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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 19, 2023

EXHIBIT

Newspaper's Weekly Portraits Join Montague at Crossroads



The series, which highlights everyday life, has run for six years on our Page A2.

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – Portraits of local residents featured during the last four years on this newspaper's editorial page are on display through March at the Rendezvous restaurant on Third Street in conjunction with a traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibit on rural life in America.

"Montague at Work and Play," comprised of 48 color prints selected from Montague Reporter features editor Nina Rossi's ongoing portrait series, was hung on the barroom walls on Wednesday, and a reception will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, February 19.

Rossi's series, which illustrates residents of our coverage towns each week, emerged during 2017 in what had previously been the newspaper's editorial cartoon space. In its earliest years the series consisted of freehand line drawings, but over time Rossi began to create stylized illustrations with the Procreate application, using photographs as guides. When the Reporter went to full color in 2020, so did the series.

The Rendezvous exhibit focuses on digital portraits taken in

Montague, mostly of individuals in their workplaces, some enjoying free time. Each illustration was professionally reproduced on an Epson P800 inkjet printer, accompanied by its original caption. Rossi also added color to a number of black-and-white selections from 2019 and early 2020.

The larger size, bolder inks, and matte surface all distinguish the prints from the portraits' original newsprint publication - as does the accumulation of four dozen portraits in one place. "It's about the community," Rossi explains. "It's selfies, or almost-selfies, from kind of like everybody a lot of people! I hope they come see themselves up on the wall."

The printing was made possible by the show's affiliation with Crossroads: Change in Rural America, a traveling exhibition of the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street program which arrives in Turners Falls in early February. The local Crossroads grant was written by the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center, and the main exhibitions will be in the center's Great Hall, though a number of satellite events are planned

see **SERIES** page A5

Feds Will Fund Investigation Of Groundwater **Pollution Near** Westfield Base

By SARAH ROBERTSON

WESTFIELD - A decade after groundwater contaminated with PFAS was first detected in the public water supply near the Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport, the Air National Guard has announced it will begin a "remedial investigation" of the problem. Soil and water samples taken in the vicinity of the airport will help to determine the extent of the contamination, and the scope of the US Department of Defense (DoD)'s responsibility to remediate it.

"There's a possibility there are other sources," Bill Myer, an environmental restoration program manager for the Air National Guard, told the *Reporter*. "Everyone thinks it's all the Air National Guard for PFAS, but there's other sources of PFAS that are out there."

Last Thursday, at a virtual meeting of local, state and federal officials working on the PFAS problem in Westfield, Myer announced that the Westfield base had been approved for a yet-to-be-disclosed amount of federal money to conduct the remedial investigation.

For decades before the health risks of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) were understood, the Air Force used firefighting foam containing the highly toxic chemicals to practice extinguishing engine fires. Those chemicals leached into the groundwater supply in Westfield, as well as around hundreds of other US military bases around the world.

The city of Westfield first became aware of PFAS in its public water supply in 2013. By 2016 the Air National Guard had completed an initial "preliminary assessment" of the contamination, which involved testing nearby wells, interviewing locals, and limited sampling of groundwater and soil.

see **WESTFIELD** page A3

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Sewers Said to Burden DPW; Airport Expected to Fund Itself

By JEFF SINGLETON

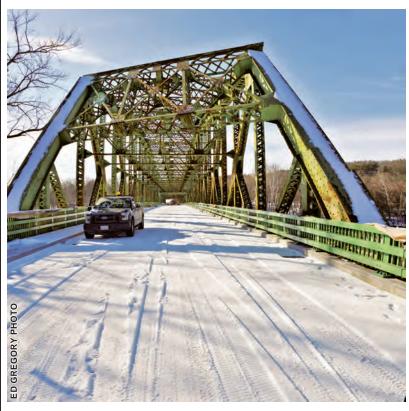
Tuesday's Montague selectboard meeting was almost entirely devoted to reviewing budget requests for the next fiscal year from town departments. The board had planned to focus on departments with large increases in personnel costs, but

several of the larger budgets presented, such as the police and public works, did not include significant personnel increases, and some that did, such as the libraries and town clerk, were not reviewed Tuesday.

A presentation on the library budget was deemed unnecessary

see MONTAGUE page A7

A SOFT OPENING?



It seems that those "rumors" may have had some merit after all. The state Department of Transportation (MassDOT) has announced that by noon this Friday they intend to reopen the General Pierce Bridge, between Montague City and Greenfield's Cheapside neighborhood, for alternating one-way traffic, just as we enjoyed before it was closed in 2021 for major maintenance. "Work on the bridge will continue and includes the installation of the pedestrian lighting system, remaining painting, and the removal of the below-deck scaffolding system," MassDOT tells

us. "The anticipated [full] reopening of the bridge is late March 2023." Ed Gregory took this photo Tuesday. "A DOT crew was here installing the light system to regulate the single-lane traffic for the opening later this week," he reports.

GILL SELECTBOARD

Officials Face **Dizzying Menu** Of Options for **Technical Help**

By MIKE JACKSON

"It feels like there's more this year," Gill selectboard member Greg Snedeker mused on Tuesday as he thumbed through a packet from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), listing 29 broad categories of "district local technical assistance" (DLTA) in which the towns under its umbrella might ask for expert support.

"While I was going through looking for things that might be useful for us, I was finding a little more," town administrator Ray Purington agreed.

The board and Ray were taking a first stab at the annual task of declaring the town's priorities for DLTA, input which in shapes the programming FRCOG offers.

Selectboard member Randy Crochier, who works as the director of FRCOG's cooperative public health district, announced he would recuse himself "entirely" as town decisions may affect his department's funding.

The topics, some of which were broken down into as many as a dozen sub-topics, ranged from "Roadway Speed Study" to "Water & Sewer" to "Regional Housing

see GILL page A3

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Field Library **Fact-Finding Group Warned: Clock is Ticking**

By GEORGE BRACE

The main topic of discussion at Leverett's selectboard meeting on Tuesday was a review of the progress of a committee charged with exploring options for the future of the town-owned Field Family Museum building. Members of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Future of the Field Building were on hand to outline proposed public forums, and answer questions from the board.

Built in 1916 as a library and maintained in recent years by the Leverett Historical Society, the building is reportedly deteriorating. At town meeting last spring, a warrant article allowing for its sale to a non-profit group was tabled after voters complained of insufficient information, and a lack of public involvement in the process leading up to the article.

In response, last June 24, the selectboard put out a call and appointed members to the ad hoc committee, charging it with gathering input from the community and making recommendations to the town.

At Tuesday's meeting member Ann Ferguson said the committee was still in the process of gathering

see LEVERETT page A4

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Contractor Fingers Engineer in Washout

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The new culvert under Mormon Hollow Road near Diemand Farm was undercut by rain. The original contractor, Davenport Trucking, came, closed the road again, for only one day this time. They made a temporary repair using black plastic sheets to direct runoff into the culvert and not underneath, where it was eroding the culvert support, and eventually would undermine the road. It was a patch, not a repair.

The Wendell selectboard held an extra meeting on Friday, January 13 to discuss the problem. Owner Clayton Davenport and his brother came to the meeting, as did finance committee co-chair Meagan Sylvia and project manager Phil Delorey.

Davenport said he agreed that Wendell should not be responsible



The botched culvert has been temporarily patched with sandbags and plastic sheets.

for the cost of the repair. But, he said, his company followed the engineer's plan, even knowing the 2:1 slope the engineer called for would not be stable if held only by natural vegetation.

A slope that steep, he said, needs rip rap. The planted grass grew and covered the slope, but it did not hold.

He said Davenport Trucking is see WENDELL page A4

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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on bills on dreams." January 17, 2013: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Arnie's Packs It In

After 27 years of business, Arnie's Thrift Store, prominently located at the intersection of Avenue A and Third Street, is closing its doors. The final date is set for February 28. Owner Arnie Houle is liquidating as much of his inventory as he can, and is offering \$5 bag sales until the end of February.

Houle, 64, has lived in Montague all his life. He had been getting ready to retire the business next year, but recently decided to close up sooner. "The economy," Houle said, minding the store on an unseasonably warm January Saturday, "is dead. You can't pay

The space will join several other empty storefronts, including adjoining units, on Avenue A.

Vermont to Feds: We Have Right To Close VY

Lawyers for Entergy Vermont Yankee and the State of Vermont went head to head in a federal courtroom in New York City on Monday to determine the fate of the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant.

Vermont is seeking to reverse a lower federal court ruling that tossed out the state's Act 160, the law passed by a nearly unanimous Vermont legislature in 2005 that gave the legislature the right to decide on an extension of the Vernon nuclear reactor's original 40-year operating license.

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on January 16, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

The Strathmore Mill: **Back In Time**

Folks who feared the Strathmore Mill in Turners Falls would meet the same fate as the former GTD plant on Meridian Street in Greenfield can now breathe a little easier. A Boston group, Western Properties LLC, headed by attorney Scott Jones, recently purchased the Strathmore mill for \$40,000, sight unseen.

The sale of the mill to the Boston group has no bearing on the operation of the generating plant, though the powerhouse is part of the mill. Turners Falls Hydro has recently installed monitoring equipment, fire safety equipment, and automatic controls allowing it to operate the generator remotely.

There are reports that trucks are bringing material for warehousing at the mill, and that a paper recycler may soon set up shop there. Scott S. Jones, who has yet to visit his acquisition, also appears to favor operating the former Keith mill remotely.

YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on January 15, 1873: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

Local Matters

The Keith Mill is making rapid strides. We hope soon to be able to give a full description of this noble mill. Workmen are actively engaged in digging a drain for the Keith Mill water pipe near the Clark & Chapman Machine Co.'s works.

The Turners Falls Cornet Band are going to have uniforms. The jackets are to be blue with red facings, the caps to be red with gold bands, and the pants blue, with red stripe.

What has become of our fire department? Is it dead, or is it only the officers who are half dead? Surely something must be done or we will give up in despair. What protection have we in case a fire should break out? Absolutely none. Whose is the fault, and where does the blame lie? are questions we should like to have answered, and that quickly.

COAL is going up!













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Reporter, where she has served in various capacities for 18 years. Lyn also draws the "Over the Hill" cartoons! Joan Morel (right) volunteers as the assistant distribution manager, and is the board's secretary. Their average age is 83.5 years old, and thanks to the two of them, our newspapers are mailed across the country every week, and bundles are delivered to carriers and stores!

GILL from page A1

Plan." The town has two more weeks to rank its top three. One of Gill's 2022 picks, culvert assessments, has a waiting list; Gill is next in line to get a culvert boost this spring.

"The FERC one is still, I think, our top choice," Purington said, referring to "Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project / Turners Falls Dam FERC relicensing and MassDEP 401 Certification of Water Quality Process." He praised FR-COG staff for their ongoing work on the hydro relicensing effort.

"Yeah, I would put that right up at the top," Snedeker agreed.

"It's hard to choose," Snedeker said, stroking an invisible beard. "The water and sewer ones are good, considering what we're going through. The Northern Tier [passenger rail study]... recreational marijuana assistance...." He asked Purington his second and third choices.

Purington said he would seek input from the town's "boards and committees and departments."

"Municipal Service Sharing Feasibility for public safety, ambulance service – the two things we've been talking about for the last year or more," Purington said. "But if we put it down as a topic and this person calls and says 'I'm ready to start,' I don't know what the hell we're going to have him do!"

No vote was taken.

Grants, Grants, Grants

Energy commission chair Vicky Jenkins joined the meeting to discuss \$42,480 the town was approved for under the Green Communities program to insulate the safety complex.

The application was based on cost estimates from last fall, and Crochier expressed misgivings. "We don't know the numbers," he objected.

Purington suggested the board approve the grant on the condition that the figures, including an \$8,805 utility incentive from the utility, were unchanged. Members approved this.

Fire chief Gene Beaubien came to

discuss his grant application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for safety equipment. His big-ticket wish was radio repeaters; cheaper ideas included a thermal imaging camera, battery-operated fans, and battery-operated chainsaws.

This last item raised eyebrows. "We all know that, with today's gasoline, we go to start 'em..." Beaubien explained. No vote was taken.

Other Business

The board approved a \$46,261 sewer commitment and granted a \$155.38 sewer abatement to a Riverside resident who had used metered water to fill a pool. Garbiel asked whether it was for a skating rink. but Purington said the resident's application had come in a long time ago but was lost in a "pile."

Lastly, the board approved nine overdue sewer bills to be added as liens to residents' tax bills. "Several of these accounts, it just seems to be their way – they pay their sewer once a year on their real estate bill," Purington said. "It's godawful expensive, with all the demand fees and interest that gets tacked on.

COVID tests and face masks are available for free at the town hall.



Letter to the Editors



Big Waste

MassDOT wants feedback on their proposed passenger train. How about this?

Wasting \$3 billion (factoring in cost overruns) on a train upgrade that nobody needs or will use is an egregious waste of taxpayers' money.

If you spent the \$2 billion on bridge infrastructure instead, you could repair all the bridges in western Mass. You could pay for painting the General Pierce bridge, which only costs \$7 million.

Are you still living in the early 20th century':

> Frank T. Traceski **Montague**

CORRECTIONS

At least a few errors made in our January 12 edition have been caught.

Most egregiously, in our coverage of the Northfield selectboard's response to a proposed August music festival (Page A1, Northfield Board Drafts Discouraging Fest Response), selectboard member Mary Sullivan-Bowen's name appeared twice as Mary "Bowen-Smith."

We have no idea where that one came from, and we apologize.

In our feature article on a creative movement program at Hillcrest Elementary School in Turners

Falls (Page A1, Residency Brings Dance To First Grade Classrooms), we reported that a classroom teacher read her class a book titled How Do You Dance?. That book does exist – written by Thyra Heder and published in 2019 – and the error therefore skated past our fact-checkers, but dance instructor Anna Hendricks let us know the book was actually Maurie Manning's 2008 Kitchen Dance.

(Bonus correx: it's merengue, not the merengue, and Hendricks has been teaching for 20 years, not just the 13 here in town.) Mea culpas!

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The Montague Reporter

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Hey – in case you haven't heard – there is now **one-way traffic on the General Pierce bridge** at the southern end of town! Waiting for the light at either end of the bridge is a slight inconvenience compared with the detour through Greenfield those of us who live in Turners have had to make for the past two years.

Two-way traffic will resume in a couple months, we are told.

Are you bored? Grab a board game at the Montague Center branch library's Games Day this Saturday, January 21 from 10:30 a.m. till noon. Play one from their collection or bring your own. The free event is geared towards families, but everyone is welcome! This event is held outside of the library's normal hours of operation.

Make your own scarf and mittens out of recycled wool and sweaters at a sewing workshop this Saturday, January 21. The class is from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Looky Here community arts space on Chapman Street in Greenfield. All materials are provided. Tickets are \$15 and are available at lookyheregreenfield.com.

Come to a free **fan fiction writing workshop and reading** with Charlie Markbreiter, Lola Arellano-Fryer, and Casey Wait (who writes the *Your Sick Friend* column in these pages) this Saturday, January 21 between 2 and 6 p.m.

The writing workshop is first, followed by a break, and Markbreiter will read from his new book, *Gossip Girl Fanfic Novella*. Masks are required, and the 104 Fourth Street space is accessible. No registration required. For more information, contact *finders@riseup.net*.

A COVID booster and flu vaccine clinic promises \$75 gift cards for people who get boosted or vaccinated at the Greenfield Health Department, 20 Sanderson Street next Wednesday, January 25 from 9 a.m. to noon. Register online at www.frcog.org/covid. Walk-ins are also welcome. Bring your insurance card, and any vaccine cards you already have.

How can reconnecting with the natural world help in substance abuse recovery? "Often in active use we are so cut off from the world around us that we hardly see it. We believe that this deep disconnection is a large part of the harm done in active substance abuse," reads the poster sent out by the Recover Project in Greenfield.

Come to a Recovery Café meeting and lunch to learn more about how reconnecting with the

environment can be healing next January 27 from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Email to RSVP or ask questions: cmcgale@wmtcinfo.org.

Madhouse Multi-Arts of Greenfield invites people to bring their art to a DIY gallery during the January Arts Walk happening next Friday, January 27. Their space is located at 479 Main Street. Contact Esme Auster for more details at madhousemultiarts@gmail.com.

The Elusie Gallery in Easthampton is looking for words about "passion" for a special February exhibit pairing words and images on this theme. Text should be up to 200 words – short! – on whatever you feel passionate about.

Email *meatfortea@gmail.com* by January 31. An event with readings will be held at the Elusie on the evening of February 8.

The Town of Montague wants your input for its **comprehensive plan**, "Five Villages: One Future." For more information on this planning project, visit www. montagueplans.org.

Tell the town what you think our priorities for the next 15 years or so should be at a workshop on Saturday, February 4 at the Turners Falls High School between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. "Food, childcare, and transportation are provided," assures the meeting notice. Register at www.tinyurl.com/montaguecommunityworkshop.

You may also participate at a Zoom meeting on Thursday, March 9 between 6 and 7:30 p.m. Register for that one at www.tinyurl.com/montaguegoalsworkshop.

Volunteers are needed to help prep and package community

meals at the Second Congregational Church in downtown Greenfield on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Two shifts are available: between 2 and 4:45 p.m., and 3:45 and 5:45 p.m. Call (413) 325-6631 for information.

The Gill-Montague Regional school system is calling for **donations of used instruments** for their music department. There are a lot of students who want to learn instruments, but can't afford the rental fees. Flutes, clarinets, saxophones, drum pads, and electric guitars are specifically desired. Email *tftmusic-boosters@gmail.com* for details.

LifePath has announced a bunch of **free winter workshops for seniors** that you can take in person or on your computer or phone. Learn about healthy eating strategies, relaxation techniques, managing falls and improving balance, diabetes management, skills that can help you live with chronic pain, and more. Some programs are also offered in Spanish. To register, contact Andi Waisman at (413) 773-5555 x 2297.

Also for seniors: GCC puts together a **Senior Symposia program** every year with talks on a variety of subjects. Although aimed at seniors, anyone is welcome to attend and participate in the discussions.

The first symposium takes place at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 9 at the Greenfield Garden Cinema, where filmmaker Kimi Takesue will screen 95 and 6 to Go, a documentary about her grandfather. Find the schedule and sign up to receive event updates for seniors at www.go.gcc.mass.edu/seniors.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.



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WESTFIELD from page A1

It is still unknown how many private well owners may have been affected. Westfield city leaders approved a \$13 million bond in 2018 to build filtration systems to address the contamination, and to date the DoD has reimbursed the city about \$1.3 million of that amount.

In 2019, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) conducted exposure assessments in communities either known to have PFAS in their drinking water, located near military bases, or both.

A Strong Correlation

Westfield residents are represented in the assessment and remediation process through an eight-member Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), which first convened last July. Last Thursday marked the RAB's second meeting. State senator John Velis, state representative Kelly Pease, and Westfield city councilor Kristen Mello sit on the board.

"Nobody is happy about how long this is taking, but this is the public involvement process available to us, and we will continue to do the best we can for Westfield residents," said Mello, who told the *Reporter* that her involvement on the PFAS issue "accidentally got me hired as a city councilor."

For years, Mello said, she has suffered from recurring pneumonia and a weak immune system. When she learned about the PFAS contamination in her neighborhood, she stopped drinking tap water. She recently installed a reverse-osmosis filter.

"When I stopped drinking the water, I stopped getting pneumonia," Mello said. "I'm literally going to die from this stuff. In the meantime, I have nothing better to do than make sure there is accountability."

In 2017, Mello founded Westfield Residents Advocating for Themselves (WRAFT), a grassroots group campaigning for resources to address the water contamination, including

public funding to help residents test and treat their water and other data-gathering activities.

"As a city councilor, I've been completely ineffectual in getting help," Mello said. "As WRAFT director we've gotten amendments done for medical resources, we've gotten testing, we've gotten money from the National Defense Authorization Act. And we got the RAB put together."

In addition to their drinking water, WRAFT has recruited residents to get their blood tested for free by the CDC. Mello said that the researchers found a correlation between the levels of PFAS in the residents' blood and how long they had lived in the city of Westfield.

Priorities

"We want to clean up what we released, but sometimes it's not just us," Myer, based in Arlington, Virginia, told the *Reporter*. "I've been to bases where there have been multiple PFAS releases." While the Air National Guard leases a portion of the municipally owned airport at Westfield, he pointed out, the majority of the property is dedicated to commercial aviation.

At last Thursday's meeting, Myer told the RAB and other stakeholders that a federal contract for a remedial investigation would be finalized by September with the US Army Corps of Engineers. The investigation could take one to three years to complete.

The new federal funding will not pay for the steps after the investigation: drafting an official work plan, followed by a feasibility study, and then the actual work of decontamination. Myer said the work plan, known as a "Unified Federal Policy Quality Assurance Project Plan," can be as many as 700 pages long.

Myer explained that the new funding is available because recent federal legislation is allotting money toward PFAS remediation nationwide. "There was a little frustration in the community," he told the *Reporter*, "because things were taking longer to get fund-

ed. But with the government [PFAS] funding, they decided to prioritize it."

Myer said he didn't know how Westfield compared with other contaminated sites nationwide. The most recent samples from the two wells closest to the base contained 192.5 and 173.2 parts per trillion (ppt) of the six most common PFAS chemicals; one sample from 2021 showed 310.4.

The Environmental Protection Agency's "lifetime health advisory limit" for drinking water is 70 ppt, and the Massachusetts safe drinking water standard is 20 ppt.

The DoD prioritizes remediation projects based on the severity of contamination, Myer said, and budget constraints have kept the military from addressing all of its PFAS-contaminated sites simultaneously. "We can't budget to do everything all at once," he said. "I've got sites with hundreds of residents with their private drinking water wells impacted, but everyone wants to be at the top [of the list]."

"The good news is, though," Myer told the meeting, "the Restoration Advisory Board was pushing for it, and they spoke to different folks within DoD, and the funding was programmed this year."

An Independent Review

The RAB recently received a separate grant that will allow it to independently review the data federal and state agencies collect in the course of the investigation. Mello said the group is considering asking UMass Amherst environmental engineering professor David Reckhow, an expert on PFAS whose lab is currently analyzing samples from a statewide private well testing program, to help.

Some health experts argue there is virtually no safe level of exposure to PFAS, and the federal Environmental Protection Agency recently proposed stringent drinking water regulations for two of the most common compounds: 0.02 ppt of PFOS and 0.004 ppt of PFOA.

Rainwater recently measured in some parts of the world contained these manmade substances in excess of those levels.

"It's just so pervasive, and there's so many different forms of it," Reckhow said. "The way to approach this is to try to cut off the supply as much as you can. There certainly are an enormous number of products that PFAS are used in that really don't require the use of PFAS."

Reckhow commended state senator Jo Comerford's work to ban the non-essential use of PFAS in consumer goods. In addition to firefighting foam, stain-proof carpets, makeup and floor wax are some examples of products that can contain any of the thousands of different PFAS compounds. The interior coating of common ketchup and mustard containers was also recently found to be a source.

"Jo Comerford has been working pretty hard to get PFAS out of commercial and domestic products, and get it out of the environment," Reckhow said. "She's been a really strong proponent of the PFAS work we've been doing."

Comerford also played an instrumental role in lobbying for state money to expand the Water, Energy and Technology Center at UMass Amherst, where Reckhow works on PFAS and other water contamination issues. Student researchers are helping to track potential sources of pollution by profiling concentrations of specific PFAS compounds.

One recent discovery, Reckhow said, is that PFAS compounds with a lower molecular weight – meaning a shorter chain of fluorinated carbons – can more readily enter and contaminate living tissue. Larger molecules tend to pass through the human body, he said, though they may still break down over time.

"I think there's no doubt that there is quite a bit that came from the use of firefighting foam," Reckhow told the *Reporter* when asked about the Westfield investiga-

tion. "But oh my gosh, we're finding PFAS everywhere."

 M_{Q}

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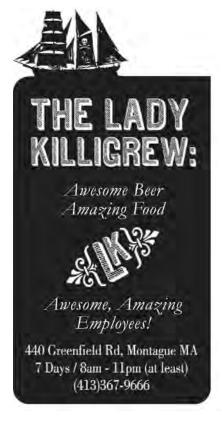


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LEVERETT from page A1

the facts, but was focusing on three options for the building's future.

In the first, Leverett would retain ownership of the building, but move it next to the town library complex; in the second, Leverett would own it and commit to paying the ongoing maintenance costs at its present site. In the third, the town would either sell the site and building to a non-profit, such as the Leverett Historical Society, for the purpose of storing and displaying historical artifacts, or consider a public-private partnership to achieve the same goal.

Ferguson said that there were strong differences of opinion as to which option was preferable, but that the entire committee agreed to present these three options to the town.

She gave an outline of two public forums at which the committee plans to share information about the building and seek public comment.

The first would cover a historical summary, facts concerning the site and building, reasons the committee believes the building is worth preserving, the three options it has come up with, and a discussion. The second would "have the form of an interactive group exercise," at which residents would be asked to express their preferences among the given options, and brainstorm potential future uses for the building.

Selectboard chair Tom Hankinson questioned the progress of the committee's fact-finding mandate, noting that questions about wetlands and other legal issues at the current site were still unanswered after seven months, and that the next annual town meeting was only three months away.

As of press time, dates for the two forums

have not been announced.

Committee member Richard Nathhorst said that a survey of the building's present site should be completed by the end of January. Hankinson replied that specific wetland issues also needed to be addressed, as they bear directly on the town's decision-making.

Hankinson also noted that the library's board of trustees had not been consulted about the proposal to move the building onto the library property. Ferguson replied that lack of contact with the library was an "oversight," and said the committee's charge "turned out to be a really difficult task" in explaining why legal and technical information had not yet been gathered.

Selectboard member Patricia Duffy, who has been attending the ad hoc committee meetings, also noted that the task was "more complex than thought to be when the charge went out," but said she felt that things were starting to "gel."

"We're in a good place," she said. "Let's keep going."

Other Business

Hankinson said he thought the board was "enthusiastically" in favor of its decision to let a local 4-H club use the town hall free of charge, following an appearance by one of the group's leaders to confirm that it is a non-profit organization, and answer additional questions.

4-H leader Ashlea Aubrey said her group was open to local 5- to 16-year-olds, currently had 12 members, and was a "horse only" group. Aubrey said the group would meet at 4 p.m. on the first and third Saturdays of each month, but could adjust its meeting times if they conflict

WENDELL from page A1

pre-approved for highway work by the state, but the engineer, SVE Associates of Brattleboro, Vermont, is not.

Open space committee chair Dan Leahy asked if the conservation commission had been consulted. Delorey said the conservation commission had approved the repair as an emergency, and part of the original project.

The meeting ended with the selectboard voting to authorize spending \$84,281 for the full repair, with the money to come either from the highway budget, where it sits in anticipation of paving that has been postponed, or the town's ARPA funds, or the stabilization account if approved by the fin com.

Beyond Davenport's comment, the issue of ultimate responsibility was not mentioned in this meeting. Determining that responsibility, and a potential reimbursement of the town's expense, is a subject for another time.

with town business.

Hankinson asked whether the group might be able to put on a show for the public at some point, to which Aubrey responded, "Absolutely."

The selectboard hired Mike Reske to the position of laborer in the highway department.

The board signed a consulting contract with the UMass Clean Energy Extension, and granted a liquor pouring license to the Leverett Village Co-op.

An agenda item regarding a draft mission statement for the recreation commission, part of an effort to rejuvenate the commission, was tabled.



AT LARGE

Call for a Talk Clock; Soulfest Scoop

By CHIP AINSWORTH

NORTHFIELD - The Northfield selectboard meetings last as long as a flight from Hartford to LA. What to do about it? Baseball has a pitch clock and basketball has a shot clock, so why not give board chair Bee Jacque a talk clock to stop Alex Meisner from going on long-winded tangents?

During the board's most recent meeting on January 10, police chief Jon Hall and DPW boss Tom Walker discussed putting a sign at the base of Gulf Road to warn drivers of when icy conditions were making travel hazardous at the top of the mountain.

The discussion progressed at a reasonable pace until Meisner jumped into the fray: "Like I said after last week's meeting, because it just sticks in my head still, I've seen people in their 1995 Plymouth Neons with bald front tires not thinking with the correct part of their brain if they're going to attempt that road in a blizzard, and the fact they don't know the road or they are thinking it's going to be a little tiny hill is I, uh, you know, I understand that would be their defense. But I've also seen \$100,000 Range Rovers with Hakkapeliitta snow tires get stuck on that road too."

Pausing for breath, Meisner continued: "I won't go down Gulf Road when there's ice. I'll only go uphill."

'Sounds like a real pickle,"

said Jacque, who like the rest of us wouldn't know a Hakkapeliitta from a Goodyear.

As for a decision to use a warning sign on bad weather days, Walker texted, "We still have to talk about it."

"I think Northfield's headed toward becoming a gated community," he added mirthfully.

Speeding Away?

Here's the skinny on SoulFest, the Christian rock concert that was originally planned for next August 3 to 5 in East Northfield. The Moody Center wanted to host the event on land formerly owned by Northfield Mount Hermon, but point man James Spencer encountered intense pushback during a selectboard meeting last November.

Consequently, said a knowledgeable source, "You might encourage people to save their breath about SoulFest. I don't think there's much question now that it's going away altogether."

If there's to be a SoulFest in these parts, it would likely be over the border in Winchester, New Hampshire, quite possibly at the Monadnock Speedway, which has ample space, including room for camping and motor homes, grandstands, and a staging area.

"It makes more sense [than East Northfield]," said Tom Day, the general manager at Gunstock Mountain in central New Hampshire, where the event was previously held.

Word Games

Newcomers to watching Northfield's selectboard meetings in person or on Bernardston-Northfield Cable TV must learn to translate acronyms – FRCOG stands for the Franklin County Regional Council of Governments, ARPA is short for the American Rescue Plan Act, ACOP is an Administrative Consent Order with Penalties, and an MOU is a Memorandum of Understanding.

Used in a sentence: "We can ask FRCOG for an MOU about ARPA to avoid an ACOP."

Be prepared for a short quiz next week.

Second Thoughts

Earlier this month on the Next-Door social network, a Northfielder asked: "Has anyone heard anything about the town purchasing an expensive desk? If you have, would you please tell me how much the desk was, why it was expensive, where it is going..."

We shall indeed. In the waning weeks of 2022 the selectboard did indeed vote 3-2 to spend \$9,039 of the town's ARPA money on a five-piece desk set, leaving some to wonder why the Tech school wasn't commissioned to build it.

Bernie Boudreau and Heath Cummings both opposed the expenditure. Boudreau simply said he thought the money could be better spent, and Cummings didn't like the work coming off the backs of prison inmates.

Although she voted in favor,

Mary Sullivan-Bowen indicated on January 10 that she was having second thoughts. "I don't think I knew it was going to be \$9,000," she said.

Andrea Llamas, the town's \$107,000-per-year administrator, piped up: "What you have to understand is it's a hand built, oakstained desk. It's actually cheap."

"I'm thinking it's not necessary," said Sullivan-Bowen.

Streetsweeps

Northfield has a brand new Ventrac 4500 tractor that can remove snow, cut underbrush, and is "four seasons strong," boasts its manufacturer. "Are you excited, Tom?" asked Sullivan-Bowen. Walker paused a moment and answered: "Yeah. Well, for a machine." ... The ever-quotable Meisner referred to SoulFest organizers as "not the brightest bulbs in the box," and warned that opening an elementary school window for fresh air posed "a security nightmare" Shades of Barney Fife warning Opie about incarceration... The selectboard listened to a proposal to improve storefront façades, but why? The IGA and Mim's both have classic small-town storefronts.... A longtime town official says the proposed \$13 million safety complex has lots of "extras" no one wants or needs. Beds, for instance, and jail cells for overnight guests that would require the added expense of another overnight police officer. As it stands, prisoners are simply taken to the Franklin County Jail in Greenfield.

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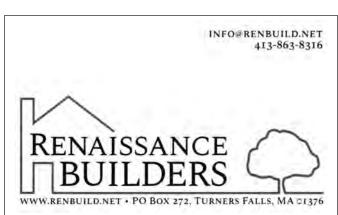
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SERIES from page A1

in collaboration with RiverCulture, the Montague Public Libraries, the Shea Theater, and other local partners.

When the Rendezvous show is over, the prints will be donated to the Montague Historical Society for its permanent collection. (Additional prints are also available for order for \$20, with proceeds to benefit the *Reporter*.)

"It's future history," says historian and digital preservationist Ed Gregory. "The Historical Society is elated to have anything you have to offer, related to the town of Montague, for our local collection... We'll take current stuff as well as historical items, as long as it's relevant."

Gregory says that he and archivist Mary Melonis have worked for a decade to catalog the Society's collection,

12/15/2016: Montague public works plow operators.

4/4/2019: Pam Eldridge staffs at a Soup and Games Night

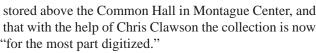
fundraiser for Northfield's Dickinson Memorial Library.

10/7/2021: Danielle Barshak feeds Schmitty

and Daisy at Little Buddy Farm in Leverett.

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATIONS

YANKE



Rossi compares the portrait archive to the time capsule she helped compile for the 2021 rededication of the downtown Spinner statue, which included photo portraits of 40 local women with tools they use at work, and essays by ten about the long-term futures of their professions or crafts.

"Maybe this is about leaving a legacy," she says. "I can leave something behind that goes forward, that people can look at."



Nina and I discussed the exhibit this week while looking back through the *Montague Reporter*'s archives:

Because it's about us, it's about what the paper does: I want people to know more about how we are creating past, present, and future all the time.

front, though!

How did you fall into doing this

NR: I used to call it "Candid Sketchbook," but that was when I was actually going around – which proved to be too hard, to find places to just sit and observe. You have to take a photo and do it elsewhere.

elected. I was doing editorial cartoons, and I was running out of ideas. I had coasted through about 18 months of ideas that I'd been storing in my brain

MJ: Here's December 11, 2014: "For two years running, the holiday lights at Spinner Park have been disabled by some little treetop saboteur...'

asked me do a cartoon, because he had an idea, or sometimes I'd have a random idea. But it wasn't a regular thing.

MJ: So you went through 2015 and '16 managing to do this. Here's one: "Town hall made me buy apple-picking insurance, but it's worth it!" This was when they were trying to set up a block party on Fourth Street and it got to be such a hassle.

MJ: They notoriously also run out of ideas and start cycling. You made it

NR: And then Trump – oh my god. The fruit is hanging really low: what are you gonna do with it?

NR: It just became very distasteful. I didn't want to be drawing him over and over, or dwelling on it more than I had to. And I wanted to find something that could be more unifying that dividing, you know? Present people themselves.

I have another one of the Shady Glen that I did in color. I colorized some of

MJ: How far back does the show go? **NR:** 2019 – they're not in order, but they have dates with the captions so

MJ: And then the next week was the Montague Highway Department plow operators on a break, at the old garage. I remember immediately thinking

JINA

you were onto something.

NR: Hundreds?

good for the community, basically.

MJ: Do you have a count of how many of these you've done?

MJ: I guess it's six years, times 45 is 270 – maybe minus some issues, so 250? That's a substantial number of portraits, in towns this small.

NR: Montague has so many more businesses than the other towns, and so many more people doing stuff, that it becomes kind of Montague-centric. And it's easier for me to go closer.

MJ: It became about finding someone at work, almost exclusively?

NR: There's a lesser amount of people doing recreation. I haven't gone to many concerts and taken pictures – I'm really more interested in people doing stuff, making stuff, their working life.

MJ: Why at work?

NR: I'm a working person. Work interests me - work drives the world. We're all contributing.

MJ: When did you make the switch to digital?

NR: I think the first digital one I did was of Hope and Olive's Soup and Games night [April 4, 2019].

MJ: Here's "Liz Sweet snakes a belt onto the engine of a Ford at Rau's Garage" [March 5, 2020]... I remember us having some conversations about you trying to find more women, and talking through how women are working more outside the public sphere. But you proactively pushed and found some more.

NR: I tried to!

MJ: I'm zooming in on the start of COVID: "Mark Lattanzi skims the sap boiling in his evaporator last Sunday afternoon." [March 12, 2020]...

NR: What was the next one?

MJ: A selectboard meeting – "This image came from MCTV video footage." And then we went online-only for a month, so this [March 26, 2020] was the first time you could do color.

NR: Hmm. That was an interesting day in the park....

MJ: And then we went back to print, and you went back to black-and-white up until when we switched printers.... so this one [July 23, 2020] was the first actual print color one.

NR: Very sketchy! There's been a learning curve, you know – that program doesn't come with a manual, and I really resist taking information from videos....

I recolored this one [September 3, 2020]. The richness of the color on these prints is so different than what we can get.... just "wow," compared to the newsprint version. I love the matte as we have a little newspaper.

surface of it. It really is a lot richer, like NR: Well, I thought it would be the way wool has a richness of color.

1/18/2023: Features editor Nina Rossi hangs 48 prints at the Rendezvous.

MJ: December 10, 2020: "Montague DPW worker Bryan Reardon clears oak leaves and other debris from the storm drains along Avenue A..." This is one of my favorites.

NR: Yeah, from your photo! It's one of my only nighttime ones.... I did the Noisecapades one from last January, because that came out well. I wanted good examples of things we do for play.

I had several from Food City. You know, it's really hard walking around asking strangers to do you this favor.

MJ: How did the show itself come

NR: I read that the Smithsonian Change in Rural America was coming to the Discovery Center, and they were talking about having related shows around town. I thought that this record of people working in town could be a good fit.

I didn't really think about them as a collection to display until that kind of jogged me into it. And then thinking of them as archival material for the town of Montague, giving them to the Historical Society.

MJ: You've participated in an oral history project in town before...

NR: In 1995 – interviewing younger residents of the town, and transcribing tapes that Cindy Tarail had done of old residents. Elderly people who remembered growing up in the Cutlery block, and their parents working in the Cutlery.

MJ: Did you pitch it to the Rendez-

NR: I talked with [RiverCulture directorl Suzanne [LoManto] about it, because I wanted to get funding to pay for the printing. Not that it was super-expensive, but it was like \$400....

They were talking about putting pictures into windows of businesses, and at first I was thinking that might be nice to have these in the Shea's windows, because there's all those little squares, but this is nice, too. And Ed Gregory said the Historical Society would take them, because people in the future will be interested.

MJ: I love that this project grew up totally out of necessity. It wasn't really your job to fill that space, although it kind of became it. The feels like one of the cornerstones of the paper to me now.

NR: I think people like seeing and learning about what people are doing. Where do you see that? Not really on Facebook – people don't present themselves in that way. It takes somebody else to do that for them.

MJ: Are you planning to continue to draw the series?

NR: Yeah, I guess! As long



NR: I'm not stepping in front of the show at all - I'm not putting my name on the wall, except for on the picture of me. I'm being a bass player about it.

MJ: Some bass players are right out

project? I mean, I kind of know, but how do you explain it to people?

It really started because Trump got for years...

I think that was your first cartoon?

NR: Now and then David Detmold

NR: I just can't imagine what a daily comic strip person has to go through.

almost two years!

MJ: I found it a lot harder to write editorials.

MJ: December 8, 2016. Is this the first one?

NR: The Shady Glen. A perfect place to begin.

the early digital ones....

you can see when they were done.

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11/2/2022: Doug Honeycutt of Turners Falls, in his

second year as custodian at Gill Elementary School.





Aguí se habla español

Esta es la página mensual en español del Montague Reporter. Aquí podrá encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana en el área, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias mundiales en español. Si quiere participar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a spanish@montaguereporter.org.

La violencia y crisis política en Perú

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO **DE AGUILERA**

GREENFIELD - Perú, al igual que otros países vecinos, está acostumbrado a crisis políticas de todo tipo, a ver entrar y salir presidentes casi como si fueran las puertas giratorias de un hotel, pero le está costando salir de la última grave crisis política en la que se encuentra sumido desde el pasado 7 de

Perú ha tenido 6 presidentes en los últimos cuatro años, y ha padecido un largo período de violencia ejercida durante dos décadas por Sendero Luminoso y los paramilitares en el intento de controlar el país y que llevó a la muerte a unos 75.000 ciudadanos. Pedro Castillo firmó el 7 de diciembre de 2022 la disolución del Congreso, en lo que se consideró como un autogolpe de estado. Según Castillo, la institución parlamentaria no le permitía gobernar en condiciones.

Ese día se dirigió a la nación a través de un mensaje retransmitido por la televisión nacional y leyó en directo las siguientes palabras: "En atención al reclamo ciudadano, a lo largo y ancho del país, tomamos la decisión de establecer un gobierno de excepción orientado a restablecer el estado de derecho y la democracia a cuyo efecto se dictan las siguientes medidas: disolver temporalmente el Congreso de la República e instaurar un gobierno de emergencia excepcional."

Momentos después Castillo, su familia y su asesor, Aníbal Torres, tenían la intención de abandonar el palacio presidencial con la intención de dirigirse a la embajada de México, país que en un primer momento les concedió asilo político. Las horas siguientes fueron de caos político y tres horas después Castillo fue detenido por sus propios guardas personales y acusado de rebelión, delito que implica una pena de 10 a 20 años de cárcel.

Castillo alegó en su defensa que no recordaba nada de lo acontecido, que había sido drogado y que todo era un complot urdido por la actual presidenta, Dina Boluarte y sus asesores.

¿Quién es Pedro Castillo, y cómo ha llegado Perú a esta situación?

Pedro Castillo ganó las elecciones de Perú en junio de 2021 contra Keiko Fujimori, hija del expresidente Alberto Fujimori. El ex-

CC IMAGE BY WIKIMEDIA USER STASYAN117

presidente Fujimori fue condenado a cinco años de prisión por corrupción y enriquecimiento personal

y sigue siendo sospechoso denta, Dina Boluarte, juró su cargo de cometer graves crímenes contra los

grama para esterilizar a mujeres indígenas mediante engaños y sin su consentimiento. Las condenas a expresidentes de Perú no son nada extraño ya que todos los que estuvieron en el poder a partir de 1985 han sido condenados por corrupción. Algunos de ellos han

acabado en prisión, y otros en arresto

hu-

como

por ejemplo, la

domiciliario.

creación del pro-

derechos

manos,

Castillo antes de presentarse a las elecciones presidenciales trabajaba como maestro y era un sindicalista destacado. Su partido, Perú Libre, ganó las elecciones en segunda vuelta con un 50.13%. Intentó formar gobierno con políticos de izquierda y extrema izquierda, aunque también incorporó algunos de la derecha moderada. La oposición le acuso de nombrar a personas con escasa o ninguna experiencia y que en algunos casos habían pertenecido en el pasado a grupos terroristas.

Durante su presidencia enfrentó dos procesos de vacancia presidencial, una figura política que aparece en la constitución del país y que contempla la destitución del presidente por su falta de moralidad política. Ninguna de estos dos mociones, una en noviembre de 2021 y otra en marzo de 2022, consiguieron los votos necesarios en el Congreso para poder cesarle en su cargo.

Para complicar aún más su situación política, decidió dejar el partido Perú Libre en junio de 2022 y fue investigado en varias ocasiones por actos de corrupción.

Algunos politólogos califican

el intento de autogolpe de Castillo como un suicidio político. El presidente se quedó solo desde ese mismo momento. Sus propios miembros del gabinete le dieron la espalda renunciando a sus cargos.

Al conocerse el anuncio de disolver el congreso por parte de Castillo, los negocios en Lima empezaron a cerrar, y grupos de ciudadanos salieron a protestar a las calles. Esa misma tarde la entonces vicepresi-

> como nueva presidenta del país, la primera mujer en la historia del país andino.

Las Fuerzas Armadas tampoco respaldaron a Castillo, algo que habría provocado enfrentamientos todavía más cruentos. A través de un comunicado pidieron que los ciudadanos mantuvieran la calma y respetaran las medidas institucionales.

La llegada al poder de Boluarte tampoco logró parar las protestas. Medio centenar de personas han muerto desde su llegada al poder, la mayoría de ellos son civiles, aunque ha habido bajas en miembros de la policía.

La primera medida ante las protestas de la nueva presidenta fue decretar el estado de excepción por

un mes en todo el país, mes que se ha cumplido esta semana pasada y ha sido prorrogado por cuatro semanas más en la capital y en algunas ciudades del sur del país debido a la violencia y el vandalismo que siguen produciéndose.

Los manifestantes acusan a Boluarte de hipócrita ya que por una parte se muestra arrepentida de las muertes causadas, pero por otra, da armas legales a la policía para seguir ejerciendo la violencia contra los ciudadanos.

Las protestas, bloqueos de carreteras y los paros se concentran ahora principalmente en Lima y en las regiones del sur del país, Cuzco, Puno, Arequipa, y Ayacucho. En algunas ciudades de estas regiones se ha declarado también el toque de queda.

¿Y cuál es la razón para que las protestas sean más radicales en estas regiones? Dichas regiones forman la sierra sur de Perú y en ellas abunda la población hablante de quechua, la mayoría son agricultores y con un estatus económico muy humilde. Sus habitantes vieron la llegada a la presidencia de Castillo como el reflejo de uno de los suyos, que les hacía soñar con la idea de que el cambio era posible. Estas regiones siguen estando de parte de Castillo y ven al Congreso como el freno para que este pudiera gobernar durante su

Estas regiones son también las

más pobres del país, siempre a la espera de medidas prometidas por los sucesivos gobiernos y que nunca acaban de llegar. Y como contraste existe una gran presencia de compañías extractoras extranjeras que utilizan los recursos minerales de esa zona, pero que sus ganancias no influyen en el nivel de vida de sus habitantes que se quejan de la falta de atención medica y de escuelas.

La polarización política es grandísima, ya que en los últimos años ningún presidente ha tenido la confianza completa de la Cámara de Representantes. Esto afecta también a Boluarte, que aunque en principio dijo que pretendía continuar con su legislatura en 2026, pero que en las última semanas está hablado de adelantar las elecciones a diciembre de 2023.

La crisis política y la violencia no son los únicos obstáculos a los que se enfrenta la nueva presidenta, ya que hay en estos momentos una grave crisis económica acrecentada con la pandemia y la perdida de valor del sol peruano. A su favor tiene el desprestigio del Congreso, que ha perdido credibilidad ante los ciudadanos debido a los continuos casos de corrupción.

En este momento Castillo se encuentra en la misma prisión en la que cumple condena Alberto Fujimori.

(Fuente: Reuters Perú)



en español llamado "Mi Vida, Mi Salud," de seis semanas los martes de 9:30 a.m. a Mediodía, desde el 17 de enero al 28 de febrero. Son clases virtuales gratuitas en español enseñadas por personas con enfermedades crónicas. Este taller le ayudará a mejo-

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¡Venga a la inauguración de la exhibición del Museo Smithsonian, Crossroads: Change in Rural America! ("Cruce de caminos: Cambio en la América Rural"), Domingo, 5 de febrero de 11 a.m. a 1 p.m. en Great Falls Discovery Center. Si quiere saber más acerca cómo ha cambiado la América

rural desde 1900, este es su

La exhibición es parte del Museo en Main Street, una colaboración entre la Institución Smithsonian y Mass. Humanities. El Congreso de los Estados Unidos ha brindado su apoyo. Crossroads es una colaboración entre el Departamento de Conservación v Recreación, River-Culture, Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center, Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, Montague Public Libraries, y New England Public Media.

La invitación parte de los miembros de Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center, que nos invitarán a café y refrigerios para ese gran día. Crossroads estará expuesta en el Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A en Turners Falls, al 18 de marzo. Vea el calendario completo de eventos en greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org.

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MONTAGUE from page A1

due to the high quality of the director's written budget narrative, and the town clerk was unavailable to present for health reasons.

The budget review will continue at the board's meeting next week, and culminate in recommendations to the finance committee on January 31. After the fin com holds its own discussions and makes recommendations, a "reconciliation" meeting, in the words of town administrator Steve Ellis, is scheduled for March 22. The annual town meeting that votes on the final budget will take place in May.

Public Health

The discussion of the health department budget began on a somewhat confusing note as acting public health director Gina McNeely called attention to a stipend for a "medical director," a position required to approve "standing orders" for the town nurse to administer vaccines and other regulated procedures.

Noting that Montague's medical director has traditionally been a local doctor who has provided the service "for free," McNeely said she did not think this stipend was necessary. "Right now we don't need [a medical director], until some things change," she said. "When we do, we could probably tap some physicians in the community."

Ellis said he had attended a December meeting of the board of health, which oversees the department, where concerns had been raised that Montague has been unable to find a medical director.

However, he noted, there was not in fact a line item for the stipend in the budget submitted to the selectboard. "It was not actually included, which left a little uncertainty," he said.

"It's a concern for the board, and I think it would be good to try to find somebody to fill that," said selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz. "If that requires a stipend, we can deal with that."

Public Works

Public works superintendent Tom Bergeron was next in line. His written narrative stated that his department has "taken on more responsibility for the sewer lines, including reports to the [state Department of Environmental Protection]," and went on to say that "a new hire" for the extra sewer work would be "a good start."

Bergeron and Ellis noted a \$25,000 budget increase to pay for meter rental, maintenance, monitoring, and reporting on the town's combined sewer overflow (CSO) system. The CSO reduces the amount of sewage, which combines with water from storm drains, that flows into the wastewater treatment plant during major rain events. Although part of the public works budget, Ellis said, the project will be paid for by the Clean Water Facility enterprise fund.

In his presentation, Bergeron again stressed the increased demand on his department for sewer maintenance, and suggested that a new staff position devoted to sewers might be necessary.

Selectboard member Matt Lord asked why a personnel increase had not been included in the budget for this position, and Bergeron replied that he wanted to put the idea "out there for information, and get feedback" from the appropriate town boards. "The sooner I can get

someone on board to start learning this process, the better we would all be," he said.

"I want to see it happen as soon as possible," said Lord. "The regulatory agencies are not going to wait for us to get our act together."

Kuklewicz suggested a "modification" of Bergeron's budget request, and board member Chris Boutwell agreed.

But Ellis said there would need to be a "full conversation" involving Clean Water Facility superintendent Chelsey Little about the new position, which might also be financed by the sewer enterprise fund. Ellis also noted that federally-funded technical support was available to help evaluate sewers, and that the town was taking "interim measures" to address the problem.

Kuklewicz suggested a meeting in early February "to consider how to earmark some money for this."

Public Airport

Turners Falls Airport manager Brian Camden was next on the agenda. He began by noting that he and the airport commission had spent at least three months developing a budget "crafted for the long term."

Camden's budget narrative called the airport a "small town." Lord later called it "a business," with which Camden agreed.

Camden did not begin with a broad overview, but rather jumped into an explanation of several large personnel increases, including his own salary, which would increase from \$52,689 to \$62,742.

"It is hard for me to advocate for a pay increase, because everybody sees it as a bit of a biased opinion," he said. He explained that the airport commission had reviewed salaries at 40 or 50 airports across the country, and found it "difficult to find an ideal comparison."

Another line item for the airport manager's assistant, called the "operations manager," increased from \$28,585 to \$47,235 for a higher wage and added hours. "We're very fortunate to have a skilled individual that continues to grow," Camden said. "It's a goodfaith effort to keep employees that are doing their job... someone who will probably surpass me in their education and knowledge."

In response to a question from Lord about the portion of the budget covered by "the town," Camden replied that "there are no expenses covered by the town."

A review of the narrative shows that the airport's annual revenue is projected to be \$442,648, including \$78,348 in grant reimbursements from the Federal Aviation Administration. Over 60% comes from "non-aviation" revenues - fuel sales, warehouse leases, a solar ground lease, SMART solar payments, and other rentals - and the remainder from aviation revenue.

The total airport budget was not provided in the narrative. Camden told this newspaper it is \$16,000 below projected revenue.

Green Police

Finally, police chief Chris Williams came before the board to present his budget, which did not show large personnel cost increases. He noted that in the current fiscal year he has added a sergeant position and fifth dispatcher.

"Everything is working great," Williams said, and the discussion quickly turned to the purchase of a new hybrid cruiser. "It's very difficult these days, but we finally got one which we ordered 19 months ago," he said.

The projected price of a new cruiser has jumped, from \$54,000 budgeted for the current year to \$68,100 for FY'24. Williams explained there had been significant delays in delivery time because Ford does not keep the vehicles in stock, which "has caused a huge markup."

The recently-delivered cruiser is the third hybrid in the department's fleet. Kuklewicz asked about the hybrids' performance in terms of reliability and fuel efficiency.

Williams said the hybrids get an average of 22 miles per gallon, while the gas cruisers average just under 15. He called Montague's first hybrid "a lemon," which had gone "back and forth from Ford I think 33 times," but said the second "has been great, and I don't foresee any issues with the new one."

> Chief Williams said the hybrid cruisers get an average of 22 miles per gallon, while the gas cruisers average just under 15.

The chief agreed to perform "an analysis in dollars and cents," in Kuklewicz's words, of the virtues of hybrids, but also noted that Montague was a "Green Community," a state designation that makes the town eligible for grants but requires its vehicles meet certain targets for fuel efficiency.

Other Business

The selectboard appointed Makayla Skubel to the part-time position of assistant children's librarian. Library director Caitlin Kelley reported that in her interview with Kelley and children's librarian Angela Rovatti-Leonard, Skubel "did a really great job reading to Angela and I as if we were children."

Skubel recently graduated from Syracuse University with a master's in library science.

At the end of the meeting the board voted to endorse the finance committee's decision on "excess capacity," which Kuklewicz jokingly called "the most easily understood item on the agenda."

The term refers to the difference between the "levy limit," the maximum amount of property tax the town is allowed to collect under the 1980 state law Proposition 2½, and what the town actually chooses to collect. The decision of how much excess capacity to leave will have a significant impact on funds available for next year's town budget, as well as the contribution it offers to the Gill-Montague school district, known as the "affordable assessment."

Due to higher-than-expected "new growth" in Montague's tax base, led by improvements in the electric company Eversource's transmission system, the potential excess capacity has abruptly ballooned from an expected \$500,000 to as much as \$1.6 million.

The fin com voted earlier this month to target excess capacity at approximately \$1.1 million, which is projected to raise the increase in the town's assessment to the school district from 3.4% to 4.1%.

The next selectboard meeting will be held next Monday, January 23.

January 2023 at the S S

Saturday, January 21: Old 78 Farm Fall Festival Reunion

ft. Woody & The Rebel Alliance, rice: an American Band, Whalom Park, and special guest emcee Force of The Alchemystics vendors, food, and more! Festival vibes in the heart of winter. 7

Friday, January 27: "Foyeur Enjoyment" series in the Shea's Lounge: pay-what-you-can lobby series ft. OPEL

prog rock out of Springfield, MA. 7:30 PM Saturday, January 28: Jaunty Monte Arty Party! come celebrate our beloved board president Monte Belmonte's retirement from his morning radio show on WRSI! 3-5 PM. Sat. and Sun., January 28+29: Get Down with Your Hometown

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stream performances from Indigo Girls, Martin Sexton, Rachael Price, Winterpills, Jamie Kent, Topsy, Suitcase Junket, and more online event beginning Saturday at 8 PM

tickets and more info at sheatheater.org

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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION **NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING Project File No. 609427**

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed South St over Sawmill River bridge replacement project in Montague, MA.

WHEN: Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed bridge replacement project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of a full replacement of the bridge carrying South Street over the Sawmill River in Montague, MA. South Street is a rural two-lane local road. Based on the rural nature of the roadway and the surrounding area, as well as the low traffic volume and travel speeds, the project is exempt from bicycle and pedestrian requirements in MassDOT's Health Transportation Policy. No separate bicycle or pedestrian facilities exist on the roadway currently and none are being proposed in this project. There are no known plans to add separate bicycle or pedestrian facilities on this roadway.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The town is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to massdotmajorprojects@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7210, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Major Projects, Project File No. 609427. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the hearing is posted to the MassDOT website listed below.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings.

JONATHAN GULLIVER HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E. CHIEF ENGINEER

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A8 THE MONTAGUE REPORTER JANUARY 19, 2023

High School Sports: Crosstown Traffic

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – We focus this week on the basketball games played between Wednesday, January 11 and Tuesday, January 17.

The Franklin Tech girls recovered from their first loss of the season during that time period, and have now won two straight. Last Wednesday they won a non-conference game against Pathfinder, and on Tuesday they beat Pioneer, earning the Eagles a perfect 5–0 conference record. This Friday, weather permitting, they drive up Millers Falls Road to take on the Turners Falls Thunder.

The Thunder Ladies are also winning of late, currently riding a four-game winning streak.

In boys' basketball, Turners hosted Tech on Friday the 13th. Although both teams are struggling, it was a fun game to watch – and convenient too. Parents who have to schlep back and forth to attend events at both schools only had to go to one game that night. The dynamic repeats this Friday as the girls from Tech and Turners battle it out.

Girls' Basketball

FCTS 52 – Pathfinder 33 TFHS 54 – Putnam 45 FCTS 51 – Pioneer 49 TFHS 43 – Smith Academy 32

Last Wednesday the Franklin Tech girls rebounded from their first loss, soundly beating the Pathfinder Blue Pioneers down in Palmer. The Eagles shot out to a 17-4 first quarter lead and sailed to a 19-point victory.

Hannah Gilbert led Tech with 18 points, Lea Chapman scored 12 and led the team with 14 rebounds, and Jillian Crowningshield and Kaitlin Trudeau each netted 6. Cordelia Guerin and Kyra Goodell had 4 points each, while Lilianna Inman added 2.

The Turners Falls Blue Thunder went to Springfield last Thursday, defeating the Putnam Golden Beavers 54-45 and extending their winning streak to three games. Blue came back from a six-point deficit in the first quarter to best the Beavers.

Taylor Greene led Powertown with 24 points, and Lily Spera wasn't far behind with 20. Morgan Dobias (4), Keira Richardson-Meatty (3), Tatiana Williams (2), and Madi Liimatainen (1) also contributed for Turners.

This Tuesday, the Thunder Ladies hosted the Smith Academy Purple Falcons. When I arrived at the game at the end of the third, the Thunder were up by 31-21. Purple made some headway midway through the fourth, but Turners held on to win it by 43-32.

Spera (16), Greene (12), Peterson (8), Richardson-Meatty (5), and Dobias (2) all scored for Blue.

Tech, meanwhile, took on the visiting Panthers of Pioneer Valley on Tuesday and defeated the Black Cats 51-49. This game had a playoff vibe because three refs were officiating instead of the regular-season two.

From the opening tip-off, Tech instituted a pestering, handsy defense. Before Pioneer could clear mid-court four Tech players would swarm the ball carrier, blocking all her targets. This could have been risky, because it left one white shirt back at the Pioneer basket, but it worked as the Eagles converted steals to baskets.

The Birds were soon up 10-2. Pioneer finally broke the press and staged a mini-comeback to make it 15-11, but Tech went on another run to spring out to a 20-11 lead at the end of one full.

In the second period the Eagles pulled back their defense, but kept

waving their arms to break up passes. In that quarter the Pioneers took advantage of some miscommunications to pull within five points, 20-15, but that's as close as they got; at halftime, Franklin was back up 28-21.

That's when I left for the Turners game. The Lady Birds increased their lead to 39-30 in the third period, but in the final stanza saw their lead evaporate to 2 points. In the closing seconds, Pioneer "launched a 3 at the buzzer," coach Joe Gamache reported to me, "but it came up short."

Gilbert was Tech's high scorer with 14. Chapman scored 13 and pulled down 14 rebounds, Kendra Campbell also put up 13 points, Goodell netted 7, and Trudeau finished with 4 points and 8 rebounds.

The win gives the Eagles a 10–1 overall record, 5–0 record in the Franklin North Conference. Franklin faces another FNC foe this Friday: the Turners Falls Thunder, who are now riding atop a fourgame winning streak.

Boys' Basketball

FCTS 63 – TFHS 49 (JV) FCTS 71 – TFHS 63

On Friday the Thirteenth, the Franklin Tech Eagles crossed the Road in pursuit of their first win. The Turners Falls Thunder, who came to the game with one win, were hoping to gain ground on the 2–5 Lee Wildcats in the Hampshire North Conference.

Last week, there were four teams in the conference with two wins or fewer. With Mohawk dropping out, Franklin, Turners, and Lee are now in a three way battle to stay out of the HNC cellar.

Tech won the JV opener, 63-49. Some families departed after the JV game, and the kids segregated into sections for the varsity game.



Franklin Tech's Ty Sadoski goes up to the hoop, surrounded by Turners Falls defenders Logan Addison, JJ Charles, and Alex Quezada, as Turners hosted their crosstown rivals last Friday.

The visiting-side bleachers had been pulled out and the students of Franklin Tech took up residence there. It was reminiscent of those playoff games where they designate two sections for students from each school, and two for their families.

The cheerleaders, most of whom attend Tech, now had to root against their classmates. "They're used to it," coach Sarah Underwood said. "In the fall we cheer for Franklin Tech, and in the winter, we cheer on Turners."

In the varsity game, the Tech Boys came out clobbering. The Boys' Thunder were slow to react, and the Eagles shot out to an early 10-2 lead, due in part to two costly Turners fouls and Franklin shooting four-for-four at the foul line.

Turners regained their composure, but when the buzzer rang, they were still down 14-8. It remained a six-point game until 2:32 left in the half, when Tech went on another run and increased their lead to 28-17.

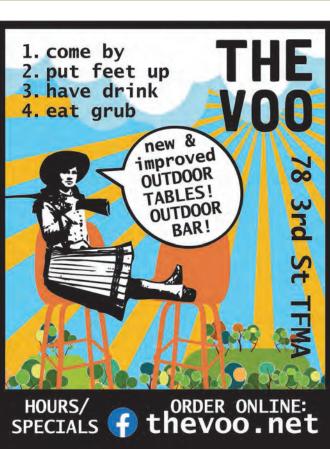
Turners sank two foul shots to close out the half, and it was a nine-point game going into the locker room.

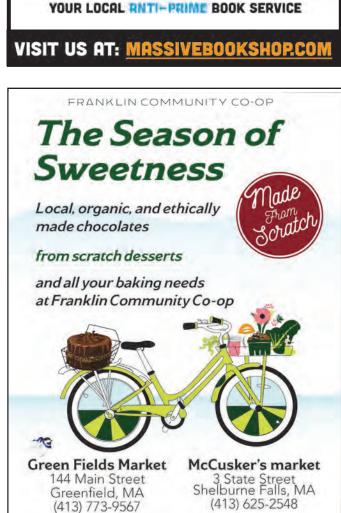
But the game wasn't finally decided until late into the fourth quarter. The Birds got into foul trouble, but Turners went cold at the line, and the Eagles held on to their 8-point lead.

The teams have almost a month before facing each other again. On Friday, February 10, Tech will host the visiting Thunder.

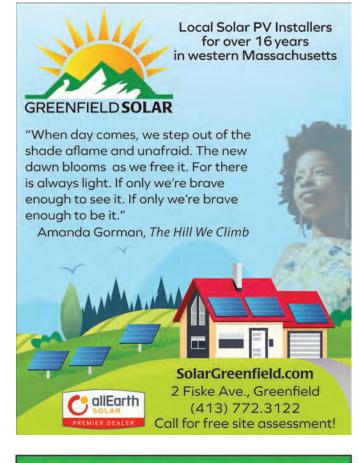
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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

JANUARY 19, 2023



West Along the River

WINTERLUDE

By DAVID BRULE

THE FLAT - You may remember that, for a brief fleeting moment last week, we made it back to winter.

I was keeping a weather eye out, and sure enough, out of the clouds scudding down the sky from the northeast, some great hand shook the snow globe. I wasn't going to waste a minute of it. I stood outdoors in the snowswirl just like the little figure in the globe on the mantelpiece, snug in scarf and hat, standing among the birch trees with dog, looking up at the winter ephemera floating past my little plastic face.

That day, last Thursday, what passed for snow began around 8 a.m., and I was not going to miss it! I watched it come down, the familiar white. Fine faint flakes like beach sand came sifting through the filtering screen of the sky.

The morning radio clued me in. After the usual sequence of national headlines (Biden, Ukraine, fresh disasters), local news (school committee, house fires), sports (Celtics, Bruins, NFL Wild Card playoffs), came finally the weather forecast: snow, changing to rain. That clearly meant that I should hurry to get outdoors if I didn't want to miss this rare chance to revel in the ephemeral falling whiteness.

So there I was, almost alone except for two brilliant cardinal males, jealous of one another, jostling each other for seeds, plus the junco clan now numbering a baker's dozen.

The ruffian English sparrows were there to haggle and scrap like ragpickers from a scene by Charles Dickens.

Then there was the river be-

yond flowing grayly by, soft rushing sounds, no white water in the muffled stillness of a snowy morning. Snow disappeared into the swift silence.

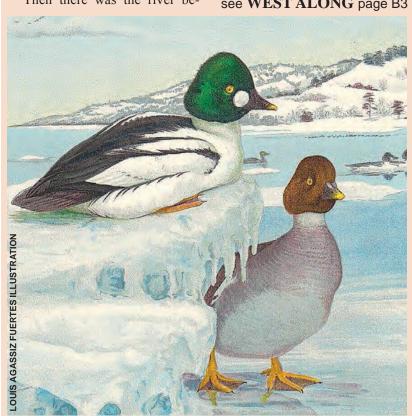
A pair of northern visitors down from Hudson Bay to spend the winter on our river, black and white goldeneye ducks, bobbed buoyantly in the current, their cheek patches bright white. In flight their high whistling wings leave no mystery as to who they are.

Later on in the day, I will check once again our family heirloom 1917 edition of Birds of America, edited by T. Gilbert Pearson. Within this heavy four-pound volume with illustrations by Louis Agassiz-Fuertes is a full page devoted to the "Golden-eye," Clangula clangula americana.

A favorite part of this edition is written by Edward Howe Forbush, who had the merit of recording the folk names of the various species he wrote about in this book. He lists a variety of names given to the goldeneye, back in 1900: "The Whistler, Jingler, Merry-wing, Spirit Duck," among several others. He writes of their wing beats: "There are times when the cutting strokes can be heard even before the bird itself can be clearly made out."

But for now, I linger back here on the edge of the birch wood. Dog, with his fine sense of snow, finally comes out the kitchen door to check on the snowscape. He plunges into his snowbath. On his back, four legs pawing the air, he joyously works the snow into his Siberian undercoat, scrunching down on the lingering icy crust below the freshly fallen layer in

see WEST ALONG page B3



Goldeneye ducks, Clangula clangula Americana.

Much More Than a Pedicure: Expert Help for Happy Feet

Above: Some snow, finally, enough to push around, as seen here on the Hill in Turners Falls.

By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE - You get old, and suddenly, you can't cut your own toenails. They are thick and seem awfully far away, and angling the clipper is awkward and inefficient. One long nail may be cutting into the flesh of a nearby toe. It's important to cut your toenails correctly or an ingrown nail may develop.

At this point, some people head to a spa for a pedicure where the biggest decision one needs to make is the color of your nail polish. What follows is entirely pleasant. There's hot scented water and massage and well-trimmed, polished nails. But there is no evidence-based education about preventing foot problems like corns and calluses, and the spa will not examine your shoes, gait, or balance for problems.

Enter FootCare by Nurses, an organization of specially-trained nurses whose stated mission is prevention, and whose passion is caring for feet. FootCare by Nurses has offices throughout Western Massachusetts, and nurses who will visit your home if you can't get to an office. There are also nurses who come to the Gill-Montague Senior Center once a month.

These trained and certified nurses examine feet, trim nails, and educate clients about balance, the proper fit of shoes, and therapies to help with things like releasing tension in the foot that have been learned from research, training, and education.

Kate Clayton-Jones, the CEO and director of Foot-Care by Nurses, said she was motivated to start her business because, as an acute care nurse, she saw too many people having their toes or feet amputated from causes



FootCare by Nurses founder Kate Clayton-Jones offers foot that helps prevent falls, improves balance, and release tension.

she thought were preventable. With a clear passion for proper foot care and a business background, she began her journey to give everyone the best foot care possible.

When I saw Clayton-Jones, I didn't know what to

see HAPPY FEET page B4

CONCERT REVIEW

Space Camp & Friends Fill 10 Forward

By BRIAN ZAYATZ

GREENFIELD – There are some shows that make you feel grateful to live in western Mass. Hadley's Fourth of July shows are often up there, or the February 2020 Bucket show at the Asbestos Farm, the last show many of us went to before the pandemic hit, when drummer Ryan Severin made his return to the band, and everyone agreed, before we even knew what was coming, that that show felt different.

There's often an element of surprise when a show like this happens, but maybe I'm just speaking from a place of ignorance: I was probably one of the only people at Space Camp's album release show last Friday at 10 Forward who had never seen them before. I'd actually never seen any of the bands on the bill that night, which also included Rong and Bricklayer, both from Boston.

But Space Camp have been something of a local legend for some time now, so I had a good feeling. Their t-shirts, featuring bold calligraphy and a black-and-white image with the contrast maxed out, are perhaps more frequently spotted on locals than any other band from the area,



Last Friday's show was a record release party for headliners Space Camp.

and it seemed like they used to play just about every show at The Flip when it used to be on North Maple Street in Hadley. (I always figured I'd catch them next time.) Plus, my friend Ben said he was going to buy me a beer for quitting my day job, which was actually my night job.

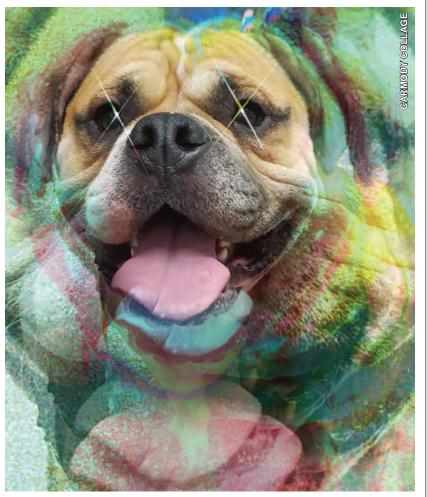
I didn't end up getting the beer, but I did get a cool new nickname courtesy of Rong vocalist Olivia W-B, who strained to remember my name. You can call me Brahms now. Not long after that, as a crowd accumulated that I would've been happy with if I had booked the show, Rong took the stage with fast-n-loud lefty punk and zany antics.

Olivia did a headstand at the front of the pit while their bandmates played on, and bassist Max Goldstein periodically jumped off his sizable amp for emphasis and at one point passed his bass into the crowd. Drummer Adric Giles donned a Halloween mask, and guitarist George Hooper's hands zipped up and down the neck of his guitar like he was starting a lawnmower.

The resulting sound was as fast and noisy as a lawnmower, but who cares about lawns? With their shrieked lyrics about having to pay

see **SPACE CAMP** page B6

t the Week



"CHANCE"

Did you take one look at Chance's smooshy face and already fall in love? Wait until you meet him in person! This goofy bulldog mix is instantly in love with every person he meets, and the feeling is mutual!

Chance is a sweet, playful guy who tires out fast and is looking for a cuddle buddy and a couch to call his own.

He has previously lived with children and a cat and did very well with both. He has also lived with other dogs, but was very bossy and rude with them, and he guards his bones and food from them as well. We think Chance would prefer to be the only dog in your home.

Interested in adopting? Animals at Dakin are currently available only in Springfield. 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.



Sex Matters

a sex-positive health column

by STEPHANIE BAIRD

SOUTH HADLEY – As we hunker down into winter hibernation mode, I'd like to provide a round-up of my favorite sex-positive television shows that I've ingested over the past year. It has been about 13 months since I compiled such a list for your perusal. I also include shows and media that depict LGBTQIA orientations in a positive light, even if not much sexual interaction is present.

Mindy Kaling and Co. have done it again with another hilarious season of The Sex Lives of College Girls (HBO). If you haven't heard of this gem, you now have two wonderful seasons to watch. The series follows the sexual and romantic escapades of four college roommates at the fictional private Vermont liberal arts college called "EsSEX" (caps all mine). Some of the filming actually occurs at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York.

The four main characters represent different first-year college ciswomen: Whitney, Black, rich, a star soccer player and daughter of a Congressperson; Kimberly, White, poor, reticent, scholarly, self-doubting, and from Arizona; Bela, an exuberant, sex- and comedy-crazed New Jersey-raised Indian-American, hiding her sex and comedy lust from her academically-focused parents; and Leighton, a rich, judgy, White preppie from NYC.

It's delightful to see these characters acclimate to college life at Essex as they begin to explore and own their sexual desires in poignant and humorous ways. I laughed out loud at every episode, even as I empathized and cheered them on in their

pursuit of fun, friendship, comedy equality, unapologetic casual hookups, and meaningful sex.

Mindy Kaling's earlier TV-14 rated series Never Have I Ever (Netflix) is just as unabashedly fun; it's also about girls wanting to experience sex and love, but it is set in high school. If you've never seen this one, you are so lucky to have three seasons to catch up on. And there is also great lesbian representation here as well.

Welcome to Chippendales (Hulu) is an entertaining and rollicking series depicting the actual origins, rise of, and downfall of the developers of Chippendales, a dance troupe of bare-chested, bow-tie-wearing males doing choreographed strip tease routines. I can't get enough of this show, from the authentic-appearing sets and costumes, to the stellar acting (Kumail Nanjiani, Juliette Lewis, and more), to the reality-based storyline, which starts back in 1979.

Anyone who enjoys seeing muscled and oiled male bodies learning how to deliver erotic dancing will not be disappointed. It's also fun to see the depiction of the public sex free-for-alls in the back locker room, before the rise of AIDS and HIV. It's like a little anthropological time capsule of unabashed desire and sexual fun, driven by unleashed ciswomen's desires, cresting on the free love wave from the '60s.

One of my favorite lines is when Chippendales founder Steve Banerjee tries to convince his initial business partner Paul Snider of the viability of bringing male strippers to his failing backgammon club. Paul poo-poos it, replying flat-out that only guys are "pervs" who want to watch strippers. "I have something to tell you, Paul, something extremely shocking." His girlfriend, Playboy centerfold Dorothy Stratten, quips: "Women get horny." The next scene shows all three poring over Playgirl magazine and other items affirming women's interest in sex.

Other wonderful elements about this show include showing viewers one of the few or only polyamorous relationships I have even seen on streaming TV: the relationship the bisexual, cis male-identified choreographer Nick De Noia has with the business co-manager girlfriend (played by a wonderfully lusty Juliette Lewis) and with a boyfriend investor he picks up along the way.

I couldn't believe the news that the movie Interview With the Vampire, based on the 1976 book by Anne Rice, had finally received a decent adaptation via AMC. This adaptation is true to the very queer spirit of the book and unabashedly depicts her beloved erotic cis male vampires, Lestat and Louis.

The excellent casting and setting,

with some changes in the timeline and locations from the original book, properly enthralled me, bringing to life certain scenes and depictions I had imagined from more than 30 years ago, when I initially gulped down her books, longing to be made into a vampire. Sam Reid is the perfect Lestat and succeeds in replacing Tom Cruise from the 1994 movie, as the *only* Lestat.

Trigger warning: while there is graphic violence and depictions of domestic violence, it is also refreshing to see such a nuanced gay relationship that depicts these harsh realities, which are that LGBTQ relationships suffer from domestic violence at similar or sometimes higher rates than heterosexual relationships.

Wonderful, watchable shows on Netflix depicting strong LGBTQIA characters and relationships include Warrior Nun - who doesn't love nuns who kick ass? - and Heartstopper, a charming coming-out story of a bisexual high school cismale set in an idyllic English town. Willow (Disney+) also has a nice lesbian relationship, even if one of the characters is kind of annoyingly cocky, impetuous, and young, and I've also been observing fairly regular occurrences of LGBTQ depiction in the new Star Wars series *Andor* (Disney+).

HBO's underrated, close, and imaginative adaptation of Philip Pullman's classic fantasy book trilogy His Dark Materials into a three-season series has an incredible moment in the final episode where being alive, and choosing a life of experience, emotion, pleasure, sensation, and creativity, is proclaimed to be what it's all about – or in this series, what "dust" is all about.

In a culminating conversation with our heroes Lyra and Will, one of the main guiding characters reveals her attraction to another woman. "I asked myself: would anyone be better off if I just go back to my hotel, and say my prayers, and promise never to fall into temptation again?" she says. "And the answer came back: No. No one would. And I realized there was no one there to reward me for being a 'good girl,' or no one there to punish me for being 'wicked.' There was no one - and it was liberating."

This message sends me shivers every time.

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

Senior Center Activities IANUARY 23 THROUGH 27

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. For more information please call 863-9357.

Monday 1/23

10:15 a.m. Aerobics 11 a.m. Chair Exercise Tuesday 1/24 9:30 a.m. Tuesday Knitters 1 p.m. Chair Yoga

3 p.m. Tai Chi Wednesday 1/25

10:15 a.m. Aerobics

11 a.m. Chair Exercise 12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo

4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 1/26 1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 1/27 10:15 a.m. Aerobics

11 a.m. Chair Exercise 12 p.m. Pizza Party

Erving Senior Center is open 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Open for cards, coffee, and snacks daily. Brown Bag lunch is the first Thursday of each month. Veterans' Services are the first Wednesday of each month. For more information, please call (413) 423-3649.

Monday 1/23

9 a.m. Interval 10:15 a.m. Seated Workout Tuesday 1/24 9 a.m. Good For U 10 a.m. Line Dancing

Wednesday 1/25 9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact 10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics

11:30 a.m. Bingo Thursday 1/26 9 a.m. Core & Balance 10 a.m. Barre Fusion Friday 1/27

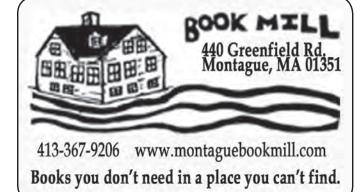
9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

Chair Yoga classes are held on Zoom on Wednesdays. Foot care clinic is held monthly. For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 2, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

WENDELL

A foot care clinic is held the first Wednesday of each month. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments. Senior Health Rides are available. Contact Jonathan von Ranson (978) 544-3758.

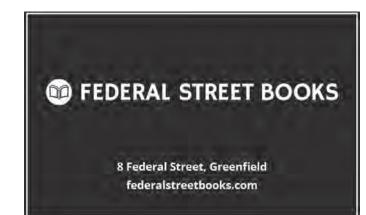
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WEST ALONG from page B1

the luxury of a deep back scratch. Each day like this is a blessing.

Exactly four weeks ago, I was unconscious, stretched out on the surgeon's table, sharp cutting instruments reaching deep into my insides to cut out the dreaded cancer. They got it all, cleaned it out and stitched me up, and weeks later I'm back out here in my snow as if nothing happened. But I don't take this for granted.

On the whole, there's a lot about this that I don't understand, but I figure I'm pretty lucky, still able to find astonishment and joy in the simple obviousness of a snowfall.

Later in the early nighttime, I'll settle into my routine in my convalescent bed in the sun room, now a moon room, with the Full Wolf Moon turning the world outside and inside, bright white. Moon pours in all the windows of my snug winter quarters while the flickering flames in the fireplace send shadows to dance on the walls.

I hunker down for the night among a wealth of green plants wintering over in the south-facing sun room. This is where the summer plants spend the winter: the five-foot tall Norfolk Island Pine, the papyrus plant whose delicate stems remind me of the fabled Nile, the one-hundred year old Christmas cactus still covered with waxy red flowers that flow down and over the bookcase, the Valentine-colored cyclamen on the sill watching the cold night on the other side of the window. The towering Christmas tree is there too, still decorated, but reaching the end of its season.

Lights out, moonlight flowing in, I reach up to the snow globe on the mantelpiece to give it one last shake, before I truly settle in for the night. The snow swirls within, as it swirled so briefly without, earlier this day.

Covered with snow, and snow in clouds above,

And drifts and swirls too deep to understand.

Still, I must try to think a little of it, With so much winter in my head and hand...

- Adapted from Gjertrud Schnackenberg, "The Paperweight."



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Twenty Years Gone; BB Suspect; Weird Angle; Shattered Window; Home Issue; Stashing Something

Monday, 1/9

cer observed involved male tion. Services rendered. was using the sidewalk.

6:33 a.m. Caller from about 20 years. Summons issued.

gone through by someone. Thursday, 1/12

Highland School Apart- this morning. There are removed from NCIC. ments would like on re- also some BBs in a near- Friday, 1/13 a BB gun. Subject denied parked at a weird angle.

Tuesday, 1/10

discharging a BB gun.

ports that a male on playing with cell phone. bothering neighbors. Offi- of civil options. property/building.

stop today; would like an officer. Referred to an officer.

playing loudly. Truck has straight warrant. advised.

Wednesday, 1/11

an accident.

of options.

dialed 911 while trying to to GPD. ceived via 911 line.

near the golf course. Offi- fuses to consider that op- Greenfield Savings Bank. Investigated. Officer did not find any gas Saturday, 1/14 hit her leg, and then to his daughter and saw what she says. 8:05 a.m. Caller from found BBs on her porch her with his eyes. Female Sunday, 1/15

dial/hangup calls received bal dispute. 4:33 a.m. 911 caller re- from Central Street. Child 1:46 a.m. Officer out

with caller, who advises all from Avenue A reporting sleep in his truck. was verbal, nothing phys- a problem with the oven; Sunday, 1/16 ical tonight, and plans to possible electrical issue. 10:50 a.m. Officer conto have the involved male Control. FD responding.

officer to go over and tell 1:25 p.m. 911 caller saw a will monitor vehicle. them not to do it again. male party who has war- 12:57 p.m. Passerby conrants walking on the bike cerned about a refrigerator 7:36 p.m. Caller from Old path headed toward G left on the side of Seventh Stage Road reports that a Street. Party located by Street. Doors are still on truck came about 20 min- officer and taken into cus- it, and a child could get utes ago and sat in his tody. A 51-year-old Green- stuck inside of it. Unable driveway for about five field man was arrested on to locate owner. Officer reminutes with the radio a default warrant and a moved doors and left them

since driven away. Officer 2:15 p.m. Caller states he 1:48 p.m. 911 caller from vestigated.

orders for location. Offi- occurred in their town. Control. cer advises party gone on Contact made with male 7:35 p.m. Report of susarrival. Cashiers advised party. GPD advises pos- picious person/activity sible probable cause for on security footage on J 4:31 p.m. Caller from arrest; requesting officer Street. Caller is out of Franklin County Techni- on scene call them direct- town. No answer upon cal School states one of ly. Officers advising one callback at this time. his employees accidentally under; party transported Building seems to be se-

window and it shattered 6:17 a.m. Caller reports a They have asked for cam- 8:01 a.m. Caller reporting all over some guests. Ofpedestrian walking in the eras in the main common a can of gas that is spilled ficers checking area; nomiddle of the roadway area, but management re- on Avenue A across from body located at this time.

party in the roadway and 11:06 a.m. Party came in can and can't see any spills. 4:52 p.m. Caller states he advised him not to walk yesterday to report ha- Also spoke with DPW, rents from his mother and in the middle of the road- rassment and is back again who are out sanding, and she has been coming over way. Second officer advises to advise that it is continu- they did not see anything. to his side of the prophe passed by male party, ing. Party advised of op- 10:33 a.m. Party into sta- erty and making it seem who was walking towards tions, and also advised that tion to report that his like he is not bettering his Cumberland Farms and the person he thought it 22-year-old daughter is life. States it's an abusive was has been deceased for missing; last contact she situation. Does not want had with anyone was a protection or restrain-Cumberland Farms re- 12:18 p.m. Caller states Tuesday night. Entered ing order at this time; porting unwanted party that she believes she was into NCIC. Party stopped just wants on record as he at location. Officer advis- shot at by a BB gun last back in stating female has feels her threats are empes party gone on arrival. night. She felt something been found; states he spoke ty and she doesn't mean

1:08 a.m. Caller from Millers Pub states that two incord that packages deliv- by telephone pole. Caller 7:57 a.m. Caller from Sil- dividuals are outside bangered to that location keep believes the BBs are being vio O. Conte Anadromous ing on the doors trying to getting opened up and discharged from the back Fish Research Center get in after they were told first floor window of an L concerned about a black to leave. Caller states that Street address. Occupants VW that has been parked there are twelve patrons of first floor were con- in the woods for over an inside the building who are tacted and advised of con- hour this morning. No unable to leave because of sequences of discharging issues; vehicle was just this issue. Upon arrival, officer states involved males 9:57 a.m. Two 911 mis- have left area. Minor ver-

> checking on male party Fourth Street needs to 11 a.m. Walk-in would like who is asleep in driver be removed from the res- to speak to an officer about seat of vehicle on Avenue idence; he is being loud, ongoing harassment from A. Officer advises no signs causing a disturbance, and a neighbor. Parties advised of impairment; male party is having home issues cer advises contact made 12:56 p.m. 911 caller and was advised he could

reach out to the landlord Transferred to Shelburne ducting vehicle stop at Fifth and Canal Streets. party trespassed from the 1:23 p.m. Caller states At the completion of the that a male party hit her stop, a nearby resident 3:53 p.m. Caller called in the arm after she told advised she believes the in stating her neighbor him to stop begging for operator of the vehicle yelled at her at the bus money. Referred to an was "stashing" something during the stop. Advised

has paperwork from the Grand Avenue states that courts stating that a fe- another female was out-12:23 p.m. Greenfield PD male who is in the build- side her house screaming requesting MPD block ing is not supposed to be and then "peeled out." Restraffic from crossing the near him. Male party has idents advised of various Canal Road bridge and paperwork from DA's of- civil options and to call going up Turners Falls fice confirming she is to if she comes back. Officer Road in Greenfield due to stay away from him. In- called to other involved female and advised her of 3:15 p.m. Caller reporting 5 p.m. Greenfield PD re-civil options and to not go that a party at Cumber- questing an officer go back over to the residence. land Farms will not leave to Dell Street and make 4:03 p.m. 911 caller reand is yelling at custom- contact with a male par- porting heavy smoke ers. Party has no active ty to get his side of the across the river in Gill. warrants nor trespassing story on an incident that Transferred to Shelburne

cure. Area checked extendial outside of the school 9:28 p.m. Caller from Five sively. Caller called back phone tree. Advises no Eyed Fox states that some stating he is at the location emergency. No call re- kids just threw a snow- and would like officers to ball or something at their come view video footage.

TELEVISION GUIDANCE

The 'Built America' Franchise (History)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I really liked the History Channel's "The Men Who Built America" documentary series and how they told the stories behind how J.P. Morgan, John Rockefeller, and Andrew Carnegie made their fortunes. Other people apparently felt the same, because the channel made even more documentaries in this style, and even some series. A couple of those series did so well that they were extended for second seasons.

The other feature-length documentaries were called The Cars That Made America, The Food That Built America, The Men Who Built America: Frontiersmen, and The Titans That Built America. In the Cars one, we learn the story of how Chrysler and Dodge were born. The Food one tells the stories of Heinz ketchup, KFC, Coca-Cola, Kellogg's cereal, and McDonald's,



while Frontiersmen features Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett.

Some of the series have included The Machines That Built America, The Toys That Built America, and The Engineering That Built the World. The Food That Built America documentary was apparently so popular that it got made into a series as well, and both the Food and Toys series have gotten a second season.

I have to say, I didn't like the Machines one at all. It features the story behind Harley-Davidson in one episode. My favorite Engineering one has the story behind the Statue of Liberty.

The Toys episode featuring the stories behind how Monopoly and The Game of Life became well-known is my favorite of this show so far. Besides that one, Toys has had episodes telling the stories behind the hula-hoop, Barbie, and Hotwheels and Matchbox cars.

As a TV series, the Food one continues to tell what happened with KFC, McDonald's, and Coca-Cola, but also tells the stories of White Castle, Campbell's Soup, Burger King, Wendy's, Domino's, Pizza Hut, and Subway, My favorite newer episodes of this show are about Dunkin' Donuts, Krispy Kreme, and Chef Boyardee.

I don't know what these very popular series about *Food* and *Toys* will focus on in all their up coming episodes, but I have an idea or two about Toys, as they have shown previews mentioning the stories of Mario Bros. and LEGO. I haven't really found myself with very much interest in the Toys show, but it appears that it continues to be popular. I believe the same is true with the Food one, which has become my favorite. It seems that the History Channel is rolling out hit shows.

Montague Community Television News

January Holding Pattern

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS - The Gill selectboard and the Montague selectboard each held their meetings this past week, as did the GMRSD school committee. Watch for them on MCTV.

All community members are welcome to submit their videos to be aired on Channel 17 and featured on the MCTV Vimeo page, so think of what you would like to make and come see how we can help.

MCTV is always available to assist in local video production. Cameras, tripods, and lighting equipment are available for checkout, and filming and editing assistance can be provided. And remember, MCTV is still looking for board members!

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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HAPPY FEET from page B1

expect. I am accustomed to spa pedicures, but I noticed that the same problems kept returning, and my balance was off. During the first year of COVID when gyms were closed, I walked miles on my sore old feet. I had calluses and corns and raggedy nails. I needed something more than a nail trim.

Before Clayton-Jones looked at my feet she examined my shoes, removing the insole to show me evidence of how I was using my toes to grip my shoes because they were too big. She redid my laces so that my feet were positioned properly for stride and balance, and suggested different socks.

Because my shoes were not tied correctly, I'd been curling my toes to grip my shoes and hold them on. That's why my toes were bent and twisted and my balance was off. The toes, which are supposed to spread out and distribute weight, were cramped instead. I was on tiptoes and not walking on a firm foundation.

And I was not alone. According to Clayton-Jones, many falls – events feared by elders – can be prevented with proper foot care and education.

I left her office feeling stronger and more confident. In addition to taking care of my nails and calluses, she found a trigger point on the sole of my foot that relaxed my cramped toes and somehow traveled all the way to my shoulders, where I also felt tension release.

Roberta Potter of the Gill-Montague Council on Aging and director of the Gill-Montague Senior Center said the nurses from FootCare by Nurses come for a foot care clinic once a month and usually see about 20 clients a day for half-an-hour



Foot care specialist Donna Britton works on a client's feet.

each. Seniors sign up for time slots in advance, and it's one of the most popular programs at the center.

On the day I visited, Emma Breor and Lisa Bishop were hard at work. Breor, who has been working with FootCare by Nurses since October, is thrilled with the work she does on behalf of elders. "It gives me a whole new perspective on aging," she said. "I love knowing I've helped to improve someone's quality of life."

Breor, who has a nine-monthold baby and works three days a week, said that Clayton-Jones is

"sensitive to the needs of working women." "I can be a mom and serve my community," she said. "It's so rewarding." Breor works at the clinic in Bernardston and at the Greenfield office, and also visits clients in their homes.

"After taking a lot of time off after my son was born, I can honestly say this is the most rewarding nursing position I have ever had," Bishop, an RN who worked for 20 years on surgical floors and in the OR, told me. "We are able to care for people in their homes or at clinics, devoting time to connect with con-

sumers. We are able to build bonds and understanding, meeting people where they are and doing our best to help and teach."

Potter said that people came to the Senior Center throughout the pandemic and waited in the parking lot for their foot care appointments. She is thrilled to offer this comprehensive service so necessary for overall health. The program is funded by donations and grant money, and Senior Center clients pay just \$20 for a half-hour session.

Although the Senior Center consists of just one room, clients are treated at one end of the room and screened off for privacy. On the day I visited, two people were being treated and others were waiting on comfortable sofas, reviewing the weekly schedule. It was a welcoming space, and the foot care appointment schedule was full for the day.

The initial full session at the FootCare by Nurses office in Greenfield or other locations is \$100 for the first visit, and \$55 after that. "That sounds high to people who don't recognize the importance of prevention," Clayton-Jones explained. "A fall, foot surgery, or foot care complication is far more costly, and can have an enormous impact on an elder's quality of life."

"People with diabetes and neuropathy may have sores they do not feel," she added. "Dangerous melanomas can develop under thick nails, and the way a shoe is worn can indicate an uneven stride."

All these problems and more can be prevented or detected by a thorough examination by a trained nurse. Even women like me, who once wore pointy-toed high heels, can address our foot problems with treatment, sensible well-fitting shoes, and exercise.

Our feet work hard. According to an Internet search, a person's foot exerts about 1.5 to three times their body weight on average when walking. For example, a 150-pound person may exert between 225 and 450 pounds of force with each step. Multiply that by the number of steps a person takes, and the impact on our feet becomes clear - along with the need to take care of them, and not just cosmetically.

The FootCare by Nurses mission states, "Preventing a wound or a fall is possible. It begins with getting to know you and then performing an assessment. FootCare by Nurses works with you to ensure your feet are functioning to the best of their abilities.... Moving more freely enables better balance. We believe sharing knowledge is empowerment."

It's a persuasive argument. Prevention is always the best approach to most problems. It also feels good to put yourself in the care of trained people devoted to your well-being.

Just knowing how my shoes are supposed to feel and lacing them accordingly has made a difference, and I now look forward to morning walks around town. I'm reminded of my late mother who suffered from chronic foot pain. Her later years would have been so much better if FootCare by Nurses had been around.

To schedule an appointment with FootCare by Nurses at the Gill-Montague Senior Center, call (413) 863-9357. To request an in-home visit or schedule an appointment at the FootCare by Nurses office, call (413) 367-8369. An appointment with the nurses should not be confused with a spa pedicure.

To learn more, visit www. FootCarebyNurses.net.



EXHIBITS

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Photo Beat, Past and Present: Moving Forward in Time, Capturing of the Moment, photographs by Joe R. Parzych. Through January 29. Reception Saturday, January 28, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Montague at Work and Play: IIlustrations from the Montague Reporter, 2019-2023, forty-eight full-color illustrations by Nina Rossi of people at work and play in the villages of Montague. (See article, Page A1.) Reception February 19 at 4 p.m. Through March 18.

Artspace, Greenfield: Teen Art Show, Franklin County highschoolers show their best work. Reception on January 20, 5:30 p.m. Through February 23.

Looky Here, Greenfield: Admin Reveal, collection of works by Looky Here manager Hannah Brookman. Receptions on two Fridays, January 27 and February 24, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Von Auersberg Gallery, Deerfield Academy: Looking Glass, Rachel Portesi's hair portraits. Collodion tintypes, Polaroids, Viewmaster 3D, and video exploring female identity in portraits that display hair in sculptural forms. Through March 1.

Shelburne Arts Coop Gallery, Shelburne Falls: Season of Wonder, members' show. Through January.

Sunderland Library: Spring Eternal, mixed-media abstract landscape paintings by Sara

Gately. Through February 28.

Augusta Savage Gallery, UMass Amherst: Portraits in Red: Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls, paintings by Nayana LaFond. January 30 through May 12. Reception January 30, 5 p.m. Artist talk February 8, 6 p.m.

Gallery A3, Amherst: Birds, paintings by Keith Hollingworth. Through January.

Burnett Gallery, Amherst: Spare, photographs by Sarah Reid. New Work, metal sculpture by Jon Bander. Through January 29.

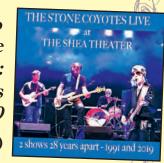
Hosmer Gallery, Forbes Library, Northampton: A Mosaic Journey, Peregrinations on Being Human. Cynthia Fisher reflects in mosaic on the human need for creativity, and pursuit of knowledge, and understanding. Through January 30.

Anchor House, Northampton: Fran's Emails, collaborative works by Fran Henry, Walter Korzek, and Ken Gagne including emails, woodcuts, assemblage, and more. Somber vs. Psychedelic, oil paintings by Ben Hotchkiss. Invoke, abstract imagery by Sara Gately. Through January 28.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center: The New Herbarium, fungus and plant images by Madge Evers: We Feel Our Wav Through When We Don't Know, group show; The Space Between Memory and Expectation, large-format photographic installations by Renate Aller; Moons and Internment Stones, rock and moon paintings by Alison Moritsugu; and (de) composed, sculpture by Judith Klausner. All through February 12. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

MONTY / MUSIK / MOUNTAIN

The Stone Coyotes, The Stone Covotes Live At the Shea Theater: 2 Shows 28 Years Apart, 1991 and 2019 (Red Cat Records CD, 2019)



MYSTRA REVIEWS #10

Review by JOSH B. & TROY C.

JB: Hi Troy – did you listen to the live Stone Coyotes yet? I'm finally listening now.

TC: I did, some! I'm going to pull it up again. It's really good. They are really dialed in. I would love to see them live, and I'm wondering what other music connections I'm missing.

JB: I didn't realize it was live - in '91 and '19. That stretches a lot of years!

TC: This is fantastic. I love this. It's two shows, 30 years apart.

JB: So, for their history – one main thing is that the singer, Barbara Keith, has been on records since the '60s!

The drummer Doug is her husband, and their son plays bass. They are really cool and fun. A great live band, and fun to talk to. They have been in a good, creative zone, so it makes sense they have kept going...

TC: They transcend labels and genre, and have a lot of soul.

JB: The '91 stuff sounds kind of punk. There's a real bite to the bass and drums.

TC: I'm also listening to this song ["Voices in the Rain," from the 2021 EP Rough & Tumble].

This also reminds me of a big, big influence on X, and cowpunk, and stuff in late '70s and early '80s. So there is that layer.

JB: I finally spent time with the Kangaroo *LP recently – Barbara's* first band, from the '60s in Boston. I didn't know they were from Boston. The LP has some great songs. They sound a bit like Autosalvage at times, but really unique too. There is a strange song about frogs.

TC: So I think to say cowpunk,

or even the emotional feel of Kath Bloom, may be a limited or biased way of perceiving this. Really cool – old Boston.

JB: I wonder if they played with *Ultimate Spinach, or The Remains.*

TC: I'm checking out Kangaroo. They are psychedelic, in many ways. Looks like around 1967. I don't know the band Ultimate Spinach, either. This is a great introduction to Boston music at this time!

I'm psyched, going into Boston psych and punk in the '60s. Holy guacamole. This is mega launched. It would be fun to see this stuff live. This is truly exciting, and it's a trip. The Stone Coyotes go back some – and then to '91, and 2019.

JB: Yeah, I was gonna go back to that... '91 to '19. So amazing. Plus at Shea Theater in Turners!

That must have been weird in '91. I guess Turners Falls was wild in the Eighties. The Stone Coyotes have an extra guitarist now.

TC: The Shea is where the last Ooze Fest was...

JB: Yes. The Shea is really active these days, it seems, and the sound system and so on are all upgraded.

Barbara and Doug are really special... we are lucky to have them in the Valley. Barbara has probably written hundreds of songs.

TC: So much magic. It's a beautiful thing, Josh, and it's still mysterious to me as well. What a true gift. No telling how far her influence continues to reach.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Reporter is looking for volunteers to help us curate this listing. Interested? Contact us at editor@montaguereporter.org!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Dead Colllective. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20

The Perch at Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: The Burning Sun, Ex-Temper, more. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: Ashley Rhodes. \$. 7:30 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: Sunburned Hand of the Man, Franklin Mint, Mountain Movers, Bulle. \$. 8 p.m.

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

Luthier's Co-Op, Easthampton: The Journals Kept, Jay Johnson, Nickey. \$. 8 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: Gregorio Uribe, DJ Studebaker Hawk. \$. 8 p.m

Rendezvous. Turners Falls: Moon Hollow. Free. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Underworld, featuring house, dubstep, and drum & bass on three floors. \$. 6 p.m.

Mount Toby Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: Jim Sharkey. \$. 7 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Surrealist Games and Prepared Piano with Roger Clark Miller. \$. 7 p.m.

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Old 78 Fall Festival Reunion, with Woody & the Rebel Alliance, rice: an American Band, Whalom Park, MC Force. \$. 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: Thus Love, Lahnah, Prune. \$. 8 p.m. Calvin Theater, Northampton: Last show ever? \$\$. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22

Next Stage Arts, Putney: Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem. \$. 4 p.m. Stone Church, Brattleboro: Thus Love, Carinae, Tilden. \$. 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

10 Forward, Greenfield: Dominique, beetsblog, Jac Aranda, Lamb Hock. \$. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Ma-

sala Jazz. Free. 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26

10 Forward, Greenfield: Zay, King Vick, Melodias, Muda, Kony, Fatty Thicc, Zasder, Recklezz. \$. 8 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: Cheap City, The Leafies You Gave Me, Bochek, PWRUP. \$. 8:30 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: The Dustbowl Revival, The Mary Jane Jones. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27

10 Forward, Greenfield: Two-Step Night, with Les Taiauts and The Honky Tonk Angels. Cajun and honky-tonk two-stepping dance lesson provided. Benefit for local organizations Liyang Network and the Anti-Imperialist Action Committee, for disaster relief and mutual aid in the Philippines and Venezuela. \$. 7 p.m. Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Shea's Lounge presents Opel. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Michael Nix, Chris Devine. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: Goblet, Jeopardy, Slob Drop, Oziem, Jonee Earthquake Band. \$. 7:30 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: Lou Barlow. \$. 8 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: Big Head Todd and the Monsters. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Bluegrass & Beyond. Free. 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Jaunty Monte Arty Party. \$. 3 to 5 p.m.

Hitchcock Brewing Company, Bernardston: Sandy Bailey & Band. Free. 6 p.m.

Clark Art Institute, Williamstown: Sam Prekop, Greg Davis, Kryssi Battalene/Wednesday Knudsen duo. \$. 7 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: East Coast Cowboys with Jen Tobey. Free. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: The Eighty Six Seas. Free. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

Temple Israel, Greenfield: Stephen Katz, Klez Cabal. \$. 4 p.m. DCU Center, Worcester: The

Judds: The Final Tour, with

Ashley McBryde, Martina Mc-Bride. \$. 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

The Drake, Amherst: Underground System. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Four Rivers Charter School Annual Variety Show. Free. 7 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: Bill Nace record release. Stella Kola record release, Kieran Lally, Hollow Deck, DJ Krefting. \$. 8 p.m.

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

The Drake, Amherst: Les Derailleurs, Landowner, Perennial. \$. 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: Underground System. \$. 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: Adam Reid & the In-Betweens. Sailor

Down, Julie Cira. \$. 8:30 p.m. **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: Doomsmas featuring Slow Wake, Shadow Witch, Geezer, Fox 45, Astral Bitch, and more. \$. 6 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: Lakeside Dive. \$. 7 p.m.







Two from the Vault...

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Our conversation with features editor Nina Rossi about her local portrait series (see article, Page A1) prompted a look back at her earlier illustrations for Page A2. This two-parter from April 23 and 30, 2015 is an all-time favorite at the MR office. - Eds.



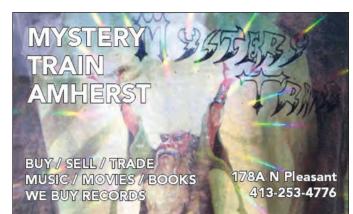
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SPACE CAMP from page B1

to use public bathrooms and how Milton Friedman sucks, I'm guessing not Rong.

Some friends and I went hard in the pit. Olivia took a moment to shout out a victory that Rong and other tenants had just won after the owners of the Sound Museum, one of the last affordable practice spaces in Boston, announced that they would all be evicted with little notice. We all cheered for tenant organizing, and I noticed the crowd had grown substantially. After their set, I heard the venue was at capacity.

I went outside for a breather and came back in for Bricklayer, which some of my brother's friends were pretty excited about. The band is fronted by Emily Carter from OroborO, a bygone western Mass band that had also played the old Flip frequently. With two drummers, a bassist, synthesizers, a guitar, and vocals, they played a party pop once again evolved from punk, the progeny of a marriage between Muse and Rubblebucket.

I had to hang out on the sidelines for this set while I recovered from being tossed around during the last one, which gave me a great vantage point on the group of skilled musicians. Drummers Cole Hancock and Corey Camara made playing an uptempo 6/8 in sync on two separate sets look easy, and the crowd danced along in time.

Then, Space Camp. Bandleaders Daisy Josefa (vocals, drums) and June Violet Aino (vocals, synths, trombone) took the stage along with the "Space Camp Orchestra," consisting of upright bass, cello, and baritone euphonium, as well as Max from Rong, this time on a second drumset behind

Daisy's. The crowd whooped as they soundchecked.

How does one categorize something with thunderous, gloomy synths, screamed vocals, and low brass? On Bandcamp, Space Camp have tagged *Gold Star*, the album released on Friday, with "punk," "hardcore," "queercore," "hell," and "connecticut." I can't think of anything more fitting.

What is so special about a band like Space Camp and their unclassifiable genre is that you either get it or you don't, and the music becomes a vessel for community. Rejected by label after label, Space Camp can still sell out a show to fans who appreciate them as they might a culturally specific fermented food which, by design, isn't for everyone.

For those who acquire the taste, rewards await. Space Camp's sludgy maximalism feels like it's coming from inside one's own body, like a childhood Fourth of July parade drumline with much better politics. The significant presence of face masks and earplugs communicated that this was a crowd that cared about ourselves, and each other. The pit is about pushing people around, but it's also about picking people up when they lose their balance.

I can't promise you that seeing Space Camp will make you a better person, but I know that Friday's crowd of mostly queer punks is who I want to see around me at a show – and who I'd want to wade into carrying a fuzzed-out electric mandolin and microphone, if I were in Space Camp, to scream a finale. Even if tastemakers and gatekeepers won't make space for Space Camp in their worlds, there will always

be room for them in the ones we make together.





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