

The Montague Reporter

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 22, 2024

50 YEARS AGO TODAY



Sam Lovejoy describes the tower on the Montague Plains falling in the 1975 documentary Lovejoy's Nuclear War, showing tonight at the Shea Theater.

Below is an abridged version of the statement handed to the Montague police by Sam Lovejoy on February 22, 1974. He was charged with toppling the Northeast Utilities (“NU”) meteorological tower on the Montague Plains. The tower was erected for safety and environmental permits prior to the construction of a 2,300-megawatt nuclear power plant – which would have included four cooling towers, each bigger than the Prudential Insurance building in Boston.

George Washington's Birthday.

In the long-established tradition of challenging the constitutionality of particular events, I readily admit full responsibility for sabotaging that outrageous symbol of the future nuclear power plant – the NU meteorological tower on the Montague Plains. The Declaration of Independence rightfully legislates action “whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends... of safety and happiness.” The Massachusetts Bill of Rights further states ... “The people alone have an incontestable unalienable and infeasible right to institute government; and to reform, alter or totally change the same, when their protection, safety, prosperity and happiness require it.”

With the obvious danger of a nuclear power plant, with the biological finality of atomic radiation (and other equally ominous problems), a clear duty was mine to secure for my community the welfare and safety that the government has not only refused to provide, but has conspired to destroy.

The tower itself was a beautiful engineering feat. Indeed I have dreamed of riding the 500 feet to the top to better see our beautiful valley. Symbolically, however, it represented the most horrendous development this community could imagine. The very specter of it oppressed us.

Charles Bragg, vice-president of NU, said local opposition “would not affect us. We would have to go ahead with it even if there was a protest movement mounted by the citizens of the area.” He continued to compare the development of nuclear power plants to the western expansion of the railroads. The only possible extension of his logic is to remember the liquidation of the American Indian, and thus realize the ominous repercussions for our own fragile little community.

Characteristic of the times, though, the corporate giant degrades us with bribes. The benefits of local tax breaks are magnanimously offered like the carrot. Here where the risks are so devastating, the system has thrown the entire issue into the economic and political arenas. Economically for our little

community, the proposed power plant construction cost is greater than Connecticut's entire state budget. Politically speaking, there is no democratic solution to a scientific problem. In a situation where unanimity is imperative, the opposite is true. There can be no trade-off here between money and public welfare.

The Massachusetts Bill of Rights declares “No man, nor corporation, or association of men have any other title to obtain advantages, or particular and exclusive privileges, distinct from those of the community.” And yet, are we not now only beginning to grasp how grossly the great corporations view their profit?

I have been living here in Montague going on five years now, and in the valley for another twenty. As a farmer growing organic crops, I find no natural balance with a nuclear plant in this or any community.

Positive action is the only option left open to us. Communities have the same rights as individuals. While my purpose is not to provoke fear, I believe we must act. We must seize back control of our own community.

The nuclear energy industry and its support elements in government are practicing a form of despotism. They have selected the less populated rural countryside to answer the energy needs of the cities.

Are we witnessing a corrupt balance between population and risk?

Do we citizens allow corporations to plop down heaps of high and low level radioactivity in our midst?

The present [1973-74] energy crisis, so-called, is an obvious signal for the need for immediate and nationwide introspection and re-evaluation. We must bring to an end the greed of the corporate state. We must see that profit, as the modus operandi of our society, is defunct. We must remove nuclear plant development from the economic and political arenas. As Herbert S. Denenberg, Insurance Commissioner of Pennsylvania, stated, “It may be that no one but God could write the insurance policy we need on nuclear reactors!”

It is my firm conviction that if a jury of 12 impartial scientists was impaneled, and following normal legal procedure they were given all pertinent data and arguments, then this jury would never give a unanimous vote for deployment of nuclear reactors amongst the civilian population. Rather, I believe they would call for the complete shutdown of all commercially operating nuclear plants. Through positive action and a sense of moral outrage, I seek to test my convictions before a jury of my peers.

Love and affection to all my fellow citizens.

IDEAS

Does a River Have Rights?

By SARAH ROBERTSON

GREENFIELD – This Friday evening the Nolumbeka Project is co-sponsoring a presentation at Greenfield Community College about the Connecticut River, and the ways that it can be better protected from exploitation, with the activist group Western Mass Rights of Nature.

Hartman Deetz, an artist, activist, and member of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe, will lead the presentation, titled “The Kwinitekw/Quonektikut: Rights of Nature for the Long River.”-

Deetz's tribe recently passed a declaration asserting the rights of river herring, an anadromous fish once plentiful in the rivers of eastern Massachusetts, but which have been depleted due to overfishing and dams. Similarly, there used to be salmon in the Connecticut, but a multi-million dollar federal salmon stocking program has failed to reintroduce a sustainable native population.

Members of Western Mass Rights of Nature (WMRoN) see themselves as part of a global movement to assert the legal rights of forests, bodies of water, animals,

see **RIVER** page A5

CATCHING UP

FRCOG Exec Committee Discontinues Gutter Road

By MIKE JACKSON

LEVERETT – The executive committee of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), which holds a number of powers once enjoyed by county commissioners, held a Zoom hearing back on February 8 on the discontinuance of Leverett's Rattlesnake Gutter Road as a county road.

FRCOG municipal services director Bob Dean said he had reviewed the county commissioners' records and learned the road had been created by the county in 1835 to connect the Cave Hill area to the Amherst town line, as an earlier road was judged “too steep for heavy loads of lumber.”

Executive committee vice-chair Jay DiPucchio asked if it was known why the road was a county, rather than a town, road, and Dean speculated that it may have had to do with the need to connect the route into Amherst, a Hampshire County town.

The narrow dirt-and-gravel road runs alongside a steep ravine once carved by a glacier, and over the generations weather has degraded the stone retaining wall meant to distinguish road from ravine.

“When I was in high school, I

see **GUTTER** page A5

Plans for Film Facility As Avenue A Building Changes Hands Again

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – The iconic building at 113-115 Avenue A, which dates to the very beginnings of the once-industrial village, has been sold for the second time in four months, this time to a company owned by three producers of a feature film made in Turners Falls.

The building dates from the creation of the industrial village in Turners Falls in the late 19th century and for over a century was owned by the Starbuck family, whose businesses specialized in the production and sale of wood stoves and boilers. The family sold it in 2000, and since then it has changed hands four more times, including the most recent sale on February 5.

The building on Avenue A, dating to 1888, consists of a ground floor with two storefront spaces used in

A Downtown Landmark Finds New Ownership



After some time on the market, this vacant Avenue A building sold on Monday. By MIKE JACKSON

listing price had been exorbitant; when it began to come down in the last several months, they decided to join forces to take the project on. McKenchie was not immediately available for an interview; the right-hand storefront of down-

The building's previous sale was covered in our November 9 edition.

the past by various retail businesses, a coffeeshop, a barber, a tailor, and community groups. The second floor consists of two apartments

see **AVENUE A** page A4

Patch Sees Its Second Fire In As Many Months



Debris in the yard in the aftermath of a G Street house fire.

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – “I heard a boom, and I came outside and there was a fire,” Asa Bucinskas told the Reporter Sunday night as fire crews ripped siding off the second and third floor of a G Street house, fighting to reach a fire roaring unabated in the building's framing. Everyone

had reportedly been evacuated from the three-unit house, and neighbors watched the show from sidewalks and porches quietly.

It was the second fire in the neighborhood so far this year, the first coming on a frigid mid-January night, and the second displacing tenants.

see **PATCH** page A4

High School Sports Week

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – The boys' basketball teams from Franklin Tech and Turners Falls High School both found success in their final two games of the season. For Turners, the Thunder competed in the non-qualifiers' round robin, beating Pioneer Christian and Lee. For Tech, the Eagles won their first game of the season at home, and then traveled to Huntington and defeated the Gators of Gateway.

The Turners Falls High School girls do not have a varsity basket-

ball team, so their season ended last week. The Tech girls defeated Greenfield at home, then headed up to the Berkshires to challenge the top-ranked Lenox Millionaires, who knocked them out of the Western Mass tournament.

Boys' Basketball

FCTS 67 – Hampden West 42

FCTS 60 – Gateway 30

TFHS 55 – Pioneer Christian 44

TFHS 73 – Lee 62

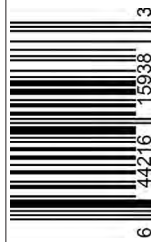
The Franklin Tech boys won their first basketball game of the season

see **SPORTS** page A6

ChatGPT Glitch Nearly Sinks Newspaper

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(A full copy is available upon request to PO Box 177, Montague, MA 01351.)

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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August 2002

The Next Fifty...

As indicated on the first page of this edition, this date marks 50 years on the nose since a Montague Farm commune resident untethered a Northeast Utilities weather tower on the Plains and watched it fall. The anniversary event at the Shea Theater tonight, with a screening of *Lovejoy's Nuclear War*, is sold out. If you didn't get a ticket, the doc is on YouTube and worth a watch.

The one-two of Sam Lovejoy's property destruction – which he insisted was of "symbolic" character rather than a direct action – and his subsequent absolution in a local courtroom raised a 500-foot-high flashing beacon that new political coalitions were available for rural escapees of the New Left.

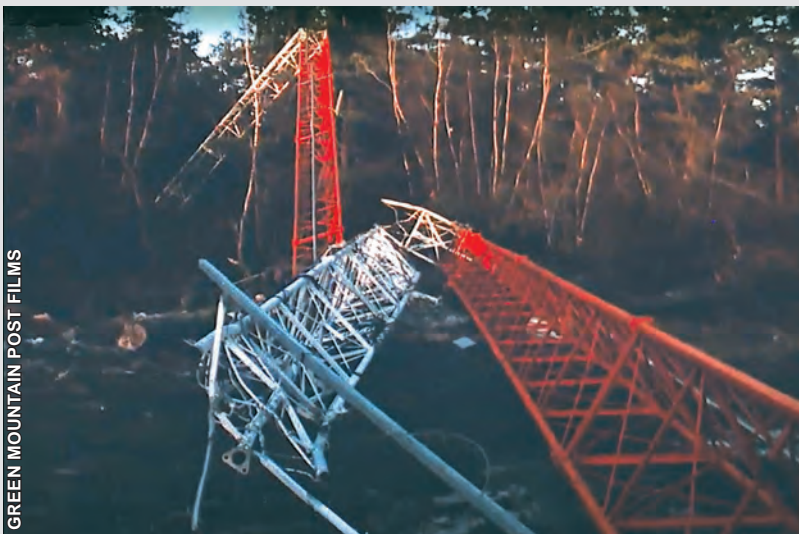
"The development of this movement," close critics wrote in 1979, "was facilitated by the fact that a large number of the New England 'subsisters' had had experiences in the anti-war movement, i.e., in mobilization techniques, media work, information finding, legal work, etc. Further, once the movement was started it developed its own dynamic reproductive functions for the militants as it provided social contacts and interesting events for old politicians who began getting bored in the relative isolation of

the country life. Additionally, the movement became a source of income and created jobs for intellectual workers (writing and selling articles, books, buttons, T-shirts, making conferences, figuring out 'alternative energy sources,' etc.) In this regard, it was a direct answer to the problem of survival for at least a particular section of 'humankind.'" (Midnight Notes, *Strange Victories*)

That catty take came five years in – what's our assessment at 50? We don't hear much regret that a twin nuclear reactor was never built at Montague; its sister plants at Rowe and Vernon are now waste-storage problems. Over the decades the anti-nuke types have shouldered a ton of local bureaucratic work, stopped any number of other proposals, and generally racked up successes at keeping it rural around here.

Things that don't take stopping – the track record has maybe not been so good. Hiking trails and a clean river are fantastic, but so are other forms of common wealth: keeping medical services nearby, expanding transportation, and especially supporting our local school districts.

So, what does the local coalition look like that will win the things people actually *do* need? And how will we know when it is here?



The mythologically wrecked tower, in a still from Lovejoy's Nuclear War.

Fund Funded!

Dear Readers,

You did it! You made our first Writers' Fund Annual Drive a roaring success. We appealed to you to step up and help us to fund our underpaid writers, and you responded magnificently.

Our goal was \$10,000. The donations that came in for the drive totaled \$25,043

Your incredible support will

enable us to continue to provide you with the great coverage of our villages and communities that you have come to expect.

With gratitude in our hearts and continued hopes for a bright future for *the Montague Reporter* for many years to come, we thank you.

**The Board of Directors,
Editors, Staff and Volunteers**

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NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Lynne Rudié at her home office desk in Turners Falls, where she handles freelance graphic design work such as the logo she created for the Seeds of Solidarity farm, shown on her computer screen. This has been Rudié's career for 50 years, and logos are her favorite type of design work: "I love making logos," she says, "because I'm helping people share who they are, what they do, and how they feel about what they do." Find out more at lynnerrudie.com.

Letter to the Editors

14 Groups Release Statement on Gaza

Dear Concerned Friends and Neighbors,

As of February 16, 2024, more than 28,775 people were killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza since October 7, including at least 12,300 children and 8,400 women. Far from starting on October 7, the present horror in Gaza is an escalation of over seven decades of occupation, state-sponsored violence, blockade, and apartheid against Palestinians by Israel.

This in no way denies nor condones the violence of the Hamas attack on Israel on October 7, which resulted in the deaths of about 1,139 people in Israel, including 766 civilians and 373 members of security forces. But understanding the historical context is essential to ending the violence and forging a path toward enduring peace.

Food, fuel, medication, proper shelter, and water have been cut off by Israel in Gaza. Many civilians are killed while sheltering in hospitals, schools, places of worship, and while fleeing on designated "safe routes" while holding white flags above their heads. More than 7,000 are missing under the rubble, over 68,552 are injured, and at least 395 Palestinians have been killed by settlers and Israeli soldiers in the West Bank.

The number of deaths by starvation, dehydration, hypothermia, illness, and infection from injury rises with each passing day. Many of the aforementioned acts are in violation of international humanitarian laws and of Articles II and III of the Genocide Convention of 1948.

Genocide is the highest crime and none has been so publicly documented as the current Israeli genocide of Palestinians. We join in solidarity with the now

more than 800 civil society organizations and dozens of countries that support South Africa in formally accusing Israel of genocide against the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip at the United Nations' highest judicial body, the International Court of Justice.

The United States continues to send weapons to Israel, a foreign power accused of committing genocide, using our tax dollars. This moment urgently calls us to connect with our collective sense of humanity. Stand out in solidarity with your community, educate yourself on the history of Palestine and the Israeli Occupation.

Call your representatives today and every day. Remind them that it is their duty to speak for their constituents and call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. Demand that the means to meet basic needs, including food, fuel, medicine, shelter, and clean water be allowed to flow into Gaza. Demand that the United States stop military support and aid to Israel, and that they provide humanitarian support to Gaza:

Rep. Jim McGovern Washington, DC (202) 225-6101 Northampton, MA (413) 341-8700	Sen. Elizabeth Warren Washington, DC (202) 224-4543 Springfield, MA (413) 788-2690
Rep. Richard Neal Washington, DC (202) 225-5601 Springfield, MA (413) 785-0325	Sen. Edward Markey Washington, DC (202) 224-2742 Springfield, MA (413) 785-4610

Signers as of February 16, 2024:

- Franklin County for Peace
Jewish Voice for Peace Western Massachusetts
Leahy Fast for Palestine Committee
Middle East Peace and Justice Coalition
NuclearBan.US
Quabbin Mediation
Western Mass Code Pink

Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution
Kairos/Franklin County Justice for Palestine
Massachusetts Peace Action
Nuclear Free Future
Pax Christi Massachusetts
Traprock Center for Peace and Justice
Western Mass Showing Up for Racial Justice

WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS!

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Free COVID tests are still available. Fill out a simple form at special.usps.com/testkits and receive four rapid antigen kits with free shipping. You may place two orders if you haven't previously ordered since September 25, 2023.

Samantha Myburgh, director at Ja'Duke Theater, sent an update about **the recent NELCWIT fundraiser**, Resilience Rising: "With combined efforts, the show was a success and we raised \$21,078.50. All proceeds from the show went directly to NELCWIT. We are elated to have been able to give back to our community and support such a wonderful cause. We are looking forward to our next fundraiser in 2025!"

Added to the **Black History Month Display** presented by Louise Minks at Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls is "King Peggy," another doll artistically created by local artist Belinda Lyons Zucker. "Feel free to come in and read about King Peggy, a remarkable woman skillfully created by Belinda. Her dolls are

treasures that have been shown in several solo and juried exhibitions," writes Linda Ackerman, the bank's community engagement officer.

Beginning this Friday, February 23, Althea Keaton is starting a **Fourth Fridays Felting Club** at Artspace in Greenfield from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Attendees can make a seasonally-inspired felting project, as well as enjoy an open studio space. Keaton also welcomes club members to work on projects of their own design with their assistance as needed during club time.

The cost is \$15 per session, and this monthly workshop is recommended for ages eight and up. Find out more or sign up at artspacegreenfield.org.

The **Amherst Orchid Society** will hold its annual show this Saturday and Sunday, February 24 and 25, at Smith Vocational High School in Northampton, next to the Cooley Dickinson hospital.

Show hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$5, with children under 12 free.

Another Letter to the Editors Wishes For Alternative

As an unenrolled voter, separate from Democrats and Republicans as non-liberal or –conservative or anything, I am not here to disagree or agree, but remain neutral. Everyone is entitled to their own opinions. Everyone has the freedom of choice to vote for whoever.

I didn't particularly care for either the current administration or the previous one in the White House. We need to bring back real politicians, just like the ones who got the job done back in older generations – Baby Boomer and Gen X time. Not these modern politicians who have no clue how to run a country and do their jobs. It went downhill during the last administrations in the White House from the years 1994 to the present.

I am not looking forward to the 2024 election. I am sick and tired of both sides of the political aisle of the two-party system.

I wish Jesse Ventura – former Governor of Minnesota, and also a Navy Seal combat veteran of the Vietnam War, a member of law enforcement, a jack of all trades, an advocate, an author, an actor, a former wrestler, an activist, and an unenrolled politician – would run for President. I think he would get the job done better than Democrats and Republicans.

He is right about Congress, including the two-party system. It's been falling apart for many years,

and will meet its demise.

Did you know our Founding Fathers didn't want any political parties in the first place? They knew the results that would happen if political parties were in place. Our first president, General George Washington, was the first unenrolled politician. People just ran for office without being associated with a political party. We need to go back to those days, and have people just run as candidates and let them debate, and let the best person win.

We need to take care of our country, and not send any more jobs overseas – we need to bring them back. Fix the national debt, fix our roads and infrastructure while creating jobs – the list goes on. Stop being the police of the world. Take care of retirees and the aging, and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

We need to bring back the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Public Works Administration, the National Industrial Recovery Act, the Agricultural Act, the Farm Security Administration, the Civil Works Administration, the Federal-Aid Highway Act, etc. We need to take care of our schools, our police and fire departments, and our hospitals, offer better healthcare, and do much more, including clean up crime.

Joe Parzych
Greenfield

The next Monthly **Psychic Medium Fair** by the National Spiritualist Alliance in Lake Pleasant is this Saturday, February 24 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Thompson Temple, 2 Montague Avenue. Sign up for a session at spiritualallianceusa.org.

Try drawing with watercolor pens during a **Drop In Art session with Caroline Wampole** at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls this Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. Ages 7 and up. No registration necessary.

The Nolumbeka Project is hosting a **Circle Dance at Greenfield Community College** this Saturday, February 24, from 1 to 4 p.m. led by Mashpee Wampanoag tribal members Hartman Deetz and Asa Peters. Circle dances will be taught: "Bring rattles and shake out your cabin fever!"

Guests include Liz Coldwind Santana Kiser, Nipmuck elder and council woman, and Abenaki citizen Rich Holschuh. Handcrafted items by Deetz will be for sale, and there will be a raffle for a bark basket by Jennifer Lee. The event is free, with donations appreciated.

Historic Deerfield is offering a free Zoom lecture series titled **Led by an Evil Spirit: Lesser-Known Witches of New England**.

This Sunday, February 25 from 2 to 3 p.m., Paul Moyer presents on "The Hartford Witchcraft Outbreak of 1662." On March 24 at the same time, Emily Romeo will present "Witchcraft and Women's Violence in Colonial New England."

Register at historicdeerfield.org to get the links, and learn how these crises affected community life in 17th-century New England towns.

There's a **Health Occupations Career Fair** next Monday, February 26 from noon to 2 p.m. in the Greenfield Community College dining commons. No registration is necessary, and there are many employers hiring.

The Brick House Teen Center in Turners Falls is offering **Intro to Crochet** workshops for youth next Tuesday and Wednesday, February 27 and 28, from 3 to 5:30 p.m. All youth ages 11 to 19 are welcome to attend. Find out about more workshops and other events at the Brick House at brickhousecommunity.org/calendar.

An **Ageism and Reframing Aging Workshop** will be held at the John Olver Transit Center in Greenfield next Thursday, February 29 from noon to 2 p.m. This will be an examination of ageism and anti-age bias presented by Meg Ryan, regional public health nurse.

The workshop is meant for town staff, volunteers who work with or on behalf of the elderly, and all community members interested in ensuring our towns are "longevity-ready." Lunch will be provided. Register at tinyurl.com/longevwork.

On Saturday, March 2 at 7 p.m. the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center and Epsilon Spires present **The Shapes We Leave Behind**, a **live performance and video installation** by musician and multimedia artist Anna Oxygen, in collaboration with artist Fawn Krieger, who creates sculptures, props, and costumes.

The two artists incorporate both

digitized and tactile sculptural objects as well as sound and multimedia performance to explore how live bodies and voice engage with physical forms, from screens to stage and back again. The show will take place at Epsilon Spires, 190 Main Street in Brattleboro, and tickets are \$10 (free for Museum members). Find out more or get advance tickets at brattleboromuseum.org.

I went to the last **silent movie with live music**, *Flesh and the Devil*, at the Greenfield Garden Cinema, and was pleased to be among a large audience – probably the most crowded event I have ever attended there, and for a film 98 years old!

New Hampshire composer Jeff Rapsis played along on keyboard, creating sound effects and adding dramatic music to every moment of the film. Rapsis gave a very interesting background talk about the film beforehand, and took questions from the audience afterwards.

The next film in the series, on Monday, March 4 at 6:30 p.m., will be **The Passion of Joan of Arc (1928)**, thought to have been lost to history until an original, uncensored copy was found in 1981 by a janitor cleaning out a closet at a mental institution in Oslo, Norway.

Beautiful Disasters, a monthly **storytelling open mic and potluck** hosted by Trouble Mandeson and Nisse Greenberg at the LAVA Center in Greenfield, returns on March 7. A potluck at 6 p.m. will be followed at 7 p.m. by stories of disasters of experimentations that went wrong, or that went right with unforeseen consequences. All stories are meant to be true, personal stories from your own life. The show is pay-what-you-want.

"Making a Mystery," a **presentation by Sisters in Crime**, is coming to the Wendell Free Library on Saturday, March 9 at 1 p.m. Four published authors take suggestions from the audience on character names, motive, weapons, and settings, and then create a mystery in real time, with additional comments and suggestions from attendees.

The authors at the Wendell event are Martha (Max) Folsom, Elaine Issak, J.A. (Judith) McIntosh, and Susan Oleksiw. A reception will follow, and the authors will have books for sale.

The **Greenfield Community College Public Works Academy** runs March 18 through March 22, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day, at the college. GCC Workforce Development has created these professional training offerings for those heading into municipal jobs, including Intro to Excel, Traffic Control, CPR, water department training, OSHA-10, HAZWOPER, municipal accounting, and a "succession planning bootcamp." Sign up at train.gcc.mass.edu/pwa.

Are you a local zine creator? Greenfield Public Library has a circulating **collection of over 200 zines**, and wants to grow it. "If you have a zine you'd like to circulate in the library and throughout Central/Western Massachusetts," they write, see tinyurl.com/GPLZines for info.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

UNNAM EABLE BOOKS EVENTS

MOVIE NIGHT
AGNÉS VARDA
CHANTAL AKERMAN
HOLLIS FRAMPTON
FRI. FEB 23TH • 7pm

THE MAROONS
BOOK LAUNCH
JEFF DITEMAN
SHANTA LEE GANDER
SAT. MARCH 9TH • 7pm

SATURDAY STORYTIME
NIGHT SONG
MK SMITH DEPRES
SAT. MARCH 16TH • 10:30am

EARTH TONGUES
CARLO COSTA • DAN PECK
JOE MOFFETT
MILK OF MUSTARD SEED
STELLA SILBERT
KATARINA MAZUR
NAT BALDWIN
PARSA FERDOWSI
SAT. MARCH 16TH • 7pm

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PAPER

Week of February 26 in Montague



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AVENUE A from page A1

with high ceilings, giving the building the appearance of a third story.

Behind the main building is an attached structure built in 1872, once used by the Starbucks for making stoves and boilers and now zoned for light manufacturing as long as the product is sold on site. The building also features a colorful, somewhat controversial, mural on its southwest alley side.

The previous owners, who purchased it last November for \$475,000, were Tamara McKerchie, co-owner of the Upper Bend, a café across the street, and Suzanne Webber, co-owner of Brook’s Bend Farm in Montague Center. The pair were unavailable for comment for this report until just before our deadline but Webber, in a November interview, said that they “expect[ed] to be in a listening mode for a long time here, understanding what place the building has had and what people are wanting it to be.”

More specifically, Webber suggested commercial or community uses for the ground-floor storefronts and residential use of the second floor. She said that she and McKerchie would be soliciting “makerspace” proposals for the rear

building, mentioning as examples a bagel shop or perhaps a weaving business, and reassured the public that the alley-side mural would remain: “Everybody loves murals, or if they don’t love murals, too bad.”

Webber said in the November interview that the pair planned to work with Apollo Contracting, which has an office in Millers Falls, on a plan for renovations. (Apollo has recently taken ownership of the former Rod Shop in Montague City.)

Yet within four months McKerchie and Webber had sold the building for \$600,000 to a company named Avenue A Group LLC. The principals of this corporation are filmmaker Robert Krzykowski of Turners Falls, his partner, real estate agent Jacqueline Krzykowski, and John Shriver, a lawyer and film producer based in Deerfield.

We contacted Robert Krzykowski, who was willing to report on the group’s vision for the building, though he emphasized that all three were involved in the project.

The purchasers, Krzykowski said, had “decided this moment was a crossroad where a serious investment in Turners Falls was meaningful, exciting, and necessary.” In a written statement provided to the *Reporter*, he said that “[t]he building will be lovingly restored over the next year with a mission to support an energized downtown Turners Falls – including a major filmmaking initiative.”

For the storefronts, Krzykowski wrote, the owners are open to proposals, “with some exciting talks already underway.... We will curate one or two new businesses there and look forward to supporting some

exciting downtown growth.”

The rest of the ground floor and attached rear structure, meanwhile, “will be transformed into a boutique post-production facility for filmmaking,” he wrote. “These suites will provide editorial, sound, and color correction for feature films, commercials, and television with an amazing roster of clients and professionals on board.”

Readers may be reminded of announced 2008 plans to turn the Strathmore mill complex into a film school, but Krzykowski, a Montague native, is well-connected and has made headway in the industry, most notably writing and directing the 2018 cult film *The Man Who Killed Hitler and Then the Bigfoot*.

Krzykowski grew up in Turners, graduated from Turners Falls High School, and studied journalism at the University of Massachusetts. The film, which starred Sam Elliott, was primarily shot on location in Turners Falls. In a 2018 *Boston Globe* article entitled “What Does Bigfoot Have to Do With Turners Falls?,” the director is quoted:

“I always wanted to shoot in Turners Falls. Massachusetts has a certain vibe and energy, a Norman Rockwell sensibility that was so important to the movie. The entire film was shot in Turners Falls, except for the scenes in ‘Hitler’s castle’ which were filmed at Ventfort Hall, in Lenox...”

Noting that there is “not a lot of short-term housing in downtown Turners,” Krzykowski said the group’s plan for the upstairs apartments is to “provide short-term housing for visitors [and] incoming clients and will also be utilized in



Upstairs apartments, shown here in February, look out onto Avenue A.

collaboration with the Shea Theater, expanding their ability to book national acts traveling in from afar.”

As we approached our deadline, Suzanne Webber, of the previous ownership group, sent us the following email:

“We are extremely happy for Bob and his partners to take over the building. It was a surprise when

they approached us shortly after we purchased, and as we considered their vision we could see they share our sense of doing good for the town by working with creatives and artists. We are grateful to all the people who talked with us over the past several months, and will continue to be active in the community.”



PATCH from page A1

“There’s flames shooting out of a hole in the ceiling,” observed Chris Clawson, like Bucinkas also a G Street resident. After a while Clawson said it would be “morbid” to continue to watch, and turned in.

Maggie Sadoway, who lives a couple doors further down the block from Clawson, said she had been shaken awake by the same boom Bucinkas described.

According to Turners Falls fire chief Todd Brunelle, the department was first dispatched to the scene at 10:37 p.m. on Sunday, and “found heavy fire from the third floor.”

“It made it into the attic space as well, and the third-floor apartment had heavy fire damage,” Brunelle said, adding that it was 3:30 a.m. before the call was over. The Athol, Bernardston, Brattleboro, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Greenfield, Montague Center, Northfield, Orange, South Deerfield, and Sunderland departments all responded to the three-alarm fire, and four others shifted to cover the Turners Falls and Greenfield stations.

As of midnight, much of the battle was simply focused on reaching the fire to extinguish it. Crews in turnout gear tore methodically at both the front of the building and the rear, which looks out over the Turners Falls power canal, and tossed a growing pile of material from the apartments to the ground below as they worked.

Seven residents were displaced – Brunelle reported that the Red Cross was providing them with emergency housing assistance – and neighbors contacted by the *Reporter* say they believe a dog perished in the fire. Brunelle said that his department “did not recover a dog,” but had been informed during the incident that one was missing.

“The building was built around 1890, with what’s known as balloon-frame construction,” said Brunelle. “When a fire gets in the walls, there are no fire stops between floors – the fire can drop down to the floors below it, or can travel up the walls, between the studs, to upper floors.”

Jake Wark, spokesperson for the state Department of Fire Services, said state police fire investigators were still trying to determine the “exact cause” of the fire as of press time, but added that “the preliminary evidence... did not suggest an intentionally set fire.”

Wark said the loud sound neighbors reported may have simply been “sealed containers of household substances” exploding under pressure from heat.

Asked about the fire on H Street on January 17, just a block away, Wark said that investigation has since “determined that it was accidental and that the most likely cause was smoking materials”.

“There’s no truly safe way to smoke,” he said. “But if you must smoke, or have guests who do, we recommend that you use a heavy ashtray on a sturdy surface with water or sand to fully extinguish cigarettes and other smoking materials. Remember: put it out, all the way, every time.”


Echoing him, Brunelle gave this advice: “Don’t smoke in bed, or drowsy.... Properly dispose of your smoking materials, please ensure that everybody has working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, practice fire escape drills in the home.”

Anyone seeking support in developing fire safety plans, the chief said, including landlords, should contact his department.

Above left: A Turners Falls ladder crew prepares to access the G Street side of the burning building Sunday night.

Below left: The view of the fire from the bicycle path, across the power canal from the Patch.

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GUTTER from page A1

really enjoyed driving on that road because it was so dangerous,” Leverett selectboard member Melissa Colbert testified. “I have a different understanding of it now.” Colbert said that as late as the 1990s, the town’s police and fire departments avoided using Rattlesnake Gutter as they considered longer north-south routes “faster and more reliable.”

Neighbor Eva Gibavic recalled two close-call accidents in the 1980s.

Selectboard chair Tom Hankinson said that in 1998 town meeting had approved an “overlay district” in the Gutter, indicating that the area was “precious,” and that in 2001 a 25-foot section of the road collapsed and the then-selectboard voted to close it to vehicle traffic.

In the 22 ensuing years, he said, no one had objected to its closure, and no proposals were brought to the board until last year when residents and members of the private Rattlesnake Gutter Trust (RGT) proposed pursuing a Community Preservation Act funding and a state MassTrails grant to repair it for recreation.

“Over the last 20 years, the Gutter has become the premier recreational venue in Leverett,” former RGT board member Steve Weiss explained.

The Leverett selectboard, swayed by these arguments, had petitioned FRCOG on January 3 to formally discontinue the road, a requirement of the MassTrails funding. The move brought opposition, and then debate; advocates submitted the signatures of 290 Leverett residents in support of the discontinuance, but several opponents made their case at the February 8 meeting.

Silas Ball said the road “is steep, it’s narrow, it’s dangerous, but it’s just like every other road in town.... There isn’t a single gravel road in this town that meets [state safety] standards.... You need common sense and courtesy, or there’s gonna be a problem.”

Ball said he grew up using the road, riding his bike to school on it, and complained that reopening it had

been put on the “back burner” after the September 2001 World Trade Center attacks shifted the town’s attention to building a public safety complex.

“For 170 years it was a phenomenal road,” he argued. “It connected the two sides of town before anything did... That road was super important then, and it could be now.”

Maureen Ippolito disagreed with the idea that repairing the road as a trail would actually improve emergency vehicle access. “If Rattlesnake Gutter is discontinued, there is no need for the town to maintain it,” she warned.

Isaiah Robison said that at a recent meeting about another degraded gravel road, Dudleyville Road, state officials had pointed to grants available for major repairs.

The hearing closed for comments, and the executive committee briefly deliberated.

“I don’t need to know any more about the situation,” said member Jane Peirce, describing the Gutter as a “tremendous natural resource that needs to be preserved.”

Vice-chair Jay DiPucchio said that he had started with a “borderline point of view” but was swayed by the presentation – and by a recent hike into the Gutter.

Chair Kevin Fox said he also agreed, despite having approached the issue with an “open mind.”

Peirce, DiPucchio, and Fox together voted to discontinue the road, with FRCOG-appointed member Emily Johnson abstaining. The fifth member listed on the FRCOG website, Roxann Wedegartner, was not in attendance.

After the meeting Weiss, a longtime advocate of maintaining the Gutter for recreational use, told the *Reporter* he expected the project will be brought to the town’s Community Preservation Committee in the fall.

“We have to determine the sort of structure, the organization, for moving forward on the project,” he explained, adding that he hoped to meet soon with Gibavic and other members of the RGT’s board, as well as other town committees, to renew strategizing about the onetime county road.



RIVER from page A1

and other natural systems to exist unencumbered by humans. The group started just over one year ago, and is focused on spreading awareness about the now decade-long relicensing process for the hydropower dams between Turners Falls and Gill, and the pumped-storage facility on Northfield Mountain.

“There’s no recognition of the river as having standing for herself, and so the most that can happen is a mitigation of harm,” said Western Mass Rights of Nature co-founder Sarah Matthews. “There’s a need for a permit, and so the developer is going to get the permit. It’s just a question of what the terms of that permit are going to be.”

Where Life Occurs

All over the world, indigenous people and environmental advocates are leading movements that seek to recognize and protect the “rights of nature” through existing legal structures. According to Livia Charles, a WMRoN member and UMass Amherst graduate student studying this concept, there have been over 400 documented instances around the world where the “rights of nature” are being asserted legally in some form, over 100 in the United States.

“It means listening to the ecosystem and managing the people for the health of the ecosystems, rather than the other way around,” Charles said. “The fact that people all across the world are resonating with this idea, I think, shows how the status quo is not working for us anymore – ‘us’ being the not-1% who are profiting off of this environmental degradation.”

In the United States, the earliest mention of the concept in a federal court may have been in 1972, in a case brought by the Sierra Club against the developers of a ski resort in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. They lost, but in a dissenting opinion, Justice William Douglas raised the idea of granting legal

personhood to natural elements and appointing a guardian to represent their interests in court.

“People say the Endangered Species Act [of 1973] is sort of like a right-of-nature law, but the Endangered Species Act only kicks in once a species is threatened,” Charles said. “If that’s our one sort-of safeguard against mass extinction, or the extinction of a species or an ecosystem, that doesn’t work for me.”

In 2008, Ecuador became the first country in the world to pass a constitutional amendment recognizing the rights of nature, or *Pachamama*, “where life is reproduced and occurs.” When a controversial copper mining project threatened the country’s Los Cedros cloud forest two years ago, that law served as the basis of a court decision that halted the project.

In 2013, the city of Santa Monica, California passed a Sustainability Rights Ordinance, incorporating the concept into a sustainability policy that has air pollution targets among other metrics that the city can enforce and improve upon.

New Zealand’s largest rainforest was granted legal personhood in 2014, ending decades of extractive forestry practices, and allowing the native Maori people to again steward the forest and river aligned with traditional management practices.

That same year, Grant Township in Pennsylvania passed a town ordinance asserting the rights of nature in response to a fracking company proposing to build an injection well; it was struck down in 2015 by a federal court, and the township responded with a Home Rule Charter declaring that “all natural communities and ecosystems within the township, possess the right to clean air, water, and soil,” and adding that “rivers, streams, and aquifers... possess the right to exist, flourish, and naturally evolve.” After a decade-long legal battle, the company withdrew its application for the project.

A Critical Phase

The Nolumbeka Project, a non-profit focused on preserving local Native history, is a stakeholder in the now decade-long relicensing process for the hydropower dam between Turners Falls and Gill, as well as the pumped-storage facility upstream at Northfield Mountain, both owned by FirstLight Power.

For the first time in a half century, the conditions under which these facilities use the Connecticut River are up for negotiation.

“Whatever original rights the river had in its thousands of years of free flowing is now pretty much impeded by a whole series of dams,” Nolumbeka Project president David Brule told the *Reporter*. “Basically the entire river is diverted into a power canal, and so that’s kind of expropriating our public waters for private commercial use, and then the utilities sell the water generated power back to us. It’s profoundly unfair.”

The relicensing process is about to enter a critical phase, Matthews said, as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will have one year to complete an environmental analysis of the projects’ impact. Nolumbeka is one of a number of stakeholder organizations that have been negotiating with the hydropower company in that process, trying to assert, among other things, the rights of the river’s ecological systems to exist and thrive.

“We get real close,” said Brule, “and then the team of lawyers comes in and changes our agreements, the goalposts get moved, and we still don’t have any agreement.... They’re operating under a license that is 10, 12 years [expired], in those conditions that were negotiated 50 years ago.”

Since the projects were last licensed, scientists have gained a better understanding of how damming and diverting the river impacts animals and the environment. Fluctuating water levels erode property and archaeological sites; shad

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LEVERETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Mass General Laws, Chapter 131, Section 40, Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act, the Leverett Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 4, 2024 at 7:00 P.M., via Zoom, on a Notice of Intent (NOI) by the Friends of North Leverett Sawmill. Portions of the proposed work are within wetland Resource Areas and buffer zones. The NOI is available for public inspection at Town Hall or via email request to leverettconcom@gmail.com.

TOWN OF MONTAGUE
Building Dept. Administrative Assistant

The Town of Montague is seeking applications for the position of Building Dept. Administrative Assistant. The position performs clerical and administrative functions for the Building Dept. and the Zoning Board of Appeals. Responsibilities include strong communication skills, answering the telephone, providing customer assistance, filing and maintenance of documents and records, preparing correspondence, processing accounts received/payable, payroll, scheduling of inspectors, performing data entry and maintenance of CitizenServe data base, Microsoft Word and Excel knowledge preferred, preparing and posting of Notices, Decisions and Zoom information for the Zoning Board of Appeals, conducting research, preparing for and attending night meetings, transcribe meeting minutes and assisting in the daily operation of the office. Candidates for this position should have a high school diploma or associate degree preferred and or 3 to 5 years of experience in a similar role or an equivalent combination of education and experience.

This is a 35 hour a week benefited position and is part of a NAGE Union, Grade B. The range of pay is \$19.28 to \$23.72 per hour.

The Building Dept. work week is four days per week, 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday and 8:30 AM to 6:30 PM on Wednesday.

Applicants interested in this position should send a cover letter and resume to buildinginspector@montague-ma.gov, or via mail/in person to William Ketchen, Building Inspector, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 no later than Monday, March 4, 2024 at 5:30 PM or until the position is filled.

Full job description available at montague-ma.gov/p/308/Employment-Opportunities

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SPORTS from page A1

last Thursday against the Lions of Hampden Charter School West.

“I think they can win this game,” athletic director Joe Gamache said as the Lions were warming up. Late in the game, with Tech dominating, a grandfather observed, “I think they can beat the Gators too.”

And they did. The next day, the Birds won their second game of the season, finishing their ’23-’24 season with two victories.

In Thursday’s game against

the Lions, the Eagles consistently stripped the ball from unsuspecting dribblers, and when they got possession they passed the ball around the horn until the perfect shot opened up. At the end of the first, Franklin was leading 19-7.

The Cats were going for the last shot, but with 9.1 seconds left in the quarter, Tech wrestled back possession and scored to increase the lead to 21-7 after one complete.

All season long, Franklin Tech has outscored their opponents for

one or two periods, but they haven’t played consistently for an entire game, accounting for their winless season. But the Birds dominated through the second quarter as well. The half ended on a trap and the Lions were unable to take a final shot, allowing Franklin to retain a 36-19 lead.

And Tech did not relent in the second half. At the third-quarter buzzer they led by 17 points, and they coasted to their first win of the season.



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Earlier this season: Turners Falls High School senior Branden Truesdell went up for a reverse layup against Lee Wildcat defender Zeb Drenga on January 30 at TFHS. Also in the paint was Turners senior Deven Sloan (#25).

As always, it was a team effort by the Eagles. Robert Belval (14) led Tech in scoring, followed by Tyler Lafountain and Gabe Mota (12 each), Dylan Cullen (8), Jack Gancarz (6), Alex Knapp, Ben Dodge, and Cam Candelaria (4 each), and Josiah Little (3).

On Friday, the Eagles traveled to Huntington, where they upended the Gators by 30 points, 60-30, to conclude their season on a high note. Although the Eagles only won two games this season, the next class will go into next year riding a two-game winning streak.

On Presidents’ Monday, February 19, the Turners Falls Boys’ Thunder defeated Pioneer Christian in a non-playoff postseason battle.

I got to the gym in the third quarter, and found Turners up 22-18. Powertown quickly drove ahead, widening the margin to 36-24. In the fourth they dominated under the rim, grabbing rebounds and increasing the margin to 19 points, 49-30, with 4:38 to play. With the starters riding the bench, Pioneer made some headway, but Turners managed to ride out the storm and won it 55 to 44.

Branden Truesdell (20) and Jackson Cogswell (15) each hit double figures for Blue, with Caden Williams Senethavisouk (6), Alex Quezada, Joey Mosca, and Ethan Eichorn (3 each), Deven Sloan and Brody Girard (2 each), and Kessick Beck (1) all helping out.

On Wednesday, the Thunder

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went on the road and defeated the Lee Wildcats, 73-62, also ending their 2023-24 season with two consecutive wins.

Girls’ Basketball

FCTS (4) 54 – Greenfield (5) 29
Lenox (1) 51 – FCTS (4) 36

On Monday, February 19, the Franklin Tech girls hosted the Green Wave of Greenfield in the Western Mass Class C Tournament quarterfinal round, played in front of a packed house.

Right from tip-off the Eagles’ defense dominated, driving the score up to 20-1 before Green managed to score their first field goal. The Wavers went on a few runs in the first half, but Tech held the lead methodically, and at the mid-game buzzer the Lady Birds were ahead 31-18. That’s when I left to watch the second half of the Turners/Pioneer Christian game.

In the final quarter of the girls’ game Tech shut the door, holding Green to just three points while

putting up 12, and coasting to a 25-point victory.

Hannah Gilbert led scoring for Tech with 29 points. Trudeau (10), Lea Chapman (8 points, 18 rebounds), Kyra Goodell (6), and Abigail Carlo (1) also scored points for Tech.

On Wednesday night, the fourth-seeded Franklin Tech girls and their entourage traveled to Lenox to challenge the Millionaires. It didn’t end well for the Eagles – as of press time, we hadn’t received the full game statistics, beyond a final score of 51-36.

While this knocks them out of the Western Mass MIAA tournament, this is not the last tango for the Birds – they still have two more to compete in. They’ll be playing soon in the statewide MIAA tourney, which is no longer connected with the regionals, and are also gearing up to defend their Small Voc state championship crown.

Stay tuned...



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FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER FEBRUARY 22, 2024

Above: A familiar but classic view for Turners Falls residents, looking fresh on a gloriously sunny February day.

JUMPING AT THE OPPORTUNITY



HOITT PHOTO

See Page B2 for more photos of last weekend's Jump!

Photos and captions
By DAVE HOITT

BRATTLEBORO, VERMONT – Kai McKinnon of Lake Placid, New York lands her jump during the Fred Harris Memorial Tournament last Saturday.

The fifteen-year-old McKinnon is at the forefront of a new generation of talented ski jumpers and Nordic skiers. She recently returned from the Nordic Junior World Ski Championships in Slovenia with a silver medal in Nordic combined – cross-country and ski jumping.

The Harris Hill event, the only 90-meter Olympic-class jump in New England, attracted talented ski jumpers from the US, France, Norway, and Slovenia. The weekend marked the 102nd anniversary of the Jump, which has been a springboard for developing Olympic athletes in ski jumping and Nordic combined.

Women's ski jumping was not included in Olympic competition prior to 2014, but it has a long history at Harris Hill.



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

WEST ALONG THE RIVER FEBRUARY MORNING RUMINATIONS

By DAVID BRULE

THE FLAT, ERVINGSIDE – How good it is to be back in my outside headquarters, between kitchen door and woodpile, while light snow sifts down like fine sand in an hourglass. Snow that is quiet, steady, no drama.

How good it is to greet again the inhabitants of the outdoors, to be on speaking terms with blue jay, goldfinch, junco, song sparrow. We are thick as thieves.

This morning's snow is dropping steadily like the snows of Karelia.

I twice spent the month of February in that Republic close to the Arctic Circle, at the end of the last century. There, among February bird memories I count rose-colored and jet black winter bullfinches (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) murmuring to themselves in the hedgerows along the path that led to our school.

But today, decades later, far from those Russian snows, far from the nostalgic smell of coal-fire smoke that filled the pervading fatalism of those streets, I'm here in a different February, in my outdoors office keeping company with the weather, the dormant rose bushes and lilacs, rejoicing in the arrival of the red-wings.

They are early this year, having arrived on the 5th of this month, beating their best record by at least three February weeks.

Do they really mean to be the harbingers of an early spring or are they simply early, and not the beginning of a trend?

In the quiet morning I hear the muffled sound of the furnace, seeming far off and below in the cellar, rumbling to a start. It leaps to life occasionally to ward off ice that seeks to form in the pipes of the house. Soon we'll light the fire

in the cast-iron Glenwood C cookstove, but at this early hour no one is up, no one yet stirs, just me, dog, and blackbirds.

Not unlike my Impressionist predecessors, I'm inspired to describe the momentary beauty of first light on falling and fallen snow spreading over the landscape.

I may be presumptuous to call Monet my predecessor, but I did several times spend at least a half-hour in his kitchen at Giverny – that should count for something! That was back in the days before mass tourism turned Monet's house and gardens in Giverny to Grand Central Station, busloads of visitors cuing up to be photographed on the famed arched footbridge over the lily pond.

Back then we had driven there one sunny Sunday, along the meandering Seine out to Normandy in our beautiful 1966-era Citroën DS, of the air-suspension fame. It seems we had the place to ourselves back then. While we visited the gardens, our elderly father-in-law sat pensively on the garden bench, quietly admiring Monet's restored gardens, the *capucines* flowing from trellis and over the pathways.

So I feel that those visits to Monet's Giverny retreat give me slight permission to connect with the master Impressionist as I randomly time-travel, sitting here in my outdoor office. I'm trying to capture a fleeting moment of light and sound while the cold gradually numbs the fingers of my writing hand.

With my back turned to the shrinking woodpile, I face the east to greet the first breaking over the valley rim. The free-flowing river rushes by, no ice to speak of this winter. In the past there were winters when the river froze solid and I could cross it on snowshoes.

see **WEST ALONG** page B2



When Is the Right Time to Upgrade?

By RYNE HAGER

TURNERS FALLS – As touched on in my last column, the most common questions I get asked as a gadget freak – outside general technical support, which I do my utmost to dodge – are usually around device upgrades: “Do I *need* to get a new phone?” “Is my computer too old?” “Will I need a new TV soon?”

It's a simple question on the surface, but so much more has to be taken into account before I can provide anyone with an answer. And folk at dinner parties or the bar aren't usually interested in a protracted discussion about their smartphone or browsing habits. There are a lot of individual details that you have to weigh for yourself, many of which you probably aren't even aware of.

In an effort to make midnight at the Voo a little more pleasant for both of us, let's break down some of the reasons you might upgrade.

This specific bit of advice applies to a lot of device categories, but the number-one reason that I recommend someone upgrade something like a phone is because of its software. Once your smartphone isn't getting operating system patches or upgrades, it's sort of a ticking

time bomb – someday, there *will* be a big, critical security vulnerability for it. They happen all the time.

Software is messy, and the folks who make it can never know if they accidentally left some tiny hole open somewhere that a really clever person can take advantage of. That's precisely why you get a regular stream of security updates. People who are clever for the common good try to break into software or systems. They find these little holes no one knew about, tell the companies about the problem – they often get a bounty for this – and a fix is developed and rolled out.

We rely on this system of active maintenance and protection to keep us secure. Think about the things you do on your phone as an example. Sure, it's probably not a big deal if someone can see which posts you like on Insta, or if you fall for the thirst traps on TikTok.

But you're probably also engaging in much more important and valuable activities: Do you have a banking app installed on your phone that you use to send money, or cash checks? Are you taking videos of your family and kids? Are there any other more... sensitive photos you might have stashed away to send to a partner?

In the internet era, a good chunk of our lives happens

see **DEVICE** page B8



CC PHOTO BY FRANCIS C. FRANKLIN

The Eurasian bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*).

Pet of the Week



‘ADDI’

Addi’s theme song is Bonnie Tyler’s “Holding Out for a Hero.” This special girl needs a special person and home to live her best life.

She loves people, is a hoot and a half in the snow and greets each day with a smile and big stretch! She plays very well with dogs under the right circumstances.

Addi was transported to us from Oklahoma after being found as a stray, so her past is a mystery. What we have learned about Addi since her arrival is that she has a couple

behavior issues that require some work. She needs a home where she doesn’t have to go for walks and doesn’t share a fence with other dogs, or a home with a person dedicated to using positive reinforcement to help her overcome her leash behaviors.

If you’re ready to adopt, you can come in during open adoption hours Tuesdays through Saturdays, 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call (413) 781-4000 or visit www.dakinhumane.org.

VALLEY VIEW from page B1

Over I’d trek to the Montague side, to spend the hour of dusk at the edge of the beaver-built marsh as birds filed in to roost in the towering white pines. I could snow-shoe-shuffle back home in the growing dark towards the distant light coming from our parlor window, a beacon through the woods.

The river doesn’t freeze like that anymore, now staying open and sparkling, sometimes steaming, in the frosty air.

Everyone who is paying attention has noted the redwings’ arrival. Down at the supermarket in town, when I mentioned the blackbirds to the cashier, she already knew, saying she saw them on February 5, just like me.

Still they are not yet at their usual numbers, far from the usual gang of twenty, noisy and singing, their scarlet shoulder *epaulettes* billowing in the March wind.

This non-winter may well go out

with a whimper and not a bang, so let’s help push it out the door and concentrate on welcoming back Red-wing!

Elsewhere, this warming February has encouraged the local song sparrow to tune up his piping spring song, at first hesitant and tremulous and then finishing strong from the bare branches of the lilacs.

He sings the same spring song to proclaim his personal territory that no human was around to hear 10,000 years ago after the glacier’s retreat. But he’s still here and chiming out his age-old proclamation this late winter morning in the year 2024.

In a day or two, Old Man Winter may come lurching back with biting cold and frigid winds. But the hope and signs are that he will soon give up his grip on the enduring landscape.

So I will put my faith in the piping of our song sparrow, and in the red-winged herald of springtime’s resurrection.

SEVENTH ANNUAL MONTAGUE SOAPBOX RACE

Unity Park, Turners Falls
Sunday, June 2, 2024
12 p.m.

All past racers are invited to register for the 2024 competition! Registration is open now.

There will be no same-day cart registration. You must register in advance.

Fill out the online form at montaguesoapboxraces.com
Deadline is Wednesday, March 2

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1: JUMPING TO THE CONCLUSION



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS

Above: Lake Placid’s Henry Lober soars over the landing slope at Harris Hill.

Lober placed first in the Men’s Under-20 US Cup on Saturday, and second in the Men’s Under-20 division in the Fred Harris Memorial Tournament on Sunday, in addition to winning Friday night’s Target Jump.

The 14-year-old jumper trains with the New York Ski Education Foundation.

At right: Slovenian Ubr Rosar soars over the Harris Hill Ski Jump during the Fred Harris Memorial Tournament in Brattleboro last Saturday.

Rosar placed first in the Men’s Open category on Sunday with a jump of 98 meters.



Senior Center Activities FEBRUARY 26 TO MARCH 1

WENDELL
Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments.

For Senior Health Rides, please contact Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

ERVING
Open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 am to 3 p.m. Daily snacks and coffee. Fitness room and pool table open.

Monday 2/26
9 a.m. Interval Workout
10 a.m. Seated Dance
12 p.m. Pitch Cards
Tuesday 2/27
9 a.m. Good For U Workout
10 a.m. Line Dancing
11 a.m. Social Stringers
Wednesday 2/28
9 a.m. Strength & Conditioning
10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
Thursday 2/29
9 a.m. Barre Fusion
10 a.m. Pilates Flow
Friday 3/1
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.

Lunch is available Tuesday through Thursday. For more information please call 863-9357.

Monday 2/26
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
10:15 a.m. Outdoor Chair Yoga (weather permitting)
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
Tuesday 2/27
9 a.m. Chair Yoga
9:30 a.m. Tuesday Knitters
10 a.m. Zumba Lite
12:30 p.m. Tech Help Drop In
3 p.m. Tai Chi
Wednesday 2/28
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
4:15 p.m. Mat Yoga
Thursday 2/29
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday 3/1
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise

LEVERETT
Chair Yoga classes are held on Wednesdays at 10 a.m., hybrid, at the town hall and on Zoom. Foot care clinic is held monthly.

For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 2, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

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- Safe Combinations Changed



By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – “10 Classic Records for Just \$10,” the grab bag promised. It wasn’t a deal that spoke to me at first. The Music Connection rolled into town with a massive volume of vinyl, UHaul after UHaul of it, and if you look at the shelves underneath the discounted used-records racks you’ll see half-dozens of duplicates of many common releases. God knows what was beneath the brown paper wrapper.

The store has plenty of interest on the rarer-more-desirable end, but since I do my best to avoid the vinyl-revival vice I avert my gaze. There’s a respectable assortment of used tapes, and one of the back rooms is packed with unsorted 45s if you’re looking for a dripfeed of dopamine. Eventually, though, my curiosity got the best of me. I thought about the times I’ve stood in line at the gas station while a fellow customer agonizes over which \$10 scratch ticket is the best one to buy. Ten records is still ten records, right?

This week and next, I’ll be discussing the contents of my Grab Bag, by order of release date. John, the store owner, warns that they are running out of these things – “Make sure you say ‘While Supplies Last,’” he told me when I mentioned it.

Short story: the Grab Bag is a good deal, if you’re someone who wants to have more records near you than you already do. It might be less of a good deal if you’re not.

The Rolling Stones, *Big Hits (High Tide and Green Grass)*. 1966.

They must have made a billion of these. This copy, once belonging to “J.M.” according to a small plastic label, includes miraculously, suspiciously, clean-looking vinyl and weathered, well-pawed-through packaging. Said packaging, in turn, includes flip-through pages featuring numerous artistic photos of sullen 22-year-old men with turtle-necks and dangly lips.

I understand the Stones’ influence and place in the pantheon and all that but I get brainfreeze listening to more than two or three of these 1964-65-era tracks in a row. The version of this compilation released for UK audiences included “Paint It Black” but no luck here.

From the heavy stompers (“Satisfaction”) to the saccharine-paisley wheedly pop (“As Tears Go By”) to a bunch of mildly blues derivations, the Stones set the trajectory from this early stage: they would reach much greater heights, but only by driving lead-footedly over much taller hills.

Editor’s score: C / Adjusted: B+

Neil Young With Crazy Horse, *Everybody Knows This is Nowhere*. 1969.

Fast forward just a few, and the world had pretty much fallen apart and popular music was a deep and

rich field. Odd to think that the gap between these first two releases is just about the length of the Biden administration up to this point.

Objectivity is out the window for me – this is one of my favorite albums. Upstairs we had tapes my father had either bought from his sworn enemy Columbia House (*Harvest*) or dubbed carefully during the death of record albums (*After the Gold Rush; On the Beach*) or bought fresh just recently (*Harvest Moon*), but I didn’t hear this one until I found the box of records on the far side of the basement. I would bring these three or four at a time to the houses of friends with record players...

Seven songs. Two crooners, one honky-tonker, four absolute face-melters. It’s a staple. It’s also where I learned you can play a perfect guitar solo by just doing different things to one note, as long as you really mean it. I never got good on the guitar but it’s been helpful to remember in most other aspects of life.

Editor’s score: A+ / Adjusted: A

Roberta Flack, *First Take*. 1969.

Unimpeachable! Roberta Flack might not be my first go-to Sixties-Seventies soul singer-piano player, her debut may not even be my first go-to Roberta Flack record, not every track on it is a standout, but this music is still beyond reproach.

The first two tracks hit the two ends of the political songs spectrum: “Compared to What,” your basic topical commentary over snappy vamping, and then the devastating “Angelitos Negros,” the wind from the global South, all martial drums and stirring strings, and that voice. *Te olvidaste de los negros / Siempre que pintas iglesias...* There’s a Donny Hathaway song and a Leonard Cohen song, but the best of the lot to my ears is Ewan MacColl’s “The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face,” apparently a sleeper that wouldn’t become a hit for Flack, hard as it is to believe, until a few years later.

The band in the studio is as perfect and invisible as they come. Ron Carter also played bass on Aretha Franklin’s *Soul ’69*, Alice Coltrane’s *Huntington Ashram Monastery*, Miles Davis’s *Filles de Kilimanjaro*, and 23 other records that year alone, but this one was all about opening up the space for Flack, and she fills it.

Editor’s score: A- / Adjusted: A-

Linda Ronstadt, *Heart Like A Wheel*. November 1974.

Impeachable. Ronstadt has a fine voice – it’s hard following Flack in the Grab Bag – but nothing about this speaks to me, and nothing that looks helpful at first glance gets it over the line, not even Emmylou Harris. This one apparently went double platinum. I’m sure some people love it, and I support their decision.

Editor’s score: D+ / Adjusted: C+

Continued next week!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Underlying Issues; Unruly Parent; Unfounded Reports; Unable to Locate; Unsure About Locks; Unsafe Behaviors

Monday, 2/12

11:44 a.m. Caller from Union Street states that her dog was attacked by an off-leash dog this morning. Animal control officer notified by dispatch. ACO made contact with the owner, who was cooperative; advised about laws and complaint. The caller also came over while the ACO was there, and the owners spoke and will work things out. 2:21 p.m. 911 caller reporting three-vehicle accident in the Montague City Road area. No apparent injuries. Report taken.

Tuesday, 2/13

2:05 p.m. 911 caller from Avenue A concerned about a black fluffy dog running loose in the area. ACO notified and checking area. Unable to locate. 2:11 p.m. Motorist flagged down officer and stated that there were a couple of teens with firearms at the [Nouria] gas station. Officer spoke with the juveniles. They did not have any weapons, and stated the involved male was making threats towards them and made them think he had a firearm on him. Officers located male outside his residence; he denied his involvement and became highly agitated towards the officers. Officers believe there may be some underlying mental health issues.

4:07 p.m. Greenfield PD has a vehicle that took off headed south on Deerfield Street; might head into our town. GPD ended pursuit in Deerfield; Deerfield PD picked it up. Officer advises MPD is set up at Kingsley Avenue, ready with spikes. Control advised. Registered owner called the station and advised that the operator is off meds and a suicide risk. Officer stopping traffic on Montague City Road in Greenfield. GPD has party in custody. 4:36 p.m. 911 caller from Walgreens states she tried to start her vehicle and it started smoking; she thinks it might be on fire. Control advised. Officer advises no active fire, just smoke. 9:36 p.m. Caller states there is a vehicle with lights on in the parking lot of the dentist office on Dell Street; has been there for over an hour. Caller states they have had problems with drugs there in the past. Officer spoke with driver, who was waiting for his girlfriend who lives on the corner.

Wednesday, 2/14
4:29 a.m. Caller from Keith Apartments reports a female party is currently yelling, screaming, and hitting the walls. Quiet upon arrival; no answer at door. 9:44 a.m. Caller would like it on record that her boyfriend has let himself into her house on at least three occasions recently. There have been no disturbances, and he has left without incident, but she has asked him to stop doing it and he continues. Services rendered. 10:33 a.m. Officers attempting to locate male party with two active warrants on Central Street. No one home at this time. 11:21 a.m. Report of two-car accident at Turnpike and Dell Roads; no injuries reported. Officer reporting entrapment; FD responding. Officer requesting tow for one vehicle. 12:07 p.m. Caller states the excavating company on Millers Falls Road has a fire going and it is very large with heavy smoke; they are concerned it is going to get out of control because of the wind. FD advises they have a permit, but will go check it out. 12:33 p.m. Caller on Industrial Boulevard states that the school resource officer is requesting assistance with an unruly parent. SRO called stating the parent is refusing to produce an ID or give his name, which is school policy. 12:39 p.m. 911 caller states she was just rear-ended at Greenfield and Greenfield Cross roads, and the other car took off. Officer advises minor damage to vehicle; operators did speak with each other, but did not exchange information; passenger complains of neck pain. Vehicle was headed toward Greenfield. Partial plate number provided. 3:40 p.m. Report of theft caught on camera at 253 Pharmacy. Report taken. Summons issued. 9:01 p.m. Caller reporting a dead opossum on the side of Turners Falls Road. DPW advised.

Thursday, 2/15
4:17 a.m. Caller advises that a female party is yelling loudly in a Third Street apartment and causing a noise disturbance. Officer on scene advises no noise heard. Multiple attempts made to speak with female; no answer at door. 9:45 a.m. 911 caller from Turners Falls High School reports a heater on the third floor appears to be overheating and smoking. Transferred to Shelburne Control. 10:47 a.m. Report of a couple of men drinking alcohol in a side parking lot on Avenue A. Unfounded. 2:33 p.m. Caller has safety concerns about an SUV that has been sitting in the public lot on Fourth Street for over a week with a wheel missing, propped up with a tire jack. Vehicle is well propped up. Owner was on scene advising it will be repaired tomorrow. 4:37 p.m. Report of two motorcycles riding on the bike path near the fish ladder, heading towards the bridge. Unable to locate. 5:33 p.m. Caller from Millers Falls Road believes her old neighbor’s friend from

Greenfield came to her house and took the locks off her washer. Would like to make a report. Officer spoke with caller, who is unsure if she misplaced the locks or if they were stolen. If she cannot find them, they will be replaced. All parties agreeable. 6:35 p.m. Caller states that he was involved in a hit-and-run accident about 15 minutes ago with a white SUV at Montague City and Greenfield roads. There is damage to the back hatch of his car. Did not call at time of accident; drove home, assessed damages, then called PD. Does not have any information for other vehicle. Report taken. 7:23 p.m. Caller from Avenue A reports his neighbor attempted to hit him in the lobby. Caller states that the male party then told him he had five minutes to get back into his apartment or he was going to beat him up. Caller does not feel safe entering the building; would like an officer to come mediate. Officers spoke with both parties. Caller will stay in his apartment for the night. Involved male is with his granddaughter, who will stay with him for the night as well.


Friday, 2/16

1:40 a.m. Overheard on radio; vehicle took off on state police trooper who was conducting a drug investigation during a stop. Prior to K-9 arriving, vehicle took off southbound on Deerfield Street in Greenfield. Greenfield PD advises heading towards Deerfield. Driver not believed to be registered owner. Vehicle continuing pursuit into Deerfield; MPD units advised to cancel. 11:14 a.m. A 60-year-old Turners Falls woman was arrested on a straight warrant. 11:17 a.m. Control requesting two MPD officers to assist with removal to hospital on Highland Avenue. 12:44 p.m. Caller from Highland Avenue requesting call to discuss her tenant/neighbor whose drinking continually gets worse; she’s starting to feel unsafe with his behaviors. Caller advised of options. 2:39 p.m. Caller from Third Street advises that five bags of cans were stolen off her porch, and she has it on camera. Would like an officer as the involved party has been stealing things frequently. Report taken; caller requests to have incident on record. Caller called back and stated that the same male party came back to her porch again today at 4:30 p.m. and stole another bag of cans. Information passed to officer. 2:45 p.m. ACO received a call from a resident on Third Street stating that their upstairs neighbor was arrested today and has a

dog; they are unsure when she will be released and are worried the dog will be alone for the weekend. Officer advised. Female brought to court today. 4:57 p.m. Caller states that the party who stole the cans is at Food City now. Officer made contact, advised him of the complaint and to stay away from the caller’s property. 6:06 p.m. Walk-in reporting a minor accident at Franklin County Technical School earlier today. Mother of other involved party called the station to report the accident. Vehicle information provided. **Saturday, 2/17**
10:52 a.m. Caller states she is parked on the side of Montague Street because there is a dog lying in a yard. Advised to leave it alone. Officer advises he was flagged down by the caller and is with the dog now. It has crossed the road as the caller called it to her. Officer advises dog lives at the address it was originally at. Owner has the dog and is back in the yard. 12:44 p.m. A 23-year-old Greenfield woman was arrested on a straight warrant. 1:40 p.m. Caller from Unity Street states that a male is sending him death threats after an earlier well-being check. Referred to officer. 5:50 p.m. TFFD responding to Millers Falls Road for an illegal burn. 6:56 p.m. Caller from Avenue A states that a male party was on the corner threatening and harassing him and his friends. They are inside the package store now. Caller called back stating that one of his friends was assaulted by the involved male. Declined EMS. Officers attempted to make contact with involved male party; he did not come to the door. Caller and friends advised of options.

Sunday, 2/18
10:35 p.m. Multiple 911 calls reporting a structure fire on G Street; flames and smoke showing. Shelburne Control advised. Officer confirms; second floor fully engulfed. DPW requested for barricades at nearby intersections. Officer requests owner be contacted. No answer; voicemail left. PD requested back to scene per state Fire Marshal. Third-floor tenant advises second-floor tenant of involved building brandished a gun and said, “I’ll kill you” to a female. Officer advises parties were in a verbal altercation that allegedly led one to pull up his shirt and reveal the butt of a firearm. Upon arrival, officer and Fire Marshal went over to involved party and asked him about the altercation. He denied having any firearm and voluntarily allowed officer to perform a pat frisk. No firearm found.

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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on February 20, 2014: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Skating to the Finish

The Unity Skate Park Committee received word on Tuesday that their application for a coveted Tony Hawk grant had netted the project \$5,000. However, the committee must raise \$5,000 over the next three months to be able to collect the money.

"The skate park has been approved by the parks and recreation commission, supported by the selectmen, and programmed into town plans," said Montague town planner Walter Ramsey. "The site is secured and the design is complete. Funding is the last hurdle."

Rare News From Lake Pleasant

For 45 years, the Mohawk Ramblers Motorcycle Club headquarters have been a nondescript clubhouse at the entry to the Mon-

tague Plains. That will change in June. Massachusetts Fisheries and Wildlife, on whose land the clubhouse sits, wants to restore the Plains to a natural state.

Fish and Wildlife information officer Marion Larson said the issue was not the club. "They have taken good care of the property," she said. "But state agencies are getting out of the landlord business."

Montague building inspector David Jensen was highly critical of the eviction, calling the state myopic. "As long as those guys were there, you didn't have a dumping problem," he said. "And they pay attention to who comes in and out."

The clubhouse is about 500 feet from Northeast Utilities' power line right-of-way, which Kinder Morgan views as the intended route for a natural gas pipeline.

Long-time Rambler member Nat Dillenback said the club hopes to have new headquarters in place by June on 20 acres purchased in Gill at the base of Pisgah Mountain Road.

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on February 19, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Cell Tower Good To Go

The Wendell zoning board of appeals has determined that AT&T's proposal to install cell phone transmitters on the Locke Hill Road tower does not require a variance. The contentious request was prompted by an error in the copy of the zoning bylaw given to AT&T which contained a reference to "dwellings" in error.

Town attorney Bill Solomon said the proposed modification of the structure was legal under

the town's bylaw. Regardless, resident Robbie Leppzer presented a petition from residents who oppose granting a variance to the town's bylaw.

Barton Cove Frozen Solid

The third annual Triad Ice Fishing Derby was a success, with close to 100 people scattered across a thoroughly frozen Barton Cove.

"It's a blue-sky, high-pressure day, which makes for bad fishing," said game warden David Unaitis, "but it's a beautiful day for a derby." Unaitis's own daughter, Elizabeth, took second place having caught an 8½-inch perch.

150 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on February 18, 1874: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

Local Matters

Methodist festival to-night.

A new cellar wall is being laid on Fifth Street.

No less than sixteen carloads of freight reached Turners Falls one day last week.

Dr. E.C. Coy's office is in Schuler's building, where he may be found daily.

The Keith Paper Company have one order for "flat cap" that will keep them running till June.

The State Engineer's report favors the route to the Tunnel through Turners Falls.

Would it not be as well to do something with the old iron that is laying around the ruins of the school house?

Conductor Thorp still remains with the Turners Falls train. Our people will be sorry to lose him, should there be a change. Mr.

Wm. A. Foster has our congratulations upon his promotion.

A pleasant surprise party, oyster supper and social hop made merry the residence of Mr. Wm. J. Knight's on Saturday evening.

Miss Eva F. Lander, aged seventeen years, died at her father's residence at Montague City, after a very short illness, on Tuesday last.

The "Young Men's" ball and supper on Friday night last was a nice affair but is not reported as a success financially. One thing is certain, they are able to pay their bills, though.

The German Evening School under the direction of Rev. Charles Reuss, assisted by Miss E.A. Marsh, closed its first term last week. It was held on thirty-three evenings, and quite a number of scholars did not miss an evening. There will be no more school at present, probably not until April.

Several of our best books have been borrowed, but not yet returned. Will the holders of the same send them to this office?

MONTV / MUSIK / MOUNTAIN



No. LXIX: YAWNi

Interview by J. BURKETT and TROY CURRY

TURNERS FALLS – This week we hear from Mary Sullivan of YAWNi! YAWNi is a newer band whose origins are Mary's great solo stuff – she has a bunch of solo CDs and recordings online – and also Sacred Daisy, which was more of a rock band.

Things have been boiled down now, with Mary and Heart Bonsia on guitar and drums, but they definitely don't sound like an "average music duo." They can really get raging, and can even sound like a dozen people at times.

Their sound is hard to describe, really fun yet raw, rocking at times, with deep lyrics... totally unique, like a more revved-up Cherry Blossoms with wild drumming, fun and out there and DIY! Check them out.

(Mary sent us these answers by email, and refers to herself using the small "i.")

MMM: Do you want to describe YAWNi and talk about its origins?

MS: It started in 2022 after both Heart and i were going through breakups, and ready to get back into the world after having both served on the frontlines in health-care during the pandemic. Both of us were still artistically active during that time, but hadn't been out in the world the previous two years for obvious reasons. We had already been in a band together [Sacred Daisy], which ended when the pandemic started.

MMM: How did you come up with the name?

MS: YAWNi is a play off "Yoni," the sacred symbol of femininity. Two separate female artist friends of ours had randomly started talking to me about the Yoni on separate occasions, and they don't even know each other. i believe in treating synchronicities as sacred messaging.

i didn't want to just name the band "Yoni," though, because that wouldn't be creative, and there is already an all-male band called Yoni. Plus i thought it sounded funny, and i was so tired all the time from working night shift, and the YAWN part i thought was hilarious and sort of self-deprecating.

The little "i" comes from the attempt to "starve the ego and feed the soul."

MMM: How is it different from your solo stuff?

MS: Heart adds a volatile energy, and is definitely the yang to my yin. My solo stuff tends to be so much more grounded and subtle, but Heart inspires me to really push out.

MMM: You started playing in Connecticut, right? What do you think about the scene there, and about other current bands and DIY stuff?

MS: My first shows were solo acoustic, opening for math- and art-rock bands, 15 years ago. i was always such a freak and never fit in, but the DIY music scene welcomed me in, whatever way it could.

i still don't feel like i fit in anywhere, but DIY helped me learn that is a beautiful thing; that is liberty, and i think that is what punk is all about – it's about freedom. The Connecticut DIY scene i grew up in accepted me as a non-conforming freaky weirdo and almost everyone was cool with it, and the folk who weren't cool with it were the real weirdos.

i live in Asheville, North Carolina now, but when i visit Connecticut it still has that same feeling. i love seeing young people find their own peculiar place, and love meeting up with elder punx and seeing that we are still freex even as time marches on. The ages have not tamed us.

MMM: What are some of your favorite things about western Mass? Any favorite stories?

MS: The folk in western Mass are a rare and beautiful breed. They tend to be highly cultured, well-educated, and humble somehow. i like that people are friendly and it is naturally beautiful, lots of amazing hikes and parks.

Right near Mystery Train Records is the grave of Emily Dickinson, which Josh told me about. i went to visit it one night after playing the record store; Josh had made little maps of how to get there. There was once an organization called The Friends of Emily Dickinson who would tend to her grave, but they all got old and died.

When i went there the grass was so overgrown it was taller than her tombstone. That taught me a lot about "fame." Emily wanted all of her poems burned posthumously, but then became one of the world's most famous poets, even though she was practically unpublished and anonymous in her lifetime. And then, even though she is renowned and taught in many languages, her

burial site and remains lay in disarray and disregard.

It was so beautiful and poetic and comforting, because at the end of the day we have to write and play because it is how our soul speaks and how we participate in the breath of life in the universe, and it so clearly demonstrated that other people's recognition of one's work is completely inconsequential in the long view.

MMM: How do you come up with song ideas?

MS: i am a working writer; i don't believe in inspiration. i write every day even if i don't complete it, or if it's just improvising for five minutes in the car before i go to work. i always have a guitar in the car with me.

Once or twice a year i do a Song-A-Day practice for 40 days. i always do it for Lent, and i will usually do another one if i am experiencing depression or creative constipation.

MMM: Any newer books or records you are digging and could recommend?

MS: My favorite Asheville band is Bad Ties. Their music and lyricism is so satiating intellectually, and their instrumentation has got really good groove.

Their lead singer released a book, called *HINTERKAIFECK*, via Coprolaliac Press in December 2023.

MMM: Do you have any all-time fave albums?

MS: My all-time favorite record is *Good Morning Blues* by Asateague. i think the band is no longer active, and i only saw them play one time at a house show i was randomly guided to after seeing Ramblin' Jack Elliot play a small café.

Their music profoundly changed my life, and i have written them emails, but they are a small band and i don't even know if they check emails anymore since i don't think they are a band anymore.

MMM: Any favorite shows or venues, or places you think would be cool to move to?

MS: As a band our Mecca is Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. It is a tiny little desert town, and everyone that lives there is a far-out artist. i am too fair-skinned to live in the desert, but i feel spiritually drawn to pilgrimage there.

Hieronymus Bogs is a musical and visual artist who lets us play at his Artist's Abbey, which is essentially a monastery and sanctuary for artists of different types from all over. i consider him to be a spiritual advisor because he has a sacred perspective and intentionality with which he moves through and affects the world around him. It is very special in this day and age to find someone who holds and deserves reverence like that.

MMM: Any other stories, or jokes?

MS: i have a terrible sense of humor; it is super, super dark, and most of the time i can't tell if i am crying because i am laughing so hard or because i am overwhelmed with sorrow, and honestly i am not even sure there is a difference.

With that being said, i will decline, so as to not hurt anyone's feelings. Thank you so much for the questions! Blessings to y'all, and everyone reading this!

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EXHIBIT ANNOUNCEMENT

Robert Callery at the Library Gallery

By Montague Center Library staff.

MONTAGUE CENTER – Robert (Bucky) Callery spent many years in Riverside in Gill. He now hails from Halifax, Vermont, just across the border. His paintings on view at the Montague Center Library this February and March clearly show his love for the coast – particularly of Maine. An impressionistic lens condenses fields, sea, and sky to prisms of color. Think Prendergast or other American Impressionists but with a brighter, contemporary palette.

Callery attributes his sense of color to his background in stained glass art. The luminosity of his landscapes certainly affirms the connection. Callery’s most unique pieces incorporate collage into the paintings, framing landscapes with found and/or natural materials.

One painting is a keepsake of a favorite place. The painting is the view from a spot where a barn once stood. Surrounding the view, scraps of the barn itself create a window



Bar Harbor Maine Pond, a painting by Robert Callery in his current Montague Center Library exhibit. A reception will be held this Monday.

for the painting.

“Robert Callery, Paintings and Mixed Media” is on view at the Montague Center Library through March 29. An artist reception will be held this Monday, February 26 from 5 to 7 p.m.

Library hours are Mondays and Wednesday from 2 to 7 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. To inquire about exhibiting at the library, email Kate at kmartineau@cwmares.org for more information.

TV REVIEW

Genius, Season 4 (National Geographic)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – Due to a previous review I did of the *Genius* TV series the National Geographic Channel has, which focuses on these historical figures I believe you call Geniuses, I knew who they have focused on previously, and who they would focus on for the latest season. The focus, I thought, was going to be just on Martin Luther King, Jr., but it turns out they are focusing on him and Malcolm X throughout the season.

They start with looking at the early years of these men, like all of the previous seasons have started. But one cool moment that made it into the first episode is the recreating of a moment where the men met up in real life in connection with President Lyndon Johnson passing the Civil Rights Bill.

This is a very cool thing to do on screen. It’s like the movie *One Night in Miami*, which was about a real-life occurrence that happened one night between Malcolm X, Muhammad Ali, Sam Cooke, and



Jim Brown after one of Ali’s fights.

I saw a behind-the-scenes video that mentions these two men complemented each other in life. They might be right about that. But it’s also almost insane how many parallels these men had in their lives. Both had fathers who I would call preachers, and perhaps had difficult childhoods and experiences that helped lead them to be who they became. I learned Martin’s name was originally

“Michael,” but got changed. Another parallel within the first episode was letters from both men to their respective fathers. In Malcolm X’s case it was to the leader of the Nation of Islam, because by that time he had converted to Islam.

In the second episode we also see the parallels between the two men continue. They both get started with preaching, with Malcolm X speaking about Islam and Martin trying to officially become a minister at any church. The episode also showed Martin continuing his relationship with a woman who he met at college who became his wife. The part where Martin has officially become a minister in a church is then shown, alongside a scene with Malcolm I believe entering a mosque or temple.

Telling the story of these two men alongside each other in each of these episodes works nicely when it comes to storytelling. It gives everything a unique feel. This season of *Genius* is a perfect fit for National Geographic to air during Black History Month.

EXHIBITS

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rivers of Franklin County*, geology-inspired, map-based art by Joe Kopera, through April 15.

LOOT, Turners Falls: *Paintings and Prints* by Amy Chilton, colorful geometric paintings and fine art prints, through February.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *On the Ground and In the Air and Inbetween*, by Amy Dawn Kotel, through February 23.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: *Small Works Exhibit and Sale*, annual community art show featuring works smaller than 10 inches square. Through February 26.

Montague Center Library: *Robert Callery, Paintings and Mixed Media*, through March. Reception this Monday, February 26 from 5 to 7 p.m.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Faces of Medicine*, Black women physicians in Franklin County. Through February. *My Inner Joy*, mixed media artworks by Nese Uysal, on display for the month of March; opening reception Saturday, March 2, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Artspace, Greenfield: *Teen Art Show*, young artists from high schools across Franklin County showing two- and three-dimensional work, through March 15.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Portraits* by Maria Sparrow, through March 29. Opening reception next Wednesday, February 28 from 5 to 8 p.m.; closing reception March 29.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Jen Lambert Solo Show*, monoprints and paintings, through February.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *The Dance of Dementia*, by Cheryl Rezendes, through March 2.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shel-

burne Falls: *Love at First Sight*, group show by member artists. Through February 26.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne: *Lou Wallach: Photographs*, black-and-white images of the natural world. Through April 28.

Arts Bank, Shelburne Falls: *Volcanix II*, Christin Couture’s woodcuts on Pellon fabric of the Popocatepetl volcano. By chance or appointment: redtinebluefire@gmail.com.

A.P.E. Gallery, Northampton: *Women in The Book Arts: Mind, Memory, and Mycelium*, artists working in print and book arts to explore the beauty and complexity of the brain and memory. Through March 3.

Tabor Art Gallery, Mount Holyoke College: *Geo-Spec: Cultural Introspection Wealth*. Raishad J. Glover works with mediums such as lenticular printing, graphite powder, beeswax, dura-trans/backlit film, analog and digital photography, and LED lights. Through March 20, with a reception Thursday, March 7 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Eagle Hill Cultural Center, Hardwick: *Ohio’s Appalachia: Faces & Families, 1972-1974*, photographs by Vern McClish comprising “an ode to a forgotten people.” Through March.

D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts, Springfield: *A Gathering: Works from Contemporary Black American Ceramic Artists*, through March 24.

Springfield Science Museum, Springfield: *Ways of My Ancestors: We Are Nipmuc. We Are the Freshwater People*. New installation celebrating the diverse culture of the Nipmuc, featuring photography by Scott Strong Hawk Foster and Andre Strong-BearHeart Gaines, Jr. Through February 25.

Montague Community Television News

Talented Youth

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – These kids are so talented! Check out our recent upload from the Four Rivers 20th Annual Variety Show at the Shea Theater, and find out for yourself.

We also have new meeting uploads from the Gill selectboard, the Montague selectboard, the Montague finance committee, and the GMRSD school committee, as well as the TFHS/GFMS Fall Music Festival in Peskecompskut Park from back in October! All videos are available on our Vimeo Page and will be airing on Channel 9 as well.

If you have any ideas for films,

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.

And if you’re looking for more ways to get involved, consider joining the MCTV Board. If you would like to stop in for a meeting, even just to check the vibe, email infomontaguetyv@gmail.com for a link to the Zoom.

Contact us at (413) 863-9200 or infomontaguetyv@gmail.com, follow us on Facebook, or find us on Instagram @montaguecommunitytv. Find videos and more on our website, montaguetyv.org.

FOOTCARE-RELATED ANNOUNCEMENT

Footcare by Nurses Relocates

GREENFIELD – FootCare by Nurses will be moving from its current location on the French King Highway to 40 School Street in downtown Greenfield. The first footcare clinic there has been scheduled for March 5. The new location will be fully accessible and provides more space for the company, which began in 2016 with one person and now has 50 employees.

Footcare by Nurses partners with Aging Service Access Points such as LifePath to take care of elders in their homes and at senior center foot clinics. They also welcome clients by appointment at their offices. “We are board-certified registered nurses with specialized footcare training,” says Dr. Kate Clayton Jones, CEO and founder. “Our mission is prevention, and our passion is caring.”

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Photos of the Montague Food Co-Op's Turners Falls location, courtesy of filmmaker Steve Alves (see announcement on this page).
"These were taken by David Torcoletti, 1983 to 1984," Alves writes.

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Discovery Center Hosts
Coop Doc Screening, Q&A;
Director Donates Films
To UMass Special Collections

TURNERS FALLS – A local screening of Steve Alves's most recent film, *Food for Change* (2014), which focuses on food co-ops as a force for dynamic social and economic change, will be held this Sunday, February 25, at 2 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls, with the filmmaker in attendance for a question-and-answer session.

The screening is part of the series "Food, Farms, and Factories," funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, Mass Humanities, and the Mass Cultural Council. Building on the success of *Crossroads: Change in Rural America*, a Smithsonian exhibition that visited the Discovery Center in 2023, the conversation about rural life in Turners Falls and Franklin County continues.

The *Food for Change* project began when Alves, an award-winning filmmaker and co-op member, was asked to make a film for the Franklin Community Co-op in Greenfield. He uncovered historical films and stories about the increase of cooperatives during the Great Depression, and additional research revealed how food co-ops re-emerged during the tumultuous events of the 1960s as an alternative to factory farms and corporate grocery chains.

Food for Change includes the story of the Franklin Community Co-op's own origins in Turners Falls as the Montague Food Co-Op (see photos on this page). Sunday's screening event is free. The snow date is Sunday, March 3.



Filmmaker Steve Alves.

covers a period from 1971 to 2021, also includes research materials, business records, ephemera, and other resources.

Aaron Rubinstein, head of the Robert S. Cox Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA) Research Center Archives, describes Alves's collection as a "historically significant, one-of-a kind collection documenting regional history that relates powerfully to many universal themes. Much of Alves's work also ties in directly with SCUA's broader collections, focusing on the history of social change and life in New England."

Nandita Mani, Dean of University Libraries, agrees, noting that "UMass Amherst's focus on collecting the rich history of Western Massachusetts has established us as the destination of choice for scholars researching social change in the area. The addition of Steve Alves's documentary films, as well as the supporting materials detailing aspects of his work as a filmmaker and entrepreneur, complement and enhance many of our existing special collections in a way that will benefit generations to come."

One organization has already shown interest in using Alves's footage. Greenfield's Museum of Our Industrial Heritage is funding, with additional support from SCUA, the digitizing of approximately 25 hours from Alves's first production, *Life After High School*. Shot in 1988, the film contains interviews with dozens of workers at five Franklin County manufacturing companies.

"It's amazing to have a record of working people talking about what they do and how they feel about it from anywhere," said president Jim Terapane, who plans to include the materials on the museum's website, industrialhistory.org. "Here we have it close by, with scenes of people in their workplaces. Preserving this for education for future generations is a priority for us."

Films from Alves's "Where We Live" collection are available to watch for free at stevesfilms.com.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *50th Anniversary Celebration of Lovejoy's Nuclear War*. Documentary screening, *Montague Marching Band*. \$. 7 p.m.

Holyoke Media, Holyoke: *Tomas Fujiwara's 7 Poets Trio, Tomeka Reid Quartet*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Intergalactic Kegger*. No cover. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Two Step Night with Les Taiauts, The Honky Tonk Angels*. Free. 7 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Native Sun, Dead Tooth, The Baxbys*. \$. 8 p.m.

90 King Street, Northampton: *Film & Gender, Bubble Scary, Sgraffito Kill, KO Queen*. \$. 8 p.m.

Rat Trap, Holyoke: *Warkrusher, Kartel, Posthumous Obsession, Schenectavoids*. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bluegrass and Beyond*. No cover. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Bookends, Florence: *Yiddish Labor Anthems Sing-A-Long*. By donation. Benefit. 4 p.m.

ToriTown, Holyoke: *Vices Inc., Plague Dad, Bugslam, Rain House*. \$. 6:30 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Tracy and Company*. No cover. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Fashion Show & Gala*. \$. 7 p.m.

Buoyant Heart, Brattleboro: *Tinder Fungus, Draidoir*, open mic. \$. 7 p.m.

The Clark, Williamstown: *Ice Rasta, Father Hotep*. \$. 7 p.m.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Ezzy P, Hardcar*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Cold Spring Hollow, Belchertown: *Dimension Viewer, Id M Theftable, Barbie.Ai, HSFB Surprise*, more. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *An Evening With the Cowboy Junkies*. \$. 8 p.m.

Club B10, North Adams: *Johanna Hedva*. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ardia, LeSaint*. No cover. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Re-*

birth Brass Band. \$. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Carney Auditorium, UMass Amherst: The Performance Project's *First Generation* presents *Mother Tongue*. Free. 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Bill Frisell Three* feat. *Gregory Tardy, Rudy Royston*. \$. 6:30 p.m.

90 King St., Northampton: *Wildflower, Magick Lantern, Julia Sabbagh, Holy Basil*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

Nova Arts, Keene: *Wildflower, Mike Gangloff & Liam Grant, Caitlin Wilder*. \$. 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Perennial, Trophy Wife, Bubble Scary*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Puddles Pity Party*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Bent, Bag Lady, Low, Lakoma, Collisions*. \$. 8 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Jonathan Richman*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hampshire College, Amherst: *Fred Cracklin, Dialog Talk, Made Manifest*. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Bub-*

ble Scary, Stringhead, Autumn Rhythm, Letters of Marque. \$. 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Thus Love, Flossing, Petracore*. \$. 7 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Ellis Paul, Jill Sobule*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Harvest and Rust, Neil Young tribute*. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *DJ Corey, Dave Thomas and the Frosty Five*. 9:30 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *The Nields*. \$. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

Holyoke Media, Holyoke: *Flywheel Arts* presents *Mike Gangloff, Liam Grant, Frozen Corn*. \$. 7 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Mary Timony, youbet*. \$. 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

The Drake, Amherst: *Tank and the Bangas, Kimaya Diggs*. \$. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

Palladium, Worcester: *GWAR, Cancer Bats, X-Cops*. \$. 7 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Orchestra Gold*. \$. 8 p.m.

looking forward...

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Pedrito Martínez*. \$. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Lost Film, Small Pond, bobbie*. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

Mount Toby Friends Meeting-house, Leverett: *Tim Grimm, Nate Borofsky*. \$. 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

Nova Arts, Keene: *Horse Lords, Ka Baird, Know Your Program*. \$. 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

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

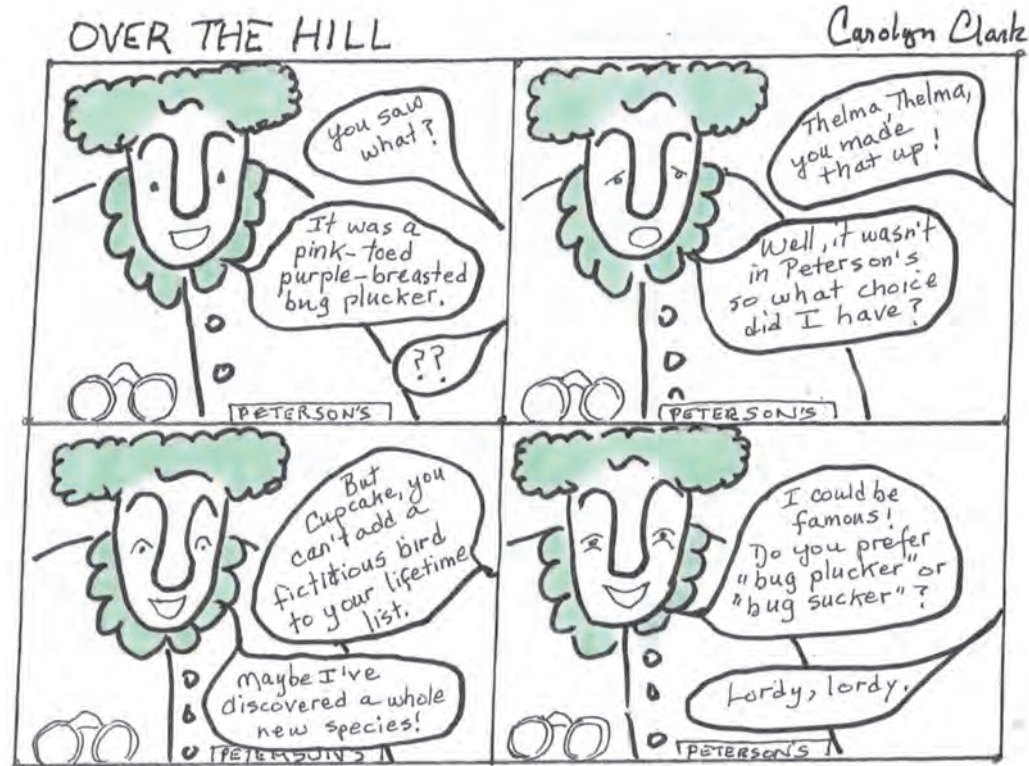
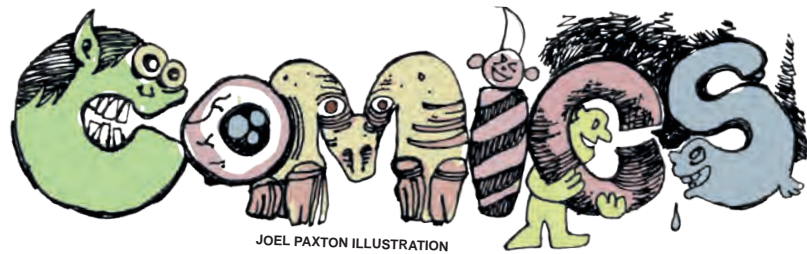
SATURDAY, APRIL 6

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Kohoutek, Heavenly Bodies, Wendy Eisenberg, Erica Dawn Lyle*. \$. 6 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Josephine Foster, Stella Kola, Ceremonial Abyss*. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 4

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Sarah Jarosz, Le Ren*. \$. 8 p.m.



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DEVICE from page B1

inside these ubiquitous glass rectangles we tote around, and we have a vested interest in ensuring the safety and security of that slab. Ergo, we shouldn't use them if our safety and privacy aren't being maintained.

In the case of smartphones, this means you really should upgrade if and when your device is no longer getting updates. And that can be a little more difficult to determine than it should be.

Some phones will tell you when you get your last update; others may not. If you don't remember installing an update in the last few months, consider searching for your specific model online to find out where and how you can check when the last one was delivered – on Android phones, for example, the date of your last security patch is usually in *Settings* → *About phone* → *Android version*, though that can vary a little. Apple maintains a list online of its phones that are still getting updates.

Spectrum Refarming

There is also one other big reason to upgrade a phone right now: Every carrier has been upgrading their networks over recent years, and that means they are “refarming” old spectrum to use newer technologies. The so-called “Death of 2G” has been a long time coming, as many of the best and farthest-reaching frequencies phones can use have been allocated for “legacy” applications and crazy slow speeds.

Over recent years, these old frequencies have been slowly reallocated away from 2G to use the latest 5G networking standards. (*Please note that this doesn't involve mind control, vaccine microchips, or any other ignorant garbage; it's just the latest version of the industry standard technical requirements that lets devices talk to each other wirelessly, like WiFi, Bluetooth, or the FM radio in your car.*)

Because of this frequency refarming, phones built for those older frequencies may have diminished connectivity when the old spectrum switches to newer protocols. Newer frequencies have also come online in recent years.

To make sure you still have a signal here – in an area where we *already* have issues getting a signal at times – you may want to upgrade your phone if it's more than, say, four or five years old. That's also a good rule of thumb for the software update argument above, though

more recent devices like the latest crop of Samsung phones guarantee five years of security updates.

‘Smart’ Perils

In the case of desktop computers and laptops, your security can be more difficult to determine, as operating system updates are typically delivered separately from other system software components, which makes getting the full picture a more technical operation – and, sadly, I have a word limit here. In general, just make sure you are still getting and installing updates for your computer when they are available.

If your computer is connected to the internet and running an old operating system version – like Windows XP or Windows 7 – you really should upgrade to a newer version. And if your old Mac becomes “vintage,” as Apple euphemistically calls its older hardware, you'll likely stop getting security updates within a few years of that declaration.

Updates can also matter for other devices, like TVs – if, for example, your TV has built-in streaming apps. Modern “smart” devices talk to the internet, and even if they aren't the direct vehicles for critical actions we depend on, like online banking, they are convenient entry points for other issues that can affect us. They need to be kept up-to-date as well.

And, you guessed it, if your ten-year-old TV has a Netflix app and hasn't been updated in years, it could become an issue at some point. Please consider at least taking the TV off your WiFi and getting something like a Fire TV stick, a Roku, or a Google TV dongle that *will* get software updates.

I get that it seems like rampant consumerism to be buying new versions of things you already own, but sometimes it's just necessary to ensure your safety online. And it's not always corporate greed that drives these upgrade cycles; changing industry standards can sometimes force obsolescence upon us.

In many cases, there is an alternative, and it's one that I harp upon frequently in this column: Don't buy the “smart” version of stuff if you hope to hang on to it for a long time – particularly if a “dumb” version is available.

For more questions about consumer technology, how gadgets work, or which doodad to buy if you need X, Y, and Z, shoot me an email at deviceadvice@montaguereporter.org.



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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Museum Seeks Scholarly Fellows

DEERFIELD – Historic Deerfield, a museum of early American life, offers a short-term visiting research fellowship to promote in-depth library and archival research in the Memorial Libraries, a library jointly administered with the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA). The opportunity is open to applicants engaged in scholarly research for a period of four to six weeks; graduate students doing dissertation research are encouraged to apply. We welcome proposals relevant to the Libraries' focus areas, which include American material culture and decorative arts and the history of early New England, the Connecticut River Valley, and western Massachusetts.

The stipend is \$2,500 for four weeks, or \$3,750 for six weeks. Depending on the time of the residency, fellow

housing may be available in a newly restored 18th-century house within walking distance of the library.

Applicants to the 2024/2025 Library Research Fellowship may search at historic-deerfield.org/libraries for subject guides to both collections, finding aids, and a link to the online catalog of the Flynt Library. More information on the PVMA Library's holdings can be accessed at deerfield-ma.org/about/library.

Applications are due April 15 and are being accepted at historic-deerfield.org/library-research-fellowship. Selected fellows will be notified by early June for residencies beginning September 1, 2024 through May 30, 2025. For more information, see the above link, or contact librarian Jeanne Solensky at jsolensky@historic-deerfield.org.

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