

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 21 – NO. 24

also serving *Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell*

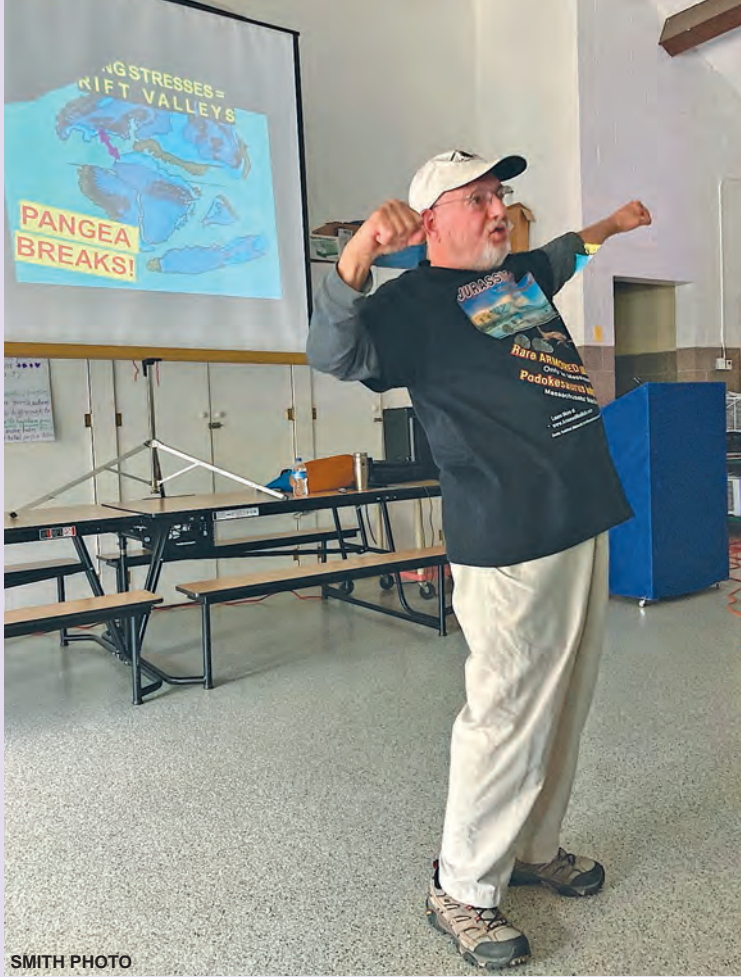
\$1.50

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 4, 2023

Richard Little Jokes about Geology, But He's Serious About Mud Balls



SMITH PHOTO

Prof. Richard Little demonstrates continents' "stretching stress."

By EASTON SMITH

GILL – “There was a California billionaire who left all of his money to the San Andreas,” Richard D. Little began his presentation on the “Deep History of Gill” last Saturday at Gill Elementary School. “He wanted to be remembered as being generous to a fault.”

Little, a retired geology professor at Greenfield Community College, is well-known in the area for discovering and writing about lithified armored mud balls in the early 1970s. His presentation would go into the creation of the mud balls and many other features of local geology – but first, another joke. He took off his hat to reveal a bald head: “In geology, we call that weathering.”

The two-hour presentation was punctuated by many more puns and one-liners like these. The hat that Little took off was, of course, branded with an armored mud ball. As was his t-shirt. In fact, armored mud ball merchandise was not an insignificant feature of the event. Besides the hats and t-shirts that were for sale, there were several books, chocolate armored mud ball snacks – reportedly quite tasty – a one-page comic that illustrated

see **GEOLOGY** page A6

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Tricky Clerk Succession Hinges On Spring Vote

By JEFF SINGLETON

Montague has a new town clerk – sort of.

The town selectboard voted on Monday to accept the recommendation of what chair Rich Kuklewicz called the “hiring committee” to appoint assistant town clerk Kathern “Beanie” Pierce to the position.

But town meeting moderator Ray Godin, the spokesperson for the committee which had unanimously recommended Pierce to be the “transitional town clerk,” reminded the board that it was not an actual hiring committee, but rather a “qualifications review panel.”

And town administrator Steve

Ellis added that the selectboard could not appoint an “interim town clerk” while the current elected town clerk – Deb Bourbeau, who retires on June 30 – is still in office.

Ellis also noted that once she becomes the real town clerk, the length of Pierce’s tenure could depend on the outcome of a vote in the May 16 town election on whether to change the position from an elected to an appointed one. If passed, this would probably lead to a longer contract.

Ellis did not suggest a new hiring process with a new committee as Bourbeau’s retirement approaches. Rather he proposed that the board

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

Leverett Town Meeting Returns Incumbents, OKs Full-Time Fire Chief, Funds Nature Trail

By JEFF SINGLETON

More than 150 Leverett voters piled into the town’s elementary school gymnasium with virtually all seats filled and residents standing in the rear when the April 29 annual town meeting started at 9 a.m. The meeting ended well before 3 p.m. and did not even require a break for lunch as voters approved a town budget of \$7.17 million – including \$4.5 million for the elementary school and the assessment for regional middle and high school district – in short order.

By far the longest debate at the meeting was over the expenditure of \$82,000 from the Community Preservation Act fund to create a “Heritage Park and Nature

Trail” near the historic North Leverett Sawmill.

The meeting began with voting for town officials, Leverett apparently being the only town in the Commonwealth where this event still takes place at town meeting rather than through a local election. Veteran selectboard member Tom Hankinson was re-elected without opposition, as were Jed Proujansky and Isaiah Robinson to the finance committee, Cat Ford to the board of assessors, Joan Godsey and Chris Condit to the library trustees, and Mollie Daniel to the planning board.

Annalise Olsen was elected to the school committee and Cynthia Baldwin and Lizzie Alwan to the board of health. Baldwin was on a “coffee run” when

see **LEVERETT** page A5



ROBERTSON PHOTO

Food Bank of Western Massachusetts executive director Andrew Morehouse, at center, joined colleagues from other food banks in calling for additional emergency food aid at a press conference held in a new packing shed at a Chicopee farm on Monday.

By SARAH ROBERTSON

CHICOPEE – Food banks across the state are experiencing unprecedented levels of demand as inflation pushes the cost of food higher and emergency aid programs initiated by the pandemic come to a close.

“Food insecurity is on the rise in Massachusetts, and across the country for that matter,” Andrew Morehouse, executive director of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, said at a press conference at McKinstry Farms in Chicopee on Monday. “It shouldn’t come as any surprise to anyone that food inflation is hammering families that are trying to make ends meet.”

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the number of Massachu-

setts residents receiving help from food banks has doubled. In 2022 the state’s four major food banks – the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, the Greater Boston Food Bank, the Merrimack Valley Food Bank, and the Worcester County Food bank – served more than 800,000 people every month. These nonprofits distribute food to hundreds of food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, senior centers, and other organizations across the state.

Representatives from the four food banks attended Monday’s press conference along with an assortment of Hampden County politicians to request more government aid to address hunger. Morehouse told the small crowd that the coalition of

see **FOOD BANKS** page A4

RETURNS AND SERVES



Left: Turners Falls’ Olivia Walbach returns the ball with a two-handed backhand in her singles match against Palmer’s Jenna Gbreat last Thursday. Right: Steph Peterson serves during her singles win against Hannah Hoang. Palmer won the day, 4 to 1.



DAVID HOULT PHOTO

ANALYSIS

Town Meetings, Town Elections Make Even a Quiet Spring Busy

By MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Town government reaches a crescendo around May each year, as paid staff and volunteer experts make their final recommendations, sigh, and send warrants and annual budgets off to town meeting, where anything could happen. The eager beavers in Leverett crossed off their town meeting and elections – they combine the two, famously – the last weekend in April, evoking the first student in the class victorious-

ly slapping a finished quiz on the teacher’s desk. *Yes!*

Northfield, not one of this newspaper’s official coverage towns but always one worth watching, followed next, with a town meeting Monday and election Tuesday. Unlike in any of our official towns this year, there was competitive on the selectboard ballot – three candidates for two seats.

With the results in, we hear that newcomer Sarah Kerns made it onto the board with 234 votes, displacing

see **SPRING** page A6

An Inferior Issue (In Solidarity With the Television Writers' Strike)

Two Letters and Two Op/Eds.....	A2-A3	John Brown Visits the Quakers.....	B1
Local Briefs.....	A3	A Teen Visits the Capital.....	B3
Where the Magic Happens.....	A6	Montague Police Log Highlights.....	B3
10, 20, and 150 Years Ago This Week.....	A7	Gill Police Log Highlights.....	B4
On the Road & Around the World!.....	A8	The Gill-Montague Honor Roll.....	B5
Canalside Cat Spotted.....	B1	Our Monthly Science Page.....	B6
Beyond the Soy-Based Drapery.....	B1	Arts & Entertainment Calendar.....	B7
Valley View: An Inn Uncovered.....	B1	Three Comics and a Puzzle.....	B7



The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

Editorial Staff

Mike Jackson, *Managing Editor*
Nina Rossi, *Features Editor*
Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno, *Poetry Page*
Maggie Sadoway, *Editorial Assistant*
Ken Washburn, *Editorial Assistant*
Victoria Maillo, *Spanish Page*
Beverly Ketch, *Children's Page*
Spencer Shorkey, *Science Page*

Production Staff

Garth Shaneyfelt, *Business Manager*
Lyn Clark, *Distribution Manager*
Jae Southerland, *Layout & Subscriptions*
Charlotte Kohlmann, *Layout Assistant*
Christopher Carmody, *Layout Assistant*
Sarah Brown-Anson, *Podcast Producer*
Brian Faldasz, *Technical Administration*

Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August 2002

Has To Be Said

It's hard to describe just how it feels to watch the ongoing evisceration of journalism from the vantage point of a tiny, economically irrational, community news outlet.

NPR laid off 10% of its workforce in March, about 100 employees. Vice Media just fired "more than 100," canceling its flagship show *Vice News Tonight*. BuzzFeed laid off 15% of its roughly 1,200 staff, pulling the plug entirely on BuzzFeed News – don't laugh, but for a while it was one of the biggest national platforms funding investigative reporting. Layoffs at Disney have hit ABC News hard, and the founder of political analysis site FiveThirtyEight was let go in the process.

(We hear things aren't going particularly well at *Fox News*, either.)

In an era that sets an unprecedented concentration of wealth side by side with an aggressive fragmentation of attention, where

journalism survives it is often at the pleasure of an offscreen billionaire.

It's almost impossible to do this every week, and yet we do. We don't have billionaires, and we don't want them. We survive on modest donations, community goodwill, and a hell of a lot of donated overtime. In return, the *Montague Reporter* is completely independent, not going anywhere, and on most days *fun*.

But dozens and dozens of stories are passing by under our nose every month, because we're really only a few people – and we waste half our time fielding requests for free publicity from event organizers.

If you want to use this paper to spread the word about an event or project, *please* consider taking out an ad. They're very cheap. We need them to break even. You are quite possibly better paid than us. And it will free us up to do our real work, which is not event publicity. It will free us up to do journalism.

OP ED

Protest Fake 'Pregnancy Centers'

By ANN FERGUSON

LEVERETT – Most people don't realize how many "crisis pregnancy centers" there are in the US today, and the harm they cause to many pregnant people who mistake them for full-service help for problem pregnancies.

"Crisis" pregnancy centers are fake clinics, usually religiously affiliated, that seek to deceive and coerce pregnant individuals into continuing their pregnancy. There are approximately 30 so-called crisis pregnancy centers in Massachusetts, and they currently outnumber real family planning clinics three to one!

Former attorney general Maura Healey released a consumer warning in the post-Roe era regarding these harmful centers that often provide misleading and false information. These "crisis" pregnancy centers have been supported by the religious anti-abortion movement to dissuade pregnant people from getting abortions. Although the state of Massachusetts prohibits government funding for such centers, many states do fund them.

One example of such a local anti-abortion center is the Alternatives Pregnancy Center in Greenfield. On *standingwithyou.org*, a website affiliated with the Right to Life movement, they refer to their various nationwide Alternatives Pregnancy centers by saying: "Alternatives is not just another voice telling you what you should do. They're a safe place where you can get free pregnancy tests and information about your choice between abortion, adoption, and parenting. They provide education so you have everything you need to make the best possible decision."

On the Greenfield center's website, they proclaim that they are "committed to offering our services objectively, without judgment, giving information that is factual and complete." They even claim that in order to give "accurate information about abortion procedures, risks, costs and more," "the trained staff at Alternatives can provide you with this information in a professional, in-person setting."

This language of choice, objectivity, professional-

ism, and non-judgmentalism hides the fact that there are *zero* trained doctors or nurses on staff; thus, they are not bound by any professional medical oath to provide accurate information on the benefits and risks of abortion. Additionally, as non-medical staff, they are not bound by patient privacy rules.

One can easily miss their one sentence statement that they do not refer for or provide abortions. Until recently on their website, the information provided under the "Abortion" option tab was only a general statement about the risks of abortion, along with minimal information defining ectopic pregnancies.

I heard of the terrible experience of one woman who went to such a center looking for an abortion referral. The staff took her personal contact information, insisted she have an ultrasound of her "baby," and when she refused and said she wanted an abortion, traumatized her nine months later by calling her post-abortion to ask how her baby was doing.

I had an illegal abortion in 1966 when I was young, unmarried, and just starting my career: I would have been fired from my job if I had continued my pregnancy. Although it was a very bad experience, it would have been much worse had I been so shamed.

Those of reproductive age today have the right to more information and safe choices than I had. We need to protest these fake clinics' deceptive practices, which, in not acknowledging the religious bias of the center, deny their clients the religious freedom to make their own informed decisions about abortions.

Please join a coalition of groups promoting reproductive justice next Saturday, May 13 at 10 a.m. for a rally on the Greenfield Commons, with a march to the Alternative Pregnancy Center at 466 Main Street. I hope to see you there! For more information, contact me at ferguson3638@gmail.com.

Ann Ferguson is a retired UMass professor and a member of Franklin County Continuing the Revolution, a co-sponsor of the May 13 event. She lives in Leverett.



Cambrie Carme (left) and Mary Choiniere share a shift at the Rendezvous in Turners Falls last Tuesday evening. Cambrie, a self-described "river rat" from Turners, has worked at the restaurant for six and a half years now, making her the senior employee, and Mary loves animals, despite getting "beat up" recently by her cat.

CORRECTION

In an artist profile in our April 20 edition, we provided an incorrect website for potter Jaye Pope's Good Dirt Pottery. The correct site is at www.gooddirtpottery.com.

A photo caption also incorrectly identified Pope as a "Montague potter." We understand she has lived in Brattleboro since 2015. We apologize to our readers, and to the artist, for these errors.

Letters to the Editors

Senior Support Network Organizing Update

Since our first meeting to discuss forming a neighbors-helping-neighbors network, and a news brief that appeared in this paper, lots of people have been asking about our progress and volunteering to help.

Help is welcome, though we're a long way from matching volunteers with people needing services. We are making progress. The Montague Neighbors Helping Neighbors group has a name! "Montague Villages" has been filed with the state.

This week the working group decided not to exclude any of the villages that are part of the town of Montague, but realized that we may need neighborhood circles later on as the organization grows. At our next meeting, on Monday, May 15 at 1 p.m. at the fire station in Montague Center, we will form committees to work on specific tasks such as fundraising, outreach, and more.

A representative from LifePath came to our last meeting and offered encouragement and advice. There's a lot to do. We need to create our mission statement, form a

board, elect officers and register as a non-profit, build a website, create a database to link volunteers with people needing help, and secure some legal help. (Any volunteers?) Most village networks take about two years to get up and running, and now I understand why.

It is gratifying to see the enthusiastic response. The survey from Mass in Motion provided some good data on elderly needs and gaps in services. The working group is planning on doing another more wide-reaching survey, maybe in this paper.

Thank you to everyone who has offered support. Spread the word so people will be prepared when we're ready to sign folks up as members or volunteers or both. Feel free to come to the next meeting if you'd like to serve on one of the committees. I'll try to keep everyone informed as we move forward. I am feeling so grateful to be part of this community of caring people.

Lee Wicks
Montague Center

A Couple Weeks Off!

Joe R. Parzych Photography and etc., local photojournalist, is going to take a break. He is going to have surgery on May 1. He will be in good spirits, and is looking forward to seeing his family and friends, including his sister Katie Cat.

He will be taking it easy, doing all kinds of things including listen-

ing to his favorite music from the '50s through the '90s, while he is recovering for a couple weeks.

If you want to send him a get well card, you can send it to 14C Elm Terrace, Greenfield, MA 01301.

Joe R. Parzych
Greenfield

Published weekly on Thursdays.

Every other week in July and August. No paper the fourth week of November, or the final week of December.

PHONE: (413) 863-8666

EMAIL:

editor@montaguereporter.org
features@montaguereporter.org
ads@montaguereporter.org
bills@montaguereporter.org
circulation@montaguereporter.org
events@montaguereporter.org
poetry@montaguereporter.org
subscriptions@montaguereporter.org

Send address changes to:

The Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Advertising and copy deadline is **MONDAY at NOON.**

This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper, such as they are.

Annual Subscription Rate:

\$40 for walking subscriptions;
\$50 for driving route subscriptions;
\$75 for mailed subscriptions;
\$40 to \$75 for digital subscriptions.

Call us or contact
subscriptions@montaguereporter.org
with any questions.

**WE WELCOME
YOUR LETTERS!**

ORIGINAL CONTENT ONLY, PLEASE
LIMIT 4 PER YEAR

Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

editor@montaguereporter.org

Sign Me Up!

\$20 { 6 months (23 issues) for our walking routes
4½ months (18 issues) for our driving routes
3 months (12 issues) for mailed subscriptions

The Montague Reporter

177 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email (optional): _____



Compiled by NINA ROSSI

A memorial for former state representative Steve Kulik will be held Sunday, May 21 at Apex Orchards in Shelburne. A gathering, greeting, and quiet reflection will take place at 2 p.m., followed by a service at 3 p.m. and refreshments afterwards.

All are welcome to attend.

The newly-formed Wendell Historical Society hopes to purchase the former Wendell Depot Store and post office for their museum. There is a campaign to raise \$45,000 to purchase it, and contributions are tax-deductible. Find out more or make a donation at www.wendellhistoricalsociety.org.

Chris Pellerin of Dunroamin Farm Design will demonstrate the Science of Feltmaking at Fiddleheads Gallery, 105 Main Street, Northfield this Thursday, May 4 at 6:30 p.m. Pellerin will explain the properties of wool while demonstrating the wet felting process. Contact margedvaa@gmail.com to register for this free event.

The Carnegie Library in Turners Falls is holding a special Free Comic Book Day on Saturday, May 6 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Do a craft and take a comic book home, thanks to donations from Comics N' More in Easthampton. Costumes are encouraged. Call (413) 863-3214 with questions.

The 31st annual LifePath Walkathon will take place this Saturday, May 6 at 101 Munson Street in Greenfield. There will be food, music, activities, and walking to support a good cause.

You don't have to walk far – there's a "Lot Walk" around the parking lot at one-tenth of a mile, or a "Woods Walk" just under a mile. Free coffee, water, doughnuts, and popcorn will be provided for participants, along with music by the Farley String Band, the Romeos, and Ragged Blue. Find out more or register to walk at www.lifepathma.org.

A one-act play about John Brown and the famous Harper's Ferry raid of 1859, *Sword of the Spirit*, will be staged this Saturday, May 6 at 7 p.m. at the Friends Meetinghouse on Route 63 in Leverett. For more details, see our interview on Page B8 with writer-performers Greg Artzner and Terry Leonino of the folk duo Magpie. There is a suggested donation of \$15 to \$25. For reservations, contact diacrowe@yahoo.com or (413) 336-2589.

The Montague Common Hall hosts live music this Saturday evening, May 6 at 7:30 p.m. The bill promises folk, indie-pop, and experimental music by Isaac Taylor, Cloudbelly, and Miners. The suggested donation is \$10 to \$20, but no one will be turned away.

The Franklin County Community Chorus is performing its

second concert since the COVID shutdown on May 7 at 3 p.m. at Greenfield High School.

"This is a truly intergenerational group, with members ranging in age from 20-something to 80-something," reads the press release. "No divas here, just hard-working and retired Franklin County friends and neighbors who find the time to come together two hours a week and, under the direction of Paul Calcarì, make some incredible music!"

The Interfaith Council of Franklin County is sponsoring a "Living Into Dying" Death Café on Monday, May 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Second Congregational Church in Greenfield. The topic is "Readiness: What do you need to address to make your wishes known, and what resources are available to help?" Cookies and tea will be served, and new participants are always welcome to join.

Local author Sharon Dunn will talk about her book, *An Island in Time: Exploring Bound Brook Island, Its Land and People, Its Past and Present*, next Tuesday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Leverett Library.

Attend a free immersive historical performance about the life of Eleanor Roosevelt next Tuesday, May 9 at 1 p.m. at the Gill Montague Senior Center. Sheryl Faye will perform as Roosevelt using costumes, audio, and slides, telling the story of her life as a child, wife, mother, first lady, and widow. Call (413) 863-9357 for further information.

Learn about the "engrossing puzzle" concerning oak gall wasps and their symbiotic relationship to oak trees during a Zoom presentation by Adam Kranz on May 10 at 7 p.m. Kranz is one of the founders of www.gallformers.org, an online database of North American plant galls. Register at tinyurl.com/oakgalltalk.

Next Thursday, May 11, you can attend a lemonade social at the Millers Falls branch library between 3 and 4 p.m. and get to know your neighbors!

There will be a presentation on the Art and Science of Brewing by Leslie and Paul Cameron of Cameron's Winery & Brewery at Fiddleheads Gallery in Northfield next Thursday, May 11 at 6:30 p.m. It's free, but space is limited. Contact margedvaa@gmail.com to register.

The next Great Falls Coffeehouse concert at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls on May 12 features Eloise & Co., a Brattleboro duo who crank out "kinetic Celtic music" – contra dance, reels, French groove tunes, waltzes, and more. Becky Tracy plays the fiddle, and Rachel Bell is on accordion. Sliding scale admission, \$6 to \$15, goes to support programming at the Center.

Doors open at 6:30, and the concert starts at 7 p.m.

The Pioneer Valley Symphony presents "For the Love of Music"

next Friday, May 12 at 7 p.m. at the Greenfield High School. Selections include Mozart's *Mass in C Minor* and Coleridge-Taylor's *Song of Hiawatha* overture.

Musicologist David Schneider will give a talk at 6 p.m. Tickets range from \$5 to \$25 and are available at www.pvsoc.org/tickets.

Next Friday and Saturday, May 12 and 13, the Mill in Shelburne Falls opens its doors to the public with a Millworks Makers and Art Market. Resident artists and crafters will offer demonstrations and items for sale in the newly renovated cutlery factory. Admission and parking at the 49 Conway Street complex are free.

Students at the Ja'Duke Theater in Turners Falls are putting on two "Broadway Junior" shows: *Seussical Kids* on May 12 and 13, and *Mean Girls, Jr.* on May 19, 20, and 21. Tickets are available at JaDukeTheater.com or at the door.

The next event in the Art Naturally series at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls is next Saturday, May 13, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The free program will provide adults, kids 6 and over (with an adult), and teens instruction and techniques to use words and images to create an art piece inspired by the natural world. Meet in the Great Hall. All materials are provided.

Fiddleheads Gallery in Northfield has put out a call for photography for their third annual photography show running from May 19 to July 2. There is no theme, but images must be family-friendly, and the artists must live in New England. The drop-off date is May 15 and the fee is \$10 for one, \$20 for three, or \$25 for 4 to 6 entries. Prizes will be awarded.

Email margedvaa@gmail.com for more details. Images from phone and professional cameras are allowed, but "no AI generated art; AI

enhanced original art is accepted."

The Greenfield Senior Center is sponsoring a six-week class on Mindfulness Meditation for Seniors. The class will offer gentle chair stretches, deep relaxation, traditional meditation, and practical skills to help navigate the stress of daily life.

The classes will be held Thursdays from 2 to 3:30 p.m. starting May 25, and are open to seniors 55 and above from all towns. The instructor is Jean Erlbaum, M.S. who has been teaching in the Pioneer Valley since 1972. There is a fee, and pre-registration is required. Contact Jean at (413) 230-1518 or jean.erlbaum@verizon.net to register.

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments is providing energy assessments for income-eligible households in Franklin County. The program helps folks determine which clean energy technologies – solar photovoltaic, solar hot water, air source heat pumps – are good options for their home, and connects them with current rebate and incentive programs.

Homeowners, tenants, and landlords who have already gone through the MassSave program for weatherization may learn about the next steps with this assessment. Learn more at frcog.org/clean-energy-consulting. Contact Allison Gage with questions at agage@frcog.org or (413) 774-3167 x. 136.

The Turners Falls Water Department mailed its semi-annual water bills out on May 1. Payment is due by June 1 to avoid a late charge. Pay online at turners-fallswater.com or at the office, 226 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls. There is a drop box for payments to the left of the office door.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

17 Not Working?
Find MCTV on
Channel 9 or
Channel 1070...

NANCY L. DOLE
BOOKS & EPHEMERA



20 State Street, Bucklandside
Shelburne Falls
413-625-9850
ndole@crocker.com

OPEN three days a week
Tues, Weds, Thurs – 11 to 6
(also by chance or appt.)

GREAT FALLS
FARMERS MARKET
OPENING DAY!

This Saturday, May 6
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This Week's Vendors

Big Foot Food Forest
Kingsbury Farms
Lantern Hill Homestead
Dan's Veggies
Poplar Mountain Maple
Stout Pigeon Coffee

This Week's Program

DIY Seed Ball Making
11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Peskeomskut Park
Turners Falls

OPED

Eye on Montague Town Finance:

... What's Up With All This 'OPEB' Biz?

By JOHN HANOLD

TURNERS FALLS – The warrant for Montague's annual town meeting on May 6 includes three articles which would add money to the town's trust fund for "other post-employment benefits," commonly referred to as OPEB. One of these is a routine annual transfer from recurring revenue sources, but the other two are unusual, and deserve a little explanation.

At the heart of the matter is the question: "What is OPEB, and why are we adding money to it?"

OPEB is primarily health insurance coverage for retired town employees, which the town is required by law to provide. It differs from pension benefits, however, because unlike pensions there is no legal obligation to set money aside in advance of when the benefit must be paid.

Pensions are required to be funded in a more conservative manner, and Montague pre-funds that obligation in accordance with an established plan. Following this plan, FY'24 we have budgeted \$1.095 million for pensions, about half of it to catch up on the unfunded balance.

At present there is no requirement

to pre-fund OPEB, but it would not be wise to postpone action. We are currently spending about \$400,000 per year on retiree health insurance on a "pay-as-you-go" basis. Our estimated total obligation, however, is \$10,944,731, and we only have \$1,085,692 – or about 10% – set aside in the reserve.

At some point, the state will require us to begin a plan to cover the difference, and we do not wish to be surprised. In recent years we have added a token \$50,000 per year to the reserve, knowing that it is not sufficient to reduce the funding gap but recognizing that the obligation exists. This annual addition is part of the proposed FY'24 budget, coming from regular revenue.

We have two unusual opportunities in FY'24. The revenue sources are non-recurring, so we are careful to avoid building them into our annual operating budgets.

The first is \$250,000 released by the board of assessors after a review of their overlay account – the fund they use when Montague must pay a settlement after a disputed property valuation is resolved. This is not a recurring source, and we have chosen to add it to the OPEB fund.

The second is an unusually high balance of "free cash," which arose because unexpected revenue received in FY'22 has now become available for use. After using some of it for a series of special articles that would pay for property and vehicle needs, \$2,000,000 remained.

We chose to add three-quarters of that to the town's capital stabilization account and the other one-quarter, or \$500,000, to OPEB, a split judged reasonable in view of expected future capital requirements. Another added benefit of adding money to the town's OPEB fund now is that it is invested long-term at about 7% return, whereas our stabilization funds are invested short-term, earning about 3.5%.

The sum of these three additions to OPEB is \$800,000, which would bring our reserve fund from 10% of our estimated liability up to about 17%. No operating budgets were short-changed, and \$1,500,000 of unusual revenue was directed toward future capital needs.

This article was written by John Hanold on behalf of the Montague finance committee. Any errors are his sole responsibility.

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

Pipione's
SPORT SHOP

- Fishing supplies; Live bait
- Fishing & Hunting Licenses
- Paintball & CO₂ Refills
- Guns & Ammo

Open 7 am 7 days a week
101 Ave A, Turners 414.863.4246



Dudek Tax Service

10 Masonic Ave
Turners Falls
MA 01376

Frank J. Dudek

413.863.5394 - Office
413.775.3327 - Cell
frankd_74@yahoo.com



Rau's Auto
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR

(413) 367-2475


531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague

24 hour emergency towing
Best service licensed Mechanics



RECYCLE

PAPER
Week of May 8
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054

THE BRICK HOUSE
5K RUN AND WALK
SAT, JUNE 17th
The DCR Canalside Railtrail
Unity Park, Turners Falls, MA

Scan or visit
Facebook to
Pre-Register
And Save!



**WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/
THEBRICKHOUSE5K**

\$20
PRE-REG
18 AND
UNDER FREE
\$25
RACE DAY



PROCEEDS SUPPORT
THE BRICK HOUSE CRC



THE LADY KILLIGREW:

*Awesome Beer
Amazing Food*



*Awesome, Amazing
Employees!*

440 Greenfield Rd, Montague MA
7 Days / 8am - 11pm (at least)
(413)367-9666

GREENFIELD FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE
Locally Owned Since 1918

269 High Street - Greenfield
(413) 773-9639

**Local
Farmer-Owned**

Products for the home,
farm, pets, yard & garden

If you
Feed it - Seed it - Weed it
We GOT it!

www.greenfieldfarmerscoop.com



FOOD BANKS from page A1

food banks is requesting \$41.5 million in funding from the state for the Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP) in the next fiscal year. That is over \$10 million more than what Governor Maura Healey's administration is proposing in the 2024 fiscal year budget.

"We're requesting - we're exploring - the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to invest in MEFAP \$41.5 million at this point in time, when people need the food most," Morehouse said.

Growing Needs

According to data analyzed by the Greater Boston Food Bank, food insecurity in Massachusetts has increased by 70% since the pandemic began. One-third of adults in the state experienced food insecurity in 2021, as well as half of all households with children.

The late state representative Peter Kocot introduced legislation that established the MEFAP in 1995. The program paid for about 26.4% of the food purchased for the four major food banks in the 2022 fiscal year. The rest mostly comes from donations and federal funding.

"That program has been essential in times of crisis and need," said state senator Adam Gomez, whose district includes parts of Chicopee and Springfield. "We've seen it when Hurricane Maria hit."

Last year MEFAP received an additional \$10 million in emergency funding, bringing it to about \$30 million. This year the governor is proposing \$31.2 million for MEFAP.

Meanwhile, a slew of other pandemic-era supports either have ended or are ending, including supplemental food stamp benefits, extra unemployment benefits, stimulus payments, and the federal child tax credit. State and federal grants meant to offset pandemic-related financial challenges, such as the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER), are also temporary measures that have helped address food insecurity but are not expected to come back.

"It's a serious problem," Morehouse said. "And to make matters worse, COVID-era federal benefits have dried up, and national supply chain obstacles are preventing the United States Department of Agriculture, the single-largest recent supplier of food inventory for food banks, from purchasing and delivering that food to us."

Before the pandemic, the federal government typically paid for about 25% of the food distributed by the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. According to public policy manager Laura Sylvester, that figure is now closer to 17%. To fill the gap, the food bank's board of directors recently approved spending \$500,000 in emergency funds to purchase food.

"We're blowing through our

rainy-day fund," Sylvester said. She added that due to inflation, food banks are also paying more money for less food.

Managing Costs

The backdrop chosen for Monday's announcement was McKinstry Farms, a fifth-generation family farm locally famous for its sweet corn.

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts is relocating from its longtime Hatfield headquarters to Chicopee, about three miles from the farm. The new \$26.3 million building is expected to open in September, *The Reminder* reported.

Monday's event began with the farm's matriarch and patriarch, Nicole and Bill McKinstry, sharing some of their family history. Standing in a nearly finished packing garage, the couple talked about how they have recently built a new farm store, and are expanding their growing operations.

For the past two years the McKinstrys have taken part in the MassGrown Initiative, a pandemic-inspired program funded by MEFAP to promote intra-state exchanges among food businesses, intended as a way to protect against supply chain disruptions. Through this initiative, the farm has provided tens of thousands of pounds of food to the Food Bank.

Ashley Randle, commissioner of the state Department of Agricultural Resources, called MEFAP a "shining example of a public-private partnership."

"Today's farmers are facing so many challenges... with inflation and the rising costs of inputs such as feed, fertilizer, and fuel on top of climate change," Randle said. "We've witnessed that certainly in the last few years."

Grants have helped offset the cost of other recent investments at McKinstry Farms, including a walk-in refrigerator and the new packing shed where the press conference was held.

At the peak of the planting season, McKinstry Farms hires around 45 farmworkers, many of whom work under temporary agricultural worker visas, known as an H-2A. The business is currently advertising seasonal positions on their farm on the US Office of Foreign Labor Certification website. Last year, the pay was advertised at \$15.66 per hour, working 48 hours per week. This year it is listed at \$16.95 per hour.

Will McKinstry, a recent college graduate taking over management of the family farm from his parents, said the farm is spending lots of money on fuel for tractors. The family owns fields in Amherst, Hadley, Granby, and Belchertown, and often drives tractors from town to town.

"Managing a crew can be a challenge," McKinstry said. "Sometimes our guys need to start in the morning and pick corn in Hadley, and then have to go pick broccoli in Granby.... It's a lot of time on the road - a lot of fuel, too."



ROBERTSON PHOTOS

Top: As visiting press and dignitaries toured the Chicopee farm after the food banks' press conference, state senator Jake Oliveira of Ludlow stopped to feed a donkey. Above: Members of the McKinstry family, at right, posed with food bank staff and politicians around a stand of rhubarb after Monday's press conference.

The Bigger Picture

Senator Gomez, who represents parts of Chicopee and his hometown of Springfield, told attendees he is advocating for increased funding for the MEFAP program so that "food reaches the communities that I grew up in."

Gomez said that he has experienced periods of financial hardship. When his family lost their home, he said, they had to rely on institutions served by the Food Bank.

During the last legislative session, Gomez introduced a bill to protect the rights of people working seasonally on Massachusetts farms, who tend to be migrant workers. "An Act establishing fairness for agricultural workers" would have mandated a minimum 24-hour rest period every week, and a maximum work week of 55 hours, but it died in committee.

"We're still negotiating with the farms as well, to try to give them an incentive to pay farm hands an appropriate wage," Gomez told the *Reporter*. "A lot of the resistance we've had is from farmers who own farms. They say that it's going to hurt them, but at the same time you're overworking individuals - you're not paying them retirement, you're not paying them overtime. They're basically working six days a week with no breaks, and they're not getting a fair wage."

US legislators are also pushing for more funding for food systems at the federal level. Massachu-

setts representative Jim McGovern signed a letter encouraging the House subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration to fully fund The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)'s administrative grants account at \$100 million, and is requesting \$15 million for the Emergency Food Program Infrastructure Grant Program.

Global food prices hit record highs last year, according to the United Nations, partly due to extreme weather events and the war in Ukraine.

To counter increased pressure on the food system and the scarcity of workers who maintain it, federal legislators tried to pass the Farm Workforce Modernization Act last session. The bill would have expanded access to the H-2A visa program and established a system to verify farmworkers' legal immigration status. It passed the House, but Republicans in the Senate rebranded it as the Affordable and Secure Food Act, and ultimately declined to include it in an omnibus spending package.

"In Hampden County, we know that we have the most impoverished county in the state of Massachusetts," Gomez said. "It's unfortunate that we have to go that route, but I think the truth is evident: without the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, a lot of people would probably starve."



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


Renaissance Excavating, Inc.




COMPLETE SITE WORK

Septic & Drainage Systems | Sand, Gravel & Loam
Main Road, Gill
Douglas Edson 413.863.4462
renexc@gmail.com cell 413.834.2201

INFO@RENBUILD.NET
413-863-8316



RENAISSANCE BUILDERS




WWW.RENBUILD.NET • PO BOX 272, TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

RENAISSANCE PAINTING

SINCE 1970
LICENSED, INSURED
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING, ALL PHASES
POWER WASHING

BRIAN MCCUE, PRESIDENT
240 GREENFIELD ROAD • MONTAGUE, MA 01351
PHONE & FAX: 413-367-9896 • RENAISSANCEPAINTINGCOMPANY.COM



BOOK MILL
440 Greenfield Rd.
Montague, MA 01351

413-367-9206 www.montaguebookmill.com
Books you don't need in a place you can't find.

Brian R. San Soucie
Locksmith - CRL
certified - bonded - insured


863-2471
28 Montague St
Turners Falls, MA

Trusted for over 25 years, installing all types of
locks & entry devices for business & homes



- Dead Bolts
- Household Lock Sets
- Master Keys & Re-keys
- Safe Combinations Changed

French King
Restaurant & Motel



BREAKFAST AND LUNCH
FRIDAY - 8 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
SATURDAY & SUNDAY - 7 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
DINNER
FRIDAY & SATURDAY - 4:30 TO 9:30 P.M.
CALL TO CONFIRM: (413) 423-3328

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

5/7: Montague May Day

MONTAGUE CENTER – Head down on Saturday, May 6 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to deep-clean the Common Hall, grounds, and garden. Meet your neighbors, eat snacks, and schmooze; bring plants if you are thinning out a garden. The Common Hall's goal is to double its number of sustaining members this weekend.

Sunday, May 7 is May Day in Montague Center, with a Maypole procession beginning at 10:30 a.m. at the post office and festivities on the common from 11 a.m. on including Maypole dances, Morris dances, and songs to celebrate the coming of summer. Organizers thank RiverCulture for its sponsorship of this event, which is free and open to the public.

The Common Hall will make its

bathrooms available for gentle use, and have a table out front for those who missed the cleanup but want to support the Hall. Anyone who signs up to be a sustaining member by the end of May Day weekend will receive an upcycled, hand-screened, one-of-a-kind Montague Common Hall t-shirt, a \$10 discount on a new subscription to the *Montague Reporter*, and a \$5 gift certificate to the Montague Book Mill.

Those who can't make it this weekend but wish to support the Hall can start a sustaining membership at montaguecommonhall.org/donate. To qualify for the swag, type "May Day Sustaining Member" in the notes field, and submit your repeating donation by midnight on May 7.

5/16: 'Old Time Radio Hour'

NEW SALEM – On Tuesday, May 16 from 6:30 to 8 p.m., Brian Casey will host an "Old Time Radio Hour" at the New Salem Public Library.

Join us for a relaxing evening as we listen to the shows on a fully restored 1936 Crosley radio using a Bluetooth device. This month's entire presentation will be devoted to the radio work of Academy Award-winning actor Ronald Coleman. Casey will discuss and select epi-

sodes from Coleman's many appearances on the *Jack Benny Program*, as well as Ronald and Benita Coleman's own show, *The Halls of Ivy*.

This is a free event, though the Library always welcomes donations to its programming fund. Registration is not required! For questions, please call the library at (978)544-6334. The library is located at 23 South Main Street in New Salem, and directions are available at www.newsalempubliclibrary.org/contact.

5/20: Fifth Annual 'Fun Fest'

TURNERS FALLS – Join Música Franklin for the 5th Annual Fun Fest, a free festival featuring musical performances, entertainment, and crafts for the whole family. Listen to world-class music, try your hand at an instrument in the "petting zoo," make-and-take a craft project, get your face painted, play with giant bubbles, take a Latin dance workshop, step on a giant piano mat, shop local craft vendors, and grab a bite from the nearby food trucks.

It's all happening from 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, May 20 (rain date: May 21) at the beautiful Unity Park in downtown Turners Falls.

Música Franklin offers free after-school music and social justice training for youth in Greenfield and Turners Falls. Through music students gain skills that will help

them succeed throughout their lives. The organization's mission is to prepare students for a brighter future through music.

Fun Fest is made possible by the New England Foundation for the Arts, RiverCulture, Mass Cultural Council, Community Foundation of Western Mass, Franklin First Credit Union, Greenfield Savings Bank, Franklin County Community Development Corporation, and Paul Redeker Rentals. This year Art Space of Greenfield and the Art Garden each offer a participatory craft project.

The lineup of performers for Fun Fest 2023 includes Abena Koomson-Davis, Isabella Mendes, Música Franklin students, Expandable Brass Band, Djeli Forchion, Chris Yerlig, and Viva Quetzal. Visit musicafranklin.org/fun-fest for their full bios.

5/21: 'Immigrant Voices'

TURNERS FALLS – *Immigrant Voices: A Celebration of Arts* returns to the Shea Theater Arts Center on Sunday, May 21 at 7 p.m. The event highlights the diversity of artistic traditions represented by immigrants in Western Massachusetts. This year's performances include dances from the DRC and Venezuela, songs from Haiti and El Salvador, poetry read in Ukrainian and English, and drumming from Guinea.

The April tech rehearsal quickly became a celebration of joy and resilience as newly-arrived Haitians found common musical ground with Haitian nationals who arrived in the US several years ago and have established successful careers in a few short years. Each performer presented their own music and then came together as a group to sing a song well-known to all.

Rosa, an immigrant from Argentina and Center for New Americans

advisor, taught merengue to Steven, a former student from the DRC. A children's dance troupe practiced a dance from Chile. Longtime event MC Biani previewed her salsa performance.

Christopher "Monte" Belmonte, president of the Shea Theater Arts Center board, envisions the Shea as a community performance space. Center for New Americans has helped to fulfill this mission every year for the past seven years, filling the theater with a broad cross-section of community members who appreciate music and dance from around the world.

This year, patrons will also be able to purchase jewelry and crafts made by students and displayed in the lobby. Tickets are priced at \$20 and can be purchased in advance at www.cnam.org. Additional donations create a bank of tickets for students, performers, and their families.

LEVERETT from page A1

her name was placed in nomination, and was told "you are about to be elected to the health board" when she returned. She responded with a shoulder shrug.

The third item on the agenda was a complex amendment to the Amherst-Pelham regional school district agreement, determining next year's method of assessing district costs to the towns.

The method begins by finding what the five-year "rolling average" of the state-mandated minimum contributions would be for each of the district's four towns, based primarily on measures of wealth, and then divides up the remaining costs by using a similar rolling-average calculation of enrollment.

The calculation also contains "guard rails" limiting any annual increases or decreases in local assessments to 4%.

As school superintendent Michael Morris and director of finance Doug Slaughter told the meeting, this was the second year in a row the towns in the district had agreed to this method, something of a historic milestone on a perennially controversial issue. After approximately 15 minutes of discussion, the article was approved.

The town budget passed with only one item put on hold for discussion: increasing the salary of the fire chief to create a full-time position. The primary criticism raised by several members – that the decision to move to a full-time chief had not followed proper town procedure – was supported by selectboard chair Hankinson, though he said the process was not "explicitly stated" in the bylaws.

After fire chief Brian Cook estimated that the department was 13 to 14 hours short on weekly coverage, a divided voice vote was ruled in favor of the budget by the moderator.

Articles transferring funds from stabilization – to repave parking areas near the public safety complex, to purchase a brush truck and new exhaust system for fire department truck bays – passed unanimously, as did transfers from free cash – to pay a new fire alarm system at the town library, to support the activities of an *ad hoc* committee planning the town's 250th anniversary bash, to buy new accounting software, and then to beef up the stabilization account.

Free cash generated by Medicaid reimbursements for special education students was transferred to the "other post-employment benefits trust fund," to cover future retiree health care expenses, and to the elementary school budget to cover expenses for Medicaid reporting.

Free cash was also used to fund the town's mosquito control plan, with the goal of avoiding the state's aerial spraying program, and to heat the historic Field building on Shutesbury Road.

Mill Trail Funded

Allocations from the funds generated by the Community Preservation Act (CPA) led to some of the most in-depth discussion. After allocating the estimated amounts required under state law for open space, historic resources, and community housing, as well as a large allocation to a reserve fund, town meeting appropriated funds for administrative and legal expenses of the community preservation committee, a proposal to fund conservation and "passive recreation"

MONTAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, the Montague Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting to review the following Request for Determination of Applicability at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday May 11, 2023: RDA #2023-04 filed by Berkshire Gas Company, to determine whether the construction of the 4" gas main and regulator station to replace the existing facilities at the Sixth Street Bridge, located at the corner of Sixth, Canal, and Power Streets (Map 3, Lots 27, 82, 84, & 86 and Map 2, Lot 2), is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act.

Remote meeting login information and the filing is available for review at www.montague-ma.gov/calendar.

Tip of the week ...

With more people outside during the warmer weather, please exercise extra caution while driving and watch out for children, runners, bicyclists, and motorcyclists. Remember to look twice and save a life.



We have more than insurance.
We have experience...

25 Millers Falls Road
(413) 863-4331
www.pzinc.com

auto | home | business

on 91 acres of land between Depot and Long Hill roads, known as the Heronemus Forest Conservation Project, was debated.

Several speakers advocated for reserving a lot on the property for affordable housing instead, but after a presentation by a representative from the Kestrel Land Trust, the recipient of the CPA fund allocation, town meeting voted to approve the motion.

The second debate over CPA funds involved a proposal to finance a "Heritage Park and Nature Trail" on 2.6 acres property next to the Slarrow Mill in North Leverett. The project – developed by the Friends of the North Leverett Sawmill, which describes itself as a public charity under the federal tax code – sits next to two acres of town-owned land managed by the conservation commission, with trails and interpretive signs.

Sam Black of the Friends made the initial presentation, stressing that the project was not to renovate the sawmill itself, but rather to conserve nearby land and upgrade access to the area, including the pond above the mill dam on the Sawmill River. He listed a variety of grants the project might qualify for.

A large crowd assembled at the edge of the school gym, waiting to speak on the proposal.

Kathy Stoddard of Cave Hill Road questioned the project and transparency of the Friends organization. She said that "more information is needed" about the details, and that the Friends seemed to be a closed organization, no longer accepting new members.

Other speakers said they wanted to see guarantees for adequate parking, including handicapped parking, and access to the adjacent town property "in writing." Others suggested the proposal pitted indigenous history and traditions against more recent industrial history, and objected to the number of trees that might be cut under the project.

Black read a text message from a lawyer for the Friends guarantee-

ing access and three parking spaces, one handicapped. Community preservation committee chair Danielle Barshack described the public process followed by the CPC which endorsed the project.

Hankinson reviewed the mill's recent history, including an offer by the former owners to donate it to the town – which was rejected – and the creation of the non-profit to take the project on. He said the group showed a "high degree of creativity." "I see a lot of things happening, and I think they are very good," he added.

After a closely divided voice vote, the moderator asked for a show of hands. The count was 58 in favor and 46 opposed to the motion.

Other Business

After a number of articles addressing "housekeeping" measures – creating a new stabilization fund to deposit revenue from the national opioid settlement, rescinding borrowing authorized by a previous town meeting to fund new wells for homes near a former landfill – the meeting wrapped up its work by approving a petition to the state to allow resident aliens to vote and participate in local elections, boards, and town meetings.

The final article provides a resolution to be read at future town meetings acknowledging that Leverett "stands on land that indigenous peoples stewarded for generations" and that "the colonization of this area led to the displacement of these Native peoples."

The motion, which passed nearly unanimously after some debate about its programmatic impact, ends by saying that the reading at the beginning of each annual meeting "will be followed by a description of the actions taken and programs presented in the past year as well as proposals for the coming year."

Assistant town meeting moderator Fay Zipkowitz chaired the discussion of the final motion. The meeting adjourned just after 2 p.m.



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

HUGE WASHERS!
HOT DRYERS!
Open 365 Days
6 A.M. - 10 P.M.

SUZEE'S THIRD STREET LAUNDRY
TURNERS FALLS
SUZEE'S THIRD ST. LAUNDRY
413-863-1376

Bryan Hobbs Remodeling LLC
Blown Cellulose Insulation • Spray Foam Insulation
Airsealing • Energy Audits • Replacement Doors & Windows
Email: bryanhobbsremodeling@gmail.com
Now Accepting Credit Cards

Office: (413)775-9006
Lic # 083982
Reg # 139564

mass save PARTNER

Bryan G. Hobbs
PO Box 1535
Greenfield, MA 01302

STONEDWORK
— BUILD. REBUILD. MEND. —

R. SKELTON, WALLER
(413) 367-2435 • skelton.rob@gmail.com

GEOLOGY from page A1

Little's discovery, and armored mud ball bumper stickers.

The demonstration was well-attended, nearly filling up the multi-purpose room of Gill Elementary School – this reporter lost count of the audience after reaching 75. The crowd included some children and individuals who seemed to be students, but mostly consisted of older adults. It was a rowdy crowd.

There was frequent laughter and some jeering throughout the presentation. "What's he drinking?" shouted one of the audience members after Little told a particularly cheesy joke ("Here's the *hole* story," he said). Despite the punchy playfulness of the presenter and the audience, Little managed to cover millions of years of deep geological history, and to make a case for why Franklin County is "the best place in the world to study geology."

Best Place in the World

Little began his presentation about the geology of Gill by

holding up his favorite rock. "As we say in geology, this is a very gneiss rock," he joked. The rock, which he said came from a glacial deposit near the French King Bridge, is about the size of cantaloupe and is streaked with light and dark bands. Right down the center of the rock is a crack where the stripes shift, so they're offset by about half an inch.

"That's due to an earthquake," Little commented. He went on to talk about a series of tectonic events that took place over millions and millions of years that ultimately resulted in the creation of New England as we know it.

The process involved land masses moving, very slowly, toward what is now the North American continent. As they approached, a process known as *subduction* occurred, during which, as the retired professor explained, "the ocean crust goes down under the moving continental crust. Because of this we have volcanoes and underneath the volcanoes are magma chambers. As magma chambers cool,



Little came bearing merchandise, including this bumper sticker.

you get granite."

Little showed a picture of the famous "glacial potholes" at Shelburne Falls. "Those are old magma chambers that have been transformed from granite into gneiss."

Volcanic activity has had other effects on the land surrounding Gill. "An ancient lava flow stretches all the way from Mount Toby up to Gill," Little explained as he showed a map of the area. Some of the rock from this lava flow can be seen exposed in places like Highland Park in Greenfield.

Little explained how New England – and all of North America – was compressed into a supercontinent, called Pangea, in a process involving "compressive stress." This compressive stress created mountains and other features. But, as one of Little's slides put it quite directly, "All supercontinents have to die!!!"

When heat and pressure build up under gigantic land masses like Pangea, they begin to break apart. As land masses move apart they experience "stretching stress," which creates what Little calls "rift valleys."

Lakes and rivers formed in these rift valleys, creating the ideal conditions for preserving animal foot-

prints in the mud. Little showed many examples of dinosaur footprints that have been found in Gill and the surrounding area, some of which can still be seen off of Route 2 and in rock near Lily Pond. He also showed some fish fossils found in the area, including a fossil that, like Little's favorite rock, was split by an earthquake. "The original fish filet," he quipped.

These ancient lakes, rivers, and streams were also the perfect conditions for the formation of Little's favorite topic: armored mud balls.

Save the Armored Mud Balls!

Richard Little's armored mud ball merchandise features dinosaurs. There's a cartoon T-Rex on his bumper sticker and the Massachusetts state dinosaur, *Podokesaurus holyokensis*, is on one of his t-shirts. But one gets the sense that these dinosaurs are only here to give charisma to a less-sparkly entry in the geological record: the lithified armored mud ball, or AMB.

An AMB can be formed when a chunk of dry mud erodes atop a streambed and falls into the water. As it rolls downstream, it picks up a coating of "armor" made up of pebbles and rocks. AMBs are then covered by silty stream deposits.

Those that manage to stay buried for millions of years will then lithify, or turn to stone.

Little was the one who officially discovered AMBs, in 1970 in Turners Falls, and he is very adamant that this is the only place on the planet to "easily" see them. He counts eight places where they can be seen in the area, including Unity Park, the Gill Bridge cable anchor, and the Geology Path at Greenfield Community College.

After explaining how armored mud balls are formed, Little discussed a few final geological anomalies in the area, including deep waterfall plunge pools in the Connecticut River formed after the last ice age and a hill formation called *roche moutonnée*. ("If you go to a fancy French restaurant, don't order the *roche moutonnée*," was Little's zinger for that one.)

He ended his presentation with a final call to action: "Save the armored mud balls!" Little has introduced a bill to the Massachusetts state legislature to make armored mud balls "an official state sedimentary structure." This would put them prominently alongside the state muffin, the corn muffin, and the state bean, the baked navy bean. Little said he hopes that this would bring more attention to the significance of the lithified armored mud balls.

"We have to save the armored mud balls," Little said in an uncharacteristically serious tone. "Once I'm not here to promote the armored mud balls, it is quite likely they are going to be lost into the dustbin of history.... These are so special, so cute, and they're just neat," he added. "They have a great geology story from the age of dinosaurs."



SMITH PHOTOS



A crowd of about 75 came last Saturday to hear the retired professor speak.

SPRING from page A1

one incumbent (Mary Sullivan Bowen, with 196) and nearly in range of the other (chair Bee Jacques, with 261). Voters wanted to see things change, we gather.

MR columnist Chip Ainsworth told us the Northfield town meeting was "short and dull for a change." That's encouraging, because there are more on the horizon.

Erving held its election Monday, offering a surprise, at least to those of us outside of town: a write-in, James Loynd, decisively beat the single candidate on the ballot, Daniel Watson, for the selectboard seat vacated by several-term William Bembury. Bembury went for an easier office: a one-year on the rec commission.

Wendell also voted Monday, and despite a lack of competition town clerk Anna Wetherby reported 124 turned out, "the highest voter turnout for a coal election in three years!" Longtime selectboard member Dan Keller was replaced in an orderly fashion by Paul Doud.

Montague's town meeting, the only local one to use a representative model, comes up this Saturday. Last spring the big drama was over attendance, with the start time delayed an hour as officials made calls begging members to show up. There's sunshine in the forecast, and hopes to accommodate crowd-averse members with a hybrid meeting were dashed by a bad sound check, so making quorum could again be a worry.

Erving's "annual" next Wednesday, May 10, may be contentious, with conflict over school budget cuts rolling right into the meeting. According to our reporter Katie Nolan,

who sat in on a selectboard meeting just before press time, school administrators seem reconciled to proposed cuts but a faction in town is calling for a Proposition 2½ override. The selectboard warns that if it moves forward, they will counter by adding funds to the override for all town departments – a poison pill at the ballot box. We'll see if it's enough to discourage the campaign.

After that it's Gill and Montague elections – Monday and Tuesday, May 15 and 16 – and, together, the Gill-Montague school committee.

A mere five years ago, there were eight candidates for four open seats on the school committee, lawn signs and fliers and much glad-handing in the supermarket breezeway. This year there are three for six – two reps running for reelection in Gill, which now accounts for only 10% of student enrollment but still controls one-third of the school committee, and only one Montague incumbent on the ballot for four seats. The school district's future may be determined by write-in candidates.

There is competition in Montague, including a four-way race for a seat on the board of assessors and a three-way for Montague Housing Authority. One candidate, Brendan Kuntz – a Republican who moved to town this year and was featured in these pages last spring (www.tinyurl.com/bkuntz) – is trying for both seats.

Later this year will come Wendell's annual town meeting and, eventually, Gill's. A different culture prevails in different towns, and after all, some students prefer to hang onto their tests until the bell rings.



FACES & PLACES

"It's a busy spring season for Magic the Gathering at Greenfield Games," photojournalist Joe R. Parzych reports.

"Located at 238 Main Street in Greenfield, the business hosts many events related to Magic the Gathering, a trading card game that has been very popular since 1994.

"Greenfield Games first opened for business in 1999 as Griffon Games...

"Owner and founder Seth Lustig [pictured] is on hand to answer any questions about games or upcoming events at the store, with additional help from Bubba UrsaNova-Sadowsky working behind the scenes."



JOE R. PARZYCH PHOTO

To learn more about the business or to find out its hours, see www.greenfieldgames.com or call (413) 774-5225.

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

Doug's Auto Body
Doug Smith - Owner

PRECISION REPAIRS

MA Reg. #RS2190

Ph. (413) 863-2785 39 Center Road
Fax: (413) 863-0120 Gill, MA 01354

FREE ESTIMATES FREE LOANER CARS
REPAIRS ON FOREIGN & DOMESTIC CARS AND TRUCKS

LIC #36550-EL 1-413-345-1687

ELECTRICIAN
CHRIS M. STRAKOSE

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL
ALL ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS AND REPAIRS
EMERGENCY SERVICE

9 SWAMP ROAD
MONTAGUE, MA 01351
EMAIL: CSTRAKOSE.ELEC@GMAIL.COM

FULLY INSURED FREE CONSULTATION

ROOT YOGA STUDIO
51 11TH ST., TURNERS FALLS

413.676.9076
ROOT-YOGA-STUDIO.COM

NEW STUDENT SPECIAL
THREE CLASSES FOR \$30

MONTAGUE from page A1

simply “empower [Pierce] to begin doing things that are far outside the assistant clerk’s job description.”

He mentioned hiring a new assistant clerk, hiring a new assistant to the assistant if town meeting approves creating the position, and handling “office logistics as we look to expand the footprint of that office.”

These complexities aside, Godin said the vote to approve Pierce, based on a review of her qualifications, was not only unanimous but “without hesitation or reservation.” The review panel, he said, felt that “we would be negligent in our responsibilities if we did not recommend her.”

Pierce has been working in the clerk’s office since 2018. Prior to that she worked at the town health, planning, and conservation departments, with a stint as an administrative assistant at the UMass Amherst College of Nursing from 2010 to 2014.

At the end of the discussion, Godin announced that the review panel had voted at their last meeting to disband, which the selectboard, assuming the role of personnel board, made official with its own vote.

The board also voted to formally “decommission” the health director screening committee, the town planner and conservation agent hiring committee, and the assistant town administrator hiring committee following the successful hires of Ryan Paxton, Maureen Pollock, and Walter Ramsey into those respective roles this year.

The board appointed Tess Poe and Lisa Davol to the RiverCulture steering committee, and approved a cell phone stipend for Paxton.

Six-Town Process

In a related development, Mike Naughton, a Montague representative on the six-town regionalization planning board, announced that he was resigning after four years on that board, which has been evaluating the possibility of consolidating the Gill-Montague and Pioneer regional school districts.

Naughton said he would be willing to “talk to people” about the financial pros and cons of regional consolidation after his resignation. He added that he did not believe there was currently a Montague representative from the Gill-Montague school committee, as is required.

Naughton’s announcement came amid a presentation on the progress of the regional planning process. He said that “at some point,” the six-town board would need to decide whether or not to recommend regional consolidation, and that if it does, it would then need to draw up a draft regional agreement be-

tween the six towns to consider. The timeline for this may be “in the fall sometime,” Naughton said, after the committee is able to offer more presentations of its findings and receive more public input.

River Recreation

Ellis announced that a recreation settlement agreement had been reached with FirstLight Power, part of the company’s long federal relicensing process. The recreation portion of settlement negotiations, which have been held behind closed doors, relates to the company’s investment in public access to its lands on the Connecticut River in Montague, Gill, Erving, and Northfield, as well as flows of water around its hydroelectric infrastructure.

Ellis did not discuss the agreement, which was included in the meeting materials packet, in detail, but said it would allow the town to comment on soil erosion concerns during the state environmental impact process during the coming year.

Kuklewicz suggested that an hour be devoted to the agreement at the May 8 selectboard meeting, with time for a presentation by Ellis, a discussion, and public input, and that the board then take a vote on May 15. Board members nodded in agreement with this timeline.

Singing on the Library Steps, Drinking in the Parking Lot

The May 1 meeting was filled with items related to infrastructure and summer cultural events, as has been the norm in recent weeks.

On the cultural side, the board approved a request from RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto for a concert by “fever pop” band Home Body on the afternoon of August 12. She also obtained approval for the use of public property, an entertainment license, and an agreement with FirstLight for use of property along the Connecticut for the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival, an event celebrating the history and cultures of indigenous tribes in the region, on August 5 and 6.

The board also approved a request from Kathy Lynch, owner of the Village Store in Montague Center, for entertainment and one-day liquor licenses for “Suds and Songs” music events on May 19, June 15, July 20, August 18, and September 15, the third Thursday or Friday of each month. The events are cosponsored by Shea Theater Arts Center.

Montague Center will also see small concerts on the steps of the old town hall and branch library on Center Street on three Wednesdays, May 24 and June 7 and 14. Library director Caitlin Kelley received approval for the use of the steps and for the closure of the sidewalk and street

right in front of the library for the free concerts. She said there would be publicity to inform residents about the events and street closures.

The board approved an application from the Rendezvous restaurant for the use of spaces in the adjacent municipal parking lot on Third Street for alcohol and dining, now through December 1. Owner Mark Wisniewski told the board that the business was requesting the same number of spaces as in the previous three years, but is “probably going to do much less.” He pledged to make any unused spaces available for parking.

Unexpected Engineering

On the infrastructure side of the agenda, the board voted to fund three Clean Water Facility projects – upgrading a septage receiving station, replacing the boiler in the operations building, and purchasing a rough-terrain vehicle – using aid money from the federal American Rescue Plan Act.

The three projects had previously been added to the warrant for the annual town meeting this Saturday, May 6, funded by reserves. The board will probably call for a “no” vote on these articles.

At the request of Walter Ramsey, the board authorized a state Green Communities grant application for \$40,000 to buy LED streetlights for Montague Center, plus \$15,000 toward the purchase of a hybrid SUV that would be shared by several town inspectors.

The board also authorized spending \$11,000 from the “unexpected engineering” fund, to begin a study needed for state-mandated repairs to the Eleventh Street bridge over the power canal. The fund would then be “backfilled,” Ramsey said, by a town meeting appropriation for the bridge project.

Other Business

Ellis reported on a recent meeting with officials from the Environmental Protection Agency in which Montague gave input on a draft of a new federal permit to discharge treated wastewater into the Connecticut River.

Studies required by the permit, Ellis said, which focus heavily on the town’s sewer collection system and not the treatment plant, “could cost upwards of \$200,000.” He called this a potential “unfunded mandate.”

The town is procuring bids to make roof repairs on the town-owned Shea Theater and Colle buildings. Ellis said he would be meeting with the low bidder this week and should have a recommendation for the board at its next meeting.

He also reminded the board that bids are due on May 9 for delivering trash and recycling services to Montague beginning in 2024.

The board somewhat grudgingly recommended a transfer of \$1,500 from the reserve fund for unbudgeted “network fees” for publicly-owned electric vehicle charging stations. The transfer will now go to the finance committee for consideration. Finance committee member John Hanold reported on a “lingering rumor” that people are able to come “off the street” and charge their cars without paying.

“People pay automatically,” responded Ramsey.

Montague’s annual town meeting will be held this Saturday, May 6 at 9 a.m. at Turners Falls High School. The next selectboard meeting will be held on May 8.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on May 2, 2013: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Library Director to Retire

Sue SanSoucie will retire as director of the Montague Libraries on October 31 after 30 years of service to the community. She was first hired as director of the main library and two branches in 1976, left in 1979 to raise her family, and returned in 1986. At that time there were four employees in the main library and two each in the branch libraries. Today there is one staff person in each branch, nine in all.

In her years as director SanSoucie has seen many changes in the delivery of library services. Many have happened in the last decade. Computer technology arrived over the past ten years, even to small libraries like Montague’s.

The Library trustees will set up a search for a new director, and begin the process over the summer so that a new director can be in place at the end of October.

Farmers Market Begins Year 17

On Wednesday, May 1, year 17 of the Great Falls Farmers Market began on the corner of Second Street and Avenue A. The Market is sponsored for the first time this year by the Montague Agricultural Commission, which hopes to grow participation in two directions: more local farm foods and farmer/vendors, and more customers.

Begun in 1996 by Paul Voiland and David Detmold and later run by Suzette Snow-Cobb for several years, it is currently shepherded by the dedicated and capable Don Clegg, who has been its organizer since 2008.

20 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on May 1, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Montague: Impending Bankruptcy?

Reacting to a completely new set of local aid figures in the preliminary version of the House budget, Selectman Ed Voudren put the town of Montague on notice in dramatic fashion on Monday, declaring, “The town is going bankrupt. Within a year we will be bankrupt. This was nothing this town did, or the elected officials, or the taxpayers. I am embarrassed at what the state of Massachusetts has put the taxpayers through, and they have some answering to do. The people in Massachusetts better wake up and push the issue now.”

Chair Sam Lovejoy commiserated, saying it was impossible for Montague to arrive at a budget

when the figures from the state kept getting completely rewritten.

Propping Up the House of Usher

Erving selectmen were informed Monday that the Usher Plant, on Arch Street, is scheduled for preliminary site assessment under an approved Brownfields grant. The assessment is to determine whether hazardous materials exist on site.

FRCOG planner Peggy Sloan said that an engineering firm has been selected for the work, but it has been difficult to obtain the required inspection permission from the nine owners of the property.

Formerly a wooden furniture manufacturer, then a heel factory in the production of leather shoes, the building more recently housed the Erving Paper Mill administrative offices, but has been empty for a decade and suffers from extensive deterioration.

150 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on May 7, 1873: News from the Turners Falls Reporter’s archive.

Local Matters

It will soon be time for soda water to fizz and sparkle.

The Clark & Chapman Machine Co. have enough business to keep 50 hands busy.

The hills away to the west of us are still capped with snow.

Mr. Wm. P. Crocker is busily engaged in beautifying the grounds around his residence. He has cut a lot of wood for rustic work, and we expect to see a handsome place on the hill by next year.

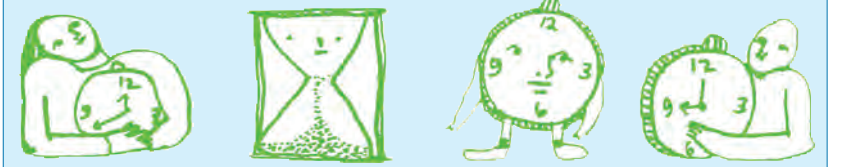
A few dead cats adorn the vacant lots between Fourth and Second streets. The members of the Board of Health should travel around in that direction a few times. A dead cat is a luxury to have under your

nose in warm weather.

G.T.C. Holden, the gentleman who has assumed control of the Farren House, is one of those men intended by nature to keep a hotel, and whose radiant countenance is a sufficient guarantee that his guests will be well taken care of. The house has received a quantity of additional furniture, and the dining room is fitted up so nicely that it would hardly be recognized by even those who were most intimate with it.

A large new bell regulates the coming in and going out of the hands employed in the Turners Falls Lumber Co’s. mill.

The moon is to be knocked into the shade on Monday morning next, at 4.40 o’clock, by the earth interrupting the solar rays that are wont to glare on and are reflected from that opaque orb. The almanac says it’s an eclipse.



Sawmill River Assessment Meeting Wednesday, May 24

MONTAGUE – Please join the Franklin Conservation District at the Montague Fire Station, 28 Old Sunderland Road in Montague, at 6 p.m. on May 24 for a presentation and discussion (in-person and virtual) of the latest assessment of the Sawmill River. Topics include a river condition update and landowner assistance for conservation.

We also invite you to complete our brief online survey to be contacted by a conservation professional to share your property con-

cerns and discuss recommended strategies and available funding. Meeting attendance or responding to the survey does not obligate you in any way. Our priority is sharing information that can help you protect your land and the watershed.

Conservation Districts are non-regulatory state entities designated by the Massachusetts General Laws to address natural resources issues at the local level.

For Zoom links and more, see www.tinyurl.com/sawmillass2023.

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

Fred Holmgren
Piano Tuning & Repair

Stay tuned!

(978)544-5494
fredholmgren@gmail.com

DOLAN & DOLAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

174 AVENUE A
TURNERS FALLS MASSACHUSETTS
01376
413-863-3133

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

B. RUBIN & SONS INC.

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS

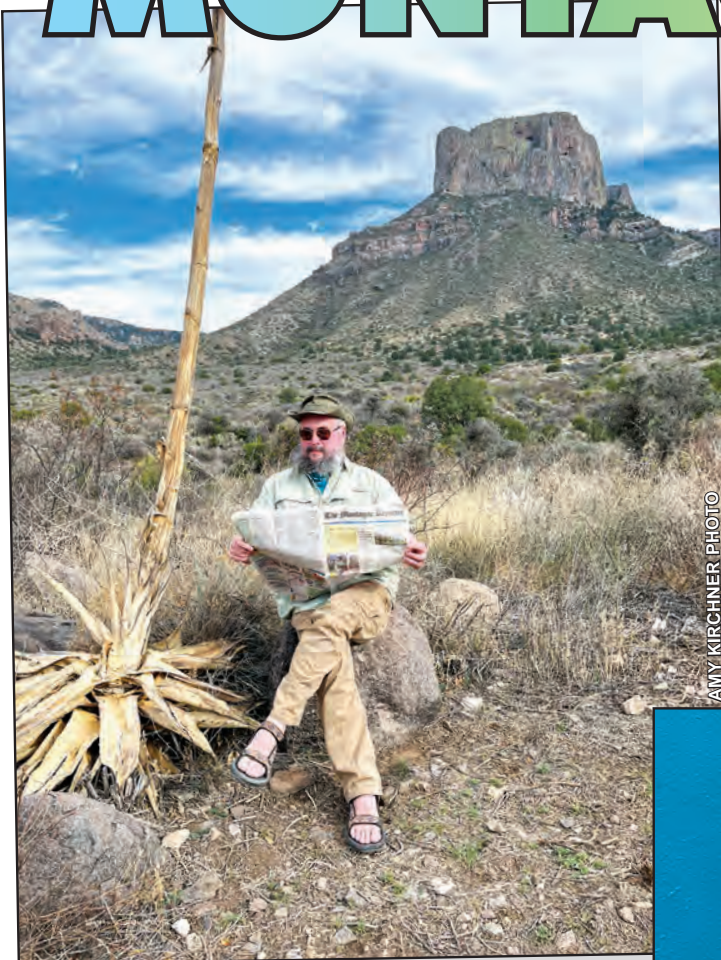
Shocks • Tires • Batteries • Starters
Struts • Tune-ups • Brakes • Oil Change

194 MILLERS FALLS RD. • 413-863-2236

10% SENIOR DISCOUNT FREE ESTIMATES

MASS INSPECTION STATION: NO. 13051

MONTAGUE REPORTER



AMY KIRCHNER PHOTO

Left: Our March 2 edition lent some home comfort to Jon Owen of Turners Falls earlier this spring when he found himself in the far west of Texas, amid the alien landscape of Big Bend National Park.

Right: Erving town planner Mariah Kurtz (furthest right) and Billy Pennington (second to right) remembered to bring along our March 16 edition, an admirable and completely normal priority, when they took a belated honeymoon in Europe last month. "This picture was taken in the Alsace region of France at Chateau du Haut-Koenigsbourg, a restored castle from the 12th century," Kurtz writes. "Luise Wetzel, our former German exchange student who attended GHS 2021-22, holds the paper with her family to the left."



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Below: Montague native Josiah Mackin catches up on local happenings from his home island of Utila, Honduras. Mr. Mackin seems to have gotten his hands on our March 23 edition.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Below: William Hays of Turners Falls consults the MoRe section of our March 16 edition down in the bayou in Slidell, Louisiana, a small city on the shore of Lake Pontchartrain.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Above: Our March 9 edition made it to Cayey, PR. "I brought the paper to Puerto Rico so that my friend could see it," writes Julie Kumble of Montague Center (left). "Maria Bird Pico is a well-known Puerto Rican journalist and writer. I met Maria when we were in the Peace Corps in Costa Rica. My husband (Bruce Watson) and I just returned from a fantastic time with Maria and her husband on the Big Island. We also spent a week on the smaller island of Vieques."

Going somewhere? Take us with you!
Send your photos to editor@montaguereporter.org.



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

ON THE ROAD

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

EARN MORE \$\$

CD SPECIALS!

See Bank for details or visit greenfieldsavings.com/rates

888-324-3191
greenfieldsavings.com

Greenfield Savings Bank

Member FDIC/Member DIF

New Bakery Open!
411 MAIN ROAD, GILL
OPEN 7 DAYS, 8 AM - 7 PM
413-863-4431
WWW.UPINNGIL.COM

UPINNGIL

Food You Need from the Land You Love

Buckingham Rabbits Vintage

NEW HOURS!
TH/FR 12pm-5pm
SAT 11am-6pm
SUN 12-4pm

vintage & secondhand clothing for all!

find us online

102 Avenue A TFMA 01376

MYSTERY TRAIN AMHERST

BUY / SELL / TRADE
MUSIC / MOVIES / BOOKS
WE BUY RECORDS

178A N Pleasant
413-253-4776

Turners Falls Pizza House

Family Owned & Operated
Serving Turners Falls area for 40 Years
Dave Argy, Family & Staff

PIZZA, GRINDERS, DINNERS, SALADS, BURGERS

www.turnersfallspizza.com

119 Avenue A, Turners Falls ♦ (413) 863-8000

Peter Waters Painting Services

Interior/Exterior
Custom Residential
Fully Insured

Office: 978-544-6534
Cell: 413-461-5172
Wendell, MA
peterjwaters88@gmail.com

Reid's Window Washing

Brayden Reid (603) 254-1037
braydenreid05@gmail.com

Abby Graseck Zen Shiatsu

Turners Falls & Gill

413-834-5382
agraseck.shiatsu@gmail.com
www.abbygraseckshiatsu.net



FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

MAY 4, 2023

Above: Heather Katsoulis spotted this smiling creature on the bike path behind Montague Machine Works in Turners last week.

THEATER PREVIEW

The Tender Letters of an Avenging Angel Resurface in Magpie’s *Sword of the Spirit*



Terry Leonino (left) and Greg Artzner play the abolitionists Mary Ann Day Brown and John Brown in their one-act play *Sword of the Spirit*.

By **MIKE JACKSON**

LEVERETT – “You wear a lot of hats, if you’re an artist,” says Terry Leonino, explaining the path she took from folksinger to historical reenactor. “We were always kind of known as musical historians and scientists – we work a lot with the actual historians and the scientists, to gather the information and turn it into some kind of accessible art.”

Leonino and her husband, Greg Artzner, have been traveling the

country for 50 years, playing music as the folk duo Magpie. The pair make their home in upstate New York and spend time in the Washington, DC area, but western Mass is familiar ground for them.

But when they return this Saturday to a venue they have played before, the Mount Toby Friends Meetinghouse on Route 63 in Leverett, they do so not as folksingers but as living incarnations and interlocutors – of John Brown, the white revolutionary abolitionist

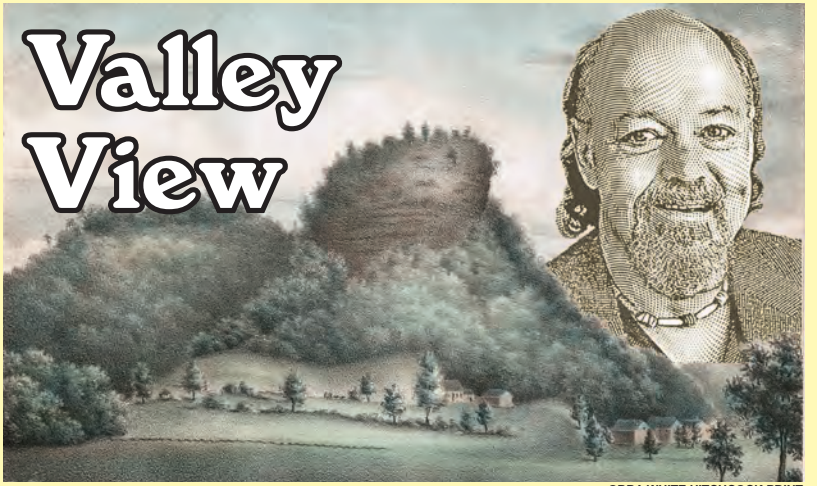
whose failed 1859 raid on a federal armory at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia is seen as one of the fateful acts that finally precipitated the Civil War, and of his Mary Ann Daly Brown, his wife, counsel, and co-conspirator.

Sword of the Spirit is a one-act play the couple wrote based on primary-source materials, an archive of letters John and Mary sent to one another. The project arose in the 1990s, when Leonino and Artzner were spending a lot of time in the orbit of the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, making friendships with the park rangers and participating in a ferment of interest in the Browns and the abolitionist circles they moved in.

Captured and executed, John Brown continued in his death to be a polarizing figure even across the centuries – reviled among anyone nostalgic for the antebellum South; dismissed uneasily by many who feel his goals were noble but his actions insane or evil; worshiped in some circles as a symbol of willingness to die in the effort to end white supremacy.

“They need an icon – a distorted icon,” says Leonino. “We wanted to

see **SWORD** page B8



By **GARY SANDERSON**

GREENFIELD – I have in recent years often wondered: Why is so little known about the old Hawks Tavern in South Deerfield’s North Mill River District?

Now, after finding two previously unidentified shots of the worn building among a collection of digitized Howes Brothers photos in friend Peter Thomas’ Deerfield’s 350th archive, the question looms even larger. The photos do not depict some backwoods watering hole. No, instead it was a classic, sprawling public house, ballroom and all, supported by neighbors and wayward travelers alike.

They say a picture’s worth a thousand words. Well, this one has even greater value. I took one look at the first black and white photo, felt a gush of joyful excitement and thought, “Wow! What a building.” Then another B&W appeared. They’re both local treasures. Praise the heavens for the Howes Brothers. Though still a work in progress, the story must be told.

Hawks Tavern stood along the lower eastern Conway line where the old county road parted into two county roads. Both legs headed west-northwest from the crotch to Ashfield and beyond. One ascended Fields Hill and dropped down through Pumpkin Hollow. The other, north of it, crossed the South and Bear rivers before heading to Ashfield and Buckland.

Nestled into a comfortable setting east of that old fork, the tavern had a long presence that likely evolved over three generations of Hawks ownership. An expansive ell doesn’t show in the frontal shots.

The building appears to have started with Asa Hawks (1732-1801), who bought some 250 acres in 1788 and opened for business in the 1790s. Son Asa, Jr. and his brother Zeeb entered the picture after their father’s death, and Asa, Jr.’s son Jonathan (1794-1853) and some siblings rode it into the mid-19th century. By then, Hawks dwellings occupied both sides of the road, and the evidence suggests there may have been a third nearby.

Tavernkeeper Jonathan Hawks’ 1853 death signaled the end of family ownership, initiating a series of land transactions concluded by Conway farmer Collister S.

May’s 1854 purchase of the tavern stand and 59 acres. He maintained the building’s tradition in reduced form with May’s Tavern – also called May’s Hotel and Mill River Hotel – until his 1886 death. Like other roadside public houses from the tavern-and-turnpike days, the proud old business faded to oblivion with the arrival of the railroad, which transitioned the mode of transit and travel to the steel rail.

Son William May (1869-1944), known to friends and neighbors as Wil, took over the property after his father’s death and shared the home with two sisters in a post-tavern, extended-family arrangement. Older, grocer-meat dealer brother George (1859-1930) was not far away, living on North Main Street, where noises from his slaughterhouse drew his neighbors’ ire.

May heirs started selling off land in 1945, and finally sold the last tavern-associated parcel in 1987.

Few people today seem to be aware that the historic tavern still stands, separated into two neighboring homes along the Mathews Road intersection with Conway Road (Route 116). One half is the dwelling at 300 Conway Road in its original setting. The other half is a stone’s throw up the road at 312 Conway Road, moved in 1911 by Wil May to create an income-generating, two-apartment “tenement,” according to a May 19, 1926 *Greenfield Recorder* article about a fire that destroyed the upper story. The brief newspaper article reports that the building had once housed the old Hawks Tavern “Dance Hall” upstairs.

It’s quite possible, if not probable, that it had a springfloor, if the carriage-shed wing housing it was added after 1830. Such tavern buildings typically evolved over time as profits grew and new generations wanted to add their thumbprint. Documentation of such Hawks Tavern “improvements” seems, unfortunately, to be out of reach today. Very little was ever recorded about the old tavern despite its existence in a history-conscious community with a rich local-history repository.

Surprisingly, preeminent Deerfield historian George Sheldon says nothing about the tavern in his *History of Deerfield*. The omission makes no sense. Maybe he had a see **VALLEY VIEW** page B4



Seuss, hoops, and brews: hidden gems of the City of Homes

SOUTH DEERFIELD – Springfield is the biggest city in western Mass, and home to some interesting restaurants and historical sights. But it doesn’t get a lot of tourist love. And I know that many of my readers here in Franklin County rarely travel south below the famous “tofu curtain” of Hampden County. But there are times when the 44-mile drive from Turners Falls is worth it... especially to experience things you can’t find in our little towns.

For instance, you can’t find Vietnamese food or Starbucks in Franklin County, or play real blackjack in a big casino, or gawk at a famous basketball player’s large shoes.

The drive from Turners Falls is about 50 minutes, and Springfield to Boston is about 90 minutes. Springfield has a variety of tourist sights for visitors to enjoy.

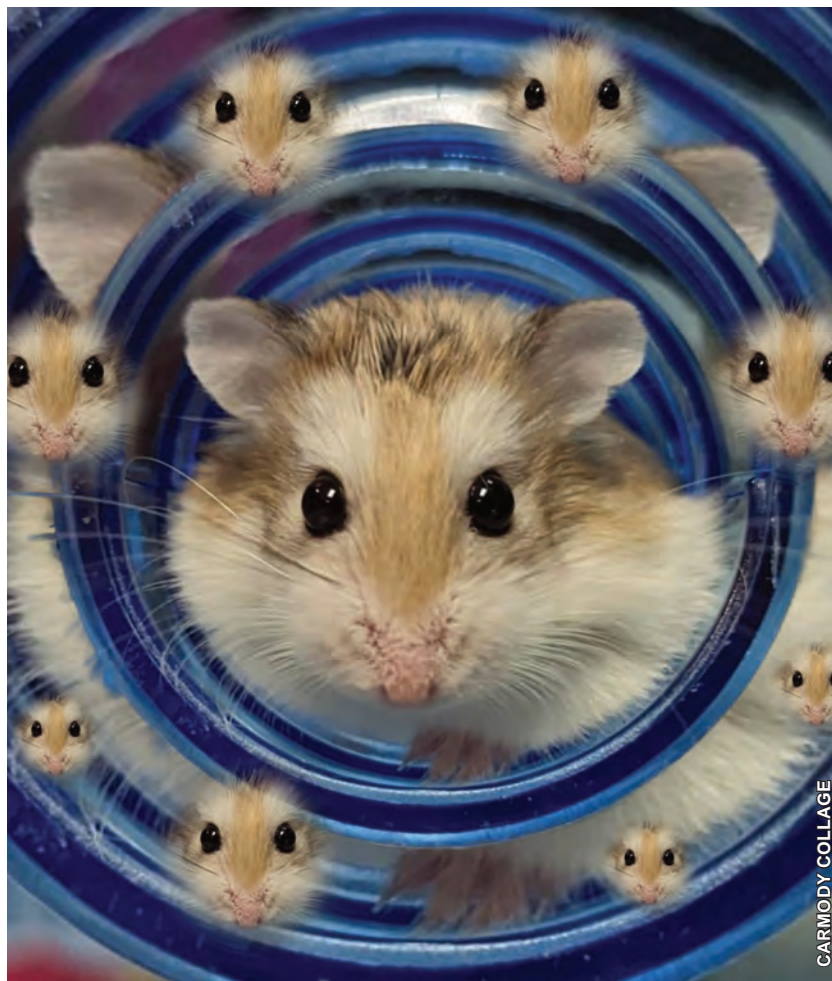
It also has a dicey reputation for crime and violence, but this hasn’t been a problem in the major tourist areas. Hopefully, this won’t scare you into never venturing to the “city of homes,” as it is known, in a nod to the many old Victorian mansions that still dot the city of 155,000 residents. I have personally walked around during the nighttime in the city many times and haven’t

see **TRAVEL** page B2



The Campanile Clock Tower, overlooking Court Square.

Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

“ASHLEY”

“Yawnwwwwnn – you woke me up!” Hamsters are nocturnal, which means that they love to sleep during the day and play at night. They have poor eyesight and are easily startled, and when startled they may nip, so take it slow when picking them up!

Hamsters are solitary animals and like to live alone. They do enjoy spending time with people, though!

You can feed them fresh grains, veggies, and fruits, in addition to hamster food from the store.

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

TRAVEL from page B1

been intimidated. I think visiting Springfield in the daytime and evening hours is not risky.

Things to Check Out

The Michele and Donald D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts features a collection of American art and artifacts, while the Dr. Seuss National Memorial Sculpture Garden honors the famous children’s author with whimsical statues.

The Springfield Armory National Historic Site showcases the history of firearms and their role in developing the United States. Springfield is also the home of Smith and Wesson, one of the country’s largest gun manufacturers.

The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, near the Connecticut River, is a must-visit for basketball fans. If you’ve always loved basketball, you’ll find a true hoop heaven at the Basketball Hall of Fame. You’ll find the big shoes and tons of interactive displays – not just the NBA, but college and women’s hoops too.

When it comes to dining, Springfield has a relatively diverse range of options. It’s not a town famous for dining, but you can find a wide variety and satisfy anyone’s taste. There are only several high-end expensive places – most are family joints that won’t break the bank.

Springfield Dining Survey

We asked half a dozen people who live in Springfield to tell us about their favorites. It was clear that this is a city with no shortage of passionate and opinionated residents.

Peter Soderberg weighed in: “Theodores” for the blues, brews, and BBQ. Great no-frills dining with delicious food and drinks, and service is always excellent. Second, I’d go with Max’s Tavern for a finer dining experience.”

Mark Auerbach, a PR maven from Longmeadow, agreed about Max’s Tavern, as did a third local resident; Mark also put in a vote for Pho Saigon.

“I make the drive for Pho to Springfield’s Vietnamese commu-

nity near the X,” said Paul Shoul. “I must differ with Mark. Pho Saigon is crap. Go where the Vietnamese go. Soc Trang on Vermont Street is the best. Very cool scene: amazing food, often filled with Vietnamese families. Or right across the street from Pho Saigon is Vinh Chau. Decent place.”

Bill Dusty from Springfield said, “I like Bamboo House for Vietnamese food. They’re affordable, have a good selection, and serve French press coffee. My favorite is their vermicelli with grilled pork.”

“Plan B Burger Bar at the Hall of Fame has great burgers, and they do a good job with the fries.”

Del Rey Taqueria, at 211 Worthington Street near Union Station, also got a nod for their tacos and other Mexican fare.

Christopher Haynes, who lives in the city, shared his thoughts: “My vote is for Saray II at 1347 Allen Street. A Turkish restaurant in the truest sense, with remarkable baked goods and bread. But when you try the soup, salads, and especially the grilled fare, along with a cup of yummy mint tea, you’ll forget that they have no alcohol, and life is just fine without it.”

Former *Valley Advocate* editor-in-chief Geoffrey O’Connell has been a Springfielder for decades. Here is his take: “I’d pick Dewey’s Jazz Lounge for interesting, ever-changing specials, imaginative cocktails, and sophisticated live music. Osteria is even newer. They serve up top-notch house-made pasta dishes with portions so generous we typically order one entree.

“For more casual fare, White Lion Brewery’s taproom features light fare by High Brow. Their fish and chips (maybe Fridays only?) are among the best in the city.”

Here are some of the city’s most famous and venerable restaurants:

The Federal Restaurant: Located at 1353 Main Street, it’s popular for brunch and dinner. The menu features contemporary American cuisine emphasizing fresh, locally sourced ingredients, which means it’s pricey. The restaurant also of-

WEBSITES

Fine arts, Dr. Suess, science, and history museums
www.springfieldmuseums.org

Springfield Armory
www.springfield-armory.com

Basketball Hall of Fame
www.hoophall.com

fers an extensive wine list and craft cocktails.

White Hut: For a classic American diner experience, White Hut at 280 Memorial Ave is what you want. This family-owned diner has been serving burgers and hot dogs since 1939. The restaurant is cash only, but the prices are affordable and the food is delicious. Not healthy, just delicious.

Max’s Tavern: If you want a high-end dining experience, dine here at 1000 West Columbus Avenue. The restaurant offers a menu of steak, seafood, and other upscale dishes. Max’s also has an extensive wine list and a selection of craft cocktails.

Dewey’s Jazz Lounge offers something a little different to the downtown scene. With regular music on weekends and an exciting menu of small plates, this African-American-owned joint is worth a try. The lounge is located at 232 Worthington Street in downtown Springfield, in the space formerly occupied by the Fat Cat Bar.

Pho Saigon at 400 Dickinson Street gets mixed reviews; some say it’s Springfield’s best Vietnamese, yet in that same neighborhood at the “X,” there are other similar places to try, including Soc Trang and Vinh Chau. Reasonable prices and fast service.

White Lion Brewing Company is a downtown fixture at 1500 Main Street, with a very long bar and their own well-made craft ales. They also have a menu by HighBrow for tasty bar food and snacks.

Museums and More

Another worthy stop down here are the Springfield Museums, a complex of five museums that showcase everything from art and history to science and technology. I was particularly fascinated by the George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum, with its stunning collection of Asian art and intricate Tiffany glassworks.

But my moment of awe was interrupted by rowdy schoolchildren racing around the galleries and shouting at the top of their lungs. I quickly escaped to the nearby Lyman and Merrie Wood Museum of Springfield History, where I learned about the city’s fascinating past as a hub of industry and innovation.

My visit to Springfield was memorable. There are certainly things here worth leaving the Happy Valley for, though I do acknowledge the vibe is different than in the tiny towns of Franklin County.

So come on, be bold, travel south on Interstate 91, cross that famous tofu curtain just past Easthampton, and experience the wonder of the City of Homes yourself.

Local travel editor Max Hartshorne writes about traveling around our region and a little beyond. He is the editor of GoNOMAD Travel and host of the short-form GoNOMAD Travel Podcast, at www.anchor.fm/max-hartshorne.



HARTSHORNE PHOTO

Tower Square just added a Big Y supermarket in downtown Springfield.

Senior Center Activities MAY 8 THROUGH 12

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.

ERVING

Open 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Open for cards, coffee, and snacks daily. Fitness room open daily.

Ask the Nurse and Blood Pressure Clinic is the first Tuesday of each month. 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 5/8

9 a.m. Interval
10:15 a.m. Stretch & Infusion

Tuesday 5/9

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

Wednesday 5/10

9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact
10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursday 5/11

9 a.m. Core & Balance
10 a.m. Barre Fusion

Friday 5/12

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information please call 863-9357.

Monday 5/8

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Potluck

Tuesday 5/9

9:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Knitters

1 p.m. An Afternoon With Eleanor Roosevelt

3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 5/10

9 a.m. Foot Clinic by Appointment
4:15 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 5/11

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

Friday 5/12

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
2 p.m. By the Seat of Your Dance

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

Dennis L. Booska
Dennis L. Booska, Jr.
Phone & Fax
413-863-3690

Booska’s Flooring

169 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Member
The Flooring Network.

Tile Lino Carpet

Harriet Paine

REALTOR®

C (413) 475-4203
O (413) 223-1367

harriet@cohnandcompany.com
cohnandcompany.com

117 Main Street
Greenfield, MA 01301

MASSIVE BOOKSHOP

EST. 2020

YOUR LOCAL RNTI-PRIME BOOK SERVICE

VISIT US AT: MASSIVEBOOKSHOP.COM

FROM A TEEN'S POINT OF VIEW

My Trip to Washington, DC

By FINTAN ANDREW JONES

MONTAGUE – Over February break my school had a trip to Washington, DC. We saw so many amazing things, and one column would not be enough to describe it all, but I will give you the highlights of this trip. There were things that I saw that I will never forget.

I will start with our mini-trip to Philadelphia on our way to DC. We first stopped at the Museum of the American Revolution. We saw the real Declaration of Independence, and got to see how different groups of people were affected in the Revolution. The museum had nearly 500 artifacts from during the revolution including cannonballs, clothes, weapons, and more.

After that, we walked around Independence Hall and went to the Liberty Bell Center. On our way walking to dinner we saw the US Mint, Benjamin Franklin's grave, and much more. We ate dinner at the Reading Terminal Market, which was a big market with a bunch of little shops that sell a variety of different foods and treats.

Then we got back on the road and headed to DC.

The next morning, we woke up bright and early and drove to the Capitol. We had a wonderful tour guide who showed us a bunch of rooms all over the building. I learned that there are two statues from every state and territory in the Capitol. The rotunda had a bunch of artwork along the top that related to the history of America. There were a lot of statues in the rotunda, but one that stood out to me was the Ronald Reagan statue because underneath his feet was a part of the Berlin Wall in Germany.

Additionally, throughout the Capitol there were black, diamond-shaped tiles that were actually mined in Massachusetts. I found that very cool, because part of Massachusetts is in the Capitol.

We went to the Library of Congress and saw Thomas Jefferson's personal library. After that, we went to Mount Vernon, George Washington's home. His house had many rooms which our tour guide said was because it was a little bit of an inn.

Later on we took a big "Twilight Memorial Tour." We saw the WWII memorial. There are over 4,048 stars on a wall at this memorial, each of them standing for about 100 American deaths in WWII. We then went to the Vietnam Veterans Me-

memorial. As you walk along the memorial, the deeper into the ground you go, and the higher the walls get.

We then went to the Lincoln Memorial, and it was really cool! I heard from people that his statue is 19 feet tall, which is half a foot shorter than the statue on top of the Capitol. We walked across the street to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial and got to see his statue, which when looked at correctly can be snugly fit between the two mountains on each side. Our final stop was looking at the Jefferson Memorial.

In the morning we went to Arlington National Cemetery to see the Changing of the Guard Ceremony and JFK's Eternal Flame. The guards by the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier march back and forth in front of the tomb, not letting anybody near it. The number 21 is a very important number in the military, and every 21 seconds, that guard takes 21 steps to the other side of the tomb and repeats this process.

Shortly after departing Arlington National Cemetery we arrived at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. This museum was very powerful and made me feel different than usual. There were many artifacts there from the Holocaust including a train car, barracks, a whole room of portraits of people who died, and many other things.

We then took a brief visit to the National Portrait Gallery, where there was a lot of unique artwork that I have never seen before. There were the presidents' portraits, but also many sculptures of different animals and people.

The school took a big walk to the National Museum of African American History and Culture. This museum starts underground, looking at when slavery started, and works its way up to five stories in the air, to where we are now. This museum may have been my favorite, just because of how many interactive elements there were and because of the amount of artifacts.

On our way to the National Air and Space Museum I got to stop and see the Washington Monument, and touch it! To finish our trip, we saw *Shear Madness* at the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts.

I saw some incredible things on this trip and I will never, ever forget it. I enjoy looking back on all of my wonderful adventures in DC. Next time, I will be writing about game development and coding. Thank you so much!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Mustang Burnouts; Quitting; New Truck In Town; Fake Cable Company Scam; Subjects Going Fishing

Monday, 4/24

8:59 a.m. Caller from Marshall Street states that one of the tires to her husband's truck was slashed overnight. Report taken.

2:09 p.m. 911 caller reporting that someone struck her car while it was parked in the Walgreens parking lot then fled in a white Ram pickup truck. Investigated.

4:19 p.m. Caller reporting two-car accident at Route 63 and Swamp Road. No injuries; no airbag deployment; no fluids. Caller advises both travel lanes are blocked and one vehicle will need a tow. Control contacted to dispatch MCFD. Rau's *en route*. Citation issued.

5:56 p.m. Caller reporting an orange Mustang that has been drag racing and doing burnouts in the Bridge and West Main Street area for the past couple of nights.

8:57 p.m. Caller from Eleventh Street states she was sitting in the living room, heard a loud crash, and noticed her window is broken. Report taken.

Tuesday, 4/25

6:28 p.m. 911 caller from Fifth Street states that kids are playing in the road; she asked them to stop, and a female came out from the building yelling and cussing, then pushed the friend she was with. Advised of options.

11:49 a.m. Male party notified that soliciting permit was granted, active April 26 through June 25. Male states he quit and doesn't need it anymore.

2:10 p.m. Caller states a male party is in a car parked on the side of Second Street; unsure if he is intoxicated, but he seems to be not OK. Officer advises male party is with his father. Vehicle is secured. Medical services declined.

2:28 p.m. Caller from Grove Street states her neighbor is using a leaf blower and it's too loud. She told him he needs to

use a broom instead, and he said no. Caller states she has medical issues and the noise is disturbing her wellbeing and preventing her from doing daily tasks. She would like written copies of reports, what we are writing that she says and her rights as a homeowner on how to make him stop. Advised of options.

2:46 p.m. Chief advising he is assisting DPW in a property dispute about sewer lines on Dell Street.

5:28 p.m. Caller from Chestnut Street states her landlord broke into the house via the basement, then left the front door unlocked. Officer advises he spoke with the caller's husband; they are having ongoing issues with the owner's realtor; wants on record.

6:17 p.m. Caller states there is a tent set up on Western Mass Electric property on Montague City Road that shouldn't be there. Officer requesting Eversource be notified. Eversource initially stated it wasn't their property, then stated as long as it's not on their poles, it's not their issue. Officer advises it is FirstLight property. FirstLight contacted.

Thursday, 4/27

12:23 p.m. Caller states that there is a loud motorcycle or dirt bike driving up and down Bridge Street. No dirt bikes seen or heard in area.

7:21 p.m. Caller from East Main Street states her neighbors are arguing in the hallway. Officers advised. Officer advises one female party denies leaving her apartment today, and a party from another apartment states there was a verbal altercation today. All quiet upon arrival.

8:03 p.m. 911 caller states there is an abandoned white Subaru in the middle of the road at Court and Main streets, and a girl in a pink hoodie is directing traffic. Caller called back stating the vehicle owner showed back up, and the

fire department is helping the owner push the vehicle to the side of the road. Owner waiting for AAA.

8:16 p.m. Caller states that there is a male party outside Between the Uprights who lives upstairs; she just got him out of the bar, but he is in his car outside and the car alarm is going off. She isn't sure what's going on but states that he is not OK; he is conscious and alert but may be on drugs. Officer advises not as reported. Female came to pick up male from bar; female was driving the car; neither party intoxicated at this time.

9:17 p.m. 911 caller states there is a suspicious gray Ford pickup truck driving around town; states he's never seen this truck in town before. When asked for the location, caller states "Montague, Turners Falls, Greenfield, Turners Falls Road" and was unable to provide a more specific location. Referred to an officer.

11:21 p.m. Caller from East Main Street reports neighbors above him are being loud and intentionally making noise by dropping heavy things on the floor. Caller states they have done this to him for over a year. Officer advises all quiet upon arrival.

Friday, 4/28

8:03 a.m. Caller states that the past two days, two women and four large dogs off leash have gone down Poplar Street to the bike path. Caller just wanted it reported.

9:40 a.m. Caller states she works for Our Lady of Czestochowa Church and they had a homeless man who was leaving his car in the parking lot. Caller states the male passed away in November, and there is no next of kin listed. Caller states the car has no plates on it and doesn't start; they are looking for their options for getting rid of the vehicle. Referred to an officer.

12:52 p.m. Caller states the tent he called about the other day is still set up along the river behind his neighbor's property. Caller advised FirstLight was contacted due to it being on their property. Caller states he will also contact FirstLight to advise of his and his neighbors' concerns.

1:12 p.m. Caller states she is a probation officer and is calling re: a male on Turnpike Road who has not been responding to her requests to do his drug screen since yesterday. Caller states the male does have a GPS monitor on and she can see he is home, but he is not answering the phone. Caller states the court issued a

warrant for his arrest, and she is requesting MPD pick him up and get him to court before the weekend. A 44-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on two straight warrants.

4:10 p.m. Party into station stating Xfinity is running a scam stating they will cut your bill in half if you buy a Target gift card. Caller states he went to Walgreens on April 26 and bought a \$480 gift card, gave the numbers to the caller, and now they won't give him his money back. While in the lobby, the party called the number. All normal Xfinity prompts were stated. They picked up and said, "Not giving your money back." Caller replied with, "I'm at the police station." Caller said "Why would you do that, you idiot?" then hung up. Caller states he has names and extensions at home. Would like to discuss further with an officer. Officer spoke with caller. He is aware he may not get the money back.

4:23 p.m. 911 caller states a fight is going on at Between the Uprights; four versus one. Officer advises area checked; nothing found.

11:07 p.m. 911 caller states a person upstairs at Keith Apartments is banging and vacuuming while people are trying to sleep.

No answer at door; officer spoke with caller, who stated that once officers knock on the door, she is usually quiet for the night.

11:34 p.m. Caller states she hit a deer at Lake Pleasant Road and Federal Street and it messed up her vehicle; unsure if the deer is still there. Vehicle was able to be driven away. Report taken.

Saturday, 4/29

10:28 a.m. 911 caller reporting a few juveniles just entered a vacant property on Third Street. Parties moved along.

2:03 p.m. 911 caller reports a deer with a head injury is acting erratically. Deer is bashing its head into the airport fence and has a lot of blood on its head. Unable to locate.

Sunday, 4/30

10:24 a.m. Officer conducting vehicle stop. No police action needed. Vehicle was suspicious as the operator was holding a large item, about the size of a car battery, out of the driver's side window. Upon further investigation, the subject was holding a bucket of "shiners" (fishing bait) out of the window. Subject did not have a level/secure area to hold the bucket without spilling the water that the "shiners" were in. Subjects going fishing at end of East Mineral Road.

Gallery Scene: A Look at What They Took



Cima Khademi (far left) and Nina Nabizadeh (left) discuss their work during last Friday's opening reception for What I Took With Me, a group exhibition at Lookey Here in Greenfield. The show, featuring works by Khademi, Nabizadeh, and two other Iranian artists, Yasamin Zamanieh and Leila Rahnama, is up at the Chapman Street gallery through May 31.

Visible behind the artists are Khademi's mixed-media wall pieces incorporating plaster, concrete, and hair. "I am using hair as a metaphor for the female body pushing her way through this rigid material to reclaim the public space, and therefore the public sphere," she explains in her artist statement.

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

 **OrigamiUSA**


Origami is for anyone, anywhere, anytime!

Join us at: OrigamiUSA.org
Email: admin@origamiusa.org
Tel: 212.769.5635


- Find a local community origami group
- Fold from diagrams in our publications
- Shop for origami paper and books
- And much more!

REAL PICKLES

Locally grown vegetables
Fermented & raw
100% organic



A worker co-op in Greenfield, MA
www.realpickles.com | (413) 774-2600

 **FEDERAL STREET BOOKS**

8 Federal Street, Greenfield
federalstreetbooks.com

VALLEY VIEW from page B1

falling out with the Hawks. Sheldon not only lived in Deerfield during the establishment's heyday: his genealogies profile every associated Hawks, without one word about their tavern.

Curious indeed. It's not like the building was out of sight, out of mind. Located on a busy road to booming Conway and not far from Old Deerfield, the tavern stood on hallowed ground. Across the road, Deerfield's first mill was built as early as 1689 on the Mill River and was in full operation as a gristmill in the 1690s. Another important historical site rests a half-mile or less up the hill, where Cyrus Rice built Conway's first dwelling in 1762. Plus, a booming sawmill was in full operation there for most if not all of Sheldon's life.

Chalk it up as one more glaring example of Sheldon's snooty Old Deerfield-centric ways, which are blatantly obvious to anyone researching the town's surrounding villages.

Though I myself was born of South Deerfield roots that reach as deep as Anglo roots there lie, and though I fished through the old mill site many times as a boy, it's unlikely I would have known of the tavern had not venerable Conway historian and friend Deane Lee told me about it. I used to visit his state-ly Cricket Hill home, with a beautiful view of Mount Monadnock, to discuss history, genealogy and the surrounding forest.

Because Mr. Lee descended from the North Mill River Lee family (thus Lee Road), he knew of the tavern and, during an unplanned ride he accompanied me on, pointed out the two adjacent buildings that were once joined. "It was a busy place in its day," he said with an engaging twinkle, which I didn't doubt for a millisecond.

Many years later, retired Franklin County Engineer and former Greenfield selectman Bill Allen



A Howes Brothers photograph, c. 1900, of the Hawks Tavern.

was at the wheel of his full-sized SUV showing me the old Conway-Ashfield county road layouts. When we passed the Hawks Tavern site he, too, mentioned the two buildings that had once been joined as a single large tavern.

"It was an ideal tavern site because of its location at the fork of two country roads," he said. "You can bet it was a roaring establishment."

Despite pointing it out to me, I don't recall either man using the name Hawks when identifying the tavern site. Thus, I didn't associate that surname with it. I just knew there had been a public house there.

Then came my recent immersion into South Deerfield deeds, which has brought me to the Mill River District, settled in the 1760s and maybe a tad earlier. Months ago, I took Thomas on a little field trip to the old mill site of my trout-fishing days and discovered much had changed. A waterfall I remembered well from fishing its plunge pool was gone, and so was the narrow millpond above. Both features were swept away by a 21st-century flood.

While examining Mill River deeds in my still-unresolved search for the Elijah Arms' Tavern site in early 19th-century Bloody Brook, I largely ignored several Hawks Tavern references. At the time, my

focus was elsewhere. Then, after a circuitous route back to Hawks Tavern through a round of Jewett-family research, everything came into focus. I then realized Hawks Tavern was the one Lee and Allen had showed me.

Wanting to investigate further, I revisited the deeds and made contact with a lifelong North Mill River neighbor now living across the road. Octogenarian John Pekarski told me his father knew Wil May and that he himself remembered the old man's descendants that succeeded him on the property. In fact, Pekarski's parents had once been tenants of the "Old Dance Hall" apartments.

Fancy that. I have solved the Hawks Tavern mystery.

In the meantime, researchers chasing Hawks leads query Historic Deerfield's Facebook page for information about the tavern, and are told it no longer exists. Long gone, they say.

If you doubt me, look for yourself. The misinformation is there for all to read.

It's high time to correct the record. Shout from the Sugarloaf summit that Hawks Tavern is alive and well, hidden in plain sight in the only neighborhood it has known.

End of story.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Power Lines Down; Brush Fires; Needles; Nice Bikes and Fast Cars

Wednesday, 3/1
8:31 a.m. Possible check fraud reported on Main Road.
2:58 p.m. Medical emergency. Setback Lane.

Thursday, 3/2
2:05 p.m. Lights at French King Highway and Main Road not working. Report of power back on and lights operational.
3:50 p.m. Greenfield dispatch took an open 911 call from the French King Highway. No sounds of distress, just music.
Sunday, 3/5
2:57 p.m. Vehicle debris removed from the travel lane on the French King Highway.

Monday, 3/6
6:39 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with a one-car accident on Shaw Road. Unknown if there were injuries.
Tuesday, 3/7
9:07 a.m. 911 hangup. Child playing with the phone.
Wednesday, 3/8
12:35 p.m. Caller from Oak and Meadow streets concerned about a vehicle in the area. All okay: subject taking photos of wildlife in a yard.
3:56 p.m. Neighbor from West Gill Road concerned that they haven't seen their neighbor in days.
6:45 p.m. Caller requesting escort for property retrieval.
Thursday, 3/9
10:26 a.m. Two-car accident on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. No injuries.
11:18 a.m. Assisted Erving PD by serving a warrant.
1:35 p.m. Welfare check in Erving on the French King Highway.
6:12 p.m. Checked disabled vehicle near the French King Bridge. AAA is responding.
Friday, 3/10
9:06 a.m. Assisted with keeping the peace on Myrtle Street.
9:19 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on Main Road with car hitting a pole. Pole and lines down and party is stuck in the car at this time.
Saturday, 3/11
11:29 a.m. Driver hit a dog on River Road and called PD directly.
4:23 p.m. Traffic hazard reported on the French King Highway and Taylor Place.
5:01 p.m. Trees on wires reported on the French King Highway. Assisted Eversource.
Sunday, 3/12
10:56 a.m. Assisted Greenfield PD in relaying message to a subject in Gill.
12:35 p.m. Assisted Montague PD. Female screaming, possibly being held against will.

Monday, 3/13
12:24 p.m. Caller states that the VNA went to an apartment on Main Road and got no answer on the door or phone. Would like an officer to check the welfare of the resident.
2:44 p.m. Caller advises someone broke into his truck and took money while he was working on Riverview Drive.
9:50 p.m. Fire alarm went off on Elm Street.

Tuesday, 3/14
3:07 a.m. Line down on Main Road.
5:35 a.m. Party from West Gill Road reports line down, sparking.
6:54 a.m. Two-car accident, Mohawk Trail. No injuries. Transferred to Greenfield.
8:11 a.m. Low-hanging wire, eastbound lane of French King Highway.
8:39 a.m. Wires down across West Gill Road. Vehicles driving over.
9:01 a.m. Trees on low-hanging wires, West Gill and Center roads.
9:50 a.m. Assisted with traffic on West Gill Road while power company works
6:07 p.m. Caller from Lamplighter Way reporting a Honda sedan off the road. Party is out walking around.
7:02 p.m. Tractor-trailer unit took phone and cable lines down on the French King Highway. Caller moved them to the side of the road.

Wednesday, 3/15
11:06 a.m. Caller from Franklin and West Gill roads states that lines are down and draping over mailboxes.
Thursday, 3/16
4:25 a.m. Caller from the French King Highway reporting an F350 with a plow is unable to maintain lanes. Caller states the driver was driving in the wrong lane at a curve.
Saturday, 3/18
10:12 a.m. Caller advises her 91-year-old husband just left his residence on the French King Highway, is worried for his well-being.
10:40 a.m. Call reporting a car versus mailbox on Main Road. No personal injury, but the vehicle is leaking fluids.
Monday, 3/20
1:19 p.m. Brush fire on Ben Hale Road.
11:51 p.m. Caller reporting a vehicle on Route 2 driving at varying speeds and exhibiting road rage.
Tuesday, 3/21
6:14 a.m. Caller from the French King Highway states he was tailgated by a pickup truck with a ladder rack while in the area of Cumby's in Turners Falls. The truck passed him on the bridge, ran a red light, and headed eastbound on Route 2.
11:33 a.m. Served paperwork, Main Road.
2:27 p.m. Served paperwork, French King Highway.
6:56 p.m. Unattended brush fire reported on Mountain Road.

Wednesday, 3/22
4:25 p.m. Main Road caller reports tons of nice bikes and fast cars are going up the road.
Friday, 3/24
10:31 a.m. Caller from Route 2 reporting a gray Honda Pilot passing other vehicles in the breakdown lane and driving erratically.
1:13 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with a threat.
Saturday, 3/25
9:48 a.m. Suspicious vehicle reported on Riverview Drive.
12:23 p.m. Abandoned bicycle recovered on Barton Cove Road.
Sunday, 3/26
7:19 p.m. Montague dispatch requested a Gill officer to respond to the Gill Mill to see if a subject is there.

Monday, 3/27
2:32 p.m. Paperwork service, Center Road.
3 p.m. Served paperwork on Main Road.
6:18 p.m. Assisted a citizen at the station.
Wednesday, 3/29
10:19 a.m. Caller from West Gill Road advises that a suspicious person in his 20s is walking down the middle of the road wearing a hat, pajama pants, and hiking boots and carrying a backpack.
11:32 a.m. Met with MassDOT about bags they found behind the guardrails near the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge filled with approximately 30 to 50 hypodermic needles.
11:56 a.m. Shopping cart found on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Previously two shopping carts were removed by Food City. MassDOT advises they have been calling the store.
Thursday, 3/30
7:55 a.m. Caller from Mountain Road advises there is smoke coming from one of the brush piles at the newly cleared land.
Friday, 3/31
3:58 p.m. Massachusetts SP reported a vehicle traveling from 91 northbound. Vehicle pulled into the parking area of the Gill Mill. Subject issued criminal complaint citation.

MOVIE REVIEW

Shazam! Fury of the Gods (2023)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI



GREENFIELD – I didn't see the original *Shazam!* movie in theaters when it first premiered in 2019. I decided to check it out on Redbox, and I found it to be alright. So, I decided to try my luck with the sequel to it: *Shazam! Fury of the Gods*.

In connection with this movie being a sequel, I should point out that in the last one, Billy Batson transformed his siblings into superheroes like him using a magic staff – just like a wizard, played by Djimon Hounsou, had done to him. Also, they ended up with a lair, like superheroes often end up having.

In the new movie, the family of superheroes have been heroes for a while, but have become a bit of a joke because it has not been going very well. They have nicely personalized the lair they found at the end of the last movie. We also learn that Billy – now called Shazam, played by Zachary Levi – has been clashing a bit with his siblings, because he has been trying to control things.

A couple of things we may have thought were done for in the last movie come back into play. The wizard who gave Shazam his powers is still around, it turns out, and so is his staff. This starts some trouble after two Greek Furies, played by Lucy Liu and Helen Mirren, get their hands on it and get the wizard to do what they want with it. It turns out the staff originally belonged to a relative of theirs, and they are rather upset about it having been taken. Fortunately, the guy has an ace up his sleeve, and warns Shazam about them.

Due to the wizard's warning, the superheroes' family researches some things, and they learn the staff's original

owner in fact had three daughters. Just around that time, one of Shazam's siblings befriends someone who looks to just be a girl his own age. Of course, she is the third daughter. Luckily, she turns out to be a relatively nice Fury, and she helps out the wizard and Shazam's sibling.

Things get to a climax when both she and the Fury played by Helen Mirren realize Lucy Liu's character is out of control. By this time there are all of these creatures around, including a dragon-like one that is being handled by a Fury.

A fair part of this movie is focused on the discussion of whether Shazam was really a worthy champion to be chosen. "You are all I got," the wizard pointed out in the first movie. But he ends up agreeing that this guy is worthy. Shazam ends up proving it, too, but not without a final big battle that involves sacrifice. Let's just say Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot) being part of this universe comes in handy.

This film still has that offbeat nature that is part of the Shazam name. My luck has been rewarded nicely, as I still like the Shazam storyline as it continues in this film.

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

BKONFONQEQWIYSS.IPY
HMZGESCGVQVFHJW.MMO
FONTLVPEAXQAHDO.SHC
LJKEVOBFBFNAPGR.RED
SECRETBROADCAST.NET
a weekly secret message podcast

relieving chronic pain
Gretchen Wetherby, LMT
413-824-7063
bringing peace to tired muscles
gretchenwmt@gmail.com • gretchenwetherby.massagetherapy.com

413-256-6217
fine instruments bought and sold repaired and restored
Fretted Instrument Workshop
49 So. Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass. 01002

Great Falls Middle School/Turners Falls High School 3rd Quarter Honor Roll

– Grade 6 –

FIRST HONORS
Kaylee Adamski, Ellis Holmes, Lilyana Jette, Adrianna Lemerise-Reinking, Tyler Newton, Asiah Parker, Viviana Rosa, Emely Sanchez Abarua, Taylor-Marie Scanlon, Bethany Whitney

SECOND HONORS
Ryder Berg, Max Briere, Camden Cogswell, Ella Larouche, Benjamin Merriett, Zuleimy Morales, Donay Nahkala, Melyn J Ramirez Martin, Raelynn Riveccio, Hunter Stacy

THIRD HONORS
Carmelo Bashaw, Jenna-Lee Brown, Bryan Cordero Lopez, Liam Kerivan, Kevin Tomas Mejia, Maximus Tucker, Owen Ziilnski

– Grade 7 –

FIRST HONORS
Kenzie Alicea, Valerie Bazemore, Jameson Betters, Sawyer Cadran, David Chagnon, Kairi Chubb, Joseph Disciullo, Everett Eichorn, Reese Ewell, Ameliya Galbraith, Madison Haight, Jonathan Holmes, William Hutchison, Weston Jones, Bennett Lanoue, Carter Leete, Addison Lively, Trevor Lyons, Ashton Marshall, Braeden Moore, Lynx Petraccia, Nicole Porter, Scarlett Pouliot, Emmett Spriggs, Kendra Steiner, Landon Warger, Olivia Wolbach, Chloe Wonsay, Kamden Zagame

SECOND HONORS
Jaxson Burton, Cameryn Carner, Jackson Day, James Edson, Samuel Eichorn, Jakira Leno, Jocelyn Ovalle Roblero, Evalynn Parra, Keith Warger

THIRD HONORS
Allan Cordero Lopez, Kourtney Cummings, Grady Deery, Jazzlyn Gonzalez, Genesis Pereira, Edward Walsh

– Grade 8 –

FIRST HONORS
Patrick Andrews, Owen Blanchard, Jacob Broga, Ethan Damkoehler, Rachel Juarbe, Gianna Marigliano, Kimberly Ramirez Martin, Kaya Shipley-Aja, Brayden Slauenwhite, Addison Talbot, Braeden Talbot, Marketa Vachula-Curtis

SECOND HONORS
Keira Feeley, Ophelia Gallup, Trevor Jarvis, Piper McMahon

THIRD HONORS
John Burt, Caeden Cottrell-Bouchard, Angel Ruiz Scott, Brayden Sloan

– Grade 9 –

FIRST HONORS
Michael Berdugo, Jackson Cogswell, Ella DeLorenzo, Lily DeLorenzo, Ethan Eichorn, Elsee Galvez Martin, Brody Girard, Christopher Halla, Cameron Johnson, Michaela Klempner-Siano, Nathaniel Kolakoski, Noah Kolodziej, Vaughn LaValley, Estes Lemerise-Reinking, Shayly Martin Ovalle, John O'Malley, Mario Pareja, Khalifa Seck, Kainen Stevens, Nathaniel Trinquet, Naomi Wilson-Hill

SECOND HONORS
Trinity Davis, Madisyn Dietz, Clara Guidaboni, Curtis Kretchmar, Cole Marshall, Janelle Massey, Evelyn Moore, Oliver Norwood, David Ortiz, Yolvin Ovalle Mejia, Kevin Perez Cueto, John Ramirez Martin, Miles Riley, Alexis Truesdell, Michael Waite

THIRD HONORS
Dylan Brunault, London Ferrer, Kai Giard, Caleb Lincoln, Abigail Wickline

– Grade 10 –

FIRST HONORS
Marilyn Abarua Corona, Samantha Carr, Tatiana Carr-Williams, Pamela Gomez, Ella Guidaboni, Madison Liimatainen, Mia Marigliano, Sofia Moreno, Alexander Quezada Abarua, Ledwin Villafana Abarua

SECOND HONORS
Cameron Anderson, Kessik Beck, Starli Bell, Darian Burnett, Lainey Chagnon, Elliot Cook, Aaliyah Gover, Khiareillee Huertas Hernandez, Teagan Lavallee-Finch, Avery Miner, Zane Niedzielski, Briceidy Ovalle Perez, Sheni Ovalle Roblero, Brian Penagos, Elizabeth Reipold, Gary Smith

THIRD HONORS
Anthony Prizio

– Grade 11 –

FIRST HONORS
Ian Bastarache, Grayson Bowse, Michael Boyle, Kiri Corbin, Noah DeLorenzo, Jaade Duncan, Taylor Greene, Katelyn Grise, Fiona Hutchison, Syna Katsoulis, Anne Kolodziej, Ella Kolodziej, Audrey Lapinski, Jasmine McNamara, Joseph Mosca, Ayleen Ovalle Perez, Ricky Pareja, Jillian Reynolds, Geovannie Shand, Avery Tela, Jack Trombi

SECOND HONORS
Kamryn Berry, Cameron Burnett, Trent Dobias, Kyleigh Dobosz, Reyli Galvez-Martin, Logan Johnson, Aiden Kelly, Owen LaValley, Megan Leveille, Cody McDonough, Raygan Pendriss, Jacob Reich, Dylon Shinall, Deven Sloan, Isabella Vachula-Curtis

THIRD HONORS
Anthony Arabia, Ella O'Keefe, Owen Potts, Sydney Rivera, Branden Truesdell

– Grade 12 –

FIRST HONORS
Makayla Gray, Madison LeBorgne, Nikolas Martin, Abigail Moore, Jacob Norwood, Dalver Perez, Antonia Prizio, David Stowe

SECOND HONORS
Logan Addison, Wesley Berdugo, Kordell Cannon, Jelani Jean Charles, Alexander Johnson, Christopher Morton, Matyah Sutton

EXHIBITS

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Visions of the Connecticut River Valley*, work from regional artists featuring the nature of the Connecticut River, May 7 through June 30. Reception with music and performances this Sunday, May 7, from 2 to 4 p.m. Procession with a giant puppet from Peskeomskut Park to the Discovery Center at 1:30 p.m.

Montague Center Library: *Sherée Bloomberg*, paintings. Through May 12.

Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts and Arts: *Engaging Nature*, over 140 pieces by the Amherst Plein Air Society. A portion of the proceeds go to the Kestrel Land Trust. Through May. Opening reception this Sunday, May 7 from 2 to 5 p.m.

Goose Divine Energy, Greenfield: *Topographies and Other Surface Tensions*. Dr. Adhi Two Owls explores the surfaces of natural forms. Through June 15.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *What I Took With Me*, work by Nina Nabizadeh, Cima Khademi, Yasamin Zamanieh, and Leila Rahnama. Through May 31.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Why I Go to School*, art and essays by students in the Twice as Smart learning program. Reception this Saturday, May 6 from noon to 3. Through May.

Leverett Library: *Anne White*. Paintings and more. Through June.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Apricity*, photographs by Carin Teresa. *The Worlds Below Us*, paintings by Rosa Beryl. Through June 26. Reception next Saturday, May 13, from 2 to 4 p.m. with music by James Bird.

Shelburne Arts Coop Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Seeing Things in a New Light*, art and craft by member artists. Through May.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield: *STEAM-Y Art and Science*, art that incorporates the sciences. Through May 14.

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

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Roots*, abstract paintings by Tom Morton. May 4 through 27. Reception this Thursday, May 4, from 5 to 7 p.m.

Anchor House of Artists, Northampton: *Larry Slezak*, new work in sculpture and paintings. *Andrew Magee*, large oil pastels. Through May. Reception next Friday, May 12, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Brattleboro Museum and Art Center: *Keith Haring: Subway Drawings*, 18 works from NYC subway stations, through June 11. Four new spring exhibits: Daniel Callahan, *EnMassQ*; Mitsuko Brooks, *Letters Mingle Souls*; Juan Hinojosa, *Paradise City*; and Cathy Cone, *Portals and Portraits*.

SCENE REPORT: Family Math Night



TURNERS FALLS – Sheffield Elementary School was buzzing with excitement last Wednesday, April 26 as over 150 students from the Gill-Montague Regional School District's elementary schools attended the first annual Elementary Family Math Night.

The event was hosted by the district's new elementary math interventionists (pictured at upper left, L-R): Lauren Steer from Gill Elementary, Nikki Henderson from Sheffield Elementary, and Veronica Hirst from Hillcrest Elementary.

This school year GMRSD added the full-time math interventionist positions at each of the three elementary schools to support math instruction and the intervention needs of students. The district has had reading intervention in place for many years.

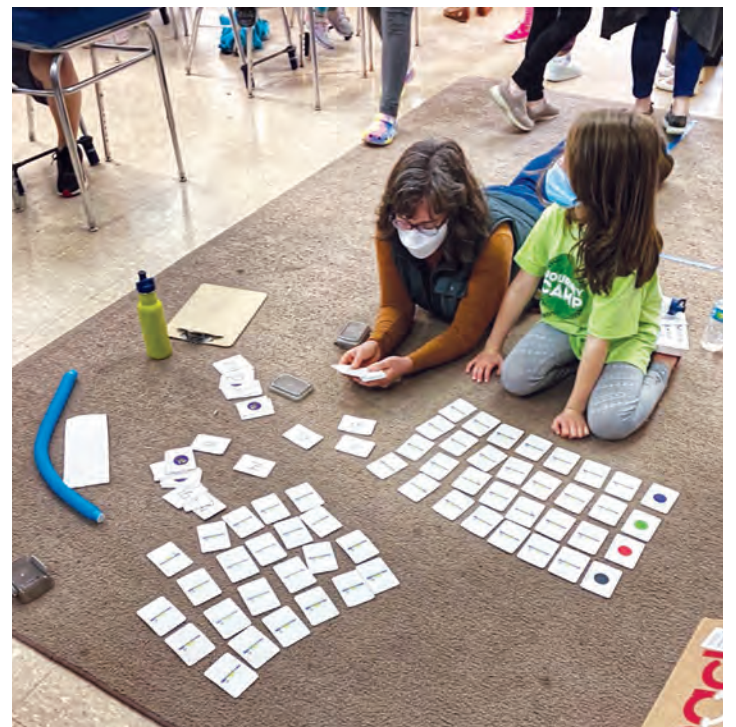
"Our first math night exceeded our expectations," GMRSD director of teaching and learning Jeanne Powers shared. "Many students and their adults engaged with math activities, games, and demos that helped build student confidence in math learning. We hoped this event would be fun for the students, and it truly was, but I also spoke to many parents and guardians who said they had fun as well!"

The event provided students with a variety of activities. These included pretzel geometry, math games (upper and lower right), math and movement (lower left), math stories in the library, a guesstimation station, and activities from the district's elementary math curriculum Bridges in Mathematics and intervention program Math Recovery.

Every student who filled up their "passport" by visiting all of the stations received a bag with math activities and prizes. The night concluded with a raffle for math games.

The GMRSD elementary math team hopes to continue the math excitement by providing take-home summer math learning activities at the end of the school year for all elementary students.

This article was submitted to the Montague Reporter by GMRSD director of teaching and learning Jeanne Powers.



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

TURN IT UP!
MUSIC & MOVIES
BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

Professional Painting & Decorating Contractor Since 1900
1900-2023 * Our 123rd Year
COUTURE BROS.
Christian S. Couture, President
* Commercial
* Residential
* Industrial
Tel: (413) 863-4346 Fax: (413) 863-3740
400 Avenue A - PO Box 270 - Turners Falls, MA 01376
www.couturebros.com | HIC Lic. 100326

Now Open 7 days 11am-9pm
EL NOPALITO
MEXICAN RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA
196 TURNERS FALLS RD. MONTAGUE, MA 01351
413-863-5419 413-863-5645



FRONTIERS

Quantum Computing (Explained by a Classical Computer)



By SPENCER SHORKEY

MILLERS FALLS – The field of artificial intelligence (AI) has rapidly advanced in the past few years, achieving a high degree of competence with language related tasks. ChatGPT is an AI language model developed by OpenAI. Below is a sequence of prompts and responses exchanged with ChatGPT-3.5, regarding its own operation as well as some potential impacts of emerging next generation computing technologies.

The sequence of prompts and responses have been partially re-ordered relative to their original sequence. No edits were made to the ChatGPT-3.5 responses (CG) except where “...” is found, which indicates that unnecessary text was removed from the response.

MR: Are you self-aware?

CG: No, I am not self-aware. I am an AI language model designed to process natural language input and generate responses based on pre-existing data and algorithms. While I can analyze and process information at a large scale and generate responses that may appear intelligent, I do not have true consciousness or self-awareness. I am simply a software program running on computer servers, and my intelligence is based on algorithms and data that have been programmed into me by human developers....

MR: What programming language are you built on?

CG: I am built on a variety of programming languages and frameworks that are used to develop and train large-scale language models. The core architecture of my model is based on the Transformer architecture, which was introduced in a research paper by Google in 2017. The Transformer architecture is implemented using the TensorFlow framework, which is an open-source software library for machine learning developed by Google.

The language model itself is trained on large datasets using a combination of deep learning techniques and natural language processing algorithms. These training techniques are implemented using a combination of programming languages such as Python, C++, and CUDA (for GPU acceleration)....

MR: Is the response that you are going to compose after reading this going to come entirely from one server?

CG: No, my response to your question will likely involve the coordination of multiple servers. When someone interacts with me, their input is typically sent to one of the servers in the OpenAI cluster, which then analyzes the input and generates a response.

However, my response may involve the use of multiple algorithms and models that are hosted on different servers, and these algorithms may communicate with each other to generate a coherent response. Additionally, my responses may be cached on multiple servers to improve response times and ensure reliability....

MR: How much power does the OpenAI cluster use?

CG: The amount of power used by the OpenAI cluster is not publicly disclosed, but it is likely to be significant given the size and complexity of the system. The OpenAI cluster consists of thousands of servers located in data centers around the world, and it is designed to handle a wide range of machine learning tasks, including language modeling, robotics, and game playing.

The servers in the OpenAI cluster are high-performance machines that are optimized for parallel processing, which allows them to train and run machine learning models at a large scale....

MR: How much energy does it take to train a large AI language model?

CG: ... [T]raining the GPT-3 language model, which has 175 billion parameters, reportedly required an estimated 3.2 million USD in electricity costs alone, according to a recent study by researchers at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. The study estimated that training GPT-3 on a single graphics processing unit (GPU) would require approximately 3.2 gigawatt-hours of energy, which is roughly equivalent to the energy used by an average US household over 300 years.

However, it's worth noting that the amount of energy required to train a language model can be significantly reduced through optimization techniques such as quantiza-

tion, pruning, and distillation.

Additionally, advances in hardware technology, such as specialized AI chips and more efficient cooling systems, are also helping to reduce the energy consumption of AI training.

MR: Could quantum computing be useful for the development of AI?

CG: Yes, quantum computing could be useful for the development of artificial intelligence (AI) in several ways. One potential application of quantum computing in AI is to speed up the training of machine learning models, which is a computationally intensive task. Quantum computing algorithms could potentially reduce the time and energy required to train large machine learning models, enabling the development of more sophisticated AI applications....

MR: Explain quantum computing in simple terms.

CG: Quantum computing is a type of computing that uses the principles of quantum mechanics to perform operations on data. Unlike classical computing, where information is processed using bits that are either 0 or 1, quantum computing uses quantum bits, or qubits, which can exist in multiple states simultaneously....

MR: How exactly does quantum computing outperform classical computing?

CG: Quantum computing can outperform classical computing in certain tasks because it takes advantage of quantum mechanical phenomena, such as superposition and entanglement, which classical computing cannot....

As a result, quantum computing has the potential to significantly speed up certain types of computations, such as factoring large numbers or searching large databases, which are important for fields like cryptography and drug discovery.

However, quantum computers are not faster than classical computers for all tasks, and there are still many technical challenges that need to be overcome in order to build reliable, scalable quantum computers.

MR: What exactly is cryptography?

CG: Cryptography is the practice of secure communication in the presence of third parties. It involves techniques for secure communication and data confidentiality, integrity, and authenticity. Cryptography is used to protect sensitive information, such as financial transactions, personal data, and military or government communications, from unauthorized access, theft, and other malicious activities. Cryptography techniques typically involve the use

of mathematical algorithms and protocols to encrypt and decrypt data, as well as the use of keys and digital signatures to ensure the authenticity and integrity of messages.

MR: How exactly is quantum computing relevant in cryptography?

CG: Quantum computing is relevant in cryptography because it has the potential to break some of the most widely used encryption algorithms in use today, including RSA and elliptic curve cryptography.

These encryption algorithms rely on the fact that factoring large numbers is a difficult problem for classical computers, which means that it would take an impractically long time for an attacker to decrypt a message without knowing the secret key. However, quantum computers can use a quantum algorithm called Shor's algorithm to factor large numbers much more efficiently than classical computers, which would allow an attacker to break these encryption schemes relatively quickly.... [R]esearchers are working to develop new algorithms and protocols to ensure that cryptography remains secure in the age of quantum computing.

To try ChatGPT yourself, go to chat.openai.com/auth/login and sign up for free. You will need an email address and a phone number to get access.

MR: What exactly is drug discovery?

CG: Drug discovery is the process of identifying and developing new medications to treat diseases. It involves a complex and multi-step process that typically begins with the identification of a target protein that is associated with a disease, and then the search for small molecules that can bind to that protein and modulate its activity in a beneficial way.

The drug discovery process can be broken down into several stages: Target identification.... Hit discovery.... Lead optimization.... Preclinical development.... Clinical development.... Regulatory approval.... Overall, drug discovery is a complex and time-consuming process that can take several years and cost millions of dollars.

MR: How exactly is quantum computing relevant in drug discovery?

CG: Quantum computing is relevant in drug discovery because it has the potential to significantly speed up the process of simulating and designing new drugs.

Drug discovery typically involves the identification of a target protein that is associated with a disease, and then the search for small molecules

that can bind to that protein and modulate its activity in a beneficial way. This is a complex and time-consuming process that involves the use of computational simulations to predict how different molecules will interact with the protein.

Quantum computing can help to speed up this process by allowing researchers to perform more accurate simulations of molecular interactions than classical computers can. For example, quantum computing can simulate the quantum mechanical behavior of electrons, which is important for understanding how molecules interact with each other.

Quantum computing can also help to optimize drug design by searching through a large space of possible molecules to find the ones that are most likely to be effective. This can be done using a quantum algorithm called quantum annealing, which is well-suited for optimization problems.

Overall, quantum computing has the potential to significantly reduce the time and cost of drug discovery, which could have important implications for the development of new therapies for a wide range of diseases. However, the technology is still in its early stages, and further research is needed to develop reliable, scalable quantum computers that can be applied to drug discovery and other complex problems.

MR: Are there any other past technological innovations that changed society to the degree that artificial intelligence is predicted to do?

CG: Yes, there have been several past technological innovations that have had a significant impact on society, to the degree that artificial intelligence is predicted to have. Some examples of such innovations include: Electricity.... The Internet.... The Printing Press.... The Telephone.... The Steam Engine....

While these innovations have had a significant impact on society, the potential impact of artificial intelligence is predicted to be even greater, as it has the ability to automate a wide range of tasks and decision-making processes and transform virtually every industry and aspect of life.

MR: How should humanity prepare itself to survive the coming robot apocalypse?

CG: As an AI language model, I cannot predict or endorse the idea of a “robot apocalypse.”

The idea of a catastrophic event involving artificial intelligence has been popularized in science fiction, but in reality, the development and deployment of AI systems are subject to strict ethical considerations, regulations, and safety protocols.

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

DIEMAND FARM WENDELL, MA

WE CATER
your special events

**GRADUATIONS
BIRTHDAYS
MEETINGS
WEDDINGS
ANNIVERSARIES
FUNERALS**

THEDIEMANDFARM.COM (978) 544-3806

Start the Future Today!

- Wealth Management
- Trust Services
- Estate Settlement

GSB
Wealth Management
& Trust Services

(413) 775-8335 • greenfieldsavings.com

**SHANAHAN CONSTRUCTION
SUPPLY Co. INC.**
“Rock solid service with level advice”

Complete Masonry Supply
Offering a complete line of pavers,
wall stone, retaining wall block and more. **Idéal**

298 Avenue A., Turners Falls 413-863-4322
and at our new location or 802-579-1800
529 S. Main St, Brattleboro www.shanahansupply.com



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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

THURSDAY, MAY 4

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Scorpion Porch, Foxfires, Sink, Compress*. \$ 7 p.m.

Wendell Meetinghouse: *Community Sing with Annie Hasset and Court Dorsey*. By donation. First in a nine-week "Thursdays at the Meetinghouse" series. 7 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Rufus Wainwright*. \$ 7 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Jessica Moss, Ka Baird*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Consider the Source, Bunnies*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 5

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton*. Free. 6:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Dead Man's Waltz, The Band / Grateful Dead / Allman Bros*. tribute. \$ 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Radio the Band, Mavrodaphne*. \$ 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *The Gaslight Tinkers, Nectar*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 6

Mount Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Sword of the Spirit*, one-

act play about John Brown by folk duo *Magpie*. \$ 7 p.m.

Bookends, Florence: *Gracious Calamity, Jenifer Gelineau, Country Party Band, Thee Holy Oakes*. \$ 7 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Isaac Taylor, Miners, Cloudbelly*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Kal-bells, James Bird*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

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

10 Forward, Greenfield: *The Sweet Lilies, Dirty Grass Players*. \$ 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Tony Trischka - EarlJam: A Tribute to Earl Scruggs*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *the frost heaves & haes, Buzzard*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 7

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Bridge of Flowers, Mibble, Red-nave*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 9

Nova Arts, Keene, NH: *Vieux Farka Toure, Wet Tuna*. \$ 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Dumbass Youth, eGG Drop*. \$ 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 11

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Spirit Circle with Deb Tyler*.

Free. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Julia Sabbagh, Helen Hummel, Corey Laitman*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 12

Nova Arts, Keene: *Vapors of Morphine, Jake McKelvie & the Countertops*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Johnny Folsom 4, Johnny Cash* tribute. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Bumbling Wooahas, Ricky Spider*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 13

Palladium, Worcester: *Sepultura, Kreator, Death Angel, Spirit World*. \$ 6 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *New England Repertory Orchestra* presents *Banishing Grief*. \$ 7 p.m.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Josephine Foster, Stella Kola, Gray/Smith & Speer*. \$ 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Brother Lemur, Jen Gelineau, Achings, Slant of Light*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Our Sleeping Giant*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 14

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Zydeco Connection*. \$ 3 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Acid*

Mothers Temple, My Education, Sunburned Hand of the Man. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Mr. Twin Sister, Psymon Spine*. \$ 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

Tree House Brewing, South Deerfield: *Citizen Cope*. \$ 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wes Brown*. Free. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 18

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: Reading by Court Dorsey, *Bernadette*. Free. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Dead Connection, Grateful Dead* tribute. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY, MAY 19-21

Nova Arts, Keene, NH: *The Thing in Spring* featuring *Bill Callahan, Marisa Anderson, Aisha Burns, Susan Alcorn, Guerilla Toss, Thus Love, Edatrix, Landowner*, many more. \$ See novaarts.org/thething for more information.

FRIDAY, MAY 19

Next Stage Arts, Putney: *Underground System*. \$ 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jake McKelvie, Misery Quilts, Dearest Hearts*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Jeopardy, DBB, Chained to the Dead, Sachem*. \$ 8 p.m.

looking forward...

SUNDAY, MAY 21

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Center for New Americans presents *Immigrant Voices*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 26

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Brand New Luddites, Slob Drop, Trash Mammals, Dead Street Dreamers*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 27

The Drake, Amherst: *Bill Frisell Trio ft. Tony Scherr, Rudy Royston*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 9

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Chris Goudreau, Anni Abigail, The Leafies You Gave Me, Aaron Noble & The Clones*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

Tree House Brewing, South Deerfield: *Yo La Tengo*. \$ 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 1

Tanglewood, Lenox: *Elvis Costello & The Imposters, Nick Lowe & Los Straitjackets*. \$ 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 22

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Guerilla Toss*. \$ 8 p.m.



JAN ATAMIAN ILLUSTRATION



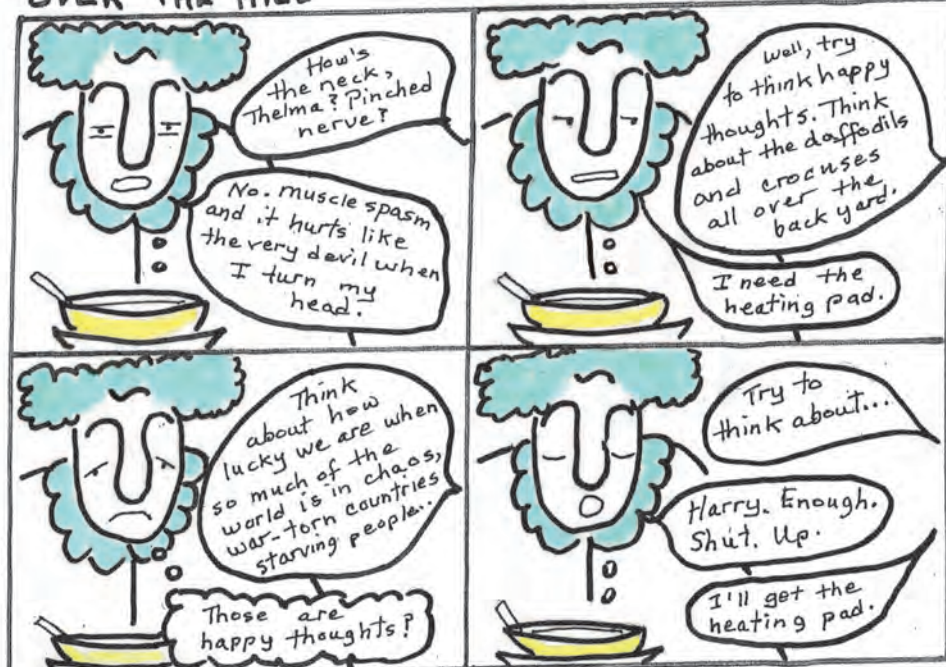
JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION



Submit your comics (and puzzles) to editor@montaguereporter.org. Original & local creations only, please!

OVER THE HILL

Carolyn Clark



MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

UPON LQ P EPULIEPO
LEQULUJULIE, WJU LU GICQ
EI SPEECH ID VIIG UI UKC
QOPAC. - MIKE WHITE

CRACK THE CODE? SEND YOUR ANSWER TO: INFO@MONTAGUEREPORTEUR.ORG

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

SPIRITS, BREWS & FINE WINES

53C S. Main St. South Deerfield, MA
295 Amherst Rd. Sunderland, MA

New Location Now Open:
6 Main Road, in Gill
(formerly Jan's Package Store)
Come check us out!

Deerfield: (413) 665-2456
Sunderland: (413) 665-5030
Gill: (413) 863-5730

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
DOORS & OPENERS

Devine Overhead Doors

Gerry Devine

106 West Street
Hadley, MA. 01035

Hampshire: 586-3161
Franklin: 773-9497

Come on over
to the **Co-op.**

GREENFIELD
Cooperative Bank

NORTHAMPTON
Cooperative Bank

BestLocalBank.com | 877-682-0334

SWORD from page A1

not necessarily to uphold him, but to instigate a thought-provoking conversation.”

Magpie’s song “Take Me Back to Harpers Ferry” became an official song at the park – visitors will hear it on the speakers if they ride the shuttle bus – and before long, their interest in the story became an entire song cycle. *Sword in Spirit*, however is not a musical – audiences will hear John Brown sing a hymn, but it is a separate work of art unto itself. While the couple sometimes perform the play and song cycle together, Saturday’s show is strictly theater – and, crucially, discussion

“The point of this play is to make him a more human person, and accessible to people don’t understand why he did what he did,” says Leonino. “And why the family swore a war on slavery. Not just him. His wife, his sons – you know, he lost two sons in the Battle of Harpers Ferry. This was a real oath that they all dedicated themselves to.”

“People kind of mischaracterize what he was attempting to do at Harpers Ferry,” Artzger, who maintains a Moses-like beard matching the mature John Brown, tells the *Reporter*. “The common misunderstanding was that he wanted to foment a rebellion, or an insurrection. But the whole idea was not an insurrection – the whole idea was a mass escape.”

Steeped in the historic literature, Artzger and Leonino often finish each other’s sentences. Remembering the project’s inception, they still beam when they recount their eventual discovery that Mary herself, while lending steadfast support from the family’s Adirondacks homestead, produced a written archive of her own thoughts and desires.

A common 20th-century misconception was that Mary was illiterate – reading aloud to each other from a “terrible story-novel, pulp-fiction version” of the history on a long car ride, they realized the material was sourced from letters, which they eventually tracked down to Columbia University.

“Back in those days, you had to put on the white



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PHOTOS

Artzger, performing as John Brown at the Harpers Ferry National Park.

gloves, you know, and go through it page by page,” Artzger says. “And it was fascinating for us – we were totally, totally, totally pumped by it. Imagine the excitement: Mary Brown was this person who obviously lived her almost her entire life in the shadow of her infamous husband. She wasn’t illiterate at all – she she wrote with a very fine hand, she actually was a schoolteacher – she was a very smart woman, and she knew she knew her way around.”

Fifty years into Magpie and nearly thirty into embodying John and Mary Brown, Artzger and Leonino aren’t about to stop. They are active in a multiracial network of artists and historians, including the organization John Brown Lives, who feel there are lessons to be learned today from a better understanding of the militant wing of the abolitionist movement.

The couple has been working on a project with the actor Danny Glover, a screenplay about the five Black men who went with Brown on the Harpers Ferry campaign – Osborn Perry Anderson, John Anthony Copeland Jr., Shields Green, Lewis Sheridan Leary, and Dangerfield Newby. Only Anderson survived the catastrophic raid.

“[Brown] wanted to have a whole operation of small guerrilla groups,” Artzger explains, “that would reside on the high peaks in the Blue Ridge, and come down off the mountains into the plantations up and down along the eastern slopes and encourage slaves to escape, not to turn on their masters with guns and kill them.”

John Brown’s supporters, anticipating a scenario of mass self-defense of a new highland route of the Underground Railroad, made and sharpened 1,000 pikes.

Sword of the Spirit plays this Saturday, May 6, at 7 p.m. at the Mount Toby Friends Meetinghouse, 194 Long Plain Road in Leverett. Discussion to follow. Seats can be reserved by emailing diacrowe@yahoo.com or calling (413) 336-2589. The suggested donation is \$15 to \$25.



Leonino as Mary Brown.

coming up at the **SHEA**

FRIDAY 5/5: SHEA PRESENTS DEAD MAN'S WALTZ
TRIPLE TRIBUTE TO THE GRATEFUL DEAD, THE ALLMAN BROTHERS, AND THE BAND
AN OFFICIAL "ROAD TO STRANGECREEK" WORM PRE-PARTY

SATURDAY 5/6: SHEA PRESENTS ECHOES OF FLOYD
PERFORMING *WISH YOU WERE HERE* AND OTHER FLOYD FAVES

FRIDAY 5/12: SHEA PRESENTS JOHNNY FOLSOM 4
A TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY CASH

SATURDAY 5/13: NERO PRESENTS BANISHING GRIEF
WORLD PREMIERE

FRIDAY 5/19: CINEMASTORM FREE DOUBLE FEATURE

SATURDAY 5/20: SIGNATURE SOUNDS, THE LORENZ AND GUPTA FAMILIES, AND THE SHEA PRESENT SPARKLETOWN:
A TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC AND SPIRIT OF KATE LORENZ

SUNDAY 5/21: CENTER FOR NEW AMERICANS PRESENTS IMMIGRANT VOICES: CNA'S SONG, DANCE, AND STORYTELLING REVUE

tickets and more info at sheatheater.org

#GETTOTHESEA

Our discounts are in full bloom!

SINCE 1888
A.H. Rist
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

Competitive rates and discounts for all of your insurance needs!
159 Avenue A | Turners Falls | 413.863.4373 | ahrisr.com

Montague Community Television News

Cable-Access Comedy Show Logs Third Episode

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – Put on your gas masks, because these guys are toxic! Julian and Mag have released the third episode of their MCTV original show *Toxic Reality*.

Catch it on Channel 17 if you can, or look for it on our Vimeo page, where you will also find both the Montague and Gill selectboard meetings, the Montague finance committee meeting, and the GMRSD school committee meeting from April 25.

All MCTV videos are available on our Vimeo page, and all community members are welcome to sub-

mit videos to be aired on Channel 17 and featured on the Vimeo page. Think of what you would like to make, and come see how we can help! MCTV is always available to assist in local video production as well. Cameras, tripods, and lighting equipment are available for check-out, and filming and editing assistance can be provided.

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

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

Erik Doolittle
owner

Erik Doolittle
landscape maintenance

Cell (413) 834-1531
462 Fox Hill Rd.
Bernardston, MA 01337

FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CO-OP

Fresh starts Here

From our community to your plate, taste the goodness of fresh at your local food co-op!

Green Fields Market
144 Main Street
Greenfield, MA
(413) 773-9567

McCusker's Market
3 State Street
Shelburne Falls, MA
(413) 625-2548

Reil Improve Air Quality & Heating/Cooling Efficiency
CLEANING SERVICES LLC

DUCT CLEANING

Free Video Inspections
Air Duct • Baseboard • Dryer Vent Cleaning
Log on to see our Rotobrush video

Ed Terault, Owner

Call 413.223.5494 or visit www.REILCLEAN.com

Local Solar PV Installers for over 16 years in western Massachusetts

GREENFIELD SOLAR

“When day comes, we step out of the shade aflame and unafraid. The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light. If only we’re brave enough to see it. If only we’re brave enough to be it.”
Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*

SolarGreenfield.com
2 Fiske Ave., Greenfield
(413) 772.3122
Call for free site assessment!

allEarth SOLAR
PREMIER DEALER

Gerri Johnson Realty
Gill, MA • 413-863-9736
GerriJohnson@GJAR.com

Gerri Johnson & Associates REALTY

WWW.GJAR.COM
GERI JOHNSON, 45 Years of Experience

1. come in
2. put feet up
3. have drink
4. eat grub

THE VOO

NEW FOOD!

78 3rd St TFWA

HOURS/SPECIALS

ORDER ONLINE:
thevoo.net