MILLERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 20 – NO. 20

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

MARCH 31, 2022

'Pathways' Offer Turners Students a Career Headstart

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG



Junior Nik Martin joined the new Health Care and Social Assistance Pathway program at TFHS this year to prepare for a career as a firefighter.

By CHRISTINA TRINCHERO

GILL-MONTAGUE – For Turners Falls High School eleventh grader Nik Martin, the idea of gaining experience in the healthcare field while still in high school was something he couldn't pass up. "Since I was a little kid I have always wanted to be a firefighter/ EMT," said Martin, who is currently a junior firefighter in Northfield. "I want to be able to help someone when they get hurt."

Martin and six other Turners Falls High School students who are interested in "helping" professions, such as healthcare and social assistance, can now access career-focused curriculum and internships thanks to Innovation Pathways, a program of the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

And beginning this fall, students interested in engineering and manufacturing will also be able to jump-start their careers with sequenced courses, certifications, and internships at the high school.

Last month, Turners Fall High School announced it received a \$40,000 grant to implement STEM - science, technology, engineering and mathematics – curriculum and applied learning programs at their

school. The funder, the One8 Foundation's Mass STEM Hub, works with Project Lead the Way (PLTW), a K-through-12 STEM curriculum based on applied learning.

According to a news release, the three-year grant will enable the school to implement three new elective courses in the engineering field, beginning this fall. The district pursued this competitive grant to ensure high-quality curriculum matching the standards of the Innovation Pathway in Manufacturing, a designation it had previously been awarded by DESE.

Innovation Pathways are designed to create strong partnerships between high schools and employers, in order to expose students to career options and help them develop knowledge and skills related to their chosen field before they graduate.

"Pathways such as healthcare, manufacturing, and engineering provide students with skills, knowledge and certifications to work right after high school," said Jeanne Powers, director of teaching and learning for the Gill-Montague regional district. Each Pathway program provides content-specific courses, access to advanced classes, and a 100-hour

see CAREER page A4

GILL SELECTBOARD

Incinerator Bankruptcy Will Hit Gill's Bottom Line

By JERRI HIGGINS

The Gill Selectboard met Monday evening to discuss pending changes with the town's solid waste disposal due to the bankruptcy of the town's current contractor, the Pittsfield-based Community Eco Power, LLC. A possible amendment to the state constitution and concerns about a proposal to retroactively involve the Cannabis Control Commission in host community agreements were among the evening's other business.

14 of a bankruptcy sale of Community Eco Power's Agawam incinerator to F&G Recycling, LLC of Connecticut would create a vacuum in the town's solid waste disposal. The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD) negotiates contracts on behalf of many local towns including Gill, whose trash has been

F&G is a subsidiary of USA Waste, town administrator Ray see GILL page A5

The expected approval on April ending up in Agawam.

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Montague PD Proposing to **Leave State Civil Service**

By JEFF SINGLETON

At its March 28 meeting the Montague selectboard reviewed a preliminary warrant for the town's annual town meeting in May which, in addition to the town operating budget and assessments for the two regional school districts, includes a new demolition delay bylaw, two new overlay districts to encourage "affordable housing," and repointing the bricks on the old town hall in Montague Center.

Perhaps the most unexpected of the 34 articles on the warrant is a proposal to remove the entire police department, including the police chief, from the state civil service system. That system requires hiring from a state-imposed list, generated using a state-wide testing system.

Civil service, originally viewed as a progressive reform to reduce the influence of corrupt "political machines" that traded jobs for support in elections, is now often criticized for limiting the ability of local governments to discipline public employees - particularly in law enforcement – and for limiting the pool of potential officers to hire.

Montague adopted the civil see MONTAGUE page A7

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Residents Call For Solution To Dangerous Intersection

By GEORGE BRACE

Leverett's selectboard meeting on Tuesday began with a group of residents appealing to the board to take action to improve safety at the intersection of Shutesbury and Cushman roads. The board went on to discuss and revise a variety of warrant articles to be voted on at town meeting on April 30, among other business.

Members of a group calling itself "East Leverett Residents For Safer Roads" showed up to ask for safety improvements at the threeway intersection of Shutesbury and Cushman roads. Stuart Olson, a 40-year-Leverett resident whose house abuts the intersection, spoke first. Olson said high speeds and lack of driver care are decades-old problems which have been brought up in the past, but there is now "more and faster traffic," and the situation is "the worst it's ever been."

The intersection is at the bottom of a hill with a section of road known as the "S-curves," which also connects to Route 202. Olson

see **LEVERETT** page A8

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Fire District Hiring Again **As Chief Chooses Family**

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS - When Brian McCarthy replaced John Zellmann as Turners Falls fire chief last November, this newspaper framed the story as one of a "generational shift" from a Baby Boomer whose father had been a firefighter in Lake Pleasant to a member of "Generation X" with a college degree in business hailing from New York.

That analysis seems even more plausible now, as McCarthy has recently resigned from the position, effective May 17, in order spend more time with his four children.

Although McCarthy told the Re-



Outgoing chief Brian McCarthy, in a file photograph taken last October.

porter he preferred not to divulge family business, a source told us that the job demands on the fire

see CHIEF page A5

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Market-Rate Housing Picked For Former School Building

By KATIE NOLAN

On Monday night, the Erving selectboard decided to accept the proposal from Obear Construction of Millers Falls to develop the former Graded School Building on Pleasant Street into four market-rate apartments, and to renovate the former Erving Public Library building on Moore Street into a single-family residence.

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache said the Obear plan "fit the neighborhood," and noted that Obear already had an approved loan and plans for landscaping the property.

The one competing proposal, from Lee Properties of Haverhill, would have planned 11 affordable units at the building, retained the entire paved parking area, and relied

heavily on state and federal funding.

Town administrator Bryan Smith told the board he could start some of the necessary documentation for transferring the properties while the town negotiates with Obear about payment for the properties.

Cost of Living

The board voted to adjust the step and grade wage table with a 2% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all town employees for FY'23.

Reviewing a memo prepared by Bryan Smith, board members noted that Deerfield had proposed a 2% COLA, and Northfield 6%.

Fin com member Daniel Hammock told the board the Consumer Price Index had increased by 7% to 8%, and that the Social Security

see **ERVING** page A3

FRCOG Talks Private Well Protections, PFAS Testing

By SARAH ROBERTSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY - "The Massachusetts constitution guarantees the right to clean water for every resident of the Commonwealth," state senator Jo Comerford told the Reporter. "Many residents in my district rely on private wells for their drinking water. Contaminants in drinking water can have negative impacts on individual health."

While no statewide standards govern the safety of private well water, a bill filed late this legislative session would change that. "An Act Promoting Drinking Water Quality for All" would task the state Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) with setting enforceable regulations regarding the testing and maintenance of privately-owned wells. Comerford is co-sponsoring

the bill, S.2667, in the Senate.

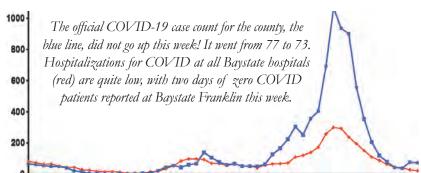
Representatives of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) met Wednesday with members of local health departments to learn more about the proposed legislation. The meeting opened with a presentation by employees of the nonprofit RCAP Solutions on their advocacy around this bill.

"There's basically nothing out there," said RCAP interim president and CEO Brian Scales. "Some towns have [regulations]; some boards of health have them. We even counted towns that don't even know if they have them or not, or couldn't find the regulations.... This would enable MassDEP to set those standards so everyone is on a level playing field."

Over 500,000 Massachusetts residents rely on private wells for

see WELLS page A4

KEEPING AN EYE ON IT



APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR

The Montague Reporter

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Pointing Tips

Poking through the March 29, 2012 edition in order to compile the 10 Years Ago column, a long article headlined "Creating a Lovable Downtown" caught our eye. It followed a visitor from Florida, an "internationally recognized expert on community development and grassroots engagement," on a blue-ribbon tour of Turners Falls.

The concentration here of stunning natural resources, still-standing fragments of a harsh, utopian late-19th-century capitalism, persistent multi-generational poverty, and giddy cultural prospectors means we get a near-constant churn of assessments and profiles.

Going back a little further, for example, we find a 2001 Recorder article, "Turners Falls becoming a haven for area artists."

That article highlighted David Wiener's Third Street lighting design business, "La Borinquena, the Latin market around the corner," and the various artists and artisans (Ina Bing, Mike Langknecht, Ariel Jones, Peter Fisher, Tim DeChristopher, Nina Bander) then "attempting to get the arts community in Turners Falls together."

It also quoted the director of Artspace Community Arts Center in Greenfield as citing the Shea Theater, Discovery Center, and "the recent purchase of the former Railroad Salvage building by retired dancer Gary Kosuda" as "signals that something is happening."

"While rents are cheap and artists are free to pursue their passion," it warned, for some "the isolation may prove to be too great." Nevertheless, it ended by saying Wiener "thinks that the village has reached the tipping point and is starting to gather momentum."

Our 2012 article watched as author Peter Kageyama, the Florida expert, was shown the highlights by then-town administrator Frank Abbondanzio and RiverCulture director Lisa Davol. These included the Shea and the Discovery Center, the Gallery at Hallmark, LOOT, and the bike path.

"Turners Falls has had to fight against negative perceptions of poverty and crime to show people that it is a good community to live [or] own a business in," we summarized, and Davol was quoted as saying "We've increased the number of co-creators."

Kageyama was here for the third Creative Economy Summit in Greenfield.

"At a panel discussion at the

summit," we wrote, "Davol highlighted several projects RiverCulture has promoted: the annual Suzee's Laundromat fashion show, the downtown block party, the River of Lights lantern parade, Sunboxes: a solar sound installation, cleaned up and art enhanced walkways, and the soon to be installed reflective Strathmore Mill art installation."

Jumping forward again, a 2018 feature in the Valley Advocate, "Turners Falls Experiencing a Renaissance," did a pretty fair job sketching out the "long arc of change" since the late 1990s. The article can be summarized by one quote: "Despite the community's challenges..."

Town planner Walter Ramsey explained Turners as "a place where you can buy a house cheaply and still be in a downtown area." The article placed the Shea Theater as central and cited Nina's Nook, the Five Eyed Fox, and Tangible Bliss, but reporter Chris Goudreau should also be commended for posting up outside Food City and hearing from more than the usual cultural-entrepreneurial suspects.

This one ended on an extended "future" section with Wild Child Cellars, which has plans for a cidery, restaurant, live music venue, tarot card readings, yoga, and more in a reused Canal District building. Owner Curt Sherrer got the last word on 2018 Turners: "It's reached a tipping point where I think things are really just going to start happening."

This edition is going to press about 12 hours before New England Public Media airs a feature on Turners as part of its Connecting Points series. Officials from the Shea and RiverCulture apparently gave the tour this time, we're told, and a teaser touts "the creativity, culture, and community that this area has to offer."

It's always fun to see your own town on TV, and we're sure everyone did a good job - we're looking forward to watching the segment. And we certainly think this is a cool place. But we are starting to wonder... is there any point at which one doesn't need to market and brand and "placemake" a town anymore?

What's the benchmark for deciding, in particular, that a high enough level of residential demand has been established? Maybe we can use housing prices as an indicator - what does town hall think the optimum rent should be?



Eve Laing works at the Great Falls Harvest Market on Avenue A in Turners Falls. Customers may now enjoy Dean's Beans coffee, chai, Sage Botanical herbal drinks, and various locally-sourced food items either to eat in-house in the market seating area or to-go, Thursdays through Sundays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Dear Readers,

We on the Montague Reporter board of directors, as well as the editors, staff, and volunteers of this paper, want to thank you for the incredible support you have expressed through your donations during our 20th anniversary campaign.

Because of your generosity we managed to reach and surpass our goal of \$10,000 with a total in donations exceeding \$30,000. This will enable us to continue to provide you with the great coverage of our villages and communities that you have come to expect.

With gratitude in our hearts, and in continued bright hopes for the future of our newspaper for many years to come, We thank you Dear Readers!

The Board of Directors

No One Turns In Papers For Montague Moderator

By MIKE JACKSON

Candidates for office in Montague's annual town election were required to turn in nomination papers to the town clerk's office at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, and as of 5:01 p.m., no one had turned in papers for town moderator, nor for seats on the veterans' memorial committee and parks and rec commission.

One path remains open for any candidates seeking to place their names on the ballot: the Montague Democratic Caucus, held downstairs at the town hall next Tuesday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m. Registered Democrats may seek nomination, anyone registered as either a Democrat or Unenrolled may vote, and caucus nominees will be added to the town ballot if they are not already on it.

At least one previous town moderator is expected to seek the caucus nomination. The seat is currently open following the death in February of moderator Chris Collins.

According to Deb Bourbeau, four candidates - Catherine Dodds, Kathleen Burek, Maureen McNamara, and Rachel Stoler – turned in papers

for a seat on the board of health. Bourbeau says she does not believe longtime board member Al Cummings will seek a chance to hold his seat via Tuesday's caucus.

Bourbeau said all other races are so far uncompetitive. Incumbents who turned in papers include selectboard member Chris Boutwell, assessor Ann Fisk, tree warden Mark Stevens, tax collector/treasurer Eileen Seymour, and Bourbeau herself.

Three candidates turned in papers for three seats among the library trustees: incumbents Margot Malachowski and Nancy Crowell, and Will Quale of Montague Center.

And only three people turned in papers for seats on town meeting: David Dempsey, Precinct 1; Jen Tobey, Precinct 2; and Louise Deren, Precinct 3.

Five seats are open on the Gill-Montague school committee, but we were unable to reach executive assistant Sabrina Blanchard on Wednesday, and Bourbeau said she had not yet received the names.

The election will be held from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17.



A Letter to the Editors

Costs, Benefits

I would like to use this forum to address the owners of Northfield Mountain.

As a bottom line issue, wouldn't it be cheaper, if you took into account the dollars spent on public relations, court costs, perks for the towns affected, and (reluctant) river harm remediation concessions, wouldn't it be an effective longterm strategy to build a lower reservoir, creating a closed-loop system, and leave our fucking river alone?

Think of the good will this would generate!

> Michael D. Joyce Wendell

CORRECTION

An article in our March 24 edition about issues at an Orange apartment building (Page A1, Judge Orders Landlord To Fix Bed Bug Problem; Eviction Orders Dropped) referred to it as a "four-unit building." This was a guess, based on a review of the property card available on the Orange assessors' website ("Use Description: APT 4-UNT"). Owner Brendan Kuntz reached out to let us know we had guessed wrong, and that there are five residential units in the building. We apologize to our readers for the error, and are grateful to Mr. Kuntz for the helpful correction.

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

PHONE: (413) 863-8666

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Tonight, Thursday March 31 at 7:30 p.m., see Turners Falls celebrated on NEPM's Connecting Point program. Monte Belmonte gives a tour of the town with stops at the Shea Theater and the Shady Glen diner. Monte also talks with Jess Marsh of Hired Hand Signs and Suzanne LoManto of RiverCulture, who gives a lowdown on the town's cultural highlights. Find NEPM on YouTube to watch!

A Climate Change Forum is scheduled for this Saturday, April 2, at the Frontier Regional School in Deerfield from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All area residents are invited to the forum, sponsored by the towns of Deerfield, Sunderland, Conway, and Whately, to learn about actions they can take that will make a difference on climate change and climate resiliency.

There will be workshops on topics such as energy efficiency and solar systems, municipal climate strategies, electric vehicles, sustainable farming practices, net zero buildings, and community aggregation. State senator Jo Comerford and representative Natalie Blais will be there to discuss state programs and new initiatives.

The forum is free, but attendance is limited; call or email the Deerfield selectboard office to register: (413) 665-1400 x. 111 or adminasst@town.deerfield.ma.us.

Greenfield High School (GHS) will be hosting a talk by antiracism educator Tiffany Jewell, the author of the best-selling This Book Is Anti-Racist: 20 Lessons on How to Wake Up, Take Action, and Do the Work. Ms. Jewell will speak at an all-school assembly and then a public engagement on Thursday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m.

GHS students have prepared for the visit by reading the book. The school states that the goal is "to foster a school culture that supports all

students by exploring our identities, discovering our shared history, and learning how to identify and disrupt racism when we encounter it."

The evening talk is geared towards families and community members. ASL and Spanish language interpretation will be provided, and Russian/Romanian interpretation will be available via a computer. Child care and transportation will also be available. Check ghs.gpsk12.libguides.com/jewell for more details.

Silverthorne Theater Company presents the second reading in its 2022 Thursdays Play Reading Series. Port of Entry, by Talya Kingston, directed by Amy Brentano, will be presented on Thursday, April 7 at 7:30 p.m at the LAVA Center in Greenfield.

"It's a regular day in the back office of a small New England International airport," reads the play's description. "TSA agent Hank is orienting newbie Chloe in her new job and Jana has just arrived on a flight from the Middle East to start her new semester of graduate school. The problem is that overnight a new law has come into effect - commonly known as 'The Muslim Ban' - and it's up to these gatekeepers to enforce it."

The reading is offered free and open to the public, but registration is required due to limited space: www.silverthornetheater.org.

On Friday, April 8 at 6 p.m., Martin Espada will read from Floaters, winner of the 2021 National Book Award for Poetry, at the Shelburne-Buckland Community Center at 53 Main Street, Shelburne Falls. There will be a reception and book signing afterwards, and admission is free. RSVP to armslibrary@gmail.com or (413) 625-0306.

On Saturday, April 9 at 1 p.m., the LAVA Center in Greenfield will MacDougall, a local musician and social justice activist. MacDougall will share stories and songs from her work, including how the pandemic inspired her to shift the way she rehearses and performs, taking the music exclusively outdoors for a time. With "Soulful Serenades," MacDougall brings songs to the porches, yards, and driveways of folks who request musical visits.

She will take questions from the audience and, depending on where we are in the pandemic, may lead attendees in singing. The LAVA Center is located at 324 Main Street in Greenfield; seating will be limited. Find out more at localaccess.org.

Acclaimed artist and instructor Jenny Santa Maria leads a handson, in-person workshop on the traditional Ukrainian folk art of pysanky egg decoration on Saturday, April 9, at 1:30 p.m. at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center (BMAC). Participants will leave with a beautiful colored egg, and BMAC will donate all proceeds to Ukrainian relief efforts.

Pysanky technique is similar to batik. Patterns are drawn on an egg with hot beeswax, which protects areas from applications of colored dyes. When the wax is removed, a multicolored pattern is revealed. The finished product, with its intricate designs and symbols, belies the meditative process involved.

In this two-hour workshop for adults and older teens, Santa Maria will describe the history and traditions surrounding pysanky, demonstrate techniques, and lead participants in making their own eggs. The \$55 fee includes all materials, including eggs, hard-to-find traditional and non-traditional colored dyes, and tools. Space is limited. Register at brattleboromuseum.org or (802) 257-0124 ext. 101.

Join FirstLight's Northfield Mountain on Sunday, April 10 from 6:45 until 8:45 p.m. for Woodcocks at Twilight: The Song of the Timberdoodle. As the sun sets, the stage is ready for the woodcock to perform his courtship flight. This unusual bird, also known as the Timberdoodle, performs an airborne ritual accompanied by a variety of unique sounds. Listening for these sounds is a spring tradition not to be missed!

Learn about the courtship display and life history of the woodcock offer a presentation by Eveline during a half-mile leisurely walk; please be prepared to sit quietly outdoors for at least 20 minutes. Participants must be 18 years or older, and masks are needed for this group gathering. Pre-register at www.bookeo. com/northfield as group size for this free program is strictly limited.

The Nolumbeka Project announces "A Day on the Farm" with Abenaki storyteller Jesse Bruchac, Sunday, April 10 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. The program, aimed at families. will be held at the Hampshire College farm center in Amherst. Bruchac weaves stories with flute music and playful language to explore seasonal awareness and the gifts of the land, according to the event description. There is a fee, and you must register at www.farmandgardencamp.org.

On Wednesday, April 13 MassHire will hold a virtual job fair from 10 a.m. to noon. If you are looking for work, local employers are able to live chat with you, but you must register to attend and get a job seeker ID. Find out more at www.masshirefhcareers.org.

Learn about How to Prepare for Climate Change, with David Pogue, in a webinar hosted by the Athol Public Library on April 13 at 6 p.m. The bestselling self-help author offers advice for how we can prepare ourselves for the years ahead: what to grow, what to eat, how to build, how to ensure, where to invest, how to prepare children and pets, and even where to consider relocating when the time comes.

Pogue also provides wise tips for managing anxiety, as well as action plans for riding out every climate catastrophe, from superstorms and wildfires to ticks and epidemics. Register in advance at www.athollibrary.org.

Just Roots farm in Greenfield is looking for an Executive Director. They describe their mission as building "direct access, models, momentum and evidence for change in agricultural policy, food policy and social justice" within a "small but mighty farm-based organization with a goal to change the food system and bring more equity to the world." Read the job description online at justroots.org.

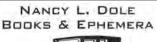
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TURNERS FALLS WATER **DEPARTMENT METER READING BEGINS MONDAY APRIL 4**

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ERVING from page A1

COLA was 5.9%. "We have to be fair to our employees," Hammock said, adding that a 4% to 5% COLA for town employees would cost the average homeowner only \$20 per year in real estate taxes. "I feel like our employees need some relief," he said.

Fin com member Benjamin Fellows said that the town had "set up a policy and procedure" to review the wages in FY'24, and should not adopt raises until then. "We should stick to them," he advised.

Bastarache argued the town should have a competitive wage structure to attract and retain employees.

Selectboard member William Bembury said that he felt police officers in Erving were "not making a decent wage, and that bothers me." He added that the COLA wouldn't address this problem, and the board needed to discuss this further.

Poplar Mountain Road

The board voted to formally adopt Poplar Mountain Road, as currently laid out, as a town road. According to selectboard chair Jacob Smith, the road is technically a county road, but is maintained by the town, and it will be easier for Erving to repair damage to the road from

flooding last July if it legally owns the road.

'We have a mess now," he said, "and we need to clean it up."

Poplar Mountain Road resident Jacquelyn Boyden observed that heavy equipment travels the road regularly to get to the Eversource facility at the top of Poplar Mountain.

Jacob Smith responded that he felt Eversource has "some responsibility" for the flooding damage, based on runoff from its facility.

Real Estate Tax Bills

Speaking as principal assessor, Boyden asked the board to add acceptance of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 57C to the annual town meeting warrant, and the board agreed. If passed, this would allow the town to issue preliminary estimated real estate tax bills in July or August, with payments due October 1, and actual tax bills by December 31, with payments due April 1.

Boyden said the preliminary bill each year would be based on the previous year's tax bill, and that this method of billing "evens the cash flow" for the town.

Boyden recommended adopting the system for FY'24 if it passes, leaving a year to educate residents about the preliminary tax.

Complete Neighborhoods

The board authorized Bryan Smith to meet with other local towns in applying for a grant from the non-profit Massachusetts Housing Partnership's Complete Neighborhoods Initiative.

According to its website, MHP will select six communities or regional groups in Massachusetts in 2022, and another six in 2023, to receive technical assistance to develop "human-centric and mobility-oriented neighborhoods." If Erving proceeds with the initiative, one district or neighborhood in town would be identified as the focus.

Board members said they had received information about the program just before Monday's meeting, and asked Bryan Smith to add discussion of the program to the April 11 agenda.

Other Business

At Bryan Smith's recommendation, the board authorized opening town hall to the public Mondays through Thursdays. The building has been closed to the public to prevent the spread of COVID-19 since spring of 2020.

The board decided to close the annual town meeting warrant at either its April 11 or its April 25 meeting.

Armand Bouthillier was appointed to the veterans' committee.

















CAREER from page A1

internship in a student's preferred field of study.

Turners Falls, Powers noted, is the only school

Turners Falls, Powers noted, is the only school in Franklin County that has Pathway designations.

"There are students at the high school level choosing other districts," Powers said, citing charter schools as well as technical school.

"We not only want to build the Innovation Pathways program to support our currently enrolled students, but those who may be considering school choice.... [I]t offers opportunities to students in the area that are not found in other local districts."

Community Needs

"As we work to add programming at Turners Falls High School, partnering with Project Lead the Way – (the K-12 curriculum) – provides us with the framework to truly challenge our students to problem solve and learn new skills," said Christopher Barnes, principal of Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School. "Additionally, this is hands-on learning that will provide the students with the skills in order for them to more readily enter the manufacturing, healthcare and computer sectors."

"We have the health pathway here currently," continued Barnes. "By adding the manufacturing pathway, I believe that we're enriching the programming we offer while also recognizing and fulfilling a need within our greater community in Franklin County."

That need, Barnes explained, is important to cascade to the students. On Tuesday, Andrew Baker of the MassHire Franklin Hampshire Workforce Board visited TFHS to discuss careers in manufacturing.

"He explained the kinds of jobs that are out there, the skills that are needed, and both the potential for earnings and the outlook for careers in the manufacturing sector," the principal explained.

According to Powers, MassHire helps TFHS by supporting some of the funding for first aid and CPR training, as well as OSHA training. "They are also the school's partner in looking for internships, and make connections in the community beyond what we can do at the high school," she said. "They are a huge partner in this work."

"We invited in Mr. Baker because we knew that he would be able to provide a comprehensive explanation of the human resource need in manufacturing, where the jobs are located, and the earning potential." added Barnes. "Our students needed to hear this, and hopefully, some of them can see themselves moving in this direction."

School-To-Work Opportunities

Once the Manufacturing Innovation Pathway

is implemented this fall, TFHS will offer students two career pathway programs. The Health Care and Social Assistance pathway has been implemented during the 2021-22 school year. It offers three courses: Health, Introduction to Nursing, and an internship preparation class.

Powers says seven students are currently enrolled in the healthcare pathway, and the district's goal is to enroll 10 more in the program next year.

Health Education and Science teacher Susan Reyes, who joined the faculty this year, said she is excited to be an Innovations Pathways (IP) teacher at Turners Falls High School.

"I am currently teaching an IP Health Class," Reyes explained. "The variety of topics students are learning about include an overview of health career options beyond what they may have imagined, as well as an understanding of advance directives (a legal document that goes into effect only if someone is incapacitated and unable to speak for themselves), ethics, and professionalism."

Reyes said students have researched body mechanics and the prevention of repetitive strain injuries, and are currently studying superbugs and "infection control practices in health-care." Soon each student will earn practical credentials in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid.

"I love how this program combines practical and interesting topics that students often cannot find elsewhere," Reyes added. "It also provides youth with credentials that will help them embark on their first career-oriented work opportunities."

Students can apply to the program in the ninth grade, and must commit to taking certain courses in their sophomore and junior years. In their senior year, students partner with a local employer for an internship in their chosen field.

"Showing students different kinds of career options can help them learn how many potential options they have available to them," said guidance counselor Beth Fortin.

Fortin said the pathway programs are "a tremendous opportunity for our students to not just receive the designation and seal on their transcript, but also earn valuable certifications such as OSHA safety, First Aid, and CPR that can help them throughout their lifetime."

"Plus," she added, "it can give students an advantage when applying to competitive college programs."

Transformative Education

Principal Barnes said the new Mass STEM Hub grant will provide "transformative educational experiences" for students at the high

school. "We are very excited to get the Manufacturing Pathway off the ground," he said.

Asked to explain the term "transformative," Barnes said, "What I mean is that students are walking out of here – from a typical comprehensive high school – with the skills to get a good job with a good pay rate. Typically, we have students graduate with a diploma, but do they have a certificate... do they have particular skills in a certain area? Not really. It's a generalized high school diploma."

"This is different," he continued. "[These programs] can transform students' lives by having them ready to enter a sector that they would otherwise not be prepared to enter."

TFHS will introduce the PLTW Introduction to Engineering Design this fall, and over the next two years an additional engineering class will be offered. "The PLTW courses will become the foundational courses for the Manufacturing Pathway," said Powers.

The district is currently in the process of recruiting for the manufacturing teaching position. Part of the PLTW curriculum – and the related grant funding – includes professional development for the teacher TFHS will hire.

Excited for Internships

Project Lead the Way curricula can be found in schools throughout the United States, and range from kindergarten to twelfth grade; 12,000 schools and millions of students take part in PLTW each year. In Massachusetts, DESE has listed many high school PLTW courses as "advanced courses" in their district accountability scoring formula, so the new courses will increase the total number of advanced courses provided at TFHS.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to incorporate PTLW into our school's curriculum, and we thank the Mass STEM Hub and the One8 Foundation for their generosity," Powers told the *Reporter*. Looking ahead, she said the Gill-Montague district is hoping to implement additional pathways, and is specifically looking in the areas of Environmental and Life Science.

In the short term, Powers speaks enthusiastically.

"The biggest thing are the internships," she said. "For students who have a specific idea of what they are interested in, internships offer a little more focus. Internships will be a huge component going forward."

Meanwhile, Junior Nik Martin is counting the days until September.

"I am looking forward to the internship we have coming up in senior year," he said. "I hope I can intern at a local fire department to gain experience in any way."

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WELLS from page A1

drinking water, according to the state website. Local boards of health are in charge of regulating the building, maintenance and testing of these wells, and MassDEP provides optional "Private Well Guidelines," but enforcement varies by town.

The new well water regulations would be modeled after Title 5, a set of state laws on how to install, use, and maintain septic systems.

"This is a problem that we've all seen for years," said FRCOG director of community services Phoebe Walker. "We all know that it's this strange double standard for private wells and public water supplies."

Wednesday's meeting was organized in partnership with the Western Massachusetts Public Health Association, of which Walker is a member.

"This bill that you're proposing is actually just the beginning of a lengthy public input process that will then result years after [in regulations]," Walker said to the RCAP staff. "Even in a best-case scenario, I'd say you're three years from a new statewide standard."

Walker said information about the legislation was sent to local town administrators and selectboards.

"I did get some comments back from a couple people who were like, 'We don't need more regulation," she said, "so I know they read it." "A lot of people do not want any further unfunded mandates," said Scales. "It's really evident in western Massachusetts – more than any other parts of the Commonwealth."

One In Six Wells

Headquartered in Worcester, RCAP describes itself as "a comprehensive and complex" non-profit, working issues ranging from housing to water quality and waste management. RCAP received a five-year grant from the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts to test wells throughout Massachusetts with the goal of using the data to advocate for the passage of a statewide well code.

"There's been a lot of advocacy behind this," Scales said. "A lot of the legislators we've already spoken to were aghast that there were no statewide regulations governing private wells – including some legislators who have private wells."

RCAP's Massachusetts state lead, James Starbard, said that so far the company has sampled 240 wells and found that 18% contained contaminants exceeding MassDEP's standards. He pointed out that only 4.5% of community water supplies are believed to exceed these standards.

Limited in its access to laboratories, RCAP began the project testing wells in central Massachusetts for contaminants such as arsenic, *E.*

coli, manganese, uranium, and radon. Scales and Starbard said they plan to expand the scope of their testing to western Massachusetts.

"I've heard a fair amount of concern out in rural areas about access to labs," Walker said. "This has certainly been an issue in our region, in Franklin County, because there was and continues to not be a certified lab in the whole county."

"Hopefully capitalism will make more people want to open a lab and take advantage of the need," Starbard said. "PFAS testing has definitely shown that, too. Some of the samples were going out of the state because we didn't have the capacity in-state to do it."

The PFAS Problem

Per- and polyfluorinated substances, or PFAS, are man-made chemicals used widely in waterproof and fire-resistant materials, food packaging, makeup, and many other applications. There is growing concern that these chemicals, found in our blood, food, and water, can cause adverse health effects.

"Recent well testing in my district has found PFAS in drinking water. That's why we need frequent, skilled testing of private wells," Comerford told the *Reporter*. "The Department of Environmental Protection has provided critical, free PFAS testing for private wells in my district, and this bill would bring DEP's expertise to bear on private wells throughout the Commonwealth so that we can prevent contamination of private wells, ideally before it occurs."

Testifying in favor of S.2667 last week, UMass Amherst professor David Reckhow said his research into PFAS contamination highlights the importance of regulation. "It gives the state authority of setting standards for water quality and testing," he said. "The current way in which groundwater is managed, and groundwater quality... is dependent somewhat on local boards of health, and is quite uneven across the state."

Reckhow leads the UMass Amherst Water, Energy and Technology Center, known as the WET Center, which is analyzing PFAS data collected by MassDEP's well-testing program. His team has analyzed results from over 1,000 samples, 29% of which contained detectable levels of PFAS. He said 6% showed PFAS levels above the state safety threshold of 20 parts per trillion.

"None of them knew their water was contaminated until they got their wells tested," Reckhow said. "Establishment of a statewide testing set of requirements, and standards for private wells, will help protect those not fortunate enough.

those not fortunate enough to be on public water."



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GILL from page A1

Purington told the selectboard, "which is the company we used to have doing the trash and recycling collection. F&G is going to decommission [and] deconstruct the incinerator, and turn that property into a transfer station."

Purington said that Community Eco Power's fee – \$80 per ton of solid waste last year, and \$81.60 this year – was the best price available for receiving solid waste. He said the fee is expected to go up to \$97 per ton.

While that increase "sounds like a big jump," Purington told the board, the town averages "a little under four tons of solid waste per week. It is \$2,500 to \$3,000. It is a real number, but not a scary number."

"I expected to hear a number a lot bigger than \$97," said selectboard member Randy Crochier.

"Depending where the drop-off location is," Purington added, "that could have an impact on the hauling contract, and in and amongst all this was the rise in fuel prices." He told the board that Casella Waste Systems, with whom Gill contracts with for trash and recycling collection, has suggested adding a fuel surcharge to any revised hauling contract.

Purington recommended that any discussion with vendors about fuel surcharges should include asking for credits if fuel prices go down. and said he would share that information with the board of health, which controls the trash and recycling contracts.

"Talking to [FCSWMD executive director] Jan Ameen today, our current contract specifically says that there will not be surcharges except by amending the agreement," said Purington. "We could be jerks about it and say 'no,' but I think that is short-sighted for a partner of the town that is providing an important service. And [this] is beyond anything they could have anticipated."

"I feel bad, because Jan worked so hard to get those contracts in place," said selectboard chair Greg Snedeker.

Cannabis Control

The selectboard discussed two letters – one from the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) and the other from Athol town manager Shaun Suhoski – expressing concern over legislation proposed by the state Joint Committee on Cannabis Policy, "An Act relative to social equity and host community agreements in the cannabis industry."

Cannabis businesses are currently required to enter host community agreements with local towns before receiving a state license. These agreements often include voluntary payments, or "impact fees," to offset the local cost of their operations.

The MMA letter argues that if enacted, H.4440 and S.2660 "would usurp the established authority of local government, likely invoke legal challenges, and create a more burdensome process for all parties involved with the cannabis industry in Massachusetts."

"I am still digesting the 16 pages of proposed law," said Purington, noting that the legislation seemed to be aimed at "bringing control of host community agreements under the Cannabis Control Commission (CCC), and it is making these host community agreements subject to oversight retroactive to 2016." Purington also said both letters from the

MMA and Suhoski reference "over a thousand of these host community agreements already in existence," and ask what that might mean for those communities.

"This is entering into maybe not scary territory, but inappropriate," he said. "That agreement is a contract between the town and a business."

"This whole thing is one of the reasons I have said throughout the process that the host community agreement monies, I think, should never go into the budget," said Crochier. "If you start getting 'X' amount of dollars, and all of a sudden that goes away, the rest of us are left paying."

Purington said that another issue with the legislation is that it would require a petition signed by more than 10% of a town's registered voters before a town can consider allowing cannabis consumption on premises.

"The only way it can go as a ballot vote is by petition," Purington said, "so you have to collect those minimum 10% of signatures – you could not decide as a selectboard that 'this is something we think Gill voters might want to weigh in on, let us put it on the ballot."

The board authorized Purington to send a letter to state senator Jo Comerford supporting the concerns raised by the MMA and the town of Athol.

Annual Town Meeting

The board discussed a resolution expected to be submitted by citizen's petition for the annual town meeting warrant regarding a proposed "Fair Share Amendment" (FSA) to the Massachusetts constitution. The FSA would create a 4% tax on annual income over a million dollars to generate revenue for public education and infrastructure.

The resolution was unanimously approved for inclusion on the warrant, contingent upon certain edits that Purington will propose to Claire Chang, a Gill resident and finance committee chair, who is bringing the petition.

The FSA would create a 4% tax on annual income over a million dollars to generate revenue for public education and infrastructure.

The FSA is proposed by Fair Share Massachusetts, which grew out of "a coalition of community organizations, faith-based groups, and labor unions committed to building an economy that invests in families, gives everyone the opportunity to succeed, and creates broadly shared prosperity," according to its website.

Crochier said that he had emailed Chang concerning a line in the sample resolution saying that high college tuitions are "forcing" students to take on debt. He suggested instead using a word like "causing."

Crochier said that he thinks higher education is important, but used as an example his own children, who "between the three of them may have a full college semester under their belt, but all of them have very good paying jobs, because they are in trades."

"I would not disagree with that," said Snedeker. "Some of my good friends have no college degree, and

they make a lot more than I do – and I have a lot of degrees."

"It is all part of the whole broken system," Crochier responded.

The deadline for petition articles is 5 p.m. on Monday, April 18.

Animal control officer Kyle Dragon was approved to request animal control bylaw revisions on the town meeting warrant. A section pertaining to livestock would be removed. Purington said Dragon's aim is to bring animal control bylaws into state compliance for all the towns that he oversees.

Other Business

Lucas Aldrich of LSA Auto, Inc. was unanimously approved for a 10-vehicle Class II auto sales license at 48 French King Highway, the site formerly occupied by Riverside Radiator.

Aldrich told the selectboard that his main business, CTLS, Inc., is a transportation company that owns 17 vehicles and contracts with MassHealth. He told the board that he is most interested in having the used auto sales license in order to purchase vehicles at auction, although he said he would also like "to sell a few cars out front."

Highway superintendent John Miner was unanimously approved to enter a one-year service agreement with Kat's Pump Service out of Whitinsville, Massachusetts. The \$525 per inspection service agreement "does not include any parts, materials, or mileage costs," said Miner.

Purington told the board that the agreement "would likely cost under \$2,000 a year," but said that \$10,000 is the yearly limit.

Miner told the board that a burned-out sewage pump motor needed to be replaced, and would cost \$3,250.

The board approved spending \$61,654 from Chapter 90 funding for chip sealing on South Cross Road, and another \$4,957 for chip sealing on Cove View Lane.

Gene Beaubien, William Borcy, Edward Curtis, Stuart Elliott, Andrew Howell, William Kimball, Greg Parody, Mitchell Waldron, and Dan Ware were all unanimously approved to the Board of Fire Engineers effective May 1, 2022 to April 30, 2023.

Jake Whitney was approved as a firefighter, beginning in April through the end of the fiscal year.

A purchase order of \$1,247.22 plus installation fees was approved for headlights on the fire department's 2010 tanker.

Purington asked the board for ideas for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments' yearly road traffic counting program, which can gather data on motor vehicle volume and speeds as well as bicycle volume.

Crochier suggested that traffic strips be placed just below Mountain Road off of Main Road "to get an idea of what is coming up and down that hill, versus what may come up and down that hill if a new business goes in at the bottom." Crochier said the data could be useful for traffic mitigation measures, and might also be useful for inclusion in a Complete Streets grant application.

The Turners Falls Schuetzen Verein Club was approved for a 2022 seasonal liquor license. Crochier abstained from the vote due to his own membership in the club.

TOWN OF ERVING RECREATION COMMISSION HIRING for SUMMER PARK DIRECTOR

Are you looking for a fulfilling summer job? Do you enjoy interacting with children? Then look no further, the ERVING SUMMER PARK PROGRAM is the place for you! We are currently seeking a Summer Park Director to lead our 2022 team.

The Director coordinates with the Recreation Commission to plan and implement a 5-week summer parks program in Erving for 40 children entering grades 1-7. A full job description is available at: www.erving-ma.gov/employment.

Requirements:

- Must be at least 21 years of age
- Energetic, Punctual, Responsible, Cooperative, Flexible, Creative, and have experience with children
- Counselor/teaching experience strongly preferred
- Counselor/ teaching experience strongly preferred
 Lifeguard certification is a PLUS!
- Training/planning begins in May. Summer Park Season runs July 11 August 12

This position is a seasonal employment opportunity. This position and the Town's ability to operate the Summer Park Program are subject to restrictions of any State of Emergency issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as well as the Town of Erving related to COVID-19. The employment application and position description are available by visiting <code>ww.erving-ma.gov/employment</code>. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Preference is given to applications received by April 15, 2022.

Applications can be completed online www.erving-ma.gov/employment or mailed to: Town of Erving, Attn: Recreation Commission, 12 East Main Street, Erving, MA 01344. A CORI check will be performed on the successful candidate. The Town of Erving is a drug-free workplace, and an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

Questions can be sent to careers@erving-ma.gov.

MONTAGUE PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE 40R SMART GROWTH ZONING OVERLAY DISTRICT Tuesday, April 12, 2022 6:30 PM

The Montague Planning Board will hold a public hearing to consider a petition to amend the Montague Zoning Bylaws to adopt a Smart Growth Overlay District pursuant to MGL Ch40R. The district is intended to incentivize the creation of new housing units in Turners Falls by permitting dense development wherein at least 25% of units are affordable. The district includes two subdistricts: A) Griswold Mill, comprising 11 and 15 Power Street parcels 03-0-027 and 03-0-089, and B) First Street, comprising parcels 04-0-0031 and 04-0-0024.

The meeting will be held at the Town Hall second floor meeting room, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA with a remote participation option. Meeting login instruction as well as the map and text of the proposed zoning amendment is available for review at www.montague-ma.gov/calendar.

Ron Sicard, Chair

CHIEF from page A1

chief's partner, who grew up in Turners Falls, may be taking her out of town more frequently than in the past—"at a moment's notice" the source said — perhaps making the time demands on the head of a fire department untenable.

"I love my job," McCarthy told us. "But I don't want to fail, at my work or as a parent – I don't want to let anyone down. It just came down to time for me."

McCarthy said he was taking an "early retirement" from the department for now, and would not continue as a firefighter. He said he has "no immediate [job] plans."

"He's a good kid," David Zamojski, who chairs the department's prudential committee, told this newspaper. The prudential committee, in addition to developing the annual budget to be presented to the district's annual meeting, is in charge of hiring the chief.

Zamojski said the committee has hired an "outside group" to interview and rate applicants for the job. He said the consultants are currently reviewing applications, and the committee hopes to have the hiring process completed by mid-April. McCarthy is scheduled to leave the department in mid-May.

Power Structures

The Turners Falls Fire District, which also includes the water department, will hold its annual election, which this year includes one prudential committee member and one water commissioner, on April 26. The election will take

place at the district's office on 226 Millers Falls Road.

The annual district meeting which will vote on the proposed budget, will be held May 3 at 7 p.m. at the Franklin County Technical School at 82 Industrial Boulevard. All registered voters residing in the district are eligible to vote on either date.

The district includes villages of Turners Falls, Millers Falls, and Montague City. Montague Center has its own fire and water districts, while Lake Pleasant receives fire services from Montague Center but purchases water from Turners Falls.

The Montague Center water district will hold its annual meeting at 7 p.m. on May 2 at the village fire station. Residents of that district will be able to vote on a prudential committee member at the annual meeting.

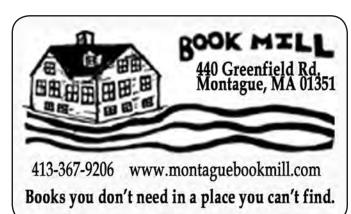
Montague Center fire chief Dave Hansen was not available to provide comment as of press time. We reached assistant chief Richard Sawin, who said he believed the department's annual meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Montague town clerk Deb Bourbeau says she believes most voters in Montague think fire and water services are provided by town government, and are unaware of the separate districts and their governance systems.

"Very few residents show up" at these district elections or meetings, Bourbeau told the *Reporter*. "It is mostly employees of the fire and water departments and their families."









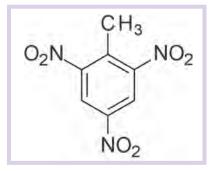
The Wattage of Warfare

By SPENCER SHORKEY

MILLERS FALLS - With the recent move by Vladimir Putin to invade Ukraine, we have been seeing many displays of powerful weapons used in this war. These bullets, bombs, and war machines contain a lot of energy. In this article I am going to discuss the embodied energy of various projectiles and explosives common in modern warfare.

The "watt" is a unit of power, and a watt-hour (Wh) is a unit of energy – power that is stored for later use. Other commonly used units of energy that can be interconverted with Wh, including kilocalorie (cal), joule (J), British thermal unit (BTU), and equivalent mass of tri-nitro-toluene (TNT).

The average human body on average uses, or "burns," about 2,000 cal per day, equal to around 2,300 Wh, 8 million joules, 8,000 BTU, or 2 kilograms of TNT.

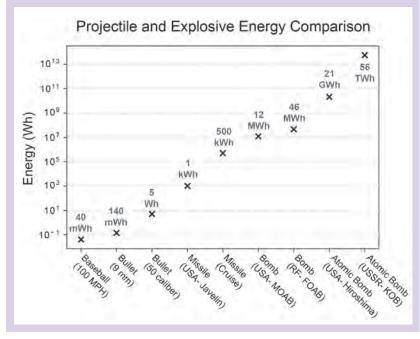


Each kilogram of trinitrotoluene (TNT) contains 2.7×10^{-24} of these molecules, and about 4.6 million joules of energy.

Our bodies harness energy mostly by "cycling" adenosine triphosphate (ATP) and adenosine diphosphate (ADP) molecules in our cells. The theoretical return of the ATPto-ADP cycle is 9 zJ ("zepto," or 10⁻²¹ J) of energy per molecule.

The 30 trillion-odd cells in a body average out to 0.3 µJ ("micro," or 10⁻⁶ J) of energy daily per cell, which means each cell is running at around 3 pW ("pico," or 10⁻¹² watts).

In terms of projectiles, such as baseballs or bullets from a gun, their embodied energy is simply calculated as kinetic energy, equal to the projectile's mass, multiplied



A log-scaled energy comparison of various projectiles and explosives.

by its speed squared, and divided by two. (The equation for this is KE = ½mv²). A baseball traveling at 100 miles per hour comes in at 40 mWh, whereas a .50 caliber bullet traveling at 2,000 miles per hour, or nearly three times the speed of sound, comes in at up to 5 Wh - over a hundred times the kinetic energy.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries have been supplying the Ukrainian army with a steady supply of missiles, which have been highly effective against Russian tanks and armored vehicles. The USA has sent Ukraine nearly 5,000 Javelin missiles, which each detonate around 1 kWh of explosive warhead upon impact.

A much larger explosive, such as a cruise missiles, can pack around 500 kWh of energy. That explosion would pack the same energy as a two-ton vehicle traveling 1,500 miles, or over 10 million record-breaking fastballs hitting all at once. Putin, the de facto dictator of Russia, has reportedly sent well over 1,000 cruise missiles at Ukrainian civilian and military targets; however, Ukrainian missile defense systems have improved to the point that many of these are intercepted.

Among the largest non-atomic bombs in existence is the so-called

"Mother of All Bombs" (MOAB), made by the USA, with a blast yield of 11 tons of TNT or 11 MWh. Not to be outdone, Russia produced a "Father of All Bombs" (FOAB), which yields 44 tons of TNT explosive energy.

The USA has manufactured up to 15 MOABs since 2003, and has used only one, against ISIS-K in Afghanistan in 2017. Though the FOAB has not been used yet, it is likely the largest non-nuclear bomb in existence.

The first atomic bomb used in war was the "Little Boy," dropped on Hiroshima, Japan in 1945, killing roughly 20,000 soldiers and 100,000 civilians. Its energy was the equivalent of 15,000 tons of TNT. In 1961 the USSR tested the "Tsar Bomba," or "King of Bombs" (KOB), yielding upwards of 50 million tons of TNT and 56 TWh - equivalent in energy to a 6.5 to 7 magnitude earthquake, or roughly the amount of energy Massachusetts consumes annually.

Regarding the war in Ukraine, though in the past month Putin has repeatedly threatened nuclear action if NATO intervenes, Russian spokesman Dimitry Peskov clarified that Russia will only use nuclear weapons following a "threat for existence" against Russia itself.

MEDICINE

Seasonal Allergies? There are Options!

By CATHERINE DODDS, MD

TURNERS FALLS - April showers bring May flowers. They also bring stuffy noses and itchy eyes for many of us. With the return of spring comes the return of pollen from blooming flowers, grasses, and trees. Those who suffer from seasonal allergies become sensitized to certain allergy triggers early in life, often in childhood. Symptoms return whenever their particular triggers are in the environment.

Seasonal allergies are life-long, but symptoms can get better or worse over time, and often vary year to year. Identifying an individual's allergy triggers can be complicated, but it's also important because reducing or avoiding the trigger is the best way to relieve allergy symptoms. Many people are allergic to more than one thing. One individual person may have seasonal triggers, but also year-round symptoms due to mold, dust, or pet dander.

Testing for allergies may involve blood tests. These look at IgG antibodies, which show that the body's immune system has been exposed to specific allergy triggers in the past. There are hundreds of different allergy triggers (allergens) that can be tested, so it's helpful to limit blood tests to common allergens, or a specific trigger that is suspected by an individual's history.

Allergy skin testing (called 'patch testing") can also be done, usually by an allergy specialist doctor. During an allergy skin test, a drop of the substance you might be allergic to is placed just under the skin by making a tiny prick in the skin surface. Then, we wait to see if the skin turns red and bumpy. The doctor can then interpret what allergy triggers you react to.

Some people choose not to be tested, instead accepting that they will have a few months of sneezing and eye watering each year, and managing those symptoms with over the counter treatments.

These include sinus rinses such as a NetiPot, steroid nose sprays including Flonase, antihistamine pills like Benadryl, Claritin, or Zyrtec, decongestants including Sudafed, and eye drops such as Zaditor. Each of these can have potential interactions or risks, so please discuss with your healthcare provider before starting any new treatment, even one that is available without a prescription.

If you consistently get symptoms around a certain time of year, it's best to start allergy treatments two weeks before you anticipate your symptoms will start.

While medication is one way to manage allergies, other practical measures can help. Try to stay indoors as much as possible during your allergy season. Keep windows shut and use air conditioning when in the car rather than opening a window. Shower just before bed. Use a mask if working outside, particularly while raking or leaf-blowing. Avoid rubbing your eyes. Use a cool compress over the eyes or preservative-free artificial tears to help soothe and lubricate the eyes. Consider avoiding contact lenses and eye makeup during allergy season.

For those who have ongoing, severe symptoms, additional treatments are available, including prescription pills and injections, and immunotherapy (allergy shots). Allergy shots contain tiny amounts of individual allergens, so they do require testing first and are tailored to the individual. Allergy shots also mean a time commitment - the shots are given frequently (weekly to monthly) for several years, and are usually given and monitored in a medical office.

Many allergy sufferers find that allergy shots can reduce their symptoms for many years, even when no other treatments helped. If you dread the return of April showers and May flowers, speak with your healthcare provider about options to treat your allergies more effectively.













MONTAGUE from page A1

service system for its police department in 1932. In 2002, following a divisive local controversy over then-police chief Pat O'Bryan, town meeting rejected a selectboard proposal to remove the position from civil service.

The issue was raised again in 2018 following the resignation of Chief Charles "Chip" Dodge, but the selectboard decided that the change would be more costly, and would delay the hiring of a new chief.

Montague's current police chief, Chris Williams, noted on Monday that the initiative for removing a police department from civil service, which must be approved by a town meeting petition to the legislature, usually comes from town officials, but that this time the department itself is advocating the change for one primary reason – "recruitment."

The civil service list for Montague, the product of a test every two years, has been "shrinking," with only five people on the list over the last four years, Williams said.

Williams said leaving civil service would increase the pool of potential officers. He also said that those on the force now would retain their civil service status. "Greenfield, Athol and Orange are all out [of the civil service system]," he noted.

Town administrator Steve Ellis said the police union has been informed of the change, and "everyone is rowing in the same direction, which is different from some of the historical conversations about leaving civil service."

Pandemic Aid

The board did not take any official vote to recommend the police proposal or other warrant items, and did not indicate funding sources for the money articles.

A separate discussion of the use of the town's emergency allocation under the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), however, led the board to take two costly proposals screw pumps for the water pollution control facility (WPCF), and a vactor truck for department of public works (DPW) – off the warrant.

The ARPA agenda item began with a discussion of how much of Montague's remaining allocation, which Ellis estimated at just over \$2.4 million, would be considered as eligible to cover "revenue loss" under recent US Treasury depart-

Virtually all the potential projects on a list presented by Ellis would fall under this category, with the possible except of direct aid to businesses impacted by the pandemic.

The board initially appeared open to targeting a small portion of ARPA funds to direct business aid, but in the end decided that a range of projects to promote economic development could be financed under the more flexible "revenue loss" category.

Members then voted to expend sums "not to exceed" \$800,000 for the WPCF screw pumps and \$400,000 for the "remaining balance" on the purchase of the DPW

Ellis noted that as ARPA funding is now being used for these purchases, the town will need to follow more "stringent" federal procurement rules, including a competitive bid process. He suggested that this could extend into the late spring, making the final cost uncertain. Both allocations voted by the board were thus called "padded costs," potentially leaving the town \$1.15 million for other uses after the pumps and truck re purchase.

The board decided to hold off discussion of a list of other potential ARPA allocations until a future meeting, with the exception of a proposed \$3,500 rental of a tent for summer outdoor library programming. Ellis told the board the tent "was not in the library budget," and that if they did not commit to buying one soon, "they don't necessarily have a guarantee that one will be available."

After a lengthy discussion of the relative merits of purchase versus lease, potential storage issues, and why the tent lease was not in the regular library budget, Ellis was tasked with discussing the use of funds from the Community Development Block Grant Discretionary Fund for the rental with the library director.

The decision to fund the screw pumps and vac truck from the ARPA allocation led selectboard chair Kuklewicz to recommend taking these items off the annual town meeting agenda. However, several other expensive capital projects remained, including a \$100,000 appropriation for re-pointing the bricks on the Montague Center library/old town hall.

Ellis said the issue of using ment guidelines. The guidelines for ARPA funding for repairs on the spending under this category are old town hall had been raised by flexible, and do not require cities resident Deb Radway at a recent

public hearing, but he believed she and towns to document such loss. was advocating that the building be included in a long-term plan to

> maintain branch libraries. "I think we have the funds to cover that," said Kuklewicz.

Parks and Recreation

The selectboard approved a request for the use of property by the **Brick House Community Resource** Center for a "fun run and walk" on the canalside bike path on June 18. The event will begin at Unity Park, cross the power canal and loop through the Patch neighborhood, and then return to the park on the bike path.

Peter Wackernagel came before the board with a proposal to add two new downtown pollinator gardens to the growing number of such projects, sponsored by the Brick House. One will be on the grassy knoll that abuts town hall on the northeast, and the other on the tree belt along L Street between Third and Fourth streets.

Wackernagel said the proposals were "inspired" by the Montague pollinator action plan produced by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. The board approved his proposal, after some discussion, with the caveat that he communicate with other parties helping maintain the tree belts.

At Ellis's recommendation, the board voted to spend an additional \$3,500 on the Unity Park sealing and painting project in order to upgrade the "hopscotch areas." The money once again will come from the pot called the CDBG Discretionary Unallocated Fund.

The board approved a request from Russ Martin of Money Game, LLC for the use of public property on March 30 through April 1 for the filming of a "feature film" in downtown Turners Falls. Martin said the film would be directed by Julian Lowenthal, a native of Turners Falls who "has a story" about the village.

After some confusion about filming times and the wording of the group's insurance certificate, the selectboard approved the request.

PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 138, General Laws, as amended, the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague are hereby notified that Santo Taco dba Santo Taco, Ivette Mateos Reyes as manager, has applied for a Seasonal § 12 General On-Premises Wine and Malt Beverage License. The premise is located at 148 2nd Street, Turners Falls, MA consisting of a 5,500 sq. ft. fenced/roped outdoor lot. There will be a mobile food trailer and locked refrigerated shipping container for storage. There will be 2 entrances and exits.

Date and place of hearing: Monday, April 11, at 7:00 P.M. via ZOOM: www.montague-ma.gov/d/6660/Selectboard-Meeting

Montague License Commissioners

PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 138, General Laws, as amended, the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague are hereby notified that Rocket Science, LLC d/b/a **The Rendezvous**, Mark P. Wisnewski as manager, has applied for an alteration of licensed premises of the All-Alcoholic Beverage Liquor License (Restaurant). The current licensed premises is located at 78 Third Street, Turners Falls, MA consisting of a two story wood frame building, bar on first floor, one room subdivided, bar, kitchen area, dining area, front deck area, two bathrooms, cellar for storage; and an apartment on second floor. Five entrances/exits (three in back of building, two in front). The proposed change would include the use of 18^{\prime} x 84^{\prime} of the town owned parking lot area adjacent to 78 Third Street. Use of the outdoor area will be on a daily basis, Sunday through Saturday, from 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Use of the outdoor area will be renewable on an annual basis and run from April 1 to the start of the Town's Winter Parking Ban, typically December 1st but may occur sooner, as declared by the Selectboard, based on winter conditions.

Date and place of hearing: Monday, April 11, at 7:10 P.M. via ZOOM: www.montague-ma.gov/d/6660/Selectboard-Meeting

Montague License Commissioners

Other Business

At the request of WPCF superintendent Chelsey Little, the board appointed Timothy Little to the newly position of foreman, a position recently created to replace the "chief operator" position which the facility was having difficulty filling.

Prior to Ms. Little reviewing the history of the position and Mr. Little's qualifications, Ellis told the selectboard that "there is a relationship by marriage," and that he had been "very, very deeply involved" in the hiring process.

Ellis informed the board of a letter he had received from the Athol town manager raising concerns about proposed state legislation intended to increase "social equity" in the local host community agreements with cannabis firms. The Athol letter, which was not directly discussed at Monday's meeting, claims that the goals of the legislation are "laudable and should be

pursued," but not by retroactively "negating" those host community agreements negotiated since 2016.

Selectboard member Matt Lord agreed to work with Ellis to evaluate the legislation and develop Montague's response.

Ellis reported on continuing efforts to convince the state Department of Transportation (Mass-DOT) to paint and rehabilitate the upper portion of the General Pierce Bridge as part of the current restoration project, scheduled to be completed in May 2023. A letter to MassDOT to this effect from state senator Joanne Comerford and representative Natalie Blais was included in the board's packet.

The board adjourned to an executive session to discuss real estate negotiations. The next scheduled board meeting will take place on April 4, which will be a "hybrid" meeting in person and on Zoom.



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on March 29, 2012: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Montague Town Meeting to Vote on Water Mains for Center School

An ambitious plan to convert the old Montague Center School to "green" apartments that will use no fossil fuels is still moving forward, and town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said he hopes to complete the deal by the end of the fiscal year.

Olive Street Development Group responded to a request for proposals (RFP) from the town of Montague and offered \$50,000 for the 14,182-square-foot building, which sits on 3.3 acres of land on School Street, contingent on the town's financing new water mains.

For investors willing to put at least a million dollars into renovating the property, the minimum bid was \$50,000, according to the terms of the RFP.

The property, which was recently assessed at \$978,400, received a new \$98,500 roof courtesy of Montague taxpayers in 2008. In addition, the town has invested at least \$80,000 in heating, insuring and maintaining the building since then. Mark Zaccheo, principal of the Olive Street Group, said the new water mains are essential for adding sprinklers to the building.

The finance committee and the selectboard will recommend a positive vote to appropriate \$25,000 to pay for the new water mains at a special town meeting on Wednesday, April 4.









G-M Superintendent Ekstrom Resigns

Interim superintendent Nadine Ekstrom announced her resignation at the Gill-Montague school committee meeting Tuesday night, March 27.

Ekstrom informed the committee chair of her decision to accept a position with another school district late last week, after being informed that the Berlin-Boylston school committee had decided to offer her the position as their superintendent.

During the long process from voting on January 24 to offer Ekstrom a position as permanent superintendent, rather than forming a search committee, through a February executive session decision to offer her a three-year contract, the school committee had made their intention to retain Ekstrom as permanent superintendent clear.

Nevertheless, the committee had not reached the point of offering her an official contract. By the time they informed Ekstrom in early March that they wanted to begin negotiations, the Rutland, MA resident said she would prefer to wait until the process with Berlin-Boylston was complete, knowing she was one of two final candidates.

"This is a year of bitter sweet," said Ekstrom. "It's been a great journey. My heart is with Gill-Montague and always will be."

Ekstrom, who received a salary of \$125,000, said she appreciated the nurturing environment in the G-M schools, and her connection with the students, teachers, and administrative staff.

Saturday Buses Likely

By MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY - Montague's alternate representative to the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA), one Jeff Singleton, reported to the selectboard Monday

on topics the transit advisory board

discussed at a mid-March meeting.

Singleton said that FRTA plans to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to pilot weekend routes "for a couple of years," and a subcommittee is now working out the details. "We're the only RTA in the state that does not have weekend

fixed-route service," he explained. Singleton sought the selectboard's input on whether to design the pilot for Saturdays and Sundays, or just Saturdays. He said the FRTA administration and bus operator "seem to be headed" toward both days, but that he is worried this would lead to an eventual reduction in services down the road after the federal relief money is spent and the cost of the routes is assessed to member towns.

"Given that it's not going to touch our assessment," asked selectboard member Matt Lord, "why not run a comprehensive pilot, and use it as a real pilot to study the ridership?"

"I'd like to see us go to weekend service with something we can sustain," Singleton replied. "Stability is important... I'm nervous about flying around, doing this and radically changing it in two years." He raised the example of landlords renting apartments to tenants on the premise of full weekend service.

Board members agreed to continue the conversation next week.

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LEVERETT from page A1

said these curves are used by sports car clubs as a "proving ground," and are popular with motorcyclists who travel at excessive speeds. He said there had been two motorcycles deaths in the area in the last two years, and six arrests and 108 citations given out in the last year.

Olson also provided a lengthy list of dangerous situations, unpleasant interactions with motorists, and expensive damage to properties that he has encountered.

Shutesbury Road resident Jenny Daniell spoke of a related concern with speeding in the area between the library and the intersection, and joined others present in emphasizing the danger to pedestrians in both areas by providing personal experiences going back for decades.

Daniell said she walks along the road with her elderly father and grandchild, and has been "thinking about who may get hit or killed." She agreed that the problem had gotten worse, and recommended reducing speed limits earlier in the approach to the intersection.

A variety of solutions were discussed, including additional signage, rumble strips, speed bumps, and changing the intersection to a "T" style with three stop signs. Three possibilities that were brought up – reducing the speed limit from 30 mph, banning trucks from Shutesbury Road, and making roads unavailable to GPS directions services – were said to be out of the town's control due to state law or other regulations.

Highway superintendent Matt Boucher said that an initial project to install stop signs and alter the roads would not be expensive, and could be done in a way that would allow for re-evaluation after a year.

Selectboard member Tom Hankinson suggested that he, Boucher, and police chief Scott Minckler meet at the intersection to discuss options and come back to the board in two weeks with a list of recommendations.

Field Building

The board discussed at length a town meeting warrant article that would give the selectboard the option to sell the old Field building to the Leverett Historical Society (LHS).

LHS would like to see the building restored and functioning alongside the Moore's Corner property as part of a single museum, and is seeking the transfer in part because

· Wealth Management



*GCB will include a closing cost credit of up to \$750 and an additional \$250 toward closing costs if a GCB pre-qual was obtained. For new first mortgage loans on 1-2 family owner-occupied homes or who refinance from another mortgage provider. Minimum \$100,000 loan, no investment properties, applied for on or after 2/1/2022 and close by 8/31/2022. The closing cost credit is applied at closing. Subject to normal credit approval, appraisal and verifications of income. Homeowners insurance and flood insurance (if applicable) is required. Offers are subject to change or end without notice, see bank for details.

ownership technicalities have prevented them from obtaining grant money.

Concerns were raised about ensuring the historical preservation of the buildings if the transfer was made, and Hankinson expressed concern about LHS's functionality after sporadic activity in recent years, but he spoke favorably on the measure.

Wealth Tax Resolution

The board agreed to sponsor a warrant article expressing support for the adoption of the Fair Share Amendment, which will come up for a vote in the state legislature later this year. The measure would amend the state constitution to include a tax of 4% on income above \$1 million.

Resident Kip Fonsh presented a sample support resolution and spoke in favor of its adoption, citing equity issues and the additional revenue the tax would generate for state roads and schools.

Fonsh initially asked the selectboard itself to provide a resolution of support, but chair Julie Shively noted that the deciding body for all political resolutions was town meeting, not the selectboard.

Other Business

The board approved a request from highway superintendent Boucher to cover a \$4,500 over-expenditure in winter materials costs,

such as salt, along with adding another \$10,000 for the purchase of such materials next winter.

Boucher said costs had been going up, and budgeting for them was a "guessing game," but it made sense to make the purchases now.

The board and Boucher spoke favorably on moving forward with a grant application to replace a culvert on Shutesbury Road, and a related expenditure contained in a town meeting warrant article.

Planning board member Richard Nathhorst asked the board for approval of a one-stop grant proposal to study the idea of establishing an electrical "micro-grid" tying together the library, public safety complex, and elementary school. Nathhorst listed a number of benefits of the idea, including greater use of green energy and an increased availability of backup power for the buildings.

Selectboard member Melissa Colbert reported that an additional Zoom license had been purchased to expand the town's remote meeting capabilities. Colbert said problems remained with the sound quality of meetings held in the town hall, and that she and others were turning their attention to resolving them.

The board approved the sale of a surplus fire truck for \$3,600 to the highest of 10 bidders.

Michael Katz was appointed as animal inspector, and Ty Rogers and Jeremy Rice were hired as part-time firefighters.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Free Antigen Testing in Turners

TURNERS FALLS – The Montague Health Department is providing free COVID-19 rapid antigen testing at the Montague Town Hall Annex building located on the Connecticut River side of the Town Hall building at One Avenue A, Turners Falls.

The testing will be available Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to noon from April 5 to May 10. Please wear a mask when entering the health care area.

No appointments will be necessary, and the service will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Test results will be available by text or in person within 15 minutes.

There is no residency requirement for this testing service. This service is available for those individuals who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19. This is not testing to screen for the virus; if you are feeling fine and have not been exposed, the rapid antigen test is not for you.

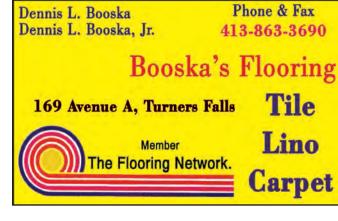
Those persons who might have questions related to COVID-19 or have tested positive with a home test should contact Robin Neipp, Contact Tracing Nurse for the Montague Board of Health, at (413) 824-5854 for guidelines relating to isolation, quarantine care and treatment.

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Fun in New Hampshire's Great North Woods

SOUTH DEERFIELD – New Hampshire is decidedly different from its lefty neighbor, Vermont. Up in New Hampshire, the motto is "Live Free or Die," though some of the liberals who live down south would like to shorten this to just "live free." Yet the license plates persist, and the Granite State lives up to its tough, flinty, do-it-yourown-way reputation.

My friend Jack Dunphy of Montague joined me on an excursion up north a few summers ago to experience something that's unique to New Hampshire. There are more than 1,000 miles of trails in the Great North Woods for all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and snow machines, and rental companies offer the best in motorized fun for the mud or the snow. The collection of trails connect a vast network in Coos (pronounced *KOH*-ass) County, and all year long thousands of flatlanders drive up Routes 91 and 89 towing their ATVs to enjoy the scene.

Steve and Corine Baillageron started their ATV rental business, Bear Rock Adventures, in 2013 in the town of Pittsburg – less than 30



Riding a Polaris ATV with Bear Rock Adventures in Colebrook, New Hampshire.

minutes away from Quebec, Canada – and they have seen tremendous has become the biggest ATV destination in the northeast. They even offer "glamping" options that bring a little luxury to go along with the gasoline and adrenaline.

This sure isn't a cross-country ski crowd. It's strictly helmet-clad speed lovers who are equally at

home aboard a snow machine as they are a 4-wheeler. The places in growth as the Great North Woods Pittsburg where the ATVers gather are salt-of-the-earth kinds of joints, with short wine lists and local brews on tap. One is called the Buck Rub Pub and Lounge, another is Sarge's Pub and Grub.

> If you show up without your own machine, you're in luck - the

> way for farmers to return to raising

livestock, since the soil had become

depleted due to lack of manure and

breeding stock was in short supply.

over large paper floor plans of the

ship, finding our cabins and noticing

squares on every level marked LIFT.

When I tried to lift them, I was an-

noved that nothing happened. By the

time we set sail from New York on

Preparing for our trip, we pored

see TRAVELS page B5

MEMORY

A Massachusetts Girl's Year in Scotland

By MAGGIE SADOWAY

TURNERS FALLS - In early

eight years old; my brothers were ten, seven, and two; Mom was six months pregnant with my sister.

It would be many years before I understood what took us to Scotland. In order to stretch food supplies during World War II, Churchill's government had required farmers to grow potatoes and turnips rather than livestock. My dad, an agricultural economist, was hired to help determine the most economical

May 8, I had learned my first British word: "lifts" were elevators. Deck chairs cost ten shillings, so we rented just two for the six of us. At every meal we were overwhelmed with fancy menu choices: grilled lamb's liver, ox tongue, filet of sea trout. I probably chose a poached egg and ice-cream - and ate with my best manners in such a posh dining room.

Before this trip I had seen just one movie in my life, The Wizard of Oz, which terrified me. In the ship's cinema, Tom Brown's School Days, based on Thomas Hughes's 1857 autobiographical novel, had the same effect; I fled mid-film to ask my mother how such bullying and physical assault could happen in a school.

see **SCOTLAND** page B6



West Along the River

MARCH 31, 2022

REPORT FROM THE EDGE OF SPRINGTIME

By DAVID BRULE

For one thing there's no more

To watch from an evening window And fewer armfuls of firewood to carry into the house

To the Glenwood C waiting to devour His early dinner of wood...

THE FLAT, ERVINGSIDE -

A few days ago, at least, that was the case here, and at that time I could agree with the poet Billy Collins. Certainly no snow, yet again, but there was a light rain falling on the greening grass like the rain in the Irish blessing. I can report to you that the wee birds who have spent the whole weird winter here in the yard are thrilled with that state of affairs.

Bird chatter and high-pitched trilling come from the junco tribe, and the song sparrow has begun his elaborate piping from the top of the dogwood, singing his heart out. This little Pavarotti is bursting with the joy of a new season. The red-wing band is calling out their oak-a-lee while each individual flashes scarlet red epaulettes to impress or bluff. Just like so many mad springtime rams driven by the seasonal hormones to procreate, the redwings are huffing crimson shoulders instead of butting heads.

The ice is not yet out in the frog pond, lingering in the corners, but the warm rain and soon-to-shineforth sunbeams have coaxed out the first of the green frogs. They are already primed to begin with a chorus of croaks, splashing and

copulating in the opening water. The Full Worm Moon arrived at the rendezvous with mid-March, as the Old Farmer's Almanac had promised, and lo! The first woodcock called out from deep in the bare undergrowth along the rushing river, just as woodcocks have done since the end of the last ice age,

more than 10,000 years ago. The strutting wall-eyed woodcock's nasal one-note call is the evening signal I've waited for every springtime for the last 50 years I've been on this land. You rarely see the little guy – unless you catch him in his downward spiraling flight after reaching heights of ninety feet, twittering all the way, only to start up with his call all over again.

By March 22, we arrive at the third morning of bright sunshine after a night of freezing temperatures. Ice formed in the birdbath will be short-lived, with the sun already streaking in from the distant east over neighbor Bob's rooftop.

Way too many squirrels scamper across the still invisible grass of the lawn. That grass is there somewhere just beneath the crusty surface, hinting of early tender green. The Full Worm Moon has already come and gone, and true to their cue, the worms tunnel up to the surface, right on time. This cycle of light freeze and warm daytime thaw is a mirror image of the month of November, but luckily we're on the way to warmer times rather than heading into three months of New England winter.

Robins, having spent a spare winter on a vegetarian diet of dried crabapples and last-of- the-season holly berries, now find some different earthwormy protein and are busy at it, listening and then diving onto their breakfast to be found just at the surface.

The classic scene is playing out right before my eyes as I write: a robin is pulling on a reluctant earthworm clinging to the ground for dear life. The worm stretches like an elastic about to snap. Backing up on his heels, Robin manages to tug it loose, and rocks back on his tail feathers when the worm lets go. Down the gullet it goes, and My! Was that ever good. I can

see WEST ALONG page B6



Mourning doves court outside the author's kitchen window.

1951, my dad announced that our family was about to go on a Big Ad-

Line's Queen Elizabeth, then the largest liner in the world at a length of 1,031 feet, disembark in Southampton, travel north by train, then

venture. We would cross the Atlantic Ocean on the Cunard-White Star spend a year in Edinburgh. I was

The author (at right), on her best behavior, aboard the Queen Elizabeth.

Pet of Week



"LOCKETT"

If you're looking to turn some heads at the park, ferrets for you. The previous guardian of Lockett and their sibling, Pickett (also available) used to take them for walks on a harness to parks and such to go swimming. They do well with other animals, but other animals seem to get too excited around them. Who wouldn't? It's not every day you see ferrets doing a doggie paddle!

Lockett is beautiful, exciting and active. Pickett is quiet, shy, friendly and beautiful. These ferrets are litterbox-trained and love to be petted and picked up. They lived with a ten-year-old child and got along well with him. The adoption fee for one ferret is \$125; each additional ferret has a discounted fee of \$55.

Interested in adopting? mals 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.

Senior Center Activities APRIL 4 THROUGH 8

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.

LEVERETT

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

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. Coffee and tea is available during open hours.

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 4/4

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

Tuesday 4/5

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

Wednesday 4/6

9 to 11 a.m. Veterans' Agent Hours 10:15 a.m. Aerobics

11 a.m. Chair Exercise 1 p.m. Bingo 4 p.m. Mat Yoga Thursday 4/7

10:30 a.m. Brown Bag 1 p.m. Cards & Games Friday 4/8

10:15 a.m. Aerobics 11 a.m. Chair Exercise

ERVING

Erving Senior Center is open Zoom on Wednesdays. For more 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.

> 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 4/4

9 a.m. Re-Store & Re-Emerge 10 a.m. New class coming soon Tuesday 4/5

9 a.m. Good for YOU 10 a.m. Line Dancing

9 a.m. Strength & Conditioning 10 a.m. New Chair Yoga

12:30 p.m. Bingo Thursday 4/7

Wednesday 4/6

9 a.m. Re-Store & Re-Emerge 10 a.m. Stretch & Balance

Friday 4/8 9 a.m. Open Sew Quilting

APRIL 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

Multiple days: Paws to Read. Read to trained therapy dogs Rio or J-Lo to improve literacy skills. 1st Tuesday at the Carnegie, 1st Wednesday at Montague Center, 3rd Thursday at the Carnegie. Call (413) 863-3214 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 at the Carnegie Library. 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. Link on the website. 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.

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 all branch locations. While supplies last.

Tuesday, April 12: Gardening for Birds, Online. Learn about how your landscaping choices can have a big impact on bird habitat and populations throughout the year. Call (413) 863-3214 or email librarydirector@montague-ma.gov to register. 7 p.m.

Week of April 19: April Takeand-Make. Rain stick for children, origami flowers for adults. Free kits at all branch locations, while supplies last.

Week of April 19: Story Stroll. Visit the Carnegie Library lawn to stroll your way through the book Different Kinds of Hurt: Isaac's Story. Copies are available in English at all three libraries, and in Spanish at the Carnegie and Montague Center.

Wednesday, April 20: Spanish Conversation Practice. Join bilingual specialist Jan Lamberg to learn/practice Spanish conversation. All levels welcome. Carnegie Library lawn, under the tent, 1 to 3 p.m.

Friday, April 22: Seed Start for Children. Celebrate Earth Day

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

by starting some pea seeds! Carnegie Library lawn, under the tent, 1 p.m.

Friday, April 22: Stuffed Animal Sleepover. Your stuffed friend can spend the night at the Carnegie Library reading stories, playing games, and probably staying up late! More info at montaguepubliclibraries.org/calendar. Drop off Friday 3 to 5 p.m.

ERVING FREE LIBRARY

1st Monday: Paws to Read. A great opportunity for reluctant readers to read with a therapy dog. Call (413) 423-3348 to reserve a spot. 4 to 6 p.m.

Sunday, April 10: Puzzle Swap. Bring a puzzle to swap, or we'll give you one to get you started. Sponsored by Friends of the Library. 2 to 4 pm.

Thursday, April 14: Farley String Band concert. 4 p.m.

Sunday, April 24: Henna Tattoos. Talented artist Mandy Roberge will make you a beautiful, temporary tattoo. Register to be sure to get a spot: (413) 423-3348. 12 to 2 p.m.

Saturday, April 30: Plant/ Book/Tag Locally Sales. raised plants, perennials, veggie starts, flowers, books, DVDs, and tag sales all over town. Pick up a map at the library. Rain date May 1.

LEVERETT LIBRARY

All April: Monthly Spice Tasting: Nigella. Stop in for a sample and suggested recipes. While supplies last.

All April: Story Walks. Find a new Story on the trail behind the library every Thursday.

Every Monday and Wednesday: Online Qigong. Free class, everyone welcome. More info on the leverettlibrary. org calendar, or email Dvora: Community Qigong @gmail. com. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Every Saturday: Tai Chi. Free class, everyone welcome. Space limited, masks required. Call Dennis for more info: (413) 367-9760. 10 to 11 a.m.

Wednesday, April 6, 13, and 27: Tales & Tunes Storytime. Join Heleen for songs, stories, and playtime. Please preregbudine @erving.com. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

2nd Monday: Ukulele Strum-Along Online. All instruments welcome, chords and lyrics included. For more details: julie@musicjulie.com. 7 to 8 p.m.

Wednesday, April 21: Behind the Scenes of the Rattlesnake Gutter Plant Giveaway. Join Cheryl and Eva to learn about their inspiration, this year's progress, and ways you can support their endeavors to bring access to food, plants, and community. 2:30 p.m.

NORTHFIELD: DICKINSON **MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

Every Tuesday: Story Hour Online. Music and stories for toddlers, preschoolers, older siblings, and caregivers. Pre-register with Deb Wood: woodd@pvrsdk12.org. 10 a.m.

Every Tuesday: Drop-in Knitting. Join fellow knitters and crocheters for an afternoon of chatting and sharing projects. All are welcome! 6 to 8 p.m.

1st Wednesday: Readers' Choice. Book for April 6: The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson. For more info email dmemlib@gmail.com. 10 a.m.

Most Fridays: Kids' Fridays. April 1: LEGOs. April 8: MCBA (grades 4 to 6). April 29: movie Encanto.

1st Saturday: Puzzle Swap. Dozens of new-to-you puzzles for kids and adults. For more friendsofdml01360@ info, gmail.com. 10 to 11:30 a.m.

2nd Wednesday: Readings: Nonfiction, Fiction, and Poetry. Book for April 13: Slaughterhouse-Five by Kurt Vonnegut. For more info email dmemlib@ gmail.com. 3 p.m.

2nd Thursday: Environmental Awareness Group. Discussion for April 14: The Repair podcast series. For more info dmemlib@gmail.com. email 6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 15: Campfire and S'mores Hangout. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Thursday, April 28: Daniel Bullen presents his book Daniel Shays's Honorable Rebellion: An American Story. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

WENDELL FREE LIBRARY

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

Every Saturday: Storytime. Stories aimed at ages 2 to 6, but all ages are welcome. Masks required. 10 a.m.

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MOVIE REVIEW

CODA (2021, Apple TV+)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I first watched a TV show that premiered on Apple TV+ called For All Mankind, about an alternate history involving the space race, I enjoyed that reasonably well. So I decided to review a movie that was also on the channel called CODA, featuring Marlee Matlin. She's a deaf actress I know of reasonably well, and have seen in several TV shows and films, so that alone made me interested in this film.

I had also heard that it was nominated for three Oscar – Best Picture, Best Adapted Screenplay, and Best Supporting Actor for Troy Kotsur. This week, it won all three.

CODA is about a girl with deaf family members, pursuing her own dream while trying to be there for them. She is the only hearing person in the family. It is set in Gloucester, Massachusetts, which I know is a fishing community in real life, so featuring fishermen is a very accurate thing to do.

It turned out that I had some familiarity with a couple of other actors in this movie. One was Kotsur, who plays the husband in this family. The other is a choir teacher played by Eugenio Derbez. I enjoyed their work very much.

The girl in this family is named Ruby, and she gets into singing be-

cause of a crush of hers. It turns out that she has a beautiful voice. She starts to get private lessons, and then is encouraged to try out for Berklee College of Music.

Throughout all of this, we get to see what the dynamic is like in this kind of family. Ruby is needed in this family to help out with their fishing business, though she has a brother who wants her to let them deal with their own problems. This kind of dynamic is interesting to see on the screen.

Also, while they can't enjoy Ruby's singing by way of hearing, they could tell at a concert that people enjoyed it. One is also able to enjoy it through feeling the vibrations, which was another interesting thing to see on the screen.

I won't say whether Ruby gets into the school, but I will mention that her family decides to go in a certain direction in trying to handle their problems; others connected to their business start to learn sign language.

CODA is a unique film to watch. This could explain why this film got those Oscar nominations.

I should also mention that the actress who played Ruby in this film, Emilia Jones, learned sign language among other things for her role. So that is one person there who worked hard on her part to make this a quality film!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Wait, What If Everyone Was Issued Earplugs? It Might Save The Town A Lot of Money

Monday, 3/21

7:16 a.m. Report of de- Wednesday, 3/23 near the straightway on traffic stop on Seventh Millers Falls Road. DPW Street, a 61-year-old advised.

4:16 p.m. Caller reporting arrested and charged with Thursday, 3/24 a male party in a wheel- illegal possession of a chair asking people for Class B substance and ille- he was in the process of money on Seventh Street. gal possession of a Class E evicting someone from an Referred to an officer.

7:17 p.m. Caller from L 2:44 p.m. Fax received Street reporting that her from Athol Memorial Hosneighbors are being very loud and stomping, with occurred earlier today in a dog barking and loud Millers Falls. Message left laughter. Caller stated that for animal control officer. her husband attempted Copy faxed to the board of to knock on the door but health. banged on the ceiling to vised that they have PD get their attention. Offi- out with a male party on cer advises there were two the canal bridge who has teenage girls in the apart- burns from setting himment and they were told to self on fire. AMR and FD keep it down. Resident and en route. Officer advises mother of one of the girls bridge is slowly reopening called from work stating at this time. that her daughter told 8:06 p.m. Caller requesther that the downstairs ingassistance; he is locked neighbor was banging on behind the gate at the Silto open the door. She and vices rendered. her friend were just watch- 8:13 p.m. Caller from Av- become suspicious. ing TV.

Tuesday, 3/22

12:28 a.m. 911 caller from take the screen out of the scam calls; he is sick of it Third Street reports he laundry room window and and wants to know who obnoxious. was watching an individ- crawl inside. Officer ad- is calling. Asked caller ing going up to doors of entry; everything is intact, the number; he stated no, houses and cars and look- and no one is around. ing in them. Caller advises 9:24 p.m. Caller from Centhat the male went into a tral Street reporting that rassed. Caller stated it is building across from the her downstairs neighbor laundromat and restau- is being loud and playing rant. Area checked; noth- loud music. Neighbor ad-

2:50 p.m. Report from Av- called back stating that enue A of what looks like her downstairs neighbor a drug deal involving a is now throwing things white Chrysler; caller re- around in his apartment. ports this is an everyday Caller is slurring her

Turners Falls man was substance.

pital about a dog bite that

there was no answer; they 7:19 p.m. Greenfield ad-

he saw three or four kids he is being harassed by

vised of complaint. Caller occurrence. Referred to an words and sounds intoxi-

cated. Officer advises that a nuisance dog; they now ceased coyote in the road 11:07 a.m. Following a could be heard; kids were breaking the fence and try-

shut off. All quiet.

3:55 p.m. Caller states apartment and he found out the people have not been staying there since November. Caller states new people are staying in go to court.

7:02 p.m. Caller states she sure it was reported. got a phone call from a 7:56 p.m. Caller from blocked number that was Keith Apartments states threatening to kill her. Call- the male next door is er wondering if we have drunk and is yelling and a way to track down a call banging, screaming at with no caller ID; advised the caller. Caller called their door and yelling at vio O. Conte Anadromous her that we don't. She will them and she was scared Fish Research Center. Ser- call back if they call again threatening her. Officer or anything else starts to advising male left on foot

> he is a human being and not right that he gets harassed and has to block a give his location, name, or number.

Friday, 3/25

7:15 a.m. Caller states that a Saturday, 3/26 male is changing his tire at the Route 47/63 crossover but he is lying with part of Officer advised.

requesting backup to loca- for the night. tion. A 26-year-old Greenfield man was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of

drugs. it looks like someone hit a cat in the parking lot of the Franklin Area Survival Center: believes it is dead: Sunday. 3/27 unsure what to do with the the transfer station.

of his own. Officer sat at there. the park for a while; didn't 3:29 p.m. Caller reporting see anyone matching the that the fence blocking the description.

Street looking to speak cerned about safety. Offiwith an officer about some cer advises that he temissues with his neighbor's porarily secured the gate. dog. Ongoing issue with Message left for DPW.

the TV and kids talking have three pitbulls that are heard to say they were ing to dig under the fence. going to bed, and TV was Officer requesting ACO be contacted; this is no longer a nuisance issue but a safety issue with kids involved. 5:59 p.m. Caller from Lake

Pleasant states his dog was attacked by the neighbor's dog who continues to get loose. Caller's dog was bitten on the nose and bleeding. Caller states a person the apartment; they have from the neighbor's house changed the locks, but did go to the ER because they are not on the lease. of an injury suffered when Officer advised caller to attempting to break them try and see who is there up. Caller taking dog to and why they are staying emergency vet at this time. there, but this is mostly a Caller states he has talked civil issue; he will have to to the ACO, who requested he call MPD and make

back stating the male is up Second Street toward enue A reporting that 7:55 p.m. Caller states Avenue A. Area checked; nobody matching description; nobody being loud or

11:54 p.m. State police adual wearing all dark cloth- vises no signs of forced if he attempted to block vising they assisted a suicidal male off the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge a bit shouldn't have to be ha- early and are currently at BFMC with him; requesting officer check involved location of female party to number, then hung up the make sure she is OK. Offiphone. Caller would not cer advises he spoke with female party and will be giving the trooper a call with his findings.

12:21 a.m. Caller from Keith Apartments reports that the male party who his body in the travel lane. was making noise earlier has returned and is con-12:33 p.m. Officer conduct- tinuing to be loud. Officer ing a motor vehicle stop advises he spoke to male on Turners Falls Road; and has calmed him down

10:49 p.m. Bar worker reporting pocketbook stolen at Millers Pub. Caller advises they have video that they could possibly look 2:13 p.m. Caller states that at. Officers attempting to make contact with party who may have taken pocketbook; unable to locate.

7:33 a.m. Caller states that cat. ACO out of area at this a black car came speeding time; requesting if officer into the parking lot beis available to put it to the hind the Shady Glen, and side or bag it and dump it at a man got out and started screaming at the guy who 3:23 p.m. 911 caller states has been living in the RV there is a male party wan- that has been parked there dering around watching all winter. Area checked; the children at Unity Park all quiet. No answer from but he doesn't have kids RV; appears no one is

metal bridge over the ca-4:40 p.m. Caller from N nal has been opened; con-

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Riparian Volunteer Opportunities

River Conservancy is looking for volunteers for a number of different tasks up and down the Connecticut River watershed related to river health.

In Connecticut, they look for help **counting river herring:** "Fish are starting to migrate up the Connecticut River. We could use your help in learning more about river herring populations in Connecticut River tributaries. This is a great opportunity to get outside, discover your rivers, and stay socially distant!" Individual volunteers are assigned a location, and a few times a week count river herring, reporting back how many of these migratory fish they see. These data help state and federal partners track population health and support efforts to keep the river full of life.

Volunteers are needed at locations in Vermont, New Hampshire, and Connecticut **planting trees.** This spring, the Conservancy's restoration team is back at it with a fresh set of locations in need of more native plants. Planting riverbanks with native trees and shrubs is the most cost-effective way to protect rivers.

All planting events have been limited to three volunteers per day. Volunteers are needed from mid-April to mid-May.

You can also help survey sea lamprey

way up the river to spawn after living out their lives in the ocean. The nutrients they bring upriver with them are essential to the local water system. Due to continuing issues with fish passage, including impassable dams, less of them migrate every year.

Join the effort to help by documenting sea lamprey nests in June and July. Volunteers should be able to wade in rivers, trek along river banks, and swim. Some locations may require training at an easier location. The survey events have been limited to six volunteers per day.

Volunteers are needed to monitor water quality. The Connecticut and its tributaries are much cleaner today than they were decades ago thanks to the Clean Water Act, smart investments, and the hard work of many people. But, there are times – particularly after heavy rain - when bacteria in rivers still might make you sick.

That's why volunteers collect water samples weekly or monthly at designated locations during the summer recreation season, May through October. The samples get tested for E. coli bacteria. This program helps us understand trends in water cleanliness at sites throughout the Connecticut River watershed, including many popular river recreation

GREENFIELD - The Connecticut nests. Every year, the lamprey make their sites. The sample results are posted online at www.ctriver.org/IsItClean and www.ctriver.org/EstaLimpio every week.

> Adopt a site and pledge to keep it free from invasive water chestnut. Over 150 lakes, ponds, and coves in our watershed are infested with this invasive aquatic plant. If you have time, a kayak or canoe, and an infested site near you, this may be the perfect opportunity. Removal efforts take place in the spring and summer, roughly four to six times a season depending on the level of infestation. During the fall and winter, the Conservancy will provide training and supplies to prepare you.

> Interested in participating in our invasive species programs in a unique way? The Conservancy is seeking partners who can **provide drone footage** of some of the most infested waterways in Connecticut. Similar strategies aimed at locating infestations have been tested in the Great Lakes.

> If you are interested in volunteering for any of these projects, email volunteer@ ctriver.org. Find out more about what the organization does at www.ctriver.org.

> The Conservancy is also looking to hire for several paid seasonal positions, including laboratory technician, water quality monitoring assistant, angler survey coordinator, and events assistant.

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

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Ainsworth at Large: A Florida Odyssey, Part I

By CHIPAINSWORTH

NORTHFIELD – There were glimmers of an early spring during my return trip from Florida two weeks ago. The trees were budding and apple blossoms were blooming as far north as Virginia, and mild weather was in the forecast.

But as I write this it's 13 degrees outside and I'm huddled over the laptop with the hoodie up, fooled again by Mother Nature. There's a guiltless tranquility to it, though. The bugs aren't out, and there's no pressure to do yard work.

The drive south began at 5 a.m. the morning after Valentine's Day. The temperature was five degrees under a full snow moon, but the coffee was hot and the roads were dry. In West Springfield I stopped for a re-up and two coconut-glazed donuts at Donut Dip.

About the same time I crossed the state line into Connecticut, my eight-year-old grandson Carter called. He was at Bradley Airport with his mother April, father Corey, and brother Chase. They were flying to Mexico and would have sand in their toes at Isla Mujeres while I was plugging along behind U-Hauls and motor homes in Pennsylvania.

"Hey Carter," I said. "How much money you bringing with you?"

He thought for a moment and said, "Forty dollars."

In the 1950s a bestseller came out called *Europe on \$5 a Day*. That would be about \$52 in today's currency, and it inspired me to give it a try on my Florida trip.

When I told Bob Diamond, he asked if I'd be sleeping in my car. "Lodging doesn't count," I said.

My overnight stop was at the Country Inn in Florence, South Carolina, because it's across the street from a Krispy Kreme shop. I bought three of the hot, sticky, gooey delights, and filled up at a truck stop where long haulers get a free shower with the purchase of 100 gallons of diesel fuel.

That afternoon I reached my destination 1,400 miles from home in Tequesta, and checked into Tequesta Palms. The motel is a small mom-and-pop relic from the 1950s that a realtor bought and restored. The rooms

are clean, the walls are thick, and it's wedged between a rest home and Catholic church which ensures quiet.

The manager is a bouyant Christian woman named Cyndi, and her teenage daughter Halee – a name of Scandinavian origin meaning "heroine" – was tipped well for restocking the coffee maker.

Cyndi runs a tight ship. She kicks out pot smokers, and chased off a townie who was cutting across the parking lot. "I have a Tequesta website!" he yelled at her. "You'll read about this!"

Miles of Solitude

The best part of staying at Tequesta Palms these years is that it's only five miles from my favorite stomping ground. Most vacationers go to the beach or to Disney World, but my shangri-la is Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Hobe Sound.

Not only does it have miles and miles of soft paths to hike and jog, it's a terrific place to avoid the human race. Indeed, one of the more memorable quotes this visit was uttered by a Philadelphian who asked how to find the trailhead into the wilderness. "This is a great place if you're antisocial, like me," I said to him.

"Yeah," he replied. "I didn't even want to talk to you."

During the Second World War the US Army needed a place to teach the Second Signal Corps how to use radar. It built a base on 11,000 acres of land and named it Camp Murphy after William Herbert Murphy, a pioneer in radio beams. Col. Murphy was killed in action over the South Pacific when his plane was shot down on February 2, 1942.

After the war the feds gave Camp Murphy to the state which named it after a shipwrecked sailor who was captured by the Jobe Indians. Annual passes cost \$60 and include a code to open the electric gate when the park's closed.

My daily routine was to go to the Publix market at 7 a.m. and fall in line behind the crotchety rich men from Jupiter Island who were after the *Wall Street Journal* before it sold out. Inside I bought the *Palm Beach Post* and *Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel*,



Trails wind throughout the Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Hobe Sound. One hiker told the author to watch out for rattlesnakes, which like to stretch out across the trails and sun themselves.

some oranges and pastry, and drove north up pointing to cabbage palms and slash pine. Route 1 to the park.

He told me he lived up the road in Stuare.

The four-mile access road ends at the Loxahatchee River, a modest-sized stream that starts west of I-95 and flows into the Atlantic Ocean. I'd leave my stuff on a picnic table and go for a hike under cloudless skies and rising sun that reminded me of a June morning in New England.

It was perfect weather. Who needs Aruba?

Wildlife Panorama

In the pine flatlands I saw whitetail deer and cottontail rabbits, tortoises, red-headed woodpeckers and snowy egrets.

One morning on the yellow-blazed trail, a hiker recounted how he'd nearly stepped on a rattlesnake. "I heard the rattle, only twice. I couldn't believe how well camouflaged it was. I was a foot from stepping on it. Other snakes – black snakes – they'll try to get away. Rattlesnakes, they stay where they are. They like to nest around these," he said,

nointing to cabbage palms and

He told me he lived up the road in Stuart but hiked in the park at least once a week. He had four words of advice for me: "Keep your phone charged."

Next year I'll swap my New Balance 990s for hiking boots.

A pickup truck parked near my car, a Silverado with a black 40-foot antenna rising from the rear bumper. A few feet away sat Carlos, a ham radio operator. He wore a Yankees t-shirt under a bright yellow ranger hat and his short wave radio rested on one knee and a clipboard on the other.

"Whiskey Two Fox Bravo, you're coming into New Jersey," a scratchy voice said over the static.

"Thank you 59 New Jersey."

"Kilo Two Whiskey Charlie, Roger, Roger, two-five-and-five this is Alabama."

"Thank you Alabama."

Carlos lives 40 miles south in Royal Palm Beach but comes here because it's quiet and he gets good reception.

"My radio is a YAESU," he said. "The other guy tells me where he's at and what he's using. The point is to make friends and share how much power we're using."

The trails that crisscross the park are often flooded after heavy rains, and one morning I came up behind an otter that was schlepping along toward a large puddle. A strong headwind kept him from sensing my presence as he gracefully glided into the muddy water.

I stood and watched his head pop out of the water. Both of us were thoroughly entranced. His whiskers glistened in the bright sun as he chewed something that sounded crunchy.

As cute as they appear, otters can be vicious. "Even the alligators don't mess with them," said a park ranger and friend named Steve who's since passed away.

The otter dove back underwater, but this time when he surfaced he looked right at me. In one lithe motion he twisted around and dove back under water and leapt out onto the opposite bank. We went in opposite directions we did, and after 20 yards we both stopped and looked back at each other.

My first morning back at the park I was reminded to never leave food on the picnic table. A sharp-toothed squirrel had chewed through a plastic container and devoured both my doughnuts. Crumbs were all he left, and when he scampered back for whatever else he could find I threw pine cones at him.

My self-imposed \$50 daily spending limit worked until friends dragged me to places called Shrimpers and Schooners where a piece of fish cost more than the rod it was caught on. Tune in again next week for more about Florida's hold-onto-your-wallet lifestyle.







Left: A cobweb glistens in the morning sun at JD State Park.

Top right: The Camp Murphy historical marker at the park, where the US Army once trained personnel to operate a newfound defense system called "radar." Bottom right: Carlos comes to this park to set up his ham radio, and receive contact from other operators across the country.

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TRAVELS from page B1

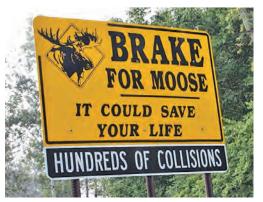
folks at Bear Rock will rent you a four-seater or a two-seater Polaris, gas it up for you, and lend you a helmet. You can also rent snow machines which, like the ATVs, are thankfully four-stroke engines so you don't have to breath the noxious fumes of yesteryear, when the two-stroke machines left a trail of thick exhaust.

Bear Rock has a converted barn where they keep their clean and new machines in the town of Colebrook, with their main headquarters in Pittsburg. Colebrook is so ATV-crazy that – after lobbying and persuasion from a coalition of 17 different snow-mobile and ATV clubs, plus local chambers of commerce – they even changed the law so that in Colebrook you can drive your ATVs on town streets and roads.

You can ride for hours and hours, and you might just ride by the famous Balsams, a beautiful hotel that's been shuttered since 2011, though the company that owns the resort is hopeful they might be able to open in 2023. It's been a tough slog for the storied giant hotel, built in 1875.

Despite the prevalence of motor vehicles, these same trails are also open to walkers, XC skiers, and mountain bikers. Just be careful because the mud splatters everywhere, and it's all part of the fun.

A nice place to eat in Pittsburg is Murphy's Steak House. The restaurant is located



Many moose can be seen in Moose Alley, on the way to the Canadian border.

as part of the Bear Tree, a resort with lakeside cabins and a six-cabin lodge. They bill it as "homey but polished," and that's a good description. The restaurant is located in a former New England farmhouse with different rooms like the living room and the parlor. It is a friendly, non-pretentious joint, and like most businesses here, it caters to the out-of-town ATVers and snowmobilers.

We chatted with the owner, Georgie Lyons, who told us that "every night is like a dinner party." It's nice to dine with someone who loves what they do, and her menu includes a lot more than just steaks.

Moose Alley

One of the traditions up here in the Great North Woods is driving to Moose Alley in search of these huge animals. When we



Really about that life: an ATV on a town street in Colebrook.

drove there, it only took a few minutes to spot a female moose, right next to the signs that said "No Parking: Do not stop to look at the moose." Sorry, not sorry. We were the 21st car out of 20 to park and take in the sight of the moose munching leaves as the twilight ebbed into nightfall.

Bears are a common sight here, too. One ATV rider we met told us about seeing one swimming across the river while he drove down a trail.

There are many other fun outdoor activities in this part of Northern New England. We met up with local river guide Jim Cochran, founder of ELC Rafting, who took us on a rafting trip down the Rapid River, which flows six miles from Lower Richardson Lake in the state of Maine into New Hampshire. (Note: ELC has since closed, possibly due to the pandemic.)

The Rapid River is the steepest river in Maine. A sleepy-looking group of us assembled in Errol, New Hampshire, then boarded a bus for a pleasant ride to our launching site called "Pond in the River" in Maine. We climbed into inflatable rubber rafts with seven people per raft. Jim, the owner, was our boat's guide.

A leisurely half-hour paddle followed. "Where is the whitewater?" I asked Jim.

"Just wait," he replied. In a matter of minutes this calm lake turned into a roiling rapids, and the thrill was on!

The instructions from Jim came fast and furious, as we dug our paddles into the churning water, avoiding boulders and working as a seven-person team. The collection of families and the two of us made for fun camaraderie, and we enjoyed learning about our fellow rafters after the white waters calmed down. Like us, they had all come from down

south to enjoy this slice of wild.

The "Devil's Hopyard" was coming up. This was the biggest rapids we'd ride, and the place where many rafts tip over. We avoided this calamity and stayed relatively dry. We took a swim in the river during our lunch break, wearing life jackets and riding down the rapids doing a sort of body surf. Fun!

We got back into our rafts and at some point we crossed back into New Hampshire and the Rapid River spilled into scenic Lake Umbagog. Then we climbed into waiting pontoon boats for an hour-long trip across the lake.

Getting to Northern New Hampshire: Beautiful and uncrowded Interstate 91 goes as far north as Littleton, NH, and from there it's all two-lane winding roads. It's 90 miles to Colebrook and about 20 more miles to the Canadian border. There are few large stores up here, so plan ahead.

Local 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.



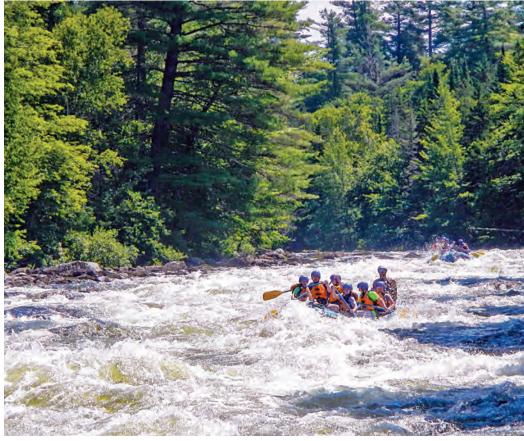
ATV trails in Coos County: Ridethewilds.nhgrand.com

Outdoor adventure at Bear Rock:

www.bearrockadventures.com

Dining and lodging at Bear Tree:

www.atbeartree.com



Rafting down the Rapid River from Maine back into New Hampshire with ELC Adventures.

Montague Community Television News

Recent Music Fest Archived & Online

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – It's Mud Season! The Shea Theater recently hosted a day-long music festival called "Mud Season," and in case you weren't there, MCTV was.

The morning started off with performances by and for kids. Catch some juggling, some sing-alongs, and a rocking family band in the newly uploaded video "Kids Music at Mud Season." In the coming days we will be uploading the rest of the performances, so stay tuned!

MCTV has also uploaded the most recent Montague selectboard and finance committee meetings, which did not feature sing-alongs.

If you can't catch any of MCTV's videos on TV, then be sure to find them online! All videos are available on our Vimeo page, which can be found linked to *montaguetv.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.

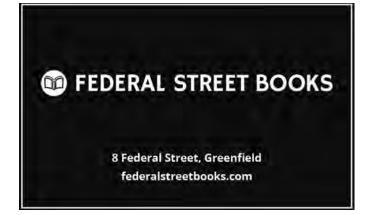
MCTV is always available to assist in local video production as well. Cameras, tripods, and lighting equipment are available for checkout, and filming and editing assistance can be provided.

MCTV is still looking for board members, so if you would like to stop in for a meeting, even just to check the vibe, email *infomontaguetv@gmail.com* for a link to the Zoom!

Something going on you think others would like to see? If you get in touch, we can show you how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment. Contact us at (413) 863-9200 or infomontaguetv@gmail.com.



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SCOTLAND from page B1

On May 22, three of us began attending the Corstorphine Primary School, a majestic old building with a hallway plaque listing every headmaster back to one James Chalmers in 1646. Outside, far across the playground, were our unheated bathrooms with cold running water – did we call them the "loo"? My first glimpse of my new classroom was disconcerting: the entire class was loudly chanting the multiplication tables at a speed I knew I couldn't match.

Our ancient wooden desks, bolted to the floor, were double, fitting two children side by side. Paper was in short supply after World War II so we each had a slate with a small cloth and a bottle of water for erasures. We also each received a skimpy notebook called a "jotter" for dictation, spelling, and "sums," our only paper for the year. Passages in my careful cursive include stories about leprechauns, princes, robins, and Jesus.

The 40-or-so of us were assigned seats according to our academic standing in the class. A girl named Pat and I happily snagged top honors, placing us in the farthest back corner, where our whispering might go undetected by stern-but-kind Mrs. MacLeod.

Still friends almost seven decades later, Pat and I were welcomed back to the school in 2017. About eighty children crowded into one room and eagerly peppered us with questions about our long ago days in their school. (See Montague Reporter On The *Road*, November 16, 2017, Page B8.)

British money was a math class challenge. Twelve pennies equaled a shilling; 20 shillings made a pound. Pennies, abbreviated "d" for some incomprehensible reason, were huge and the largest coin. Quarter-pennies were called farthings, half-pennies were "hay-pence." Adding two sums of money was much like adding 3 yards, 2 feet, 4 inches plus 8 yards, 1 foot, 9 inches. (Back home in 4th grade a year later, I would sadly tell the teacher I didn't know how to add \$4.35 + \$3.60 because I hadn't yet learned American money.)

Home with a toddler and a newborn, my mother appreciated a vegetable vendor who came right to our door. Mom would make her choices and then, because she couldn't understand his dialect, would simply hold out a handful of money, trusting him to take what he was due.

I was often sent round to the local bakery for a loaf of bread. Once I came home empty-handed and dejectedly said, "Mom, they said the bread was finished but wouldn't give me any!" How was I to know "finished" meant it had all been sold? Wartime government food rationing was still in effect, meaning Mom, as the mother of an infant, was allowed two eggs





Left: Helen and Richard Wheeler with their five children in Edinburgh: infant Ruth, in Helen's arms; Walt, 10; Bruce, 7; Paul, 2; and the author, 8. Right: Steamship menus, and a startling news article, in the scrapbook.

a week while the rest of us got just one.

My parents had already hired the wonderful Mrs. Wilson to help with the house and children, and were able to leave my three younger siblings with her for ten days - the youngest was four months old! - while my older brother and I traveled with Mom and Dad to "The Continent."

We ate cheese and bought wooden shoes in Holland; spent a long hungry day in bombedout Germany because our train lacked the promised dining car; took a cog railway to Europe's highest restaurant at the top of the Jungfrau mountain in Switzerland; marveled at the beauty of the centuries-old cathedral in Milan; and excitedly traveled 16 minutes through the 12-mile-long Simplon train tunnel.

Our final stop was Paris. My childhood handwriting reads, "We walked around in the morning and took a bus tour in the afternoon. We went up on a hill and could see most of Paris, with the Eiffel Tower standing way up above the rest of the city. We went into several churches. All of them had lovely windows. We saw the palace where all the kings added on a part. But now it is a museum."

On January 5, 1952, we four boarded a two-propeller British European Airways "Viking" class "aeroplane," Flight 326, from Paris to London, the first time any of us had flown.

Fast forward to 2014. For a security question he's helping me set up, my 14-year-old tech-savvy friend asks where I first flew. "Paris to London," I said.

"No," he said, "I mean the very first time." "That was my first flight," I replied.

"Well, how did you get to Europe?" he demanded.

"By boat," I said. He looked at me like he had just met a dinosaur.

Playdates – probably not called that – were set up by "post." Starting with a formal return address, date, and phone number, my friend's mother typed this:

Dear Margaret, We would like so much if you would come to play and have tea with Jennifer on Easter Monday, 14th April. Come about four o'clock and Jennifer's Daddy can run you home in the car about eight o'clock. Be sure to wear your everyday clothes so you can play in the garden if it is fine. We do hope you can come. "Jennifer's Mummy"

On February 6, 1952, King George VI died at age 56. Schools were closed all over the country so children could line the streets with their teachers to join in the mourning. I excitedly told my mom that for such a special occasion I would wear my reversible jacket with the bright red side out. She quickly convinced me wearing it with the dark green side out would be more respectful.

On April 19, 1952, our year in Edinburgh over, the seven of us boarded the Furness Warren Line's Nova Scotia in Liverpool, bound for Boston with port calls in St John's, Newfoundland and Halifax, Nova Scotia. A much smaller ship, it still offered exotic meal choices: grilled split herrings for breakfast, kidney pie and pease pudding for lunch, Lyonnaise potatoes for afternoon tea, Macédoine of Vegetables for dinner.

A few days into our journey, a very sick eight-year-old girl was diagnosed with appendicitis; without an immediate operation she would not survive. No helicopter could rescue her; severe storms made it impossible to reach port in time. The only option was to operate - in the tourist lounge. On April 28, the St. John's *Daily News* told the story on page three, under six lines of headlines,

edited and summarized here:

A successful appendectomy was carried out at 1 am while the liner tossed in heavy seas. With Commander J. E. Williams personally on the bridge, the ship was brought to a halt. Chief Medical Officer H. A. Jones, assisted by various stewards and passengers, set up a make-shift operation room in the tourist lounge, using a photographer's spot lamps as emergency lighting. Dr Jones was making the voyage on vacation and had never performed an appendectomy. As the ship rolled in heavy seas, his skillful hands saved a child's life; the appendix burst as soon as it was removed. Although there were some anxious minutes for the child's mother, her daughter, Carol L. Arthur, is recovering nicely.

During our 10- or 12-day voyage, we became good friends with Duff Jones, our dining room waiter and cabin steward. He took a great liking to our family, especially to the "wee Scots lassie" as my baby sister was known. He even visited our home in Ashland several times between sailings, always bringing us Black Magic chocolates in a fancy tin from his home in Liverpool. Once he left us a puzzle, promising a solution on his next visit in a month if we needed help: YYUR, YYUB, ICUR YY4ME!*

My dad was right – it was all definitely a Big Adventure, one that ignited my love of travel and interest in languages, cultures, countries, and people. I would go on to cross the Atlantic four more times by ship, once on a freighter for 36 days – but that is another story.

Margaret Sadoway lives in the Patch.



I see you are too wise for me! * Too wise you are, too wise you be,

EXHIBITS

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Watershed Moments. Paintings by Joanne Belair of scenes along the Connecticut River. Reception April 2, 1 p.m.

Artspace, Greenfield: Franklin County Annual Teen Art Show. Through April.

Looky Here, Greenfield: Desi Lowit, drawings and paintings. Through April.

Hawks & Reed Ballroom, Greenfield: Amherst Regional Middle School Youth Activist Art Show. Through April 2. Followed by Submerged, an oceanic art odvssev by mother and son artists Nina Rossi and Jon Bander, April 15 through June 15.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: In the Moment, pastel paintings by Ruth Rinar. Also, Imaginary Worlds by Elsje Sturtevant, pastel images, April 1 to 26. Reception for both shows on Sunday, April 10, 3 p.m.

farmers, and the food they produce. Through April 24, with a reception this Sunday, April 3 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: Redemption, daguerreotypes of enslaved people re-imagined in enamel and compassion by Jennifer Davis Carey. Through May 2.

Shelburne Arts Coop Gallery, Shelburne Falls: Green, artisan members' work focusing on a theme of the unfurling renewal of the season. Through April.

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.

Augusta Savage Gallery, UMass Amherst: Kabu MBII is NOLDA. Large-scale paintings created as a response to social, political, and world events. Through April 27.

Gallery A3, Amherst: Inter-

Fiddleheads Gallery, North- woven: Words and Images, field: From Fields to Table II, a collaboration of six women an exhibit celebrating farms, artists. Through April 2. Diane Steingart: Twenty-Three Pieces, paintings and mixed-media. April 7 through April 30.

> Anchor House of Artists, Northampton: Collage - Departures and Adaptations, work by Louise Laplante and Nan Fleming. Reception April 8, 6 p.m. Through April.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro: Seven new exhibits with work by M. Carmen Lane, Roberto Visani, Yvette Molina, Mildred Beltré Martinez, Sachiko Akiyama, Louisa Chase, and Anne Spalter. Information at www.brattleboromuseum.org.

PULP Gallery, Holyoke: Amy "Bannerqueen" Johnquest and Stacy Waldman. Johnquest creates in a wide variety of disciplines including installations, murals, and set designs. Waldman specializes in 20th century photo albums, snapshots and ephemera. Through April 3.

WEST ALONG from page B1 almost taste the satisfaction of the like so many kites. robin myself! Then off he goes to

listen and look for another.

Redwings chant and gurgle, an unknown sparrow sings from yonder bush. It's unusual that I don't recognize the song, although it could be that this singer is so ephemeral that the bird is here only for a day or two in the spring, and then gone without being spotted and identified.

So now, at the beginning of the last week of the month, the old saying has been turned on its ear. This time March has come in like a lamb, and is going out like a lion! Old Man Winter has lurched back, dashing our hopes for an early spring.

But around here we know that springtime is two steps backwards for every one step forward. The ice has come back, the frogs fall silent, and the early phoebe flycatcher's call seems more plaintive than joyous. Strong winds blow old leaves around, silencing for the time being the love-call fluting of the courting mourning doves. Winds push the

hawks and eagles down the sky

In fact, I haven't seen a single kite yet this year. Time was that there'd be a run on paper kite kits down at Aubuchon's, or at the last 5 and 10 Cent Store on Avenue A. Kids up at the housing project would be there, their kites diving and often crashing maddeningly into the open field. That night there would be time to make a better tail, maybe mend a tear in the kite's paper wings, and back out the next

But that was back then. For now, I'd be satisfied with the sight of the first tree swallows winging in. They often ride the milder South Wind, racing north to their favorite territories.

day, if the March wind held.

By the time you read this, March will be fading away in the rearview mirror.

We don't mind high-stepping it out of March, however. A new springtime brings hope that the ill wind blowing across our country, and our planet, will yield to better days to come with the

promise of another April.



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ELECTOR OF

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Magrugada, Nighttime, Alexia Avina, Hoonah.* \$. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Opening reception for Lydia Kern's installation *Passages*, feat. *Fievel Is Glaque*. 5 p.m.

Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Moon Hollow.* 6 p.m.

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

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

10 Forward, Greenfield: *C. Lavender Suarez/Jake Meginsky Duo, Bromp Foam Sweetness, Miners.* \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Bella's Bartok, Melatonin.* \$. 8 p.m. Stone Church, Brattleboro: *A Band of Killers, The Silks.* \$. 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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Moon Hollow, JJ Slater, High Tea, Olivia Nied.* \$. 6:30 p.m.

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

10 Forward, Greenfield: Fisher/Hutchins/Baldwin, Premium Velvet, Headache Pillow, Eeeeeel. \$. 8 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

10 Forward, Greenfield: Zurich Cloud Motors, Death Spiral, Puh'Darree Dzherryo. \$. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Andrea Schiavelli & Frances Chang, Ellie McAfee Hahn.* \$. 8 p.m

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Guerilla Toss, Zebu!* \$. 8:30 p.m. Calvin Theater, Northampton: *The Magnetic Fields.* \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

Palladium, Worcester: Rise Against, Pennywise. \$. 7 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: Les Filles de Illighadad, Alash Ensemble, and Garth Stevenson. \$. 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *The Suitcase Junket, Philip B. Price.* \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Rosie Porter.* 4 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Lido Pimienta, Combo Chimbita.* \$. 8 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Start Making Sense, Talking Heads tribute. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Bitch, Zoe Lemos.* \$. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

Stone Church, Brattleboro: Keystone Revisited, feat. Tony Saunders, Zach Nugent, etc. \$.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Kali Malone, Stephen O'Malley.* \$. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: Glenn Jones, Willie Lane/Wednesday Knudsen Duo. \$. 8 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: Cowboy Junkies. \$. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Glenn Jones, Vic Rawlings.* \$. 8 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Club d'Elf* featuring *John Medeski*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Giraffes? Giraffes! \$. 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Spirit Sprinkler*, new age night feat.

Aqua Vida. \$. 8 p.m

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Thus Love, Guy Ferrari, Roost.* \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

Mount Toby Friends Meeting-house, Leverett: *Jesse Palidosky, Ben Tousley.* \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Mad Professor and Friends.* \$. 8:30 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Cloudbelly.* \$. 7:30 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: Godspeed You Black Emperor. \$. 8 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: Giraffes? Giraffes!, Ava Mendoza. \$. 7 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 18

Nova Arts, Keene: Come, J. Mascis. \$. 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

Colonial Theater, Keene: *Melissa Etheridge*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Echoes of Floyd.* Pink Floyd tribute. \$. 8 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: Juana Molina. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Onyx.* \$. 6:30 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Aimee Mann.* \$. 8 p.m.

SAT-SUN, APRIL 23-34

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: Mas Grass festival feat. Leon Trout, Mila Baby, 3 The Hard Way, Rhythm Incorporated, Tuff Riddim, and many more \$. See kotvibes.com for lineup and info.

B7

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: The New American Banjo Festival feat. Michael Nix, Aaron Jonah Lewis. \$. 7 p.m.

Latchis Theater, Brattleboro: *Don MacLean.* \$. 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Janis Ian. \$. 8 p.m.

Iron Horse Music Hall, Northampton: *John Gorka*. \$. 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

Academy of Music, Northampton: *The Zombies, Jesse Lynn Madera.* \$. 8 p.m.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 28Academy of Music, Northampton: *Hot Tuna Acoustic.* \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

Latchis Theater, Brattleboro: Livingston Taylor. \$. 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Professor Louie and the Crowmatix*. The Band tribute. \$. 8 p.m.







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The author took this photo at Laguna Beach with a Pixel phone.

By RYNE HAGER

TURNERS FALLS – This is my first column for the Montague Reporter, so a short introduction is probably in order. My name is Ryne Hager, and I'm a recent transplant to Turners Falls and its mill-filled river bank, having escaped from Boston during the heights of the pandemic. You've got some good beer, good food, and plenty of fun, funky, and interesting folk, and I'm hoping to contribute a little back to my adoptive town.

I'm moonlighting here on ink and paper, but the technically inclined can read more of my words online at a little site called *Android Police*, where I write news and reviews covering subjects like smartphones, machine learning, smart home, digital security, and general consumer electronics, among other things.

And I know enough about these subjects to offer some answers to this column's first question:

Which phone should you get if you want to take photos at night?

If you haven't followed the subject too closely, the photographic capabilities of the average smartphone have been *exploding* in recent years. This has

mostly been driven by huge advancements in computational photography – software arguably now matters more than hardware.

While many who studied at Hallmark Institute of Photography in Turners Falls recognize the science behind capturing a photo on film or a modern digital SLR, smartphone manufacturers have had to bend and break a lot of those rules to make the minuscule sensors take

genuinely good photos, with technologies like multiframe processing and machine learning-powered object recognition squeezing out the very most they can.

In less technical terms, when you tap that shutter button on your phone, there's a lot of interesting – and sometimes counterintuitive – logic happening behind the scenes, long before you can check out the results in the camera roll or gallery. Every company does things a little differently, "processing" photos in different ways. But, between software and hardware, some do a better job than others.

a pretty good photo, but the tiny sensors have always answer them in a future issue!

struggled in poor lighting conditions, and low-light photography is where we've seen the biggest advancements recently.

For the very best nighttime photos you can get, I often recommend Google's Pixels - particularly the recent Pixel 6 and 6 Pro. They have other drawbacks, but Google's heavy reliance on computational photography provides several unique features, including a long-exposure astrophotography mode that can do a better job at capturing the stars on a clear night than any other phone you can get, if you have the patience to sit around for a few minutes – and, ideally, a tripod.

Its "Night Sight" photo mode is also among the best for general nighttime use, taking sharper and brighter photos in bad lighting compared to your average Galaxy or iPhone.

On more of a budget, the cheaper Pixel 5a (the "a' series is Google's mid-range lineup) has most of the same camera software features, but uses less flexible and older hardware. All that means it has to work a little harder, and doesn't go quite as far. It still does a surprisingly great job, though.

I should also point out that if you're used to an iPhone, I'd never advocate switching teams to An-

> droid and buying a Pixel. Among other issues, you'd need to buy all your apps a second time and learn how to use your phone all over again. If that sounds like too much of a challenge, just buy the new iPhone - though understand that it's still second-best in night photography.

> Although the 12 Pro and 13 Pro have much larger primary sensors than prior models, which means they can capture more light, and

the iPhone 13 claims to have further improved processing, Apple is still behind Google when it comes to both computational photography and low-light photography. They also don't have the Pixel's fun astrophotography functionality, which is much less of a gimmick than I expected it to be.

If you're planning a purchase and looking for gadget recommendations, need to track down just the right app, or simply want to know more about how technology works - and would prefer a local opinion to the Geek Squad's - send your questions to de-With enough light, most phones these days can take viceadvice@montaguereporter.org, and we will try to

> Come see what's

Bookin:

OUT OF THE PARK APRIL 2022

By JON DOBOSZ

UNITY PARK - Hello, and happy spring everyone! We hope you are doing well, and that you're enjoying the start of the new season. We're about to embark on one of the busiest times of year for us here at MPRD, and it no doubt puts a spring in our step (see what I did there?) and wakes us up from a long winter slumber.

We are thrilled to announce that we will be holding our annual Peter Cottontail's EGGstravaganza in-person this year! It's been a long two years, and Mr. Cottontail has given his official okey-dokey for us to run our traditional egg hunt. We will be convening at Unity Park on Saturday, April 16 at 1 p.m., when children ages 4 to 12 will have the challenge of finding over 5,000 toy- and candy-filled eggs strewn throughout the park.

Peter Cottontail will be on hand to watch the kids enjoy themselves, but be sure to bring your own baskets and bags for the eggs. We would like to thank our friends at the Montague Elks and Greenfield Savings Bank for co-sponsoring this great community event, and we hope to see you there!

Registration for **Summer Camp** has also started for Montague residents. Summer Camp serves children ages 5 to 12, and will be held from June 27 to August 12. We have theme weeks, field trips, special events, and more. Non-residents may register starting Monday, April 24.

We operate Monday thru Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., but we also offer pre- and post-camp extended care. Our camp is licensed through the MA Department of Public Health,



and for more information we recommend visiting www.montagueparksrec.com.

Not being "just for kids," we also offer an Adult Co-ed Softball League that goes from May through August. The league is an American Softball Association sanctioned league, with games held Monday and Thursday evenings at Unity Park. Those interested in putting a team together or getting on the individual player list should contact us soon. We'll be hosting a pre-season meeting in the next week or so, and hope to get onto the ballfield in the beginning of May.

That's about it from here. If you want to stay on top of our programs and services, be sure to log onto montagueparksrec.com, or view our Facebook page.

You can also pick up copies of our spring brochure at the Unity Park fieldhouse, the Montague Libraries and at Montague Town Hall. If you have immediate questions, call us at (413) 863-3216.

Now get outside and enjoy the spring weather!

> Jon Dobosz is the director of Montague's parks and recreation department.

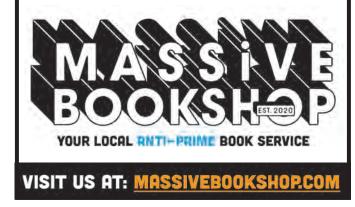
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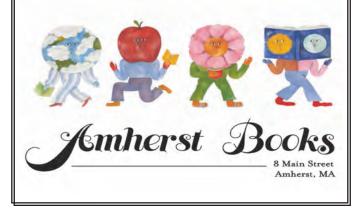


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