

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 22 – NO. 19

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 4, 2024

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## DPW Head Tom Bergeron To Retire After Two Decades

By JEFF SINGLETON

Public works superintendent Tom Bergeron announced at Monday's Montague selectboard meeting that he will be retiring in June after over 20 years working in his position and 28 years in public works departments regionwide.

The meeting also saw the board approve a new police department

hiring policy – replacing the state civil service rules – and discuss legislative priorities with representative Natalie Blais.

Bergeron read a brief statement announcing his impending resignation, effective June 28. "I wish to express my gratitude for the opportunities I have had to work with so many great town employees," see **MONTAGUE** page A5



Tom Bergeron, in a 2023 Reporter file photo.

## Museum Strike Settled

By HUGH FINNERTY

**NORTH ADAMS** – After 21 days, the MASS MoCA workers concluded their strike last Tuesday after voting to ratify a new contract agreement. The deal won by United Auto Workers Union Local 2110 included an increase in the minimum starting wage from \$16.25 to \$18 per hour for all staff at the contemporary art museum, and 3.5% salary increases for full-time employees during the first and second years of the contract. Some full-time em-

ployees will also receive "equity" increases in the first year, based on seniority and responsibility, ranging from 3.9% to 14.29%.

The wage increases will be paid retroactive to January 1, predating the strike's beginning by over two months. The union also scored victories on overtime, winning time and a half rates for hours worked beyond 10 per day. Holiday pay will also be rolled out within a two-year timeframe.

Social media sites were buzzing see **MUSEUM** page A4

ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Debt Override for Mill Demo Goes to May Town Meeting

By MIKE JACKSON

When they met together on March 18, the Erving selectboard, finance committee, and capital planning committee faced a roughly \$362,000 gap between the town's expected revenue for FY'25 and the sum of its departments' budget requests, and needed to balance the budget by April 2 in order to prepare the articles for the annual town meeting.

They rolled up their sleeves, meeting for two and a quarter hours

on March 25 and just shy of three on April Fools' Day.

One of the toughest decisions they faced, though, did not concern the regular operating budget. On Monday the selectboard weighed whether to place a Proposition 2½ debt exclusion vote on the town meeting warrant to borrow money for the demolition of the former International Paper Mill complex.

A request for proposals (RFP) to develop the town-owned property is see **ERVING** page A4

## High School Sports Week: A Soggy Start to Spring

By MATT ROBINSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – The spring high school sports season officially commenced for Franklin County Tech and Turners Falls High School on Monday, April 1. The schools' hybrid track teams hosted Greenfield while the tennis teams, also made up of athletes from both schools, swung their rackets in the season's first matches.

The next day, as the freezing rain began to descend, the Turners

girls' tennis team hosted Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion while Turners and Tech snuck in a baseball game. On Wednesday, rain and snow drenched the Valley, and all events were postponed.

**Track and Field**  
Greenfield 94 – TFHS 45  
Greenfield 89 – FCTS 52

The Turners Falls girls' hybrid track team fell to the visiting Green Wave of Greenfield, 94 to 45, on see **SPORTS** page A7

## Black Bears Increasingly Targeting Livestock

By SARAH ROBERTSON

**ATHOL** – A miniature horse was killed by a bear on Sunday night near the Athol-New Salem border, a state wildlife biologist has confirmed.

"Unfortunately, attacks on livestock by bears seem to be increasing in recent years," wildlife biologist David Wattles told the *Montague Reporter*. "It's just the massive, massive amounts of food that people provide to wildlife that's driving this."

The state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) is not planning to track, relocate, or euthanize the offending bear. Attempts to reach the horse's owner by press time received no response, but Wattles, who serves as MassWildlife's black bear and furbearer project leader, confirmed the attack.

"Shooting the bear doesn't solve the root cause of the problem. The root cause of the problem is because the public doesn't take our message seriously about providing food to wildlife," Wattles said. "It's very, very rare that we would ever take that action."

An increase in the number of people keeping livestock, and particularly chickens, in their backyards has taught some bears to seek food there, he explained. Multiple instances of bears breaking into chicken coops and killing chickens have been reported across the state in recent years.

The best way to protect livestock is with an electric fence, Wattles said, and removing other potential sources of food, such as bird feeders

see **BEARS** page A6

NAVIGATION

## Getting Around Franklin County Without a Car: The Bus Is Free!



HARTSHORNE PHOTO

The buses will roll past bus stops where nobody is waiting, but rides are free at least through the end of June, and routes are finally running on weekends.

By MAX HARTSHORNE

**SOUTH DEERFIELD** – I have often considered what it would be like to navigate my way around the Pioneer Valley without using my car. A decade ago there were far fewer choices for the carless, but today a series of options has been made available, and technology is making everything easier. From connecting peer-to-peer with a rideshare app like Uber or Lyft, or the tremendous price reductions on electric bicycles, and even the prevalence of electric scooters on college campuses and downtowns, transportation has truly evolved.

I think the most telling thing about it all is the demographic. Only 80% of Gen Zers between ages 20 and 25 had licenses in 2020, whereas 90% of the same age group had their licenses in 1997.

In western Massachusetts, particularly in Franklin County, there are several options available for getting around between towns without a car.

**Uber and Lyft**

On a winter day like this, if I needed to get home to Deerfield I'd first try to think of a relative or friend nearby who owed me a favor. If that failed or I couldn't reach anyone on the phone, I would open the Uber or Lyft app on my iPhone and hail an Uber from my office at Hawks & Reed in the center of Greenfield to take me 13 miles home to South Deerfield.

The cost would be \$17 to \$27 for a 12-minute ride, depending on how big a car I needed.

**FRTA Buses**

If I didn't mind waiting until the end of the day, a short walk down to the John W. Olver Transit Center would bring a small bus that could take me home at 4:55 p.m., every weekday. This Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) bus leaves daily seven times for South Deerfield, a 21-minute ride.

The Passio GO! app has a lot of see **AROUND** page A7

THEATER

## Shakespeare Festival a 'Most Rare Vision'

*Things base and vile holding no quantity,  
Love can transpose to form and dignity.  
Love looks not with the eyes, but with the mind,  
And therefore is wing'd Cupid painted blind...*

– Helena, Act I Scene 1,  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream*



Mayhem in the woods – though you may find yourself just listening to the sounds of the Bard's English. (Photo courtesy of the Montague Shakespeare Festival.)

By JEFF SINGLETON

**TURNERS FALLS** – This weekend the Shea Theater Arts Center will host the three final performances of the Montague Shakespeare Festival's run of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a tale of love, magic, and disorder in woods near Athens, Greece. According to organizers, this production of one of the playwright's most

popular works is "more than just a play; it's a bold statement on the universality of human experiences and the enduring power of love and resistance against the forces of tyranny."

Directed by Fi Ross of the Royal Shakespeare Company of London, the five weekend shows are part of a three-week festival that also includes five workshops; one, funded by a grant from Greenfield Savings Bank, was for teachers interested in bringing Shakespeare into their classes.

Having chosen *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the first-ever Montague festival, organizers write that the play "invites you to enter a foreign and familiar world where the timeless themes of Shakespeare's work resonate with our contemporary lives."

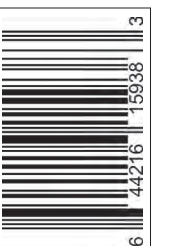
The cast was recruited entirely locally, and rehearsed the work intensively over a three-week period.

The plot is, in theory, structured around the upcoming wedding of Theseus, the Duke of Athens, and Hippolyta, the Queen of the Amazons. It is not entirely clear why this

see **FESTIVAL** page A8

**Too Cool To Believe In Weather Forecasts Anyway**

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# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold  
August 2002

Two events Monday – the triple drone strike that killed seven staff members of the humanitarian organization World Central Kitchen in central Gaza, and an airstrike on the Iranian consulate complex in Damascus – have dominated the week's news on the conflict. On the same day, however, Israeli Defense Forces also withdrew from the Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City after a two-week raid.

We are reprinting here most of a report released Monday by Euro-Med Monitor, a human rights NGO based in Geneva, Switzerland, under the title "Shifa Medical Complex witnesses one of the largest massacres in Palestinian history." (CW: This includes descriptions of extreme and mass violence.) – Eds.

The Israeli army carried out a massive, shockingly horrific military operation in Al-Shifa Medical Complex in Gaza City over the course of the past two weeks, indiscriminately targeting and attacking Palestinians regardless of their civilian status, professional standing, gender, age, or health condition.

Though the exact number of casualties from the atrocity is still unknown, preliminary reports suggest that over 1,500 Palestinians have been killed, injured, or are reported missing as a result of the massacre at Al-Shifa, with women and children making up half of the casualties. Euro-Med Monitor is able to confirm from its initial investigation and testimonies that hundreds of dead bodies, including some burned, and others with their heads and limbs severed, have been discovered both inside Al-Shifa Medical Complex and in the hospital's surrounding area.

The massacre claimed the lives of at least 22 patients who were killed in their hospital beds during the Israeli siege of the Medical Complex, amid the willful deprivation of their access to food, medical care, and supplies. Israel's army also purposefully prevented relief teams and representatives of international organizations from entering Al-Shifa to carry out humanitarian missions or evacuations, plus purposefully cleared the Complex of all working personnel – particularly medical personnel – either by summary execution or forced displacement or arrest. The whereabouts of some of these individuals are still unknown.

Al-Shifa Medical Complex is currently out of service due to the Israeli army bombing and setting fire to every one of its buildings, including the mortuary and all internal and external courtyards and corridors.

The attack on Al-Shifa Medical Complex is the most visible aspect yet of Israel's systematic and carefully-crafted plan to destroy and besiege the Gaza Strip's health sector, bring it to the brink of collapse, and deny the Palestinian population any chance at survival

or medical care, or shelter.

Members of the Israeli army forced more than 25,000 Palestinian civilians to evacuate their homes in the vicinity of Al-Shifa Medical Complex. These forced evacuations occurred after Israel committed horrendous crimes against local families, including killing, direct targeting, besieging, and starving them, as well as arbitrary arrests and destroying and burning homes and civilian objects. According to initial estimates, the Israeli army demolished and set ablaze over 1,200 housing units in the vicinity of Al-Shifa Medical Complex.

At dawn on Monday, the Israeli soldiers and vehicles withdrew from the Medical Complex, which is considered the largest medical facility in the Gaza Strip. The Complex housed three specialised hospitals with a combined clinical capacity of 800 beds: the Surgery Hospital, the Internal Medicine Hospital, and the Obstetrics and Gynecology Hospital. Built on a 42,000-square-metre plot, the Complex housed multiple buildings, some with multiple stories, and provided coverage for the Gaza Governorate and the Gaza Strip as a whole....

The Israeli army committed the Al-Shifa Medical Complex massacre with the utmost disregard for international humanitarian law, particularly its rules pertaining to distinction, proportionality, and military necessity; respect for the unique protections enjoyed by civilian hospitals and medical teams; protection for civilians; protection for the sick and wounded; and the prohibition against targeting them even if they are military personnel.

As Israel has not yet produced any documentation to justify or validate its massive and dangerous execution of crimes that are flagrant violations of international humanitarian law, all international bodies and institutions present and operating in the Gaza Strip, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, should visit the crime scene, document all forensic evidence associ-



Tom Sena reaches for an envelope at the Turners Falls Post Office window. Tom has worked for the postal service since 1984, and has been at the Turners location since 1995. He's coming up on retirement in a couple years, and his knowledgeable and smiling presence will be sorely missed when he is gone!

## Letters to the Editors

### Spring Clean-Up at Cemetery

The Montague Cemetery Commission will be conducting our annual Spring clean-up of the town cemeteries, in particular Highland Cemetery, on Thursday, April 18. Please remove seasonal decorations from your loved one's grave before the above date.

The commission clean-up will include the removal of dead flowers and wreaths, broken items, and debris such as plastic flowers that have blown onto nearby headstones. According to the cemetery rules and regulations, all winter decorations must be removed by April 15 and summer decorations by October 15. "If these items become unsightly, dangerous, detrimental or diseased, or when they do not conform to the stan-

dard maintained by the commission, they will be disposed of."

It is our goal, as a Commission, to take reasonable precautions to keep the cemetery clean, free of clutter, and safe for visitors and all who have loved ones buried on the property. Please do your part by being mindful of items that make it difficult to maintain the area around the headstone.

Your cooperation is much appreciated.

Jo-Ann Prescott  
Montague City

Member, Montague Cemetery Commission

## Are Lithium Batteries 'Green'?

A 1.6-mile-long bridge in Maryland was recently struck by a ship and collapsed. The trauma, colossal costs, and infrastructure chaos loom.

The gigantic container ship included transportation of hazardous waste from the United States to Sri Lanka, off the coast of India. This is not merchandise of quality, nor of use to citizens of that country. It was clearing toxic residue from within our borders to be sold at someone's profit, a middleman in the toxic waste hierarchy.

The cargo included lithium ion batteries, highly flammable and toxic remains from our large battery storage facilities, electric cars, etc. If you have seen the height and volume piled on that cargo ship, then you can imagine similar collections awaiting transport.

There have been out-of-control hazmat battery storage facility fires before, but this is a first-of-a-kind ac-

cident. The volume of battery waste adds to the anti-battery argument held by cities and towns and fuels the opposition to the expanding use of and construction of battery storage as a "Green" energy source.

Several towns in Franklin County have been confronted with corporations seeking easy means to financial gain. They seductively name themselves "New Leaf," "Blue Sky," "Green Wave" as if they are answering the call for environmental salvation.

If you let our state government know your response to battery storage – especially stand-alone battery systems that *do not* produce their own energy, but extract from a grid that remains mostly fossil and nuclear – you will help Governor Healey reassess her Green directives.

Nina Keller  
Wendell

ated with it, and gather witness and victim testimonies. In addition, the relevant local authorities in the Strip must take immediate steps to protect the crime scene, document any related evidence, and take all reasonable precautions to prevent the loss or destruction of this evidence....

The international community must act swiftly and forcefully to defend Palestinian civilians against the genocide that Israel has been committing in the Gaza Strip for the past six months. This action should include safeguarding the ill, injured, displaced, medical personnel, and journalists, as well as applying genuine pressure on Israel to cease its grave crimes in the region, including those committed against medical facilities, as well as its forced displacement and starvation of civilians.

The international community must work together to ensure that Israel complies with international law, and the ruling of the International Court of Justice, and is held responsible for all its crimes, including the massacre conducted in Al-Shifa Medical Complex.

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## LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Got time on Thursday afternoons to **help with delivering newspapers in downtown Turners Falls?** We have one or two routes available for an adult, an adult/child team, or a high schooler, delivering papers to businesses and residents in the central downtown area.

Please contact me at (413) 834-8800 or [features@montaguereporter.org](mailto:features@montaguereporter.org) if you are interested. Small stipends are available. This is a great way to get a little exercise, meet people, and get involved in our community!

**Bread & Puppet Theater** will bring their street-theater performance to Massachusetts this month with a brand-new production, *The Hope Principle Show: Citizens' Shame and Hope in the Time of Genocide*. Locally they will perform at the Shelburne Falls Memorial Hall tonight, Thursday, April 4 at 7 p.m. and at UMass Amherst on Friday, April 19 at 7 p.m. The Shelburne event is ticketed and the UMass one is billed as free, but as with all Bread and Puppet shows, no one will be turned away for lack of funds. A full tour schedule is available at [BreadAndPuppet.org/Tour](http://BreadAndPuppet.org/Tour).

After the show they will serve sourdough rye bread with aioli, and their classic "Cheap Art" printed matter will be for sale.

This Friday, April 5, is **Vegan Pizza Night** at the Upper Bend and the **Eleventh Gumball Machine Opening** at Sadie's Bikes from 5 to 8 p.m.

Bike shop owner Nik Perry writes that he is very excited about the new prizes in the gumball machine, made by The Wheel of Doom #0 Liquimetal Edition a.k.a.

Easthampton artist Joshua Vrysen. Sam Mulligan will be playing live on a "side stage" sporadically throughout the event, including his song "Jammies," as well as "other Nintendo-fueled power pop."

There's also an **open mic at Unnameable Books** in Turners Falls featuring Brian Stephen Ellis at 6 p.m. this Friday, April 5. Words – and sounds of all kinds – are welcome. The Portland, Oregon-based poet Ellis is on the New England leg of their tour to support a new collection of poems, *Against Common Sense*. Sign-ups start at 5 p.m.

Kai Carol Jud will offer a free workshop, **Dying Before You Die – A Path Into Joyful Living**, at the Wendell Meetinghouse from 1 to 5 p.m. this Sunday, April 7. Issues to be discussed include how to talk about death with friends and family, beliefs about death, experiences of death with loved ones, unfinished business, fears of aging and death, and practical steps and support to help prepare for death.

"This is not a workshop devoted to pain and suffering," Jud notes. "My intention is for participants to leave the workshop feeling enlivened and ready to live life to the fullest." After Jud's husband Chris died suddenly in 2012, she learned much about death and grieving, and the fruits of her grieving process inform her workshops.

This event is free, with donations accepted for the benefit of Village Neighbors and the Council on Aging. For more information, contact [kaicarlojud1@gmail.com](mailto:kaicarlojud1@gmail.com).

Looking for work? A big **job fair** will be held at the Greenfield Community College dining commons next Thursday, April 11 from

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. No registration is necessary, just show up. Find a list of employers and other information at [masshirefcareers.org](http://masshirefcareers.org).

It's already time for the season's second **Great Falls Coffeehouse** concert at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls. On Friday, April 12 at 7 p.m., Big Woods Voices will perform their *cappella* harmonies with arrangements including old and new American roots and world folk styles.

"From heart-stopping to foot-stomping, prayerful to fun-filled, dissonant to dulcet, Big Woods Voices brings the spirit of southern Vermont to life through rich harmonies and soulful interpretations," reads the announcement. Check them out at [bigwoodsvoices.com](http://bigwoodsvoices.com).

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the concert starts at 7 p.m. There is a suggested donation of \$6 to \$15 – children are free – and coffee and homemade baked goods will be available.

A symposium, **Gardening In Changing Times**, will offer a variety of workshops from 8:45 a.m. until noon on Saturday, April 13 at Frontier Regional School in South Deerfield. Presented by the Western Massachusetts Master Gardener Association, topics include pollinator habitats, container and permaculture gardening, lawn alternatives, and more. In between workshops, attendees may have soil samples tested and swap used gardening books. The cost is \$40; register at [wmmga.org](http://wmmga.org).

The Millers Falls Community Improvement Association is hosting a **village clean-up day** on Saturday, April 13. (The rain date is April 14.) Help pick up trash and make the village look its best while meeting neighbors and making new friends. Meet in front of the library at 9 a.m. for coffee and muffins before receiving your trash bag and assignment. Gloves are a must!

The tradition of leaving small baskets of flowers and treats as little surprises on May Day morning

dates back many, many centuries. On Saturday, April 13 from 10 a.m. until noon, kids ages 4 to 10 are invited to come to Northfield Mountain's yurt and **create May Baskets with artist Deborah Bazer**.

The workshop will teach how to make a number of different styles of baskets out of paper, bark, twigs and other natural materials. Pre-registration at [booeko.com/northfield](http://booeko.com/northfield) is required.

The Greenfield police department is offering **gift cards to folks who turn in guns** at their stations next Saturday, April 13 between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Firearms must be unloaded and delivered in a bag, and in working condition. A \$75 card is offered for handguns, rifles, and shotguns, with \$150 cards offered for "assault weapons." Find out more at [NorthwesternDA.org](http://NorthwesternDA.org).

Create **woven and folded Polish paper stars** at the next "Art Naturally" program at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls next Saturday, April 13 at 10:30 a.m. This month's paper craft project is inspired by the traditions of Polish and Eastern European immigrants who worked in local farms and factories. The event is for adults, teens, and children ages six and up accompanied by an adult. All art materials are provided.

Northfield Mountain is sponsoring an afternoon of **yoga and hiking along Barton Cove** next Saturday, April 13 from 1 to 4 p.m. with Libby Volckening. This is a mostly silent hike about three miles long, alternating with gentle yoga, mindful movement, conscious breathing and meditation, for ages 13 and older. Pre-registration at [booeko.com/northfield](http://booeko.com/northfield) is required. Attendees are asked to bring water and dress in layers.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Polish and other Eastern European immigrants came to this area to begin new lives as small farmers and factory workers. Learn about **Eastern European Immigration and Industrialization in Massachusetts** on Sunday, April 14, at 2 p.m. in a talk at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls by history professor Robert Forrant.

This free event for youth and adults is presented by the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association and funded by Mass Humanities.

The Greenfield Garden Cinemas will screen the concert film of **Geoffrey Hudson's eco-oratorio A Passion for the Planet** on Monday, April 15 at 6 p.m. The film is described as a blend of scientific prose, poetry, and sacred texts from many faiths in a large-scale choral work for chorus, soprano and baritone soloists, and orchestra. In the finale, performers and audience members join together to sing a simple chorale tune.

The screening will be followed by a "get-involved fair" where attendees can learn about various organizations working on climate solutions.

The event is co-sponsored by the Green Team at the Episcopal Church of Saints James and Andrew, and Hybrid Vigor Music. It is free and open to the public, with general seating. A \$10 suggested donation will go to the Massachusetts Farm Resiliency Fund.

Send your local briefs to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

Memorial Hall Theater  
**POTHOLE PICTURES**  
April 5 at 7:30 p.m.  
April 6 at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m.  
**THE PRINCESS BRIDE**  
*A classic comedy from 1987 and one of the greatest love stories of all time.*  
Music at 7 p.m. Friday, *The Give*;  
2 p.m. Saturday, *133 Skeelee*;  
7 p.m. Saturday, *Wild Bill & Friends*  
51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls 625-2896

Leverett 250th Anniversary  
Featured Presentation  
**Recovering Native Histories Along the Kwinitekw (Connecticut River)**  
*Dr. Margaret M. Bruchac  
Prof. Emerita, University of Pennsylvania*  
April 10, 2024, 7-9 pm  
Leverett Elementary School  
85 Montague Rd, Leverett  
**Free Admission**  
*Native American survival, from the 1600s on, in the Nonotuck (now Northampton, Hatfield, Hadley) and Pocumtuck homelands (now Deerfield, Greenfield, and Leverett), in case histories of colonial encounters and conflicts, in legal proceedings, and economic and medicinal exchanges*

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"Sometimes I drive around roads I'm not familiar with," writes reader/proofreader Maggie Sadoway. "This morning my wanderlust resulted in a fun encounter with stranger Ed Golembeski. He lived on H Street in the Patch before moving to West Gill Road in 1993, where he now owns five horses, four Chinese geese (three males, one female), three cats, and two dogs. Maybe you know his barn decorations that he changes with the seasons? He says these geese are used as 'guard dogs' at Scotland Yard – they sure were announcing my arrival. Nostalgically, he said he used to have lambs by this time of year, but has given them up."

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Week of April 8  
in Montague



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CHOICES  
by **ERNIE BRILL**  
SUN. APRIL 7th • 3pm

**BOOK LAUNCH**  
ON YOUR FEET  
(a novel in translations)  
by **JACQUELINE FELDMAN**  
w/ **CAREN BEILIN**  
(Revenge of the Scapegoat)  
SAT. APRIL 13th • 6PM

**POETRY READING**  
**TAMAS PANITZ**  
**JOEL NEWBERGER, JONNY**  
**COLLAZO, BILLIE CHERNICOFF**  
& **BRANDON DOWNING**  
FRI. MAY 17th • 6PM

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## MUSEUM from page A1

with support for the agreement, with posts celebrating the strike's end from politicians like US senators Ed Markey and Elizabeth Warren and the Boston rock group the Dropkick Murphys. The Local 2110 bargaining committee voiced satisfaction at being able to get off the picket line. "We are very pleased to have reached an agreement with the MASS MoCA that raises minimum pay rates and improves working conditions," the committee members wrote in a public statement. "We are looking forward to getting back to the jobs we love."

MASS MoCA director Kristy Edmunds also addressed the agreement in a written statement. "Equity and wage increases for MASS MoCA's staff have never been a matter of if, but a matter of how fast," she wrote. "Our goal was shared, but our constraints and communication efforts for getting there differed."

Communications director Jen Falk further underlined the museum's support of its workforce. Between January 2022 and January 2024, she told the *Montague Reporter*, the museum's payroll grew from 138 to 179 employees, "a rare feat nationally in the post-pandemic economic uncertainty in the arts and cultural sector," and the number of positions covered by the union's contract increased by 35%.

"It's faster than we planned," Falk said of the wage and equity

increases, "yet we will continue to uphold our mission and community while managing financial risk in an uncertain economic and politically charged year ahead."

Sustainability was at the forefront of the museum's stated concerns during its negotiations with the union. "As a non-collecting museum," Falk told the *Reporter*, "MASS MoCA does not have a permanent collection of art that accumulates wealth over time. Our endowment funds are small and restricted in their use and cannot be spent down. When the endowment goes backward, so do our funds for operations."

Following the announcement of the new agreement, the administration expressed that the increases will not result in sacrifices in programming, that the workers were returning to their posts, and that the summer festival schedule has been left unperturbed.

"Our increases of compounding wages did not come at the expense of our commitments to artists, or to the role MASS MoCA plays in the creative economy," Edmunds wrote. "We ensured that everyone moves forward, rather than back, in what will be remembered as a watershed moment in MASS MoCA history."

Both sides thanked small businesses and local authorities in North Adams for their patience and support during the negotiations.



FINNERTY PHOTO

*The contemporary art museum, which opened in 1999 in a complex of buildings once occupied by the Sprague Electric Company, was unionized in 2022 by staff organizing with the United Auto Workers.*

## ERVING from page A1

currently pending, with proposals due to be read this Thursday, but multiple past RFPs have been unsuccessful. Time is ticking on a \$600,000 grant to develop the site for reuse, and tearing down the buildings would require finding \$3.7 million.

Why don't we just drop the question altogether, put it out to auction, and save the aggravation?" asked capital planning committee member Peter Mallet.

"I'm not saying that I think it's even going to pass," said selectboard member Scott Bastarache, "but... I don't want to sit here and presuppose that 'I think it's going to fail, so let's just pull it off the warrant.'"

"Let's let the people have their vote on it, and if they vote it down, then we know what the next steps are," Bastarache continued. "If people say, 'I don't want to see it just go to another owner, and then they sit and do whatever they want with it for 20 years while we battle with them as a defunct owner,' then they can vote Yes, and we'll tear it down."

The officials considered pulling the cash from stabilization instead – or kicking the question past the annual meeting to a special town meeting in the summer – but in the end the selectboard voted unanimously to place a three-year debt exclusion article on the May warrant, conditioned on a townwide vote on the override.

### Sticking Points

Another likely point of controversy at the annual meeting is an article giving raises to the town clerk, tax collector, and treasurer. A review last year of compensation for all town positions resulted in raises for staff across the board, but state law requires a two-thirds vote at town meeting for these positions as they are elected.

At a special town meeting in October, the proposal failed 49 to 41. It was put back on the warrant for a special town meeting in January, where it again failed – this time by a single vote, 45 to 24.

Treasurer Jennifer Eichorn, who also reported at the meeting that she had locked in a favorable 4% interest rate for the town's bank accounts for most of the next fiscal year, said she had spoken with the clerk and collector and that everyone supported trying again at the May meeting.

"It was disappointing that it was not passed,

as everyone [else] in the town received raises," Eichorn said. "I also think that these positions are going to be really hard to fill if people in these positions do go elsewhere – I think that's going to be a higher cost in the long run."

"It's a documented plan, what we think is fair pay for what's being paid around the area," said finance committee member Dan Hammock. "People at town meeting, I hope, will think of them themselves as an employer – you've all been an employee someplace, you've wanted to be treated fair... We ask everybody to treat our employees the way they'd like to be treated."

"I will bring this back as many times as I have to to put them back on the same wage table as all of their other coworkers," said Bastarache.

"We've talked a few times about changing some of these positions over to appointed," said selectboard chair Jacob Smith. "The market isn't getting easier to find qualified people for these roles."

### Adding Up to Zero

On the 25th, the officials mapped out a number of places costs could be cut, or revenue estimates increased, in order to get to a balanced budget. These included adding in an estimate of "new growth" in the town's tax base, reducing the funding for the assessors' overlay account and employees' future benefits (OPEB), and hoping to take in more from fees. There were also rumors the elementary school budget was being trimmed.

An hour in, the various committee members and town administrator Bryan Smith came up for air and checked to see if everyone's running estimate of the remaining gap was the same.

"We're still looking at around an \$82,000 deficit," said Bastarache.

"Something doesn't jibe," said selectboard chair Jacob Smith, "because I'm in the positive. Did you include your OPEB adjustment?"

"I'm at \$65,358 with no OPEB adjustment," said selectboard member James Loynd.

"I'm at \$35,350," Deb Smith of capital planning chimed in, to much tired laughter. The session continued, with Bryan Smith expected to keep running tallies for the following week.

By the April 1 meeting there had been more good news – added revenue from the fixed interest rate, and a smaller request from the

elementary school thanks to increased grant revenue. On the other hand, solid estimates of tax revenue available from "new growth" came in at only about \$12,000, far less than the hoped-for \$43,000. Nevertheless, the back-of-envelope budget was solidly in the black.

The focus then turned to a number of wild cards in the town personnel budget: a police cadet and highway equipment operator, part of the original FY'24 budget proposal but unfunded; a fourth full-time firefighter and an admin assistant, rejected last year by a failed override vote; and a new clerk at the assessors' office and more staff hours from the library, currently requested for FY'25 but not yet hired.

"I have us at positive \$67,891," Deb Smith announced. Bastarache said that by further reducing the OPEB commitment and increasing the estimate for local receipts, that surplus could be nearly \$148,000.

Jacob Smith said he felt strongly about restoring the cadet program, given recent reforms and regulatory changes that have made it harder for towns to hire and train part-time officers, as well as the equipment operator. These two salaries, plus the benefits package as well as the cost of the cadet program, would bring the figure about to zero.

Jacquelyn Boyden, the town's principal assessor, clarified why her office had included a new assistant in its FY'25 budget request.

"I've since heard from the retirement board," Boyden announced. "My retirement date is December 31, 2025... I didn't deliberately put in for an assistant assessor position as a succession plan – I put in the clerk instead, which is a cheaper option, knowing that... I could train somebody. I'm out of here in 20 months, if you don't fund this clerk that's okay – my life continues – but I was looking out for the best interest of the town."

All three positions were included in the tally.

In the end, Bastarache moved that the committees recommend a budget with \$14,372,627 in revenue and \$14,369,736 in expenses. This was approved by all parties, with one abstention on the fin com.

"My to-do list over the next week is intense," Bryan Smith reflected. Bastarache agreed to draft an introductory message on behalf of the selectboard for him to print in the town meeting budget packet.

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**MONTAGUE** from page A1

boards, and committees,” he said, “which allowed me to help bring the DPW to higher standards.”

Born at the Farren Hospital, Bergeron grew up in Montague, attending elementary school at the Central Street School and the South End School in the Patch, both of which are now preschool centers. He attended the local Junior High School on Crocker Avenue, now the district’s administration building, and was in one of the first classes to attend Turners Falls High School in its current location, graduating with the Class of 1977.

After graduation Bergeron worked at Starrett Tools in Athol and eventually for the Northfield Department of Public Works before becoming a foreman in the Montague department in 2002, and then its superintendent in August 2004.

Bergeron was also on the agenda for a request that the board approve a \$35,477 contract with the engineering firm Stantec to procure and oversee the installation of a new box culvert in Montague Center, where South Ferry Road crosses a tributary of the Sawmill River. Most of the work will be done by the DPW, at a considerable savings to the town. The board approved this.

While at the front table, Bergeron also described his inability, that very morning, to find and repair an underground pipe suspected of pouring large amounts of groundwater into the Millers Falls sewer system. The failed lateral pipe on the eastern side of Route 63 may have contributed to \$94,000 in “overage” payments this year to Erving, where the village’s sewage is treated. The pipe and resulting infiltration were documented last month by a camera used by a subcontractor, but when Bergeron and members of his staff attempted to locate it, they were unsuccessful.

“We went down and started digging at seven this morning,” said Bergeron. “We started digging right where the company had camera’d the line that we’re looking for, and we dug probably a ditch for 40 feet and we couldn’t find anything.”

Bergeron said that the owner of the house served by the degraded pipe “was very generous with us,” after his workers had “taken a tree down and dug up her whole front yard.” He called the contractors in charge of the pipe inspection and asked them to return to identify its location, which he said may be under the property’s driveway.

“I was hoping for good news, but that’s the latest,” he reported.

Bergeron assured the *Reporter* that this frustrating effort to find the source of “inflow and infiltration” (I&I) was unrelated to his decision to retire. “After over 28 years, I’m just tired of it,” he said of his role as a department head, which includes working odd hours and responding to weather emergencies. “I love my job, especially helping the community, since I grew up here.”

“That kind of stuff,” he said of the hunt for I&I in Millers, “I really enjoy.”

**Hiring On Our Own**

Police chief Chris Williams came before the board to present a draft “Policy and Procedure” for hiring police officers, no longer regulated by the state civil service after a March 14 special town

meeting vote to withdraw from the system. Williams told the board he had developed the draft after looking at “other vetted policies” in similar towns, working with town officials and Chris Smerz of the patrolmen’s union.

The document establishes general guidelines and then outlines a preliminary application and selection process, a final interview and evaluation, and a post-selection process including a one-year probationary period. It also lists the requirements of the state Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission, which are distinct from the civil service, and stresses that officers must still meet them.

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz and board member Matt Lord asked about the criteria for requiring applicants to take an exam at the beginning of the process, which the manual says “may or may not be required at the discretion of the Chief.”

“I have no idea what that context means,” said Lord.

“Is that expectation that we will run an exam every so often?” asked Kuklewicz.

“It all depends,” said Williams. “If we have 50 people sign up, we’ll have a test – if we have five, we’re not going to have a test.”

The board approved the document, which town administrator Steve Ellis said could be revised in the future.

**Rural Needs**

State representative Natalie Blais attended the meeting to listen to Montague’s priorities for state legislation in the coming year, stated in a list sent to her in advance. “I appreciate you putting together your thoughts, as you do every year,” she said, noting that this was one of the annual meetings she has with selectboards across the district. “We do get all 17, if you can believe it,” she added.

Many of the points raised by the board and other town officials, particularly Ellis, focused on the cost of decaying infrastructure. “Roads and bridges – we can’t get enough,” said Kuklewicz.

Blais said that the Chapter 90 road aid bill which the House of Representatives will be taking up this week includes \$200 million in local aid for roads and bridges, \$25 million for rural roads specifically, and another \$150 million “split between six different programs.” She also said the Secretary of Transportation had recently come to Franklin County. “We got her on a bus and took her on some dirt roads,” Blais said.

There was a lengthy discussion of lower-than-expected state education aid to districts in the region. Blais listed a number of measures she said she supported to increase aid to rural schools, including more funding for transportation and a higher inflation factor in the aid calculation, but noted that 212 districts in the state were only receiving “minimum aid” this year, “and I know you all have seen that.”

Blais added that at a recent hearing at Greenfield Community College on the issue, she and state senator Jo Comerford had “pushed the [Education] Secretary to see if he would be a partner in looking at Chapter 70 [state education aid] – cracking that open and seeing if it’s time to update the Chapter 70 formula.”

**Other Business**

The status of a potential “host community agreement” with the cannabis company 253 Farmacy for the sale of medical marijuana was discussed. Lord, who is taking the lead on the issue, recommended against using a template agreement issued by the state Cannabis Control Commission, and submitting one with several additions and subtractions.

The board, without taking a vote, agreed to discuss the idea with the company before moving forward.

At the recommendation of parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz, the board approved a \$3,500 contract with Metcalf Associates to evaluate the condition of the historic blacksmith shop in Montague Center, as well as two agreements concerning the lease of a photocopy by his department.

Assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey and Council on Aging director Roberta Potter discussed a plan to have incarcerated workers from the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office paint the senior center in July. There would be no cost to the town for the painting, but it would require repairs to the building’s siding beforehand.

Ramsey proposed using money left over from a previous appropriation for the repair of the building’s roof, but as the siding work would require additional funding, he proposed procuring quotes to determine how much more would be needed. Without taking a formal vote, the board approved moving forward on the project.

Ellis reported that Montague was now “in line” to receive a \$75,000 asset management planning grant to assist in an evaluation of the Clean Water Facility and sewer system required by state and federal agencies. He said the grants would become available in May.

Ellis also reported on “transition planning” to introduce Montague’s new trash and recycling hauler, Casella Waste Systems. “Everything appears to be ready to go for July 1,” he said, noting that Casella has hired a driver “who has great familiarity with our routes,” having previously worked for the current hauler, Republic Services. Casella and the town, Ellis added, planned a “full social media marketing, as well as direct mail outreach, in early June.”

The board, acting as the personnel board, appointed Jamie Carey as an administrative assistant in the building department, replacing Karen Casey-Chretien. The board then appointed Casey-Chretien to the position of temporary administrative assistant, until April 25, to assist with the transition.

Based on recent upgrades in the status of part-time police approved by town meeting, the board approved increases in pay for reserve officers John Dempsey and Todd Michon.

Jacob Goldman was appointed as a library assistant at the Millers Falls branch library, and Amber Korby as sexton for the cemetery commission, a new position recently approved by town meeting, at a rate of \$100 per burial.

The board retired to an executive session to discuss real estate, to whit the Greenfield garage formerly owned by the Greenfield-Montague Transit Authority.

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**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION**

**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING**  
Project File No. 612982

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed **Bridge Replacement, Church Street over Keyup Brook** project in Erving, MA.

**WHEN: Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.**

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed Erving - Bridge Replacement, Church Street over Keyup Brook project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** Church Street provides a connector from Route 2 to the south to North Street to the north. Church Street is a major collector with an existing speed limit of 25 mph. The existing roadway consists of 10 foot lanes with no shoulders and a 5-foot sidewalk to the west side of Church Street. There are no existing bike lanes at the roadway. The purpose of this project is to replace the existing bridge at Church Street Bridge over Keyup Brook which is in poor condition and has been reduced to one lane of traffic. Church Street is a small rural roadway with no areas within the existing right-of-ways to expand the street design to incorporate bike lanes or an additional sidewalk. The Town has no long-term plans (next 15 years) to construct sidewalks or bicycle facilities along the east side of North Street, the north side of Church Street or along either side of Highland Avenue.

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

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to [MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 612982. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the hearing transcript must be emailed or post-marked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted.

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

This hearing will be hosted, or a cancellation announcement posted, on the internet at [www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events).

**JONATHAN GULLIVER**  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

**CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.**  
CHIEF ENGINEER

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*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
**Town of Leverett**  
**Ryan W. Mailloux, Collector of Taxes – Office of the Collector of Taxes**  
**NOTICE OF TAX TAKING**

**To the owners of the hereinafter described land and to all others concerned:** You are hereby notified that on Monday the 22nd day of April, 2024, at 10:00 A.M. at the Tax Collectors's Office, 9 Montague Road, pursuant to the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 60, Section 53, and by virtue of the authority vested in me as Collector of Taxes, it is my intention to take for the Town of Leverett the following parcels of land for non-payment of the taxes due thereon, with interest and all incidental expenses and costs to the date of taking, unless the same shall have been paid before that date.

**Assessed To ALTABET SUSAN**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0 Acres located and known as REAR JUGGLER MEADOW RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 7-120G and being part of the premises recorded in book 7342 on page 182 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2019 Tax	\$252.37
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**Assessed To BLINN CLIFFORD H ESTATE OF**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0 Acres located and known as 1 DUDLEYVILLE RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 4-19 and being part of the premises recorded in book 05021 on page 85 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2015 CPA	\$42.91
2015 Tax	\$3,350.40

**Assessed To BLINN STEPHEN A**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 10.717 Acres located and known as 0 RATTLESNAKE GUTTER RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 3-69 and being part of the premises recorded in book 05025 on page 65 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2020 Tax	\$1,245.79
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**Assessed To BURKE CHARLES L**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 6.997 Acres located and known as 0 BROAD HILL RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 8-59A and being part of the premises recorded in book 5142 on page 93 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2022 CPA	\$2.43
2022 Tax	\$1,023.01

**Assessed To CALL FREDERICK D**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0 Acres located and known as 115 MONTAGUE RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 5-105 and being part of the premises recorded in book 6699 on page 46 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2019 Tax	\$195.69
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**Assessed to CARLSEN KEMPER And NEIGER JOHN J JR**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 3 Acres located and known as 163 RATTLESNAKE GUTTER RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 4-17 and being part of the premises recorded in book 6637 on page 254 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.  
*Supposed Present Owner CARLSEN ANN LIFE ESTATE*

2022 Tax	\$19.27
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**Assessed to DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TR CO And TRUSTEE MORGAN STANLEY DEAN**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.67 Acres located and known as 106 TEAWADDLE HILL RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 7-176 and being part of the premises recorded in book 6916 on page 291 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

*Supposed Present Owner WITTER CAPITAL INC*

2020 CPA	\$42.01
2020 Tax	\$2,424.99

**Assessed to DZIEKANOWSKI SUSAN M EXECUTOR And ESTATE OF CHESTER DZIEKANOWSKI**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 27 Acres located and known as REAR SHUTESBURY RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 8-38 and being part of the premises recorded in book 2016 on page 284 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2022 Tax	\$327.82
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**Assessed to FEELEY BENJAMIN D And FEELEY MASAKO KATO**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 1.397 Acres located and known as 49 LONG HILL RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 5-48 and being part of the premises recorded in book 6482 on page 131 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2022 CPA	\$0.30
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**Assessed To FIELD CARLYLE A**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0 Acres located and known as 137 DEPOT RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 7-213 and being part of the premises recorded in book 3217 on page 301 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2016 CPA	\$122.64
2016 Tax	\$6,129.12

**Assessed To FIELD CARLYLE EDWARD & RUTH**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0 Acres located and known as 133 DEPOT RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 7-212 and being part of the premises recorded in book 3217 on page 301 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2018 Tax	\$1,520.79
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**Assessed To FRIEDMAN THOMAS H**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0 Acres located and known as 65 CAMP RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 5A-5 and being part of the premises recorded in book 5654 on page 288 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2017 CPA	\$33.18
2017 Tax	\$1,974.39

**Assessed To FRIEDMAN THOMAS H**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0 Acres located and known as 65 CAMP RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 5A-9 and being part of the premises recorded in book 7064 on page 53 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2017 CPA	\$118.63
2017 Tax	\$5,001.81

**Assessed To FRIENDS OF NORTH LEVERETT**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0 Acres located and known as NORTH LEVERETT RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 1-11 and being part of the premises recorded in book 7999 on page 299 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2017 CPA	\$1,131.66
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**Assessed To HELMAN DAGMAR ESTATE OF**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0 Acres located and known as 0 LONG PLAIN RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 7-66 and being part of the premises recorded in book 1836 on page 246 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2019 Tax	\$143.09
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**Assessed To IRWIN WHITNEY PARK**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0 Acres located and known as 169 DUDLEYVILLE RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 4-30 and being part of the premises recorded in book 8164 on page 46 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2017 CPA	\$1,075.84
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**Assessed To KANETA KEITH**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 1.457 Acres located and known as 0 MONTAGUE RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 3-49D and being part of the premises recorded in book 02052 on page 259 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

*Supposed Present Owner C/O KENDRICK PROPERTY MGMT*

2022 Tax	\$141.30
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**Assessed to KAPLAN LAUREN W And SILVER JENNIFER**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 2.66 Acres located and known as 173 SHUTESBURY RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 8-69 and being part of the premises recorded in book 6136 on page 103 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2020 CPA	\$85.44
2020 Tax	\$3,872.61

**Assessed to LENNARD STACEY A And SAXENIAN STEPHEN P**

A parcel of land with any buildings

thereon, approximately 3.297 Acres located and known as 79 TEAWADDLE HILL RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 7-163 and being part of the premises recorded in book 3809 on page 249 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2022 Tax	\$950.10
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**Assessed To MABIUS IVY**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 4.526 Acres located and known as O PUTNEY RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 5A-36 and being part of the premises recorded in book 7314 on page 55 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2021 CPA	\$81.27
2021 Tax	\$4,655.27

**Assessed to McCORMICK MICHAEL J And McCORMICK CATHLEEN B**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0 Acres located and known as 20 Church Hill Road shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 2-86B and being part of the premises recorded in book 2385 on page 144 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2019 Tax	\$284.98
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**Assessed To MCDONOUGH KATHLEEN M**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 3.197 Acres located and known as 0 DEPOT RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 7-114 and being part of the premises recorded in book 2073 on page 192 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2022 Tax	\$173.33
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**Assessed to NICKERSON SCOTT And CROCKER LEESA**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0.279 Acres located and known as 183 RATTLESNAKE GUTTER RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 4-18 and being part of the premises recorded in book 5234 on page 60 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2022 Tax	\$644.33
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**Assessed To PECHUKAS ROLF**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0 Acres located and known as 8 JUGGLER MEADOW RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 7-23 and being part of the premises recorded in book 5125 on page 79 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2018 CPA	\$52.86
2018 Tax	\$3,866.89

**Assessed To ROBINSON ARIJA And STUBEROVSKIS OLGERTS TRUSTEE**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0 Acres located and known as 112 SHUTESBURY ROAD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 8-103 and being part of the premises recorded in book 2248 on page 152 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2019 Tax	\$756.22
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**Assessed To ROSEN KIM & KENNIE BUELL TR**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0 Acres located and known as CAVE HILL ROAD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 1-13C and being part of the premises recorded in book 1943 on page 294 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

*Supposed Present Owner NICHOLAS ROSEN*

2019 Tax	\$325.88
----------	----------

**Assessed To RUDZIK JOYCE MARIE**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0 Acres located and known as JANUARY RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 8-147 and being part of the premises recorded in book 2715 on page 38 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2018 Tax	\$213.66
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**Assessed To SHERMAN ELLIOT**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0 Acres located and known as 0 HEMENWAY

RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 4-7 and being part of the premises recorded in book 1494 on page 289 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2019 CPA	\$124.96
2019 Tax	\$4,165.47

**Assessed To SHERMAN ELLIOT**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0 Acres located and known as 40 MILL YARD RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 4-15 and being part of the premises recorded in book 3198 on page 131 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2019 CPA	\$50.55
2019 Tax	\$4,609.32

**Assessed To STEVE INVESTMENT TRUST**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0 Acres located and known as 80 DEPOT RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 7-112A and being part of the premises recorded in book 3652 on page 79 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2019 Tax	\$1,357.85
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**Assessed To STEVE INVESTMENT TRUST**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0 Acres located and known as 96 Depot Road shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 7-112 and being part of the premises recorded in book 3652 on page 79 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2019 CPA	\$97.64
2019 Tax	\$5,343.66

**Assessed To SUNDELL MARIANNE**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 2 Acres located and known as 34 CHESTNUT HILL RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 1-129 and being part of the premises recorded in book 6875 on page 53 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2022 CPA	\$165.89
2022 Tax	\$7,413.54

**Assessed to TELEGA THEODORE And TELEGA MICHAELNE**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 8 Acres located and known as 119 LONG PLAIN RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 7-102A and being part of the premises recorded in book 3952 on page 342 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2020 Tax	\$23.12
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**Assessed to TILLOTSON MAXINE TRUSTEE And SHAWN BOWMAN TRADEMARK REAL ES**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 0 Acres located and known as 76 CUSHMAN RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 8-126 and being part of the premises recorded in book 6985 on page 269 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

*Supposed Present Owner CLEVELAND PHETNEY*

2014 Tax	\$307.10
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**Assessed To TRUEHART KRISTINA M**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 5 Acres located and known as 64 CUSHMAN RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 8-127 and being part of the premises recorded in book 5783 on page 39 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

2022 CPA	\$89.64
2022 Tax	\$4,872.02

**Assessed to URBAN VENEER HOLDINGS LLC And URBAN VENEER LLC**

A parcel of land with any buildings thereon, approximately 3.4 Acres located and known as 15 HEMENWAY RD shown on the Town of Leverett Assessors Records as Parcel Identifier 1-80 and being part of the premises recorded in book 8148 on page 8 in the Franklin Registry of Deeds.

*Supposed Present Owner C/O ROC CAPITAL*

2022 CPA	\$31.48
2022 Tax	\$2,933.39

**BEARS from page A1**

and compost. Black bears typically eat a vegetarian diet of plants, berries, nuts, and insects, and predatory behavior is very rare.

The black bear population in Massachusetts is also increasing. MassWildlife began tracking the black bear population in the 1980s, when it believed there were around 100 bears in the state. Today the agency estimates there are between 4,000 and 5,000 wild bruins roaming the forests and suburbs.

"It's only going to increase in the coming years," Wattles said. "It is a conservation success story, and it's not a public safety threat."

The state biologist told the *Reporter* that the areas surrounding Northampton and the North Quabbin have some of the highest-density bear populations, and that in the last five years a growing number of breeding females have been denning closer to residential areas. In Northampton, bears have been found sleeping underneath porches and disused equipment on construction sites.

In the past, MassWildlife would relocate nuisance bears to the Prescott Peninsula, a forested section of New Salem that juts into the Quabbin Reservoir, but Wattles, who also trains the agency's Large Animal Response Team, said this practice was discontinued about 20 years ago.

"We would not relocate this bear as it only would transfer those issues elsewhere," he said of the Athol incident. "The only animals we relocate are bears that end up in highly urban areas, like downtown Worcester, and then they are not moved far."

MassWildlife has recorded six instances in which wild black bears have attacked humans in Massachusetts, Wattles said, all resulting in minor injuries. In Connecticut, a black bear once tried to attack a small child, and there have been instances elsewhere in the Northeast in which black bears have seriously injured and even killed people.

"It's not like there's no recourse here," Wattles said. "A homeowner can shoot and kill an animal that's causing property damage."

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## Brick House, NELCWIT Events in April

**TURNERS FALLS** – The Brick House, in collaboration with Just Roots, is hosting a Spring Sustainability Event on Wednesday, April 17 from 6 to 8 p.m. Families will cook and eat dinner together and plant herb seeds in a pot to take home.

Register at [bit.ly/4as91CN](http://bit.ly/4as91CN). For questions or to register by phone or email, contact Jose at (413) 800-2208 or [jolvera-aguilera@brickhousecommunity.org](mailto:jolvera-aguilera@brickhousecommunity.org). The Brick House is located at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls.

The New England Learning Center for Women in Transition is holding its 15th annual "Power to Persevere" fundraiser at the Guiding Star Grange in Greenfield on Thursday, April 18 from 5 to 8 p.m. There will be refreshments, contra dancing with music by All Over the World, a short program, and a cash bar. Register to attend and/or donate at [givebutter.com/PowerToPersevere2024](http://givebutter.com/PowerToPersevere2024).

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**AROUND** from page A1

features, like a timer that shows when the bus is arriving and complete real-time schedules for all of the bus routes.

The FRTA buses are actually *free* between now and June 24, 2024, when the fares return. The interesting thing to me about this federal- and state-subsidized network of buses is how few of us use it. I've never seen a full FRTA bus, but in an average year around 150,000 local riders climb aboard, so they certainly aren't driving around empty, just not packed.

FRTA ([www.fрта.org](http://www.fрта.org)) operates fixed-route bus services connecting various towns and communities within Franklin County. I could take one of the three morning FRTA buses and three afternoon buses, and commute back and forth to Greenfield from South Deerfield with relative ease.

And in case I wanted to travel on the weekend, FRTA is now piloting Saturday and Sunday service, with three trips back and forth each day.

If I wanted to get to Northampton and anywhere that the Greenfield-to-Springfield Valley Flyer commuter train goes, I have several options using FRTA buses, which cross west-to-east from Charlemont to Orange and south from the central hub in Greenfield to Northampton. The John W. Olver Transit Center is where the Valley Flyer, Amtrak's Vermonter, and the FRTA buses depart from. There used to be a cute little café in the building, but sadly the pandemic wiped that out.

FRTA also offers ADA paratransit services for individuals with disabilities who are unable to use fixed-route buses. You must complete an application to prove a disability and live within three-quarters of a mile of an FRTA route to use this service.

The Passio GO! app in the Apple or Android stores provides all FRTA schedules, fares, and outages for travelers. This app is an important part of using public transportation these days, since nearly everything you need is there.



FRTA's Route 31, which runs between Greenfield and Northampton through South Deerfield, uses a smaller bus in the morning and a larger one (pictured above) in the evening.

**Shuttles and Dial-a-Ride**

FRTA also organizes Med Ride, volunteers who drive their own cars to help ambulatory people 60 or older who live in Franklin County but need a ride to medical appointments out of the county.

If you would like to schedule a ride, you can contact the FRTA customer call center during regular business hours at (413) 774-2262 or (888) 301-2262, and dial 0 for a representative.

**Bicycle Transportation**

Franklin County offers scenic routes and bike-friendly infrastructure, making cycling a viable option for leisure travel between towns. The Franklin County Bikeway is mostly made up of shared-use paths and relatively bicycle-friendly roads, providing safe routes for cyclists.

We also have several bike shops where electric bikes can be purchased and serviced. Electric bicycles have truly come into their own in recent years, and using one of these is a faster way to get up hills and over long distances. I see more and more of them on the roads, and it's made a long bike ride a much more do-able commute, versus the pure human-powered variety.

But biking is very weather dependent, and I'd only rely on my ebike about half the year.

South of our area, those blue bicycles that were seen since 2018 in towns like Amherst, Northampton, and Holyoke were removed last year when the company that provided them went bankrupt. Valley Bike Share has not shared when a new contractor will be selected, but the blue bike racks will again be filled with these rental bikes when a new contractor is selected this year.

Someday soon I expect we will see these shared bikes in racks across Franklin County too. They have been very popular down south, and many people are asking when they will be coming back. Soon!

**Taxi Service**

Some people don't have smartphones or use apps like Uber. For these people, there are taxi services that will come pick you up.

These can sometimes be pricey, but they are truly the last resort when you have to get there.

**My Bus Experience**

In late March, I took the FRTA bus from a stop just outside my house in South Deerfield to Northampton, and it arrived ten minutes late. I flagged down bus driver Brian Paccoco, who pulled over to pick me up while exclaiming, "I've never picked up a passenger at this stop before!"

Later we both noted that there is no bus stop sign at the South Deerfield post office, though it is the listed stop. Every time we approached a stop it was announced on the bus by an automatic PA, yet the driver roared right past most of the stops since nobody was waiting there.

The route along 5 and 10 was brutal – the suspension in this 2017 bus wasn't great, and pothole season is in full swing. Ouch!

Down in Northampton, all of the buses stop at the Academy of Music. At the bus shelter there, a man smoked a big joint, stinking up the whole place even as kids came and entered in the rain. Not cool, old dude.

The buses used on the routes between Greenfield and Northampton vary from small 24-passenger, all-gas buses to larger buses that hold 36 passengers. Fares are not needed, and Brian the driver said he was very glad not to have to collect money from the passengers.

Something tells me that this fare-free situation might continue past June, as federal and state subsidies pretty much cover the cost of the service.



**SPORTS** from page A1

April Fools' Day. Blue Thunder did well in track, but only earned three points in the field events.

The quartet of Jazzlyn Gonzalez, Jaade Duncan, Taylor Youmell, and Jakhia Williams broke the tape in the 4 x 100 relay race. Williams also took first in both the 100m high hurdles and the 100m, Duncan won the 200m and took second in the 100m, Gonzalez finished second in the 200m, and Youmell placed third in the 100m.

Ella Guidaboni, meanwhile, won the 400m low hurdles and placed second in the 100m high hurdles, and Jasmine McNamara finished second in the two-mile.

Other third-place finishes included Madyson Lynde (400m), Tristan Bliss (200m), and Ripley Dresser (400 low hurdles and the 800m).

In the field events, Charlotte Canterbury finished third in the javelin and tied for third in the discus, while Dresser took third in the high jump.

In the boys' meet, Cameron Candelaria won both the 100m and 200m, Wyatt Whitman won the 400m, and Josiah Little won the long jump.

Izaya Romer finished second in the shot put as well as the discus, Anthony Gallo took second in the mile and two-mile, Ethan Smarr finished second in the long jump, and William Thomas finished second in the 800m, and placed third in two-mile.

Also finishing third were Wyatt Sisum (shot put), Joey Valvo (100m hurdles), Sam Bodenstein (100m dash), and Jarred Currier (400m). And Bodenstein, Gabe Tomassi, Little, and Candelaria won the 4 x 100m relay race.

The teams put their track shoes

back on Tax Day, when they host Frontier High School.

**Girls' Tennis**

Saint Mary's 5 – TFHS 0  
Pioneer Chinese 5 – TFHS 0

The tennis season was slated to begin on March 28 against Saint Mary's, but persistent rain canceled outdoor events. And because Catholic schools don't play on Good Friday, the teams didn't get to play until Monday.

I went to both girls' matches. On Monday, I asked Coach Victor Gonzalez how his team was doing against St. Mary's.

"Not good," he replied.

We met up again on Tuesday, and when I asked how they were doing against Pioneer Chinese, he gave the same reply: "Not good."

I couldn't get all the stats, but according to *ArbiterLive.com*, Turners lost 5-nil in both matches. This Thursday, weather permitting, the girls are scheduled to play Chicopee down at Szot Park.

**Boys' Tennis**

HCE 4 – TFHS 1

On Monday, while the girls were playing at home, the boys traveled to Jones Point Park in Holyoke, where they dropped their match to Hamden Charter East 4-1.

Noah Kolodziej, the sole winner for Turners, swept the second singles match 6-2, 6-3. Michael Boyle played on the first singles court and he lost the deciding third set 6-3 to lose the match 2-1. In third singles, Nethanel Martin was shut out 6-0, 6-0.

Vaughn LaValley and Mario Pareja stole two games in the first doubles battle, but lost the match 2-0. Max Briere and Lucas Black



Turners Falls High School senior Michael Boyle (left), the Thunder's #1 singles player, and sophomore Noah Kolodziej (right), its #2, warm up on the home courts at the start of the spring sports season.

won one game in second doubles but were also swept 2-0.

The boys travel to South Deerfield on Friday to take on Frontier.

**Baseball**

FCTS 9 – TFHS 4

On Tuesday the Franklin Tech Eagles came to Turners High School and defeated the Thunder, 9-4.

It wasn't pretty. As they dodged raindrops, both teams committed unforced errors. And although Turners out-hit the Eagles and stole five bases, the Thunder only made one extra-base hit, while Tech got in two doubles and a homer.

Franklin put three runs across in the first inning and padded three more on in the third. Though the Thunder rumbled back in the fourth to make it 6-4, Tech scored an insurance run in the fifth, adding two more in the seventh to take the opener.

Benjamin Dodge had the hot bat for Tech. He had three RBIs, parked a home run and a double, and was beamed by a pitch. Hunter Donahue and Mason Lehtomaki had two hits apiece while Jacob Martin slammed a double and Brody Hicks placed a single.

Lehtomaki, Kyle Begos, and Tucker Hicks pitched for Franklin,

with Tucker Hicks earning the win.

Turners out-hit Tech 12-8 but weren't able to convert hits to runs. Kainen Stevens (3), Jackson Cogswell, Cam Burnett, and Alex Quezada (2 each), and Dylen Richardson, Derek Wissman, and Brody Girard (1 each) all had hits for the Thunder, with only Wissman smacking a double. Richardson and Alex Quezada shared duties for Turners on the mound.

Turners heads up to Northfield this Friday to play Pioneer Valley, while Tech has to wait until Monday for their own game against Pioneer.



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LYNN PELLAND PHOTO

"The image was taken on 11th Street in the Patch on April 1, 2024," reader Lynn Pelland writes. "It's a picture of Bobemian [at top] and Cedar Waxwings. Although the Cedar Waxwings are common, the Bobemian is a much more uncommon bird that breeds in the far Northwest Canada and Alaska. We were lucky enough that they came to one of the berry trees on 11th Street. They were also reported in other areas in downtown Turners this week."

**FESTIVAL** from page A1

mildly authoritarian Duke is marrying a mythical female warrior – though there is a reference to wooing the queen “with my sword” – but it does not really matter because Egeus, his daughter Hermia, and her lover Lysander and suitor Demetrius enter the scene with a complex social problem that turns out to provide the bones of the story.

Egeus demands that Hermia marry the person he has chosen, Demetrius, or suffer to be executed in accordance with Athenian law. The Duke goes along with this, though he moderates Hermia's punishment by offering her as an alternative chastity in a nunnery.

Lysander and Hermia plot to escape into the nearby woods, and are followed by Hermia's friend Helena, who is in love with Demetrius. The woods, it turns out, is where most of the action takes place. For example, in the second scene, a group of inept but hilarious actors with names like Peter Quince, Nick Bottom, and Tom Snout rehearse a play-within-a-play called *Pyramus and Thisbe* to perform at the wedding, then retire to the woods for more rehearsals.

We are then introduced to yet another subplot which involves magical fairies who inhabit the woods, and who will of course soon wreak havoc on the *homo sapiens*. The King and Queen of the fairies, Oberon and Titania, are having a falling out because Titania refuses to hand over to Oberon a baby she has acquired in India to be his future servant. Oberon commissions a fairy sprite, Puck, to pour magical juice from a flower that causes sleeping people and fairies alike to fall in love with the first person they see.

This mechanism dominates most of the remainder of the play as various members of the Athenian court and fairies fall asleep in the woods and have the love juice poured on their eyes at inopportune moments.

All hell breaks loose in one long scene when both Lysander and Demetrius suddenly fall in love with Helena, who decides it must be a plot to ridicule her. In another scene Titania awakes from a magical sleep to immediately fall in love with Bottom, whose head is transformed into that of a donkey by the magic of Puck. This leads to a good deal of innuendo about being in love with an “ass,” as the fairy queen mounts the donkey-headed weaver.

At the play's end, order more or less returns in time for the Duke's wedding. Theseus has overruled Egeus's demand to enforce Athenian law on his daughter, and the result is a triple wedding. After the acting troupe performs an inept but comic *Pyramus and Thisbe*, the key players retire to bed, exhausted by their forest antics.

The fairies then philosophize about love and acting the distinction between dreams and reality, all the while profusely apologizing if they insulted the audience.

This play can be confusing, with key issues – such as the relationship between the Duke and the Amazon and the origins of the “changeling child” – barely explained, not to mention the final status of the various relationships after their ordeal in the woods.

Several participants in the production with much more experience than this reporter, including Marina Goldman, who plays both Theseus and a fairy, said they believe that audiences in Shakespeare's time would have been familiar with these references, and needed no explanation.

And, in the end, is the plot really the main thing with Shakespeare? Sometimes, but the modern audience can also just kick back and listen to the sound of Elizabethan-era English, as long as it can be heard clearly. On that criteria this reporter would give the actors at the Shea a solid “A” as they alternated seamlessly between rhythmic iambic pentameter, classic rhyming, and blank verse.

It is not easy – especially with only a few weeks of practice, and with a number of the cast members never having performed Shakespeare before. All the actors I spoke with gave Ross much of the credit for melding the group together and, in Goldman's words, “working with performers based on where they are at.”

If you are interested in how to speak and listen to Shakespeare there will be a workshop this Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. entitled “Mastering Verse Like a Pro: Unveiling the Rhythms of Shakespeare.” This will be an online event led on Zoom by Nia Lynn, a voice and text coach at the Royal Shakespeare Company in London.

Perhaps they will work on Helena's verse that began this review. Her comment about love being a product of the mind, not the eyes, may be the recurring theme that unifies *A Midsummer Night's Dream's* chaos.

But this could be too much interpretation, as Bottom the weaver, who was briefly transformed into a donkey, reminds us in Act IV, Scene 1:

“I have had a most rare vision. I have had a dream past the wit of man to say what dream it was. Man is but an ass if he go about t'expound on his dream.”

At the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls, this Friday and Saturday, April 5 and 6, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 7 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 and are available at sheatheater.org and at the box office.



**PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE  
MONTAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

In accordance with the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, the Montague Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 11, 2024 to review the Request for Determination of Applicability RDA #2024-02, filed by Montague Parks and Recreation to determine whether the proposed work to dig a well and install a submergible pump identified as Unity Park Garden, Map 4, Lot 12 is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. Remote meeting login information and the filing is available for review at [www.montague-ma.gov/calendar](http://www.montague-ma.gov/calendar).

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Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*

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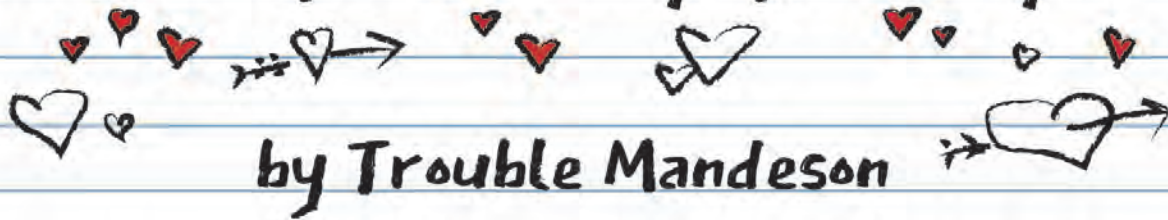
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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

APRIL 4, 2024

Above: The Canalside Rail Trail passes over the original barge canal at Montague City, and then over the Connecticut River.

## NOTES FROM THE HEARTFELT CAFE



by Trouble Mandeson

**GREENFIELD** – Who doesn't love a slice of hot, gooey, cheesy pizza? I know it's one of my favorite foods, especially when made at home where I can cut up an entire onion just to cover my half. Wifey isn't fond of them, so I have to make sure my onion slices don't creep across the border into the no-onion zone or there will be consequences.

Pre-made pizza dough is sold at most grocery stores and I keep some in the freezer for a quick, inexpensive meal. Since I make a lot of lasagna for *LasagnaLove.org*, I usually have cheese and tomato sauce on hand. I cut the dough into two or four pieces, and we dress our own mini Australia-shaped pizzas. I freely admit that I cannot roll or stretch the dough into a circle no matter how hard I try.

Pizza is ever-present at meetings, potlucks, parties, and college dorm rooms since it feeds so many people at once. It can now be ordered with gluten-free crust and dairy-free cheese so even those with dietary issues can still enjoy this favorite food of the masses.

Pizza's modern birthplace is the city of Naples, Italy, a thriving waterfront city where the dense population in the 18th and 19th centuries forced the very poorest to live on the cheapest food, typically flatbread with toppings bought from street vendors. Eventually this evolved into pizza as we know it today.

Coming to America to take factory jobs in the 19th and see **HEARTFELT** page B5



MANDESON PHOTO

The half-sized pizzas the author and her wife make for themselves: hers with onion, naturally, and the other with sliced Hatch chilis, a New Mexico specialty.

## Ainsworth at Large: Seeping South

By CHIP AINSWORTH

**NORTHFIELD** – Flying to Florida is a vacation, driving there is a journey.

Over the years I've visited the North Carolina Baseball Hall of Fame and the Ava Gardner Museum, seen the Civil War battlefields at Gettysburg, Bentonville, and Petersburg, looked at the narrow bed where Stonewall Jackson succumbed, and gripped a .50-caliber machine gun inside a B-17 at the

Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum.

Next year I'll visit the Virginia Museum of the Civil War and the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library and Museum, but this year's trip was a straight shot to Gainesville and points beyond. It took 4,500 miles and cost \$500 for 150 gallons of gas.

During the full snow moon week of February I packed three suitcases and filled the trunk with four cases of water together with peanut butter, cold cuts, cookies, and energy bars.

What's paid for here cost more down there. They know you're coming.

When I returned the trunk would be filled with grapefruit, souvenir t-shirts, baseball hats and bobbleheads, alligator-claw backscratchers, pecan rolls, seashells, and whatever else makes friends happy and grandkids smile.

It's fifteen hours to Jacksonville and another 200 miles to the Florida tropics. I took the inland roads through Pennsylvania to Virginia and over to Richmond because, to paraphrase Yogi Berra, nobody takes I-95 anymore, it's too crowded.

In North Carolina I stayed overnight at a Sleep Inn, not far from where Pedro's sombrero towers over the I-95 landscape at South of the Border. Petrol prices are cheap in South Carolina, and the rare roast beef sandwich at Craig's Deli in Santee lasted all the way to Florida.

### The Graying of Florida

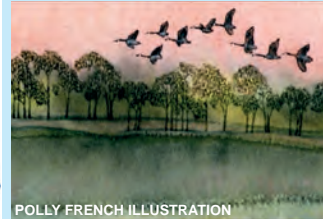
Gainesville has gone from being a quaint college town to a developer's paradise, a concrete glacier moving inexorably toward my friends' house west of the city.

Crosby Hunt grew up in Old Deerfield where his father taught English and coached track. He met

see **SOUTH** page B4



An alligator lazes in the stream at Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Hobe Sound, Florida.



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

## WEST ALONG THE RIVER

### A HANDFUL OF BIRDSONG

By DAVID BRULE

**THE FLAT, ERVINGSIDE** – On a gray morning typical of late March and early April, song, mostly shyly and sweet, lilts through the dampening air. It's been a weird winter but all told not too harsh on the undaunted singers in the low bush or high tree tops.

The most delightfully musical so far are the modest juncos calling out with a simple musical twitter. They hold forth, like the song sparrow, breast swelling and up on tiptoes singing with springtime passion.

Forgotten are the cruel snows, sleet, ice, and freezing rain of last weekend. It was a week ago on a gloomy Saturday when we gathered to bid *adieu* to our sweet cousin Annabelle, who in her 93rd year passed away quietly in her own home, down here on the Flat, just a few doors away from us. She was my last connection with the French-speaking branch of the family, my last connection to those ancient voices of my childhood.

That very day, the lawn was covered with late March snow, daffodils bent under the weight, robins pouncing in quiet panic looking for any patch of bare ground available. Without much luck they listened for earthworms under the carport roof, along the snow-free edge of the house, where the overhang of the roof sheltered early greening grass.

Birds in circumstances like this draw on fat reserves to make it through a stormy night. I worried about them and the dear little woodcock, fresh up from the south and caught in this capri-

cious winter weather.

The sun mercifully melted snow and ice, bit by bit, within a day. The robins found their earthworms and the earth itself seemed to tip ever so slightly to catch warming rays to drive the winter away again.

*Rata-tat-tat.* The first days of April have brought what passes for woodpecker song echoing out across the bare woodlands and the sleeping neighborhood of the Flat. Dueling drummers on hollow tree trunks announce their competition for this bleak domain. There's really probably room enough for at least two downy woodpecker families, but the urge to drum out a springtime declaration of territory is irresistible.

The bright sunshine of a day ago is once again gone, and although March finally went out like a lamb, April brings the promise of more messy weather.

Never mind. Up goes the high birdhouse just the same, on a tall maple pole cut from the grove in the woods. That house is easily ten feet up in the backyard air, waiting for the first tree swallows. Like our own little mission of Capistrano, we watch the skies for the swallows' return.

I always put the swallow bird box up in the early days of April, no earlier, mainly to avoid the permanent resident English sparrows from staking first claim. That messy invasive species fills our birdhouses with all kinds of trash and litter, even tossing out other birds, breaking their eggs or throwing out the fledglings when they get a chance.

see **WEST ALONG** page B8



JJ AUDUBON ILLUSTRATION

Tree swallows, *Tachycineta bicolor*.



# Pet of the Week



CARMODY/COLLAGES

## 'KALEIDOSCOPE'

Weighing in at 38 pounds, Kaleidoscope is the sweetest little guy you'll ever meet! He did not have a lot of positive experiences in his previous home, so he behaves very much like a puppy looking to learn about the world.

Kaleidoscope has been in foster care where we have learned a lot about him! He loves other dogs, meeting new people, long walks where he can explore the world,

playing with toys, and cuddling on the couch. He is working on house training and learning how to settle when left alone. He would do best in a home where he has people around most of the time.

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](http://www.dakinhumane.org).

## 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 River Banks*, an exhibit on Polish and other Eastern European immigration stories and their contributions in the Connecticut River Valley. Through April 28.

**Greenfield Savings Bank, Turners Falls:** *Alicia Sews*, textile creations by Alicia Rhodes on display in the lobby.

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

**Wendell Free Library, Wendell:** *Karie Neal*, paintings and mixed media artwork depicting animals, flowers, landscapes, and birds. Through April, with a reception this Saturday, April 6 from 1 to 3 p.m.

**Greenfield Library, Greenfield:** *ServiceNet Community*

*Art Exhibit.* Paintings, photography, and other art works by more than 20 artists from the ServiceNet community. Through May, with a reception on May 1 from 1 to 4 p.m.

**LAVA Center, Greenfield:** *Pauline Star*, photography exhibit. Through April, with a reception next Thursday, April 11 at 5 p.m.

**Looky Here, Greenfield:** *Inside, Outside*, paintings by Emily Giamari. Through May. Reception on April 26, 5 to 8 p.m.

**Artspace, Greenfield:** *Divinites*, mixed-media by Jules Jones referencing medieval themes and the divine feminine. April 5 through 26, with a reception this Friday, April 5 from 5 to 8 p.m.

**Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett:** *Bill & Dianne Dolan*, painting and pottery. Through April, with a reception this Sunday, April 7 from 3 to 5 p.m.

**Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield:** *Fourth Annual Photography Show*, juried exhibit. Through April 14.

**Gallery A3, Amherst:** *Defining Space*, paintings by Karen Iglehart and Janet Winston, through April.

**Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls:** *Local Color, Local Light*, oil and gouache paintings by Ashfield artist Ken Condon. Through April, with a reception this Saturday, April 6 from 2 to 4 p.m.

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

**Watermark Gallery, Shelburne Falls:** *Grand Opening*, innovative work by Andrew Sovjani, Jan Morier, Christine Kaiser, Cynthia Consentino, and Laurie Goddard. Reception for the new Bridge Street gallery this Friday, April 5 from 5 to 8 p.m.

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

**A.P.E. Gallery, Northampton:** *The Elephant Vanishes: Full Circle*, translations of jazz compositions into visual art by Allen Fowler, with an interactive component for audience response. Through April 14, with a reception next Friday, April 12 from 5 to 8 p.m.

## REFLECTION

# The Guitarist

By EDGAR SOARES

**GREENFIELD** – When it comes to playing music I started out as a novice like most people in Franklin County with a guitar. But unlike some other students, I practiced daily and stuck with it. Out of about 10 students usually three or four end up sticking with playing the guitar. I'm among one of those that stayed.

Several years later I'm still learning and taking lessons, but I can also play. Mr. Michael Nix was the current guitar teacher and he is very knowledgeable. He is a retired music teacher from Greenfield Community College and he still does gigs and private lessons and has published his own guitar music book. His website is [www.nixworks.com](http://www.nixworks.com).

Since he has broken up the class to a beginner and an advanced level, I am learning a monstrous amount of stuff for and on the guitar. The opportunity to learn how to play a guitar is immense and one that should not be missed because it's for free in this Jail.

My endeavor when it comes to guitar is not to be an entertainer or a music rock star or a famous musician. My main goal is to wow my family, especially my children and my father. I would like to get my father to play again because that's how he wooed my mom back in the days.

With my dad I never showed interest in playing the guitar and my father never asked if I wanted to learn to play. But here in FCSO how can I miss the opportunity since I love music and was curious when I heard about a guitar class. So, my goal is not to become a world renowned entertainer but a private entertainer to my family, friends, and maybe private functions – yes I'm still shy and nervous about playing for the public.

At least at my age I don't see it possible, but if it happens that I somehow gain fame (I doubt it), I would elevate my children along with me so that they can take over if that's their wish.

A while back when I was interviewed for the local Greenfield Community TV station, one thing I said was that I wanted to be able to make the guitar cry. This interview was about two years into learning to play the guitar. I accompanied some master musicians that came for a tour set up by the Jail's administration. During my playing and entertaining others, I have been able to unintentionally make people cry because of how I played the guitar and the music I sang to them – they were my family members. These were before I started studying

with Mr. Nix who has really now expanded my guitar skills and understanding tremendously.

Recently I forced myself to put on a show to get over my fears during a Zine presentation that I was a part of. Just one song on the guitar to go along with one of my writing on the Zine about playing the guitar – the Zine class and the Zine reading was organized by Madi Zelazo. It was a great success and was an amazing moment for me and those that attended.

The room became super quiet when I was performing and I knew that I had everyone hypnotized when I looked around. The song I played was "Romanza" by an unknown artist accompanied with a poem I wrote and the second half of that song was my own creation, a mesmerizing rhythm that I composed. At the end I almost got a full standing ovation – I will never forget a comment from one of the attendees that said that I "made the guitar talk and cry at the same time."

So, have I reached my goal of making the guitar cry? In my eyes I almost have and I'm confident that I definitely will in time. Have I gotten over my fear/shyness about playing in public? I don't know, but I'm a little bit more courageous about doing it if I really, really have to do it.

I joined a class in which they taught the logistics about music writing but it doesn't seem to have anything to do with anything about Jazz or classical music composition – which is what I'm really interested in – but I'll see what it teaches me. Maybe I could learn something useful to add to my repertoire of music skills.

But, until I can write my own and perform it with confidence, I'll play you what I already know from others and a little bit of what I've done myself but that's not written down yet. No, I'm not a professional, so don't put me up on a pedestal and don't expect me to wow you like a winner of American Idol. But I can guarantee you that you'll like what I can play.

*This piece first appeared in The Light, a newsletter by Franklin County Jail and House of Correction (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.*

## Senior Center Activities APRIL 8 THROUGH 12

### 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](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us).

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

### Monday 4/8

10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
10:15 a.m. Outdoor Yoga (weather permitting)  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
12 p.m. Pot Luck Lunch  
**Tuesday 4/9**  
9 a.m. Chair Yoga  
9:30 a.m. Tuesday Knitters  
10 a.m. Zumba Lite  
12:30 p.m. Tech Help Drop In  
3 p.m. Tai Chi

### Wednesday 4/10

Foot Clinic by Appointment  
4:15 p.m. Mat Yoga  
**Thursday 4/11**  
1 p.m. Pitch  
**Friday 4/12**  
10:15 Aerobics  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
2 p.m. Chair Dance

### ERVING

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

### Monday 4/8

9 a.m. Interval Workout  
10 a.m. Seated Dance  
12 p.m. Pitch Cards  
1 p.m. Friends Meeting  
**Tuesday 4/9**  
8:30 a.m. Nail Clipping  
9 a.m. Good For U Workout  
10 a.m. Line Dancing  
11 a.m. Social Stringers  
1 p.m. Spring Cleaning  
**Wednesday 4/10**  
9 a.m. Strength & Conditioning  
10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
11:30 a.m. Bingo  
1 p.m. Lunch  
**Thursday 4/11**  
9 a.m. Barre Fusion  
10 a.m. Pilates Flow  
1 p.m. Senior Housing Presentation  
**Friday 4/12**  
9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

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## Spring Cleaning Applies To Gadgets, Too.

By RYNE HAGER

**TURNERS FALLS** – Like probably most of you, one of the things I hate the most about homeownership is cleaning. There are nooks and crannies in my house I barely know exist, and as obscure and deeply hidden as they are, somehow each of these mysterious locales still manages to develop a fine patina of dust, cat hair, and grime that needs regular cleaning – not that I actually provide that outside a half-hearted seasonal spring sweep. And, much like your house, some of your gadgets and gizmos need the occasional virtual wipe-down. Thankfully for both of us, that process requires less effort.

The first bit of spring cleaning I recommend is a review of your passwords. If you know that you tend to reuse passwords at different sites, now is a good time to go through high-value digital accounts and make sure that you're not using the same password at more than one. If you are, and someone manages to get access to the login credentials for, say, your Gmail account, that might also let them into your bank and retirement account. From there, your pains can quickly compound.

If you find managing multiple passwords to be a bit of a pain, you can always use a password manager – iPhones, Android devices, and even most browsers have that sort of system built right in these days, but there are also third-party apps and services you can use. If you want more manual control, you can try to remember a “formula” for creating unique passwords at each site or service you use, and change that formula every few years.

I'm a broken record when it comes to this, but I also recommend that you check out two-factor authentication options for all your most valuable accounts every year. More banks are adopting two-factor authentication over time, and even text-message-based systems are better than nothing – though they are *far* from being the best option. If you enable 2FA on your accounts, keep in mind that you'll need to provide a code or tote a hardware key around with you.

Better than 2FA now are so-called Passkeys which allow you to use something like your phone, computer, or an existing hardware security key to prove your identity. They even do away with the need for passwords, which makes things much easier for most folk, and I strongly urge you to enable passkey support for compatible accounts like your Apple ID or Gmail.

This is also a good time of year to review your currently-installed apps and their permissions on your phone. Even just a quick scroll through your app list to uninstall anything you haven't launched in a while is a good idea. Sometimes those old apps get acquired by new companies that use them for less-than-wholesome purposes, expanding the data that they gather from your devices.

Checking apps' permissions to see what they have access to is a little more technical. On both Android and iPhones there's usually a section labeled “privacy” or “security” somewhere in Settings, and a permissions manager or report further inside of there that can show you which apps have access to what data.

From there, you can give your permissions a glance, see if anything in there strikes you as wrong, and easily adjust them for better privacy control.

While you're digging through settings, this is also a good time to clean up storage – trawling through the endless sea of files on your computer's desktop or downloads folder to delete old junk and organize what's left.

On your phone, you can also check to see which apps are using how much data and free up some extra space for recording videos or taking photos later this summer – there's usually a “storage” pane somewhere in Settings that will show you this info, but the location will vary by platform.

Of course, spring cleaning most often means *literal* cleaning, and I have a few tips there too. For one, don't use solvents on your screens – whether that's your smartphone's display or your laptop. In the former case, even relatively mild concentrations of alcohol can start to strip off your smartphone's oleophobic coating, making it a little more prone to oily streaks and fingerprint residue, and the anti-glare coatings on monitors are more susceptible to damage.

If you want to sanitize your phone, I recommend wiping it down with a lightly wet pair of rags or paper towels: one with soapy water, the other simply damp. And for your laptop or other screens, just stick to a damp microfiber cloth.

A case is often a smart idea for protecting an expensive purchase, but many of the materials they use, like leather and TPU, can be a little more difficult to clean; some of the discoloration they pick up is simply permanent. For leather cases, a little saddle soap goes a long way, but if the rubber or plastic has become worn or cloudy, you're better off picking up a new case.

If you're starting to have battery life problems with your laptop or phone, it might also be time to check your battery's health, as the chemistry it relies on to store power can become less effective as a result of heat, charging cycles, and even just time. Thankfully, replacing a battery is a relatively inexpensive operation for many devices, and even less technical folk can handle that process when it comes to certain categories. iFixit's extensive crowd-sourced repair manuals are a great resource for determining how easy that process is for a given gadget.

Lastly, if you've got a device that just feels slow and old no matter what you do, you can always try factory-resetting it for that squeaky-clean software feeling. Just be sure to back up any data you care about before you do that, or you're liable to lose any photos, messages, or files you leave on it.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

### Broke-In Home; Adult Looks At School; Hurt Swan; Bad Donuts; Speedy Jetta; Trouble on Bridge Street

**Monday, 3/25**

7:14 a.m. 911 caller states that her ex-boyfriend just broke into the apartment where she is staying; however, he also lives there. Peace restored; parties advised of various options.

10:12 a.m. Officer responding to a motor vehicle accident he just witnessed at Avenue A and Seventh Street. Tow requested for one vehicle.

10:43 a.m. Caller from East Main Street is concerned about other tenants in the building dumping items outside of the property and throwing clothing on power lines. A pair of pants is hanging from the cable wire. Investigated.

2:43 p.m. Caller states that a male party is standing outside Turners Fall High School on the sidewalk staring at the school. Male party is a school employee waiting for his ride.

3:57 p.m. Caller from Avenue A states she was outside enjoying the nice weather and the female next door is always yelling at her from inside the apartment.

4:09 p.m. Walk-in reporting a male party on a bike swerving into traffic on Montague Street; party appeared to be purposefully trying to hit vehicles. Unable to locate.

5:49 p.m. Burglar alarm activation at Silvio O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center. Employee on site called and stated that he set the alarm off and he will deactivate it.

6:31 p.m. Walk-in states that someone's dog in the East Main Street area bit his dog and the owner is refusing to provide rabies vaccination status or contact information. Message left for animal control officer. Officer attempted to make contact with other involved party; negative contact.

**Tuesday, 3/26**

3:22 p.m. Caller reports that the hubcaps were stolen off of his vehicle at Franklin County Technical School today. Caller states that his friends overheard that it was some freshmen from his shop. Referred to an officer.

**Wednesday, 3/27**

4:07 p.m. Walk-in requesting to speak to an officer regarding a male party who sits in front of Turners Falls Pizza House beg-

ging for money continuously after being asked to leave. Officers advised.

7:49 p.m. Caller from Swamp Road states they are building across the road from his house and there is a work truck there now; he is unsure why it's there as it is dark outside. Would like checked out. No lights on; no one there. Vehicle that is parked there belongs to the party who is building on the property.

**Thursday, 3/28**

5:15 a.m. 911 caller from Bridge Street states that a male is hitting the walls of the apartment building and causing a lot of noise, which woke up the caller and his family. Officer advises all quiet upon arrival; no answer at door; room is dark.

5:49 a.m. Passerby on Third Street states that he is looking at an individual who appears to be going up to vehicles on the street and trying to see if the doors are unlocked. Officer out with involved male.

6:07 a.m. Caller from Bridge Street advised that the involved male is hitting the walls and causing loud noise again. Officer states that upon his arrival no noise was heard; room was dark; and no answer at the door.

9:51 a.m. 911 caller reporting vehicle on fire on Seventh Street. Transferred to Shelburne Control. Rau's *en route* for tow.

11:48 a.m. ACO checked on an injured swan on Canal Street.

12:53 p.m. 911 caller reports that a silver Prius with two male occupants is driving slowly down Carlisle Avenue, stopping in front of houses and staring. Officer unable to locate vehicle.

2:31 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street wanted it on record that the male in Apartment 2 is yelling and screaming again. No police response requested.

7:25 p.m. 911 caller from Fifth Street states that there is a loud disturbance upstairs. Male and female have been fighting for some time now. Male is now outside attempting to make entry into the apartment. Officer outside speaking with male party. Courtesy transport provided. Contact made with female; all property returned. Male party

waiting in lobby with his belongings. Mother will come pick him up from the department.

**Friday, 3/29**

6:28 a.m. Caller states that he is currently at the Railroad Salvage annex building on Power Street and reports that someone broke into the location. Caller advises there is broken glass and what appears to be a pipe that was used to gain access; is unsure if someone is still inside the location. Officer checking premises with manager; advises no entry made. Wooden panel was pried open with a pipe. Nothing taken and nobody on scene upon arrival.

3:17 p.m. 911 call reporting unwanted person on I Street. Officer advises involved party asked to leave; parties advised of options.

6:23 p.m. Multiple 911 callers reporting a fire on a porch on Third Street; flames and smoke showing. Possibly going up the building. Officers and Shelburne Control advised. Copied over radio; small porch fire; will be able to be extinguished. Mutual aid canceled. Officer advises that the fire was contained to one corner of the porch. He spoke to some juveniles who stated that they were walking down the road and saw the smoke and started banging on the door to get the people outside. Did not see how the fire was started.

8:04 p.m. Multiple 911 callers reporting erratic driver in Unity Park lot; vehicle was doing donuts, then hit a utility pole and left. Officer out with vehicle; advises pole was not hit but guide wire was. Eversource advised. DPW advised of property damage.

**Saturday, 3/30**

2:24 a.m. Greenfield PD requesting female officer to assist with a search.

10:09 a.m. Caller reports that there is a homeless person sleeping in the bushes outside of an Avenue A business. Would like him moved along. Male party moved along.

10:16 a.m. 911 call; child whispering into the phone stating there is a child about to die. Phone was then taken by an adult stating there is no emergency and the kids are playing with the cell phone. Officer confirmed no emergency.

11:21 a.m. Caller from Bridge Street states he's moving out of the apartment and a male party has been threatening and yelling that he's going to come after people. Officer spoke to caller; advised of options.

3:51 p.m. 911 caller states that a red VW Jetta was

driving northbound on Montague City Road at speeds of at least 80 mph and passing cars illegally. Vehicle is now parked at Family Dollar. Referred to an officer.

7:58 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street states that his neighbor is screaming and slamming things against the wall. Officer advises quiet upon arrival. They did speak to the involved party and advised him of the complaint.

**Sunday, 3/31**

12:07 a.m. Caller from Bridge Street states that the party downstairs is yelling and screaming, crying “Ouch, that hurts.” However, the male lives alone. All lights off and all quiet upon officer's arrival.

1:08 a.m. Caller from Third Street states that there are kids who sound intoxicated yelling and laughing outside with a punching bag. Caller wishes to remain anonymous. Unfounded.

11:52 a.m. 911 caller from Bridge Street reports that a neighbor is yelling and banging things in his apartment. The caller also stated that the male party came out into the hallway and asked if they were “trying to kill him.” Investigated.

4:33 p.m. Caller from Avenue A states that she believes someone is hacking into her Samsung and Google accounts in order to track her. She also stated that she keeps smelling a strong chemical odor which makes her dizzy, and she thinks that it is related.

No one has reached out to her to threaten or harass her. Advised of options.

5:36 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street states that his neighbor is banging on things inside of his apartment and screaming that people are trying to kill him. Officer advises that contact was made with involved party and he was advised of the complaint.

The party has called his mother, and she is coming to pick him up for the night. Officer also advised him that his household has become disorderly.

5:39 p.m. Caller states there is a silver sedan all over the road in front of him on Main Street; it hit a guardrail and is now pulled over to the side of the road; has damage to rear quarter panel. Plate number provided and shared with state police. Guardrail damage located on Main Street.

10:42 p.m. Caller from Montague City Road states that the party on the first floor has been playing his music very loud for the past three nights and tonight the floor is vibrating. Officer made contact with first-floor tenant, who was advised of the noise complaint and turned down the volume.

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**SOUTH** from page B1

his wife Deborah in Murfreesboro where they were drama professors at Middle Tennessee State University. Their children are in the arts and daughter Suzy had a recurring role in the TV series *The Americans*.

The Hunts have a two-year-old German Shepherd who Deborah named Grace. She was born in Deerfield to Ava and Ike, my son Mat's two dogs. Their previous German Shepherd, Max, had died, so we offered them Grace and they drove north to get her.

I stayed at a Country Inn next to I-75 that was near a Caliber car wash. The guy in the booth saw my license plates and said he'd moved from Salem, New Hampshire. "I retired too soon," he said. "I work here in the mornings, then go fishing."

He comped me through the \$23 wash and told me to have a nice day. "You made my day," I told him. The trip was off to a good start, but that was about to change.

During my morning walk the next day a black cat crossed my path. It crouched, then ran into the bushes. Shortly afterward I found a crumpled ten-dollar bill on the sidewalk and decided to use it to buy a scratch ticket.

**Tripping Down Memory Lane**

My next stop was Clewiston on the southern tip of Lake Okeechobee, about 60 miles east of Fort Myers. I was meeting a friend for a Red Sox game the next day, and didn't want to pay \$250 for a hotel room.

The interstate would've been faster, but I-75 is a combustible mix of SUVs, pickups, campers, dump trucks, and big rigs all going 80 mph. Bad things can happen when drivers who have *I Identify as a Prius* on their F-150s tangle with people driving 60 mph in the passing lane in real Priuses.

I opted to take Route 441 to Route 27, remembering when orange groves were all you could see or smell. There's still a lot of orange to see – construction barrels – together with billboards, advertising cremations from \$875 and tort lawyers promising a fortune for your pain and suffering. *Hit hard? Call Bobby DeBard.*

Near Disney World I passed tacky side-by-side replicas of the White House and the Statue of Liberty. On the dusty horizon bulldozers laid the groundwork for thousands more cookie-cutter houses. Signs along the highway said, "*Affordable homes that don't suck.*"

Eventually the bumper-to-bumper traffic eased and construction gave way to scrawny orange groves and hand-painted signs for turkey, gator, and hog hunting. Smoke billowed from sugar cane fields near Moore Haven – "a town that doesn't know it's dead yet," said a Floridian named Scott Maxwell.

**Sweet Town, Bitter Deal**

The US Sugar Corporation is headquartered in "America's Sweetest Town," and for \$90 tourists can



*Seeing a green flag on the beach at MacArthur State Park on Singer Island, Florida can seem as uncommon as the date this photo was taken: February 29. It is a rare winter occurrence.*



*A Clewiston youngster hangs out in front of the switchboard used at the Clewiston Inn when it was owned and operated by the US Sugar Corp.*



*A sign by the swimming hole at Jonathan Dickinson State Park advises swimmers to beware of unwanted swimming buddies.*



*The backyard of the author's friend Val's homestead in Stuart, Florida has avocado, banana, papaya, and coconut trees. When the sun sets in March, the front yard is enveloped by the blissful scent of night-blooming jasmine.*

take a two-hour train ride through the cane fields on the Sugar Express.

The Clewiston Inn opened in 1938 to house visiting VIPs on business. They ate in a luxurious dining room and were served drinks in a spacious lounge where esteemed artist J. Clinton Shepherd had painted his famous Everglades mural.

After finding "Clewiston Inn" online in December, I booked a room for three nights for \$425. The confirmation said, "WooHoo. You've officially booked your trip to Clewiston, Fl. Congrats on a great deal! You have impeccable taste!"

Reputable websites don't pander. I should've known something was up and indeed, US Sugar had sold the Clewiston Inn, and I'd made the reservation on a site called America's Best Value Inn.

I parked around the side and went into the dimly lit lobby. The restaurant and lounge were both closed and the clerk said go to Beef O'Brady. She gave me a receipt for \$255, meaning I'd been scammed for \$170. The owner or whoever was on the phone told me he wouldn't give me a refund or upgrade my room because a third-party reservation site had taken my money.

My room's dated furnishings reminded me of the place where Brooksie hung himself in *The Shawshank Redemption*. The tow-

el rack was broken, the clock was unplugged, the towels were flimsy, the bedsprings creaked, and the doors slammed shut. A construction crew was staying on the same floor. They smoked weed on the fire escape and left their boots in the hallway. Woo hoo.

The next morning I helped a guest carry his cooler downstairs to the lobby. He and his wife were in Clewiston to go bass fishing, and when I asked him how he liked his room he said, "My wife found two dead bed bugs on the mattress. She slept on the couch."

The locals came in at night and sat in the lobby's big chairs and on the old couch. Their presence had become part of the ambience. There were black-and-white photos on the walls from when the hotel was in its prime of pretty young girls in bathing suits and chefs preparing meals in the big kitchen. Vintage suitcases were tucked under wicker tables and a 1940s-era switchboard was tucked in the corner.

The clerk had recommended Beef O'Brady's because it was under the same ownership. The iceberg lettuce looked like paper towels soaked in green dye, and the chicken chunks tasted like aged tofu.

I paid in cash and used the \$10 bill from the sidewalk in Gainesville for a tip.

**People Creep Seeps South**

On my way to the Red Sox game I stopped at a Publix to buy allergy medicine. The pharmacist saw my Mass. drivers license and said she'd gone to the Mass. College of Pharmacy in Boston.

"How do you like Florida?" I asked.

"I like the weather," she said, "but the people are sort of mean."

Over one thousand people move to Florida every day. Central Florida's filling up, so developers want to build 42,000 homes on thousands of acres east of Fort Myers. The Sierra Club, Center for Biological Diversity, Florida Wildlife Federation, and other conservancy groups have teamed up to stop the permit process in court, but it's inevitable that the Everglades are destined to become a concrete jungle.

After checking out of the Clewiston Inn I stayed at my friend Val's house in Stuart and helped her lug brown palm fronds out to the road. She has the quintessential Florida home and has papaya, avocado, mango, coconut and banana trees in her backyard.

A week later I checked into a single-story VRBO house in Tequesta near Jonathan Dickinson State Park. The cost was \$1,610 for eleven nights, plus a \$235 stay tax, \$213 VRBO service fee, \$200 cleaning

charge, and mandatory \$89 property damage protection policy.

The bed was comfortable, the place was quiet, and the internet signal was powerful. I left mornings to watch spring training baseball games and hiked afternoons at J.D. Park.

Val liked their t-shirts, so I picked one off the rack and waited to pay for it. The guy in front of me had set his fly fishing rod against the counter next to his wide-rim "boonie" hat with a cigarette wedged in the hat band.

After he left I asked the girl at the register, "Was he for real?"

"He's from Cali," she laughed. "That explains it."

I left for home on Saint Patrick's Day, and the trees were budding and bushes were blooming all through the Carolinas and into Virginia. Spring was imminent – or so I thought.

Three days after I got back the wind dropped a large evergreen branch onto my car and caused \$3,500 damage. Two days later a winter storm dropped two inches of snow on the yard. The mercury won't budge past 50, and there's more snow in the forecast.

Know what? Those affordable homes that don't suck aren't sounding so bad.



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**HEARTFELT** from page B1

20th centuries in New York and other big cities, Neapolitan immigrants began to replicate the crispy, thin pizzas from home. The first documented pizzeria was G. Lombardi's on Spring Street in Manhattan in 1905, still in business today although in a different location.

Fortunately for us, Neapolitan pizza, or the proper *a'pizza*, pronounced "abeet," can be found not so far away in New Haven, Connecticut. Pizzerias like Frank Pepe's, Sally's, and Modern serve coal-fired oven pizzas with their signature charred and smoky-flavored crust. Airy and crispy, it's similar to ciabatta, an Italian-style bread.

The difference between this pizza crust and others is the high-gluten flour used. The flour also has a high percentage of moisture, making it very sticky. Stretched out in an oblong shape rather than round due to the difficulty of working with it, there are generally no more than three toppings atop this very thin crust to avoid sagging. Gaining popularity quickly, it evolved into regional variations around the world, including hard-boiled eggs in Brazil, Gouda cheese in Curaçao, and BBQ chicken in California.

On a road trip with my dad and twin brother when we were thirteen, we were driving home from Las Vegas on December 31 listening to Casey Kasem on the radio doing the Top 100 countdown. (Number one was "Seasons in the Sun," if you want to ask Google what year it was.) We stopped in a small town near Ba-



The author and her wife stopped by this pizza shop in the Central Market of Sevilla, Spain last year.

kersfield, California to eat. Instead of pizza, the woman at the counter insisted we try her calzones, claiming to be their inventor.

We loved them and raved to her about what a clever idea. Turns out those 18th-century Neapolitans were all over it. *Calzone* translates from the Italian to "pant leg," which refers to Italian workers eating on the go, so this lady had nothing on them.

Deep dish pizza came out of Chicago in the 1940s with Pizzeria Uno's offering their really thick and slightly sweet crust. By the 1960s Italian, and by then Greek, immigrants opened pizzerias across the country, mostly in big cities. This spawned the first franchise, Shakey's Pizza, followed by Pizza Hut, Domino's, and the rest.

Last year wifey and I drove two hours south to New Haven after catching the PBS documentary *Pizza: A Love Story*. We waited for over an hour in line just to be seat-



MANDESON PHOTOS

The remainder of a savaged white clam pie from Frank Pepe's Pizzeria in New Haven.

ed at Frank Pepe's. By the time they plopped those pies down on the wire pizza holders, we were ravenous and ripped through Pepe's white clam pie, a New Haven classic, and a tomato pie with crushed Italian tomatoes, olive oil, and Pecorino romano.

We then went to Modern and ordered a couple of pies with different toppings to take home. The server forgot all about us, and by the time our order arrived we'd been there nearly 45 minutes. She felt so bad she brought us an extra pie, so we had a lot of leftovers. These Connecticut pizzerias are still run by new generations of the same families.

Throw your own pizza party with a group of friends – it's fun for all ages.

*Trouble Mandeson lives in Greenfield with wifey and their cat Peeps. She volunteers for local nonprofits to cook and feed those in the community, and loves to write, copyedit, and create art.*



or. I don't know if they are going to end this one on that same note.

In this story there are Japanese characters who have become Christians. The woman who ends up being a translator for Blackwater is still a Christian in this version, and a monk who is featured in this first episode will still be part of the series in future episodes – I saw that in a preview.

I felt this was a decent episode to watch, and maybe other reviews will confirm the same thing. I hope the good luck of the original miniseries will repeat itself.

**LOOKING BACK:  
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK**

Here's the way it was on April 3, 2014: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

**Four Short Items...**

**Montague:** After a second Franklin County town has decided to deny permission for Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company agents to survey town-owned land, all eyes are back on Montague Town Hall.

This Monday, April 7, representatives from TGP's parent company Kinder Morgan will come to the selectboard meeting to give a presentation on the proposed pipeline, which would carry between 600 million and 2.2 billion cubic feet of natural gas from Wright, NY to Dracut, MA each day.

"They need to give us infor-

mation," said town administrator Frank Abbondanzio.

**Wendell:** Insurance for the former Stowell property on Old Stage Road, which the town now owns, will be \$682.40, without coverage for acts of terrorism.

**Gill:** Citing an obscure state law that permits veterinarians to bill local towns for injuries to stray pets found within their borders, the selectboard agreed to pay Brookside Animal Hospital \$373 to wire the jaw and provide care for a cat apparently hit by a car on Route 2.

**North Adams:** Despite protests from nurses, patients and others, the North Adams Regional Hospital, with little warning, closed up shop for 109 bed patients last Thursday. On Friday, the hospital said it was indeed out of money.

**20 YEARS AGO**

Here's the way it was on April 1, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

**...And Another Five**

**March 30:** After more than 100 years of discussion and planning, the relocation of Route 2 around the Erving Industries paper mill has begun.

**March 31:** At least 20 Montague and Gill residents crowded into a public meeting with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission about the proposed power uprate at the Vermont Yankee power plant.

**April 1:** Because of construction on the General Pierce and the Gill-Montague bridges, Montague's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Committee has changed the celebration's name from "Bridge to Bridge Parade" to "Jersey Barricade Parade." The parade route will be altered if beavers succeed in flooding out Montague City Road by May.

**April 1:** Lake Pleasant will begin bottling Pleasant Water, guaranteed to promote psychic growth and karmic well-being over several lifetimes.

**April 1:** The Montague selectboard announced its preferred plan for the town-owned landfill off Turnpike Road. "We plan to use it to bury the minutes from the last three years' worth of executive sessions, much of which can be considered hazardous waste and should [see *GET REAL*, page 17]

**150 YEARS AGO**

Here's the way it was on April 1, 1874: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

**Local Matters**

The Crocker National Bank declared a dividend of 3 per cent yesterday.

Miss Kendrick's private school is a success. Forty-five pupils.

The late Cyrus Stebbins of Northfield Farms was a soldier of the war of 1812.

Messrs. Campbell and Hazelton have resumed operations on their buildings.

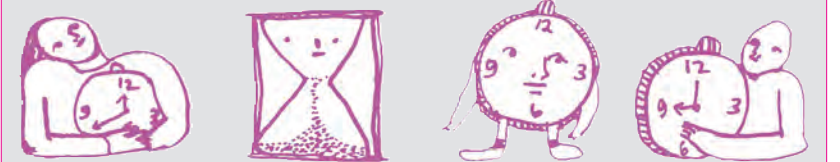
To-morrow is Fast Day. We go to press earlier than usual to secure Wednesday's mails.

Go to Mrs. N. B. Hall's on Fourth street and see the new spring hats.

The Messrs. Griswold & Sons have sent word that they will resume operations on Tuesday next. Mr Griswold, senior, will arrive on Monday, bringing about forty men with him. The force have been in the woods during the winter, getting out lumber. Just what portion

of the work they will take hold of we do not know, but welcome them to any. Mr Griswold, we have some good men here who are out of work, whom we would like to have you remember.

Turners Falls has just made an addition to its citizens in the form of its first colored business man. As he is quite a character, a short sketch of him may not be uninteresting. His name is Levi Childs, was born in Maryland, brought up in Baltimore, served an apprenticeship of seven years at the carpenter's trade in Norfolk, Va., then was sold to a speculator and carried or driven to Alabama, and there sold to a Mr John P. Clark. He made the money to buy himself from Mr Clark by working at odd jobs, overtime and on Sundays. He paid two thousand dollars for himself, and four hundred each for his nine boys. Was forty years in slavery, is a good mechanic and a good barber. Nine of his boys served two years each in the army. Further particulars on application at the new barber-shop, Fourth street.



**PIZZA PARTY**

*pre-made pizza dough  
pizza sauce  
grated mozzarella and parmesan  
prepared toppings: pepperoni,  
ground beef, sausage, onions,  
mushrooms, olives, etc.*

Keep the dough in the refrigerator until 30 minutes before using. Remove from the bag by turning it inside out and letting the dough fall out into your hand. The less handled, the better.

Chop the dough into four pieces, which will make four mini-pizzas, so buy as much dough as you'll need to accommodate the number of guests.

Preheat the oven to 420°. Lay out floured boards and rolling pins in your kitchen or around a large table and invite your guests to roll or stretch their own crusts. Make sure to have plenty of flour on hand, and encourage them to use it liberally.

Then add sauce or drizzle with olive oil and dress with toppings.

I guarantee you a fun time to be had by all and your guests will enjoy making their own customized pizzas. You can even play a video in the background on how to stretch pizza dough.

**TV REVIEW**

**Shōgun (2024, Hulu/FX)**

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – I have seen the miniseries *Shōgun* from the 1980s, with James Chamberlain as the foreign sailor called John Blackwater who is on a ship looking for a trade route and ends up caught up in political intrigue in Japan in the 1600s. It was based on a book by James Clavell. I found the whole thing to be unique and not what you might call boring.

This new remake features Blackwater being played by Cosmo Jarvis, and its first episode aired on FX in February. Lord Yoshii Toranaga, the Japanese lord who uses him to help with his political threats, is played by Hiroyuki Sanada. I have seen him in a few things on screen, including as a character in the *Lost*

TV series, and he seems like a good choice to play this lord.

The first episode, "Anjin," made it seem as if this remake will have the same uniqueness as its namesake, and not be boring. Like in the first episode of the original, Blackwater gets lucky in terms of his life being spared, and it shows how badly he first clashes with Japanese culture. I believe this was some of what made the original enjoyable to watch on screen when it premiered.

This version, which will take 10 episodes, apparently features actors playing these characters who are literally from Japan. In the first episode there is also a little mention of the title *Shōgun*, which is a fairly big part of the story; I believe at the end of the original series Toranaga ends up being that when asked by the emper-

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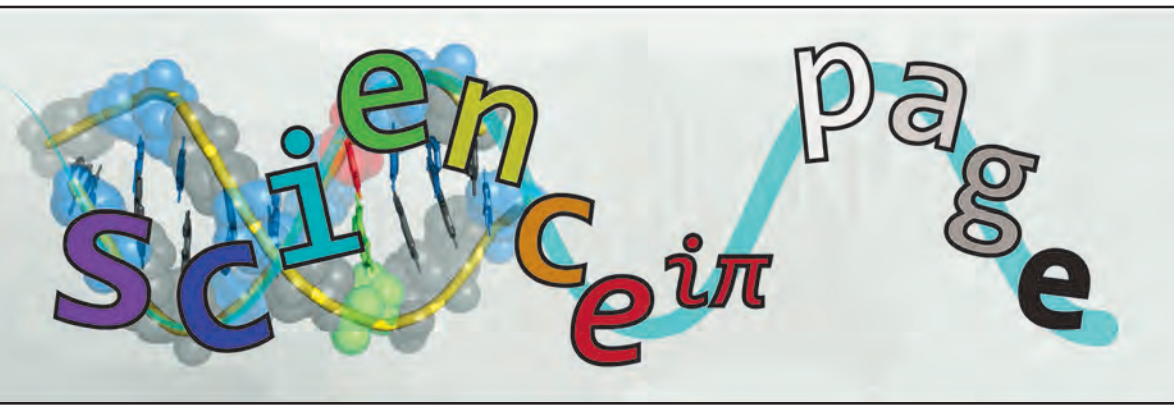
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## MEDICINE

# Understanding Fibromyalgia

By CATHERINE DODDS, MD

**MILLERS FALLS** – *Fibromyalgia* is a modern medical term, first used in the late 1970s. The name comes from the Latin term for “fibrous tissue” and the Greek words for “muscle” and “pain,” which is descriptive of the main symptom of fibromyalgia, all-over muscle and connective tissue pain.

An earlier medical term for this generalized muscular pain was *fibromyositis*, because it was believed that it was due to inflammation in the muscles and connective tissues. (The ending *-itis* in medicine means “inflammation.”) However, it is no longer considered an inflammatory condition, since blood tests for inflammation are usually normal, and inflammation-reducing medications have limited effects on fibromyalgia’s symptoms.

Fibromyalgia is a clinical syndrome, which means that it is diagnosed based on history and physical exam alone. The American College of Rheumatology has guidelines for its diagnosis, including the presence of widespread muscle pain with trigger or tender points for at least three months with no other diagnosed cause.

The Fibromyalgia Rapid Screening Tool (FIRST) can be used during a primary care office visit to try to identify fibromyalgia based on the patient’s described symptoms, such as all-over pain, continuous pain, burning or electric or cramping in muscles, fatigue, “pins and needles” sensations or numbness, poor sleep, and foggy thinking.

There are currently no laboratory or imaging tests to prove the diagnosis of fibromyalgia. For patients with concerning symptoms, any testing that is done is to rule out other potential causes, including autoimmune diseases such as thyroiditis, lupus, scleroderma, polymyalgia rheumatica, or polymyositis.

While fibromyalgia is seen in people of all sexes and ages, it is most common in women in their 20s to their 50s. Around 1 in 50 people, 2% of the overall population, has symptoms consistent with fibromyalgia. There are as-yet-unidentified genetic factors for the risk of developing it, and it is often seen in multiple family members.

Neurotransmitters seem to be involved in causing fibromyalgia, including more activity in excitatory neurotransmitters that increase pain signaling, such as substance P, glutamate, and less activity of inhibitory neurotransmitters that reduce pain pathways in the brain and spinal cord, such as serotonin and norepinephrine. Changes in levels of endogenous opioids and dopamine have also been seen in neuroimaging studies.

Patients with fibromyalgia generally experience widespread pain and all-over stiffness, affecting most of the body at various times, but often with particular tender points. Sleep quality is often poor, and patients rarely feel energized or refreshed, describing severe fatigue even after a full night’s sleep. Cognitive dysfunction or “brain fog” is also common, leading to difficulties with both work and home responsibilities.

During the past 15 years that I’ve worked in primary care I have noticed a consistent correlation between fibromyalgia and other central sensitization syndromes. This correlation has also been shown in the medical literature through population-based studies.

A patient with fibromyalgia has a higher likelihood of also having at least one of these central sensitization syndromes:

- Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS): abdominal bloating, pain, upset stomach, and changes in bowel movements (diarrhea or constipation, or alternating between the two);
- Migraine and tension-type headaches;
- Temporomandibular joint pain dysfunction syndrome (TMJ-PDS): chronic jaw and temple pain;

- Myalgic encephalomyelitis/chronic fatigue syndrome (ME/CFS);
- Chronic pelvic pain, including primary dysmenorrhea in women and interstitial cystitis;
- Chronic insomnia, including restless leg syndrome and periodic limb movement disorder;
- Multiple chemical sensitivities, allergies, and more frequent reports of medication side effects;
- Anxiety, depression, and chronic post-traumatic stress response.

Effective treatments for fibromyalgia are limited, and patients often have debilitating long-term symptoms. Three medications are approved by the Food and Drug Administration for its management: duloxetine (Cymbalta), milnacipran (Savella), and pregabalin (Lyrica).

For my patients I usually start with duloxetine, a serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor (SNRI), which means that it increases the levels of the neurotransmitters serotonin and norepinephrine in the brain.

Savella is also an SNRI, but is rarely covered by insurance and can be quite expensive. Pregabalin is an anti-convulsant medication that has sedating side effects that limit its use in fibromyalgia due to worsened fatigue. However, either of these medications can be tried if duloxetine is not tolerated or is not effective.

Though patients will sometimes refuse to take “a depression med” for their fibromyalgia, duloxetine has been shown to reduce its pain and other central sensitization symptoms regardless of whether a patient has depression or not.

Many other medications have been used off-label for fibromyalgia symptom relief, including gabapentin, tricyclic antidepressants (amitriptyline, nortriptyline), NSAIDs (ibuprofen, naproxen), muscle relaxants (Flexeril, tizanidine), topical creams (capsaicin, lidocaine), and steroids (prednisone, Medrol).

Due to their addiction risk and the chronic nature of fibromyalgia pain, opioids such as Tramadol should not be used in this treatment. All of the medications commonly used to treat fibromyalgia can cause side effects, including worsened fatigue and cognitive dysfunction.

When I’m discussing treatment with my patients with fibromyalgia, more often than not I get a frustrated or resigned eye-roll when I mention that exercise is actually the safest and most effective treatment. If exercise were a pill, every person with fibromyalgia would be taking it. But because it’s exercise, it’s hard for many patients to get into a pattern of moving their bodies and using their muscles regularly, particularly when many experience fatigue and pain on a daily basis.

Exercise for fibromyalgia is generally low-intensity and low-impact, and is focused on consistent daily movement and stretching. Walking, yoga, *tai chi*, resistance training, and swimming can all be part of a fibromyalgia exercise regimen. A physical therapist or personal trainer with experience in the care of fibromyalgia patients can be helpful in designing an individualized exercise program.

Managing with meditation and deep breathing, and treating insomnia with sleep hygiene, cognitive behavioral therapy, and potentially sleep aid medications are also part of the approach to reduce fibromyalgia symptoms.

Many other approaches have been tried but do not have adequate data to recommend, including biofeedback, massage therapy, and acupuncture.

Medical understanding of fibromyalgia has been evolving during the past 50 years, but many things are still not clear about its causes and the best treatment approaches. If you or a loved one have concerns about fibromyalgia, please contact your healthcare provider.

## FRONTIERS

# Old Trips, New Treatments?

By CATHERINE DODDS, MD

**MILLERS FALLS** – In the 1865 novel *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*, Alice encounters a hookah-smoking caterpillar sitting on a mushroom. This is no ordinary mushroom – when Alice eats it, her size rapidly changes, as well as her perception of the entire world around her. In one moment, she is towering over the trees, and the next moment she shrinks to the size of the caterpillar. This scene has long been seen as a reference to “magic mushrooms,” a type of hallucinogen.

“Hallucinogen” or “psychedelic” refers to any substance that causes a distortion in how we perceive the world with our senses. When a person takes a hallucinogen, they experience acute intoxication, also called a *trip*, which starts within 20 to 60 minutes and can last from 4 to 12 hours.

Sights and sounds may seem distorted, emotions may be heightened – descriptions of a hallucinogenic trip include feeling peaceful, euphoric, “at one with the universe,” “spiritually awakened,” “as if time is standing still,” and “out of body, looking down from above.” Another phenomenon that has been described with hallucinogens is synesthesia, or mixing of the senses, where people may “hear” colors or “see” sounds.

In addition, hallucinogens can cause physical symptoms such as changes in heart rate, blood pressure, and body temperature – variable, but most often these are elevated – dilated pupils, sweating, weakness, and nausea.

A trip can be a positive or negative experience, and a bad trip may include fear, panic, dread, paranoia, confusion, or agitation. It is difficult to predict in advance whether an individual will have a positive or negative reaction to hallucinogens, though individual or family history of mental illness and the dose and specific psychedelic substance all impact the response.

Relatively infrequent incidences of “flashbacks” to trips have been reported years after taking them. Hallucinogens in general are not considered addictive, but they can cause toxic or harmful effects, as described.

Naturally-occurring psychedelics have been used throughout history as part of rituals and religious activities. Ancient drawings from over 5,000 years ago and located in different parts of the world show humans experiencing changes when using psychedelics.

Examples of natural hallucinogenic substances include mescaline (peyote), ayahuasca, *Salvia divinorum*, and psilocybin, which is converted in the body to the active chemical psilocin (“magic mushrooms”). These substances are bitter-tasting in their natural form, and are generally mixed with food or drink to make them easier to consume.

The first synthetic hallucinogen, lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), was discovered in 1938 by Swiss chemist Albert Hofmann, PhD, though its hallucinogenic properties were not recognized until an accidental exposure in Dr. Hofmann’s research lab several years later.

LSD was initially marketed and used as an anesthetic. Synthetically-produced psilocybin based on compounds isolated from mushrooms had also been produced by Dr. Hofmann’s lab by the late 1950s.

By the 1960s, Timothy Leary and Richard Alpert (a.k.a. Ram Dass) were experimenting with LSD and synthetic psilocybin at Harvard University. They were famously dismissed from Harvard, and public and policy views towards psychedelics became increasingly negative and restrictive towards the end of the decade.

By 1966, the US passed laws prohibiting the production, trade, or ingestion of hallucinogens, and these substances were subsequently banned in 1970 over concerns about their safety, as an early part of the “War on Drugs.” This stance significantly reduced medical research into LSD, psilocybin, and similar psychedelic substances for many years.

Other examples of synthetic hallucinogens include phencyclidine (PCP, or “angel dust”), ketamine (“special K”), and MDMA (“ecstasy”). While ketamine has been gaining ground for medical use recently and is a schedule III controlled prescription medication, most other hallucinogens are still considered schedule I (illicit/illegal drugs) by the DEA and are not available for prescription use outside of research trials. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 7.4 million Americans ages 12 and older – about 2% of the population – reported using hallucinogens in 2021.

Recently, researchers and behavioral health providers have begun to question whether hallucinogens can be safely used for medical treatment, for example for management of severe depression, anxiety, obsessive-compulsive disorder, end-of-life symptoms, and tobacco and alcohol use disorders. On the PubMed database, studies mentioning psilocybin have gone from only a handful of papers per year for decades leading up to 2015, to an exponential rise since then, with 425 papers published in 2023 alone.

Both MDMA and psilocybin have been studied as a way to boost the effects of psychotherapy for patients with post-traumatic stress disorder or end-of-life anxiety and depression. Since MDMA and psilocybin act on the serotonin receptors in the brain, they are not used together with the most common depression and anxiety medications, the SSRIs and SNRIs, which also have their effects via serotonin receptors, because this combination could cause a potentially fatal side effect called serotonin syndrome.

Recently, psilocybin has also specifically been studied for the treatment of resistant, difficult-to-treat major depression. In November 2022, the *New England Journal of Medicine* published a research study on the use of a single dose of psilocybin for the treatment of depression in 233 individuals. In September 2023, the medical journal *JAMA* published another trial including 104 participants. Both studies showed similar results – taking even a single dose of psilocybin resulted in greater improvements in depression symptoms than placebo, at least over the short span of the studies (three to six weeks). Whether these effects last beyond a few weeks is an area of ongoing research.

From ancient rituals to children’s books to modern medicine, hallucinogens have been intertwined with human history. Whether they become a breakthrough treatment for various mental health conditions or are relegated to the dust bin of failed medical experiments remains to be seen.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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### THURSDAY, APRIL 4

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

### FRIDAY, APRIL 5

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

Bookends, Florence: *Lucky Star, Skunk Ape, Ethan WL*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Get Out Of My House, A Home Beneath, Victoria Delhi*. \$ 8 p.m.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 6

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

Pioneer Brewery, Turners Falls: *Rock 201*. No cover. 7 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Harm, Paper Bee, Alyssa Kai and Dead Girls, Grammerhorn Wren*. \$ 7 p.m.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Qwanqwa, Habbina Habbina*. \$ 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Richard Lloyd, Wojcicki*. \$ 7 p.m.

Buoyant Heart, Brattleboro: *Blue Dish, beetsblog, Old May-be, Membra*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

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

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Blvir, Cinnabun & Eris Electra, DJ Whatzitoya, Ensatina*. \$ 9:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 7

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. \$ Afternoon showing, 2 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Grayson Ty, Asher Putnam, Padded Waltz, Medicinal Purpose, Mavrodaphne, Michel Moushabeck*, many more. Benefit for Palestine Children's Relief Fund. \$ 6 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *The Obsessed, Howling Giant, Gozu*. \$ 6 p.m.

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

### MONDAY, APRIL 8

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Eclipse celebration with *Thistle*. \$ 2 p.m.

### TUESDAY, APRIL 9

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Sona Jobarteh*. \$ 7 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

Steakback Outhouse, Brattleboro: *Poncili Creacion, Jana Zeller, Slow Pony, Sneff Clown, Brass Bang*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

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

### THURSDAY, APRIL 11

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

### FRIDAY, APRIL 12

Looky Here, Greenfield: Screening, *The Source Family* (2012). \$ 6 p.m.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Nanny, New Here, Dollflower*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Whiskey Treaty Roadshow* with special guest *Peter Prince*. \$ 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Rocking Puppies, Boring Man, Sam Mulligan, Spookaround, Wire Pile*. \$ 8 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Pat Metheny*. \$ 8 p.m.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Palladium, Worcester: *Bone Thugs-N-Harmony, DJ Craze, Lil Eazy E, Danny Pease & The*

*Regulators*, more. \$ 4 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Open Mic Night, 'Echoes of David Kaynor'*. Sign up at 6:15 p.m. \$ 6:30 p.m.

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Robbie Fulks* with special guest *Bill Kirchen*. \$ 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Trash Rabbit, The Howlers, Senior Year*. \$ 8 p.m.

SCDT, Northampton: *QUAD*, quadrophonic compositions by *Jake Meginsky, Jenifer Gelineau, Omeed Goodarzi, and C. Lavedar*. \$ 8 p.m.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 14

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Mike Videopunk, Pleasure Coffin, Fred Cracklin, Rhubarb Duo*. \$ 8 p.m.

### MONDAY, APRIL 15

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Ruth Garbus Trio, Bernice*. \$ 8 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wes Brown with Jill Connolly and Eugene Uman*. No cover. 8 and 11 p.m.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 18

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Kira McSpice, Wiles, Rebecca Schraeder*. \$ 8 p.m.

### looking forward...

### FRIDAY, APRIL 19

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Don Gadi, MF Oblivion, Slushroom*. \$ 9:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 20

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

### SUNDAY, APRIL 21

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

### SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Arnold Dreyblatt*. \$ 8 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

Nova Arts, Keene: *Bill Orcutt Guitar Quintet*. \$ 7 p.m.

### THURSDAY, MAY 9

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

### FRIDAY, MAY 10

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Rickie Lee Jones*. \$ 8 p.m.

### SATURDAY, MAY 18

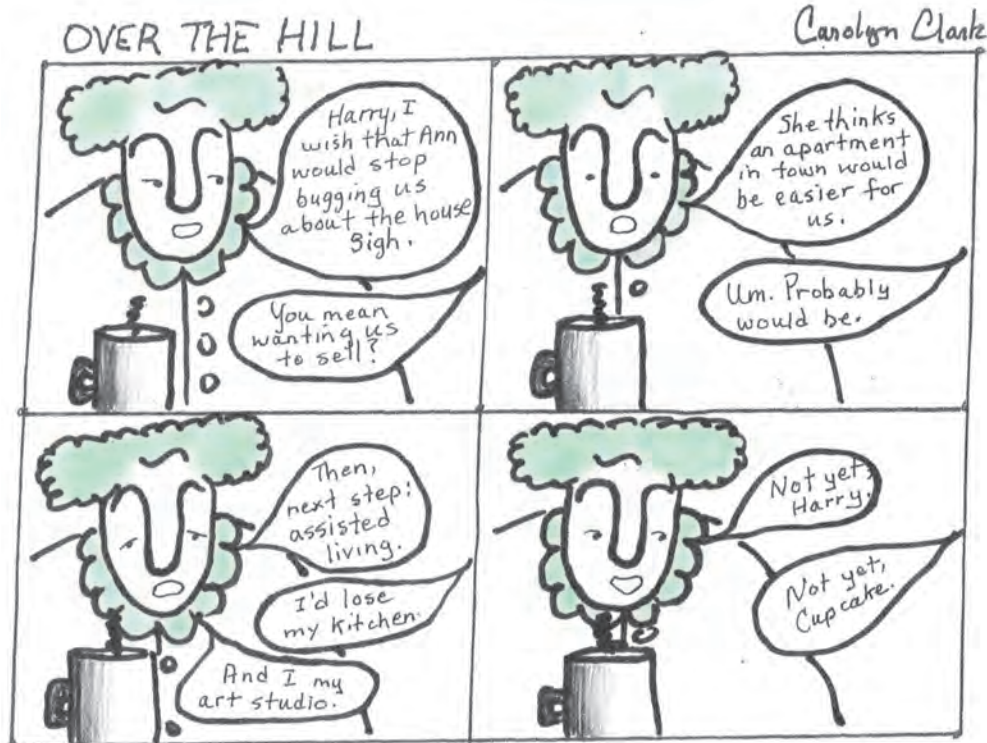
Institute for Musical Arts, Goshen: *June Millington, Toshi Reagon*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

### TUESDAY, MAY 21

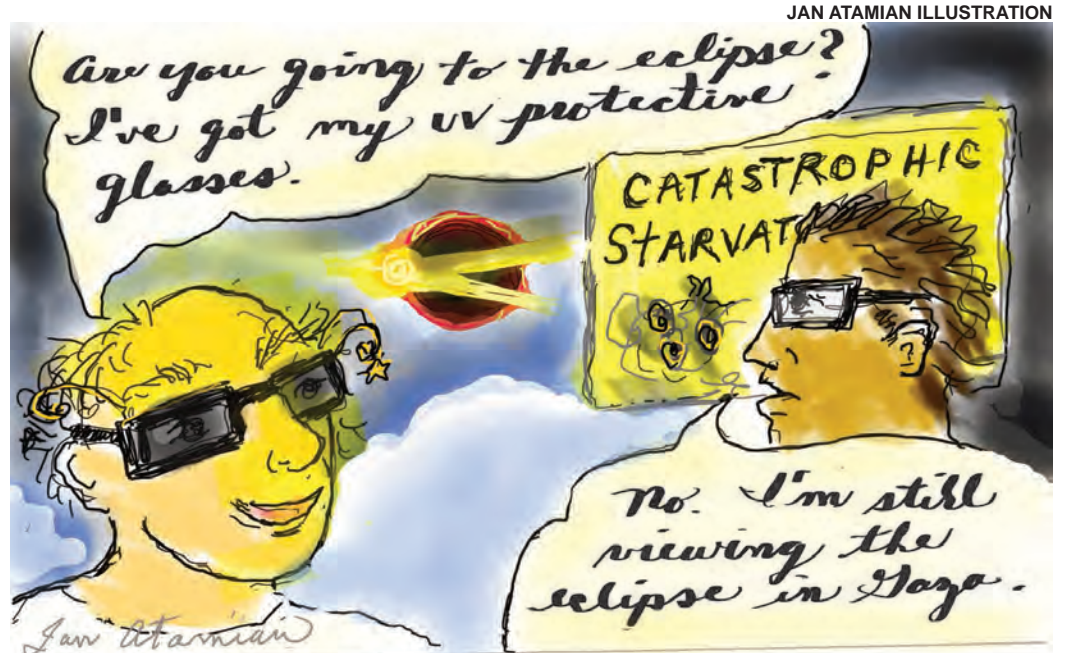
10 Forward, Greenfield: *Coral Grief, The Upstairs District, Big Destiny*. \$ 8 p.m.



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WEST ALONG from page B1

When we succeed, the graceful tree swallow sets up housekeeping in the high pole birdhouse. They are delightfully comfortable with our comings and goings out to the garden, keeping a watch over the yard from their round doorway up on high.

We have developed a game with them over the years: we find a feather in the yard and toss it up into the air, while the steel-blue backed swallow watches our shenanigans. Out she comes, snow white breast bright in the April sun, and catches the feather in mid-air, toys with it rising high up, turning curly-cues before dropping it down to us.

Quick! Run to grab the feather from the ground again, and toss it up into the air once more. Out she comes again, swooping and calling in her liquid swallow song. Much like Nicky the Siberian with his endless game of catch the ball or branch, this could go on for a while. Who will tire of the game first?

Most likely me. Back on the porch the coffee awaits, and it's getting cold.

The morning passes, with this lingering image of the scarlet cardinal offering a sweet fresh-shelled sunflower morsel to his mate. He's careful, considerate, could we even say loving as he passes the gift to her beak-to-beak? Who can say this is not a demonstration of affection? We can't really project human emotions onto the various

wild things, but it sure looks like affection to me.

She receives the morsel thoughtfully. I think she knows that this gesture is beyond just instinct. Maybe it means that he knows that she will soon spend twenty days and nights on the nest to bring forth a new cardinal generation.

Thankful for a morning like this, I keep an eye on such happenings. Out here, all is activity, and movement. Even the wind shakes the snow shovel on its hook near the door, may it not be needed any more this season.

Red-wings sway up there in the bare maple, a certain chipmunk dashes this way, another goes that way. Jays and grackles criss-cross the sky over the yard, vultures kite by like so many pterodactyl ancestors. The river rushes by in its unmade bed, the spring flood making her a little mad in the head. Daffodils nod in the morning wind.

Springtime comes,

... in the way I picture her, barefoot and disheveled, standing here outside, in one of the fragile cotton dresses of the poor.

She looks over to me with her thin arms extended, offering a handful of birdsong, and a small cup of light

(Adapted from a poem by Billy Collins.)




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Montague Community Television News

Space Transmissions

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – “Lizarella phones home,” once again, in front of her greenscreen studio set in space. Her transmissions come through to MCTV twice this week: once to review a book alongside her space cat, and another in which she interviews Professor Dr. Untoid, the “kidnapper of humanity” and “maker of worlds.”

In Earth news, we have a recording of the April 1 Montague selectboard meeting, as well as recent meetings of the Montague finance committee and GMRSD school committee.

All community members are welcome and encouraged to submit their videos to be aired on Channel 9, as

well as featured on the MCTV Vimeo page. That means you! 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 checkout, 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 [infomontaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetv@gmail.com) for a link to the Zoom.

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

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