel free to reach out first. Once we are caught up, we will likely raise subscription prices. We welcome your feedback on the topic.

We suppose we should ask, reluctantly, any readers who receive a PDF link *and* a print edition but don't really read the print edition to consider making the switch fully.

In all of this... we're just surfing the global economic wave. January's inflation index in the US was the highest in 40 years. It's a great thing to argue over – is it due to robust government spending on social goods during the pandemic, or just 13 years of quantitative easing and near-zero interest rates finally catching up with us all, triggered by upward pressure on wages and downward on fossil-fuel supply? The important thing to remember is that everyone now has the tools to confirm their own biases in detail!



Daniel Sargent of Erving is the interim pastor at the North Leverett Baptist Church. He reports that the congregation is holding steady at 80 to 100 at the church each Sunday, and has picked up an additional 80 or 90 people in an online audience for its livestreamed services.

Letters to the Editors

Farren Center Wishes

I have read and heard some of the differing opinions from Montague residents and officials on what the future of the old Farren should be, and I assume that all parties are motivated by what they believe is best for Montague and specifically Montague City.

I worked in the Farren for a decade, and am personally aware of both the challenges as well as the historic beauty of the building. There are a few things I hope for. First, I want full transparency and follow-through on commitments from Trinity Health. Secondly, I ask that the selectboard and town officials treat concerned residents with the respect and patience they are entitled to.

And lastly, and most importantly, I am hoping that the vision and long view that Frank Abbondanzio used

to transform Turners Falls over the decades be employed now. While the village of Turners Falls has thus far received the most attention from the town, I see the focus is rightfully being widened to include the other villages.

Montague is a jewel of a town, and I believe that town planning should ensure that each village has a focal point that is unique. I am hoping that even if the Farren cannot be saved, components of its historic beauty can be salvaged and reincarnated to be a part of a new vision for that site that is both beautiful and an asset to Montague City and the residents of all Montague's villages.

Anne Jemas
Turners Falls

Literary Festival Thanks

The Authors and Artists Festival would like to thank everyone who spoke in the festival, everyone who attended, and our financial supporters: Greenfield Cooperative Bank; NATABA, Centennial House bed and breakfast; Kiwanis; Northfield Historical Commission; the Northfield Dickinson Memorial library; friends of the Greenfield public library; the Erving Public library; the New England Grass Roots Environment Fund; the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, through a festival grant and through the local cultural councils of Northfield, Greenfield, Erving,

Barnardston, Warwick, Montague, Agawam, Springfield, Chicopee, Holyoke, South Hadley, Hadley, Hatfield, Easthampton, Amherst, Sunderland, and Deerfield; and donations from Margo Culley and an anonymous donor.

Thank you for making 2022 a great year for the fest! Videos of many of the presentations – those we have permission to share – will be on YouTube in a week or so: see tinyurl.com/4amr2dsv.

Lis McLoughlin
Northfield
For the A&A Board

Liked It

Thanks for Editor Mike Jackson's informative article, *Deerfield Sightseeing*, on a hydrological tour up the River. It was fascinating to know the history of the many structures constructed to harness flowing water. The Glory Hole does in fact suggest the entrance into an alien world, and the east entrance of the Hoosac Tunnel, a place where dragons live.

With lively words and colorful descriptions this is a trip worth reading about and taking.

Brooke Thomas
Leverett

Appreciated After the Fact

I miss Gina McNeely.

When Gina was Montague's health director, there was minimal to no dog feces downtown. She was always out checking the neighborhoods, and she'd write a \$25 fine for dog owners that didn't pick up. She'd start in the neighborhoods at 6 a.m. and she'd drive around in her truck, every neighborhood, every park, always checking, always writing tickets. Every spring there is lots of dog feces in every neighborhood from dog owners not picking up.

Gina always did thorough inspections of restaurants, always checking on kitchens and dining rooms. The silverware was always washed.

When Gina drove around there was also a whole lot less trash on the sidewalks or blowing around in the neighborhood streets. Gina would pull over in her truck and write tickets, and she kept things under control. Dumpsters were hardly ever overfilled.

She was always inspecting, and thoroughly inspecting apartment

buildings as well. She was willing to go into their basements and inspect for rodents, and she would have landlords place traps and seal up where they were getting in. If a landlord didn't comply with her orders, Gina would take action.

I do miss Gina. I always thought she was tough, but if she ever came back to do her old job, I would buy her a lunch.

Maureen McNamara
Turners Falls

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Did you or someone you know work at a tool company such as Greenfield Tap & Die, Millers Falls Tools, Threadwell/Bendix, Wesco, or Mayhew? Tom Goldscheider, a local historian researching Greenfield's tool industry, would like to talk with you if you have memories you care to share. Please contact him at (413) 259-7697 or tom.goldscheider@gmail.com.

Beginning Monday, March 21 the Turners Falls Water Department will begin shutting off water to properties with water usage bills more than 90 days overdue. Bills were mailed on November 1, 2021 and due December 1, 2021.

Payments can be made at the Water Department Office, 226 Millers Falls Road between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. A drop box is located to the left of the front door for payments after hours. Payment must be in the form of a check or cash. Any questions, please call Suzanne at (413) 863-4542.

The LAVA Center in Greenfield kicks off a new series this weekend called "Social Justice in the Arts and Media." Join them Saturday, March 5, between 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. with Christian McEwen's (Giant) Listening Ear, "a joyous and subversive antidote to a world increasingly dominated by cell phones and other entrancing devices, reminding us of the special pleasure to be found in long, meandering, face-to-face conversation, most especially with friends and family... we invite ourselves and our audiences to practice radical listening."

The Ear was inspired by the work of Bread & Puppet Theater and peace activist Fran Peavey, who traveled the world with a small cloth sign reading "American Willing to Listen." A Listening Ear session will also be held Saturday, March 12, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

March 10 marks the 100th anniversary of the arrest of non-violent civil rights leader Mahatma Gandhi on charges of sedition in 1922. The Traprock Center for Peace and Justice, Greenfield Garden Cinema, and Namaste Indian Restaurant have come together to commemorate the day with a free showing of the iconic 1982 film *Gandhi* starring Ben Kingsley, Candice Bergin, and Martin Sheen.

Playing at 6:30 p.m. next Thursday, March 10, this 3-hour 11-minute film is free to the public due to the generous underwriting of the Traprock Center and Namaste. Garden Cinemas owner Angela Mass, who teaches social justice at Greenfield High School, says this is a film "everyone should see at least once – and it is just majestic on the big screen."

Painter Allen Fowler presents his *Canal Series* at the Great Falls Discovery Center during March. Fowler, of Turners Falls, is a writer, artist, and educator who has taught visual arts, literature, and composition at secondary and college levels. According to the press release, the exhibit consists of paintings that "explore the relationship between the character of the organic and the relentless human desire for structure and design."

A reception with light refreshments will be held Saturday, March 12 from 1 to 3 p.m. The Hall will then be closed to the public between March 13 and 23 because the floors are being refinished.

Mount Grace Conservation Land Trust and the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) are working to ensure that the 38-acre mountaintop property in Northfield with the Richardson-Zlogar overnight cabin will be open to the public forever. The cabin is on the New England National Scenic Trail and has terrific views of Mount Ascutney, Mount Monadnock, and Mount Grace.

Mount Grace and AMC are

fundraising to reopen the cabin for overnight stays, and build a composting toilet and other amenities for the site. Four Star Farm and Brewery in Northfield is holding a Richardson Overlook Beer Release fundraising party from 1 to 5:30 p.m. next Saturday, March 12, and will donate \$1 for every Richardson Overlook Beer sold.

"This beer features a soft mouthfeel and balanced but hop-forward character in the New England IPA style," explained Chris Sellars, Four Star co-owner and brewer. Every ingredient in the beer comes from the hops farm. There will be entertainment by Lady Pop, trivia, games, raffles, and more. To learn more about the event and the Richardson Overlook project, visit mountgrace.org.

If you're interested in outdoor activities but lack the equipment, or need a lesson, or just want to do it with other people, check out the offerings on adventureeast.com. The Sunderland-based company puts together people and equipment in group activities such as hiking, paddling, skiing, biking, forest bathing, yoga, and more.

Coming up on the March calendar they have a Connecticut River paddle, a Mount Ascutney ski trip, a Robert Frost Trail deep-tracking snowshoe hike, a backcountry skiing lesson, etc. The costs are quite moderate. Of course, they lead adventures year-round – looking ahead, trail running starts in April with a 5-mile Greenfield loop.

A regional survey about age-related needs of residents of New Salem, Wendell, Leverett, and Shutesbury must be received by March 11. The Age-Friendly Communities Initiative, led by LifePath with FR-COG and participating Councils on Aging and senior centers, is trying to understand what to improve for this region to become a great place for people to grow older. The information will be used to create an Age-Friendly Action Plan, apply for grants, and improve conditions for older people in those towns.

New Salem, Shutesbury, and Wendell residents will get a copy of the survey mailed to them by Village Neighbors, while Leverett residents can pick one up at the town hall, library, or Co-op and return it to the same location. You can also

call Margie McGinnis, Leverett town administrator, (413) 548-9699 and she can mail you a copy.

Survey results will make a difference in the programs and services available to everyone over 60 in these four towns. If you have questions about this or need assistance, contact Nour Elkhattaby Strauch at nelkhattabystrauch@lifepathma.org or (413) 829-9274.

Do you know someone who has made extraordinary contributions to local and public history in Massachusetts? The Massachusetts History Alliance is looking for nominees for this year's Bay State Legacy Award, for contributions to the interpretation and presentation of state or local history. This individual can be a professional or volunteer from a variety of fields and organizations in local and public history, archives, academia, and beyond. Nominations are due March 15. Find out more at masshistoryalliance.org.

Johns Hopkins University researchers are looking for participants in a study of naturalistic psilocybin use. If you plan to take psilocybin in a single-dose session before July 1, they would like to hear from you to set up data collection. This is not meant for people who are microdosing. If you are interested, contact the investigator Albert Garcia-Romeu at (410) 550-1972 or agarci33@jhmi.edu. This is an unpaid study.

The LAVA Center in Greenfield is accepting submissions for a language-themed community art show slated for June 2022. "Words on Words" will present works of art that incorporate words and images related to language and/or writing. Both writers and visual artists are encouraged to submit work.

Submissions are due Saturday, April 30. The show is curated by local author Michael Travisano and LAVA Center staff members. They are accepting two-dimensional works that can be wall-hung only; email .jpeg or .pdf files of the artwork, along with dimensions, an artist's statement, and a short paragraph on how the work fits the theme to matravisano@hotmail.com. For more information, contact LAVA at info@localaccess.org.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

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Two More Letters to the Editors

Old Man Shakes Fist At Culvert

Can anyone explain the cost breakdown of a 4 foot high, 50 foot long bridge over a brook with a price tag of \$2 million?

I am not a builder or contractor, but the wetland delineation is pretty easy, as is the survey – perhaps there is a road survey of the area already on file? Seems like one of the pre-cast concrete pieces left over from the Big Dig might fit there nicely, if those are not all gone now.

It boggles the mind!

Garth Shaneyfelt
Greenfield

Democracy Slips Away

I had to write something because I feel so helpless. This country that we are living in, this democratic republic, is done if there is no serious, sustained intervention.

It feels so surreal to watch the end of the country I love – that I earnestly sang songs about as a child into adulthood. Maybe it was always a lie, but it was a lie to me.

People cared about democracy and our representative government when I was growing up. They worked hard to do good for the people they served, and were less partisan, more open to changing their opinion and getting legislation passed.

Citizens United vs. the FEC changed that. Money became "free speech," allowing foreign dollars into American elections with no checks on from where or how much. Mitt Romney seemed to blithely say to reporters: "Corporations are people, my friend."

Corporations have individuals who do not all think or feel the same, but that ruling gave the legal right to

funnel money into American elections.

It is devastating to watch us change from democracy to autocracy, with the Republicans seeming to be salivating for a theocracy.

This has not compelled us to the streets in a general strike, because the destruction does not happen immediately. It is the proverbial frog in the warm water that is coming to a boil – and once it becomes obvious, it is too late for the frog to get out.

The autocrats' minions will come for the resisters, and others. If your descent is not their ideal, into the camps and the ovens you go. Too far-fetched? Too radical?

We should all be in the streets and not leave. But we have lives to lead, and that is what those in power are counting on. Survival first – and they made it that way.

You ignore this because you think it cannot be true. Germany is not laughing, and they do not let history die. Only autocrats do that.

Jerri Higgins
Montague

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SPORTS from page A1

the pep band and the cheerleaders wait for Friday when they host Saint Bernard's of Fitchburg.

The Turners Falls-Franklin Tech cheer squad traveled to Shepherd Hill and Holyoke this week, and then returned home to support the Turners girls. At the Holyoke gig, they won another trophy; at the basketball game, they revved up the young as well as the old; and at Shepherd Hill, they just had fun.

Basketball

FCTS 47 - Minuteman 26
FCTS 55 - Old Colony 31
FCTS 53 - N. Brookfield 40

On Saturday, February 26, the Franklin Tech Eagles hosted the fourth-ranked Minuteman Revolution of Lexington in the semifinals of the Massachusetts Small Vocational State Tournament.

"I heard they're missing a lot of kids," one of the dads told me after the game. Sure enough, the Revs came into the game with only seven players while Tech dressed 15. This dichotomy gave Coach Gamache the freedom to use all 15 of his players, keeping the score respectful and allowing his younger players to gain playoff experience.

I was reminded of a hockey game as Gamache sent in line after line. At 4:30 of the opening period, with Tech leading 13-2, all five starters sat and five reserves stepped in.

The Revolution were held to zero points in the second quarter. At 5:23 of the period with Franklin up 24-7, the five relief players sat and the last five bench players entered.

The secret of Tech's success was their defense. A steady full-court press led to steals and grabs. Even the backup players kept up the pressure, and by the end of the game, Tech had accumulated 23 steals. Leading by so much, the girls were also able to take target practice, and five different players hit 3-pointers.

Tech led 37-13 after three quarters, and cruised to a 47-26 final.

The assists and rebounds were evenly distributed among the Eagles, with eight scoring points: Hannah Gilbert (11), Lea Chapman (8), Cordelia Guerin (7), Kendra Campbell and Kaitlin Trudeau (6), Jillian Crowningshield (5), and Emily Ryan and Christiana Dunn (2).

On Sunday, as the Lady Birds hosted the Old Colony Black Cougars for the Small Voc state title, it was a different story. The Cougars were the team that beat Tech 52-44 in the championship game two years ago. This time the Eagles' defense silenced the Cougars, as well as their fans.

The gym was packed to the rafters, and the mood in the gym was decidedly different than at the Minuteman game. The few visiting fans who made the trek Saturday had been loud but respectful, but on Sunday, the O.C. fans were out in force, announcing their opinions freely and loudly. "We beat you by 30 points three years ago," a man bragged to the home fans. It was a slight exaggeration, but I don't think he was going for accuracy.

When Tech started to pull away, the visitors began blaming the refs. "It must be nice," one fan complained. "All the refs are from here." "Yeah!" another man screamed. "Look at those calls."

Finally, one of the officials marched to the bleachers and warned the men: "I will have you escorted out of the school if you continue."

In the designated Tech student



Tech fans dressed up for Sunday's small-voc championship match against Old Colony.

section, the kids dressed up in cosplay. Spiderman, Lady Liberty, Chewbacca, and at least 20 other costumed characters cheered their team on.

Old Colony is a great team with a winning tradition, so Gamache was not able to liberally substitute his backups. Instead of sending in five at a time, one or two subs came into the game. Again, Tech instituted their stifling D, which accounted for 19 steals.

Tech took control early, skyrocketing out to an 11-2 lead. Offensively, Tech set up plays; when they missed, they would reset and frequently passed the ball inside to Gilbert. Campbell is one reason that Franklin had these multiple attempts, pulling down 10 rebounds in the contest. On the outside, Trudeau (3) and Campbell (2) banked 3-pointers, which irked the O.C. fans but revved up the home crowd.

At the half, Tech was leading comfortably 34-18. They maintained the lead through the third quarter, and going into the fourth, they were ahead 51-27. This led to a confession of sorts from a visiting fan: "Okay, they're the better team. But why did the refs have to be so one-sided?"

In the fourth, Tech used every second of the shot clock before shooting, and with 3:26 seconds left in the game, Gamache finally rested his starters and sent in five fresh players. The JVs held their own, and on their last possession, simply dribbled it out to preserve the 55-31 victory - and to claim the state title.

Campbell (13), Trudeau (12) and Gilbert (10) led the Eagles in Sunday's war, with Ryan (6), Chapman and Emily Merritt (5) and Dunn (4) helping out.

The Champs got one day of rest before their first game in the MIAA State Tournament, hosting the 44th-ranked North Brookfield Indians

on Tuesday. The mood at Franklin Tech was more civil, and the fans mixed in nicely. One of the Tech mothers asked how they managed to keep the name Indians, and a grandfather asked, "Where exactly is North Brookfield?"

The game did not go well for the Eagles early on, as North took a 5-zip lead, but the Birds initiated their smothering defense and the Indians began committing fouls - three within the first minute and a half.

Tech also dominated on the boards, with Chapman pulling down 15 offensive rebounds. This combination of strong defense and second tries led to a scoring frenzy, and by the time the buzzer sounded to end the period, Tech was on pace to score 96 points.

The Indians made up some ground in the second, pulled to within 31-22. While they played hard in the third, they couldn't make up any more ground, and the lead fluctuated between 11 and 13 points.

In the last stanza, the Indians still couldn't breach that 11-point margin as Tech continued to contest passes and shots; at the final buzzer, Tech had 35 steals, and went on to win 53-40 to advance into the second round of the MIAA.

Chapman (18), Gilbert (16), and Trudeau (10) were Tech's big scorers, with help from Campbell (5) and Dunn and Merritt (2).

The Eagles have another single off before heading down to Palmer to take on the 12th-seeded Panthers this Thursday.

TFHS 63 - Rising Tide 17

On Tuesday, the Turners Falls Thunder defeated the 52nd-ranked Rising Tide Herons, 63-17, in the first round of the MIAA Tournament. It was a very quick game: I left at halftime and still made the tip-off of the Eagles-Indians game.

The mood in the gym was festive. The cheer squad was there, fresh from a two-venue outing. Coach Sarah Underwood passed out blue and white pom-poms to some of the toddlers before the game so they could cheer along with the big girls. The Turners Falls pep band was also in the house. It reminded me of the jazz band that traveled with the Hopkins team and drummed up support from their fans.

The Herons play in the Cape and Islands Conference, but the school is located on this side of the bridge, so their bus ride was probably less than three hours. Whether or not they were affected by jet lag didn't really matter, as Turners had the advantage in height, skill, and teamwork.

The Tide didn't even score a point in the first quarter as Blue ran up and down the court, scoring at will. I must admit that I clapped when the Tide scored the first points of the second period to make the score 19-2. By halftime, the score had increased to 33-4, and that's when I left for the Tech game.

Even with the subs in, Powertown didn't let up in the second half, and took the game 63-17. Turners scored all their points from inside the arc with Emily Young (14) and Madison Liimatainen and Abby Holloway (12) leading the pack. Taylor Greene (8), Morgan Dobias (7), Jenna Petrovich (4), Holly Myers (3), Steph Peterson (2), and Raygan Pendriss (1) also added points for the Thunder.

The competition stiffens in the next round, as Blue hosts 20th-seeded St. Bernard's of Fitchburg this Friday.

Cheer

The Turners Falls cheer team donned their snow boots last Saturday night and made the trip to Shepherd Hill to compete in a large competition against multiple schools. "We didn't place, but we had fun," Coach Underwood said after the performance. "It helped us prepare for our competition on Sunday." That says it all.

Sunday's cheer-off was held in Holyoke. In that battle, the Blue Ladies took third place, just 3 points behind the second-place winners. Two days later, they were up in the Turners Falls gym, working up the home crowd and letting the little girls cheer along.

"It was a busy but fun weekend!" Underwood added. It certainly was. The cheerleaders will be back in action on Friday to cheer on their Thunder classmates, and have a little more fun before they hang up their pom-poms for another year.



The FCTS Eagles paused to enjoy winning one title Sunday before heading into the MIAA state tournament Tuesday.

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BATTLEFIELD from page A1 archival research, documentation of oral history and traditions, and “public outreach” events, including well-attended forums at Turners Falls High School. The project has assembled primary-source research, including accounts from participants in the battle, and scoured local museums and libraries for potential artifacts.

On Monday the selectboard of the town of Montague approved a new application to the Park Service’s Battlefield Grant Program for \$83,300. Montague has been the recipient of the grant, which is officially administered by the town’s planning board.

The application was approved on Wednesday by the grant advisory committee, which currently contains four representatives from three New England tribes, and from the historical commissions of four local towns.

Although the application does not specifically mention the site,

much of Wednesday’s discussion focused on an area in the town of Northfield formerly known as the Native American settlement of Squakeeg. Just off the state highway Route 63, a marker reads:

1630 – 1930

Two hundred and fifty yards eastward are the sites of three large Indian council fires. The Beers Massacre of September 4, 1675, took place in a gorge one-quarter mile to the northeast.

The dating on the marker seems a bit odd, beginning nearly two generations before the ambush of Beers and his English troops in 1675, and before what may have been councils held between then and the following spring by the leadership of the indigenous insurgency.

These dates no doubt reflect the 300th anniversary of the founding of Massachusetts Bay Colony, cen-

tered in Boston, whose Tercentenary Commission erected hundreds of such signs around the state in 1930.

(These signs have been criticized in recent times; a writer on the Metropolitan Area Planning Council website as “pithy narratives... marks of authority that justify the origins of injustice and legacies of harm that continue today.”)

The battlefield grant committee’s discussion on Wednesday centered on the theory that the council fires area, possibly a traditional inter-tribal meeting ground, may have been the location where Native leaders made the decision to move refugees from the war from Squakeeg to the falls in what is now Gill, which could justify including the location in the ongoing study.

Committee chair David Brule mentioned some “clues” to this pos-

sibility in George Sheldon’s widely-cited 1896 history of Deerfield.

Northfield historic commission member Joe Graveline, the most vocal proponent of the council fires theory, cited evidence from the Reverend Henry White’s *Early History of New England*, published in 1841. “[Former Narragansett deputy tribal historic preservation officer] Doug Harris walked over there 15 to 20 years ago with George Nelson,” Graveline added. “They found artifacts all over the place.”

Graveline said he believed the Narragansett sachem Canonchet, who was later killed in northeastern Connecticut, may have played a key role in convincing the settlement at Squakeeg to move to the Great Falls to take advantage of fish runs and potential spring planting sites.

Brule said there had been “some

pushback” from historians about how to connect the Northfield site to the current grant, which has up to this point marked out a specific “battlefield” area ranging from present-day Gill into Greenfield and Deerfield in accordance with the criteria of the National Park Service program.

But, Graveline argued, “were it not for the decisions made [at the council fires location], there may not have been a battle at the Falls.”

Town planner Walter Ramsey said he felt the application was general enough to cover research in the council fires area. The document cites advisory board member and Nipmuc leader Liz Santana-Kiser as supporting the need for research at this location: “That’s why we’re here, to find out bits of our history.”



NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Increased State Aid, School Choice Help LES Balance Its Budget

By GEORGE BRACE

At Tuesday’s selectboard meeting, the Leverett school committee presented a draft budget for FY’23 showing an increase in town spending of between 2% and 6.44% over the current year, depending on how one looks at it. The board also reviewed recommendations from the capital planning committee on the purchase of vehicles, among other business.

The meeting began with a moment of silence for Leverett Elementary School (LES) sixth-grade student Justice Mekuria-Miller, who recently died in a swimming accident while on vacation. Town residents have set up a fundraising site to support Justice’s family at www.gofund.me/f249800f.

School committee chair Craig Cohen presented a FY’23 draft budget request totaling \$2,389,586. The proposed town appropriation towards this total was \$2,066,586, with the balance coming from grants, an early education fund, and the school choice program.

The draft budget showed an actual dollar-to-dollar increase in the town appropriation of 2.94% over FY’22, but Cohen pointed out that the comparison was skewed by the inclusion of a one-time, \$66,000 out-of-district special ed placement in the FY’22 figure used for the calculation. Excluding that one-time charge, Cohen said the real increase in the town appropriation was 6.44%. He added that an anticipated increase in state Chapter 70 aid would result in a net increase in town funding of only 2%.

Cohen said that most of the increase was dedicated to increases in salaries, and the committee had prioritized raising the pay of lower-income employees and teachers. Cohen said inflation was hitting lower-income workers harder than others, and called the need to pay a “living wage” the “right and moral thing to do.”

He also noted the need to retain teachers and staff, and pointed out that pay scales in Leverett lag behind those in Shutesbury and other towns, that there was a national trend of school staff leaving their

jobs, and that Leverett itself recently lost three paraprofessionals.

Increasing the hours of the school psychologist from a four- to a five-day work week also contributed to the increase.

Cohen lauded several changes in the school’s finances. LES’s current enrollment of 140 is the highest it’s been in 10 years, largely due to a net gain in students choosing in, and more money is therefore coming in through the school choice program. The school is also expecting an increase of over 30% in state Chapter 70 aid, to a projected total of \$390,908, due in part to a change in the way low-income status is calculated.

Vehicles, Faster

Many of the capital planning committee’s recommendations for next year involve shifts in vehicle replacement schedules requested by the highway, fire and police departments.

Highway superintendent Matt Boucher requested that a one-ton pickup truck, one of four vehicles used for plowing, be replaced in FY’23 rather than FY’25; Boucher said its subframe is rotten, and he is not sure it will make it until 2025. He suggested keeping the old one as a spare.

Selectboard chair Julie Shively replied that the department’s plan made a lot of sense, as long as it doesn’t result in “vehicle creep.”

The committee also recommended that a new brush truck be purchased for the fire department. The department’s current 1984 Chevy pickup was donated for free by the Amherst fire department, but sometimes doesn’t run. The committee determined that purchasing a new vehicle would be cheaper in the long run than trying to acquire another donated or used vehicle.

Police chief Scott Minckler requested that the town’s 2015 cruiser be replaced in FY’23 rather than FY’24 due to high mileage and idle time on the vehicle, and the desire to alter the replacement schedule so that three officers who will be attending the state’s Bridge Academy in the upcoming months don’t have to “beat on” one of the

department’s better cars.

The department currently has three cruisers of its own, plus a fourth fully subsidized by Wendell as part of the towns’ regional policing agreement.

Minckler requested a hybrid cruiser estimated to cost approximately \$60,000, and said the slightly higher up-front cost would be offset by fuel savings. He also noted the town’s commitment to being a Green Community, and said he had received positive feedback on hybrid cruisers from other towns.

Other Business

Plans to display a giant “birthday cake” on the recreation field in celebration of the town’s 250th anniversary met with concerns from the recreation committee over whether the 2,000-pound installation was an appropriate use of the field, or might interfere with other activities, or cause damage, or look “garish.”

Board member Tom Hankinson said he thought the committee was being “a little bit stringent” in questioning the move. The board supported the idea. The anniversary will take place in 2024.

The board discussed a contractor’s evaluation of the sprinkler system at LES, saying that it was in need of replacement and suggesting that the current “dry” system be replaced by a more expensive “wet” one. The evaluation was prompted by a pipe bursting several weeks ago.

Board members said the burst pipe was likely due to a mistake in a construction project, and further research and evidence was needed before hearing a proposal for a new system. Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis said the recommendation of a new system seemed “brusque and premature.”

The board responded to a complaint of an unleashed dog present on the skating area of Leverett Pond with the suggestion that signs could be put up by private parties reminding residents of the town policy that dogs must be leashed or under verbal control.

The board approved the construction of a small patio area at the Leverett Village Co-op to be used for outdoor dining.

AT LARGE from page A1

stadium,” laughed Schupmann, a longtime member of the New Hampshire Baseball Umpires Association.

Vivian looked at the bright side, which was, “Go to the beach, eat too much, and I’m big into architecture so we’re going to Lakeland to look at the Frank Lloyd Wright buildings at Florida Southern University.”

A day trip to Lakeland to look at architecture? Gordon would have preferred watching a Tigers game at Joker Marchant Stadium.

Alas, the grand old game is on hold until the owners and players can come to terms on a new collective bargaining agreement. On Tuesday inside the hallowed halls of (car dealer) Roger Dean Stadium, the players unilaterally rejected the owners’ “best and final offer.”

Consequently the first six games of the regular season have been canceled, which for Red Sox fans means two three-game series against AL East foes Tampa Bay and Baltimore that were to be played from March 31 to April 6.

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“I’m really disappointed we didn’t make an agreement,” said MLB commissioner Rob Manfred. Sports pages from Florida to Boston ran a photo of him grimacing, his head lowered at the podium.

Both parties are in a cooling off period and talks will likely resume next week in New York City.

“The reason we are not playing is simple,” said players’ union chief Tony Clark. “A lockout is the ultimate economic weapon.”

“This isn’t millionaires vs. billionaires,” tweeted LA Dodgers pitcher Walker Buehler, “It’s workers versus owners.”

Maybe so, but with Russian tyrant Vladimir Putin behaving like Alexander the Great in Ukraine, the public is giving both sides short shrift. Indeed, there are more important issues than how much adults get paid to play a kid’s game.

“My friends, the people I’m talking to, nobody’s talking about this,” former Red Sox shortstop Rico Petrocelli said on his SiriusXM radio show.

Baseball observers thought Manfred would be a welcome change when he was anointed commissioner eight years ago. His predecessor Bud Selig was a mon-

ey-hungry overlord who tacitly approved steroid use until the public outcry became overwhelming.

Fans and players should have been wary, because Manfred is an attorney who’s worked on the owners’ side of collective bargaining since 1989.

As usual in labor disputes, what needs to be done is carve up the money pie in a way that makes both sides happy.

“Luxury tax” is a fancy word for the salary cap. Owners claim it keeps lower-market teams on a balanced playing field, but it also keeps player salaries in check. The penalty for going over is 20%, and players want the threshold raised from \$210 million to \$235 million.

This is how it will likely shake down. Players will agree to increase the number of teams that make the postseason to 14, which would create revenue to raise the tax threshold.

Critics argue this would water down the integrity of the 162-game regular season, but it’s also a way to give the game’s marquee players national exposure. “Mario Soto, Bryce Harper, both Cy Young winners [Robbie Ray and Corbin Burnes] did not play one playoff game in 2021,” said ESPN analyst Eduardo Pérez. “Marcus Semien, Mike Trout, Shohei Ohtani – we need to get those guys out there.”

Roger Dean Stadium was anything but welcoming to visitors on Wednesday. Asked when she expected exhibition games to start, one ticket rep said, “I can’t comment. It’s not my place.”

The souvenir shop was open but only two customers were in the store. When I asked an employee if I could take a photo inside Roger Dean Stadium he shook his head. “Everything has to go through Mike Bauer,” he said, referring to the stadium general manager.

“Everything?”

“Everything.”

“I’ll bet he’ll let me buy one of those \$108 Cardinals shirts,” I said, and the two customers laughed.

Back outside, the Schupmanns posed for a photo. “Maybe we should look glum,” chuckled Vivian.

“Obviously we’re bummed,” said her husband.

Chip Ainsworth, local freelancer, has pen, does travel. He lives in Northfield normally.



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Cannabis entrepreneur Greg Faiziev (right) and town administrator Ray Purington (left) discuss Faiziev's plans to sell pot in Gill. HIGGINS PHOTO

GILL from page A1

originally been pulled from E&D to help balance the budget, but then the state determined that the E&D account exceeded its cap, coming in at 5.87%. Kaubris then increased the E&D credit line to \$661,658 to bring the account back under the cap, further reducing the towns' assessments by an average of 1.2%.

Kaubris said FCTS's projected enrollment for FY'23 includes 19 students from Gill, and 106 from Montague.

Gill's assessment is now projected at \$230,742, and Montague's at \$1,003,999. The school's total capital assessment across all member towns is projected at \$205,920, of which \$4,625 would be assessed to Gill and \$25,567 to Montague.

Other changes included a \$50,000 increase from non-member towns' tuition due to an expected increase of approximately 30 out-of-district students.

Host Community

Greg Faiziev, owner of Leaf Joy, LLC, a cannabis retail shop currently in its licensing process, attended Gill's selectboard to introduce himself and finalize the Host Community Agreement. The shop will be located at the intersection of Route 2 and Main Road in the former Green River Powersports building.

A seemingly soft-spoken man, Faiziev said he was there to represent Leaf Joy, and asked how to begin. "I'm getting a little bit nervous over here in such an environment," he said.

"Don't be nervous, you are amongst friends," offered selectboard member Randy Crochier. "We are just friends that you have not met yet."

Faiziev told the board that he currently lives in New York, but that he and his family are considering relocating to the area once the business is established. Faiziev said that he has worked in real estate with his father since 2015, and learned about the cannabis industry a few years ago and decided to start his own business.

"We have big hopes with this business," he told the selectboard, "and we have a great team that is putting this together. Hopefully we will go on together for a long time."

Leaf Joy attorney James McMahon told the board the company hopes to open before the end of the year, but that there were several more steps that "COVID-19 conditions and supply lines" could inter-

fere with. "What used to take eight weeks could now take eight weeks – or 80," he said.

Other Weeds

"We have an invasive plant issue," cemetery commission chair Joan Pillsbury told the board. The commission requested the meeting for help dealing with bittersweet and other plants growing over the fencing that separates the Center Cemetery and the Slate Memorial Library, as well as at other town cemeteries. The commission also sought clarification on who is responsible for any removal costs and maintenance.

"We did not feel like we could figure out a solution that we were either authorized to do, or financially able to do," said commission member Gary Bourbeau. He said the fencing is on the library's land, making it a town issue.

A tree is also pushing into the fencing from the library's side, Pillsbury told the board. She said she had spoken with library trustees chair Megan Bathory-Peeler, who agreed to the removal of plants and trees from the fenced area.

Pillsbury added that the invasive bittersweet plant is a concerning issue at the town's other cemeteries too, and that if the plants are uprooted, they need to be burned to thoroughly dispose of them.

Suggestions on dealing with the overgrowth ranged from whether to remove or partially remove the fencing, to requesting community service through the Sheriff's office for the removal work.

When removing all the fencing was suggested, commission member Shirley Flagg said she felt that the cemeteries need fences. "Where there are cows, it might keep the cows out," she said, "and it helps keep the boundaries defined."

Selectboard chair Greg Snedeker suggested that the board take on the issue, and consult the finance committee. Pillsbury said she would coordinate with the Sheriff's office about the community service program.

Deficit Spending

Town administrator Ray Purington told the board that highway superintendent John Miner "projected out his snow and ice budgets for this year, and it is looking very close to using all of the money, and then some." Purington was unanimously approved to authorize deficit spending in the current year's snow and ice budget if necessary.

He added that if the town does have deficit spending, and no means of closing the deficit are found, then the FY'23 tax rate would need to increase. "I am not anticipating that happening," said Purington. "This is the first time in at least 12 years that we even had this conversation of *maybe* deficit spending."

"A big part of that is that unexpected expense of \$20,000 for a sander," said Crochier. The department's new dump truck has not yet been delivered, necessitating the purchase of a sander this winter.

Purington agreed, and pointed to supply and fuel prices increases as well as freeze-and-thaw cycles requiring more salt and sand on the town's roads these days.

Four Winds School

The Four Winds School lease in the Riverside municipal building will be reviewed by the selectboard before its renewal, which is due September 1. Purington told the board that the rent and utility costs need to be examined, and he will ask school co-directors Becca Danielsen and Hattie Adastra for their feedback.

The building's new mini-split heating and cooling system has been operating for over a year, and Purington said that those costs will be reviewed to determine a "fair split between the town and the tenant." The building also houses the town historical commission and its museum, as well as the water district's office space.

In Four Winds School's current lease, costs above \$8,252 yearly for heat and electricity are paid by the school. The school's current rent is \$675 per 10 students enrolled, with another \$40 for each additional student up to their maximum enrollment of 22 students, with rent capped at \$1,155 per month.

Purington explained that the current agreement "dates back to previous economic conditions," during 2007 and 2008, when the school had requested help from the town to continue operating at the building.

Other Business

The selectboard approved a new multi-year contract with the state Department of Environment Protection for its Sustainable Materials Recovery Program grant. Purington said Gill will receive "around \$4,200" this year. The town usually spends the funds on recycling bins, recycled paper, and other items or events within the grant's scope.

ERVING from page A1

Little said forgiveness of the entire overage would allow her to fund the match from her current budget without raising sewer rates in Montague.

"It needs a robust looking into," Little said. She said the project should start by April, in order to measure I&I during a wet season.

"Every town has its I&I issues," said finance committee member Daniel Hammock. "Why take our money to pay for Montague's issues?"

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith observed that Erving has had costs and issues caused by the excess water volume during rain events. "We have gifted, forgave, whatever word you want to use, overage costs in the past," he said, noting that before Little became superintendent, about half of the 2018 overage had been forgiven for the purpose of investigating I&I sources.

"Last time we forgave a substantial amount," agreed selectboard member Scott Bastarache. "It's a little off-putting to be asked to forgive the debt again." Bastarache added that the debt waiver occurred before Little became superintendent.

"This is not the first time we have come to the aid of Montague, and we're being asked to do it again," said member William Bembury. "I just question, how long do we continue to be a good neighbor... At some point, Montague has to step up to the plate."

**"At some point,
Montague has to step
up to the plate."
– William Bembury,
Erving selectboard**

"I would hate to have to cut the project, Little told the board. "It needs to be addressed." She said that \$39,000 remained of the amount forgiven in 2018, but she hoped to keep it as a "contingency" to make sure the work to prevent I&I would be done.

"That is not contingency, Jacob Smith replied. "That's Millers Falls improvement money... That's Erving's money, and should be used for Millers Falls, for the flow they give Erving."

"If this is not the solution, we need to meet with the Montague sewer commissioners to find a solution sooner rather than later," commented Bryan Smith.

Asked about the cost of the Millers Falls I&I investigation, Little said it was \$75,000.

Board members voted to defer \$25,000 of the 2021 overage costs, arriving at that figure by taking the \$75,000 estimate and subtracting the \$39,000 from the 2018 waiver and \$12,000 extra available in Little's overage budget. The deferral will be contingent on an agreement between the Montague sewer commissioners and both selectboards regarding repayment during FY'23.

"Not forgiving it," Bastarache said. "Deferring it."

In separate news, Erving wastewater superintendent Peter Sanders reported that he had received an \$85,500 federal grant to develop an "asset management plan" for his department, a requirement of the permits for the town's three treatment plants. The plan will include inventorying assets, GIS mapping, expanding the asset database, and developing preventive maintenance schedules.

finance schedules.

The grant requires a town contribution of \$33,400, which will come from wastewater retained earnings, plus \$23,600 in in-kind services from town employees.

Town Mask Mandate

Citing current Centers for Disease Control and state Department of Public Health recommendations, the board rescinded the requirement for wearing masks in town buildings and shared town vehicles for people vaccinated against COVID-19. Unvaccinated people will still be required to wear masks.

Police chief Robert Holst argued that retaining the mask mandate for unvaccinated people did not make sense, because vaccinated people are also able to contract and spread the virus. He said the policy singles out unvaccinated people.

"If we had 100% vaccination, we wouldn't be talking about this," said Bembury. "Unvaccinated people put us all at risk."

Trends in Policing

Holst asked for, and received, the board's support in applying for a \$200,000 Police Regional Co-Responder Jail Diversion grant from the state Department of Mental Health (DMH). The grant would fund a 40-hour per week mental health clinician to accompany officers responding to individuals in crisis. According to the DMH website, the goal of jail diversion is "to reduce or eliminate the time people with mental and substance abuse disorders spend incarcerated and criminal charges by redirecting them from the criminal justice system to community-based treatment and supports."

Holst said the clinician would be based at the Erving police station, but would be available to neighboring towns. He said he was still discussing the program with neighboring chiefs.

The board also approved Holst to start non-binding exploratory discussions with Gill about regional policing, as smaller towns face increased state mandates for officer training. The board appointed Bastarache as the selectboard liaison to the discussions.

"I would not favor police regionalization in any sense for the town of Erving," commented Bembury, "but I'm open to having discussions to look at all those issues."

Other Business

Jacob Smith read a letter of commendation from Holst for officer Mitchell Waldron for "outstanding police work" when he "connected evidence quickly and efficiently," leading to the arrest of a person who had broken into cars and a shed.

The selectboard, finance committee, and capital planning committee reviewed \$2.86 million in capital projects recommended by the latter committee. The projects include selective demolition of buildings at the former IP Mill, preparing a new cemetery, and Church Street bridge construction.

Proposed purchases include a John Deere tractor, a police cruiser, and a dump truck and plow; funding sources include grants, taxation, and borrowing. Voters will consider these capital expenditures at the annual town meeting in May.

On the recommendation of the planning board, the selectboard appointed Melanie Burnett to a vacant seat on that board. Her term lasts until June 30.

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MONTAGUE from page A1
go on to four-year colleges.

Martin's comments reflect a broader pattern noted by observers of higher education. "Our economy is changing faster than ever before," reads a 2020 article in *Commonwealth Magazine*, "and no part of our Commonwealth's system of public education has done a better job of keeping up with those changes than vocational-technical high schools."

The broadening of the tech school's curriculum, and its ability to maintain strong sports programs while other districts in the region have experienced cuts, have helped fuel a significant increase student enrollment, projected to be 566 students by next fall's count. Martin predicted a small decline in the next few years due to demographics, with fewer teens in the ninth-grade age bracket.

The discussion of changes in FCTS's curriculum and student base came in the context of a review of the school's budget and assessments to 19 member towns, particularly Gill and Montague. The meeting was attended by members of the Gill selectboard and the finance committees of both towns.

The FY'23 operating budget for the tech school is projected to be \$14,358,140, up approximately 6.8%, from the current year. According to Martin, the increase has primarily been driven by increased enrollment. Town assessments also include a "capital assessment," which totals \$205,920.

Once state aid and other revenue sources are subtracted this will lead to a total assessment to Montague of \$1,029,561, a decrease from the previous year, and to Gill of \$235,367, an increase of 2.6%.

Martin and Kaubris pointed out that assessments were reduced from their original estimates when excess funds from the previous year's budget exceeded the state cap of 5%, requiring that money be returned to member towns. Martin said the high balance was primarily a product of lower expenditure last year due to the pandemic.

Also on the FCTS portion of Monday's agenda was a proposal to increase the hours of its substance abuse counselor, funded from Montague cannabis revenues, which it currently shares with the Gill-Montague district. The proposal would make the position full-time and, according to director of pupil services Nathan May, Gill-Montague would make a similar request.

"We're seeing a lot more vaporizing [nicotine]," said May, noting that a full-time counselor could "streamline both services within the schools and also connect families with supports outside." He went on to say that FCTS would continue to collaborate with Gill-Montague on substance abuse issues.

Beacon Hill

A brief discussion of the latest COVID metrics, which continue to decline sharply, followed the tech school presentation, and the Montague selectboard voted to end the town's mask mandate as of midnight that night.

Ending the mandate in town buildings, which was to extend into April, required a separate vote.

In response to a request from Council on Aging director Roberta Potter to allow the senior center to request that masks be worn by unvaccinated seniors, members

agreed that this should be "recommended," but this did not appear in the final motion.

The board then met with the town's representatives in the legislature, state senator Joanne Comerford and representative Natalie Blais. Most of the discussion was taken up with "roads and bridges," and the board requested that state Chapter 90 road funding be permanently raised to from \$200 to \$300 million, and permanently indexed for inflation.

In the recent past, Montague has asked legislators to make bridge repair a separate state fund, like Chapter 90, and while this idea appeared on the "topic list," the selectboard opted instead to advocate for more transparency and public input into the decision-making process over bridges. Member Matt Lord called for "a more effective way for communities to share what our priorities are," and to "understand how those decisions are made."

Blais said she "fully supported" increasing Chapter 90 to \$300 million, and that she and Comerford were working to "raise awareness" of the need of small, bridge-dependent towns like Montague.

Blais said she supported allowing cities and towns to continue virtual and hybrid meetings, which she said have "opened the door to regional equity" in rural towns.

Blais also said she was "shocked" to hear the state Secretary of Transportation say no more money was needed for Chapter 90 because cities and towns were not spending down their allotments. "It takes multiple years" for towns to accumulate enough money "for a single roadway project," she said, and called for a "multi-year program that would allow some certainty in our communities."

With limited time left, the selectboard advocated for more funding and regulatory changes for wastewater treatment and sludge disposal; increased funding for regional transportation, including for local weekend service; funding guidelines for library renovations more appropriate for small communities; and continuing to allow hybrid public meetings and expanded outdoor seating for businesses with liquor licenses once the pandemic has ended.

On the wastewater treatment issue, Comerford complimented town administrator Steve Ellis for "alerting" legislators to the importance of this issue, noting that this led to a regional forum in Whately in 2019. She advocated expanding the state Municipal Vulnerability grant program to include wastewater treatment.

Blais said she supported allowing cities and towns to continue virtual and hybrid meetings, which she said have "opened the door to regional equity" in rural towns.

Sessions Planned to Plan Plans

Town planner Walter Ramsey brought a formidable number of updates and requests, beginning with a review of the "closeout" of the most recent Complete Streets grant project. The project has funded

sidewalk improvements on Montague Street and Turnpike Road. At Ramsey's request the board voted to authorize "up to" \$21,587 from the town's project overrun account to fund a gap in payments to Baltazar Construction LLC, the contractor. The account was established at last year's annual town meeting but had not yet been used.

The board also voted to reallocate \$52,000 in unexpended funds from the former Shared Streets Project to this Complete Streets Project, a transfer approved by the state because, in Ramsey's words, "they wanted us to spend the money."

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz acknowledged that the cost overruns may have been partly caused by the selectboard's insistence that the sidewalks be concrete.

Next Ramsey reported on the progress of the town's Comprehensive Plan. He said he has received interest from 20 residents in participating in the planning process, and has reached out to "municipal boards and community organizations to establish a liaison" to the process. "There's plenty of space for at-large type members," he said.

The first meeting will be held March 15, and Ramsey said the first phase will be "community envisioning," which could lead to funding from the state Municipal Vulnerability program. The board voted to extend this phase through June 2023.

Strathmore Creates Jobs

At Ramsey's next request, the board voted to allocate \$8,000 from the community development discretionary account to the Canal District Master Plan project to insure a "robust community engagement process." The town's goal for the area, the former factory district between the Turners Falls power canal and Connecticut River, is to attract "public and private investment to the area in a way that benefits the community," said Ramsey.

The allocation will "leverage" \$135,000 in grant funding, which will pay in part for evaluating the condition of the former Strathmore paper mill, which would be overseen by the state agency MassDevelopment.

Ramsey said the agency has hired the architectural firm Dietz and Company of Springfield to assist with the planning. "They're going to be great," he said, adding that he was "excited" a state agency feels this area is important enough to take on a leadership management role.

The board also voted to execute an agreement with MassDevelopment to administer the Master Plan.

Finally, it voted to authorize an \$83,300 grant request to the National Park Service to fund a new phase of the Great Falls Battlefield project (see article, Page A1).

The grant, the fourth round of federal funding for a project which began in 2013, would pay for archeological and primary source research on the 1676 battle and massacre at what is now called Turners Falls.

Other Business

Still more funding requests to the board were made by Brian McHugh of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, which administers the town's Community Development Block Grants.


At his request the board authorized \$684 to the Berkshire De-

sign Group for design services for the Hillcrest School playground; amended a block grant contract with the state which contained a mistake (the document dated the end of the contract as this year when it should have been 2024); awarded a contract of \$172,800 to H.M. Nunes and Sons Construction for Phase III of the Avenue A Streetscape project; and added \$41,185 to the housing rehabilitation account.

Executive assistant Wendy Bogusz, filling in for town administrator Steve Ellis, announced that the deadline for submitting articles

for the May 7 annual town meeting would be March 17.

Bogusz also requested approval of the town's 2022 Seasonal Population Increase Estimation form, which is sent to the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission. The board approved the form, which estimates that Montague's population will increase to 8,743 this summer. (The 2020 US Census reports 8,580.)

The Turners Falls power canal will be emptied for service from September 19 to 24. The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for March 7. 

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on March 1, 2012: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

A Bank Building With a Rich History of Skulduggery

Bank of America is vacating the bank building at 176 Avenue A on June 1, according to sources inside and outside the bank itself.

This particular bank building has a long history, rich in strife, that reached across the river to Gill, and once as far as Florida.

Two stalwart protesters, Maure Briggs Carrington and Garret Schenck, have been taking up a position outside the bank each afternoon, proclaiming to be "One of the 99%," much to the annoyance of bank employees.

Their placards and a sign – tacked up on a tree, only to be torn down by branch manager Patricia Friedman, on one recent occasion in a heated exchange with Briggs Carrington – urge people to withdraw their money, and call on the Justice Department to investigate Bank of America's robo-signing foreclosure practices and fee hikes which the protesters, and others like them across the country, find inimical to the pursuit of happiness by "the 99%."

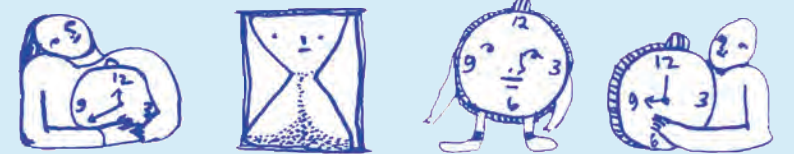
A uniformed guard, posted out front of the bank for a few days to possibly quell an insurrection from the *hoi polloi*, is gone now.

Bank tellers interviewed claimed the protests had nothing to do with the closing of the local branch. Nevertheless, the protesters feel empowered.

Skate Park Supporters Gear Up for Fund Drive

The Unity Skate Park committee of Turners Falls is hard at work on an ambitious campaign to raise up to \$138,000, to provide the town of Montague's 30% match for a hoped-for Massachusetts Parkland Acquisition and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant to construct a concrete skate park at Unity Park.

Before the committee attempts to reach that goal, they hope the overall cost of the project, now ballparked at \$460,000, can be reduced substantially in a competitive bidding process.



"My gut feeling, and we've had some confirmation, is that figure is way too high," said skate park spokesperson Brian Dolan, who told the recreation commission on Tuesday, February 28, "I'm hearing from other skate park contractors that we're looking at way too high of an estimate here."

The town's architect for the Unity Park project, Berkshire Design of Northampton, received the \$460,000 estimate from the North Carolina firm Artisan Skateparks. Dolan said he was not aware that Artisan had ever built a skatepark in the Northeast.

"A second pre-bid estimate isn't asking too much," said Dolan.

Whatever the final goal may be, the committee is determined to raise it. They got off to an unexpected early start when Hope & Olive Restaurant in Greenfield called to say there was an opening for a beneficiary at their January Soup and Games night. With this bit of serendipity, the committee raked in an early \$1,500 as seed money for their fund drive.

Will Ekstrom Stay at G-M?

The Gill-Montague school committee voted on February 14 to offer Nadine Ekstrom a three-year contract as superintendent for the district.

In a follow-up interview after the school committee meeting of February 28, Ekstrom said that since the school committee had waited so long to offer her a contract, she had felt obliged to apply to other school districts, and is being considered for a position at one of those districts at the present time.

Ekstrom said she felt she had to protect herself, because the school committee had taken so long to begin considering whether to offer her a position.

Ekstrom is currently working on a one-year contract as interim superintendent. She said time was an issue because other districts have a much earlier hiring process, and that if she waited for the committee to make a decision, she might be left without a job for next year.

Ekstrom said she would prefer to stay with the Gill-Montague district, and confirmed the Gill-Montague committee has not discussed salary with her as yet.

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SOLAR from page A1

to make it easier for homeowners to build solar," said Carlos Fontes, a member of Smart Solar Shutesbury, a citizens' group fighting a cluster of arrays proposed in the heavily forested town. "This was never meant to be a provision that would restrict the ability of towns to regulate the building of industrial solar projects."

The *Daily Hampshire Gazette* reported last March that the five arrays the Canadian-owned company Amp plans to build in the area of Pratt Corner Road would comprise the largest solar generation facility in the state. Cumulatively, they would require clearing up to 190 acres of forest. The proposed arrays are all on land owned by the W.D. Cows company, the largest landowner in Massachusetts. A Shutesbury bylaw requires projects over 15 acres to acquire a special permit, but it may run afoul of Chapter 40A.

"Shutesbury's solar zoning is so outrageously limiting that it's ineffective," W.D. Cows president Cinda Jones told the *Reporter* via email. "Reasonable zoning can direct reasonable development. Ridiculous size limitations and open space multipliers, etc. make Shutesbury's bylaw ineffectual. It cannot hold up in court."

State senator Joanne Comerford introduced a bill last November intended to break this stalemate by explicitly allowing towns to regulate solar "for purposes of preserving forested lands, wetlands, lands in agricultural use or to ensure compatibility with municipal zoning."

In a letter to the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, Comerford explained the intent of her bill. "The impact of this language is that municipalities are left without the ability to regulate large-scale ground mounted solar siting in the same way a municipality can regulate any other development," she wrote. "As a result, companies can target the cheapest land they can find for solar developments.... our natural and working lands are also crucial in our fight against climate change, and yet they are being cleared and developed to site solar installations at a rapid pace."

"The bill was unfortunately assigned to a study order, but I'll continue to push for these changes in subsequent legislative sessions," Comerford wrote to the *Reporter*.

Land Use Patterns

A Mass Audubon report found that new ground-mounted solar ar-

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rays represented roughly 6,000 acres in the state between 2012 and 2017, a quarter of all development. The non-profit estimates as much as 150,000 acres could become solar arrays in the state's effort to meet renewable energy development targets.

Thus far, significant attention has gone into the formula by which the state's solar incentive program, SMART, values different types of land use. Opponents of projects on forested land argue that trading trees for solar arrays runs counter to the state's climate change goals, and call for more studies about its net effect before development continues.

"The older the forest is, the more it does for us," said Sharon Weizenbaum, a leader of Smart Solar Shutesbury and abutter to an existing array. "Leaving forests alone is really key to helping counteract climate change."

"It's not possible to put all necessary solar on rooftops and parking lots," Jones argued in response to criticism that solar panels should instead go on previously developed land. "And it's not a practical solution if these structures could physically hold them up."

Jones pointed toward electrical distribution as a limiting factor. "It

costs millions a mile to connect solar arrays to substations," she wrote. "The solar arrays have to be nearby the substation in Shutesbury – they can't go to mall roofs in Hadley."

"They're coming with an advantage of power, and the advantage of money, and the advantage of citizens starting out not paying attention and not being organized," Fontes said, arguing that AMP's decision to site projects on forested land is based on a pursuit of "the largest profit, in the smallest amount of time."

"If we don't put solar everywhere we can practically put it, as fast as possible, our planet will continue to warm, species will continue to die, and the human race will be threatened," said Jones. "It's sweet to read well-intended, environmentally-concerned individuals suggest their layperson ideas of how to solve our climate crisis. But the solutions presented are fantastical and impractical."

A Cause Célèbre

Shutesbury residents are not the only ones wary of large solar arrays. In neighboring Wendell, town meeting voters in December renewed a yearlong moratorium on building large, non-residential ground-mount-

ed solar arrays, to give the planning board more time to draft a bylaw addressing future development.

In 2018 the town's proposed solar cooperative came to a halt after National Grid said that \$3 million in electric substation upgrades would be needed before any more solar arrays could connect to the grid.

Amherst, where another project proposed on Cows land has generated controversy, is in the process of revising its bylaws. The town council voted down an 18-month moratorium on large-scale arrays Monday night.

In Conway, a solar array built by the developer Nextamp was shut down in January after electrical problems allegedly caused loud screeching noises and power surges in neighboring homes, and in Williamsburg, Dynamic Energy Solutions LLC paid a \$1.14 million settlement last year for violating federal stormwater requirements after a 18.5-acre solar array it built was found to have damaged wetlands and polluted the Mill River.

The town of Gill is engaged in a state appellate tax board case with Kearsarge Solar, owner of an array at Northfield Mount Hermon. The company is appealing its "payment

in lieu of taxes" agreement, arguing the equipment was overvalued and should be tax-exempt under state law.

Wendell, Shutesbury, Pelham, and Buckland recently signed onto an amicus brief with the nonprofit Save the Pine Barrens in what could be a precedent-setting case regarding Massachusetts' solar siting laws.

The city of Waltham denied a special permit to a developer for an access road through a residential area to a utility-scale solar array in an adjacent town. The company, Tracer Lane II Realty LLC, appealed the city's decision in land court last March, citing Chapter 40A, Section 3, and the court ruled in its favor. The city is appealing the ruling.

"The energy industry claims utility scale solar is entitled to zoning protection because it is necessary to address the climate crisis," the amicus brief reads. "However, utility scale solar has a negative impact when improperly sited. The state's SMART program is eliminating forests, destroying wetlands, and harming agricultural lands and communities."

The case will be heard in Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court on Monday.

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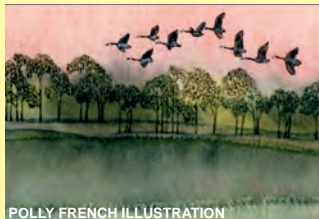


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MARCH 3, 2022



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

WINTER, BELATED

POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

By DAVID BRULE

ERVINGSIDE – The Snow Day finally happened a few days back before February drew to a close. And now we’re flying headlong into March.

That late February snowfall started at 4 a.m., as it was actually predicted, for a change. I did stir at that hour, glancing out at the whiteness in the air, but had no place to go really at 4 a.m., other than to the window to watch it come down. I went back to restless sleep. Things were going badly half a world away, and at least something familiar like a snowstorm would take mind off matters, off the looming cataclysm that would likely happen elsewhere.

By 6 a.m., bird shadows and anxious winging from railing to post down below on the deck reminded me of my responsibilities to the winter guests waiting for the food and scratch seed, coming soon, to save them from the storm. *Get up and feed us*, they seemed to say. The doves even peered into the kitchen window in a line on the railing, heads cocked to the side, expectant.

Looking out the front piazza window, the silent street was all snowed under endless trackless white. No one was going anywhere soon this morning. It was only hard bare ground yesterday, now several inches of snow had covered all. It was snowing, and it was going to snow. Dense steady flakes dropped straight down, no wind to blow them about. We’ll not be going anywhere today except perhaps to the woodshed and back. Feed and water the wild birds, then to build fires in the Glenwood C cookstove and the fireplace.

Dog is happy with me. I have to sit still, keep the fires going, stay home and tend to his entertainment. He’s got me under his

paw for the day.

Yet, my busy monkey mind is already filing up the stay-at-home time with indoors plans and work to get caught up on.

Winter storm headquarters have been set up here in the sun room, with the fireplace sending out a ruddy glow indoors while the whiteness whips around outside the window. Those windows line the south-facing wall, where green grow the summer plants spending the winter indoors: papyrus, Norfolk Island pine, banana tree, red cyclamen, even the one hundred year-old Christmas cactus now in repose from breathtaking flowering last month, all witnessing and sheltering from the snow swirl outside. It feels like we’re inside a snowglobe of a greenhouse summer scene, only the snow is outside the glass-encircled world, not within!

Tinkling notes of a Beethoven piano concerto reach here from the far parlor room. Deep in the cellar, the winter furnace comes to life to heat the distant upstairs bedrooms while downstairs, with all the fires lit, the cold withdraws from the sun room and kitchen. With this inner peace, we are far from the worst of the news of the world, and back to taking one day at a time.

Late afternoon will bring a walk through our ancestral woods, now trackless until tomorrow when squirrel, rabbit and coyote will leave overnight messages in the snow, news of goings on in the natural world outside. This evening the fiddle will get a rest; no music tonight at the Element pub upstreet. Everyone is staying home safe indoors, warm and calm in spite of all.

But that was then, way back in February, already. Now, thanks to the belated winter season, all is covered in white – just when we see **WEST ALONG** page B5

Above: Ed Gregory took this photo of the General Pierce bridge last week. “I’m near the west end of the bridge lookin’ east,” he writes. “The steel plates on the beams will serve as a temporary deck from which equipment will work to replace a series of removed beams. New beam segments will aid in supporting the sidewalk and railing along the south side of the bridge and the railing and curbing along the north side. The project is moving along nicely.” Thanks, Ed!

Stomping and its Discontents: An *Audio-Enhanced* Police Log Retrospective

Compiled by EMILY ALLING / Illustration by NINA ROSSI / Audio by GALEN HUCKINS

Friday, 5/2/14

9:30 a.m. Caller reported a dispute between herself and her housemate, who was stomping around, playing loud music, and harassing the caller. Responding officer asked the housemate to turn down music but was refused; advised the caller of options.

Monday, 1/12/15

1:02 p.m. Report of subject stomping on ice below the dam, possibly trying to make holes for ice fishing. TFFD advised the subject to get off the ice.

Tuesday, 2/17/15

12:53 p.m. Caller reports that her upstairs neighbor is stomping on the floor. Believes it is to make her “quiet down,” but she is

only baking cookies at this time. Ongoing problem. Officer spoke with both parties; they are going to attempt to work it out.

Sunday, 2/22/15

6:59 p.m. Caller complains that upstairs neighbor is stomping on floor; unsure if parties upstairs are fighting or trying to get his attention. Officer spoke with parties; the upstairs neighbor does have a two year old and was not attempting to make noise.

Thursday, 3/5/15

4:27 p.m. Caller reports loud noises and screaming coming from neighbor’s apartment. Responding officers stated that the cause of the noise was a child playing a video game, get-

ting upset, and stomping.

Friday, 1/8/16

4:48 a.m. Caller complains of noise coming from a neighboring apartment: stomping, banging, and loud voices since midnight. Caller advises this is an ongoing issue. Officer spoke to involved parties. The noise was reportedly from the pots and pans they were using to cook. Parties advised of complaint.

Wednesday, 3/8/17

10:28 p.m. Caller reports that other tenants are yelling, running, and stomping up and down the stairs and hallways. Caller believes that they are intoxicated. Second caller states that the man who stole his girlfriend’s



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credit card is now in her apartment fighting with her. Male subject reports that he did not steal the card, that the female left it at Family Dollar and that the store has called a couple of times saying that see **STOMP** page B5



MONIQUE BRULE PHOTO

Nikolai the snowdog, in his element.



Travel with Max

By Max Hartshorne

Connecticut’s Shore: Closer, and Worth Visiting

SOUTH DEERFIELD – I’ve been enjoying visits to a new set of beaches over the past few summers, after meeting a woman from Conway who has spent her weekends basking in the sun and keeping her toes in the sand of the Long Island Sound for thirty years.

But I first discovered this seaside Shangri-La in 2016, when I met a PR rep from Hilton who shared the story of a unique hotel property located smack-dab on a broad stretch of beach in the tony town of Madison, Connecticut. There has been a hotel at the site of the Madison Beach Hotel on the shore of Connecticut for more than 100 years. On the shore of the Long Island Sound, the town of Madison stands out as one of the prettiest of them all.

Tough Years

The hotel at this site has been a fixture in this town of about 19,000 residents for a long time, and when it almost went away after a series of tough years it was saved by neighbors. Ric and Dawn Duques



HARTSHORNE PHOTO

Hammonasset Beach in Madison, Connecticut.

live just a few doors down on sandy Madison Beach, and like other local residents, they were very concerned when the hotel came upon hard times.

The couple bought the property next door to their house in 2006, and after a teardown in 2009, a multimillion-dollar renovation was started in 2012. This new luxury incarnation of the iconic property

opened as a Hilton-affiliated hotel in 2015.

“Whaling ships were built here,” John Mathers, the hotel’s manager told us, as we sat at the big bar. “This was a boarding house, a run-down bar – right outside you can see the wharf where ships were launched,” he said, pointing to the wide stretch of pavement that is still there today.

see **TRAVELS** page B8

Pet of the Week



DAKIN HUMANE SOCIETY PHOTO / MIRA TEXT

RELAAAAAX

“IRIS”

Iris is a very active and explorative hamster. She is friendly and social, but as with most hamsters, she doesn't particularly like to be picked up. She loves to run on her wheel and through her tunnels.

Hamsters are nocturnal which means that they love to sleep during the day and play at night. They have poor eyesight and are easily startled, and when startled may nip, so take it slow when picking them up! They enjoy fresh grains, nuts (not

too many, please), veggies, and fruits every two to three days, in addition to plain old hamster food from the pet store. They especially love apples, carrots, spinach, and lettuce!

Interested in adopting? Animals at Dakin are available only in Springfield currently. Contact adoption staff at springfield@dakinhumane.org and include your name and phone number. For more information, call (413) 781-4000 or visit www.dakinhumane.org.

MARCH LIBRARY LISTING

Montague Public Libraries

Turners Falls: Carnegie (413) 863-3214
Montague Center (413) 367-2852
Millers Falls (413) 659-3801

Erving Public Library (413) 423-3348

Gill: Slate Library (413) 863-2591

Leverett Public Library (413) 548-9220

Northfield: Dickinson Library (413) 498-2455

Wendell Free Library (978) 544-3559

MONTAGUE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

All month: *Fine Amnesty.* March is Amnesty Month! Montague libraries are no longer charging overdue fines, and during March patrons can visit or call any MPL location to have their old fines forgiven. Does not apply to lost items, or fines from other libraries.

All month: *Community Survey.* The Montague Public Libraries Community Input Survey continues this month. We'd love to hear your feedback and ideas! Find the link at montaguepubliclibraries.org, or fill out a paper copy at any MPL location.

Multiple days: *Paws to Read.* Read to trained therapy dogs Rio or J-Lo to improve literacy skills. 1st Tuesday at Carnegie Library, 1st Wednesday at Montague Center Library, 3rd Thursday at Carnegie. Call (413) 863-3214 for details and to reserve a 15-minute spot for your child or teen. 4 to 5 p.m.

Every Wednesday: *Story Time Online.* Meet Meghan Doyle for stories, songs and a Take-and-Make craft. Craft bags available in the children's room at the Carnegie Library. Find the link at montaguepubliclibraries.org/calendar. 10 a.m.

1st Thursday: *Music & Movement Online.* Bilingual English-Spanish series for children with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson. Find the link at montaguepubliclibraries.org/calendar. 9 a.m.

Every Friday: *Baby Lapsit Online.* Join Meghan for 20 minutes of age-appropriate books, songs, rhymes, and movement. Find the link at montaguepubliclibraries.org/calendar. 10 a.m.

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

Starting March 7: *Carnegie Seed Library.* Looking to start a garden? MPL has received a large donation of vegetable, herb, and flower seeds from High Mowing Organic Seeds. Stop by the Carnegie to check out as many as you can grow!

Week of March 7: *March Take-and-Make.* Rainbow wind chime for children, mini macrame wall hanging for adults. Free kits available at all branches. While supplies last.

Wednesday, March 9: *Decluttering: Less Is More.* In this Zoom presentation, Stephanie Baird, LMHC will outline and demonstrate the steps of Marie Kondo's KonMari

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

method, provide resources on how to responsibly dispose of and sell items, and discuss the benefits of clearing one's home to clear one's mind. Call (413) 863-3214 or email librarydirector@montague-ma.gov to register. 6:30 p.m.

2nd and 4th Fridays: *Grab & Go STEAM Bags.* Hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math activities for grades K to 4. Free kits available at the Carnegie, and also Montague Center and Millers Falls when open. Each bag contains instructions and materials you may not already have. While supplies last.

ERVING FREE LIBRARY

1st Monday: *Paws to Read.* A great opportunity for reluctant readers to read with a therapy dog. Grab a book and sit down to enjoy a nice session of petting and reading. Call (413) 423-3348 to reserve a spot. 4 to 6 p.m.

Every Wednesday: *Story Time.* Special story time with Mother Goose on the Loose, from March 9 to April 6. Call ahead to check on this program as it may be online. (413) 423-3348. 10:30 a.m.

LEVERETT LIBRARY

All March: *Monthly Spice Tasting: Sumac.* Stop in for a sample and suggested recipes. While supplies last.

All March: *Story Walks.* Every Thursday the Community Network for Children puts up a new Story Walk on the trail behind the library. Enjoy a seasonal story and get outside with your family!

Every Monday and Wednesday: *Online Qigong.* Dvora Eisenstein teaches this ancient Chinese health care system integrating slow movements, breathing techniques, and focused attention. More info on the leverettlibrary.org calendar, or email CommunityQigong@gmail.com. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

2nd Monday: *Ukulele Strum-Along on Zoom.* Join Julie Stepanak to play and sing – all instruments welcome. Chords and lyrics included. Brought to you by the Friends of the Leverett Library. For more details: julie@musicjulie.com. 7 to 8 p.m.

Wednesday, March 23: *Meet a Fire Truck and Rescue Vehicle.* The Fire Department will bring two trucks and talk about what

they do at work. Bring your kids for stories and a chance to meet firefighters and their tools in person. Outside. 1:30 p.m. (Rain date: March 24 at 4 p.m.)

NORTHFIELD: DICKINSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Every Tuesday: *Story Hour.* Music and stories for toddlers, preschoolers, older siblings and caregivers. Preregistration required. Contact Deb Wood for more info: woodd@pvrsdk12.org. Online. 10 a.m.

Every Tuesday: *Drop-in Knitting.* Join fellow knitters and crocheters for an afternoon of chatting, sharing projects, and (maybe) getting some work done on your current projects. We meet at the community table on the main floor of the library. All are welcome! 6 to 8 p.m.

Every Friday: *Kids' Fridays.* 1st Friday: LEGOs. 2nd Friday: games. 3rd Friday: show and tell. 4th Friday: movie.

1st Saturday: *Friends of the Library Puzzle Swap.* In need of a new puzzle? We have dozens of new-to-you puzzles for kids and adults. This event is free and open to all. For more info, friendsofdml01360@gmail.com. Come to the back door of the library. Masks required. 10 to 11:30 a.m.

2nd Wednesday: *Readings: Nonfiction, Fiction, and Poetry.* Book for March 9: *Too Late the Phalarope*, by Alan Paton. For more info, email dmemlib@gmail.com. 3 p.m.

2nd Thursday: *Environmental Awareness Group.* Book for March 10: *Ministry for the Future*, by Kim Stanley Robinson. For more info, email dmemlib@gmail.com. 6:30 p.m.

3rd Tuesday: *Friends of the Library.* 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 16: *Lawns into Meadows.* In this Zoom program, local landscape designer Owen Wormser teaches how to turn your lawn into a meadow. More info at northfieldpubliclibrary.org/calendar. To register, email dmemlib@gmail.com. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 23: *New Normal New England Road Trip.* Join author Ted Reinstein on Zoom for a rollicking ride around New England from the comfort of your own home. More info at northfieldpubliclibrary.org/calendar. To register, email dmemlib@gmail.com. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

WENDELL FREE LIBRARY

Every Tuesday: *Art Group.* In the Herrick Room. Space limited, masks required. 5 to 6 p.m.

Senior Center Activities MARCH 7 THROUGH 11

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. Senior Health Rides are now available. Contact Jonathan von Ranson at (978) 544-3758 to set up a ride.

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch is available Tuesdays through Thursdays.

Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For more information call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Monday 3/7

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting & Needlecrafts Circle

Tuesday 3/8

12 p.m. Tuesday Morning Knitters
1 p.m. Chair Yoga
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 3/9

Foot Clinic by appointment
1 p.m. Bingo
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 3/10

1 p.m. Cards & Games
Friday 3/11

11 a.m. Chair Exercise

ERVING

Erving Senior Center is open 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Open for cards, coffee, and snacks daily. Exercise classes will be limited to 15 people per class.

No lunch will be served. We will continue with Brown Bag the first Thursday of each month. Foot Clinic is on the second Monday of each month and the first Wednesday of each month we will hold Veterans Services. For any questions or concerns, please call Paula at (413) 423-3649.

Monday 3/7

9 a.m. Re-Store & Re-Emerge
10 a.m. New class coming soon

Tuesday 3/8

9 a.m. Good for YOU

10 a.m. Line Dancing

Wednesday 3/9

9 a.m. Strength & Conditioning

10 a.m. New Chair Yoga

12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 3/10

9 a.m. Re-Store & Re-Emerge

10 a.m. Stretch & Balance

Friday 3/11

9 a.m. Open Sew Quilting

LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held on Zoom on Wednesdays. For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

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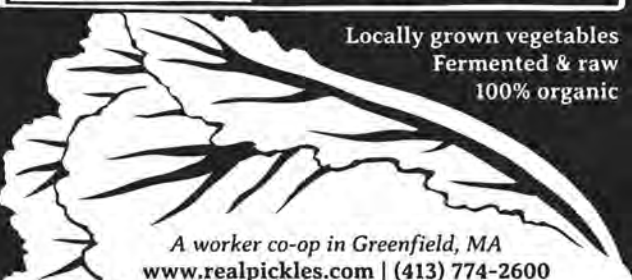


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FILM REVIEW

Attica (2021, dir. Stanley Nelson, Jr.)



By BRIAN ZAYATZ

WENDELL – In February I was able to catch Stanley Nelson’s new documentary *Attica*, produced by Showtime, while it was available for free on YouTube during Black History Month. For those unfamiliar with the event that the title references, the film takes an in-depth look at the largest prison uprising in US history, which took place in Attica, New York in 1971. By the time it was over, 43 people were ultimately killed: by the film’s count, only one by the rebels; the rest, including ten hostages, by law enforcement in a brutal attack on the prison.

The story is told compellingly by survivors of the uprising: formerly incarcerated men, black and white, as well as journalists, families of the hostages, one National Guardsman, and members of the observation committee. After the incarcerated people took over the prison, they invited journalists and other prominent members of the public to witness their radical democratic experiment and verify their humane treatment of their hostages, who were all their former captors. Because of this, the primary-source footage is bountiful, and alongside narratives woven primarily by the rebels themselves, the film creates a vivid picture of a brief moment of liberation for some of the most oppressed people on the planet.

Truly, heartbreakingly brief. After days of negotiations, President Nixon put his thumb on the scale in favor of a forceful retaking of the prison. The result was a bloodbath, and the film and its storytellers spare no details.

I would not normally recommend a movie that shows so much black death. However, in a (social) media landscape where racist brutality is often made into a spectacle unto itself, the imagery Nelson chooses to include is contextualized, leaving little opportunity for viewers to interpret the events of the film as some aberration from a civilized norm. The film is about the struggle for black freedom, and situates racist violence as a backlash against this struggle.

Nelson also gives viewers the opportunity to hear directly from the people, black and white, who participated in this struggle as it manifested at Attica, describing in detail the tactics used throughout the uprising and trusting the viewer to make their own evaluative decisions about these tactics.

What I think is so important about the last half hour of the film is that it actually shows, in excruciating detail, the material consequences of the post-Civil Rights Movement shift in racial constructs in the US led by Nixon’s Republican Party. Just as Nixon famously introduced the War on Drugs as an excuse to target blacks and hippies without explicitly doing so by law

(as detailed by an interview with his former aide, John Ehrlichman), anti-blackness became more fluid in order to evade the critiques levied by the Civil Rights Movement and institutionalized by the Democrats, but still remained the cornerstone of the racial order.

This is what we see in the film: the white victims of the government crackdown were effectively re-raced as black by their proximity to blackness in the carceral system and, as the nail in the coffin, by their participation in a multi-racial uprising. Even the victims who only participated by accident, i.e. as hostages, were re-raced in this way, the only way that mattered, by the bullet. This new mode of anti-blackness is one with more “collateral damage” than ever.

At this point in the film we also hear from the white families of the hostages killed by state police in the crackdown. Emotional as it is, we also know by now that the fathers and husbands they mourned were undoubtedly of a kind with their fellow prison guards, who inflicted absolutely brutal violence against the prisoners upon their return.

I can’t think of a film in which I have seen it more viscerally illustrated that black death – even when inflicted against the non-black – is a condition of possibility for the white family, and American society writ large. *Attica*, New York would have been nothing without the prison, and the white men shown lovingly in grainy baseball-and-apple-pie home video clips enacted racial terror while on the clock akin to that of slave drivers.

This of course raises the question of whether the guards killed – again, only one by the prisoners, during the initial skirmish – deserved their fate. Crucially, the film does not give us an answer, though I’m certain none of the interviewees would have said so. What is illustrated, however, is Robin D.G. Kelley’s point that black people have historically conceived of freedom and power in ways that are not only radically different from the white power structure, but entirely incomprehensible to it, and that “law and order” has absolutely nothing to do with justice.

I was left thinking about the phrase, “kill a fascist, save a life.” If the prisoners had been more willing to use violence, would they have had more success, or less? Did the surviving hostages go back to their jobs as guards and inflict more brutality on their former captors? Will the left ever be able to build a world where all may live with dignity if we are so adamant about not becoming like our oppressors? For now, probably only for a few days at a time, like the men of Attica. Is that in itself worth something?

Nelson seems to answer: *it is, if we remember it.*

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Third Shift Music Controversy Mounts; Shed Lock Cut; Bunch Of People Do Stupid Things Behind the Wheel

Monday, 2/21

7:13 a.m. Caller from Avenue A reports being threatened by an unknown male who told him that if he ever sees him again he will beat him. Caller would like info logged.

9:21 am. Report of hypodermic needle on the ground near a tree stump on Tenth Street. Item retrieved for disposal.

10:49 a.m. 911 caller reporting pedestrian struck by vehicle at Route 2 and Main Road in Gill. Transferred to Shelburne Control.

11:58 a.m. Report of deceased cat in road on Bridge Street. Message left for DPW.

12:48 p.m. 911 caller from Turners Falls Road reports that a female in a blue SUV just struck a post when attempting to pull into her driveway. She backed up a few times and kept striking the post. Officer requesting AMR. Shelburne Control contacted Tow requested.

5:21 p.m. Control advises they received a call regarding a dead cat in the roadway on Crescent Street near Bridge and youths are putting cigarette butts in its mouth. Referred to an officer.

Tuesday, 2/22

1:20 a.m. 911 caller from Ce Ce’s Restaurant states that someone just came and painted his door then took off. Officers checked downtown area; nothing found at this time.

1:28 a.m. Caller from East Main Street states he had some packages stolen after delivery and Amazon advised him to report it when it happens; just wants it on file at this point.

4:10 a.m. Caller states that loud music is coming from Hillside Plastics; states he has spoken to the people on site and has also called the head manager, and nothing is happening. Officer spoke with employees at the location; they didn’t realize there was an issue, and thought they had turned the music down, but will turn it down even more.

10:42 a.m. Caller from Rod Shop Road states that sometime in the last few days, somebody came into his yard and cut the lock to his shed. Officer followed up. No items were taken. Caller requesting extra patrols on the overnight.

12:14 p.m. Animal control officer advising that he was informed of a dog biting another dog on Turners Falls Road. ACO following up with owners.

1:28 p.m. Multiple callers reporting a fight among multiple juveniles and adults in the Third Street alleyway. Officer located involved juvenile on Second Street. Involved parties advised of options.

They are going to stay away from each other for the rest of the day.

3:36 p.m. Caller states she was following a vehicle across the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge and it was attempting to run people off the road; almost struck a couple of pedestrians, and driver had his arm out the window flipping people off with what looks like an alcohol bottle in hand. While on phone, car took a left onto Route 2. Info given to Greenfield PD and Shelburne Control.

7:41 p.m. Caller states that Turners Falls Road is flooded, possibly due to a blocked sewer pipe. Caller also states his front yard is flooded and he thinks sewer is also. Caller states he tried to call DPW but could not find an after hours number. Officer requesting DPW be notified; road is passable at this time but will completely flood soon. DPW foreman notified; will be en route.

Wednesday, 2/23

12:56 p.m. Caller, who refused to give her name, reporting that a red Jeep Cherokee was “road raging” at her while it was behind her. She pulled over and the vehicle sped past her and then kept hitting his brakes. The vehicle turned off just before crossing the bridge over the railroad tracks in Millers Falls. Caller gave a plate number which came back to a resident in Millers Falls. Officer spoke to driver of vehicle at home and advised him of the complaint. Party had no idea that this occurred.

1:11 p.m. 911 caller reporting car into guardrails on Highland Circle; driver has some facial injuries. Tow requested. Operator transported to hospital for evaluation.

2:44 p.m. 911 caller from Unity Park reporting that the vehicle next to her truck hit her truck with their door and damaged it. Minor damage. Officer assisted with information exchange.

5:17 p.m. Caller states that a male has been harassing

people in the downtown area, begging for money and going through ashtrays. Male party not in area at this time.

10:48 p.m. Caller states that there is someone in a pickup truck at the high school, ripping it up in the field. Truck took off towards Millers Falls Road with another car following. Unable to locate vehicle; unable to see if there is any damage in the dark. Will follow up in the morning.

Thursday, 2/24

11:17 a.m. Walk-in would like to speak to an officer about the ongoing noise issues at night coming from Hillside Plastics, which is across the street from his home. He has made multiple complaints, but the issue has gone unresolved. Advised to call when the noise is happening so an officer can observe from the party’s home and try to determine where the noise is coming from.

3:59 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reporting that when he got home he noticed that his girlfriend’s W-2 was sticking out of the mailbox and had been opened; concerned someone might have taken a picture to try to use it. Advised of options.

8:04 p.m. Caller from Unity Street reporting suspicious vehicle parked outside of her house. Operator of vehicle called asking if it was OK that he was parked on the side of the street. Advised that it was OK as long as he wasn’t a hazard and wasn’t blocking a driveway. Male party came to the station to speak with a supervisor. Party unsatisfied with conversation with officer; stated on his way out that “you should be shot in the head.”

9:06 p.m. Caller reporting loud music coming from Hillside Plastics. Officer advises that no music can be heard in area.

11:05 p.m. Shelburne Control requesting MPD check area of Turners Falls-Gill Bridge for a male party who has reportedly made suicidal statements. Officer out with involved party on

Avenue A. Contacted CSO; awaiting call back. Officer advises involved male is currently with friends and seems to be OK; assured officer he would be OK; will be staying with a friend for the night.

Friday, 2/25

8:57 a.m. Maintenance worker advising that one of their plow trucks struck the Newt Guilbault Little League storage shed, causing damage. Little League representatives notified. Report taken.

8:42 p.m. Caller reporting that her boyfriend’s vehicle is stuck in a snowbank near the Tech School. They were turning and slid and now they can’t get it out. Officer advises vehicle is not damaged; the parents showed up, and they were going to get their own towing.

Saturday, 2/26

1:04 a.m. Caller from Avenue C reporting natural gas odor. Transferred to Shelburne Control.

11 a.m. Report of fire behind Mark’s Auto on Federal Street. Shelburne Control notified.

11:17 a.m. Report of mattress and box spring in travel lane on Turners Falls Road. Unable to locate.

12:04 p.m. Two dogs stuck in the water off Migratory Way. Shelburne Control notified. Officer reports dogs are out of water and have been returned to the owner.

2:14 p.m. Disabled postal truck on Federal Street will be towed within the hour.

Sunday, 2/27

12:23 a.m. Caller states she slid on the snow on Grout Circle and slid into a tree. Tree is now blocking road. Airbag deployed. Caller states she is uninjured but is not able to move vehicle at this time. Tow requested.

3:39 a.m. Caller states he has been up since midnight and they have been pounding [the music] at Hillside Plastics since then. Some bass could be heard. Officer spoke with employees, who said they will turn it down.

Montague Community Television News

More Music & Meetings

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – There is a new Montague finance committee meeting to view on the MCTV Vimeo page, as well as new selectboard meetings from Gill and Montague.

And if that’s not fun enough, we also have a live set from “The Big Yuki Trio,” a NYC-based band who performed at the Barbès in the Woods Festival this past August.

All MCTV videos are available on our Vimeo page, which can be found linked to the website, montaguetelevision.org,

under the tab “Videos.” All community members are welcome to submit their videos to be aired on Channel 17, as well as featured on the Vimeo page.

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

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 infomontaguetelevision@gmail.com.

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Sex Matters

a sex-positive health column

by STEPHANIE BAIRD

NORTHAMPTON – For spring fever and – hopefully – post-Omicron-surge March, let’s look at monogamy and infidelity.

Over the years as a psychotherapist, I have had many clients seek therapy due to the aftermath of an affair. The intense betrayal and devastating havoc inflicted by this type of up-close and personal behavior is sometimes the very first reason a person comes to a therapist’s office. Many of my clients have benefited from receiving EMDR Therapy, normally a therapy reserved for treating trauma, in helping them heal from the fallout, which tells you how severely an affair can impact someone.

First, let’s discuss different types of affairs. The image that comes to mind is something sexually physical happening between people who are committed to other partners. These are the images of co-workers making out or having sex with each other in their cars during their lunch break or on business trips, then returning to their married or monogamous domestic partners at night.

We can also add emotional affairs to the mix. This is a relatively modern addition, and marks a progression into more nuanced territory. I feel like movies and books of yesteryear made a clear distinction that an affair only happened if something physical occurred between the two people. If lips got within one centimeter, but never kissed, then they could absolutely deny being part of an affair.

However, in our collective progression into attending to and understanding emotions (thanks to us Gen Xers and Millennials – you are welcome), we now understand that emotional intimacy with someone other than one’s proclaimed partner might be cause for concern. In other words, baring your soul to your work-spouse day-in and day-out may eventually supplant the emotional bond with your actual spouse, if you are not careful with boundaries. Our modern need for our primary relationship to meet all our needs (best friend, lover, co-parent, support person, hobby partner) may also have helped contribute to this more recent phenomenon.

Digital living and communicating have also provided us with a third common type of infidelity: the digital affair. This is an interesting category because nothing physical may ever occur between the two individuals, including nev-

er even hearing each other’s voices, yet now they have been charged with having a digital affair due to content they were writing or sharing with each other.

I have had a few clients in recent years express great distress over discovering a partner’s steamy Facebook or Reddit messages with a random person or a previous acquaintance, to the point that we targeted these disturbances with EMDR Therapy.

Some additional types of affairs include 1) one-night stand; 2) distraction affairs, used to distract from a professional or health problem; 3) “double-life” affairs, where a partner develops a full emotional, sexual, and physical relationship with another person; and 4) out-of-control sexual behaviors, when a partner feels compelled and has persistent urges to interact sexually with new people, over and over. The out-of-control person may frequent strip bars, sex workers, or internet sex, and not consider any of this behavior cheating, especially if no emotion is involved.

Most affairs simply end and do not result in new marriages between the two people cheating together.

Because of the many possible affair types and nuances now available, it is important for stated monogamous partners to discuss the parameters of their monogamy from time to time, like an annual relationship definition and evaluation. Two people can often have very different ideas of what monogamy entails, so this can help avoid the tears that can arise from unspoken assumptions.

Esther Perel, couples sex and relationship guru, has a lot to say about affairs and modern monogamy. I often point my clients to her classic books *Mating in Captivity: Unlocking Erotic Intelligence* (2017) and *The State of Affairs: Rethinking Infidelity* (2018), and her 2015 TED Talk “Rethinking Infidelity: A Talk for Anyone Who has Ever Loved.”

In her TED Talk, Perel explicitly mentions that the definition of cheating keeps expanding, and is quite variable, depending on whom you speak to. She mentions that some consider staying active on dating apps, once committed, an act of cheating.

Due to this variability, global estimates range from 26% to 75% of folks cheat in monogamous relationships. Additionally, Perel mentions that “95% of us will say it’s

terribly wrong for our partner to lie about having an affair, but just about the same amount of us will say that is exactly what we would do if we were having one.”

Perel likes this definition of affairs: relationships that include 1) secrecy, 2) “emotional connection to one degree or the other,” and 3) “sexual alchemy.” She states that “infidelity is a violation of trust, a crisis of identity,” and that “affairs in the digital age are death by a thousand cuts.” Even people in open relationships might have a secretive affair.

To help explain why people commit affairs, Perel says “affairs are an expression of longing and lost... yearning for emotional connection, novelty, freedom, autonomy, sexual intensity... a wish to recapture lost parts of ourselves or an attempt to bring back lost vitality,” or to find an “antidote to death.”

Interestingly, Perel finds that the majority of couples remain together, post-affair. The advantage to this reconciliation, she says, is that the one being cheated on “no longer has to uphold the status quo that may have not been working for them either.”

It goes without saying that trust needs to be regained. This involves the “perpetrator acknowledging their wrongdoing” and taking the responsibility to “hold vigil for the relationship.” It’s the transgressor that needs to check in about the affair. The victim, meanwhile, needs to find ways to “curb the curiosity to mine for the sordid details.”

Couples therapy can help people navigate this tricky terrain, and so can trauma-focused treatment. A couples therapist can help the victim switch to investigate questions around meaning, e.g., *What were you getting out of the affair that this relationship wasn’t giving you?* Perel ultimately notes that affairs are a two-sided coin, with “hurt and betrayal on one side and growth and discovery on the other.”

If you find yourself on either side of an affair, take Perel’s advice to understand both sides of the coin.

Stephanie Baird, LMHC is an OWL Facilitator, EMDR Consultant and Psychotherapist, certified in Advancing Clinical Excellence in Sexuality (ACES), and encourages her clients towards thriving sexual health. She welcomes feedback and suggestions at sexmatters@montaguereporter.org.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Hold the Foam: Recycling Events for Styrofoam

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Franklin County Solid Waste District is collaborating with residents from Northfield and Montague to hold special recycling collections for Styrofoam blocks and sheets. The collections will take place on the first four Saturdays in April from 9 a.m. to noon. The dates are April 2, 9, 16, and 23. This pilot collection is only open to residents of Northfield and Montague. Pre-registration is not required for this free collection.

The only materials accepted at these special recycling events are “Styrofoam,” or expanded polystyrene foam (EPS or PS #6) blocks and sheets; rigid flat foam packaging sheets (#4 LDPE); and foam insulation board (XPS). In order to meet these specifications, volunteers at the two collection sites will review the materials that each resident brings.

These collections will *not* accept food-related items such as cups, plates, bowls, trays, clamshells, egg cartons, packing peanuts, or wet or dirty materials. There are no recycling options for these materials. (The UPS Store in Greenfield accepts clean, dry packing peanuts for reuse.)

On the first four Saturday mornings in April from 9 a.m. to noon, Northfield residents (and only North-

field residents) may bring materials to 105 Main Street, the location of the Deerfield Valley Art Association and Community Bible Church. The Northfield drop off will be behind the building in the parking area; look for a “MiBox” storage pod. Resident Annie Chappell is organizing the Northfield collection.

On the same four mornings in April, also from 9 a.m. to noon, any resident of Montague, including Turners Falls, may bring materials to the Montague Transfer Station, 11 Sandy Lane, Turners Falls. Members of Drawdown Montague, a citizen action group, will be volunteering for this special collection.

Please note that Styrofoam, EPS, and other foams are *not* accepted in household recycling in Massachusetts.

Foam blocks and sheets collected at these events will be recycled at Gold Circuit E-Cycling in Palmer. Visit their website, www.recycleyourfoam.com, for pictures of acceptable materials.

For more information, contact the District office at info@franklin-countywastedistrict.org or (413) 772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1 (800) 439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.

A Letter to the World 3



Bestie the Gnome continues her exploration of outdoor spaces we all know and love.

She and her friends look forward to signs of spring.

Do you recognize any of these locations?

Answers in an upcoming issue...

6

Last Week's Locations:

4: The Bell Tower at Lake Pleasant

5: In the planter by the Shea Theater, Turners Falls, looking across to the northwest side of Avenue A.

7

PHOTOS AND GNOME BY JAN ATAMIAN

we've still got tote bags!



These sturdy, black, 100% recycled cotton, fifteen-inch-square bags feature Emma and Charlotte Kohlmann’s popular t-shirt design. Bags are in limited supply, and will be offered in appreciation of a sliding-scale donation of \$15 to \$30. For local pickup at 177 Avenue A only, order now at www.montaguereporter.org.

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WEST ALONG from page B1 were reconciled to winter's end, tempted to be looking forward to spring.

In fact, the spring migrant re-winged blackbirds showed up exactly at their appointed time. February 18 has been their estimated arrival time from year to year, and they have turned up in the yard by that date every late winter since I began keeping records as a kid. Give or take a day or two, you can count on the redwings. The males with their scarlet epaulettes show up first, to stake out the best territory over in the marsh. In a few weeks the females will come, and

then the courting will begin.

A pair of hooded mergansers, dandified male and demure female, has taken up fishing in the rapids of our river, just the other side of the pasture-turned-to-woodlands. So, in spite of the capricious weather, the inevitable change continues the circle game of seasons.

The snow will linger just a little while if the fickle weather patterns continue. No use fretting about it. Instead it's high time to strap on the skis and head out to the ancient trail along the river past the French King Rock, and loop up to Northfield Farms, ahead of mud time. Ahead of the thaw.



EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Gorgeous Gorgeous Gardens of New England

NEW SALEM – Sit back and enjoy a delightful visual tour of some of the most gorgeous gardens in New England in a Zoom program hosted by the New Salem Public Library this Friday, March 4 at 7 p.m..

This lively and informative presentation features a colorful slide show of some of photographer Joanne Pearson's favorite public and private gardens in the region.

During the presentation, Pearson will also share the history of the gardens and some valuable tips on garden design, plus some techniques for photographing flowers and gardens.

Pearson, who lives in Worcester County, has been a professional photographer for over 25 years. Prior to this she was a registered landscape architect in Massachusetts for 12 years. Pearson and her photographs have been published in calendars, magazines, and books. She presents visual programs across the region, in person and via Zoom, on gardens, garden design, and photographing gardens.

To see some of Pearson's photographs, see joannepearson.com/garden-portfolio/. To register, call the library at (978) 544-6334 or email n_salem@cwmar.org.

TV REVIEW

Fox's *Cleaning Lady*

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – *The Cleaning Lady* airs on Fox TV network at 9 p.m. on Mondays. It involves a woman from Cambodia, played by Élodie Yung, who gets into danger, and saves herself by literally cleaning up a crime. She is, after all, a cleaning lady, though she was also a doctor in her home country.

Then it turns into an arrangement with the criminals, who use the leverage of giving medical treatment to someone she cares about. A cleaning lady doesn't make a fortune, so she can't exactly turn them down. A lot of immigrants probably are in this kind of situation, so in real life, these individuals probably might not turn offers like this down.

However, things get tricky for the *Cleaning Lady*. An FBI agent, played Oliver Hudson, is investigating the criminals, and he wants her to inform on them. He used deportation as leverage at one point. He's not exactly a saint.

So, a lot of shades of grey are presented in this TV show, which might lead to a lot of ways this could go, some of which



the audience could have no clue about. Which could be why they are watching this show, and why it might get a second season.

People like suspense, I think, and *The Cleaning Lady* fits the bill just right. Besides, who wouldn't want to watch this show to see where it goes?

The series is based on another TV show out of Argentina that was called *La Chica Que Limpia*, which means "the girl who cleans" – basically another way to say "the cleaning lady."

49 episodes are now available!

Look for us on Apple/iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, Anchor, Castbox, and elsewhere...



The Montague Reporter Podcast

STOMP from page B1 they have the card. Peace restored; all should be quiet for the night.

Saturday, 6/3/17
4:16 p.m. Multiple reports of brush fire in the area of Town Hall. People have been able to stomp most of it out. Officer clear; FD wetting down a 10x10 area.

Tuesday, 11/7/17
1:22 p.m. Caller reports that the third floor tenant is stomping/jumping in his apartment, creating a disturbance. Officer spoke with the tenant, who advised he was dancing. Tenant advised of the complaint. After clearing; officer was flagged down by the caller advising that the tenant is now outside on the porch screaming. Officer observed the tenant on the porch smoking a cigarette, not screaming or stomping.

Saturday, 12/21/19
10:13 p.m. Caller states that his brother has been high all day and is causing a disturbance, yelling and stomping. Officers clear; spoke with brother, who is going to bed for the night.

Tuesday, 1/14/20
4:31 a.m. Caller thinks that the people upstairs might be having an argument; states it sounds like they are stomping and things are being thrown or broken. Caller states that they stop every fifteen minutes or so then continue and that this has been going on since approximately 11:30 last night. Officer advises that the elderly gentleman who lives in that apartment is on crutches. Man advised of complaint. Caller called back later to report that the stomping was now occurring every five minutes.

Tuesday, 1/21/20
12:18 a.m. Caller states that there is a lot of noise coming from the apartment above her; she can hear thumping, stomping, and children crying. Officer spoke with the sec-



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

ond-floor tenant, who advised she had some small kids who were running around while she was cleaning the apartment in preparation for moving. Advised that 12:30 a.m. is not the best time. Units clear. Caller called back stating noise had gotten

worse and has now woken her kids up. Officer stood in the hallway for five minutes; no noise was heard.
Thursday, 3/12/20
3:12 a.m. Caller who is trying to get to sleep states that his neighbors have been crushing pills since midnight and stomping

around causing a lot of noise. Unfounded.

Thursday, 4/16/20
2:18 p.m. Caller requesting his options re: ongoing noise from another apartment in the building; believes the person may be doing it to harass him. Noise consists of moving furniture and loud walking or stomping. Advised of options.

Wednesday, 4/29/20
11:03 a.m. Caller states the upstairs neighbors are always stomping on the floor and it is causing him mental distress. Advised of options.

Wednesday, 5/27/20
10:59 a.m. Report of male party who was stomping around and flailing his arms for approximately 15 minutes outside a gray sedan in front of the Montague Village Store. Male was not wearing a mask and believes the owner asked him to leave. Vehicle just left. Referred to an officer.

Friday, 7/10/20
8:19 p.m. Caller stated that her upstairs neighbor has a pet pig and it is making an excessive amount of stomping noises. Officer advised of complaint.

Friday, 10/30/20
2:27 a.m. Second of two calls regarding neighbor disturbance. Caller states that a male party is talking loudly on the porch and people are being loud and stomping inside the apartment. Officers spoke to the same involved parties from earlier calls. Another neighbor also came out and asked the parties to quiet down. Involved were advised of a second complaint and advised to quiet down for the night.

Saturday, 12/19/20
9:20 p.m. Report of a male party stomping around in his apartment. Caller advises she will call every day as long as he continues the noise. Officer advised. Male party was a small child; advised of complaint.

EXHIBITS

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Canal Series: Recent Paintings* by Allen Fowler. Fowler's work is "at the crossroads of abstract expressionism and form and structure." March 4 through 13, and March 23 through 30. Reception next Saturday, March 12 at 2 p.m.

Shelburne Arts Coop Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Thaw*, group show of artisan members' work focusing on a theme of warming up to spring. Through March.

Artspace, Greenfield: *A Study of Disorder: The Art of Steve Roth.* Roth is a self-taught artist who began painting in 2020 with the aim of raising awareness for both the deaf and the CMT communities. Through March.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Community Art Show*, with over 30 local artists. Through March.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Redemption*, daguerreotypes of enslaved peo-

ple re-imagined in enamel and compassion by Jennifer Davis Carey. March 3 through May 2. Reception next Saturday, March 12 at 2 p.m.

Local Art Gallery, Mill District, North Amherst: *Kamil Peters.* Peters' paintings are featured in the window gallery at this exhibit space and art supply store.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Interwoven: Words and Images*, a collaboration of six women artists. Through April 2. Reception this Thursday, March 3 at 5 p.m.; online artists' discussion and reading on Thursday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Anchor House of Artists,

Northampton: *Healing, Awakening, Resolution: Reawakening of Peter Knapp.* Knapp fills three galleries with wall and floor artwork and woodblock prints, created after a cardiac event in 2012. Through March. Reception Friday, March 11, at 6 p.m. *Deep Space and The Sun Spots*, by Charles Miller. Part three of a year-long revolving exhibition to celebrate the artist's 90th year. The paintings are primed with pop and rhythm. The exhibit will fill the museum space at this wandering venue. Through March. Reception March 11, 6 p.m. Concert with woodwinds on March 13 at 5 p.m.

Pulp Gallery, Holyoke: No. 26, sculpture and drawings by Paul Bowen with paintings and drawings by Andrew Long. Through March 6.

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FRONTIERS

Watts New in Fusion Power?

By SPENCER SHORKEY

MILLERS FALLS – Nuclear fusion research and development has been gaining a lot of steam (or should I say plasma?) in the past year, with significant milestones achieved by projects in four countries: the US, China, England, and France.

The sun, as you may know, is the gigantic faraway nuclear fusion reactor that continually bombards the solar system with light. Our planet receives about one-billionth of all the sun's light output, with about 100,000 terawatts (TW) of power reaching Earth's surface at any given moment. About 1% of this is transformed into wind currents in our atmosphere, and may be feasible in theory to harvest at least 2% of this wind power, amounting to 72 TW. The green things that cover our planet absorb less than 0.1% of sunlight, amounting to about 60 TW of power harnessed by the biosphere.

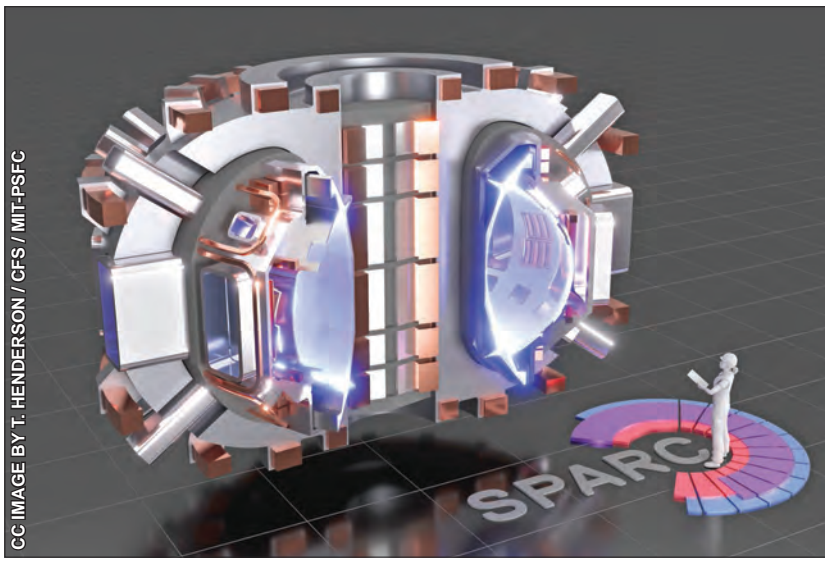
Mankind's total power utilization comes in at about 20 TW, though this comes largely from fossil fuels.

There is plenty of solar and wind power yet to be harnessed by mankind as we transition to clean energy, but a longstanding goal of advanced nations has been to directly harness nuclear fusion energy on Earth in manmade reactors. Governments and international research teams have labored for numerous decades engineering reactors capable of recreating conditions similar to in the sun, where insanely high pressures – up to 250 billion times Earth's atmosphere – and temperatures (15 million °C) create a special state of matter, called *plasma*, which is necessary to fuse small atoms into bigger atoms.

A related technology, nuclear fission, works in the opposite manner, splitting larger atoms into smaller ones. Atoms are categorized by their number of protons: hydrogen has one proton; carbon has six, aluminum has 13, gold has 79, and uranium has 92 protons. Physics works out such that atoms smaller than iron (26 protons) can generate energy by being fused *together* (nuclear fusion); atoms larger than iron yield energy when split *apart* (nuclear fission).

One kilogram (kg) of refined uranium yields 24 gigawatt-hours (GWh) of heat energy if fully reacted by nuclear fission; however, only about 45 MWh can be recovered by conventional fission reactors as electricity. Nuclear fusion of 1 kg of the hydrogen isotopes deuterium and tritium could theoretically yield up to 94 GWh, but net energy recovery of controlled fusion has not yet been achieved.

Fission reactors have been in



CC IMAGE BY T. HENDERSON / CFS / MIT-PSFC

An artist's rendering of the SPARC reactor at MIT.

commercial operation since the 1950s, while commercial fusion, according to conventional wisdom, has always been 30 years away. Conventional wisdom also tells us that it's easier to break things rather than to make things, which pretty much applies to atoms too. It is extremely challenging to generate controlled fusion conditions to begin with.

The most widely used fusion reactor design is a ringlike assembly of circular magnets designed to heat and pressurize hydrogen plasma as it traverses the loop at high speeds. These magnets require huge amounts of power to run. China's Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) reactor uses up to 7.5 MW of heating power to generate 100 million °C plasma in a 3.5-tesla (T) magnetic field.

EAST has been operational for nearly two decades, during which time significant advancements were made in the capacity of its cooling system, enabling it to hold a 70 million °C plasma for nearly 20 minutes this January. In future designs, EAST will continue to improve its cooling system, enabling it to create larger and more efficient plasmas. Though reports on how exactly EAST aims to harness the heat energy from the system are limited, its advancements in high-performance fusion thermal management bode well for that end goal.

The Joint European Torus (JET), housed in England, and the under-construction International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) in France are closely related international fusion projects. JET has run short plasma experiments, a few seconds at a time, for the past few decades, and holds the record since 1997 for closest-to-breakeven power output, having produced 16 MW of peak power using an input of 24 MW of heating power, a "Q" ratio of 0.67. Q higher than 1, a net power gain, is yet to be achieved. This year JET sustained a Q of 0.33 for five

seconds, validating the fuel composition planned for the ITER reactor.

ITER is a scaled-up version of JET, increasing the magnetic field 11.8 T and heating power to 370 MW. ITER aims to reach 150 million °C, and achieve a Q of 10, meaning a tenfold higher power output than input. ITER is slated to finish construction and begin experiments around 2025, and will cost about \$50 billion. Reactor hardware is being installed, and the reactor segments will be welded together this summer.

Though the ITER system will not be capable of turning excess heat into electricity, ITER's planned successor, the EU-DEMO, is planned to achieve a Q of 25, yielding 2,000 MW of heat energy, and would be coupled to a 790 MW steam turbine to fully realize fusion electricity generation. EU-DEMO is planned for operation in 2051, and its price tag will definitely be higher than ITER's, though cost is expected to decrease for production-scale versions.

In our own backyard is SPARC, a fusion reactor collaboration between the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Commonwealth Fusion Systems (CFS). SPARC leverages a new magnet design that is both more powerful and more efficient than that used by ITER. Using a 12.2 T magnetic field, the project plans to hit Q = 11, comparable to ITER. However, it will require much less heating power (25 MW), generate hotter plasmas (200 million °C), and be 65 times smaller in size.

SPARC plans to generate its first plasma around 2025, with plans for next-generation 200 MW reactors actually putting power on the grid by 2033. The cost of these reactors is unclear, though it would likely be less than ITER, given SPARC's high-efficiency magnets.

Nuclear fusion may be capable of gigawatt-scale power outputs, but the reactor costs may be in the tens of billions of dollars, translating to well over \$10 per watt of capacity.

MEDICINE

It's Maple Syrup Time!

By CATHERINE DODDS, MD

TURNERS FALLS – As a native of Wisconsin and a relatively recent transplant to western Massachusetts, I am delighted by the yearly cycle of maple sugaring season. Indeed, what we lack in quantity compared to, say, Quebec or Vermont, we make up in local passion about our maple products.

This got me thinking about the medical side of maple.

My next statement may seem odd to anyone not in the medical field, but for most doctors, the words "maple syrup" are as likely to make us think of a rare genetic disease as we are to think of pancakes. In medical school, we are all taught about maple syrup urine disease, even though we're unlikely to actually see it, since only around 1 in 100,000 people has this disease. Maple syrup urine disease is so named because specific genetic defects in how the body processes amino acids (the building blocks of protein) cause the urine to smell distinctively like maple syrup. An unusual and memorable symptom, indeed!

Back to the good stuff. Fundamentally, maple syrup is sugar: the raw sap less so, the hardened candies or granulated sugar more so, and syrup in the middle. But I don't want this maple-themed commentary to be a total downer about diabetes and the risks of high sugar consumption. That is common sense to everyone, and moreover would be unfair to the glory of our local maple trees and the hard work of those who tap them each winter.

The internet at large has been more interested in the potential health benefits of maple syrup than the medical community. The few scientific or medical studies that have been published about maple syrup are more to do with chemical composition analysis than medical uses. So there's a big caveat in that my comments here

are opinion, not medical evidence.

In contrast to regular table sugar, maple syrup contains varying – though generally small – amounts of several essential nutrients including manganese, potassium, calcium, zinc, magnesium, copper, thiamine (vitamin B1), riboflavin (vitamin B2), iron, and phosphorus. It also contains antioxidants, chemicals that help reduce cellular damage which have been linked to cancer prevention and immune function. Darker maple syrup is richer in antioxidants than lighter hues.

In the ongoing controversy about which sweeteners are best – or at a minimum the lesser of evils – an argument could be made that maple syrup is healthier than many of the alternatives. It has nutrients that regular white or brown sugar, generally derived from sugar cane or sugar beets, does not. It has fewer calories per volume and a lower glycemic index than both table sugar and honey.

So how best to enjoy our local maple syrup? Personally, I recently enjoyed the extra dark variety from Bergeron Sugar House, drizzling a few drops into some Vermont cheddar that was part of the sourdough bread, egg, and cheese sandwich I made for a lovely Saturday breakfast.

The key health lesson about maple syrup is that a very small amount goes a long way.

Naturally-derived sugar from maple sap is still sugar, and smothering foods in gallons of maple syrup is not going to be healthy for any of us. Those with diabetes or tooth decay would do best to avoid any added sugars, whether table sugar, honey, or maple syrup. But for the rest of us, that tiny pour of maple syrup or sprinkle of maple sugar can brighten up just about anything on our table, particularly this time of year.

Catherine Dodds, M.D.
lives in Turners Falls.

Comparatively, covering less than 2% of the Sahara desert with solar panels could yield around 20 TW of power – mankind's annual consumption. The cost of such a deployment would in theory amount to about 30 cents per watt of power capacity. And while Massachusetts has a limited supply of solar, plans to harness offshore wind supplies, estimated to cost about \$30 to \$50 million for each 13 MW-rated turbine, come out to about \$2 to \$4 per watt.

Though fusion may prove a viable technology in coming years, its full-scale implementation is likely much further out, as many known

and unknown engineering challenges remain, particularly on the side of continuous operation and harnessing of the energy. It is not safe at all to bet on fusion technology to help substantially in clean energy transitions of the coming decades, given the uncertain timeline. Reactor costs would also have to come down at least an order of magnitude to be competitive with wind and solar.

Still, fusion is probably finally less than 30 years out, and the first Q > 1 plasmas may well be achieved in our own state. It will be exciting to see how these major projects advance in the coming decade.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



THURSDAY, MARCH 3

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Corsano/Baldwin/Gelineau trio, Clear Falls, Meginsky/Tonne duo*. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Songs of Dolly Parton* feat *Kris Delmhorst, Zara Bode, Tracy Grammer* and more. \$ 7 p.m.

DCU Center, Worcester: *Tyler the Creator, Kali Uchis, Vince Staples*. \$ 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 4

Brewery at Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Mardi Gras Dance Party* with the *Back O'Town Cajun Band*. 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton*. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Corsano/Flaherty Duo, Stella Silbert, Wednesday Knudsen, DJ 45 HZ*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Sasami, Zulu, Dutch Experts*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Michael Musillami Trio*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Babe-hoven, Melatonin, EIEIEIO*. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Lich King, Stone Cutters, Toxic Ruin*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Spectre Flux, Death Spiral, Chris Wardlaw, Disease Garden*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Animated movie screening, Grendel* (1981), with a short by local animators *Opertura* preceding. \$ 6 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Rickie Lee Jones*. \$ 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

Treehouse Brewing, Deerfield: *Warren Haynes*. \$ 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9

Treehouse Brewing, Deerfield: *Warren Haynes*. \$ 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *James Brandon Lewis Trio*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Palladium, Worcester: *Dark Star Orchestra*. \$ 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 11

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Patch Productions presents The Phantom of the Opera*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Gaslight Tinkers*. \$ 8 p.m.

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Iceage, Sloppy Jane*. \$ 8 p.m.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Animal Collective, L'Rain*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Patch Productions presents The Phantom of the Opera*. \$ 3 and 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Black Nash, The Musical Chairs, Goldsetter*. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Big Takeover*. \$ 8 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Movie with live soundtrack, The Arrival* (1983) with music by *The Empyreans*. \$ 8 p.m.

Daily Operation, Easthampton: *Armand Hammer*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Son Volt, Jesse Farrar*. \$ 8 p.m.

Symphony Hall, Springfield: *Boyz II Men*. \$ 8 p.m.

Bishop's Lounge, Northampton: *Owsley's Owls*. \$ 9:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Sheer Mag, Landowner, Topsy*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Kaleta & Super Yamba Band*. \$ 8 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *The Psychedelic Furs, Royston Langford*. \$ 8 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Vapors of*

Morphine, Jordan Holtz. \$ 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Mud Season*, festival feat. *Young and Old, Dave Bulley Band, Love Crumbs, Cloudbelly, Eric Lee*, more. \$ 11:30 a.m.

Mount Toby Friends Meeting-house, Leverett: *Maggie*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Henry Rollins*. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Rosie Porter and the Neon Moons*. 3 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Megan Burtt*. 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Adam Ezra Group*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *David Bromberg Quintet*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

10 Forward, Greenfield: *The Greys, Hedge Witch, Anjali Rose, Oli D Remembers*. \$ 8 p.m.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Car Seat Headrest, Barteas Strange*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

Brewery at Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Erin Harpe Country Blues Duo*. 6:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Waiters, Roots of Creation*. \$ 8 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Lorkin O'Reilly, Melanie MacLaren*. \$ 8 p.m.

Treehouse Brewing, Deerfield: *M. Ward*. \$ 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Dead Man's Waltz*. \$ 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

Palladium, Worcester: *Obituary, Gruesome, 200 Stab Wounds*. \$ 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Amy Helm*. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Bella's Bartok*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Hubby Jenkins*. \$ 8 p.m.

Northampton Center for the Arts: *mssv* (feat. *Mike Watt*), *Gloyd*. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Jill Sobule*. \$ 7 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Bela Fleck's My Bluegrass Heart*. \$ 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Guerilla Toss, Zebu!*. \$ 8:30 p.m.



JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION

TOP BOTTOM by JOEL PAXTON



Three Degrees of Warming
By Janice Rowan

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TRAVELS from page B1

Hammonasset State Park

John told us about the many nearby attractions that make this hotel a great home base.

We discovered one of his recommendations when we drove just a few miles up the road to Hammonasset State Park, a large ocean-front park with a great beach for strolling, and camping facilities.

It has the state's longest beach and is very popular with fishermen, campers, and dog walkers.

A fisherman pulled a small striped bass from the surf as we walked by, too small to keep – the legal size is 30 inches – but enough to give him a smile. Other highlights of this part of the state are the villages of Essex and Chester, and the beachy town of Old Saybrook.

You can choose from 12 different beaches in this town, each with their own fans and favorites. The only rub here is that parking can be a challenge, but some people park a far distance and ride bicycles to get to the actual beaches.

Ocean Beach

For us landlocked souls in Western Mass, the closest ocean to us is Ocean Beach in New London, a big wide beach only 104 miles away. Watch for the neon warning signs in the summer months when it reaches capacity... get there early!

Nearby is Mystic, and the pizza shop made famous by the movie with a young Julia Roberts. This is a great strolling town, and expensive boats bob in a series of docks



HARTSHORNE PHOTOS

Top: The Madison Beach Hotel, right on the Long Island Sound in the fancy town of Madison, Connecticut.
Bottom: Ford's is famous for the Lobster Bomb.

and canals, making me envious – but glad that I don't have to pay to park these luxury crafts in my backyard all winter.

In Mystic, you can get lucky and score a table facing the busy water-

front at Red 36, a sprawling, busy eatery where seafood and lobster take center stage. Paul's Pasta is a famously popular spot with a great view in New London, famous for bowls of homemade pasta.

Essex was once a ferry port; the Connecticut River flows from there all the way down to the Long Island Sound. There is a classic old downtown in Essex with a town green that runs down to the riv-

er. Chester is famous as a Sunday morning destination with cafés, antique shops, and a farmers market.

Clam Shacks

There are many great other funky seafood restaurants here along the coast, and another that I recommend is Bill's Seafood in Westbrook, right next to a marina with all kinds of motorboats passing by in and out of the inlet. Many people also recommend Elizabeth's Cafe in Madison for a bit more high end, and of course, The Wharf Restaurant at the Madison hotel.

One of my Conway friend's favorites at the Connecticut Shore is worth the wait... that's Ford's Lobster in Noank. You wait out near the rocks along the dock and chat up other friendly tailgaters until they send you a text message, then you can take your table right on the waterfront and order their famous lobster bisque in a carved-out bread bowl. Remarkably good, and it's BYOB.

The town of Madison also has an old fashioned movie theater, boutiques, and bookstores to browse, and many wineries are located nearby.

Travel editor Max Hartshorne writes about traveling around our region, and a little beyond. Max is the editor of GoNOMAD Travel, a website published since 2000 in South Deerfield. Find him online at www.gonomad.com.



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