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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 23, 2023

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Hope ‘Remote’ May Continue; Fear ‘Hybrid’ Will Be Required

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard meeting of March 20 was the shortest in recent memory, lasting under half an hour. The board quickly authorized extending the deadline for implementing 2020 community development block grant programs, to allow for the completion of housing rehabilitation projects, and voted to pay the coordinator of the Turners Falls farmers market retroactively for work performed in 2022.

After reporting on the governor’s announcement that the state-

wide COVID-19 “Public Health Emergency” will officially end May 11, town administrator Steve Ellis turned to the status of pandemic-related changes in state law that have allowed towns to hold committee meetings virtually over Zoom and other online platforms.

There has been a good deal of uncertainty about the status of these provisions, which have been extended but are currently set to expire on March 31. Ellis said he expected the “current rules” will be extended again through March 2025,

see MONTAGUE page A3

Yankee Train Derailment Calls Attention to Safety

By AMY BOREZO

VERNON, VT – On February 24, six train cars derailed on their way to pick up radioactive waste from the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant, which ceased operation in 2014. There was no nuclear waste in any of the cars at the time of the derailment and no injuries occurred, according to NorthStar Energy, current owners of the former nuclear facility.

NorthStar, through a spokesperson, stated that impacts from severe weather affected track alignment, causing the derailment, and that “appropriate inspections followed repairs by railway construction specialists and were conducted as advised by the local rail carrier.” These efforts included consultation with the Federal Railroad Administration prior to reopening the track section.

Hundreds of freight cars have traveled the same route carrying nuclear waste from the site as it is decommissioned, and more waste will be removed in the coming months and years using the rail system, which travels through Franklin County.

NorthStar owns the local rail spur on which last month’s derailment took place. As of March 3, repairs had been made to the rail and removal of waste was again underway.

“The significantly radioactive materials such as the Reactor Vessel and Internal Components have already been removed from the site, accounting for approximately 99% of low



During the plant’s decommissioning, trains carry waste through our county.

level radioactivity,” the NorthStar spokesperson reported. Remaining materials – including all of the “high level” spent nuclear fuel – will be shipped in the coming years.

The federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) creates guidelines that determine where and how certain “levels” of radioactive waste

see NUCLEAR page A5

Hydro Company Says Dam No Longer Leaking

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – Hydraulic fluid leaking from the Turners Falls dam into the Connecticut River is being contained, dam owner FirstLight Power said this week, though it will be some time before a “long-term solution” can be reached.

By all accounts the sheen on the surface of the river is caused by a much smaller leak than the one at this time last year, when hundreds of gallons of fluid were lost from two pistons, #7 and #8, that raise and lower one of the dam’s bascule gates.

“[T]hat issue is considered to be resolved,” FirstLight spokesperson Claire Belanger told the *Montague Reporter*, “and, at this time, is not

believed to be related to the issue we are dealing with” at pistons #3 and #5, which move two adjacent gates.

However small the latest leak, the news spread as a March 31 federal deadline approaches for the company to reach a settlement with local stakeholders over the terms of its license to operate the dam.

“Any amount of oil that FirstLight discharges into the Connecticut River has an immediate, harmful impact on the aquatic ecosystem,” Kelsey Wentling, a river steward at the Connecticut River Conservancy, announced last week. “We are extremely disappointed that FirstLight has allowed this same story to play itself out two years in a row.”

see HYDRO page A6

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Chief’s Offer to Go Full-Time Delays Budget

By GEORGE BRACE

A late request to increase the Leverett fire chief’s hours led to a decision Tuesday by the selectboard and finance committee to recalculate the town’s annual budget and schedule a new hearing. The boards hope to recommend an FY’24 budget in time for approval at the annual town meeting, scheduled for April 29.

The draft budget the boards were reviewing came in at \$7,146,178 – a 4.5% increase over the current year, under the 5% growth cap the town asked of departments. Several changes, however, were requested at Tuesday’s meeting, which would result in an overall budget increase of roughly 5.2% if all are adopted.

Little discussion was held on three of these – additional money for the town’s reserve fund, elections, and benefits for a potential fourth full-time police officer – but a request from fire chief Brian Cook to change his position from 25 to 40 hours caused lengthy deliberation.

Cook said the increased hours were needed due to a higher call volume, and not being able to cover enough shifts with volunteers. While the chief’s reasoning received broad support, the late date of the proposal came under criticism.

Cook explained that he wanted to see how the finances shook out in the townwide budget once cost-of-living increases and “everything else” were included, and also to “go to a larger audience to get more town input.”

Police chief Scott Minckler and highway department superintendent Matt Boucher both said they “fully support” the move to a full-time

see LEVERETT page A5

Town Gauges Public Opinion on Solar Siting



Energy committee chair Sally Pick says that four years after installing this 7-kW array on a small barn in her Montague Center backyard, she is running a credit on her electricity bill. Pick recommends homeowners interested in adding solar now pursue renewable energy certificates (RECs), as well as state and federal tax credits.

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – The Montague energy committee needs your help. The committee, through a special collaboration with students from the UMass Clean Energy Extension, is distributing a survey to evaluate local opinion about solar energy policy. The survey contains about 37 questions designed to measure opinion in Montague about the wide range of options available to local communities: from rooftop solar to canopies in parking lots; to arrays on public buildings; to large installations often proposed for agricultural and forested land.

At a meeting Tuesday night of the special solar energy planning subcommittee, there was a strong emphasis on maintaining the confidentiality of survey respondents in order to avoid, according to energy committee chair Sally Pick,

“aggressive” marketing by solar companies.

“All data will be released in summary form and no individual responses will be identifiable,” the introduction to the Energy Extension’s survey states. “To the best of our ability, all answers in this study will remain confidential. We will minimize any risks by storing all survey data in a locked office on the UMass Amherst campus.”

UMass students Caroline Williams and Victoria Haskins also emphasized at the Tuesday meeting that the survey is actually the fourth step in a longer planning process. The first three were organizing the planning team itself, assessing existing and potential solar resources available to the community, and evaluating potential financing and ownership options.

The entire project is described see SOLAR page A6

FCRHRA Absorbs Shelburne Housing

By MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Massachusetts is one of only four states that directly funds public housing, and while this provides a point of pride for housing advocates, its administration here is also among the most cumbersome in the country. A patchwork quilt of 242 housing

authorities, each reporting to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), vet applications, wrangle aid, and typically own and manage property directly. Not all are doing so well.

Last December, in the dying days of his administration, governor Charlie Baker signed a small but for some people very important piece

of legislation bringing that number down to 241.

Sandwiched for all time between bills pertaining to the Haverhill retirement board and Revere fire department, the new law – “An Act Providing for the Merger of the Shelburne Housing Authority with the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment and for the Restructuring of the Membership of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority” – did just what its title promised. And at least one regional housing authority director we spoke with believes it may offer a model for preserving housing affordability in an increasingly hostile market environment.

“It’s been really incredible,” FCRHRA executive director Gina Govoni told the *Montague Reporter* this week, after three months working with a newly reconfigured board of commissioners. “It’s a much keener, more astute board.”

FCRHRA is one of a small handful of regional housing authorities in the state, and is the only one to own property – before this year, 98

see HOUSING page A2



Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority executive director Gina Govoni said she hopes other entities consider regionalizing.

Exactly One Tiny Error Included In Every Edition, For Spiritual Reasons

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Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August 2002

Oh, Okay!

The COVID-19 pandemic will have lasted just a few months over three years when it ends this spring.

The White House is dissolving its coronavirus taskforce in May. The pandemic-era emergency boost to the main public food aid program, SNAP, ends this month. The federal emergency – and emergency public spending – will lapse.

The World Health Organization calls the variant of Omicron that

emerged this winter, XBB.1.5, the "most transmissible" strain so far, and the virus will continue to mutate in the population, but unlike in 2020, doctors are equipped with effective antivirals – and some people keep up on their vaccine boosters, which lose efficacy over time.

And Moderna announced this week that the price of its vaccine will rise from \$26 to \$130.

Sounds like we won!

HOUSING from page A1

units including the Winslow-Wentworth House in Turners Falls and others scattered from Charlemont to Bernardston to Orange. It also manages 146 privately-owned homes, including the Crocker and Cutlery buildings in Turners Falls, and supervises hundreds of Section 8 vouchers, which tenants use directly with landlords.

Alongside this regional organization, several towns in the county have their own local housing authorities: Orange, Montague, and Greenfield – and Shelburne, which has been a somewhat exceptional case.

A Reabsorption

The Shelburne Housing Authority (SHA) was founded in the 1970s by the FCRHRA, according to Govoni, to develop Highland Village, a 46-unit senior and disabled housing complex off Maple Street in Shelburne Falls.

As it turned out, Highland Village would remain the SHA's only housing project – "there were other attempts that did not move forward," Govoni told us grimly – and while it was governed by its a local five-member board, it was also managed all along by the FCRHRA, so this winter's merger does not affect staffing or payroll.

"SHA's inability to maintain surplus budget and adequate operating reserves has been a concern for many years," the organization wrote in its own 2021 annual report. "Given the ongoing concern over financial viability, Commissioners began working with current HRA management to seek out administrative efficiencies."

Fortunately, DHCD offered up some funding in early 2019 to any local housing authorities interested in regionalizing. "They had asked, in general, to see if there was any interest in this topic," said Govoni, who assumed the helm at the FCRHRA that summer and found the merger ball already beginning to roll. "To my knowledge, we were the only ones that formally responded and took advantage of that funding."

This tiptoeing approach to public housing regionalization on the part of the state may in part be a reaction to a drastic proposal by the Deval Patrick administration to overhaul the state into six to eight large regional units, a proposal that in a prior interview Govoni said "hit with a thud." "You can't really look at a map and have it work," she explained. "It flopped."

The DHCD funding paid for consultants, who spent two years working with the two boards on the terms of the merger, then bringing the arrangement to the Department and legislators. It was approved in the fall of 2021.

In its 2022 report, SHA wrote that the merger "will mitigate administrative burden at all levels, allowing property management staff to spend more time with residents, leadership to focus on the preservation of the current portfolio, and to plan for additional affordable housing throughout the County."

Only one of the Shelburne board members is continuing on in the combined organization; a celebration is planned for April 11 at the Highland Village community room to thank the others for their years of service. Govoni said attendees will be asked to wear masks at the request of one of the departing commissioners, but that "if it's a nice day, we'll try to do it outside."

Lines of Communication

Though all this may sound simple enough, transferring the deeds has taken most of the winter, and the real work of the merger is taking place at the governance level.

Up until this year the FCRHRA has had an 11-member board, with each member required to hail from a different municipality. "We'd struggled to get a full board, because 11 is a lot of people," Govoni reminisced. The merger – and the accompanying state legislation – provided the larger organization with an opportunity to clean house.

The outcome is that the FCRHRA board will now have seven members, and must include two Shelburne residents. Two members are appointed by the state, the other five by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

"The negotiations around policies are considerable – we're still ironing things out," Govoni said.

And bringing Highland Village in-house comes with an additional factor: the Highland Village Tenants Organization (HVTO), formally recognized last fall and so far the only recognized tenants' group in all of the public housing managed by FCRHRA.

"Knowing that regionalization would happen, we were determined to ensure that Highland Village kept a strong voice within HRA," HVTO acting president Penny Herzig Clark told the *Reporter*. "Our goal is to be the bridge between the residents and HRA."

According to Herzig Clark the HVTO, which has 48 members, came together over the course of a year with the "full encouragement" of both Govoni and the outgoing SHA board.

"The merger... is still very new to us, so determining what has really changed will take some time," said Herzig Clark. "Development of the new HRA board including the HVTO is

very exciting." In addition to the formal recognition, one of the two Shelburne members of the merged board, Roger Bowen Weld, is a Highland Village resident.

Upright, Healthy, Safe

"I hope that other local housing authorities – particularly smaller housing authorities that are struggling financially because of their size – might look at this and see it as a model that would work in [their] communities," Govoni told the *Reporter*.

"As we all know, the capital funding does not exist to maintain the portfolio that we have," she continued. "With a local, small, management structure in place, there's not as much room for expertise and capacity to look at how we can keep these properties well-capitalized and maintained.... I would hate to see our county lose any of the public housing units that we have because we don't have the capital to maintain our units. I think we have to be creative, and that's going to require working together."

The FCRHRA's case for "creative" solutions is made mostly on the private side of its management portfolio. Through its affiliated non-profit, Rural Development, Inc., the public authority has been able to access tools targeted to private developers such as low-income housing tax credits.

Govoni acknowledged that many public housing advocates are reluctant to pursue private ownership. "We need to try to maintain the affordability that we have with public housing," she argued. "But, we might need to look at other ownership structures to make that possible, and keep them, frankly, upright, and healthy and safe for our residents."

The Crocker Cutlery Limited Partnership in downtown Turners Falls embodies this approach – privately-owned, publicly-managed affordable housing – and FCRHRA is also in the middle of opening another such example, the Sanderson Place senior housing project in Sunderland.

"The last of the 33 tenants moved in on March 15," Govoni beamed. "They had been very patiently waiting." A grand opening event is being planned for May.

"Members of three other communities in Franklin County have come and walked through Sanderson Place before it was occupied, just to see the layout and get a sense of the feeling of the building," Govoni added. "I don't want to say who we're speaking with yet, but there will probably be news ready for the public by this summer from at least one of those communities."



Wagon Wheel employees Hannab Wolf, Jack Villani, and Kaylee Diaz pose in front of some of the many paint-by-number pictures decorating the interior of the Gill restaurant. The place is popular for its diverse menu, homemade ice cream, and kitschy decor. The Gill Singers lead a community sing-a-long there between 2 and 4 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month.

Letter to the Editors



'Old Town Hall' Holds Memories

I read with great joy the front page article of the February 23 issue, *Town Weighs Its Options for the 'Old Town Hall.'*

Since I lived in Montague Center on North Street from 1950 to 1961, the town hall steps were a favorite gathering place for most teens. It is where we caught the bus for school and work in tobacco, and visited the library and post office. (I still remember our mailbox code and number.)

One Halloween I talked my neighbor into decorating those "beautiful little library windows" with soap. Someone... alerted Montague's policeman, Mr. George, and we discovered that several minutes of fun turned into several hours of window cleaning!

I wholeheartedly agree with Vicky Valley that this building is important to the town. It definitely is to me.

Dianne Cole
Indianapolis, IN



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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Spring has officially arrived! Families are invited to **celebrate local food** courtesy of CISA and the Franklin Community Co-op on Saturday, March 25 from 10 a.m. to noon. It all happens in the alleyway beside Green Fields Market. (If it rains, it will be indoors nearby at 170 Main Street.)

Meet the farmer who produces sugar at Bergeron's Sugar House, and try out different grades of maple syrup and maple cream on silver dollar pancakes. There will be a food demonstration for kids by Green Fields Market. Mini-croissants baked by Rise Above Bakery using local flour, butter, and milk will also be available, plus other "surprises" for attendees.

A notice from Baystate Health advises that the very contagious **norovirus is now prevalent** in the community. Norovirus affects both adults and children, and causes general illness and abdominal pain along with vomiting and diarrhea. Many who have it will call it "food poisoning," but it is not the same. It has no relation to the influenza virus, either.

Recovery is fairly quick – within two to three days, typically – but there is no cure for this viral infection. Manage symptoms by drinking rehydration solutions, resting, eating plain foods, and taking over-the-counter medications.

Practice proper sanitation to help prevent the spread of norovirus, and be forewarned that hand sanitizers do not usually work against this one – wash your hands often with soap and water!

The National Spiritual Alliance will host a **Psychic Fair** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. this Saturday, March 25, at Thompson Temple, 2 Montague Avenue in Lake Pleasant. For more information or to register, visit www.spiritualallianceusa.org/calendar.

Come **write fanfic together** and hear a live reading by Charlie Markbreiter from his new *Gossip Girl* fanfic novella. Casey Wait (the *Your Sick Friend* columnist in this paper) and Benji Arellano-Fryer lead the free writing workshop before the reading this Saturday, March 25 from noon to 4 p.m. at 104 Fourth Street, the space shared by the Finders Collective and Great Falls Books Through Bars. Masks are required. Contact finders@riseup.net for more information.

A Netflix **documentary created by a Greenfield high school alumna** will be screened at Greenfield Garden Cinema this Saturday, March 25 at 3 p.m. Essie Chambers was the film's producer and writer, and she will be doing a question and answer after the show.

The documentary *Descendant* follows members of Africatown, a small community in Alabama, as they share their personal stories and community history as descendants of the Clotilda, the last known slave ship to illegally transport human beings as cargo from Africa to America. The ship's existence, a centuries-old open secret, is confirmed by a team of marine archaeologists.

The documentary won the US Documentary Special Jury Award at Sundance, as well as Critics' Choice Award for best documentary.

March is Maple Month, and the perfect time to go out to **breakfast at a sugarhouse**. Find a list of sugarhouse restaurants at www.massmaple.org/category/restaurant.

Learn how fire can play a beneficial role in the health of a forest at a **Zoom presentation on controlled burns** this Sunday, March 26 at 2 p.m. *Fire for Diversity: Understanding Forest Fire Ecology in Massachusetts* will explain how prescribed burns can restore habitat, support endangered flora and fauna, and reduce wildfire risks. Register to get the link at www.tinyurl.com/fire-forest.

The Brick House is sponsoring a talk called "**Racial Justice: Continuing the Conversation**" next Thursday, March 30 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. "All are invited to talk in a safe space about ways to make a positive impact on our community," according to the notice. Childcare will be provided. If you need free transportation, contact slangknecht@brickhouseccrc.org or (413) 800-2496 by Friday, March 24.

There's an **Open Mic night at the Stone Soup Cafe**, at All Souls Church in Greenfield, next Friday, March 31 starting at 6 p.m. It's for all ages, and hosted by Matt Goulet. Doors open and sign-ups begin at 5:30 p.m. Admission is free, but donations are most welcome. Contact info@stonesoupcafe.org for more information.

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church at 84 K Street in Turners Falls is having an **Easter Bazaar and Spring Gaik** on Saturday, April 1 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be crafts, items from Poland, a bake sale, religious goods and gifts, gift baskets and other raffles, and a Polish food sale and luncheon.

There's also going to be a **Spring Choral Festival** at Greenfield High School on Saturday, April 1 at 4 p.m.

This concert features the Brattleboro Concert Choir, directed by Dr. Jonathan Harvey; the Mount Holyoke Glee Club, directed by Rachel Feldman; and the Pioneer Valley Symphony Chorus and Chamber Chorus, directed by Dr. Allegra Martin.

Proceeds will benefit the Stone Soup Cafe. Face masks are required in the auditorium. Ticket prices are \$5 (youth) to \$25 (adult). Get yours at www.pvsoc.org.

A **still life drawing series** begins April 1 at the Buckland Library. The free, six-week series is led by artist Laurie Hayes. All skill levels are welcome, and easels, charcoal, paper, and other supplies are provided. Space is limited, so call (413) 625-9412 to register.

The Brick House at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls is hosting a **presentation about fair and affordable housing** by the experts at the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority on Wednesday, April 5 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Amanda Watson, Kerri George, and Val Lowden are the presenters. Learn about the RAFT and the homeless prevention programs the Housing Authority offers. Contact slangknecht@brickhouseccrc.org with any questions.

Poets of all levels of experience are invited to submit work to a call for **trauma survival poetry**. Contemporary portrait artist Danielle Festa, who captures the strength of survivors in her paintings, will include four poems to be on display with her paintings at the Portrait Project exhibition opening June 24 this year at Aplomb Gallery in Dover, New Hampshire.

The poems will also be published in an accompanying book. Submit up to three poems by April 11 to www.aplombgallery.com/apply-poetry.html.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

MONTAGUE from page A1

and that he hoped the extension would create a "pause" so that the legislature could consider "common sense, practicable [permanent] changes" to the rules about public meetings.

"There is strong agreement that remote participation and hybrid meetings can greatly increase civic participation and access," he said. Hybrid meetings combine in-person and remote participation.

But Ellis also warned that some recent proposals to reform the open meeting law could impose "unreasonable burdens on smaller communities" that have "an abundance of committees and a limited number of facilities for hybrid meetings," which can be labor-intensive and technically challenging to host. Ellis said he had also made these points earlier, at the invitation of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, to a group of legislators currently working on bills to permanently institutionalize virtual meetings.

Perhaps coincidentally, Geoff Foster, the executive director of the government reform organization Common Cause, published an editorial last week in *Commonwealth Magazine* endorsing as the state's "gold standard option" bills in the legislature that would mandate hybrid meetings.

In an email to the *Reporter*, Foster added that "it's important that the legislature supports municipalities with funding, technical assistance and the time needed to implement such a hybrid system." The bills his organization endorses, he said, "would install a hardship waiver for municipalities with legitimate barriers to implementation to get the support they need to comply with such new requirements."

Ellis, however, told this reporter that in his

opinion, the complexities of implementing hybrid meetings for smaller boards that meet infrequently could turn into "an invitation for open meeting law violations." He called the current hybrid proposals potentially "another unfunded mandate."

These concerns are shared by the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA), which represents cities and towns on Beacon Hill. MMA executive director Geoff Beckwith, in a letter to legislative leaders at the end of February, said he supported extending virtual meetings as an option and even making this permanent, but warned against mandating the hybrid model.

"We have raised significant concern regarding the impact of mandating hybrid meetings," Beckwith wrote. "[T]he vast majority of cities and towns lack the technology, staffing and capacity to implement a mandated approach since hybrid meetings (simultaneous in person and remote participation) are much more complicated than all in-person or all remote sessions."

At Monday's selectboard meeting, Ellis suggested that these concerns could be addressed over the next two years if the differences between short-term extension measures passed by the House and the Senate can be ironed out.

Beckwith told the *Reporter* that the language in the House and Senate provisions is virtually the same, with some small differences yet to be resolved. For example, he said, the Senate's extension of outdoor dining, which is also part of the measure, would include cocktails "to go" whereas the House's version would not.

To complicate the situation, the extensions have been attached to the two chambers' versions of a broader legislative package that also includes a supplemental budget for the current

fiscal year and a construction bond bill. These other components also contain small differences in language and policy, which must be made consistent if the legislation is to pass before the end of the month.

But, according to Beckwith, the budget and bond bills have been reviewed by both chambers, and may be approved on time. "Think of it as a fast-moving train heading down the track," he said. "Could it be slowed down? Sure, but this was the fastest vehicle they could put [the extensions] on to get this done."

Other Business

The proposal to supplement the salary of farmers market coordinator Annie Levine – whose \$4,000-per-year stipend was recently approved by town meeting – with \$2,744.40 for the previous season was stalled a bit by uncertainty over which pot of money should be used to provide the funds: the town's "community development block grant discretionary unallocated fund," or money left over from a state Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO) grant to improve Peskeompskut Park and evaluate the town hall annex.

In the end the board decided to use the latter source to fund, in Ellis's words, the "unusual" request.

"I think Annie's done more than she is asking for," said selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz.

"It's a strange Monday," said Ellis, as the board abruptly approached the end of its agenda.

The board retired into an executive session to discuss collective bargaining strategy with one of the town's police unions. Their next meeting will be held March 27.

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AT LARGE

Northfield Holds Its Election Caucus

By CHIPAINSWORTH

NORTHFIELD – Last week's late-winter Nor'easter forced town clerk Dan Campbell to reschedule the town's non-partisan caucus until March 16, when 35 registered voters met in Town Hall to decide who'd be on the ballot for the upcoming local election on May 2.

Democrats, Republicans, Progressives, Independents, Libertarians, Whigs, and Tories participated peaceably in this fundamental democratic process. The meeting was chaired by Campbell, Pam Eldridge served as secretary, and assistant town clerk Amanda Lynch took notes.

Two years ago 238 ballots were cast in a town with 2,545 registered voters, meaning over 90% stayed home. This year, said Campbell, "We're going to have a couple of races to pick it up a notch."

Two selectboard seats are up for grabs between three announced candidates – incumbents Barbara "Bee" Jacque and Mary Bowen-Sullivan, and challenger Sarah Kerns. It will appear on the ballot as "vote for no more than two" of the three names.

"I'm up to speed on complex issues like grant funding and First-Light negotiations," said Jacque, whose *pièce de résistance* this term was a carefully-crafted letter to Moody Center president James Spencer and his SoulFest brethren, politely telling them to scram.

Bowen, who had previously said she would be a one-term selectboard member, had a change of heart and was nominated by Joan Stoia. "I've had a great two years learning," she said, "and I want to stay on the board, and keep helping the town."

The 52-year-old Kerns is a registered Democrat and the mother of four grown children and a 14-year-old boy. She moved to Northfield a year and a half ago, and has been monitoring various town meetings and posting her notes on NextDoor.

"I'm a military veteran and have

a useful background," she said. "I'm running on a platform of government transparency and citizen involvement."

Michele Wood accepted Joe Graveline's nomination to fill the planning board seat being vacated by Homer Stavely. "Homer chose not to run, and no one has picked up papers, but there could be a write-in," said Campbell.

Wood has lived in Northfield for 23 years and has a keen sense of how developers want to use the town for their own ends. "Northfield is a very special place," she said, "and I need to do my part to make sure we don't take things for granted."

Her remarks were greeted by loud applause.

The rest of the caucus was business as usual. Alice Lord was nominated to serve another three-year term on the board of assessors. Asked to say a few words, she remarked, "I retired from the trial court just before COVID. I have four kids. They're gone. Finally. I've also been on the historical commission for 20 years, and I'm accustomed to working."

Karen Boudreau was nominated to serve another three years on the sewer commission with colleagues Dan Gray and Tom Walker. "We've been out filming sewer pipes the last two weeks," she quipped.

Alison Wahlstrom was nominated by Kathy Bridges to continue serving on the board of health. "I'm a nurse," said Wahlstrom. "I've been on the board three years, and would be happy to serve another three years."

The aforementioned Bridges filled in for Phil Baker on the board of health after he moved to Greenfield, and she's now seeking her own three-year term. Meanwhile, Jon McGowan and Lloyd Parrill were both nominated to continue serving on the five-member board of library trustees.

Chelsea Depault will run unopposed for a seat on the recreation commission, and Campbell nomi-

inated Northfield Mount Hermon school archivist Peter Weis to be the at-large commissioner of the newly established Grandin (Reservoir) Water District. "As someone who lives in the water district and is relatively new to Northfield, I feel it's a civic responsibility to help find a path to sustainable, safe, clean water for East Northfield," Weis said in an email.

Other than write-ins, the only other way to be on the ballot was to submit nomination papers signed by 20 registered voters and certified by the town clerk. The deadline is 5 p.m. on March 23. "I do have one set out there," said Campbell. "I'll probably give him a jingle to see what's up."

More On Kerns

Selectboard candidate Sarah Kerns was raised in the South, and was living in Nashville when she joined the Army. She was a Farsi linguist during the Gulf War, and met her husband at the Defense Language Institute.

"I wasn't an interrogator," she said in a telephone interview, "but my kids say I still interrogate very well. But my longest career has been as a homemaker, baking bread, wiping noses, and educating children."

Kerns said she found her "forever home" the morning she stepped out of Mim's Market and saw "flocks of kids on bicycles" and dog-walkers on Main Street. "I was drawn to Northfield's historical beauty and walking-safe neighborhoods," she said. "This is where I will retire, and I will always be protective of its quiet loveliness."

Kerns's campaign platform is to be open with her constituents, and to keep Northfield a bedroom community. "Users want to come in and squeeze the town like a lemon," she said.

"Town government," she added, "tries to chill citizen political involvement. It feels like bullying, and bullying is gross. I have the

time and energy, and am prepared to represent my fellow citizens of Northfield."

911 Facility

A special town meeting has been scheduled to decide the fate of Northfield's proposed emergency services facility. The tentative date, April 19, is the 30th anniversary of the Waco siege fire, and the 28th of the Oklahoma City bombing.

Residents will have the opportunity to discuss the merits of having an all-in-one fire station, police station, EMT office, and ambulance bay on Main Street.

The structure's cost and the burden it will impose on taxpayers will be debated, together with issues like location, size and staffing costs.

When reached for comment, Northfield's \$107,000-a-year town administrator Andrea Llamas left a voice message saying she was working "part-time out of the office... it might be a little time before I get back to you."

A yea/nay vote will be cast at that meeting, and not at the regularly scheduled town meeting less than two weeks later on May 1.

DA Issues Scam Alert

Senior center director Colleen Letourneau invited Anita Wilson to speak at the weekly coffee social in town hall on March 23.

As the director of Northwestern District Attorney David Sullivan's consumer protection unit, Wilson tries to keep citizens aware of the clever schemes scam artists and grifters use to separate folks from their money.

Common ploys include saying they represent a charity or benevolent association, claiming they can bail out a relative who's under arrest, or can prevent a bill collector from seizing property.

Chip Ainsworth writes sports for the Recorder, and news and opinion for the Reporter. He lives in Northfield.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kindergarten Open Houses Next Week

GILL-MONTAGUE – Kindergarten Open Houses will be held next Tuesday, March 28 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Gill Elementary School, and Thursday, March 30 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Hillcrest Elementary School.

The district looks forward to meeting incoming kindergarten children and their families. Come meet kindergarten staff, visit the kindergarten classroom, and complete kindergarten registration paperwork.

To register, children must turn five years old before September 1, 2023 and be residents of Gill (for Gill Elementary) or Montague (for Hillcrest). In addition to registering at the Open House, families may return paperwork to the schools from April 3 to April 28.

Gill Elementary is located at 40 Boyle Road in Gill. Please call (413) 863-3255 with questions.

Hillcrest is located at 30 Griswold Street in Turners Falls, and questions can be directed to (413) 863-9526.

'Empty Bowls' Event

AMHERST – The Amherst Survival Center will host its 15th Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser on Saturday, April 1 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Center's site at 138 Sunderland Road, North Amherst. Empty Bowls raises funds for the Center's programs, ensuring area residents have access to the food they need.

Guests select a beautiful bowl handcrafted by a local artist and choose among a dozen soups donated by local restaurants, complemented by fresh bread. Meat, vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options are available. The keepsake bowl is a reminder of all the other bowls they have helped to fill. Soft drinks are included, and wine and hard cider are available for purchase (cash only).

Tickets are \$50, available at www.amherstsurvival.org/emptybowls or by calling (413) 49-3968 x 108. Guests who don't want a bowl may also choose "soup only" tickets for adults (\$30) or children (\$10). Children 2 and under are free. Tickets can also be purchased in person on the day of the event.

Dems to Nom Cands for Elec

MONTAGUE – The Montague Democratic Town Committee will hold a caucus on Monday, April 4 at 6 p.m. in the annex of the town hall.

Registered Democrats and registered unenrolled voters of Montague are invited to attend to endorse candidates for Assessor, Board of Health, and the Montague Housing Authority in the town election on May 16.

Any registered Democrat interested in seeking endorsement from the committee needs to send a statement of intent to the chair of the Montague Dems, David Dempsey, at dddempsey50@hotmail.com.

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LEVERETT from page A1

fire chief. Minckler said he would welcome having an on-duty EMT “rolling with me” for quicker response to medical calls, rather than waiting up to five more minutes for a trained EMT to show up.

Boucher commented that he had aging family members in town, and the added cost of making the position full-time was “cheap” considering the level of professional service Cook provides.

Deputy fire chief Amy Rice also supported the change, noting that similar positions such as the police chief and school principal had moved to full-time. “Volumes and complexity are going up,” she said, and “the amount of oversight and regulation have gone up.” She and others also spoke of Leverett’s need to “retain talent” for the future.

All three members of the selectboard expressed their general support for the increase, but were critical of Cook’s failure to make the request during the normal budget process.

Chair Tom Hankinson commented that neither the personnel board, which reviews staffing requests to make sure the hours and salaries of all employees in town are consistent, and the finance committee, which vets the numbers, had been given the chance to review the proposal. Making such a request “on the fly,” Hankinson said, didn’t seem appropriate.

Fin com members held similar views to the selectboard. Member

Jed Proujansky said he supported the concept of a full-time fire chief, but “the process is backwards.”

Member Nancy Grossman commented that the fin com were the “stewards of the town’s finances,” and that new requests “come from a lot of quarters.” “It gets scary, thinking of [them] coming year after year,” she said, but “hopefully we’ve attended to a few this year.”

In the end, Proujansky made a motion that the fire chief increase be included in the FY’24 budget, contingent on the personnel committee’s approval, along with the other three requested changes. The selectboard and finance committee voted to recalculate the budget and hold a new joint hearing, tentatively scheduled for April 4.

Police Agreement

A couple of questions remain in the police budget, due to ongoing contract negotiations with Chief Minckler and a proposal to add a fourth full-time officer.

The hiring of an additional officer is included in the draft budget, but is contingent on the town of Wendell agreeing to cover 50% of the new expense under the joint-policing arrangement between the two towns.

Minckler said he did not think Wendell’s payment in the first year of the arrangement covered its full cost, as Leverett did not want to give Wendell “sticker shock,” but that he expected Leverett would “recoup” the loss in the coming years.

efforts. State governments and advocacy organizations such as Beyond Nuclear have expressed concerns that these interim sites will become *de facto* long-term storage solutions, given the history of federal inaction on the issue.

In 2014 the state of Vermont created a citizens’ advisory panel, the Vermont Nuclear Decommissioning Citizens Advisory Panel (NDCAP) to advise the public on issues related to the Vermont Yankee decommissioning. A seat is currently vacant for one member who would represent the towns of Bernardston, Colrain, Gill, Greenfield, Leyden, Northfield, and Warwick collectively.

Last year, the panel made a statement on future storage options for spent fuel: “VT NDCAP recommends that development of a consolidated interim storage facility (CISF) should remain directly coupled to establishing a permanent repository as required under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act.”

About 3,000 shipments of nuclear waste have been transported across the United States since 1960. While there have been some accidents on roadways and railways, none so far have resulted in leaking of radioactive material. Nuclear transport casks must go through extensive testing and design processes to prevent breaching from most impact situations.

However, there may be other concerns with shipping highly radioactive waste, including surface contamination of the transport materials and the risk of sabotage or terrorism. Plans are currently being developed for more specialized train cars to accommodate spent-fuel shipments once a storage solution is determined. According to NRC guidelines, these convoys would be accompanied by armed security car details through heavily-populated areas.

**Field Building**

Another lengthy discussion resulted from a request by the Ad Hoc Committee for the Future of the Field Building for the town to pay for heat and electricity at the historic, town-owned, Field Family Museum building.

The town has had a “handshake agreement” with the Leverett Historical Society for the group to cover utility costs while it houses artifacts in the building, but rising energy bills and the possibility that the agreement made many years ago had expired led committee chair Richard Nathhorst to seek town funding.

Grossman said she was not in favor of including a line item in the

town budget due to the lateness of the ask and the lack of “solid numbers.” “Will we have a repeat of last year’s town meeting?” she asked, referring to the tabling of a proposal concerning the building’s future.

The selectboard decided not to include funding for the Field building’s utilities in the budget, but instead to enter another temporary handshake agreement to share costs with the Historical Society, and to recommend the *ad hoc* committee draft a special article for town meeting.

Other Business

The town appointed a temporary three-member “road board” to give guidance and recommendations to

the highway department. The board will help department staff field public interaction, and will have no managerial role.

Chief Minckler reported that his department had received grant funding for school zone speed signs, which the highway department will likely install this summer.

The selectboard voted to allow the Peace Pagoda to use either the town hall or the library for a screening of a 1963 speech by John F. Kennedy, Jr.

The board approved the \$15 cost, plus travel expenses, for members of the energy committee to travel to a conference in Boston at which the president of National Grid is scheduled to speak.

**NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD****Blame Game; Police Bills; Backup Power**

By JOSH HEINEMANN

At the Wendell selectboard’s March 15 meeting, project coordinator Phil Delorey brought up a question: should the town hire Davenport Construction to complete the repair of the Mormon Hollow Road culvert for the fixed price of \$84,000, with no guarantee that the repair would be final, or put the repair out to bid?

The larger question is who is ultimately responsible for the cost to repair the replacement of the brand-new culvert: the original engineer, SVE Associates, or the construction company. The engineer claims Davenport did not use proper materials, and Davenport says they followed plans as they were specified.

Delorey said Davenport is asking Wendell to pay them all but the last 1% of the original project’s 5% retainer. He said town counsel David Doneski advised sending a letter to the company about the town’s plans.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said his personal preference would be to ask for bids. Selectboard chair Laurie DiDonato asked if Wendell can expect a bill for engineering the repair, and how SVE fits in.

There is time for the bid process; actual work on the repair cannot start until May when the ground is completely thawed and drying. The board will continue discussing the matter at their March 29 meeting.

Shared Police, Fire Chief

Finance committee member Al MacIntyre said that Wendell’s joint-policing contract with Leverett is becoming a model other towns are looking at. He said the original cost to Wendell is likely to increase, as the Leverett department is getting three times the number of calls it expected when the towns first arranged for Wendell to contract police services from Leverett.

MacIntyre commented that the town is getting a quality product, and Keller agreed that \$75,000 per year is a good deal.

The fire department cost is not expected to go up very much in FY’24, though MacIntyre noted that fire trucks are getting harder to come by.

The public safety planning committee, formed in 2022 to look for someone to replace fire chief Joe Cuneo after his approaching retirement, submitted a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to the Wendell and New Salem selectboards to review and submit to town counsel.

The MOU would continue many aspects of the shared chief arrangement between the two fire depart-

ments. The current arrangement is two separate, part-time fire chief jobs, with Wendell paying for 20 hours per week and appropriate benefits and New Salem paying for 19 hours without benefits. A significant change would make the position one full-time job supported equally by the two towns, with benefits including a car and a phone.

If approved by both selectboards, the MOU would go into effect July 1.

The fin com has been working with treasurer Carolyn Manley to get a good view of town employees’ survivors’ benefits through 2030.

Backup Power

The town meeting vote to not spend \$21,000 on a new commercial generator for the town hall did not eliminate concern about backup generators the town installed after the 2008 ice storm, which caused an extended disruption of electrical service. Those generators are approaching the end of their useful life, and town facilities engineer Jim Slavas has suggested establishing a schedule for replacing them one at a time.

When electricity went out this winter, two generators failed, and at the town meeting fire captain Asa DeRoode said the garage generator is crucial when the electrical grid is out. It allows fire engines to leave the building if needed, and return to their bays after a call.

DiDonato said a discussion of generators probably needs a fin com representative, a fire department spokesperson, and Slavas.

MacIntyre suggested that the proposed solar panels on the town garage, coupled with an adequate battery system, might allow a smaller generator there, which could make the town eligible for outside money. Delorey added that Slavas called for an electrician to survey the highway and fire garage electrical load, upgrade the electrical box, and install any backup system.

Delorey said he is looking at a list of manufacturers to replace the fire department doors, which did not work when electricity was out, as they had been designed to do and did when they were new.

Nature Camp

Town coordinator Glenn Johnson-Mussad said he has been playing phone tag with Massachusetts Audubon about the “camperships” it offers Wendell youth through an essay contest. In 2023 only one person took advantage of the offer, and two spots are open. Continuity

would allow a camper to take advantage of a second summer week, and the question was raised whether a camper should be allowed to enter the contest for a second year.

Selectboard member Gillian Budine said people have been asking her about the program. Johnson-Mussad said the selectboard can vote about a second-year campership at its next meeting. An Audubon representative is scheduled to come to the April 5 meeting.

The proposed Borrego-New Leaf Energy battery storage facility would be located almost inside Audubon land in Wendell, off Wendell Depot Road, and Keller said he had already been in contact with Audubon about the project, though Budine said the person coming on April 5 might not be the right person to discuss it with.

Other Business

Good news was received on a dog complaint: DiDonato reported that the owner responded quickly to a selectboard letter and quieted the dog, and that the person who made the complaint was satisfied.

Delorey reported that Wendell received 12 new bids for repairing the town garage roof, after accepting one that turned out not to include the required insurance coverage. The new lowest bid is \$12,000 higher than the previous low bid of \$22,000. No contract has been signed yet.

Before COVID-19, the selectboard agreed to alternate annual town meetings between a weekday evening and a Saturday morning. With COVID isolation, meetings were held outside to allow people to spread out amid free-flowing air, and town meetings were held on the common with seats spaced six feet apart. (Weather cooperated, and no outdoor meeting was rained out.)

The board is trying to go back to the Saturday-weekday alternating schedule, and tentatively scheduled the annual town meeting for either Tuesday, June 6 or Tuesday, June 13, depending on how soon the budget is expected to be finalized and when the moderator and town clerk are both available.

Johnson-Mussad said his day-to-day work has been making it hard for him to complete projects, and suggested that he could increase his scheduled work time, or the town could hire an assistant. DiDonato suggested another day-to-day task: tracking his work until the next meeting.

Budine announced that it is time for submissions for the next town newsletter.

NUCLEAR from page A1

may be disposed. Private utilities, railway carriers, the NRC, and state and local governments participate in planning the safest routes possible for these materials.

After leaving the Vermont Yankee site on the local spur, freight cars loaded with waste use the New England Central Railway to travel through Franklin County, crossing the Connecticut River in Northfield, proceeding through Millers Falls, following Route 63 through Leverett into Amherst, and continuing southeast through Belchertown. The trains then connect with CXT Railway in Palmer and travel west through Massachusetts, on to their final destination at the Waste Control Specialist Facility in Texas.

The highest level of radioactive material, the spent nuclear fuel itself, has been loaded into 59 casks that are being stored on two concrete pads on the site in Vernon until federal and state governments decide on a more permanent storage solution for spent fuel from over 90 sites around the country. The dry-storage casks used to store spent nuclear fuel are typically engineered to be structurally sound for 100 years.

In 1982 the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (NWPA) mandated that the federal government create a deep geologic repository for the disposal of high-level radioactive waste by the 1990s. Initial proposals for this site were at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. However, the state of Nevada ultimately rejected the repository. A new site has yet to be determined, and each year the federal government pays fines to nuclear utilities for not upholding its obligations under the NWPA.

Recent federal administrations have proposed an “interim” storage solution at a single or multiple sites. Interim sites have been proposed in New Mexico and Texas, but both states are attempting to block these

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SOLAR from page A1

in some detail in a document, posted on the solar planning committee's page on the town website, titled "Community Planning For Solar Toolkit Overview."

"Massachusetts has set a goal of 97% renewable electricity by 2050, in order to reduce pollution from fossil fuel power plants," the survey's introduction explains. "This will mean that large amounts of renewable energy will be needed, including solar energy. To meet this goal, many communities in Massachusetts will see proposals for new renewable energy development, including large-scale solar energy. In this survey, we aim to understand your attitudes about solar energy in general, and your preferences for future solar locally."

Both students stressed that this is only the second year of the UMass collaboration with area towns, and portrayed the process as a work in progress. Williams noted that the evaluation of Montague's current solar resources, intended to inform the survey, still needed to be edited by staff at the Extension program.

Haskins said that as of the meeting, only 44 responses had been received, 20 of which were from Montague Center. She expressed concern over outreach to the village of Lake Pleasant, where no residents had yet returned surveys. (This reporter suggested that the group contact the Lake Pleasant Village Association.)

Noting that there was a jump on Monday in the number of surveys

received, Haskins said she was surprised at the "diversity" of opinion they contain. "People here may have different opinions about solar policy," she said.

The survey introduction suggests it should only take 15 minutes to complete, though responding thoughtfully to some of the 37 questions appears to require reading often-complex contextual policy definitions and explanations.

One question asks respondents to rate the local percentages they would like to see of a range of options for providing solar energy, from residential rooftop installations, to parking lot canopies, to large arrays on agricultural lands. Each option contains an estimate in megawatts (MW) of the maximum potential generation that could be sited in Montague.

At least three questions, which require evaluating multiple policy options, focus on the controversial issue of large ground-mounted solar arrays. The survey defines "large" as arrays producing 1 MW (1,000 kilowatts, or kW) or more, and estimates that a rooftop solar array might produce 10 kW and a parking canopy might generate 100 kW.

At Tuesday's meeting Pick speculated that the content of the questionnaire, and the UMass Extension planning process in general, may have been influenced by controversies over large-scale solar in the region. "Did this project come out of smaller towns wanting to protect against [large-scale] solar development?" she asked.

Clean Energy Extension associate director River Strong, who said he developed the survey and toolkit with input from numerous "stakeholders," listed to us three goals of the process: making the solar planning process more efficient for local officials; reducing development costs; and helping to minimize conflicts by setting policy through an inclusive process.

Surveys may be obtained at Montague town hall on Avenue A, the libraries, or the Gill-Montague senior center on Fifth Street. They may also be downloaded on the town website. The documents should be returned to the above locations by April 7, and can be mailed (postmarked by the same date) to: UMass Clean Energy Extension, 209 Agricultural Engineering Building, University of Massachusetts, 250 Natural Resources Way, Amherst, MA 01355.

Those who wish to fill out the survey online have until April 14. The survey can be accessed via the town website, or by using the QR code below.



HYDRO from page A1

Three local state officials – senator Jo Comerford and representatives Natalie Blais and Susannah Whippis – issued a joint statement this week commenting that the leaks have been an issue "[t]hree winters in a row."

"After last year's 300-gallon leak... we spoke at length with FirstLight to ask what measures it was taking to both address the spill and to ensure its facility was in proper working order," they wrote. "But once again we have another winter leak... And once again FirstLight is promising vigilance."

According to filings, the company reported oily sheens in January 2020, December 2021, February 2022, and this month. The previous such report was in 2011, when the company said a failed O-ring on one piston caused five gallons of fluid to be released.

Wentling said she visited the site last Friday, after her organization had been "assured... that the leak had been sufficiently contained." Despite this, she said, she witnessed oil on the river, and found that one of the absorbent yellow pads used to contain the fluid on the pistons had come loose and floated downstream.

"It was pretty upsetting to find the material that should be preventing the pollution in the river," Wentling told the Reporter. After she reported this to the state Department of Environmental Protection, she said, the company added a containment boom on the river itself.

According to Belanger, FirstLight is using PIG brand "BOM304" absorbent booms, which should each

be able to soak up 12 gallons of oil-based product. Though one of these booms, wrapped around fittings on the problem pistons, apparently became oversaturated, Belanger reiterated the company's position that it is "unlikely that more than a gallon of fluid had entered into the water."

Belanger said staff are checking the booms "three times per week, often more," and that FirstLight "remain[s] confident that our ongoing mitigation efforts... will be more than sufficient to manage the issue until we can identify the root cause and implement long-term solutions."

Wentling expressed concern that these measures might not stay in place when the spring freshet comes downriver. "It's usually a few weeks after our snow is gone that the upper watershed has its spring melt into the river," she said. "They're probably going to have to take this containment boom out of the river if they open the gates and spill more water."

Belanger said it was "highly unlikely" FirstLight will work on the pistons before the freshet, as crews must install scaffolding to access them as well as alternate supports for the gates. She confirmed that before spilling over the gates, the company will remove the containment boom and the "absorbent wipes placed on top of the pit covers," but told the Reporter the booms wrapping the pistons should remain in place.

"[W]e appreciate the vigilance of the community in identifying issues that may arise between inspections," Belanger added.



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FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER MARCH 23, 2023

Above: Cocoa and Buffy, cluckwise from top, residents at Just Roots Farm, admire their coop-mate Figgy's photo with the governor.

RECIPES

Three Seafood Dishes from Spain!



A fish market in Cadiz, Spain.

By CLAIRE HOPLEY

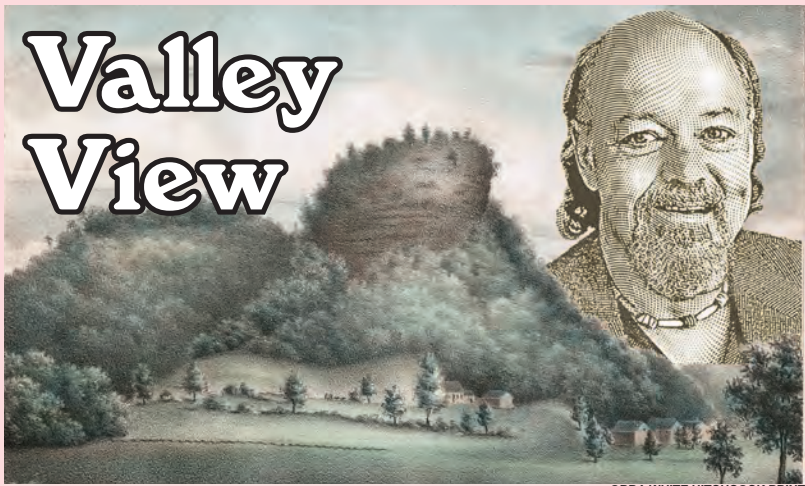
LEVERETT – In this country fish usually commands the center of its plate. Even faithful vegetable comrades, such as fries with cod or asparagus with salmon, are bit players rather than stars. But Spanish cooks often treat their fish and vegetables as equal partners, cooking them together in vivid and tasty stews called *guisos*.

They have many fish to work with because Spain has three coasts, each with characteristic catches: the Bay of Biscay in the north, the Mediterranean in the east and southeast, and the Atlantic in the southwest. Nonetheless, like the late-medieval Basque fishermen from northern Spain who crossed the Atlantic to harvest North American cod, Spanish trawlers still travel the seas seeking more and different fish. Their catches put the Spanish among the world's biggest fish consumers: on average, each person eats nearly 95 pounds a year – about double the US's consumption.

Favorites include tuna and swordfish. Some fish market vendors specialize in these big guys. Others display a seemingly endless variety. Hake is popular. Monkfish, bass, whiting, skate, sole, and

see **SEAFOOD** page B4

Valley View



ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK PRINT

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – I finally bought and read a biography of John Brown (1800-1859) which has been on my radar for a few years.

Why the delay? Not due to a shortage of biographies about the radical Connecticut-born abolitionist who attacked the Harpers Ferry, Virginia army and was hanged for insurrection leading up to the Civil War. In fact, many options became the problem. I wanted the “definitive” work – but how would I find it? Procrastination led to impasse, but nothing to lose sleep over.

Having chased many leads over time, I was reluctant to pull the trigger before a recent Amazon suggestion piqued my interest. Likely all about timing, it just caught me at the right moment. Further investigation convinced me I had finally found the right source, and I bought a “very good” hardcover and dust jacket in a mylar cover.

The unmarked book came from the library of Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David Herbert Donald (1920-2009), the biographer of other Civil War-era figures such as Abraham Lincoln and Charles Sumner. That validated it for me. Plus, dig this: the book I bought, *To Purge This Land with Blood: A Biography of John Brown*, was authored in 1970 by a UMass history professor named Stephen B. Oates, who died at 85 a couple of years ago in Amherst.

Had I been interested in Old John Brown as a UMass undergraduate in the early 1970s, I'm sure Oates would have been offering a course. Isn't that what college professors do – offer classes that explore their books? But the timing was wrong: I was young and more focused on nighttime rambles, hitting baseballs, and tracking fly balls deep into the right-center gap against the low, blinding late-afternoon sun. I found my way to Oates' Brown biography a half-century later.

My interest in Brown was sparked decades ago by Henry David Thoreau's famous essay *A Plea for Captain John Brown*, written by the transcendentalist of *Walden* fame as the condemned man awaited execution in a Charlestown, Virginia jail cell. Thoreau differed with the mainstream press depiction of Brown as a dangerous

madman, and wanted to correct the record in defense of a principled and defiant man willing to die for his belief that slavery was immoral and must end.

The Oates book taught me that Brown: 1) was a Mayflower descendant from a founding family of Windsor, Connecticut; 2) had many connections from a Torrington, Connecticut, upbringing, bringing to the town of my own Woodruff family's New Hartford; 3) enrolled briefly in 1816 as a teen at Moses Hallock's school in nearby Plainfield, Massachusetts; and 4) became a radicalized abolitionist in the 1840s as a citizen of activist Springfield.

Situated along the Underground Railroad pipeline to Canada, Western Massachusetts's largest city was then the home of aggressive antislavery organizations, with a strong following of rabid abolitionists who had free and open access to *The Liberator*, the antislavery newspaper published in Boston by William Lloyd Garrison.

I wanted to link this strong antislavery Connecticut Valley sentiment to contemporaneous “Free Soil Party” support in South Deerfield, some of it running through my Arms family lineage. So committed to the Free-Soil cause were some of these South Deerfield citizens that they emigrated to the Kansas Territory in the mid-1850s for the sole purpose of ruling the ballot box to establish a new slave-free state.

Off to the western frontier these local antislavery crusaders flocked by train, boat, and horse-drawn carriage. The move west was buoyed by funds from Worcester abolitionist Eli Thayer's Emigrant Aid Societies – first of Massachusetts, then New England. Once there, these folks and other political allies founded Lawrence, Kansas, today the liberal home of the University of Kansas.

These “northern rabblers” were not welcomed with open arms by slave owners and their militant allies from the bordering slave state of Missouri, many of whom rated progressive Massachusetts No. 1 on their enemy list.

From this collision of two strong-willed forces arose what has come to be known in American history as “Bleeding Kansas,” where the blood did indeed flow from both sides. There, on that see **VALLEY VIEW** page B2

MONTV / MUSIK / MOUNTAIN

Interview by J. BURKETT

TURNERS FALLS – We are psyched to interview Chris Dooley this week!

Dooley has been part of the Western MA scene so long that you could make the argument that he invented it. Not only has he put on tons of legendary shows – thousands? – but he is a musician as well, and has had a bunch of different music projects over the past 20 to 30 years. He is also a core member of the Flywheel Arts Collective.

Chances are, if you have been to some shows out here, he was in the room at some of them... and probably ended up talking to you. Talks with him can go almost anywhere. He has a deep and rich knowledge about the area, and music in general – especially '80s and '90s hardcore.

Whoever sees him next, say what's up for us!

MMM: Hi Chris, how is it going? So... what kind of stuff did you listen to when you were growing up?

CD: I grew up in the Valley, and my parents listened to a variety of different musical artists when I was young. I remember hearing a lot of Bach, Beethoven, Beach Boys, Beatles, Dylan, Rolling Stones, The Who, Carpenters, Motown artists like the Temptations, Four Tops, and the Supremes, and the *American Graffiti* and *Big Chill* soundtracks.

I first heard punk when one of my neighbors was babysitting for me when I was 10. At the time I played piano, and could play songs I heard off the radio by ear. She told me “I bet you can't play this song!” and played Suicidal Tendencies “I Saw Your Mommy” for me. It was amazing and totally confusing at the same time. I had already heard some metal, but the intensity of Suicidal Tendencies was very different.

From there I tried to find more music which sounded that extreme. I used to listen to local college radio stations at night to see if I could get a another chance to hear more sounds that would make my mind boggled.

I was exposed to hip hop, free jazz, death metal, and New York hardcore bands by the time I was 13. I began skateboarding around then, and found out about bands like Minor Threat, Black Flag, Minutemen, Sonic Youth, and the Descendants through skate videos and *Thrasher* magazine.

I started to go to local DIY punk shows in the early '90s, and to take trips to Main Street Records in Northampton and Al Bums in Amherst to get new music.

see **MUSIK** page B8

#57: Chris Dooley



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pet of the Week



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“GERARD”

Introducing the newly discovered cuddlebug species – Gerard, the Siamese cat!

This stunning creature is equally enchanting and sweet. Gerard is a true cuddle connoisseur who prefers cuddling in a lap over play. He will occasionally roll over for belly rubs! However, Gerard might learn to love playing after he has settled into his new home.

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dinary beauty, and once you catch him in a net, you'll never want to let him go. Will you give this new species a chance and experience the joy and wonder of a cuddle bug?!

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VALLEY VIEW from page B1

slice of the Midwestern prairie, guerilla and open warfare broke out between Free-Staters and pro-slavery Border Ruffians on what is now recognized as the Civil War's staging ground.

Although Old John Brown never lived in Lawrence, he wasn't far away, settling in Osawatimie after his 1855 arrival from New York's Adirondacks. It didn't take long for him to build strong Lawrence alliances. He and his sons drank the antislavery Kool-Aid Lawrence was serving, and all were determined to defeat slavery in the new territory by any means possible, including violence.

Brown is most remembered in Kansas and Missouri for the vengeful, overnight, Pottawatomie Creek Massacre he led on May 24, 1856, a few days after a Missouri sheriff and his redneck vigilantes sacked Lawrence with fire and fury. Brown's retaliatory raid left five pro-slavery farmers viciously hacked to death by anti-slavery sabers.

Nobody in Lawrence took a bigger hit during the 1856 annihilation than three Connecticut Valley brothers named Eldridge, all of them claiming strong mid-19th century ties to South Deerfield. As business partners, the Eldridge brothers Shalor W., Thomas B., and James M. built, owned, and operated the opulent Free-State Hotel – hailed as the finest hotel west of St. Louis, and hated by pro-slavery forces as a shining anti-slavery beacon.

All three Eldridge brothers had lived in South Deerfield at some point after 1845 and were well-known in Franklin County before moving to Kansas between 1854 and 1856. Their branch of the Eldridge family was from Southampton by way of West Springfield. Shalor was a railroad contractor, James married Mary Augusta Arms of South Deer-

field, and Thomas owned a shoe and dry-goods store on East Main Street in Greenfield, where the Garden Theater now stands.

Plus, sister Frances Ann Eldridge married “Augusta” Arms Eldridge's stepbrother and cousin Leonard B. Arms, a US Deputy Marshal famously gunned down in 1860 by Free-Soiler John Ritchie in Topeka.

Something I have thus far been unable to confirm is my suspicion that political differences regarding the slavery issue, which came to the fore in the 1830s and lingered for two decades, were a factor involved in the contentious 1848 split in South Deerfield's Congregational Church. A scholarly friend, who is far more interested in churches than I am and who has studied the church's history, is not convinced, but on the other hand he admits that information concerning the dispute is vague, and likely intentionally so.

I was hoping Oates would help me track the pre-Civil War abolition movement and, more importantly, that of our slice of the Connecticut Valley. Though helpful, his information and that of South Deerfield church records leaves many unanswered questions that may never be resolved.

Slavery became a church issue throughout the North beginning in the 1830s, creating fissures and disagreement among parishioners. Few back then supported total freedom and citizenship for freed slaves. Some supported “colonization,” which meant freeing enslaved people and shipping them back to Africa, while others favored citizenship without the right to vote. Still others, even in Thoreau and Emerson's progressive Massachusetts, were unapologetic white supremacists who preferred to ignore the slavery issue.

The hot moral issue of slavery clearly cast sparks that could, and did, according to Oates, split com-

munities and churches – especially on the Western frontier of Ohio and Illinois, but also in New England and New York. This political undercurrent obviously existed in South Deerfield as well, and may have been a contributing factor in splitting its church.

Then again, maybe it was pure coincidence that outspoken abolitionist ministers Rev. Samuel Ware and Rev. Theophilus Packard, Jr. settled in the community. Ware (1781-1866) was approaching 60 and semi-retired when he came to town in 1837, plunking down a tidy \$4,600 for the old, 90-acre Arms/Whitney farm on the east side of North Main Street, south of the Bloody Brook Monument. An avowed abolitionist, Ware was admitted to the church in 1838.

Maybe it was also a coincidence that in 1848 Ware sold to Shalor Eldridge the half-acre parcel on which the Monument Church was built. Eldridge immediately flipped the lot for no profit to the Monument Church's building committee.

Hmmm?

According to the deeds, Eldridge was at the time residing in Northfield. So, he was out of sight, out of mind for the rapid-fire sales, and no stranger to Ware. Rev. Ware's wife, Lucy Strong Parsons, had grown up in Southampton, a small Hampshire County town where she would have known the Eldridges since childhood. Six years after conveying the Monument Church lot, Eldridge moved with his family to the Kansas Territory for political reasons aimed directly at the emancipation of slaves.

I have to wonder if Monument Church pastor David A. Strong of Connecticut was also an abolitionist. Although I have thus far been unable to answer that question, it wouldn't surprise me.



Senior Center Activities MARCH 27 THROUGH 31

LEVERETT

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

Foot care clinic is 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.

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. From March to April there are no-cost appointments available with AARP Volunteer Tax Aid tax preparers. For more information please call 863-9357.

Monday 3/27

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

Tuesday 3/28

9:30 a.m. Tuesday Knitters
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 3/29

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

12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 3/30

9 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 3/31

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Pizza Party
2 p.m. By The Seat of Your Pants

ERVING

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 3/27

9 a.m. Interval
10:15 a.m. Seated Workout

Tuesday 3/28

9 a.m. Good For U
10 a.m. Line Dancing

Wednesday 3/29

9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact
10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics

Thursday 3/30

11:30 a.m. Bingo
9 a.m. Core & Balance

Friday 3/31

10 a.m. Barre Fusion
9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

EXHIBITS

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Life is ___: an Exploration of Being through the Eyes of Young People.* Youth from the Brick House Teen Center artfully explore their experiences of living in modern rural America using a variety of mediums. This exhibit was created in partnership with the recent Smithsonian on Main Street exhibit *Crossroads: Change in Rural America.* Through April 26. Reception this Saturday, March 25 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Montague at Work and Play: Illustrations from the Montague Reporter, 2019-2023,* fifty-two full-color illustrations by Nina Rossi of people at work and play in the villages of Montague. Through March 29.

Montague Center Library: *Carolyn Wampole,* paintings and collages. Through April 12.

Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts and Arts: *Over Under and Through the Warp: The Art of Tapestry Weaving.* Group show of textile artists in this medium, April 1 through 30. Reception Sunday, April 2 from 1 to 4 p.m.

South Gallery, Greenfield Community College: *Ten Little N---r Girls.* Imo Nse Imeh responds to a 1907 children's book with drawings of contemporary black girls in

various states of danger, expressing modern realities of racial subjugation. Through April 7.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Mystra Art Show!* Work by Dawn Cook, J. Burkett, Nora Charters, Shannon Ketch, Erica Pinto, Troy Curry, Andi Magenheimer, Phineas Roy, Ariel Kotker, and more. Through April.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *No Somos Maquinas (We Are Not Machines),* words and portraits of farmworkers in Western Mass, bilingual; *Joseph Ackerman,* photographs. Through March.

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Painting With Fabric,* textile art by Sandra Rosenberg. Through March 25.

Wendell Free Library: *Stephen Dalmass,* photography. Through April.

Shelburne Arts Coop Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Through a Window,* group show by members. Through March.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield: *Figuratively Speaking,* art featuring the human figure. Weekends through March 26. *STEAM-Y Art and Science,* March 31 through May 14.

Sunderland Library: *Art with Heart.* Local artists work with grieving children in the Center for Grieving Children and Teens, a Cooley Dickinson Hospital program. Through May 4.

Augusta Savage Gallery, UMass Amherst: *Portraits in Red: Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls,* paintings by Nayana LaFond. Through May 12.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Sculptures in Wood,* three-dimensional carvings by GK Khalsa. Through March.

A.P.E., Northampton: *The Big Ink.* An enormous portable press comes to the gallery on April 1 and 2. Live printing from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day of monumental woodblocks carved by local artists.

Anchor House of Artists, Northampton: *Order and Chaos,* contrasting works on paper and wood by mother and daughter Nan Salky and Helen Murphy; *Absence and Fondness,* poetry and art by Mary Dunn; *Sanctuary,* Leilah Cohen's life work; *Glass Factory,* multimedia work with social relevance by Yanning Xing.

Oxbow Gallery, Easthampton: *Kate Spencer and Stephanie Vignone,* paintings of Mount Toby. Artist discussion from 1 to 4 p.m. this Sunday, March 26 with Spencer and ecologist Peter Grima.

Battleboro Museum and Art Center: *Keith Haring: Subway Drawings,* eighteen works from NYC subway stations, through April 16. Four new spring exhibits: Daniel Callahan, *EnMassQ;* Mitsu-ko Brooks, *Letters Mingle Souls;* Juan Hinojosa, *Paradise City;* and Cathy Cone, *Portals and Portraits.*

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FROM A TEEN'S POINT OF VIEW

The Sport of Rock Climbing

By FINTAN ANDREW JONES

MONTAGUE – Have you ever watched the Olympics and seen people rock climbing? Or have you ever been rock climbing yourself? My family and I started rock climbing about a month ago. We all love it! Here are some different ways of climbing.

We go to a place called Central Rock Gym in Hadley. As soon as you walk in, there are walls more than 75 feet in the air. They also have shorter walls for less experienced people, like myself.

There are four main ways of climbing that you can do at Central Rock Gym. The first is bouldering. This is when you climb without a rope and not too high. Auto-belaying is where you can climb very high but you are attached to a rope and a machine in case you fall. Top rope is like auto-belaying, but you are attached to a pulley and someone is holding you on the ground – you can also climb high like this.

Finally, lead climbing is the most advanced part of climbing. This is when you are hooked up to a rope, but you are responsible for clipping yourself up high. This is the best technique when you are climbing upside down.

I do auto-belaying and bouldering. My favorite is auto-belaying, because you can climb high, but still have a sense of safety. I also do bouldering because it is a nice warmup. When you are bouldering, since you are not climbing up too high, the rocks that you have to grab onto are farther apart.

They have a system that lets climbers know how hard the bouldering will be. All of the climbs are color coded so you know exactly which rocks to use. The easiest is VB (or V0), and the hardest is V10. The higher the number, the harder the climb is. For example, if I see some climbs that are rated V1 they would be good for me to try, because I am relatively new to climbing.

Auto-belaying requires more endurance and confidence. You first have to clip yourself in and make sure everything is functioning cor-

rectly. Just like bouldering, auto-belaying has ranking systems to show the complexity of climbs.

I go with easier climbs which have a lot of rocks to grab onto nearby. I am afraid of heights, but once you get higher than 20 feet, it all feels the same. I also try not to look down because I might get dizzy. A couple of weeks ago I was reaching for a rock with my hand and my foot slipped on a small rock and I fell, but the auto-belay caught me, and slowly lowered me to the ground.

After experiencing my first fall it all felt very safe. Next time I went up, I got to the top and completed the climb. Also, every couple of weeks the rock gym goes through and changes all of the rock placements so it will be completely different.

Did you know rock climbing officially became a sport in the 1880s when a guy named Walter Parry Haskett Smith climbed the Napes Needle in the United Kingdom? This brought a lot of attention to the sport, inspiring other people to take it up.

There are, however, ancient paintings from China depicting people rock climbing. This was way back in 400 BC, so if this is true, rock climbing has been going on for a while, just not formally. On August 3, 2016 the International Olympic Committee introduced rock climbing as a medal sport.

There is one additional type of climbing in the Olympics. This is speed climbing, and it is exactly what it sounds like: you try to climb up a rock faster than your opponent. I am surprised that rock climbing was only introduced to the Olympics less than seven years ago.

Anyways, I just like to focus on the non-Olympic part of climbing and just do it as a fun and physical hobby.

I had a lot of fun writing this and I hope you learned some stuff, too! I went to Washington, DC with my school a couple of weeks back. We visited some amazing places that I won't forget. My favorite part was getting to see all of the memorials. More on that in my next column...



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Free Faculty Showcase at Amherst College

AMHERST – The public is invited to *In The Works: An Arts Faculty Showcase*, performed in Buckley Recital Hall on Friday, March 31 at 8 p.m. The program brings together creative arts faculty from Amherst College in an evening of selections from projects in progress, including film, jazz, dance, sound art, animation, and opera.

This program projects the wide range of artistic work currently being undertaken at Amherst College. Joshua Baum's *Terrarium* is an abstract hand-painted film created on 16mm stock, with imagery inspired by elements of nature and improvised, serendipitous experimentation with material, color, and form.

Brian House's sound artwork *Sub-Sanc-*

tuary employs a "macrophone" to record infrasound, or low-frequency waves, in the Amherst College Wildlife Sanctuary over the course of a month, gathering distant changes in the atmosphere that nonetheless saturate our environment.

Yaksu-dong House Series by Jongeun Kim incorporates dance and animation within an experimental video work, with music by Lucas Brown.

Jason Robinson introduces *Malachi*, a composition for jazz quintet, featuring Robinson on tenor saxophone with trumpeter Thomas Heberer, pianist Angelica Sanchez, bassist Avery Sharpe, and drummer Yoron Israel, utilizing numerical relationships from Robinson's family to inspire melodies, harmonies, rhythmic

feels, and formal elements.

Eric Sawyer and Ron Bashford will present a scene from their new opera, *The Onion*, named for an invention that can bring back memories with realistic vividness, featuring singers Isabel Randall and David Thomas Mather.

Wendy Woodson's experimental video *Elsewhere* follows two voices through continually changing landscapes and scenarios as they search for a sense of belonging and simultaneously seek an alternative "elsewhere" of the imagination, with sound score by MacKenzie Kugel.

Admission is free, and tickets are not required. For more information, contact the Amherst College concert line at (413) 542-2195.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Goose Check; Big Troublesome Storm; Stolen Lighter; Gift Card Scam; Fish Lab Gate Trap; Wind Event

Monday, 3/13

10:33 a.m. Passerby told an employee at the Discovery Center that there may be a distressed goose near the bike path. Message left for animal control officer. ACO checked on several geese in the area. All seemed to be well and in good spirits.

5:09 p.m. Caller from Food City states that she found a note on her car that someone witnessed her car get hit and the other vehicle take off. Caller states there is damage to her car and would like it reported.

5:27 p.m. Officer came upon two-car accident on Turners Falls Road. Officer advises fluids in road; no injuries. Requesting tow. Report taken.

7:41 p.m. Party into station to speak with an officer about a scam she fell for. Advised of options.

8:36 p.m. Caller states he saw a female ride a bike across Avenue A near the Gun Rack, then drop the bike in the area and take off on foot. Caller is concerned the bike might be stolen. Female described as petite, wearing a black coat with a scarf around her face and coughing a lot. Older bike, possibly hand-painted black in color, located leaning up against building.

10:14 p.m. Caller states that a male with a no-trespass order has come onto her property twice, and today he taped a card to her door. Caller will come in to fill out statement.

Tuesday, 3/14

6:06 a.m. First of dozens of reports of trees and wires down around town throughout the snowstorm:

6:06 a.m., low-hanging wire on West Street; 6:39 a.m., tree across entire roadway on Old Sunderland Road; 7:28 a.m., wires hanging low across Turnpike Road; 7:44 a.m., wires down on car on Dry Hill Road; 7:52 a.m., tree blocking Center Street; 7:57 a.m., wires down on Turners Falls Road; 8 a.m., on Taylor Hill Road; 8:03 a.m.,

on Court Square; 8:08 a.m., on Sunderland and Gunn roads; 8:10 a.m., on Duntun Street; 8:12 a.m., tree down on Swamp Road; 8:18 a.m., low-hanging wires on Hillside Road; 8:34 a.m., on Thirteenth Street; 8:44 a.m., tree down, partially in road on Kells Road; 8:49 a.m., trees and wires down near Old Sunderland and Taylor Hill roads; 9:03 a.m., wires down across road on Dell Street; 9:15 a.m., trees leaning on low-hanging wires on Old Stage Road; 9:44 a.m., low-hanging wires on Elm Street; 10 a.m., wires down on crossing a driveway on Henry Avenue; 10:01 a.m., power lines snapped and no power in area on Wills Ferry Road; 10:14 a.m., two trees on primary wires on Wendell Road; 10:34 a.m., wires down across both lanes of travel on Millers Falls Road; 10:49 a.m., tree branch on power lines that looks like it may have burned near Ferry and Turners Falls roads; 11:24 a.m.; trees on wires on Old Sunderland Road; 6:21 p.m., wire hanging down between pole and house on Dell Street; 11:40 p.m., tree on wires on East Chestnut Hill Road; 11:41 p.m., on Old Sunderland Road.

6:44 a.m. Caller from Avenue A requests a log be made that someone was in his apartment and took his rolling machine and lighter. Services rendered.

9:27 a.m. Eversource crew locked inside parking gate at Silvio O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center. Services rendered.

9:45 a.m. Verizon reporting that they have two trucks at Court Square that can't travel because the roads are too slippery. DPW notified and responding.

1 p.m. Caller from L Street states that fire alarms are going off and there was smoke in the hallways of the building. Shelburne Control notified.

3:42 p.m. Caller states he is working out of state and just got some threatening

messages from an unknown number saying male was going to kill him and his family. Requesting officer touch base with his family. Referred to an officer.

5:45 p.m. Caller states that a male who has been harassing her and disregarding the no-trespass order she has on him has continued to trespass and harass her. Report taken; area police departments requested to be on lookout, stop, hold, and contact MPD if individual located. Erving has vehicle and male stopped at this time. MPD officer *en route*. Male party advised of rights and told not to return to the address.

7:45 p.m. Fire department got a report of 6" to 12" of snow in the road on Wendell Road. Officer advises Chestnut Hill has same. DPW advised; they will respond.

10:58 p.m. DPW worker advises there is a Honda Civic in the middle of East Main Street with its front bumper torn off. Officer advises vehicle gone on arrival.

Wednesday, 3/15

8:50 a.m. First of several additional reports of trees and/or wires down around town, including West Chestnut Hill Road, Chestnut Hill Loop, and Montague City Road.

11:51 a.m. 911 caller states another man is outside his home and is threatening him. Other involved male had left prior to officer's arrival. Caller advised of options.

2:18 p.m. Officer conducting search for a vehicle that drove by him with a suspended registration on Turnpike Road. Unable to locate.

3:02 p.m. Caller reporting she received a call telling her she needed to go and pick up \$2,000 worth of gift cards and that they would be sending an officer to her house tomorrow. Caller was advised that this is a scam and that no officer is going to be sent to her home. Caller wanted this on record. Report taken.

7:51 p.m. Officer following up regarding recent trespassing incidents. Report taken; summons issued.

10:46 p.m. MA Probation Department requesting a visual inspection of an ankle bracelet to make sure it's working correctly. Officer advises everything appears to be in working order. Probation advised of findings.

Thursday, 3/16
7:25 a.m. Shelburne Control advising of two-car accident at Federal Street and Swamp Road; no injuries. Report taken.

4:57 p.m. Received 911 call from Leyden resident reporting a low-hanging

wire in front of his house. Transferred to Shelburne Control.

6:06 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle and activity on Vladish Avenue two days in a row. Report taken; caller will call if he sees the party again.

9:01 p.m. Caller states it looks like someone vandalized an elevator on Avenue A. Officer on scene states the ceiling is down; requesting FD to come look at it and contact maintenance. Building maintenance on scene.

Friday, 3/17

11:26 a.m. Caller from Third Street reports someone dumping trash on his property. Extra patrols requested for people loitering and leaving bottles and trash behind.

6:15 p.m. Motorist locked inside parking lot at Silvio O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center. Services rendered.

Saturday, 3/18

9:44 a.m. Officer advised Wright Tree Company crew on Bridge Street to shut down for the day and to call for a detail before working on Monday. They have 8 to 10 crews in the area. Foreman will advise other crews.

4:07 p.m. Caller from Avenue A reports a white vehicle is back "selling drugs." 5:20 p.m. 911 caller reports that a male on the bike path asked to take pictures of her son. Report taken.

5:45 p.m. Caller states they are trapped behind the locked gate at Silvio O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center. Officer advises gate is stuck halfway open; appears someone might have been trying to force it open. Contacted Northfield Mountain Project control room, who advises someone will come secure it. Report taken.

9:02 p.m. Loud noise complaint on Fourth Street. Advised of complaint.

Sunday, 3/19

5:58 a.m. Caller states someone tried to get into her house during the night; her front doors appear to have been busted and is hanging by the chain still locked, and the gate to her porch is broken and dug into the dirt. Not as reported; believed to be a wind event.

12:59 p.m. Employee from Turners Falls Pizza House advising of a possibly intoxicated male party inside the restaurant that they have asked to leave several times, but he will not. Officer requesting ambulance respond. Party removed to hospital.

4:24 p.m. 911 caller states two-car accident at Seventh and L Streets. Unknown injuries; unknown fluids; no airbag deployed. One vehicle towed. Report taken.

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SEAFOOD from page B1

dogfish are also favorites. Notwithstanding this eye-catching abundance, fish costs much more than meat; tuna and swordfish are especially pricey, so combining fish with vegetables is an economical way to serve it.

Spain grows tomatoes throughout the year. Wild asparagus appears in February, and peas and potatoes appear shortly after. Along with onions, peppers, and lavish amounts of parsley, these are stalwart fish partners.

We can find these vegetables here easily, but some Spanish fish

are unobtainable. Fortunately, it's not hard to substitute similar varieties. Fish stock – a usual ingredient – is more troublesome. Though available in some stores, it may be hard to find (though easy to make with fish trimmings and herbs). Vegetable stock or chicken stock can replace it.

Saffron is harder. Even in Spain, where it grows, it's costly, so since it's widely used in fish dishes there are commercial substitutes. We lack these, but turmeric, like saffron, tints food yellow, and while its taste differs, it is still good.



BRAISED FISH WITH PEAS, POTATOES & PARSLEY

Fish with peas, potatoes, and parsley is hardly a foreign concept, but this Spanish way of combining them is different and super-tasty because the potatoes absorb the flavors of the braising liquid, so using stock – preferably fish stock, but any kind is good – is important.

Other ingredients can also vary. Any firm white fish (pollock, haddock, monkfish, or swordfish, for example) benefits from this cooking. The peas in this version are frozen; in season, fresh peas could replace them. Asparagus is a good inclusion, but not essential.



*1 1/4 lbs. white fish
salt to taste
2 or 3 Tbsp. olive oil
1 medium onion, chopped
1 fat clove garlic, minced
2 medium-large potatoes, peeled and sliced
1/2 cup dry sherry (or dry white wine)
about 2 cups fish or vegetable or chicken stock or water
3 Tbsp. chopped parsley
1 1/4 cups frozen peas, ideally not petite
12 stems of asparagus (optional), coarse bottom trimmed off*

Cut the fish in four pieces, lightly salt, and set aside. If using asparagus, cut into 2-inch pieces.

Warm the olive oil in a shallow pan over medium heat and soften the onions in it. After two minutes add the garlic and cook for another

couple of minutes, then add the sliced potatoes and cook for about 3 minutes per side.

Add the sherry or white wine and let it sizzle until reduced by half. Finally add the 1 1/2 cups of the stock and half the parsley. (If using fresh rather than frozen peas, add them at this point.)

Cover the pan and let simmer for about 8 minutes, or until the potatoes have softened but are not fully tender. Now add the peas and asparagus pieces if you are using them. Also add more stock and simmer for a couple of minutes, before finally nestling the fish pieces in the mixture.

Return the lid and cook for 5 minutes until the fish and potatoes are cooked through. Serve immediately garnished with the remaining parsley.

MONKFISH & TOMATO CASSEROLE

Monkfish has a huge, horrid head, which fish merchants love to display on their market stalls. It's the monkfish tail that's the treat – so firm and sweet that it is sometimes compared to lobster. You could use another firm fish such as swordfish, halibut, or a captain's cut haddock in this warming dish for a chilly evening.

*large pinch saffron, optional
(or 1/4 tsp. turmeric)
about 1 1/2 lb. monkfish
salt to taste
1 to 2 Tbsp. flour
3 or 4 Tbsp. olive oil
1 medium onion, chopped
3 or 4 medium potatoes, peeled and sliced
2 cups peeled, diced tomatoes, fresh or canned
2 Tbsp. coarsely chopped parsley
1 tsp. dried thyme
1 clove garlic, minced*

If using saffron, soak it in half a cup of water for 30 minutes.

Cut the monkfish into eight chunks, season with salt, and toss with flour. In a frying pan or casserole, heat three tablespoons of oil over medium heat and soften the onion in it for 3 or 4 min-



HOPLEY PHOTOS

utes. Move to the side of the pan, and add the fish.

Let it brown all over for about 5 minutes, then remove from the pan. Add the potatoes, plus more oil if necessary, and cook for 3 or 4 minutes.

Now add the tomatoes, half the

parsley, the thyme, garlic, and saffron mixture or turmeric. Cover the pan and simmer for 10 minutes.

Return the monkfish to the pan, along with about half a cup of water. Cook with the lid on for 6 or 7 minutes. Serve topped with the remaining parsley.

HAKE WITH FIDEOS & GREEN PEPPERS

This easy recipe is often made with mackerel. Other possibilities include swordfish, bluefish, monkfish, and haddock. *Fideos* are skinny pasta sticks. Angel hair or vermicelli snapped into short pieces are good alternates, as are *fideos*, a small thin macaroni.

*about 1 1/4 lb. hake
1 or 2 Tbsp. flour for dusting
2 Tbsp. olive oil, or as needed
2 onions, coarsely chopped
2 Italian frying peppers
(or green bell peppers)
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 tsp. dried thyme
2 cups chopped tomatoes, canned or fresh
2 to 3 Tbsp. parsley
2 cups stock (or 1 cup water plus 1 cup tomato juice)
1 cup fideo or fideua pasta
(or angel hair snapped into 1-inch pieces)*

Cut the fish into about four serving portions, dry it, and dust with the flour. Heat the oil in a large, lidded frying pan, and fry the fish over moderately high heat for 2 or 3 minutes on each side. Remove from the pan. Add the onions, with more oil if necessary, lower the heat, stir and cover the pan. Cook gently for about 5 minutes.

Discarding the seeds, cut the peppers into pieces roughly 1 to 2 inches square. Add to the pan



with the minced garlic and thyme. Cover and cook for 4 or 5 minutes until softened.

Now add the tomatoes and half the parsley, increase the heat, and cook until the tomatoes have softened. Pour in the stock and the pasta, seasoning to taste with salt.

Let this bubble for about 4 minutes or until the pasta has absorbed about half the liquid, then put in the fish and cook until the pasta has absorbed almost all the liquid and the fish is cooked through.

Garnish with the rest of the parsley and serve.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

False Alarms and Real Emergencies

Wednesday, 2/1

3:06 p.m. Medical emergency on Highland Road.
9:12 p.m. Abandoned 911 call from Lamplighter Way. No emergency.

Thursday, 2/2

8:40 a.m. 911 call from the French King Highway. Needed ambulance. Assisted AMR and Greenfield.

Friday, 2/3

9:54 a.m. Call from Walnut Street: wires are sparking on top of a pole. No problem: service tag is reflecting sunlight on the telephone line junction box.
2:45 p.m. Large tree reported across Gaida Drive.
3:06 p.m. Tree down on Main Road. Believed no wires involved.

Saturday, 2/4

7:08 a.m. Disabled motor vehicle on West Gill Road.
8:17 a.m. Disabled tractor-trailer unit on the French King Highway.
11:31 a.m. Line down on the French King Highway.
11:57 a.m. Assisted another agency on the French King Highway with traffic while a branch was removed.

Sunday, 2/5

9:15 a.m. Medical emergency on West Gill Road.
3:46 p.m. 911 misdial from Elm Street.

7:26 p.m. Caller reported that a coyote was struck on Main Road and is still alive.

Monday, 2/6

9:35 Served a warrant on Highland Road.
6:36 p.m. Caller from Mountain Road Estates Street states there is a broken pipe in the unit and they cannot access the cellar to turn off the water. Assisted FD.

Tuesday, 2/7

7:40 a.m. Report of a tractor-trailer unit all over the French King Highway.
1:50 p.m. Caller from the French King Highway reported a green Subaru wagon driving all over the

road at high speed, braking on and off. Vehicle almost hit the back of a crane.

4:25 p.m. Medical emergency on Boyle Road.

Wednesday, 2/8

8:26 a.m. Caller from the French King Highway states a tan Ford pickup is weaving all over the road.

7:14 p.m. Assisted Montague PD on Montague City Road. A man on a skateboard was lying in the middle of the road.

Thursday, 2/9

8:35 a.m. Assisted Northfield PD on Main Road.

Saturday, 2/11

9:34 a.m. Medical emergency on Main Road.

7:15 p.m. Caller reporting large fireworks and explosions coming from the North Cross Road area. Attempted to locate on North Cross; remained in the area and spoke with the caller. Nothing observed or heard.

Sunday, 2/12

10:01 a.m. Disabled motor vehicle on the French King Highway.

1:38 p.m. Medical emergency on Boyle Road.

Monday, 2/13

11:02 a.m. Line down on Walnut Street.

1:26 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Airbag deployed; possible injuries.

Tuesday, 2/14

7:17 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Male party stated he was just in an accident on the Gill side of the bridge. No injuries.

Wednesday, 2/15

7:33 a.m. Motor vehicle complaint from South Cross Road.

1:10 p.m. Caller from Highland Road states she heard gunshots behind her house.
5:13 p.m. Greenfield dispatch requesting a wellness check on Main Road.

Thursday, 2/16

6:05 a.m. Medical emergen-

cy, Memorial Grove Road.

11:09 a.m. Caller from Riverview Drive advises his girlfriend is attempting to break into the residence.

6:34 p.m. Medical emergency on West Gill Road.

7:49 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on Myrtle Street. Will push into driveway.

10:23 p.m. Caller from Riverview Drive reports she has been hearing a loud banging noise for the past hour or so.

Friday, 2/17

3:25 p.m. Assisted Massachusetts SP with investigation on Main Road.

7:38 p.m. Assisted another agency on Mountain Road.

Saturday, 2/18

9:04 a.m. 911 call from the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Assisted with mental health evaluation. Transported to Franklin Medical Center.

10:19 a.m. Medical emergency on West Gill Road.

Sunday, 2/19

11:22 a.m. 911 call from River Road. Upon callback, party stated that her son was playing with the phone.

11:41 a.m. Assisted Greenfield PD on Nash's Mill Road with possible suicidal subject in woods.

3:11 p.m. Medical emergency on Purple Road.

3:55 p.m. Medical emergency on Mountain Road.

5:29 p.m. Line down on Main Road.

7:14 p.m. Fire alarm went off on Cottage Row. Burnt popcorn.

Monday, 2/20

8 a.m. Letter discovered in a roadway turned into the station.

10:15 a.m. Passerby reported loose goats on Mountain Road. Contact made with their owner.

5:16 p.m. Possible suicide threat reported on the French King Bridge. Subject located in Greenfield.

Tuesday, 2/21

4:33 a.m. Medical emergency on Main Road.

6:53 a.m. Abandoned 911 call from the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Spoke to caller who advised she was traveling to the vet and her dog stepped on the phone, calling 911. Confirmed no emergency.
8:09 a.m. 911 hangup on Main Road. Disturbance at residence.

8:25 a.m. Caller reported a slow-moving US mail truck on the French King Highway.

9:48 a.m. Medical emergency on Main Road.

9:41 p.m. 911 call from Main Road. Open line with no voice contact. Massachusetts SP rendered assistance.

Wednesday, 2/22

12:29 a.m. Caller from Main Road reports someone is out of control and being belligerent.

10:43 a.m. Caller reporting a tractor trailer on the French King Highway with its hood open.

Thursday, 2/23

10 a.m. Medical emergency on Boyle Road.

4:26 p.m. Officer wanted on Lamplighter Way.

Friday, 2/24

10:05 a.m. Tree reported down on Main Road partially blocking the roadway. No utility lines involved.

Saturday, 2/25

1:12 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with an unwanted person on Old State Road.

Sunday, 2/26

3:24 p.m. Medical emergency on Vassar Way.

Monday, 2/27

10:26 a.m. Medical emergency on West Gill Road.

Tuesday, 2/28

9:52 a.m. Medical emergency on West Gill Road.

11:56 a.m. Paperwork service on Main Road.

3:37 p.m. Paperwork service on Boyle Road.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on March 21, 2013: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Green Community.

Montague Police Officers Earn Commendation

A Big, Green Check

Energy committee chair Nan Riebschlaeger opened the March 13 Wendell selectboard meeting by presenting to the board and the town a check that was large, both physically and monetarily.

The novelty-sized check for \$138,125 was written to the town by the state for becoming a Green Community by following the state guidelines for that designation. It represents grant money that Wendell may receive for environmental improvements in town.

Along with the check, Riebschlaeger brought signs to be posted at road entrances to the town, and a plaque signed by Governor Deval Patrick, all proclaiming Wendell a

The Montague selectboard welcomed police chief Chip Dodge, who was there to recognize three officers on the force for outstanding conduct resulting in the arrest of a violent man. Officers James Deery, Mike Sevene, and John Dempsey responded to a call of domestic assault on a woman by a man threatening to stab her as well as himself.

As Dodge described the events, Deery took charge, and all three men intervened without injury to themselves, despite facing a man with a knife in each hand.

The perpetrator ultimately jumped out of a third-story window and was arrested and treated for cuts sustained in the jump, before being taken to the police station.

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on March 20, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

the station. The project began February 15.

"We were knee deep in snow trying to cut trees and brush," supervisor Scott Castine said. Westfield's crew used propane space heaters to keep the frost at bay. "Right now, mud isn't helping," Castine said, "but at least it's warm."

Erving Police Station Off To a Good Start

In case you're wondering what all the construction is about on Route 2 down by the MassHighway state garage, it's Erving's future police station. The original name of the project was the "Erving Safety Complex" when it was an add-on to the fire station. Since moving the proposed police station to a separate location, the name was changed. (Dropping "Safety" may have been a good idea. To a casual observer, the steep driveway exiting onto a busy main highway might seem to pose a certain risk.)

General contractor Westfield Construction Company of Chesterfield, NH has the contract for

New Tex-Mex Restaurant

If you haven't been tuned in to the Tex-Mex grapevine, you might have missed Mesa Verde's arrival.

Mesa Verde transformed the former Chinese restaurant tucked away on Fiske Avenue in Greenfield into an eclectic, casual haven for burrito lovers.... The food is fresh and healthy, the space is relaxing and unique, and the prices are reasonable: a grilled chicken burrito or bowl, for example, is \$5.50, and the portions are a decent size.

150 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on March 26, 1873: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

trunk apparently as old as the paper.

Rev. P.L. Quaille has commenced the erection of a two-story house 30x36 feet, with French roof, and an L, on the corner of Seventh and L streets. The size of the building lot is 40x140 feet.

Local Matters

Some of the harbingers of spring have put in their appearance. Robins, crows, etc., are with the troupe. It's no use of complaining, but what a wretched fate it is to make it snow a whole week of a stretch and then not have enough ahead to show a stranger what we have suffered for its sake.

With pleasure we announce, authoritatively, that work will be commenced on the canal extension on the second week in April, if the frost will be out of the ground enough to permit.

Mr. J.M. Chapman, of the machine shop, showed us the other day a paper printed 120 years ago, which had been pasted inside of a

Some splendid fossils have been secured in blasting for the wheel-pit of the Turners Falls Lumber Co.'s Mill. Commodore Smith has a couple of fish, and other parties have others, as well as walnuts and other specimens. The strata here is the most peculiar of any in the vicinity, and no two inches of it are alike. To the geological student this spot offers rare attractions.

Mr. J.D. Farwell has done very well indeed with his Artesian Well during the past week, considering the extremely hard stratum he has had to work in, having now attained a depth of 593 feet.



TV REVIEW

Gotham Knights (The CW)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – It seems that the CW is trying its hand at a new comic book TV series called *Gotham Knights*, which involves the murder of Batman. It premiered on March 14.

In the first episode, three teenage criminals and Bruce Wayne's own adopted son Turner Hayes, played by Oscar Morgan, are thrown together when they are framed for the murder. They escape with the help of an associate of Turner's father named Carrie Kelley.

Two interesting things that we see from the *Batman* comics are Harvey Dent, a.k.a. Two-Face (Misha Collins), and that one of the teenage criminals is the daughter of the Joker. Along with his best friend, we see Turner enter the Batcave for the first time. The entrance is rather cool to see on the screen.

They seem to have hit the ground running with this show, and hardly give us any character development or insight. Through Carrie Kelley, we learn that Bruce loved Turner dearly, and thought he was a better man than he himself was, when it comes to things that had happened in their lives. I wonder how good Turner is going to continue to be now that he has been framed and forced to work with these criminals. He ends up getting in a fight with them in a jail cell after he is arrested, so how well can he possibly continue to get along with them?

The Joker's daughter can be described as equally unpredictable as her father. That doesn't sound like someone who is going to be easy to get along with. In fact, they mention that like in the comics, Batman killed the Joker, though it turns out his daughter doesn't have an issue with this at all – she ended up

growing up in Arkham Asylum; talk about an individual that is not exactly the most normal of the group!

I get, with all that has happened, how some of these people might end up working together, but I am very curious to discover how they end up replacing Batman to become superheroes known as the Gotham Knights. We get a good idea of who Turner is from this first episode, so we can foresee a little bit how he might become one of these Knights, but not the rest of them – especially the Joker's daughter, with her particular history.

We also learn that something called the Court of Owls will come into play, and that we will see Harvey Dent turn into the Two-Face character we are familiar with. I guess a reason to tune in to this show is to find out exactly how Turner and his new associates turn into the Knights!

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It is difficult
to get the news from poems
yet men die miserably every day
for lack
of what is found there.

– William Carlos Williams

edited by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno
Readers are invited to send poems to the
Montague Reporter at: 177 Avenue A
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or to: poetry@montagureporter.org

Our March Poetry Page

The Question

What is it that is left
when the bud blooms and falls,
when the bird leaves the nest,
when the seasons change
and what is past, forms and fades
and becomes again?

What abides when something dies?
Is it a wisdom that stays?
Is it a silent presence of
Something that cannot be named?
Is there a permanent peace?
Does it exist in dreams?

At dawn, as the sun emerges over
the trees, and the cycle of day and
night, birth and death
begins again —
a message emerges from the unseen,
the in between,
the place of no place that says:

“All that you seek exists
in the eternal now —
remember that all that is beautiful
remains not in matter but in memory.
What exists now will fade,
but allow your fear to be allayed:
find solace in the new day
and you will find your way.”

– Dani Adams
Shelburne Falls

Origin

There is a
Place within
Where silence sits.

The roof is thatched
With memories
Of before,
Beyond,
Between.

Its floor
Is made
Of mud
And petals
And water
From last
Spring.

And from the
East,
There always
Flows
A gentle breeze.
Do you see?
Do you remember
What it's like
To feel free?

– Dani Adams
Shelburne Falls

The Road of Time

Across the road of time I saw
someone I'd known years before,
she was standing shouting across the noise of years
that we'd been close once and, now it appears,
I'd left her grieving. I had suddenly died
in a manner that churned her up, deep inside.
I mouthed to her across the road I was sorry,
that passing months and years would bring us together
again soon, that she was not to worry,
we are all one at the road's end, in timeless ether.

– Julian Nangle
Dorchester, England

The Swamp Fight, December 1675

My forefather John shot musket balls toward Native men,
women and children behind their fence. What was that like
for him? What led him to those dreadful deeds that day?

No doubt he saved himself and his beloved clan,
but none of them were first in line for all this land,
despite their righteousness as clearly chosen ones.

His foes just wanted freedom room, regain
their birthright, ties of blood, their wandering country back.
He just wanted farms for daughters and for sons.

The fort inside the swamp was no City on the Hill
that beckoned all mankind to worship like they did,
and be just like they were, and see just what they saw.

No, that stockade simply asked to be left alone.
Retreat and search for rest, seeking stillness notes.
Marsh and ice and air. Shadow, smoke and home.

John and friends once knew a clever Native youth
who downed escaping prey then skinned and sewed their pelts.
Behind thin veil of smoke now his worried face they sense.

Later, even discerning young militia men
find no clear way to stop, to quickly empathize
with the plight of those who'd kept them off their land.

– Michael Bosworth
Brattleboro

Contributors' Notes

Dani Adams is a poet and collage artist living in Shelburne Falls. Often utilizing nature imagery, her work seeks to evoke a sense of hope and introspection in the reader/viewer. Dani holds a Master's degree in English Literature from Georgetown University and has had selected poems published in *Chronogram Magazine*. When she is not going for walks in the woods or reading at home, she can also be found writing custom poems for passersby in the Spring and Summer months at various pop-up locations. To view more of her work, you can visit her Instagram @heart.visions.

Michael Bosworth lives in Brattleboro. He writes about his poem: “Another massacre (of a Narragansett village) from earlier (Dec. 1675) in King Philip's War, down in SW Rhode Island and in which one of my ancestors fought.”

Julian Nangle is a poet and bookseller living in Dorchester, Dorset. He is married to Anna and between them they have four surviving children, each with offspring of their own. Julian and Anna are kept busy by their 14 grandchildren. His *Collected Poems* will appear some time this year from Alysamps Press.

Special Note: Signed copies of Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno's *Night Suite* are available for purchase for \$20 to benefit the *Montague Reporter*. Signed copies of his limited-edition translation of Isidore Ducasse's *Poetry* are available for a donation of \$50 (normally \$125).



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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, MARCH 23

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Pioneer Valley Jazz Shares presents *Joe Morris / Sam Newsome / Francisco Mela* trio. \$ 7:30 p.m.
10 Forward, Greenfield: *Done, Death Defier, Sink, Bricklayer, Valley Gals*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Leland Sundries, Daring Coyotes*. Free. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Patch Productions presents *Drag Hamlet*. \$ 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Cajun Two-Step Night* with *Les Taiauts, Honky Tonk Angels*. Dance lessons and country karaoke. \$ 7 p.m.

Roos-Rohde House, Amherst: *Beam Splitter, Cursed Image, Milarepa Dorji, Playbackers*. \$ 7 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene, NH: *Jeopardy, Kurtosis, Vale End*. \$ 7 p.m.

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

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Two Car Garage*. Free. 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *The*

Gaslight Tinkers feat. *Choc'lade Allen, Wormdogs*. \$ 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Heavy Blanket* (feat. J. Mascis), *Willie Lane, DJ Matt Krefting*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Patch Productions presents *Drag Hamlet*. \$ 3 and 7 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Rock201*. Free. 7 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Franklin County Musicians' Cooperative, "All Cooped Up."* By donation. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Sunset Mission, Olivia Nied, Kim Chin-Gibbons*, more. North Star benefit. \$ 7 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *The Stone Line*. Free. 8 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club: *Appalachian Still*. Free. 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *King Tuff, Tchotchke*. \$ 8 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Grammerhorn Wren, Myk Freedman, Sailor Down*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

TUESDAY MARCH 28

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Eliza Niemi, Jeremy Ray Posse, Wishbone Zoe, Joe Gutierrez*. \$ 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29

Shea Theater, Turners Falls:

Haley Reinhart. \$ 8 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Jon Mueller, C. Lavender*. \$ 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Brookside Project*. Free. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

Turners Falls High School: *Hairspray! The Musical*. \$ 7 p.m.

Mount Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Singalong Concert* feat. *Annie Patterson, Peter Blood*. Benefit for Trans Asylum Seekers Support Network. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Slambovian Circus of Dreams*. \$ 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Rat Bath, DiTrani Brothers, The Bubs, Beetsblog*. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed: *Jonathan Scales Fouchestra*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Topsy & Co., Sapling, Mal Devisa, Jesse Taylor Band*. \$ 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Moxie, Cloudbelly, Lux Deluxe*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

Turners Falls High School: *Hairspray! The Musical*. \$ 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners

Falls: *Ask Wanda*. Free. 7 p.m.

Hutghi's at the Nook, Westfield: *Gloons, Warm, Scorpion Porch, Brujo*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Jimmy Tingle*. \$ 8 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club: *Wildcat O'Halloran*. Free. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2

Turners Falls High School: *Hairspray! The Musical*. \$ 2 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Frank Hurricane, Omeed Goodarzi, Beets Blog*. \$ 6 p.m.

The Perch at Hawks & Reed: *Abbie Parrow, Solipsis, Misadventure, Daniel Blair*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Yasmin Williams*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Deerhoof, Sound of Ceres, Zannie*. \$ 8 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Sunburned Hand of the Man, Powers/Rolin Duo*. \$ 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

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

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Guster, Karina Rykman*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

Tree House Brewing, South Deerfield: *The Tallest Man on Earth*. \$ 8 p.m.

looking forward...

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

Nova Arts, Keene, NH: *Cave In, Thalia Zedek*. \$ 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

Palladium, Worcester: *Carcass, Municipal Waste, Sacred Reich, Creeping Death*. \$ 6 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 16

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *The English Beat*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Iain Matthews, Pairedown, Allysén Callery*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Father John Misty, Loren Kramar*. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 14

The Drake, Amherst: *Acid Mothers Temple, My Education, Sunburned Hand of the Man*. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 28

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Bridget St. John, David Nagler, Stella Kola*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Iris DeMent, Ana Egge*. \$ 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Souls of Mischief*. \$ 8:30 p.m.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Sugar!

WENDELL – Sugar powers the living world much as fossil fuels power the industrial world.

This Sunday, March 26 at 7 p.m., Bill Stubblefield will present on "the natural sugar economy" at the Wendell Free Library.

This free event will explore the ecology of two important sources of sugar, nectar and honeydew, and the network of organisms that depend on them for their livelihoods – especially our local wasps and bees, which collectively constitute a sugar-powered squadron providing essential pollination and pest control services.

Presented by the Wendell Pollinator Protectors, and sponsored by the Wendell Cultural Council and the Friends of the Wendell Free Library.

Coffee!

TURNERS FALLS – The League of Women Voters of Franklin County (LWVFC) will host a "Legislative Coffee" with state representatives Natalie Blais and Susannah Whipps and senators Jo Comerford and Paul Mark on Saturday, April 1, at 10 a.m. at the Five Eyed Fox in Turners Falls.

"A new legislative session has begun in Massachusetts, with several thousand new bills filed on Beacon Hill," remarked Marie Gauthier, president of the Franklin County League. "This is a great time for the public to let their lawmakers know what's important to them. We encourage everyone to attend and ask their questions."

This event is free and open to all, and refreshments will be provided.

MMM from page B1

MMM: How did you start booking shows? What was the first one?

CD: I booked my first show in the mid-'90s. Squidlaunch, Line of Fire, and Gandiva played at a church in East Longmeadow. It was a benefit show for Food Not Bombs.

At the time I was going to college, so I usually only booked shows every once in a while.

MMM: When did you get involved in Flywheel?

CD: I became involved with Flywheel Arts Collective in the early 2000s, and started booking shows there around 2004.

Flywheel is still going strong after 24 years. We had to leave our last location in Easthampton in 2020 due to the inability to pay rent during the COVID pandemic, and it was unclear at the time when live music could safely happen again indoors.

Flywheel has still been putting on shows and events at different spaces throughout Western Mass, and we have more events happening in the next couple of months.

MMM: Do you have certain favorite bands from the Valley? There have been so many! How about favorite shows?

CD: Some of my favorite music and bands are from this area. There was a really amazing music community in Western Mass area from 2001 to 2009 with performers like Fat Worm of Error, Flaherty/Corsano duo, the Believers, Willie Lane, Dredd Foole, Son of Earth, Greyskull, Tarp, Feathers, Vampire Belt, Diagram:A, X04, Pak, Tumble Cat Poof Poofy Poof, Viking Funeral, Mirror/Dash, Flaming Dragons of Middle Earth, Barn Owl, Magik Markers, Karetnick/Starpoli duo, Jow Jow, Bunwinkies, Sunburned,

Red Favorite, and so many others.

Some favorite concerts I've attended are the Beastie Boys, FIREHOSE, and Fishbone at UMass; Milford Graves at UMass; and the Gladtree and Wickermania festivals.

The Dinosaur Jr. reunion in 2005 with Magik Markers was also a lot of fun.

MMM: Are you playing much music lately? Do you still play solo?

CD: I have been playing some solo stuff, and play in Hurry Scurry with Jeff [Hartford] and Sam [Hadge] and do a duo with Nate Brennan called Zoar Brook.

I should have a solo CD coming out on the Unseen Force label at some point in the future.

MMM: What are some of your favorite places to see shows out here? Do you think good music is still happening in the area?

CD: Some places I enjoy seeing live music are the Brick House in Turners, the Amherst Common, John Doe, Jr., Mystery Train, Belltower Records, and Hutghi's in Westfield.

MMM: Do you like Bob Marley, or the Dead?

CD: I like Bob Marley & the Wailers, especially the stuff produced by C.S. Dodd & Lee Perry.

MMM: Okay, thanks for talking! Oh – do you have any advice to bands starting out?

CD: My advice to folks looking to make music is to keep an open mind, and open ears to new sounds and ideas. Influences will always exist and sounds will evolve, but remember to play from your heart.

(Fun fact: My first concert was Sha Na Na at the Springfield Civic Center when I was 3 or 4 years old!)



MONTAGUE REPORTER



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Reader and contributor Travis Drury was visiting family in Lima, Ohio last month, and brought us along to this display of the last steam locomotive built in Lima.



"Lima Locomotive Works was one of the largest steam locomotive companies in the US," Travis explains. "I'm sure many, many Lima train engines came through Turners Falls over the years, so I thought this would be a good place to take a photo with the Montague Reporter."

He backed this up with 1920s news clippings from Franklin County of the Boston & Maine and Boston & Albany railroads purchasing locomotives from the Lima works.

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Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*

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