

The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 29, 2024

GILL SELECTBOARD

A Move Back To In-Person, Hand-Counted Local Elections

By KATE SAVAGE

At Monday’s meeting, the Gill selectboard wrangled with state requirements for the upcoming local election, made plans to use the “Millionaires’ Tax” to repair more roads, and honored the late Pamela Shoemaker.

The selectboard had previously voted to use new ImageCast voting machines for all state-wide elections, while continuing to hand-count ballots in local elections. “The state kind of slapped my hand and said we can’t do that,” said town clerk Doreen Stevens. “We’ve got to notify them for each election.”

“They prefer that we use the ImageCast for all our elections, which is ridiculous for us to pay for that,” Stevens continued. She estimated that it would cost at least \$1,000 to program the machines for the May 20 town and school district election. She added that last year’s local election only had around 70 votes. “There’s no need to have the tabulator tabulate that,” she said. “We can do it.”

Stevens also made a case for cutting automatic vote-by-mail for local elections. She said around 200 people have sent in cards requesting the ability to vote by mail for all elections. However, so far there are no contested races expected in this year’s local elections, and

see GILL page A8

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Before Walter Becomes Steve, Town Needs New Walter

By JEFF SINGLETON

At a long meeting on Monday the Montague selectboard addressed a number of time-sensitive issues, including the warrant for the presidential primary election on March 5, the warrant for a special town meeting on March 14, which includes an appropriation to plug a large gap in the town airport’s current year budget, and a job description for the new assistant town administrator (ATA), who must be hired by early June.

The board also held a public hearing on programs the town hopes to fund under an upcoming round of federal Community Development Block Grants, due in March (see article on this page).

The discussion of the ATA began with the selectboard appointing a hiring committee as recommended by Walter Ramsey, the current ATA, who will replace Steve Ellis in the town administrator position at the end of June. The committee will include Ramsey, executive assistant Wendy Bogusz, town planner Maureen Pollock, town accountant Carolyn Olsen, capital improvements chair Greg Garrison, and fin com member Dorinda Bell-Up.

Also appointed were former selectboard member Michael Nelson,

see MONTAGUE page A7

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Revised Battery Bylaw Unlikely To Pass Muster, Lawyers Warn

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Wendell’s town counsel was timely in their review of the bylaw proposed by No Assault & Battery (NAB), the citizens’ group trying to stop, or at least give the town some control over, the large lithium battery installation proposed by New Leaf Energy to replace forested land in Wendell.

At the selectboard’s February 21 meeting, chair Laurie DiDon-

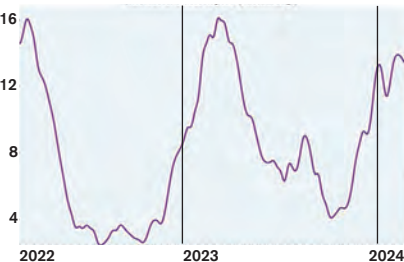
to said town counsel David Doneski thinks the proposed bylaw is too restrictive, and still looks like a zoning bylaw because it addresses land use. As a zoning bylaw it can be overruled by the state attorney general, as was a similar section of a solar bylaw passed at Wendell’s 2022 annual town meeting.

Town coordinator Glenn Johnson-Mussad said state senator Jo Comerford and state representative

see WENDELL page A6

ENDLESS WORRIES

Regional Norovirus Outbreak: Should We Be *Freaking Out?*



Although the spread of norovirus in the Northeast is capturing headlines, the only data we have – the CDC’s report of positive PCR testing rates – suggests that this year’s outbreak is not yet as bad as either of the previous two winters.

By SARAH ROBERTSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – There’s another virus going around, but this time it’s just the stomach bug. This week several reports of a seasonal norovirus outbreak in the Northeast made national headlines, so we called an expert on stomach bugs from the UMass Amherst Food Science Department, assistant professor Matthew Moore, to find out more.

“This could be potentially a new pandemic strain, as there are every

CDBG: Montague Asks for Its Next Million

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard held a hearing Monday on the town’s upcoming application to the state and federal government, due in mid-March, for nearly a million dollars in federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

The program accepts applications nearly every year, and Montague has a contract with the Franklin County

Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHRA) to administer the grants. FCRHRA community development director Brian McHugh said the funds are designed to address the needs of low- and moderate-income residents, and to reduce “slum and blight.”

If Montague scores well on its application, it could receive up to \$950,000. The town is requesting \$100,000 for four social-service

programs, \$385,000 to repave three municipal parking lots in downtown Turners Falls, \$210,000 for three housing rehabilitation loans, and a total of \$234,814 to the FCRHRA for oversight and “general grant administration.”

The board voted to ask for the maximum amount allowed by the state, \$20,186 higher than the total of these lines, because “some things

see CDBG page A5

High School Sports Week: Eagles Excel

By MATT ROBINSON



Franklin Tech’s Jenna Petrowicz drives into the paint as Pathfinder’s Desiree Croteau defends during the MVADA Small School Vocational Tournament semifinal last Friday

TURNERS FALLS – All the action in local high school sports this week occurred within a two-day period. In basketball, the Franklin Tech Eagles played two games in two days, netting them the Small Voc state title for the third consecutive year. Two girls from the Tech hybrid wrestling team tussled against the best wrestlers in the state, with one earning a trip to the New England Championship meet.

In sadder news, Turners Falls lost one of its own this weekend. Jeffrey E. “Jeff” Kenney, Sr., teacher, coach and principal at the Gill-Montague high school, passed away on his birthday, February 24. Mr. Kenney, you will be sorely missed.

Wrestling

Last Friday and Saturday, two athletes representing Franklin Tech competed in the MIAA Girls’ All-State Wrestling Tournament. There are no divisions in the state finals, so the Tech girls grappled against some of the largest schools in the state.

Jacqueline Churchill, competing in the 235 class, won her first match against Ciara Gately of Oliver Ames High School, but was outwrestled in the succeeding matches.

Mia Marigliano, who competed in the 126 class,

see SPORTS page A4

SHINING THROUGH



Sunrise over Barton Cove on a cold but sunny Leap Day morning.

MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

few years that tend to circulate the globe,” Moore told the Reporter. “You may feel like you might die in some cases, but if you’re immunocompetent, you should be okay.”

The norovirus is a common vi-

rus carried by humans and the food we eat. It causes the stomach lining and intestines to become inflamed, a condition known as gastroenteritis. Diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, and

see VIRUS page A3

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Library Head Makes Case For Funding New Position

By GEORGE BRACE

Leverett’s selectboard continued reviewing departmental budgets at its meeting on Tuesday, in preparation for the annual town meeting on April 27. The board held joint hearings with the finance committee to look over draft budgets for the library, treasurer, tax collector, and the town historical commission.

Library director Hannah Paessel presented a FY’25 budget of \$119,405, representing a 25.8% increase over the current year. The increase would largely cover a new programming librarian position at 16.5 hours per week.

Paessel explained that the increased spending of \$17,160 to create the position would also lead to an additional \$4,489 in spending on materials, due to mandates that towns spend 20% of their library budgets on materials in order to receive state and federal matching funds. She noted that the library received \$6,000 in state aid last year through this system.

As background, Paessel said that in 2021 the library director position was reduced from 40 hours per week to 25 and a 10-hour staffer was added, in an experimental effort to add staff without increasing

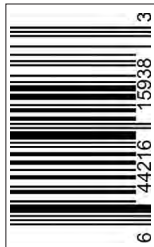
see LEVERETT page A6

The Next Year With A Fifth February Edition Will Be... 2052! Savor It!

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The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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Founded by
Arthur Evans *Harry Brandt* *David Detmold*
August 2002

Welcoming The Light

“Our mission is to foster community within the units through sharing knowledge and resources that will benefit us individually and collectively,” reads a note on the cover of each edition of *The Light*. “This newsletter is a compilation of news, opinions, and happenings that we think are important, relevant, and entertaining for F.C.S.O. residents.”

Every community, whether it’s grouped around a workplace, a trade, a geographical area, a shared identity or affinity, or simply a shared set of life conditions, can benefit from putting out a publication, and so we were very excited when a writing teacher at the Franklin County House of Correction reached out to the *Reporter* to pitch a collaboration.

In less than a year the residents of the jail have put together five issues of this newsletter, billed as “News for All Pods, By C & D-Pod,” and on behalf of journalists on the outside we salute them.

The back issues, packed full of items ranging from horoscopes and recovery tips to news about the facility to features on art, cooking, and history to thoughtful opinion pieces, are being enjoyed at our Turners Falls office.

We know the amount of work that goes into a publication like this, and we’d like to help *The Light* reach beyond the jail’s walls. The current plan is for the *Reporter* to reprint a couple items from each edition when it comes out.

We’re starting this week with an op-ed column by Luis Vasquez from Issue 5, published in January. Congratulations to Mr. Vasquez on his recent high school graduation – that’s a huge milestone!

– and thanks as well to Thaddeus Wolfe, another writer for *The Light*, for providing an illustration to run with it.

The op-ed stands for itself, but we want to add on this page is that a bill on a related topic is pending in the Massachusetts legislature. S.942 would raise the age at which youthful offenders would be prosecuted as juveniles from 18 to 20.

“The bill would protect them from being sent to adult correctional facilities and ensure that they receive the age-appropriate rehabilitative programming necessary to help them mature into healthy, well-adjusted adults,” the League of Women Voters explains.

“The adult brain, especially the pre-frontal cortex in particular, is not fully developed until age 25,” Massachusetts attorney general Andrea Campbell, who supports this change, said in public testimony. “It has implications for a young person’s impulse control and self-regulation.”

If readers are interested, there’s more at RaiseTheAgeMA.org. State senator Jo Comerford has also signed on as a sponsor.

Policy about incarceration can be abstract to many of us, and these issues are often sensationalized, particularly by those who want to deal with the harm people do to each other by locking up offenders and throwing away the key. We don’t see the point of social isolation as punishment – doesn’t it usually make people worse off?

We’re excited to be able to provide a line of communication that affirms to the residents of the FCSO that they’re part of our community, and that they can have a voice in public life even before they get out.

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION



Marie Joseph and Katie Desi pack jars with fermented beets at Real Pickles in Greenfield while Brian Brownell puts the lids on, tapes them, and packs them up. The raw beets, rosemary, and cabbage are preserved with Eden salt through lacto-fermentation, a process the worker-owned cooperative uses to make 300,000 pounds of Real Pickles every year. They source only certified organic produce from family farms in the Northeast, and buy the salt from Portugal, where the Atlantic waters are cleaner and the carbon trail to Greenfield is shorter than importing it from Asia.

Letters to the Editors

Enjoyed Previous Edition

Please thank Ryne Hager for the “When Is the Right Time to Upgrade?” column in the February 22 issue. It made me check and, wouldn’t you know, my phone hasn’t been updated in two years! Time to get a new one, I guess.

Thanks for another great issue. I’ve got *Lovejoy’s Nuclear War* queued up on YouTube. I doubt I would have moved here if there’d been a nuclear power plant on the Plains.

Marny Ashburne
New Salem

Offers Suggestions

I tip my hat to the *Reporter* reporters reporting on who’s buying our town’s historic and notable properties. And I tip my hat to Tamara McKerchie and Suzanne Webber for their handsome (by my calculation) \$125,000 profit from owning the Starbuck building at 113-115 Avenue A for about three months.

I can only imagine McKerchie and Webber must be disappointed in this outcome, having had to curtail their extended “listening mode” about what the community wanted that property to be. In that case, may I suggest they could still make a similar effort to hear their community, only instead of asking

us what we want that building to be, they could ask what we want the \$125,000 dividend *from* that building to be.

If they wanted to start with me, I’d tell them perhaps they’d want to invest in fixing up a blighted property here in town to replace the apartments the building’s buyers intend to use for short-term visiting-art-ist housing. I could also think of a couple nonprofit local news outlets operating on a shoestring who could turn that money into much-needed reporting for the whole community.

Brian Zayat
Turners Falls

Existential Threats

The state of Israel was self-declared in 1948 following a genocidal assault on Palestine by a Zionist terrorist faction, well-armed by Western Powers. 500 villages were massacred and 750,000 Palestinians were driven off their lands and out of their homes.

And periodically, over the past 75 years, Israel “mows the lawn,” killing and maiming thousands, rampaging with tanks and bulldozers, and sending missiles and bombs to greet residents via jets and attack helicopters.

Meanwhile, Israel grabs more and more of the Palestinian territory. And now, the Israeli settlers want to further expand their illegal real

estate and have it all!

To acquire their ends means total annihilation, no water, no food, no electricity, ethnic cleansing, and genocide. Isn’t it long past time that all nations stood up to Israeli intentions and said a resounding NO – no more bombs, no more billions of tax dollars?

The game is over. Get rid of Bibi Netanyahu, and rejoin the world of responsible nations. Palestine is a perceived “existential threat” because Israel is an overbearing, intrusive actual threat to Palestinians and the entire Middle East.

Genevieve Harris-Fraser
Orange

CORRECTION



This terrific photo of the interior of the 1980s-era Montague Food Co-Op on Page B6 last week was *not* taken by David Torcoletti, as the photos above and below it were.

It should have been credited to Springfield Newspapers photographer John Suchocki. (“Co Op owner and manager Tom Tolg talks with Sister Louise Foisy and Lisa Berger,” a note we hadn’t seen reads.)

Wendell: Introducing the Charles Ballou Collection

The Wendell Historical Society is proud to present the Charles Ballou Collection, a 78-page PDF document of clippings, photographs, and stories about one of Wendell’s most influential citizens.

Ballou (1857-1946) was born in Wendell and was a selectman for over 40 years. He was at the center of several major town controversies, including:

- the acquisition of the Baptist Church, and its conversion into a meat market;

- “Baker vs. Ballou,” stove-pipe politics of the early 1930s;
- the budget disaster following the hurricane and flood of 1938.

For anyone curious about Wendell politics of the early 20th century, the WHS’s Charles Ballou Collection is a must-read. Find it at www.wendellhistoricalsociety.org/BallouCollection.html.

Thank you!

Edward J. Hines
For the Wendell Historical Society

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

The Animal Science program at Franklin County Technical School now accepts **grooming appointments for dogs and cats**. They offer bathing, basic grooming, nail trimming, and ear cleaning for dogs who are up to date on rabies vaccine and have temperaments suitable for new students.

They aren’t offering baths for cats, but they will trim felines’ nails and clean their ears. Appointments are available for most Fridays by emailing VetSci@fcts.org.

The **Alzheimer’s Association’s New England Family Conference**, a free, virtual conference for those living with Alzheimer’s and dementia and their families, will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. this Friday, March 1.

Sessions feature notable guest speakers and include a panel of persons living with early-stage dementia. There will be live Spanish interpretation using Zoom’s built-in interpretation feature. View the full schedule at alz.org/manh/events/family-conference.

Stone Soup Café’s Open Mic series kicks off this Friday, March 1, at All Souls Church in Greenfield. Sign-up begins at 5:30 p.m., with a start time of 6 p.m. The session is hosted by Matt Goulet, and the featured performer is Sebastian Roe on jazz piano.

Make your own copper bookmark in a workshop at the Leverett Library this Saturday, March 2 at 1 p.m. Participants will learn about the structure of copper, how to make a drawing in metal, and use letter stamps to create texture on bookmarks. The bookmarks will be finished with a sulfur dip to blacken recessed areas and emphasize

the design.
Email leverettlibrary@gmail.com if you want to attend.

The Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls is holding a **Factory Talk on The John Russell Cutlery Company** this Saturday, March 2, at 2 p.m. in the Great Hall. This will be a historical look at the cutlery factory as well as the community of Turners Falls. Free, and aimed at teens and adults.

The Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association is hosting a free lecture and book signing with James L. Swanson this Sunday, March 3 at 2 p.m. for his book *The Deerfield Massacre: A Surprise Attack, a Forced March, and the Fight for Survival in Early America*.

The talk will be held in Hess Auditorium at Deerfield Academy, and books will be for sale.

PVMA’s Memorial Hall Museum will also be open for free before the lecture from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. following it, and a shuttle bus will run between the museum and auditorium.

The public can view a newly redesigned exhibit on the 1704 attack, including a new interpretation of the battle-scarred door of the Sheldon House which survived the attack, long known as “The Old Indian House Door.”

The Four Rivers Charter School drama club presents *Once Upon A Mattress*, a **musical retelling of The Princess and the Pea**, at the Shea Theater on Friday, March 8 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, March 9 at 2 and 7 p.m.

“Carried on a wave of wonderful songs, by turns hilarious and raucous, romantic and melodic, this rollicking spin on the classic tale... provides some delightful shenanigans,” the event description prom-

ises. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door, and children under five are free. Find out more at sheatheater.org.

The **Montague Common Hall Open Mic** series returns Saturday, March 9 with featured performer Dave Dersham. The open mic runs from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., with a full evening of musicians and other performers.

Dersham is described as a “sly humorist, cultural critic, and performing songwriter. He has been playing coffee houses, listening spaces, and house concerts since the late ’90s. His is a blend of uncanny rhythm and muted chords, wielding open-hearted spaces.” Donations are encouraged.

CISA’s Field Notes, a **storytelling event about the local food system**, comes back for the fifth year on Sunday, March 10 at 2 p.m. at the Academy of Music in Northampton. It will be an afternoon of stories “from farm fields to the State House” in multiple languages, with interpretation provided. More information and sliding scale tickets are available at tinyurl.com/CISAFN2024.

Chris Brooks, a strategist with the United Auto Workers union (UAW), will give a talk Monday, March 11 at 6 p.m. in Amherst titled Now Is The Time: The UAW Stand Up Strike and Organizing the South.

Brooks will talk about what comes next for the 88-year-old union from his vantage point as the top aide for union president Shawn Fain. The event will be held in the Old Chaeol at 144 Hicks Way. Register to attend at tinyurl.com/UAWtalk.

The Erving Library is offering **Sonic Seasoning** on Wednesday, March 13 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. for all ages, 6 years and over. (Children under 11 must be with a caretaker.) Come see how different things sound, such as pop rock candies, jingle bells, markers, and apple chips.

There’s a special teen version of Sonic Seasoning aimed at 11- to 19 year-olds at 3:30 p.m. the same day in the Teen Room of the library. This free program is part of MIT’s Public Library Innovation Exchange.

The LAVA Center in downtown Greenfield will host a **free improv workshop for adults**, led by local improv teacher and performer Henry Balzarini, on Saturday, March 16, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“Using improv games, we will become a fast thinking, in-the-moment, loose-geese-brigade,” reads the description. No improv experience is necessary, and there’s a limit of 15 people. Sign up by emailing hbquit@hotmail.com.

Christine Teixeira and Alexia Cota, who are curating an art show at the MD Local Gallery in North Amherst in May and June titled “Femme Locale,” are looking for **art submissions from local women** and non-binary-identifying people.

The exhibit is inspired by the Thrive Together Network initiative “Taking. Up. Space.,” which aims to provide support to women artists. Details are on the form at tinyurl.com/MDartshow, and the deadline for submissions is March 23. The exhibit will be in the gallery’s front windows.

Lis McLoughlin organized an online fundraiser for the *Reporter* last month, Writers Read, where **poets read their work in support of local journalism**. Thanks Lis! A video presentation of the event is now available for viewing at tinyurl.com/MRpoetry.

The **Montague Soap Box Races** plan to return to Turners Falls for another round of downhill fun at the Unity Park Hill on June 2. All carts must be hand-built.

Organizers are looking for event sponsors, volunteers, vendors, and racers for the three age brackets: 8- to 12-year-olds, 13- to 19-year-olds, and over 20. If there are enough registrants for an Adult Semi-Pro class they will form one.

The event is a fundraiser for the Montague Parks and Recreation department, which earned \$4,850 from the 2022 race. Last year’s race was canceled when not enough racers signed up for it. Find out more at montaguesoapboxraces.com. Registration closes on May 29!

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
SAT. MARCH 9TH • 3pm

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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PSA

Wanna Be A Machinist?

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Want to prepare for a career in advanced manufacturing? Attend an info session to learn more about training offered at Greenfield Community College and other western Mass. schools. Sessions take place the first Monday of every month at 3 p.m., and the next is this Monday, March 4.

GCC Manufacturing Trainings start each year in January, June, and September. It takes years to become an expert computer-numerical-control machinist, but preliminary education and training can get a job seeker in the door.

The info session is free, online, and lasts one hour. Sign up today at gcc.mass.edu/manufacturing to reserve a “seat,” or call (413) 774-7361. Veterans, women, unemployed people, and other under-represented groups are especially encouraged to apply.

VIRUS from page A1

stomach pain are all common symptoms of an infection, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Nationwide, positive tests for norovirus are up from a three-week average of 9% in January to over 12% in recent weeks, according to the CDC. The northeastern United States has the highest rate of any region in the country as of last week – 13.4%.

However, these numbers are still below last year’s peak of 16% measured in the Northeast in early March. And only people who receive PCR tests for norovirus are reflected in this data. Most people with a stomach bug stay home and bear it – though, as Moore points out, disease surveillance has become more robust since the coronavirus pandemic.

“There have been reports of a newer recombinant strain,” Moore said. “It’s not every year, it’s every few years you will end up with enough variation of the virus that you will get a pandemic strain that just circulates.”

In 1929, the pediatrician John Zahorsky first identified a “winter vomiting disease,” characterized by the sudden onset of vomiting and diarrhea most common in the winter months. Doctors studied an outbreak of the disease in 1968 at a school in Norwalk, Ohio, and four years later discovered what came to be called the “Norwalk virus” in a fecal sample under an electron microscope. Over

time, various strains of the Norwalk virus came to be known collectively as noroviruses.

Norovirus is presumed to be the leading cause of foodborne illnesses in the United States, according to the CDC, causing 58% of such cases annually. Unlike many other forms of food poisoning, food contaminated with norovirus is not spoiled, and will look, smell, and taste fine. Even some cooked foods can contain the virus, as it can survive temperatures up to 145 degrees Fahrenheit.

Humans shed norovirus through bodily excretions: vomit, feces, and, as it was discovered as recently as 2022, even saliva. Food prepared by an infected person can often spread the disease, as can vegetables or shellfish grown with contaminated water. In January the CDC issued warnings, which are still in effect, to food establishments not to serve any oysters harvested from the Mexican coasts of Sonora or Baja California due to potential contamination. A similar warning was issued last summer for oysters from Nova Scotia.

For anyone who has come in contact with the virus, Moore recommends rigorous hand-washing – and rest. Symptoms can begin 12 to 48 hours after the initial exposure, depending on the viral load and the host’s immune system.

“In general people are going back too early to work, or just working through it,” Moore said. “It would be good to explore having a better system in place of reimbursing employees so they don’t

come back shedding viruses.”

In some cases, people infected with a norovirus may still be contagious for days after their symptoms subside. “Our lab is interested in a subset of people who can asymptotically shed virus at levels almost comparable to people exhibiting severe symptoms,” Moore added.

Unlike the coronavirus, the norovirus is not typically airborne, and it’s much harder to kill. While coronaviruses are encased in a lipid layer destroyed by regular hand soap, noroviruses are not, and require more robust cleaning agents such as bleach to kill them.

“These viruses are much more stable than coronaviruses,” Moore said. “The problem is most people don’t apply those disinfectants properly.”

About 20 million people are infected with the virus every year, resulting in over 100,000 hospitalizations and 900 deaths, most of them being adults 65 years old and up. Outbreaks occur most often between November and April. As with many illnesses, it is more dangerous for people with compromised immune systems, the elderly, and the very young; retirement homes, cruise ships, and schools are common sites for outbreaks.

“Long-term care facilities housing the elderly, as well as other settings where people are confined in close/common living quarters, should make note to be really vigilant about hygiene and anyone exhibiting diarrhea and vomiting,” Moore told the *Reporter*.

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OP ED

Young People Should Not Be in County Jails

By LUIS VASQUEZ

GREENFIELD – My goal is to have people relate to my experience. I am writing to young people with big crimes so they can relate, because not a lot of people have gone through the same crimes as me at a young age, and nowadays the younger generation are the ones catching more cases and the worse ones so people are coming to jail at a young age.

In my opinion, every state should have a unit housing 18- to 24-year-olds, because you can't just throw a teenager who came from a juvenile facility into a county. It's messed up, because some juvenile facilities won't hold teenagers who have bad cases in their 18-24 units, unless you have a small case and get committed to juvenile. They have a murder unit in Boston for teens, but they only hold you until you are 18. I feel like they should have that in every city.

In my opinion, I feel like juvenile is more structured for teens because of the way it's set up and there is more freedom and it's more comfortable for a teen. Staff there treats you great, and the case-workers meet with you every day. The juvenile facility also helps you with goals that you need, and teaches you things to know when home with family.

Being in a facility for teens helps you with your education and long-term goals that you need, so when being released you have to attend to classes to get rec time after school hours, unlike a county. That's why kids come to a county and won't get their education: because it's optional, so they will go back out into the streets and won't have the education they need so they can't go for higher-up jobs.

In the next paragraphs I will write about things juvenile facilities do well:

Food – food and hygiene is free. You get any type of hygiene you



want and need for health, and the food is like home food or restaurant food and it's real meat, chicken, etc. You can have your own food made in the kitchen, but you have to pay with stars, and you get takeout food for helping staff clean or joining activities. You also get takeout every Friday from whatever place you want. On birthdays, they give you cake and food.

Communications, etc. – There are contact visits every day. Anyone can come bring food, hygiene products, clothes, bed sheets, shoes, sandals, fans, and lights for the rooms. Every room has an iPad, a TV, a PS4, and good beds. You can FaceTime anyone approved on the list for the iPad at whatever time. Family or staff can bring you games for your PS4. Some juvenile places are a little different, though, but still have the same incentives.

They would help juveniles if their families can't afford things; they buy them clothes. When I went in, I had all my shoes from home in my cell for rec time or gym time and school, and I had name-brand boxers, socks, bed sheets, good hygiene products, snacks, and speakers in my room for the shower or whatever else they would be used for. You

can bunk up with four people in a cell, and we'd just be up all night playing multiplayer games. It was fun sometimes. Staff would come and play against us for takeout food.

To me school was the best times because I had a good class every time. We joked around and got in trouble plenty of times. I was always locked in for fighting staff or other people. Sometimes one side of the unit couldn't hang with the other side because of fights, and where they were from. I got shipped three times with my codefendants and another New Bedford kid. They sent us to the same places every time so we just bunked up with each other. We were all allegedly charged with the same thing so we could relate to each other and give out words of wisdom, which helped, it was good for us.

The only bad things about being in those juvenile places was you can't say certain words or walk with your pants in your hands, you have to make your bed every morning, wash your own clothes in the dryer and washer, and you have to clean the shower that you are assigned to, which was good. You have to sweep and mop every Saturday to get rec time, you have to attend school or you can't come out of your room for

rec after school, or you can't go to the gym or outside. If you get into a fight you can't go to school or outside, only with people you are good around. They also give you extra gym time sometimes.

Rec – Rec time is every day, Monday to Friday, after school, which is at 1:30. You go to the gym and outside every day at whatever time. We lock in at 11:35 p.m. at night. They also have a workout gym with weights and everything else you need such as punching bags, boxing gloves, etc. You can pick from whatever you want to do, then go back to the unit and hop on the gaming systems with music or karaoke going on. Then we do showers. You have an hour limit in the shower, and you can bring the iPad and speaker or mp3 player.

Snack time and food time – Snack time is at 12 p.m. and then 7 p.m., then breakfast is at 7 a.m., lunch at 10 a.m., and dinner at 5 p.m. You can grab cakes, juice, chocolate milk, fruit, cereal, and other things from the snack bar. You also have the food you can get with the amount of stars you earn for canteen, and food from families.

These are all the reasons why young people should be in juvenile facilities.

Luis Vasquez is a 19-year-old writer at the Franklin County Jail and House of Correction (FCSO) who recently earned his high school diploma.

This op-ed first appeared in The Light, a newsletter by FCSO residents. Some of the writers join The Light already devoted to writing, while others discover love for writing through their participation. The students engage in process-oriented work to create stories and art, including personal essays, op-eds, recipes, poems, research articles, and other explorations of interest to them and their peers, coalescing into a new issue every 8 to 10 weeks.

SPORTS from page A1

defeated wrestlers from Whittier, South Shore, Tri-County, Lawrence, and Nashoba Tech, only dropping one match against the second-place winner, Kamila Vizcinesk of Arlington.

The two ladies' combined efforts scored 29 points for Franklin Tech, placing the school 13th in the state, and Marigliano placed third in her weight class, earning her a spot in the New England Championship match.

She will travel to Providence this Friday, March 1 to represent Massachusetts in the first annual New England Interscholastic Girls' Wrestling Championships.

Girls' Basketball

FCTS 50 – Pathfinder 28

FCTS 58 – Upper Cape Cod 51

This weekend the Franklin Tech Eagles won the state title in the Small Vocational basketball tournament. It was the third year in a row that the Eagles earned this championship belt, but this year they had to travel over the bridge to get it.

In the first game, played at home last Saturday, February 24, talk around the gym centered on how to get to the Upper Cape Cod Regional School once you cross the Bourne Bridge. But the team needed to win against the

Pathfinder Pioneers before they could put on their traveling shoes.

The visitors took an early 2-1 lead in Saturday's dustup, but it turned out to be their only lead of the game. The Tech girls instituted their smothering defense to stifle the Pioneers, and on offense, the Eagles communicated so well that the 'Finders frequently left players unguarded for non-contested shots.

Within four minutes, Franklin was up 13-2, and the score was 17-4 at the first period buzzer. In the second quarter and throughout the rest of the game, coach Joe Gamache mixed and matched his players on the court. He used multiple combinations of starters and reserves, which kept the foul count down and the Pioneers guessing.

Meanwhile, the Pathfinder coach was giving basic advice, telling his players where to stand and when to keep their hands up. By halftime Tech was leading 30-10, and in the third quarter the score ballooned to 43-17. The fans began yelling, "Slow down – the clock is your friend" every time Tech rushed a shot.

In the end, with Franklin leading 50-28, they simply dribbled out the clock and prepared for that long bus ride to the Cape.

Lea Chapman led Tech in this one with 15 points, and grabbed

10 rebounds. Hannah Gilbert (11), Kyra Goodell (6), Haleigh Benoit (6 points, with 12 rebounds), Brayleigh Burgh (5), Cordelia Guerin (3), and Kaitlin Trudeau and Abigail Carlo (2 each) contributed to the win.

The ladies boarded the bus on Sunday to challenge the top-seeded Rams of the Upper Cape. According to the experts, Franklin Tech was the underdog in this contest, but the experts were proven wrong.

Tech stole the first quarter by just three points, 17-14, but they held the Rams to six points in the second while piling on 13 of their own, and increased the lead to 49-35 in the third.

In the final period, the Cods made some headway, but it wasn't enough, and the Lady Birds held on to defeat the Rams and win the title for the third year running. Goodell (21), Gilbert (19), Lea Chapman (14), Trinity Doane (2), and Burgh and Guerin (1 each) all scored points.

The Eagles still cannot rest on their laurels. With two tournaments on the books, they now have to play in the statewide MIAA tournament. They are ranked 12th in Division V, and will host the 21st-seeded (19-1) Pioneer Valley Christian Academy this Friday at 7 p.m.



Franklin Tech's Haleigh Benoit looks for a shot over Pathfinder defender Greenly Lagimoniere in the Small School Vocational semifinal last Friday.

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CDGB from page A1

can change,” in McHugh’s words.

The money for social services would be split among an early-childhood literacy program for immigrant families run by Montague Catholic Social Ministries, peer support and recovery advocacy by the Wildflower Alliance, and delivery of meals to homebound elders and an “elder self-sufficiency and stability” program, both by LifePath.

In recent years most of Montague’s CDBG spending has focused on Turners Falls, as that village satisfies the income criteria under federal law for the grants. There have been exceptions, however, including renovations at Rutter’s Park in Lake Pleasant, which was able to satisfy the criteria.

Parks and recreation superintendent Jon Dobosz asked at the hearing about the status of the Rutter’s Park project. The first phase was completed in 2020, he said, but plans for increased parking and improvements to the basketball courts appeared to be on hold.

McHugh told him the project could be added to the town’s application in a future year, but that the design work would need to be “dusted off,” and the town would need to include an updated income survey of the village.

Montague Center resident Roy Rosenblatt, who previously helped administer CDBG grants on behalf of the town of Amherst, told the *Reporter* that the “old town hall” building in his village, which houses a branch library, may qualify for a CDBG grant to reduce barriers to handicapped access.

This August 22 will be the 50th anniversary of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (HCDA), which created the

CDBG program and a number of other well-known initiatives including “Section 8” housing subsidies.

The Act was an initiative of the Richard Nixon administration, but was signed by Gerald Ford two weeks after Nixon resigned from office under the threat of impeachment and likely conviction for his response to the break-in at the Democratic Party headquarters at the Watergate Hotel.

The legislation was met with “widespread skepticism” at the time from housing advocates and many liberals, according to Cushing Dolbeare, a founder of the National Low Income Housing Coalition. The previous year, the administration had abruptly terminated most of the federal housing and redevelopment programs of the 1960s.

The HCDA came amid attacks on federal power and demands for greater state control over anti-poverty policy. Others were concerned that the block grants might be a way of reducing federal expenditures to address poverty, but handing local officials the job of making the actual cuts.

The support of the Democratic Party, which held a majority of both houses in Congress, and of a significant number of liberal Republicans was required to pass the legislation and to appropriate the funding. As a result, the switch to the CDBG programs did not lead to immediate cuts in federal funding, according to a 1977 study by the Brookings Institute.

That study, however, found that there were already some big winners, including smaller urban communities in metropolitan areas, while central cities, for example those in New England that were losing population, saw reductions

in their share of federal funding.


But the CDBG program has survived, and locally, it has resulted in visible changes in the downtown area of Turners Falls. Over the last decade the grants have supported extensive streetscape improvements, a number of low-income housing rehabilitation projects, and social service programs at the Montague Catholic Social Ministries and the Brick House Community Resource Center.

The *Reporter* asked McHugh about the CDBG application process, the role of the housing authority, and the state’s criteria for how communities may divide their grants among programs. He told us that the CDBG grants Montague applies for are competitive, and that each application is “scored” by the state Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities, which receives a large block grant annually from the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The FCRHRA “technically” works with 24 of the 26 towns in Franklin County, McHugh wrote, but “not every year.” The agency applies for grants for Montague and Orange in every cycle, while Greenfield city staff develop their own application in-house, and Shelburne hires a grant consultant.


“I work with [Montague town officials] throughout the year to identify eligible projects that are consistent with town plans,” McHugh told the *Reporter* in explaining how the town sets its priorities.

The state provides no set formula for the apportionment of CDBG funds, he said, beyond a requirement that only 20% of a community’s total funding may be used for social-service programs.



Anyone whose heart was touched by Jeff, please join our family for a celebration of life on Saturday, March 2nd, 2024 from 1-4 pm at the Fraternal Order of Eagles, 52 State Street Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Mill Deal Sweetened With Parcel Road Goes Down the Hill Around

By KATIE NOLAN

The Erving selectboard, finance committee, and capital planning committee met Monday night with representatives of the board of health, senior services, library, recreation commission, and historical commission to review their budget requests for FY’25.

Board of health chair Jeffrey McAndrews presented a budget of \$59,608, an increase of \$6,371 over the current year, driven by salary and wage increases in accordance with the town’s step system and funding for the clerk’s work cellphone.

McAndrews said this is the second year the board is sharing a health agent with Shutesbury and Northfield, where Erving pays 40% of the agent’s cost. McAndrews said the board sponsors a “spectacular” nursing program that provides vaccination clinics, open office hours, and home visits.

Senior center director Paula Betters told the board her FY’25 request of \$182,780 was level-funded with FY’24, except for an increase of \$9,031 in salary and wages. She said she expected electric costs to be lower in FY’25 because of a lower-cost supplier, and that the cost of heating the senior center might be lower “because I always keep it to 72.”

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith thanked treasurer Jennifer Eichorn

for finding the new electricity supplier.

Library director Abigail Baines introduced a \$266,788 budget request, an increase of \$16,353 over FY’24, based on step raises and a request for an additional seven hours per week of work for youth services staff. She reported that the library is open five days a week and patron traffic increased from 4,000 visits in FY’22 to 8,000 in FY’23, with FY’24 so far showing a further increase.

Baines asked the capital planning committee to consider a request for \$3,745 to “gain control of the lighting system.” The town’s library, information technology, and maintenance staff have not been able to access the system’s controls, and Baines said she gets complaints that the library lights are on when the building is closed.

Jacob Smith pointed out that this cost was lower than the \$5,000 threshold for capital projects, and town administrator Bryan Smith suggested the funding could come from the town building maintenance account.

The proposed FY’25 recreation budget is \$86,135, an increase of \$6,512, based on step raises for employees and renting tents for the summer parks program. Recreation commission members Jacqueline Boyden and Renee Tela said the

commission wanted to try renting tents for a year, rather than purchasing a new tent to replace a former worn-out one. They explained that a rental company can store tents properly, and would set them up and take them down.

For capital projects, the commissioners asked for \$45,000 to study the feasibility of renovations at Veterans Memorial Field, both as a requirement for a state Parkland Acquisition and Renovation for Communities (PARC) grant and to determine water runoff conditions on the site before designing the renovation. They asked that \$20,000 in capital funds already allocated for a PARC grant writer be used for this study.

Historical commission member Philip Johnson presented the FY’25 request. The historical commission submitted documents requesting \$14,000 for operation and maintenance of the Pearl B. Care historical museum building. In previous years, these costs were accounted for as part of a “town buildings” line item. The commission also asked for \$10,000 in capital funding, for “general maintenance to prevent deterioration of the building,” and \$3,000 to cover commission expenses.

Members of the selectboard and capital planning committee recommended withdrawing the \$10,000 capital request, because general building maintenance isn’t a cap-

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ital expense but an operating one. Johnson agreed to do so.

Former IP Mill

Bryan Smith reported that several prospective developers responding to a recent Request for Proposals (RFP) for the former International Paper Mill property had asked about the availability of a 1½-acre town-owned parcel on Papermill Road.

Jacob Smith described it as “the parcel Papermill Road goes down the hill around.”

Bryan Smith said Papermill Road is a county road, and recommended that the town seek ownership of its layout from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. The selectboard and capital planning committee agreed to start the process.

The board decided to amend the RFP to allow including the extra parcel in proposals, and extended its deadline.

Other Business

The selectboard awarded a contract for the reconstruction of Bridge Street and repaving of Maple Avenue to A. Martin and Sons Construction of Ludlow for \$707,810.

“We had a great working relationship and product from the last time we used this vendor,” highway supervisor Glenn McCrory told the board.

A \$9,565 contract for removing asbestos at the wastewater treatment plant was awarded to Strategic Environmental Services, and a \$1,500 scope of work for asbestos removal at Firehouse 2 to Atlas Technical Consultants.

The board renewed the town’s existing agreement with the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans’ Services District, and appointed Catherine Glennon to the Erving Cultural Council and Leo Parent, Sr. to the Council on Aging.

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LEVERETT from page A1

the budget and to help address turn-over in the director position. As a result of the move, she said, programming time was sacrificed, and after three years the change was “not working.”

Programming in particular, Paessel told the boards, was an “overwhelming” task, even when the director worked 40 hours. She also pointed out that the 10-hour position had been the only new position added to the library since at least 2002, and argued that the new request was “long overdue.”

Paessel reported that in 2023 the library served 10,450 patrons, not including phone calls, emails, or website use. She also noted that 70% of Leverett residents have library cards. Along with providing a boost to programming, she said, the additional staffer would free up time to allow her to pursue grant funding, maintain and acquire new technology, update the library’s website, and attend to a multitude of tasks that she currently does not have enough time to pursue.

Selectboard member Melissa Colbert said she wanted to “push for this resource,” calling the library a “gem of our town” which serves a wide swath of residents, “young and old and everyone in between.”

Fin com member Jed Proujansky suggested that enabling Paessel to spend more time pursuing grant funding might yield a good return on investment.

Nancy Grossman, also of the fin com, commented that an additional staffer was a “great idea,” but pointed out that the town was facing “competing demands” after making the fire chief position full-time last year, and still needing to decide whether to add a new full-time police officer and a new highway department employee in FY’25.

Town clerk Lisa Stratford noted that both she and town administrator Marjorie McGinnis had also wanted funding in next year’s budget for additional help, but held off.

As an aside, fin com member Bethany Seeger suggested that the town might consider creating a “personnel planning committee,” similar to a capital planning committee, to better plan for staffing in the long run.

Treasure Pressure

Leverett treasurer and tax collector Ryan Mailloux presented budgets for his two departments with the only sizeable increase being \$3,250, or 32.5%, for tax collector expenses. He said he was seeking this additional money to hire a tax title attorney, in order to help the town collect unpaid bills.

The goal of hiring this attorney, Mailloux said, would be to “get people’s attention” in order to “collect funds,” and not necessarily to pursue legal action or tax takings. The use of a tax title attorney “changes mindsets” and applies pressure, he said, and is a standard practice in other towns he serves.

Mailloux said he could not provide a firm estimate of the additional collections this might yield, but expected a minimum of \$12,000. He reported that he sees an average of \$75,000 per year in delinquent bills out of \$5.3 million assessed in Leverett, which he called a “good” ratio, but he said he felt he has a fiduciary responsibility to pursue the unpaid balances.

Maintaining History

Historical commission chair Susan Mareneck said the group’s request for a 2,150% increase in funding, from \$200 to \$4,500, was needed to conduct mandated evaluation and monitoring of town-owned, Community Preservation Act (CPA)-funded properties. Mareneck said that some of this monitoring was currently being conducted by volunteers with varying degrees of experience, and that more professional evaluation was needed.

She said she’d been given an estimate of \$1,500 per property for such periodic evaluations, which do not need to be made every year, and that “nine or ten” properties needed to be monitored. During discussion it was established that she felt some of these properties, such as the town hall and the North Leverett Sawmill, were already being properly monitored, but that others, including several of the town’s historic cemeteries, were not.

Grossman suggested that the Community Preservation Commission (CPC) might be called upon to provide CPA funding for these

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Leverett 250th Events Kick Off!

Leverett is turning 250 in 2024, and is celebrating with events all year!

A pancake breakfast at Leverett Elementary School, sponsored by Leverett Firefighters Association, kicks off the fun from 8 to 10:30 a.m. this Saturday, March 2.

March 5 marks the town’s founding date, when Leverett split from Sunderland, and the town is celebrating from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday with a 250th anniversary postage station at the Leverett Post Office. Bring an uncanceled stamp affixed to any paper and have it stamped with the special “250th Anniversary” postmark!

The postmark-stamping will continue in-person next Wednesday through Saturday, and through the mail after that.

At 6:30 on the evening of Tuesday, March 5, the giant birthday cake will be lit for the first time since it arrived in Leverett. The cake was constructed for Westfield’s 350th anniversary in 2018 and has been shared by surrounding towns as they each mark founding milestones. Measuring 25 feet wide and 16 feet tall, with 350 electric candles, the 2,000-pound cake adds quite a festive sparkle to its temporary home next to the Leverett Library.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, March 9! That’s the town’s official birthday party at Town Hall, with cake, music, a scavenger hunt with prizes, old-timey games, Fairy Hair, crafts, and a brief presentation on Leverett’s history by Dave Palmer.

Music will be provided by On the Lam, Craig

Hollingsworth, and Cynthia Thomas, and also across the street at the Congregational Church – which is celebrating its own big birthday! – where the church choir and the Leverett Community Chorus will be performing.

The Field Museum will be open throughout the festivities and other historical items can be viewed at the Barnes Gallery, just down the street.

A dedicated committee has been planning Leverett’s big celebration for three years.

“After planning for so long, it is wonderful to see all our hard work come to fruition,” said Kari Ridge, a member of the Leverett 250th planning committee. “A major goal of this year’s events is to recognize all the people who have lived on this land we now call Leverett. Throughout the year, we will be honoring the founding of our town and also the Native Americans who were here long before.”

The next event is a talk on Wednesday, April 10 from 7 to 9 p.m. by Margaret M. Bruchac entitled “Recovering Native Histories Along the Kwinitekw (Connecticut) River.” The talk is sponsored by On Native Land: Leverett Advocacy and Education Group.

Several additional events are planned throughout the year, including an April 20 presentation by Eva Gibavic on the mysteries of Brushy Mountain, an antique vehicle and equipment show on May 25, a plant walk with renowned naturalist Jean Bergstrom on June 15, and a July 6 parade and barbecue.

Stay tuned for more information as these dates draw nearer!

evaluations. Mareneck responded that the historical commission had approached the CPC and that “they did not entertain” the idea.

Seeger suggested the expense might be better suited as a warrant article at town meeting than as part of the operating budget. Mareneck, board members, and others present agreed that was a good approach.

Mareneck also presented a historical commission recommendation to the CPC that “no future historic preservation monies should be approved for rehabilitation projects on historic structures without a reasonable maintenance plan for future upkeep with evidence of revenue to fund such a plan.”

Man Bites Dog

The selectboard decided to support a special article at town meeting for a change in town bylaws allowing for “non-criminal disposition” of fines imposed for bylaw infractions.

The change will enable the town to use a ticket-like system to enforce fees for infractions of bylaws, such as dog and noise complaints, through a civil, rather than a criminal, process. Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis said this would make things “a little bit simpler” and give the town “a little more teeth to actually get any enforcement completed.”

McGinnis noted that the town has never collected a fine.

Board member Patricia Duffy said police chief Scott Minckler was in favor of the change. In a possibly related development, the board created a committee to review the town’s dog bylaws.

Other Business

The selectboard discussed a planning grant opportunity to explore

the idea of dredging the area around the boat ramp at the south end of Leverett Pond. The application was due within days of the meeting.

Chair Tom Hankinson said he was in favor of submitting the application, but Colbert and Duffy said more time was needed to think about the idea before embarking on the process. The board agreed to take the matter back up in the coming year, and make a decision for the next year’s round of grants.

The board reviewed an electricity purchasing contract, and appointed Roger Zimmerman to the Community Preservation Commission and Danielle Barshak to the recreation committee.

Improvements to the town hall sound system initiated by McGinnis, including additional microphones, were met with approval from both in-person and remote attendees.



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WENDELL from page A1

Aaron Saunders sent a letter to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) office asking for a failsafe review of the battery proposal; it was rejected for technical reasons. Comerford and Saunders recommended that Wendell submit another letter, avoiding their mistakes. If it has the signatures of many town citizens, it may carry more weight.

MEPA’s website says its review process requires state agencies to study the environmental consequences of their actions, including permitting and financial assistance, and to take all feasible measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate damage to the environment.

Wendell can also ask the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) for assistance in leveling the regulatory playing field between Wendell, with its constrained budget, and New Leaf. The EEA’s purpose is to provide stewardship of open space, protect environmental resources, and enhance use of clean energy.

Johnson-Mussad said the letter to EEA should question whether any encounter between a small town with not much money and a large corporation is democratic, and should emphasize that the effort to grant the town some say in the battery project is motivated by concern for public health and safety, protection of the forest and aquifer, and not “NIMBY.”

Selectboard member Gillian Budine said the battery project should be on the next meeting agenda, and that the planning board and members of NAB should be invited.

Inspection Job

Building inspector Phil Delorey, soon to retire, found a job description among his papers, and Johnson-Mussad said he had posted it to the town website the day before the meeting.

Delorey’s pay is near the low end of local building inspectors’ pay, Johnson-Mussad said, and no one had yet applied, but he had already heard an expression of interest from one veteran inspector. No deadline for applications has been set.

Other Business

The board approved an intermunicipal agreement with the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans’ Services District.

Bound printed copies of Wendell’s 2021 and 2022 annual reports are still “in limbo” at Highland Press in Athol, Johnson-Mussad reported. He noted that the sheriff’s department also prints town reports, and might be faster.

Budine said other towns use the sheriff’s office, so the paper is probably archive quality, as Massachusetts requires a few bound copies be kept under a town clerk’s care. Printing costs might also be lower as Wendell is asking for fewer copies.

The selectboard approved Johnson-Mussad to pay the fee for an online municipal accounting course at Greenfield Community College from the coordinator’s expense budget. If he needs to spend more time on the course than his regular schedule provides, he may use his “special projects time.”

The finance committee is asking departments to submit their budget requests for FY’25.

Little Guests

When the next-to-last agenda item came up, “Items not anticipated at the time of posting,” Johnson-Mussad said, “Mice.” Mice, he said, have moved into the office building, chewed a hole in the wall, and built a nest in a heating unit that town custodian Eric Shufelt has no way to get into.

Traps have not yet worked, as the mice have learned how to get the bait without getting caught. “I have always been successful with traps,” said selectboard member Paul Doud. Traps should be checked daily.

Budine expressed concerns about traps, for children, and about poison, for raptors and other predators who may eat mice that go outside to die.

There is also evidence of insects and mice in the town hall. Mice were chased out of the library once, and Doud said he would check with the librarian to see how that is going.



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MONTAGUE from page A1

who was not on Ramsey’s list but had expressed interest, and select-board member Chris Boutwell, who will fill the slot allotted to the board.

Next the board reviewed the job description, developed in consultation with the Edward J. Collins Center for Public Management at UMass. It was very similar to that of the current ATA position, according to Ramsey, with an emphasis on economic development, capital projects, long-term planning, and grantwriting.

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz noted that town officials would like candidates to apply who “may have other strengths, but not some of these.” This would affect the wording of the job advertisement, and perhaps cause future changes in the job description. Ramsey said the Collins Center had edited the document to give the town more “latitude,” and had reduced the educational requirement from a master’s to a bachelor’s degree.

The job description was unanimously approved by the board.

Special Responses

A memorandum of agreement (MOA) with an organization called the Franklin County Regional Special Response Team (SRT) was approved. Police chief Chris Williams explained that the Montague police have been part of this organization, which is affiliated with the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office, for at least 10 years, but that it has “really never had a board of directors.” Montague PD lieutenant Chris Bonnett had therefore drafted the MOA in consultation with Greenfield police and the Sheriff’s Office.

Bonnett explained that “the troops on the ground have done a fantastic job,” but that “where we were lacking was collaboration and oversight at the top.”

The 13-page document specifies an organizational structure, including an oversight board and its composition, a separate command-and-control structure to respond to requests from member police departments, requirements of member departments, including training and equipment, and even procedures for removing local departments from the SRT.

Williams and Bonnett were asked to clarify the SRT’s purpose.

Williams pointed to the Nouria gas station on Third Street in Turners Falls, which was recently robbed three times. “This SRT wrote the search warrant, got the search warrant... and apprehended the individual,” he said.

“There’s a reason why we don’t call it a SWAT team,” Bonnett added. “They’re trained in search and

rescue, they’re trained in missing persons, so if we had a missing person in the Plains or if we have a missing child, or if there’s weather disasters... It’s a far broader scope than ‘Oh, we need to go do a raid!’”

The board also authorized two personnel requests from Williams. The first increases the base pay of officer Jim Ruddock by 10% for credits he has received as a continuing education student. The second approves a “side letter” from the town to the police patrolmen’s union allowing officer Chris Smerz, who came in as a “lateral transfer” from another department through the state civil service, to start off with four weeks of vacation time.

Ongoing Repairs

Ramsey reviewed the progress of the reconstruction of the South Street bridge in Montague Center by the state Department of Transportation (MassDOT). The project, originally scheduled for this summer and fall, is now slated to begin in November and end in June 2025.

MassDOT has asked Montague to formally accept the change in schedule, to acknowledge that the bridge will be closed during construction, and to confirm that there need not be a sidewalk on the finished structure. The board voted to endorse a letter from Ramsey agreeing to these conditions.

Ramsey reported that the federal grant to complete the Montague City Road flooding mitigation project has been extended until May 30, and that the contractor will add catch basins along the road and plant vegetation by the roadside. The board voted to authorize the extension.

Ramsey also gave updates on renovations, funded under the American Rescue Plan Act, on the old town hall in Montague Center, which houses the Montague Center Library on its first floor. The board approved change orders for a portion of the project to repair the slate roof, adding 97 additional slates at a cost of \$8,245, and to replace a small asphalt roof above the handicapped access ramp on the building’s North Street side at a cost of \$3,300.

He then reported on the project to repair the windows on the building. Six companies submitted bids, with the lowest bid from Diversified Construction Services, LLC at \$132,829. Ramsey said the budget for the project was around \$200,000, and that he was not ready to award the contract because Diversified had not yet been thoroughly vetted. Kuklewicz also expressed concerns about the quality of the windows. The board did not take a vote on the issue.

The board also did not vote on a proposal to move work spaces now

housed at the lower building of the Clean Water Facility (CWF) to a garage on the property of the former Farren Care Center. Kuklewicz noted that the Farren property had not yet been transferred to the town by the current owner, Trinity Health of New England Senior Communities.

Selectboard members expressed support for considering the town hall annex as a better site for CWF staff to perform repair work, which must be moved from its current building at the facility for safety reasons.

Other Business

The selectboard approved the warrant for the March 5 primary election, with voting taking place at three locations – the Franklin County Technical School for Precincts 2, 3, 4, and 6; the fire station on Old Sunderland Road for Precinct 1, and the Gill-Montague senior center on Fifth Street for Precinct 5. Candidates for the US presidency are on the ballot as well as for state, regional, and local party committees.

The board also approved a 14-article warrant for the March 14 special town meeting and motions with funding sources for each article. These ranged from appropriating \$152,261 in local tax money to help close a gap of over \$160,000 in the town airport’s current-year budget; appropriating \$125,000 for a “wastewater asset vulnerability inventory,” pending a federal grant to reimburse over half the amount; rescinding a 1932 vote affiliating the police department with the state civil service system; and creating a sexton position for town cemeteries. The sexton would coordinate burials at a rate of \$100 per burial.

A \$25,000 grant from the American Library Association for “Accessible Small and Rural Communities” was accepted by the board. Ramsey said the funds would be used to make the library website ADA-compliant, and to train staff to support “equitable programming services.”

The board approved a \$7,400 grant from the state Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development for safety training for the town’s public works and Clean Water Facility staff.

The board appointed Jen Viencek – a new resident originally from Seattle whose husband grew up in Greenfield – to the historical commission. According to commission member Janel Nockleby’s letter of support, Viencek’s educational and business background “will help us on the commission.”

“We have a lot of different committees,” Kuklewicz told Viencek, who attended the meeting. “I’m sure there’s others, if you are interested.”



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on February 27, 2014: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Regional School Quandaries

On Tuesday, regional school committee representative Kip Fonsh told the Leverett selectboard that Amherst-Pelham regional school enrollment, which had peaked during the early years of the 2000s, has now declined to levels last seen in 1990.

Earlier this month he told the elementary school committee that “the discussion has been raised” of whether it may soon be advisable to close the regional middle school and consolidate all the upper grades in the high school building.

Middle Schoolers Aim To Quash Cyberbullying

Gill-Montague middle school

members of the Cyberbullying Awareness Committee met Wednesday with the goal of helping to end cyberbullying and raising peers’ awareness about the cause and effects of this internet-based form of bullying.

The committee wants both students and parents to know that cyberbullying is a big problem now that there are more modernized devices and social media websites. The bully can get to their victim no matter where they are, making the victim’s safe spots no longer safe.

Each committee member works on one approach for getting the word out. Methods include a parents’ night about safety online; a presentation to peers; and a survey on the subject among elementary students. As committee member Sarah Waldron put it, “We want to prepare them for the upcoming years, and tell them it’s out there, but not to be brutal about it.”

20 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on February 26, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

A New Soldiers Memorial

Montague’s Trustees Soldiers Memorial has raised \$60,000 through letters and appeals to private citizens and businesses, bringing them nearly halfway to their goal of \$135,000, the amount needed to build the new memorial on Avenue A. The memorial has received \$20,000 in matching funds as a challenge grant from Greenfield Savings Bank.

“We hope to raise the remaining funds, matching this grant dollar for dollar, and get the construction underway,” said Mike

Pumper? Ladder? Neither?

On February 23, fire chief Gene Beaubien told the Gill selectboard that his department is in the market for a new truck, either a \$350,000 pumper or a \$600,000 ladder truck. Board chair Ann Banash said, “I don’t think the town would support a \$600,000 truck.” Board member Phil Maddern recalled that previously the town hadn’t even supported spending \$275,000 for a new pumper. The town’s 1979 1,000-gallon Ford pumper is due for retirement by 2009.

150 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on February 25, 1874: News from the Turners Falls Reporter’s archive.

Local Matters

Miss Kendrick opens a private school to-day.

R.N. Oakman has sold his tobacco for 20 cents through.

A social party at Chris Clapp’s was enjoyed by some of our folks. One of them lost a buffalo robe on the way home. How?

I.O. Lincoln offers a nice ox car for sale at a bargain.

Henry LeBourveau has just finished two new boats for the Turners Falls Lumber Company.

Mr. John Jameson enters upon the discharge of his duties as master mechanic of the Montague Mill tomorrow morning.

R.L. Goss lost a horse on Tuesday worth \$300. He stepped upon a stick, which, flying up, cut some of the arteries, and he bled to death.

The Methodist S.S. Concert on Sunday evening was very good.

The depth of the mud prevented many from attending.

Mrs. L. Fisher of Orange is in town canvassing for “A Gazetteer of Massachusetts”. The work will contain numerous wood and steel illustrations, with a full history of the various towns of the State, with their peculiarities of scenery and historical attractions. We commend the work to the attention of our people.

A gay dance at Schuler Hall closed the ante-Lenten season on Tuesday evening, and now our fashionables enjoy “a rest.” Some seventy-five couples were present.

The contract for rebuilding the Oakman schoolhouse has been awarded to Messrs. Alpheus Moore and R. P. Campbell. Mr. Moore does the wood work and Mr. Campbell the masonry, guaranty enough that it will be well done. Quite a number of our paper makers went to Holyoke on Thursday to receive the mysteries of the Paper Makers’ Union. A branch Union here will probably follow in time.



Montague Community Television News

A Rash of Content

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – MCTV has a handful of new videos up on our website and Vimeo page this week that we would love for you to check out! The 50th anniversary of *Lovejoy’s Nuclear War* was presented to a packed theater at the Shea on February 22. The event included the Montague Marching Band, the documentary film about Sam Lovejoy’s environmental activism, and many passionate speeches from friends and admirers.

We also have complete footage from the Journey tribute band at the Shea on February 2, the Elton John tribute on February 9, footage from the recent *Wendell Post* reception and exhibit, and a new episode of the Montague Center Library Author Talk series with local author Dean Cycon.

For committee meetings, we have one from the Montague selectboard and another from the Montague finance committee. Tune in next week for more! All videos are available on our Vimeo page and will air on Channel 9.

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 infomontaguenv@gmail.com for a link to the Zoom.

Contact us at (413) 863-9200 or infomontaguenv@gmail.com, follow us on Facebook, or find us on Instagram [@montaguecommunitytv](https://www.instagram.com/montaguecommunitytv). Find videos and more on our website, montaguenv.org.

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GILL from page A1

mailing ballots could be costly and time-consuming.

“Postage is around 92 cents per packet,” said Stevens. “And where we usually have 70 people voting, it just seems like a big expense for us to do that vote by mail.”

Stevens said she could still put a note in the town newsletter that she will send “absentee ballots” to anyone who wants to vote that way.

The selectboard voted unanimously to hand-count the upcoming town elections and opt out of vote-by-mail. Selectboard member Charles Garbiel joked that he was supporting the changes “be-grudgingly,” as he is on the ballot and was hoping automatic mail-in voting could help him break the record for most votes for any select-board member.

“On the bright side, Charles, it protects you from going down in history for having the most number of votes *against*,” said town administrator Ray Purington.

Roads and Their Riders

The highway department is planning four road repair projects, bolstered by new state Chapter 90

funds raised under the Fair Share Amendment, colloquially called the Millionaires Tax. The projects include leveling and paving parts of Mountain Road, Center Road, and Cove View Lane, and sealing cracks throughout the town.

“Thank you, rich people, for our roads,” said Garbiel with a laugh.

Highway superintendent John Miner brought concerns from his department that the town’s mileage reimbursement for employees hasn’t changed since 2010. At that time, the town used the Internal Revenue Service’s (IRS) standard mileage rate of \$0.50 per mile. The IRS rate is now \$0.67 per mile.

The selectboard voted to permanently match the IRS rate for mileage reimbursement, beginning next pay period.

Other Business

Greg Parody attended the meeting to invite members of the selectboard and historical commission to visit the home formerly owned by his late mother, Renee Jenkins. When Jenkins passed away last September, she bequeathed the property at 19 Boyle Road to the town. In her will she noted its historical significance as the

town’s early school house.

Members of the selectboard and historic commission said they would plan a visit within the next two weeks before making further decisions about how to deal with the property.

When asked what his mother may have wanted the town to do with the home, Parody answered, “I would imagine just to keep it up. I’m really not sure – she just left it to the town of Gill to give back.”

Selectboard member Greg Snedeker and finance committee Tupper Brown were recommended to join the District Regional Agreement subcommittee of the Six Town Regionalizing Planning Board. Mem-

bers of that subcommittee will help create a draft agreement for a potential new regional school district.

The town extended its agreement with the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans’ Services District for two more years.

The next Gill selectboard meeting will be held Monday, March 11, at 5:30 p.m. at the town hall.

Goodbye to a Gill Legend

Selectboard members took a moment to honor Pam Shoemaker, who recently passed away. Shoemaker was a long-time Gill resident and Northfield Mount Hermon teacher. She served on the Gill historical commission for 25 years, and edited

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Above: Dan Hales and his crew from Hales Custom Signs affix a new shingle to the Couture Bros. building on Avenue A.

TECHNOLOGIES

Calendars Repeat, Even if the Past Doesn't

By MAGGIE SADOWAY

TURNERS FALLS – Wait – are you loathe to throw away that 2023 calendar with the pictures you like so much? No worries. Put it away to use in 2034 when the dates, if not all holidays, will be correct again.

You'll forget where you put it? Set an alert on your phone to hunt for it in late 2033, noting where you stashed it. Then keep it for your or your grandkids' viewing pleasure in 2045, 2051, and 2062.

The calendar manufacturers might not want you to know this, but you only need seven calendars to be set for life: one where January 1 is a Sunday, another where it's a Monday, and so on. That's it – because the years recur every 5, 6, or 11 years.

Well, except for leap years. You'll need another seven calendars for them, because those years recur only every 28 years. Hence the news in the *Montague Reporter* editorial on January 4 (Page A2) that for the first time since 1996, there would be five Thursdays in February, and thus five February issues of the paper.

There were five Thursdays in February 1776 as well – how'd that



This 50-year "SLYDIT" calendar, distributed by the Messier Furniture Mfg. Co. of Canterbury, Connecticut, instructs the user to look at the back (above) to reference how many days each month has, and to "slide knob to set month over desired year."

year turn out? Stay tuned to see if the *Reporter* delivers five editions in February 2052.

More calendar lore: January and July are identical in leap years; January and September match in non-leap years. Leap years are evenly divisible by four unless they are a century year, in which case they must be divisible by 400. In other words, 2000 was a leap year, but 2100 is not.

Only by changing the Earth's orbit around the sun will a calen-

dar never need such corrections. In step with their long history, Greeks have already declared that 2800 will *not* be a leap year, in order to bring the average year within three seconds of its true length. Without that change, the year would be off by about 23 seconds.

The Orthodox rule? Century years are leap years only when their numbers give a remainder of two or six when divided by nine.

see **CALENDARS** page B8

RECIPES

A Traditional, Magical, Staple

By CLAIRE HOPLEY

LEVERETT – All nutritionists advise us to eat legumes – a.k.a. beans and peas – on pretty much a daily basis. But if you are like me, you don't follow through on this, and that's rather strange.

Strange, because Massachusetts was once called "the home of the bean and the cod," as these were its

two major foods. Beans were eaten at any time: as a porridge with breakfast and in any combination with meat and fish. Most commonly of all, a big pot of beans baked with molasses and salt pork was made on Saturdays so whoever did the cooking could go to church on Sunday and then, duty done, everyone could come home to a readymade meal.

Other regions also have favorite

bean dishes. In the deep South red beans and rice, usually cooked with a hambone, were so basic that New Orleans jazz trumpeter Louis Armstrong signed himself "Red beans and ricely yours."

Similarly iconic, Italy has *pasta e fagioli*, made with cannellini or borlotti beans; Mexico has black bean soups and rice topped with pinto beans; France serves elegant pale-green *flageolets* with lamb; England has baked beans on toast. The eastern Mediterranean has given us hummus and falafel, both made from chickpeas. In China tofu and soy sauce are made with soybeans. In India lentils and other beans, collectively called *dhal*, come with every meal.

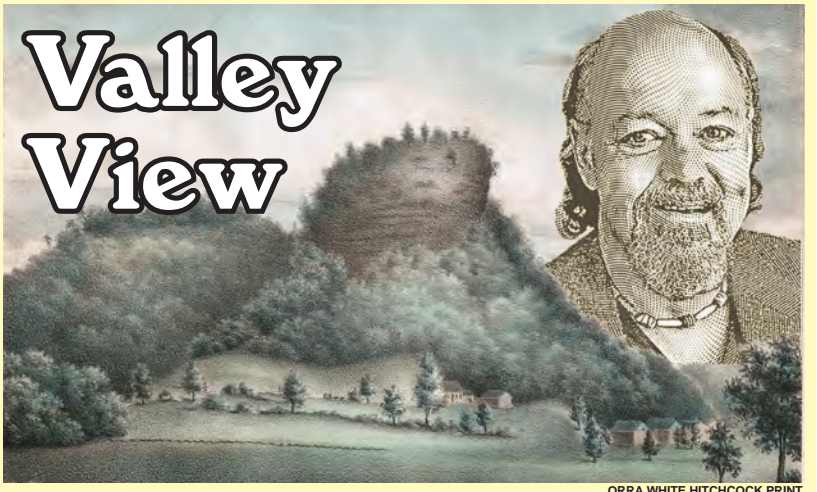
This treasury of brilliantly varied bean dishes is but one reason that it's odd that so many of us eat relatively few beans. Another reason is that beans are easy to find and cheap. So why do lots of us pass them by?

Possibly this may be their very cheapness and their association with old-time meals. Today many of us grew up with meat or fish at the center of our plates. Earlier

see **BEANS** page B5



Dried beans for sale this week in Spain.



Clues to a Brook's Name

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – One never knows what peripheral treasures will appear during deed research. This one focuses on new information about a brook I wrote about less than two years ago.

First, a preface.

The brook reference jumped off a deed last week while I was trying to figure out a fascinating Revolutionary War powder horn owned by a friend. This map horn was carried some 250 years ago by a clever Greenfield Meadows soldier and blacksmith. Upon its face is carved a record of the man's 1777-78 military travels through the Lake George/Lake Champlain corridor along with symbols of war, patriotism, God, Indians and country.

By tugging at many loose threads of inquiry in an effort to understand the carvings from the "Northern Campaign" that won the war for American patriots, I was led straight to a famous Greenfield character with whom I was already quite familiar. Not the owner of the horn, his name was Captain Agrippa Wells (1738-1809) – son of Deerfield's Dr. Thomas and Sarah Hawks Wells, older brother of Whately's first minister, Rev. Rufus Wells, and the leader of a Greenfield militia unit that included men from Bernardston and Shelburne.

Capt. Wells was a swashbuckling downtown Greenfield blacksmith. He began his storied military career as a teenaged member of the elite Rogers Rangers of French and Indian War fame. Captured by Native warriors in June

1757 near Lake George, he lived to tell of running the gauntlet with his typical bold, confident spirit.

Almost a generation later, he led local patriots to the 1775 Lexington Alarm. Then, two years later, he took many of the same fighting men to the Lake George/Champlain corridor, where they participated in the battles of Fort Ticonderoga, Bennington, and Saratoga. His fighting spirit still burning hot as he approached 50, Wells then earned a bold star of dishonor in government circles for marching with anti-government insurgents in Shays' Rebellion.

"Capt. Grip" settled in Leyden – then the Fall Town or Bernardston Gore – after the Revolution and is said to have moved back to Greenfield in 1793, dying there in 1809. His and wife Mehitable Smead's (1742-1801) gravesite remains unknown, as obviously planned by the rugged individual. Meanwhile, deeds offer no evidence of him buying a Greenfield home for his final years. Perhaps he moved in with a son, a daughter, or a friend after selling his Leyden Glen farm.

Enough said about the pugnacious Captain, though. His is an often-told tale. And the time is not yet right to share what I have learned about the fascinating, travelogue powder horn carved and carried by one of his townsman troopers – one who was a generation younger and eventually opposed him during Shays' Rebellion. That discussion will have to wait until further discovery is exhausted.

So, let's move to the brook

see **VALLEY VIEW** page B6



Punch Brook meanders about two miles from the East Shelburne uplands through Greenfield's Upper Meadows, where it joins Hinsdale Brook east of Plain Road.

Pet of the Week

CARMODY COLLAGE



‘BRADLEY’

Looking for a Jersey boy? This handsome tuxedo with a pink nose to kill for may be just the guy for you! Bradley came from an animal shelter in New Jersey and was happy that he was flown up to Massachusetts to find a home. He had hoped to get frequent-flyer kibble, but unfortunately he was short a mile. Bradley was grateful for the flight, however, because had heard horror stories about the New Jersey Turnpike. Bumper-to-bumper traffic isn’t good for anyone, never mind a cat. Since he’s been at Dakin, the staff has found Bradley to be quite

the chatterbox. They’ve been able to pet him and he keeps rubbing them for more. Change is hard for this cat. He will be very nervous when you first bring him home. You will need to set up a room with a litter box, food, and water. It will take some time for him to become comfortable and confident in the new home. 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.

Senior Center Activities MARCH 4 THROUGH 8

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.

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.

ERVING

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

Monday 3/4

9 a.m. Interval Workout
10 a.m. Seated Dance
12 p.m. Pitch Cards
Tuesday 3/5
9 a.m. Good For U Workout
10 a.m. Line Dancing
11 a.m. Social Stringers
Wednesday 3/6
9 a.m. Strength & Conditioning

10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
Thursday 3/7
9 a.m. Barre Fusion
10 a.m. Pilates Flow
Friday 3/8
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 3/4

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
Tuesday 3/5
Senior Center Closed for Presidential Primary Election Day
Wednesday 3/6
9 a.m. Verterans’ Help Hours
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
4:15 p.m. Mat Yoga
Thursday 3/7
10:30 a.m. Brown Bag
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday 3/8
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise

MARCH LIBRARY LISTING

Montague Public Libraries

Turners Falls: Carnegie (413) 863-3214
Montague Center (413) 367-2852
Millers Falls (413) 659-3801

Erving Public Library (413) 423-3348
Gill: Slate Library (413) 863-2591
Leverett Public Library (413) 548-9220
Northfield: Dickinson Library (413) 498-2455
Wendell Free Library (978) 544-3559

MONTAGUE

Multiple days: Grab & Go Bags. Science: blubber experiment; craft: cardboard tube unicorn. Free kits at all branches while supplies last.
Mondays in March: Maker-space Mondays. Explore STEM concepts. Ages 8+, accompanied by an adult. Carnegie, drop-in 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Every Wednesday: LEGO. Carnegie, 3 to 4:30 p.m.
Every Thursday: Bilingual Music & Movement. Sing and move with Tom & Laurie. Montague Center, 10 a.m.
Fridays in March: Drop-in Art Class for adults. Montague Center, 11 a.m. to noon.
Saturday, March 2: Used Book Sale. Carnegie, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Saturday, March 2: Talk: The John Russell Cutlery Company. *Food, Farms & Factories* series. Teens and adults. Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 to 3 p.m.
Fridays, March 8, 15, 22: Drop in and Draw Series! Connect to your inner artist via fun, relaxing prompts. Ages 12+. Materials provided. Montague Center, 11 a.m. to noon.
Sunday, March 10: Talk: The Griswold Cotton Mill. Food, Farms, and Factories series. Teens and adults. Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 to 3 p.m.
Monday, March 11: Friends of MPL Meeting. Email vgatvalley@gmail.com for info. Carnegie, 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 14: Hot Chocolate Social. Millers Falls, 3 to 4 p.m.
Fridays, March 15, 22, and 29: Kidleidoscope Story Hour. Learn about our wildlife neighbors. Story, activities, and crafts. Ages 3 to 6, caregivers. Great Falls Discovery Center, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Wednesday, March 20: Author Series. Kate Spencer, *The Cat Who Walked the Camino*. Refreshments provided. Montague Center, 6 p.m.
Saturday, March 23: Artists’ Reception. Designing My Library, work by Sheffield third graders. Refreshments. Great Falls Discovery Center, 1 to 3 p.m.
Sunday, March 24: Film: The Mill at Montague. Food, Farms & Factories series. Montague Bookmill, 6 to 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 28: Book Club. TBD. Montague Center, 7 p.m.

ERVING

Sunday, March 10: Puzzle Swap. All ages, levels. No puzzle required. 1 to 3 p.m.
Sunday, March 10: Genealogy Drop-In Help. With Philip Johnson and Sara Campbell using *Ancestry.com*, free at the

library. 1 to 3 p.m.
Wednesday, March 13: Teen Media Club. Snacks provided. Enjoy a movie or a game in the Teen Room. Ages 11 to 19. 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 14: PJ Storytime. Dress in PJs for a themed story and take-home activity. Ages 0 to 8. Reg in advance with CNC. 6 to 6:45 p.m.
Sunday, March 17: Craft Day with the Friends of the Library. Make a seasonal craft. Materials provided. Reg required. 1 p.m.
Monday, March 11: Sonic Seasing, a sensory science experiment in the Makerspace. 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 19: Judicial Speakers: Judge MacLeod. All ages. 5 p.m.
Monday, March 25: All-Abilities Social: Design Your Own Cupcake. Socializing; food provided. Reg req’d. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Tuesday, March 26: All-Abilities Social: Design Your Own Cupcake. Reg required. 4 to 6 p.m.
Thursday, March 28: Book Group. A book whose protagonist has a different culture or lifestyle from you. 5:30 p.m.

LEVERETT

All Month: Art Exhibit, Brushy Mountain History by Eva Gibavic.
Every Thursday: Play Mah-jongg. Beginners welcome. 1:15 to 3:30 p.m.
Every Saturday: Tai Chi. Free, all welcome. Intermediate to advanced 10 a.m., beginners 11 a.m.
Every Monday and Wednesday: Online Qigong. Free, all welcome. See leverettlibrary.org or email CommunityQigong@gmail.com for info. 10:30 a.m.
Every Wednesday: Playgroup. Ages 0 to 5, caregivers. See leverettlibrary.org or email budine@erving.org for info. 10:30 a.m.
Saturday, March 2: Metalworking Workshop. Make a copper bookmark with Heather Beck. Teens encouraged! 1 p.m. Sign up at leverettlibrary@gmail.com.

NORTHFIELD

Multiple days: New Kids’ Scavenger Hunt each month.
Every Tuesday: Drop-in Knitting. Join fellow knitters and crocheters to chat and share projects. 6 to 8 p.m.
Every Wednesday: Musical Storytime. Lively, enriching, multicultural. Ages 1 to 5. 10 a.m.
Friday, March 1: Coffee and Tea Social. 10 to 11 a.m.
Saturday, March 2: Puzzle Swap. 10 to 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, March 5: Online: New England Lighthouses. Email dmemlib@gmail.com to

register. 7 to 8 p.m.
Wednesday, March 6: Readers’ Choice Book Group. Pip Williams, *The Dictionary of Lost Words*. Pick up at library. 10 a.m.
Wednesday, March 6: Tech Help. Bring your device and ask your questions. 1 to 3 p.m.
Thursday, March 7: Spice Club pickup starts. This month: curry powder. While supplies last.
Friday, March 8: Take-and-Make. This month: cardboard binoculars. While supplies last.
Wednesday, March 13: Readings Group, Flannery O’Connor short stories. Pick up at the library. 3 p.m.
Thursday, March 14: Library Trivia Night, Four Star Farms Brewery, 6 p.m.
Thursday, March 14: Environmental Book Group. Rebecca Solnit, *A Paradise Built in Hell*. Pick up at the library. 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 30: History Coffee Talk: NMH archivist Peter Weis, *The Summer Conferences in Northfield*. 10 to 11 a.m.

WENDELL

All Month: Art Exhibit, watercolors by Kari Neal.
Every Friday: LEGO, 4 to 5 p.m.
Every Saturday: StoryCraft. Picture book read-aloud at 10:30 a.m., connected craft until 2:30.
Every Sunday: Yoga. All levels, pay what you can. 10 a.m.
Every Tuesday: Art Group. 5 p.m.
Every Wednesday: CNC playgroup, 10 a.m.; *Matinee Movie*, 4 p.m.
Tuesday, March 4: Tech Help Tuesday: By reg. 4:30 & 5 p.m.
Friday, March 8: Homeschool Hangout, 10:30 a.m.; *office hours with Aaron Saunders*, 2 p.m.; last day to view *Tiny Art Show*.
Saturday, March 9: Sisters in Crime, improv game with four mystery authors. Reg requested. 1 to 2:30 p.m.
Tuesdays, March 12 & 19. Yoga. Workshops with Shay Whitman Cooper. Reg required. 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Thursdays, March 14 & 28: Fiber Night. 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 16: Puzzle Along. Team jigsaw puzzle event & swap. 1 to 3 p.m.
Saturday, March 23: Shiatsu with Friends. Explore and feel vibrant with Shell Hines. Reg required. 1 to 4 p.m.
Tuesday, March 26: Adult Book Group. 10 a.m.
Saturday, March 30: Workshop: Poetry prompt box. A book with drawers to house poetry prompts and handmade journals. Led by Jeanette Stockton. Ages 13 to 103, reg required. 2 p.m.

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By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – Last week, when the big problem here was having page space to fill, I began discussing the contents, in chronological order by release date, of a brown-paper-wrapped 10-album “Deluxe Grab Bag” I’d bought for \$10 at our local Music Connection.

We’ve heard so far from the Rolling Stones, Neil Young With Crazy Horse, Roberta Flack, and Linda Rondstadt, which brings us up to...

The Cars, *The Cars*. 1978.

Don’t yell at me, but this was the first one in the Bag that came as a revelation to me. For two reasons.

First, I learned that this record came out slightly, but crucially, earlier than I’d thought: in June of ’78, just a few months after *Jesus of Cool* and before *All Mod Cons*, *Q: Are We Not Men? A: We Are Devo*, and even *More Songs About Buildings and Food*. I can’t imagine how fresh and bright and big it must have sounded!

And second, I’ve mostly experienced the Cars as a radio-singles group. I’ll reach over and turn up the volume knob for sure, but I’ve never once thought to put them on myself. Their second album was in the basement-Dad-box I mentioned in the last installment, and it sounded OK to me, but I’d never heard *The Cars* end-to-end before now. And holy hell is it a strong record.

Three massive singles out of the gate, nothing bad to fill out the side, and then three more bangers on the flip. Four, even. Taking *The Cars* in as a whole piece makes “Moving in Stereo > All Mixed Up” feel like a peak. The synthesizers have aged amazingly well, and that sax, well, it can be forgiven as an excess of a revolutionary record’s outro. God. When exactly did Boston fall off?

Editor’s score: A / *Adjusted:* A

Fleetwood Mac, *Tusk*. 1979.

Well, one cool thing is that *Tusk* is a double album, which means I really got 11 records, at 91 cents per. But this one is awful trouble

to review, being world-historical reviewer-bait from day one.

Tusk was the band’s 12th studio album and its third since absorbing Lindsey Buckingham (a guy) and Stevie Nicks (a lady) and thereby leveling up from CSNY-softened pub rock to trans-Atlantic pop music legend. Facing the impossible task of following 1977’s *Rumours*, on which they’d miraculously alchemized their hot-mess-y interpersonal scene into a catchy, approachable, no-filler smash success, the group decided to spend a million dollars assembling an epic, polarizing jumble.

Cutting *Tusk* down to a better single LP is a time-honored time-waster, but instead try splitting it into three piles by songwriter and listening to them each in separate sessions. You’ll find six bars of chocolate (Christine McVie’s varied and skillful contemplations), five gooey marshmallows (Nicks’s witchy melodramas), and nine graham crackers (Buckingham’s terse, paranoid attempts to respond to the New Wave he knew was rapidly making the Mac look like drug-bloated old fools).

As for me, well, I hated this band, backed into the contrarian ’00s position that *Tusk* was their best offering, and then along with millions of other Americans my age continued to reverse our way up the exit ramp until we admitted the pleasure of the bloated mid-decade stuff. Your own mileage, needless to say, may vary.

Editor’s score: B+ / *Adjusted:* B

John Lennon and Yoko Ono, *Double Fantasy*. 1980.

A transitional album for Ono, coming after a long absence and disappointing anyone yearning for the sonic heights of her early ’70s output. *Double Fantasy*, presented as a series of exchanges with her real-life husband, comes across today as an blunt and meticulous investigation of codependency, redeemed at key points by cold, percussive synths.

Editor’s score: B- / *Adjusted:* B

Concludes next week...

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Broken Bridge; Leaking Building; Metal Scavengers; Loose Pitbull; Icy Hill; Fake Check; Horrible Episode

Monday, 2/19

2:14 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street states that the neighbor is pounding on the walls and making threats toward him. Advised of options. No answer at neighbor’s door.

4:36 p.m. Officer advising of three-vehicle accident on Millers Falls Road. EMS requested. Shelburne Control advised. Officer requesting Erving PD to shut down Millers Falls Road at West Mineral. Tow requested for all three vehicles. Road reopened.

10:59 p.m. Caller from Park Street reports that a German Shepherd has been outside for 20 minutes barking in distress. Concerned for its welfare. Referred to an officer.

Tuesday, 2/20

9:29 a.m. Walk-in from James Avenue states that a neighbor walks his dog off leash. Yesterday, she reported, the dog ran up and jumped on her, almost knocking her off her deck, and the owner was nowhere to be found. Requesting owner be located and advised of leash laws. Message left for animal control officer (ACO). Caller came to station and stated she spoke to some other people on the block and learned the dog’s address. No dog registered at address.

12:08 p.m. Caller from Avenue A would like on record that the “boyfriend” of the female who lives in the apartment next to hers was yelling at her for no reason and calling her awful names, which has made her very scared of him. Services rendered.

4:10 p.m. Caller states he was driving over the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge and noticed a large piece of metal coming up from where the two parts are joined together. Caller states it could pop a tire. MPD officer checked area along with Gill PD; nothing located.

Wednesday, 2/21

12:02 a.m. Caller from Third Street would like it on record that a nearby fe-

male party is making loud noise by yelling and slamming doors. Caller states female has friends over who are adding to the volume. Referred to an officer.

5:06 a.m. Caller reports a “piece of metal” sticking out of the expansion joint about 40 feet in from the Turners end of the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Caller states metal is about three or four inches, and could puncture a tire. Officer advises he located a crack in the expansion joint, which is located by the concrete pillars on the Turners side. With passing vehicles, prior damage causes the joint to rise/fall and can puncture a tire. MassDOT contacted and advised.

8:09 a.m. Turners Falls High School employee reporting they have discovered drug paraphernalia in one of the school’s bathrooms. Report taken.

12:47 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street states that water is coming out from a building’s basement, across the sidewalk and into the road. Water department notified; supervisor is sending someone to try and shut off the water. Unable to locate information on building owner. Message left with assessor’s office seeking information. Water department shut off water to building, and owner notified of issue. She will call a plumber to head over ASAP.

3:08 p.m. 911 call; resident pulled fire alarm on Avenue A. TFFD en route per Shelburne Control.

3:27 p.m. Caller from South High Street states people are in the backyard of a nearby property who aren’t supposed to be there. This has happened in the past; caller was told to call if it recurred. Officer advised. Gone on arrival.

4:13 p.m. Caller states that people are picking up scrap metal in the train yard. Officers advised. Area checked; negative findings.

6:28 p.m. 911 caller from Dell Street states that something in his backyard is on fire, approximately 30 feet from the house. Transferred to Shelburne Control. TFFD on scene.

9:06 p.m. 911 caller states there is a suspicious male party pacing in front of Black Cow Burger Bar; when she came out to lock up he ran towards Fifth Street, then ran back and is pacing between the doorways again. Officer found no one in area matching description.

Thursday, 2/22

12:36 a.m. Caller reports a loose pitbull in the area of the Millers Falls Library. Caller states dog has tags on it, but it is hard to get close to the dog as it gets nervous from time to time.

However, the dog seems friendly. Caller called back and advised the owner came up the road and recovered the dog.

12:24 p.m. Food City employee reports two females stole a stuffed animal and some medication. They left the parking lot in a vehicle; plate number provided. Unknown direction of travel. Report taken.

1:59 p.m. Walk-in reports his vehicle was struck by a gold GMC Sonoma with a black bed at Hatchery and Turners Falls Roads approximately 30 minutes ago. Vehicle left the scene before info was exchanged. Advised of options.

3:38 p.m. Caller from L Street states that she was rear-ended while pulling into her driveway. Report taken.

3:44 p.m. Caller states that there is a white sedan with Connecticut plates parked behind the Cutlery Building and there have been a lot of people going up to it and then leaving. Officer spoke with party in vehicle; moved along.

Friday, 2/23

5:23 a.m. Caller states he slid off the road near the public works complex on Turners Falls Road. No injuries, but unable to get vehicle to move. Rau’s requested for tow. Vehicle pulled out and on its way.

5:27 a.m. Caller requesting female party be removed from Cumberland Farms as she is causing a disturbance. Female left prior to officer’s arrival.

6:40 a.m. 911 caller states he lost control coming down the hill at South Prospect and Bridge Streets and couldn’t stop; went into the bridge abutment. Caller states front of truck is smashed but denies any injuries. Report taken. Five additional calls reporting vehicle accidents on South Prospect Street.

8:31 a.m. DPW employee advised officer that a male had climbed a light post in front of Carroll’s Market to plug in his vehicle. Officer spoke with male and advised him that there are charging stations for charging his vehicle.

9:47 a.m. Two-vehicle accident near Shea Theater on Avenue A. No injuries reported. Investigated.

2:35 p.m. 911 caller from Fourth Street reports someone kicked his door in and stole his two dogs. Involved party walked their dogs yesterday and has not returned with the dogs.

Dogs described as a tan pitbull and a black-and-gray bird dog. Attempting to make contact with involved party on Eleventh Street. Officer advises party and dogs not at location. Caller called back on 911 and stated that he banged on his neighbor’s door until she

answered and she stated that she saw the involved male party leave with the dogs last night.

3:48 p.m. 911 caller reporting tree in roadway on Taylor Hill Road. Officer advises tree could cause a hazard at night. DPW advised.

3:57 p.m. 911 caller states that a male party at Greenfield Savings Bank is attempting to cash a fake check. She did call the customer to verify if they wrote the check, and they stated that they did not. Party located outside post office. Investigated. Summons issued.

4:12 p.m. Caller states that he was on a walk on Old Greenfield Road and saw two teenaged boys vandalizing the railroad bridge. They took off into the woods with a bag of stuff, but left their bikes. All officers tied up on another call. Officer advises juveniles no longer there, and no vandalism was observed.

Saturday, 2/24

11:04 a.m. Caller states his mother is throwing things around the house and trying to start an argument with him. Mother was just cleaning up; no criminal actions occurring.

5:32 p.m. Caller from Keith Apartments states female party is yelling and screaming again, banging on the walls. Officer advises quiet upon arrival. He provided the caller with an update on the situation and the charges filed.

7:09 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street states that when she got home, parties were outside her apartment building harassing her and threatening to beat her up. She drove away to get away from them but would like an officer to respond. Advised of options.

Sunday, 2/25

9:38 a.m. Caller from Greenfield Road requesting assistance from ACO with her cat who just passed away at her home. Caller states he was drooling and acting strange, then had a horrible episode where he was trying to attack other animals; worries he may have rabies even though it was vaccinated. Unsure what to do with body. Dispatch advised caller that messages were left for the ACO. She will find a place to store the cat until the ACO replies.

Monday, 2/26

4:51 a.m. Caller from Cumberland Farms would like a female party removed from their location; states female pulled down her pants. Officer advises female party left upon their arrival. Employee reported that female urinated on their floor and was acting strange. Employee will speak to manager about female in the morning.

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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SOUTH DEERFIELD – After years of ups and downs, with some small resorts closing, downhill skiing has seen a record-breaking resurgence in New England and around the world, as the sport brings in more followers and the innovations in ski gear and lifts get better and better.

I recently spent a week in the mountains of the Republic of Georgia skiing at their largest ski resort, called Gudauri. There were many things that made it wonderful, including perfect packed powder, almost no lift lines, and the prices.... see at right.

It almost sounds too good to be true, but there is only a tiny catch. You have to get here.

For me, that took flights from Boston to Paris and then to Tbilisi, the small capital city of Georgia with a population of just about a million. Then the hard part, a tough slog for about two and a half hours on the most truck-choked road you’ve ever driven. The road that leads to Russia. The police regulate when the trucks can move, but the road is just two lanes, and drivers are always eager to overtake. It’s one of those times when you just have to not look as the snowy road winds around mountain bends and the trucks pass you by with inches to spare.

Georgia is about the size of South Carolina, and shaped like Tennessee. But one of the sad aspects of the country’s geography is that 20% of its official area has been occupied by Russia since the 1990s. So Georgians can’t visit two sections of the nation, South Ossetia in the middle and Abkhazia in the west.

As the frequently seen graffiti says, it’s pretty much “F the Russians” here, even though many people here speak the language.

Ramshackle Appeal

Tbilisi is an easy city to get to know and to get around. Cabs accept the Bolt app to take you anywhere in the city, and it was always less than \$2 US. One night we found a popular restaurant with a sign, like others nearby, that said “khinkali.” These are the famous soup-filled dumplings made in this part of the city, and served all around Georgia.

There is a friendliness with most young people here, though not all of the people speak English.

It’s more likely to be Georgian and Russian, and a friendly pantomime to help you get into the cab. There is also, however, a preponderance of serious-looking bald or shaven-headed men in black, and old women who have a stern frown

look. It’s a common type here, along with the friendly younger people.

Food is a treat here, both because it is often so inexpensive, but also because of the variety and freshness. Vegetables are easy to find on any menu. On a Tbilisi street, pomegranates and cups of perfectly ripe

Ski Where It’s Cheap... The Republic Of Georgia!

Four-day ski pass at Gudauri Ski Resort: **\$87**

Full equipment rentals, including helmet: **\$76**

Transport to Gudauri from Tbilisi, 2.5 hours: **\$75**

Luxury hotel with spa, indoor pool, sauna: **\$143/night**

Two beers, one wine, and one cider in a bar: **\$13**

Superb dinner for one in a café in Tbilisi, with drinks: **\$20**

sliced fruit are for sale. The lettuce is always crisp and good with their famous bread baked daily wafting with layers of cheese, or broken off and dipped in with the egg and cheese inside. The number of dishes make every meal a mini-feast.

For my four-night stay in Tbilisi I found an apartment for \$250, with one bedroom, a kitchen and a living area, in a new building in the Old Town, high above the center of the city by the Tuva River, where the towering Radisson Blu Hotel and Casino makes a commanding presence.

Just across the wide boulevard that’s too hard to cross – you have to use the tunnel beneath the road – there are more of the traditional houses, with wood and mortar that’s old and cracked and dilapidated throughout. Walking up that narrow street and looking behind the buildings reveals that many of them are shoddy, or have broken and nobody ever finished fixing them. It’s only unnerving because in most Western cities you don’t see so much disrepair.

Up to Gudauri

From Tbilisi’s famous bicycle statue overlooking the river, we embarked on the 120-kilometer drive to our five-night ski holiday in three very tightly-packed, four-wheel drive, right-side drive vans, piloted by men who didn’t speak any En-

glish and smoked cigarettes during the breaks. The country drives on the left but many vans, like these, have opposite-side steering wheel positions. Apparently these guys were driving experts who would get us to the ski resort safely. The luggage was packed up top and beside me in the crowded van.

The snow fell hard just after we left Tbilisi and began gaining altitude, driving north toward Russia. I kept trying to avoid having visions of slipping into a giant truck as we tried to pass, but thankfully, the journey was without incident.

We got to the Marco Polo Hotel as the snow piled up everywhere, a pillowy dry powder that would make for great ski conditions. The snow would continue falling until the third day when bluebird skies emerged.

This large hotel was one of three nearby where members of our group stayed. It is a very well-laid-out property and as comfortable as any city hotel with nice big rooms, but with the unique benefit of a snowy path out a door that leads right down to the first chair lift. There is even a ski locker with a number that matches every room.

The Marco Polo also has a bowling alley, a sauna, a large indoor pool, and a gym. It is a fine place to spend a week even if skiing is only a part of the day’s activities. To me, there are few things as tempting as having a five-night stay in front of me with a buffet breakfast downstairs and the freedom to do whatever I wanted whenever I wanted. Heaven!

But I was also eager to strap on the skis and see what the skiing was like here.

My first day out, a foggy covering made most of the trail hard to discern. The wind was blowing hard, and I made a decision to plunge right down, straight into an ungroomed part of the trail, into thick powder that the snowboarders were navigating with ease. Ten feet in and I took my first and last face-plant. Welcome to Georgia – watch out for powder!

They also have heli-skiing, for those who crave the steepes. The whole mountain is big, *really* big, with a vertical drop longer than Vail, Colorado. It’s also completely treeless, so there are fewer and wider slopes, and many people go off-piste down the sides.

Gudauri has 18 lifts, including four gondolas that take you 7,200 feet to the very top. From here instead of black diamond runs, it’s a long, slow descent where you can quickly gain speed. It’s interesting to take a run so long with no trees, just the flattened-down track to follow and some fun twists and turns *en route*. Moguls were not seen on any of the trails, and most of the experts chose some more difficult off-piste routes than that famous thick powder that tripped me up.

Some of my friends on the trip had never put on skis before, so a few of them signed on for lessons. It was a difficult task to get much instruction from the ski instructor,



The Gudauri Ski Resort in Kateri, northern Georgia.



Much of Tbilisi's Old Town is crumbling and ramshackle.



Fresh fruit abounds in Georgia.



HARTSHORNE PHOTOS

The snow is very hard to keep up with in this mountainous region.

as language barriers and too many people at once made it a challenge. So I stepped in for a few runs to give my buddy Stevie from Belfast some pointers. I sympathized, recalling my own teenage days of learning to not fear the angle of the downward slope and to effectively carve my way back and forth to get down. But he got better and better, and it was a joy to see him “get it”

and feel confident pointing downhill and letting it go.

Max Hartshorne, a local travel editor, writes about traveling around our region and a little beyond. He is the editor of GoNOMAD Travel and hosts the short-form GoNOMAD Travel Podcast, which you can hear at anchor.fm/max-hartshorne.



South Ossetia, center, and Abkhazia are the two Russian-occupied regions of Georgia.

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BEANS from page B1

generations ate economical beans instead, so eating meat and fish were prestigious, and beans were sidelined. Added to this, supermarkets are stashed with such a cornucopia of foods, including once-rare items from around the world, that the everyday beans of yesteryear

get overlooked.

Not, however, by vegetarians and vegans. All bean varieties have large amounts of protein. Though bean protein doesn't have all the 18 necessary amino acids of animal protein, eating beans in combination with other protein-rich foods such as pasta or rice gives

non-meat-eaters all the amino acids they need.

There are over 400 varieties of beans. Some are grown for animal feed: alfalfa is an example. Some, like soybeans and peanuts, can be used to make cooking oil. But that leaves many beans to choose from: chickpeas, navy beans, cannellini, red beans, black beans, green beans, and lentils of various sizes and colors. Easy to find, inexpensive, and packed with vitamins and minerals as well as protein, they are all nutritional as well as culinary powerhouses.

With all these wonderful features in their favor, why don't we eat more of them? One safe bet is that beans were, and still often are, sold dried. In this form they need soaking before they are cooked. For how long depends on their type and age – the latter being sometimes unknown.

So, if you are throwing dinner together after work, beans are no use to you unless you are a model of forethought. Canned beans are the way to go. Unlike many vegetables, beans suffer little if any loss of flavor in the canning process, and they are major timesavers.

For an example of a quick dish, you can make black bean soup by heating two cans of undrained black beans with one can of chopped tomatoes, all or part of a finely-chopped jalapeno, and a cup of water for five minutes. Then blend it and season to taste with salt and cumin powder. Bingo! If you have sour cream or plain Greek yogurt to dollop on top and chopped cilantro for garnish, you're home free.

If you ask the internet about which bean wins the nutrition

RED LENTILS WITH FISH

- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 medium onion
- 1 cup red lentils
- 1 tsp. dried thyme
- 1 to 2 tsp. cumin
- 1 bay leaf
- salt to taste
- 1 lb. fish
- Salt to taste
- ½ tsp. oregano
- about 2 Tbsp. flour
- oil for frying
- 10 to 12 cherry tomatoes

Use any white fish, such as monkfish, cod, haddock, or hake, for this recipe.

Chop the onion, heat the oil in a saucepan over moderate heat, and cook the onion in it for 4 to 5 minutes without browning. Rinse the red lentils – don't soak them – and stir them into the pan along with the thyme, cumin, bay leaf, and salt.

Add two cups of water, and simmer for 10 to 15 minutes until the lentils are soft. If they absorb all the water, add another cup.

While the lentils are cooking, cut the fish into three or four serving pieces. Season with salt, sprinkle with oregano, then sift flour all over each piece. Put enough oil in a frying pan to make a 1/4-inch



CLAIRE HOPLEY PHOTOS

layer. Fry the fish in this for 3 to 4 minutes on each side.

During the last 2 or 3 minutes of cooking time, halve the cherry tomatoes, add them to the pan, and let them heat through.

For serving, adjust the seasoning of the red lentils and stir to form into a thick sauce, adding more water if necessary to achieve this. Spoon some onto each plate, and top with the fish and cherry tomatoes. Serves 3 or 4.

CHICKPEAS WITH PASTA, RED PEPPERS, AND CHICKEN

- 12 to 16 oz. chicken breasts or thighs, or pork
- salt to taste
- 2 to 3 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 to 2 tsp. dried oregano
- 1 medium onion
- 1 large red pepper
- 3 to 4 stems parsley
- 1 cup small pasta, such as macaroni or penne
- one 14-ounce can chopped tomatoes
- 2 cans (14-15 oz. each) chickpeas, or any white bean
- tiny pinch cayenne or a drop of Tabasco (optional)

Cut the chicken or pork into half-inch cubes, and season with salt to taste. Chop the onion, and discard the seeds and white ribs from the pepper and cut it into 1/4-inch strips.

Heat two tablespoons of olive oil over moderate heat. Add the meat, sprinkle it with half a teaspoon of oregano, and sauté for about 3 minutes, turning to cook both sides. Remove it from the pan.

Now add the chopped onion, with a little more oil if needed. Cook for 2 minutes, then add the pepper strips. Cut the leaves off the parsley and reserve. Snip the stems into bits and add them to the pan along with the pasta. Stir



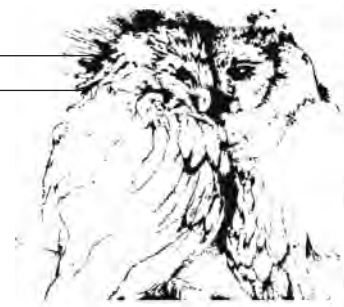
everything together and cook for a minute or two.

Add the canned tomatoes, the chicken or pork, and another half-teaspoon of oregano, and simmer for 5 minutes. Stir in the chickpeas. Taste for seasoning and add more salt and oregano if you like, plus a tiny pinch of cayenne or a few drops of Tabasco. The dish should not be fiery hot, so add only enough to give a spicy note.

Simmer for 5 more minutes, then serve topped with the chopped parsley leaves.

stakes you will get various lists, but on all of them chickpeas and lentils are at or near the top. Here, then, is a recipe for each: a one-

pot dish of chickpeas with pasta, chicken and vegetables, and a red lentil sauce for serving with fish.



Sex Matters
a sex-positive health column
by STEPHANIE BAIRD

SOUTH HADLEY – Happy Leap Year Day, and end of the month of love! In celebration of both self-love and romantic love of others, we are very fortunate to feature an interview with our local – and national – treasure Emily Nagoski, on the heels of the publication of her third book, *Come Together: The Science (and Art) of Creating Lasting Sexual Connection* (2024).

I first had the pleasure of meeting Emily when she presented her first book, *Come as You Are* (2015) at a local seminar, and have assiduously followed her teachings ever since.

Here is a brief summary of the book from the jacket cover:

“In *Come as You Are*, Emily Nagoski, PhD, revolutionized the way we think about women's sexuality. Now, in *Come Together*, Nagoski takes on a fundamentally misunderstood subject: sex in long-term relationships.

“Most of us struggle at some point to maintain a sexual connection with our partner/s or spouse. And many of us are given not-very-good advice on what to do about it. In this book, Nagoski dispels the myths we've been taught about sex – for instance, the belief that sexual satisfaction and desire are highest at the beginning of a relationship and that they inevitably decline the lon-

ger that relationship lasts. Nagoski assures us that's not true.

“So, what is true? *Come Together* isn't about how much we want sex, or how often we're having it; it's about whether we like the sex we're having. Nagoski breaks down the obstacles that impede us from enjoying sex – from stress and body image to relationship difficulties and gendered beliefs about how sex 'should' be – and presents the best ways to overcome them.”

SB: What inspired you to research and write this second book on sexuality?

EN: I wrote this book because I needed to solve my own problem. Writing my first book, *Come As You Are*, was so stressful that it actually destroyed any interest in actually having any sex with my spouse. I tried following my own advice, which is to make the most of responsive desire: You set a time, you put your body in the bed, you let your skin touch your partner's skin... and for most people, most of the time, what happens is your body wakes up and goes, “Oh, right! I really like this! I really like this person!”

But what would happen for me is I would just cry and fall asleep.

I needed more advice than I

gave in my own book. So I did what anyone would do – I went to Google Scholar and looked at the peer-reviewed research on couples who sustain strong sexual connections over the long term. And what I found there contradicted the entire mainstream conversation about sex in long-term relationships.

See, for a couple decades now there's been a public debate about whether intimacy is the enemy of the erotic – that you need distance in order to keep the spark alive – or if intimacy is the key to the erotic – that you need closeness to keep the spark alive. And here's the thing: In the research, the couples who sustain strong sexual connections, the people who have extraordinary, optimal, magnificent sex... *do not talk about spark*.

It turns out sex in a long-term relationship is not about spontaneous desire. It is about having sex you enjoy. I ended up naming it “the desire imperative,” this myth that desire is the center of the definition of sexual wellbeing and if you don't have lots of horny sexy craving for sex then you don't have anything worth having.

Replace ideas about desire with pleasure. Center pleasure – Do you like the sex you're having? What kind of sex is worth not watching

Parks & Recreation instead? – and all the other pieces will fall into place.

SB: What are some main messages/insights overall in this book?

EN: The three biggest messages I hope the reader takes from the book are:

1. Couples who sustain a strong sexual connection over the long term have three things in common: (a) they are friends who admire and trust each other; (b) they prioritize sex because they feel sex contributes something important to their connection; and (c) they realize they've been following somebody else's rules for who they're supposed to be as a sexual person and how they're supposed to do a sexual relationship, and decide to reject those rules and replace them with rules that make sense for who they truly are.

2. Pleasure is the measure of sexual wellbeing. It is not how much you desire sex, or how often you do it, or even how many orgasms you have; it is whether or not you like the sex you're having.

3. Urgency is the enemy of the erotic. When you want to co-create change with a partner, patience, compassion, kindness, confidence, joy, and curiosity will protect your connection so that you don't accidentally do harm to the connection while you navigate change.

My March column will continue with this interview and provide more helpful information from this new, highly engaging and readable, book.

EXHIBITS

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

LOOT, Turners Falls: *Auto Partitas*, twelve little trios of mixed-media works inspired by automotive parts, by Nina Rossi. Through April.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *New Roots in RiverBanks*, an exhibit on Polish and other Eastern European immigration stories and their contributions in the Connecticut River Valley. Through April 28. Reception Saturday, March 9, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Montague Center Library: *Robert Gallery*, paintings and mixed media.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: *Sara Casilio*, paintings on Duralar, through April.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *My Inner Joy*, mixed-media artworks by Nese Uysal, through March; opening reception this 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: *Between You and Me*, portraits by Maria Sparrow, through March 29. Opening reception this Wednesday, February 28 from 5 to 8 p.m.; closing reception March 29.

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VALLEY VIEW from page B1 reference. I stumbled across it in an 18th-century deed conveying a small parcel of upper Greenfield Meadows land from Agrippa Wells to abutter Samuel Stebbins. Written on April 1, 1786 and recorded nearly 20 years later, Stebbins piggybacked onto his Meadows farm a 6 2/3-acre parcel that “layeth by a brook known by the name of Punch Brook.”

Aha! Finally a clue. Punch Brook rises from prolific Smead Hill springs just above Greenfield’s northwest corner and runs through a deep ravine to a wetland meadow once owned by the people who built and owned my Upper Meadows home. Once known by anglers as a splendid little trout stream with a never-ending supply of tasty native brook trout, it passes under Green River Road and curls south and east toward its confluence with Hinsdale Brook, across Plain Road from Brookside Animal Hospital. Because I pass this little stream

at two sites along my daily morning walk, I had no trouble understanding the deed. It describes a strip of land across from Martin’s Farm, bordered west by the brook that passes through the Mary Potter Lane/Plumb Tree Lane neighborhood. Punch Brook has been an interest of mine for most of my 26-year Meadows residence, and was the subject of a June 2022 column cited above. I suppose its most alluring attraction was historians’ speculation that the 1704 Deerfield captives marched to Canada by their Native American captors camped overnight where the stream crossed the old Indian trail east of my home. It was also a source of personal interest because I was familiar with its upland spring hole from hunting, and am always interested in old squaretail streams. However, one vexing mystery continued to stir my inquisitive juices: When was it named Punch Brook and, better still, why?

I found no answer in histories of Greenfield by Thompson and Willard, or in Sheldon’s *History of Deerfield*. Nope. Not a hint. Undaunted, I queried neighbors with deeper Meadows roots than mine. Still, nada. After probing my go-to neighborhood source to no avail, I caught a pleasant couple from across the brook walking past my home one morning. They live in the home the woman grew up in, built about 1950 for her father on the old Poor House lot. As we got to chatting about this and that, I asked her what she knew about Punch Brook, which crosses the road a short distance from her home. She said she and her sisters played there as kids, and that their late father often mentioned it as a remarkable rivulet that never froze. Bingo! That little speck of information set my wheels awhirl. Was the brook that never froze a neighborhood tradition? Could it have been the impetus for the name Punch Brook, because,

like rum punch, it didn’t freeze even in bone-chilling cold? I went back to my top neighborhood source, who had nothing to add, then questioned a woman whose childhood home bordered the stream and, likewise, nothing new. Neither of them had heard a whisper about the brook that didn’t freeze. Maybe my original source’s father would have known something, but he’s been in his grave for many years, would be over 100 today. It’s possible that members of old Meadows families who still occupied historic family homes carried the fading tradition well into the 20th century before it vanished. Very possible, yet difficult to substantiate. Then appeared that Agrippa Wells deed reference concerning family land originally granted to his Deerfield-proprietor father. Yes, there it was, Book 19, Page 381, 1786: Punch Brook. The name was obviously well-known by then, which suggests a much earlier origin that dated back at least to Dr.

Thomas Wells (1693-1743). That brings us back to pre-settlement Upper Meadows days. Who knows? Perhaps even back to the 1704 Deerfield attack and the overnight stay by the captives, who remembered savoring its water in frigid winter darkness. Those captives who survived the perilous northern trek to return may have pointed out the campsite many times in their travels, and told of the spring that flowed freely across the frozen Indian trail. Maybe they said it flowed like rum punch on cold winter nights. Thus, the name Punch Brook that’s recorded on 19th-century maps, and on the 18th-century Wells-Stebbins deed. Although I cannot be certain, it makes a lot of sense to me. I wonder what the Indians called it? Gary Sanderson lives in Greenfield. Questions and comments are welcome at gary@oldtavernfarm.com.



Aquí se habla español

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

OPINIÓN

¿Importa la edad de nuestros gobernantes?

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

GREENFIELD – El diccionario de la Real Academia define “gerontocracia” como un gobierno o dominio ejercido por ancianos. La palabra viene del griego *kratos*, que significa poder, y *geronto* que significa anciano. La antigua Unión Soviética era bien conocida en los años 70 y 80 por esta práctica, la mayoría de sus gobernantes durante esa época tenían más de 70 años, por ejemplo: Brezhnev, Chernenko o Andropov. La población de la antigua URSS estaba obligada a creer que líderes ancianos enviaban un mensaje de estabilidad y solidez del gobierno, de lo que nose daban cuenta era que también cortaban las expectativas de cambio. La gerontocracia jugaba también un papel importante en la iglesia católica del Vaticano hasta que el papa Pablo VI instauró la norma que prohibía a los cardenales participar en el cónclave para votar a un papa si eran mayores de 80 años. Así mismo los obispos deben renunciar a su cargo al cumplir 75 años. Aún así, la mayoría de los últimos papas han sido elegidos cuando casi llegaban al límite de edad.

El presidente Joe Biden es el primer presidente de los Estados Unidos que ha cumplido 80 años durante su presidencia. No se quedan atrás otros presidentes que llegaron al cargo siendo ya mayores, como por ejemplo Ronald Reagan o Donald Trump. Por otra parte, entre los más jóvenes al llegar a la presidencia tenemos a Roosevelt que lo hizo con solamente con 42 años y John F. Kennedy con 43 años. La constitución estadounidense dice explícitamente que no puedes ser presidente si no tienes 35 años. Es importante señalar que en 1787, el año en que fue firmada la constitución estadounidense, la esperanza de vida en Estados Unidos era mucho menor, con un promedio de 36 años y la actual es de 78 años. Ha habido algunos intentos de poner un límite de edad para ser presidente o representante en las cámaras, pero eso implica reformar la constitución y los esfuerzos no han

llegado a buen puerto. En estos momentos está en la calle la controversia acerca de la edad de los candidatos a las próximas elecciones presidenciales ya que muchas encuestas dicen que el 69% de la población cree que la edad de un presidente a la hora de votar es importante. Esto no significa que no vayan a votar por un candidato que tenga una edad poco apropiada para el cargo si no se presenta otra opción. ¿Y cuál es la razón para que los candidatos sean tan mayores? En primer lugar, al igual que en la Corte Suprema, no existe una edad límite regulada por ley. Otra razón es demográfica, los mandatarios del presente son los niños nacidos después de la Segunda Guerra Mundial, lo que se conoce como los “baby boomers.” Y la tercera razón, y no menos importante, es que para hacer campaña se necesita una gran cantidad de dinero. No es muy común tener una gran fortuna propia siendo muy joven y aquellos que donan prefieren un candidato de una edad madura ya que es la edad que ellos tienen.

¿Y en Latinoamérica? ¿Y en España?

En España no existe una edad mínima en la constitución para ser presidente, el único límite para ocupar cualquier cargo público es ser mayor de edad, es decir, tener 18 años. En otros países de Latinoamérica, la edad mínima para ser presidente son las siguientes: En Brasil, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, México, Paraguay, Panamá, Perú y Uruguay su constitución dice que la edad mínima es 35 años. Guatemala requiere tener 40 años, y Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, República Dominicana y Venezuela dicen que la edad es 40 años. Un poco diferente es Nicaragua donde la edad requerida es 25 años. El 88% de las constituciones en Latinoamérica requiere una edad mínima ya que sus constituciones están basadas en la constitución estadounidense. En Europa se consideraría discriminación por edad. Ahora mismo en Latinoamérica están

gobernando los presidentes más jóvenes en mucho tiempo. En Ecuador está Noboa que tiene 35 años, al igual que el presidente de Chile, Boric que llegó al cargo con la misma edad. En Paraguay gobierna Santiago Peña que accedió a la presidencia con 44 años y Lacalle en Uruguay con dos años más. En España, Pedro Sanchez ganó las elecciones con 46 años y tiene en la actualidad cincuenta y uno. Y en Argentina, con unos años más, está Milei que tiene 53 años. Entre ellos hay ideas políticas muy diferentes, ya que no significa que ser joven sea de izquierdas, o ser mayor ser de derechas, no siempre estos dos factores van unidos. Las ideologías de los anteriores son muy diferentes, pero además de la edad tienen en común que forman parte de otra generación, que se presentan como dinámicos a sus votantes, y que quieren romper con la política anterior. Estos presidentes han llevado a los jóvenes a querer votar porque los ven cercanos, conocen y hablan su misma lengua, y saben quiénes son sus ídolos, y cantantes favoritos. Estos candidatos han utilizado y utilizan las redes sociales para conectar con sus votantes.

¿Y en Estados Unidos?

Mis amigos en España siempre me dicen que cómo es posible que los estadounidenses votemos por un candidato anciano. Es algo que para los españoles es impensable ya que los votantes quieren un candidato ágil, dinámico, preparado cultural y emocionalmente y que hable su lenguaje. En Estados Unidos es clave la experiencia y el sistema de honor dentro del partido. Esa es la razón del partido demócrata para presentar a Joe Biden como candidato, ya que es el presidente actual y por lo tanto ningún otro candidato demócrata se atrevería a presentarse para hacerle sombra. La edad influye, pero no tanto en los Estados Unidos como la lealtad al partido y a los ideales que representa. Está claro que tener experiencia y una

cierta madurez que se consiguen solamente con la edad son atributos necesarios para cualquier trabajo. Sin embargo, en un mundo que está cambiando, en un mundo cada vez más rápido y global, la edad necesaria en la política debe evolucionar también. El mundo avanza y cambia cada vez más rápido, las noticias de esta mañana ya son noticias viejas, los avances tecnología que surgen cada día, y los cambios en una sociedad muy diferente a la de hace unos años, nos indica que debemos aprender a valorar en un candidato la agilidad para adaptarse a los nuevos tiempos. En este caso la juventud sería una gran ventaja, ya que alguien más joven se le supone acorde con los cambios y rápido para actuar ante ellos. Si me preguntan mi opinión, creo que el envejecimiento es diferente en cada persona debido a diversos factores. No se puede obviar que a partir de una edad empiezan a llegar lo que se llaman achaques de salud, nuestra energía no es la misma y hay síntomas de un deterioro cognitivo. Algunas personas están completamente lúcidas a los 95 y otras apuntan signos de demencia senil cuando tienen solamente 75. Es curioso como el candidato republicano ataca a Biden por su edad cuando él mismo está muy cercano a ella. Cierto es que vídeos en los que se ve al presidente tropezando o confundiendo al presidente de México por el de otro país no le hacen ningún favor en su carrera hacia la Casa Blanca. Aún así recurrir a esto por parte de su adversario es bastante pobre, y dice mucho del candidato que lo utiliza al no poder presentar otros argumentos. Creo que como dijo Platón en el medio está la virtud. Lo ideal sería un candidato lo suficientemente maduro para tener cierta experiencia política, pero al mismo tiempo lo suficientemente joven para tener una imagen fresca, ser rápido en las respuestas y presentarse como seguro de sí mismo, ágil y deportista. Yo misma preferiría un candidato mucho más joven, pero si tengo que elegir entre Biden y Trump, no tengo dudas en mi elección.

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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*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton*. No cover. 6:30 p.m.

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

Next Stage Arts, Putney, VT: *Larry & Joe*. \$. 7 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Grant-Lee Phillips, Dennis Crommett*. \$. 7:30 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: *Bubble Scary, Stringhead, Autumn Rhythm, Letters of Marque*. \$. 7 p.m.

Bookends, Florence: *Mulva, Nanny, Magick Lantern*. \$. 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*. No cover. 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.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

Bookends, Florence: *Ceremonial Abyss, bobbie, Holy Taker, Joe Mygan*. \$. 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

Nova Arts, Keene: *Hurray for the Riff Raff, NNAMDI*. \$. 7 p.m.

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

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Frogtones Frogget, Lick The Puss, The Stupor, Cowperson, it's mandy, 413DJMAFIA*. \$. 7 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Roger Clark Miller, Hiroya Tsukamoto*. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Rabbit's Foot, John Ferrera*. \$. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Open mic* with featured performer *Dave Dersham*. \$. 6:30 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Groove Prophet*. No cover. 7 p.m.

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

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *The Big Takeover, The Mary Jane Jones*. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed: *RJD2*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

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

Nova Arts, Keene: *Oneida, Creative Writing*. \$. 7 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 11

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Advance Base, Young Moon, bobbie*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

Bowker Auditorium, UMass Amherst: *Fanoos Ensemble*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. No cover. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Viqueen, Jeopardy, Outlourdes, Woundlicker*. \$. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Adam Ezra Group, The Mallett Brothers Band*. \$. 8 p.m.

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

looking forward...

SATURDAY, MARCH 16

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Molly Hatchet*. \$. 8 p.m.

90 King St., Northampton: *Valley Gals, Wet Bastards, Ian St. George, Owen Manure*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

Mystery Train, Amherst: *Kath Bloom, Bulle, Primitive Accumulation*. \$. 5 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Goblet, The Leafies You Gave Me, Hot Dirt, Cheap City*. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

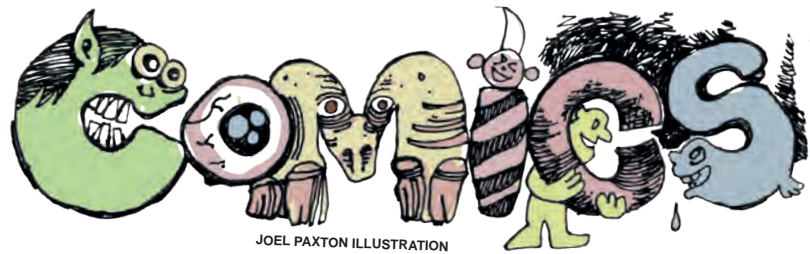
Belltower Records, North Adams: *Kohoutek, Heavenly Bodies, Wendy Eisenberg, Erica Dawn Lyle*. \$. 6 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

Holyoke Media, Holyoke: *Dear Nora, Ruth Garbus Trio, bobbie*. \$. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

Daily Op, Easthampton: *R.A.P. Ferreira, Cavalier, DJ Quills*. \$. 8:30 p.m.



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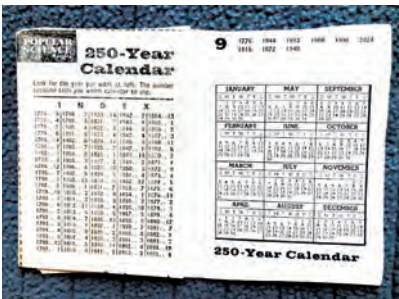
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CALENDARS from page B1

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII adopted our current calendar for the Roman Catholic church. Ten days were dropped from the old Julian calendar to make the spring equinox date – and Easter – roughly the same as it had been in 325 AD, the year the Council of Nicaea was convened by Emperor Constantine.

George Washington’s parents probably correctly noted, perhaps in the family Bible, that their son was born on February 11, 1731. In 1752, however, Protestant Britain and its colonies finally adopted the Gregorian calendar – but by then they needed to skip eleven days. The day after September 2, 1752 was therefore September 14, 1752.

Evidence to support stories that this led to riots by men worried they would be losing wages is flimsy, but we do know that in his *Poor Richard’s Almanack*, Benjamin Franklin called the move an “indulgence... for those who love their pillow to lie down in Peace on



A 250-year calendar helpfully provided by Popular Mechanics magazine.

the second of this month and not perhaps awake till the morning of the fourteenth.”

At the same time, New Year’s Day was moved from late March to January 1, meaning 1751 was only about nine months long. Washington’s birthday became February 22, 1732, giving us two correct dates on which he was born. Daylight saving time seems simple by comparison.

My interest in calendars was piqued at age ten when my dad gave me a pocket-sized 200-year calendar he somehow acquired on

a business trip. Later I scooped up a Popular Science 250-year calendar and a metal Messier Furniture Slydit 50-year calendar from my grandmother’s house.

At the Vermont Marble Factory in Proctor in 1918, I splurged on an elegant round calendar for 1998 to 2037, hewn from beautiful stone. No discount because 20 of 39 years had gone by.

While living in Greece from 1967 to 1980, I published my own perpetual calendar. Called *Faces of Greece*, it’s full of pictures of local folks that I took with a 35mm Yashica camera. With instructions in four languages, it sold well over 1,000 copies; friends say they still have it hanging over their desks. Sadly, I have only a couple dog-eared copies left.

To my delight, my nine-year-old granddaughter asked me to note in my will that my calendar collection goes to her. You got it, kiddo; I couldn’t ask for a greater honor.



SADOWAY PHOTOS

The author’s collection. On the marble calendar, to show five Thursdays in February in 2024, 1996, and 1776, she must set 2024 above the red FEB. “I still consult the blue Rockingham Park booklet,” she writes, “adorned with my childish signature when I was still Margaret Wheeler.”

MONTAGUE



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Annie Levine remembers her local news at the Ho’omalubia Botanical Garden in Kane’ohe, Hawai’i.

REPORTER



Spring break! The McGuigan family of Turners Falls brought our February 15 edition all the way to the offices of rival publication The Daily Prophet at Universal Studios in Florida.

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

ON THE ROAD

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