

The Montague Reporter

Year 23 – No. 8

JANUARY 23, 2025

\$2

editor@montaguereporter.org

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

montaguereporter.org

Sheriff Steps Down Early; Interim Search Is Underway

By JEFF SINGLETON

GREENFIELD – Franklin County will have a new sheriff on February 1, but the individual who will replace the current sheriff, Chris Donelan, has not been chosen. Donelan announced his retirement several weeks ago, but as of this writing governor Maura Healey has not chosen a replacement, and has decided to undertake a formal search process for an interim candidate until the next state election.

Elaine Driscoll, communications director at the state Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, cited state law (MGL Ch.54, S.142) as allowing the governor to appoint a temporary district attorney, register of probate, or sheriff until the next election, with the approval of the Governor's Council.

The next state election will be in 2026, but Donelan's six-year term expires in 2028, so the interim appointee may need to run twice in two years should they choose to remain sheriff.

Donelan grew up in Orange, the son of the owner of a grocery store chain that still bears the family name. He attended Mahar Regional High School and Westfield State College, graduating in 1987 with a degree in criminal justice. He served as a police officer until 1995, in Orange and then South Hadley.

see **SHERIFF** page A7

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Special Town Meeting, Mostly Housekeeping, On February 12

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard held a relatively short meeting January 15 with an agenda that had several items needing little more than a push forward.

Selectboard chair Laurie DiDonato, reporting from the previous night's conservation commission meeting focused on removing the Bowens Pond dam, said she was impressed by the knowledge of people who had spoken in favor of removing the two-century-old dam as an environmental restoration project.

Osgood Brook flows through Bowens Pond, and downstream flows very close to Wendell Depot Road; the con com told the project developer to hire an independent consultant to assess the environmental impact of removing the dam.

The selectboard set 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 4, for the annual town meeting. They also confirmed

see **WENDELL** page A4

LINE OF ADVICE



Reader Christina Trincherro took this shot of prayer flags – and some advice – on Court Street in Montague Center a few weeks ago. “I have noticed it before when I walk that loop with my dog,” she writes. “The backlight from the sun really made the message stand out.” (The saying was the title of workshops Civil Rights organizer Ella Baker led in the 1940s.)

CHRISTINA TRINCHERO PHOTO

G-M SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Dismal News On State Aid Puts Budget \$2M In Hole

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – On Wednesday afternoon, with four working days to go before the regional school committee must approve a preliminary school budget for FY'26, Gill-Montague administrators received the news they had feared most. Estimates of next year's Chapter 70 aid – the state's main contribution to local schools – were released, and for the second year in a row, the district will receive essentially no increase in aid.

The main factor determining this is the state's estimate that Gill and Montague's combined “foundation” enrollment is shrinking from 938 to 916. This head count of all the school-aged children living in the district is almost entirely outside the control of the schools.

Actual enrollment has stabilized in recent years, with the loss of local students to school choice or to charter schools offset by more students choosing in.

Rather than have its state aid decline, the district will be “held harmless,” receiving a token \$75 per-pupil bump that amounts to \$68,700, or a 0.9% increase. This is

see **GMRSD** page A2

Farm Non-Profit Opts to Split Head Position



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Joshua Faller (left) and Meryl LaTronica were jointly promoted from within.

By BELLA LEVAVI

GREENFIELD – Six weeks into their new co-executive directorship, Joshua Faller and Meryl LaTronica are excited to “usher the next decade” of Just Roots into existence.

After nine months without a director the Greenfield-based nonprofit farm organization, which provides local organic produce and food education to Massachusetts residents of all budgets, opted to restructure its leadership. Faller and LaTronica, who previously managed separate programs within the organization, were appointed as co-directors overseeing the entire nonprofit.

“We had been in transition for quite some time now. In that process, Meryl and I had to step up – and step in – to make sure the services were continuing as expected,” Faller said in an interview with the Reporter. “Our leadership approached us and said, ‘You are doing it already.’”

The pair explained that they were both initially hesitant to take on the director role individually, but they

see **SPLIT** page A7

Blais Re-Files Bill to Monitor Drinking Water In Private Wells

By SARAH ROBERTSON

LEVERETT – There is no law in Massachusetts that says the water in your private well must be safe to drink.

There is also no law that says the water in a well you sell must be safe to drink. No standards limit how much arsenic, bacteria, poly-fluorinated chemicals, or any other kind of contaminant may be in a home's private water supply before it changes hands.

Seeking to remedy this public health concern, state representative Natalie Blais is sponsoring a bill this session, *An Act Protecting Drinking Water Quality in Private Wells*, that would set safe standards for common contaminants, mandate well testing before properties are sold, and give homeowners support to fix tainted wells.

“Contaminated private wells are prevalent and can harm health,” Blais told the Reporter. “In fact, many residents are consuming water that may be unsafe because the source is not regularly tested and treated like public water supplies, and could have harmful contaminants such as PFAS, arsenic, radon, uranium, and more.”

More than half a million Massachusetts residents rely on private wells, Blais said, most living in rural areas like the one she represents.

see **WELLS** page A8

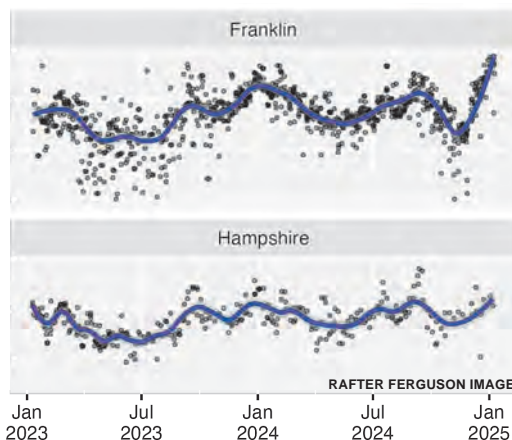
After First Five Years, Data On Virus Scant

By MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – After giving up trying to process sewage COVID-19 data from the Department of Public Health website for you, the readers of the *Montague Reporter*, I was elated to discover the work of Rafter Ferguson, a Greenfield resident who has been creating population-weighted charts condensing all the samples taken west of the Quabbin into a single line, rising and falling.

Ferguson doesn't currently have a website, but can be reached at western.ma.covid.data@gmail.com – these charts circulate locally as a kind of samizdat, one clue as to the state of the ongoing pandemic response – and he has been generous about letting us publish them here and there.

see **DATA** page A5



Detail: Two years of COVID-19 concentration in two counties' wastewater. See Page A5 for full chart.

Zone Certainly Being Flooded

Editorial.....A2	High School Sports Week.....A6	Montague Police Log Highlights.....B3
Illustration: Erving Stationkeepers.....A2	10, 20, and 150 Years Ago.....A7	Indigenous Voices Replayed.....B3
Local Briefs.....A3	Inaugural Sled Session.....B1	Four Comics.....B4
Winter's Dregs Made Desolate.....A3	Third Day Trip Offered.....B1	The Montague Cryptojam.....B4
Op/Ed: Dropping Out Is Hard.....A3	Winter's Fruiting Bodies.....B1	Monthly Children's Page: A Stranger.....B5
Op/Ed: Extremely Important Building.....A4	Not The Same Rabbit Hole.....B1	Art Exhibits.....B6
Local Fowl Confirmed Ill.....A6	Device/Advice: 'Artificial' Hype.....B2	How Do You Like the New Listing?.....B6-B7



The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

Editorial Staff

Mike Jackson, *Managing Editor*
Victoria Maillo, *Spanish Page*
Beverly Ketch, *Children's Page*
Spencer Shorkey, *Science Page*
Maggie Sadoway, *Editorial Assistant*
Jamie Simpson, *Editorial Assistant*

Production Staff

Garth Shaneyfelt, *Business Manager*
Nina Rossi, *Distribution*
Charlotte Kohlmann, *Layout*
Christopher Carmody, *Layout & Images*
Sarah Brown-Anson, *Podcast Producer*
Brian Faldasz, *Technical Administration*

Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August 2002

Morning in America

Anyone holding hopes the incoming administration will take an antitrust stance, or intervene on the side of data privacy and liberty, surely surrendered them Monday after seeing the phalanx of tech mega-billionaires – five of the planet's seven richest people – seated at Trump's inaugural court.

A sixth, Oracle's Larry Ellison, arrived Tuesday, announcing a joint venture to invest a half-trillion in AI buildout: copious data centers turning oil into heat, CO₂, and the cybernetic gray goo we're all watching slorp out of our screens to digest human culture. Donald and Melania each launched memecoins last week, and the odds the US will dump \$100 billion into a "cryptocurrency strategic reserve" hit 41% on the political gambling platform Polymarket, exciting for those who wish the economy rested on towers of glorified commemorative plates.

The Week 1 political blitzkrieg has been intense. On immigration, for just one example: an executive order attempting to nullify birthright citizenship; a Homeland Security directive that ICE agents may now raid schools and churches; and a bill passing Congress establishing that accusation alone can qualify a foreigner as criminal. Most people oppose this, but

for now the US state seems captured by an iron-clad alliance of malice and wealth facing no rivals.

Government support can't guarantee profit forever. Most Google, Facebook, and X revenue comes from advertising, which needs audiences; most crops need hands to pick them; and even the cruelest law needs enough thugs eager to enforce it. Strategies of withdrawal, disappearance, opaqueness, and refusal could be key in the coming months – and could set the table for novel approaches down the road.

GMRSD from page A1

the second year in a row Gill-Montague finds itself in these held-harmless doldrums, which it may only escape by population growth.

"If we even had 10 of those students back, there probably would have been an increase in our Chapter 70," business manager Joanne Blier told the *Reporter* glumly after the figures were released Wednesday. "The foundation enrollment is really a guess until the state puts those numbers out."

The estimates were released as part of governor Maura Healey's proposed state budget.

The previous night, Blier and superintendent Brian Beck had brought a budget before the school committee reflecting those guesses – including that foundation enrollment would stabilize after two years of falling at 940, causing Chapter 70 aid to increase by \$703,488, or 8.9%.

Even with that optimistic guess at state aid, Blier explained to them, the budget was already in the hole to the tune of \$1.31 million.

The problem was on the expenditures side – projected cost growth of 8%, "1.3 million [dollars] above our highest possible revenue," she said.

"So if we land under \$700,000 [in Chapter 70 growth], we're really in a pickle?" Montague school committee member Wendy Thompson asked her.

"Yeah," Blier confirmed.

This ominous foreshadowing came at the end of the committee's annual special session to review the preliminary budget line by line.

Driving the ballooning costs were an expected \$312,442 increase in tuition and transportation fees for mandatory out-of-district special ed placements, \$540,000 for ten new staff positions requested by principals and department heads, and a combined \$728,260 growth in insurance and retirement costs.

The requested positions included an early childhood coordinator, three first-grade instructional assistants at Hillcrest Elementary, and a STEM coach, humanities coach, and alternative program teacher at the secondary level.

Beck said he and Blier planned to meet this Friday with principals to identify potential cuts.

"We had a discussion about what we wanted to bring to the school committee, and didn't want to simply strip things from a proposed budget without having a thoughtful conversation with members of the administrative team," he explained.

"When we put this budget together and it's out of balance," Blier added, "there was no intention that we were going to bring this to the towns."

ANNOUNCEMENT

Gill Con Com Seeks Input On River Use

The Gill Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 4 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, to gather input for our final comments on the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's Draft 401 Water Quality Certification.

This is part of FirstLight's hydropower relicensing process. Anything that Massachusetts DEP requires in their certificate will automatically be included in the final Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license.

The Gill Conservation Commission provided initial comments on erosion at the start of the 401 Water Quality Certification process, and to the FERC relicensing deliberations. At the February 4 hearing the Conservation Commission will review this process and solicit additional comments from the public on the state of the river and its banks.



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Laura DiLuzio and Donna Christeanson are busy getting their sweet treats ready for Valentine's Day candy customers at the Erving Station. The mother and daughter chocolatiers say business has been good in the seven years since they opened in the former Box Car Restaurant on Route 2 in Erving.

Out Of District

The business manager ran through the budget line by line at the meeting, highlighting large increases and savings. The superintendent's salary line would grow from \$138,000 to \$161,000, as negotiated. Given the end of federal ESSER pandemic aid, the summer special ed line would shrink from \$60,000 to \$40,000, and summer-school stipends from \$64,000 to \$40,000.

At one point Gill member Bill Tomb, running the meeting in the absence of longtime committee chair Jane Oakes, asked Gill-Montague Education Association president Heidi Schmidt for her input on priorities for the coming year.

The union leader, an art teacher at Turners Falls High School, pointed in particular to one of the requested positions, a full-time "restorative practices coordinator" at the middle and high school.

"It's in our handbook," Schmidt said, "and we don't have one.... If teachers were consulted, they might tell you that instruction isn't the problem – it's the ability to get to instruction."

Given the removal of "traditional consequences," Schmidt said, having a full-time staff member work with students on restorative consequences would allow "teachers to focus on teaching, and principals focus on being principals."

Thompson, who works as a paraprofessional in another district, sympathized. "Very often you spend your entire time in class getting kids just to 'sit down, put your phone away,'" she said.

This sparked an excited discussion about device addiction that touched on the possibility, and potential downsides, of enacting a policy banning student cell phones.

Another related side conversation explored the idea of bringing more alternative and special programming into the district, as a means of reducing the spiraling out-of-district placement costs. Blier said these stood at roughly \$1.4 million, for a total of 19 students.

Tomb said efforts to bring these services back in-house often broke down on a given district's capacity to hire qualified specialists.

Work Ahead

Besides seeking the committee's input about how to prioritize expenses – or, implicitly, cuts – Blier and Beck also asked members whether they wanted to approach the towns of Montague and Gill this year with a preliminary request that the towns contribute above their so-called "affordable assessments."

Under a three-way agreement between Gill, Montague, and the district known as the Com-

pact, broadly credited with staving off conflict for over a decade, the annual budget process begins with Montague declaring what it can afford to contribute. Gill's much smaller assessment is set proportionally to Montague's based on student enrollment from the two towns.

When the Compact was designed, however, Montague was in the habit of taxing its property owners exactly as much as was allowed under the state law known as Proposition 2½. Recent growth in local property value has allowed it to leave some of that potential funding with taxpayers, a sum known as "excess capacity."

Because of this, during last spring's town meeting season, some members of the Montague finance committee expressed their wish that the district had asked the towns for more resources before making difficult cuts.

"Last year they said we should ask for more," Blier recounted. "I know [asking for] an extra million is a bad idea."

"My taxes are extremely high in Montague no matter what," said member Clifford Spatcher. "I don't notice a small change like that – to me it doesn't make a big difference, asking for what we need."

"At some point," agreed Montague member Lori-Lee Adams, "there has to be a reality check, and say 'Hey, look, this is what we're asking for, and this is why.'"

"No matter what course we take," Tomb offered, "I encourage us all to be collaborative in both directions. If the town can't handle it and gets excited about it, we should understand that."

When Tomb speculated that the Chapter 70 aid could come in higher than Blier's guess, she shook her head. "I don't think it's going to get better," she warned.

"Expect worse, and then all your surprises are pleasant," Thompson suggested.

On Wednesday, the surprise was that the deficit balance grew from \$1,314,435 to \$1,949,223 – or possibly worse, as the transportation reimbursement may also have declined. Blier said upcoming meetings of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools and Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials were planned to discuss Healey's budget.

"Everybody said, 'This is everything I want,' and everybody doesn't get everything they want when money is tight," she told the *Reporter*. "We have some work ahead of us."

The next school committee meeting will be held next Tuesday, January 28 at the high school.

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

PHONE: (413) 863-8666

EMAIL:

editor@montaguereporter.org
ads@montaguereporter.org
bills@montaguereporter.org
subscriptions@montaguereporter.org
events@montaguereporter.org
poetry@montaguereporter.org
science@montaguereporter.org

Send address changes to:

The Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Advertising and copy deadline is
MONDAY at NOON.

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

Annual Subscription Rate:

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

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

**WE WELCOME
YOUR LETTERS!**

*ORIGINAL CONTENT ONLY, PLEASE
LIMIT 4 PER YEAR*

Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

editor@
montaguereporter.org

Sign Me Up!

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

The Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email (optional): _____





Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Artspace Community Art Center in Greenfield is seeking a **volunteer piano tuner** for their grand piano. If you or someone you know fits the bill, please email their office at info@artspacegreenfield.org.

If you are looking for things to do when it is bitter cold outside, consider a noncredit **Community Engagement workshop** at Greenfield Community College this winter.

Offerings include “Somatic Tools for Emotional Health and Stress Reduction,” this Saturday, January 25 at 10 a.m.; “Music Appreciation” and “Drawing,” both on Wednesdays through February; “Reiki” on Thursday, February 6; and “Block Printing on Textiles,” Saturday, February 8. Find more information at engage.gcc.mass.edu/workshops.

If you’d like to learn about **reading tree rings**, head to the Harvard Forest this Saturday, January 25 at 11 a.m. for a tree coring demonstration and a tour of the tree ring lab. The lab crew will talk about how they analyze the rings to better understand events of the past, and predict how old-growth forests will be impacted in the future.

This event includes a short, level walk, and meets at the Fisher Museum, 324 North Main Street in Petersham. It is free, and no registration is required.

Greening Greenfield has lined up a series of events about **supporting birds** in the local community. The first, held next Monday, January 27, at 6:30 p.m. at the Second Congre-

gational Church in Greenfield (and on Zoom), is called “How to Choose Bird-Friendly Plants.”

Dr. Martha Gach from the Audubon Society informs participants how to choose native plants to create an environment to support the lives of our feathered friends. Find out about this and other events at greeninggreenfieldma.org.

The **LAVA Center in Greenfield** celebrates its fifth birthday with a three-day spree Friday, January 31 through Sunday, February 2. There will be an exhibit highlighting their history with photos and memorabilia, a kids’ art table, and live music with Vimana on Friday evening from 5 to 8 p.m.

On Saturday there’s a book launch for *Valley and Beyond: A Writers Read Anthology* at 2 p.m., an improv comedy workshop at 4:30 p.m., and an open stage hosted by Kemah Wilson at 7 p.m. Paul Richmond of Human Error Publishing will host First Sunday Word on February 2 at 1 p.m. All events are free of charge.

Greenfield’s **Winter Carnival** is scheduled for the same weekend. The 103rd edition will feature live ice carving throughout the downtown, tons of family activities, a “polar patio” with outdoor fire pits and a bar at Mesa Verde, a “Parade of Lights” from the Newton Street School to Beacon Field, dance lessons, a cribbage tournament, a comedy science show, a fatbike ride, a “glow party,” and lots more.

At Beacon Field you can ride in a horse-drawn sleigh for \$3 – kids under two years are free – and

watch a chili or cookie cook-off, a canine keg pull, a cardboard sled contest, music, sledding, and many other family activities. Check out the full schedule at greenfieldrecreation.com/wintercarnival.

Next Saturday, February 1 at 7:30 p.m., the Performance Project’s First Generation Ensemble is bringing their **multilingual theater piece *Mother Tongue*** back to Shea Theater in Turners Falls.

Mother Tongue is inspired by the experiences of ensemble members, their families, and their communities who are from Congo/Tanzania, Bhutan/Nepal, South Sudan/Darfur, Puerto Rico, Holyoke, and Springfield. It includes theater, movement, music, dance, and stories in Arabic, Swahili, Nepali, Spanish, and English, on themes of “diaspora, culture, identity, language, hypermasculinity, transphobia, racism, education, the school-to-prison pipeline, personal liberation, and revolution,” according to the description.

The show is recommended for ages 12 and up. Sliding-scale tickets are available at the door or at sheatheater.org; admission is free for EBT cardholders.

The Ja’Duke Theater will hold **fundraiser performances** for the Center for Self-Reliance Food Pantry on Friday and Saturday, February 7 and 8 called *Lights, Community, Action!*

The food pantry has seen a 34% increase in visitors over the last three years and offers fresh meat, dairy, eggs, produce, and shelf-stable goods to over a thousand visitors per week. Each of the show’s four acts will center around one of the four themes of pantry sponsor Pioneer Valley Community Action’s programs: food, heat, support, and community connection.

The show will use 95 cast members to create what they promise will be “a thigh-slapping, foot-stomping singalong show full of family

fun.” It starts both days at 6 p.m. at Ja’Duke, in the industrial park in Turners Falls. Tickets are available at jaduketheater.com.

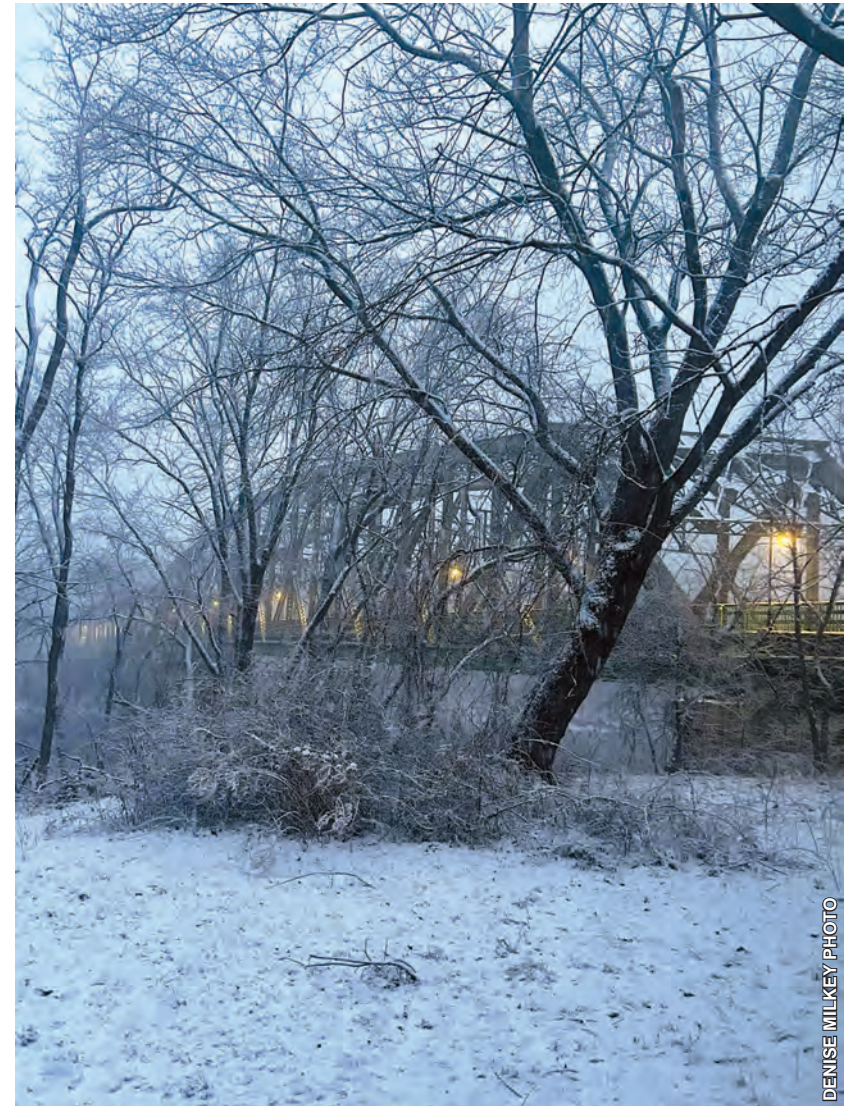
MassDOT is warning folks about an **EZDriveMA scam**, where people are receiving text messages requesting payment for unpaid tolls. MassDOT will never request payment by text, and all links associated with EZDriveMA should include *EZDriveMA.com*.

If you receive one of these “smishing” texts, the FBI recommends you file a complaint with ic3.gov – be sure to include the number from where the text originated, and the website listed in the text. Delete any smishing texts, check your ac-

count on the toll service’s real website, and give the toll service a call at (877) 627-7745 if you are smished.

If you’ve got good ideas for bringing neighbors together, the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Network is offering **grants up to \$1,500 for community-building projects**. Projects can take place in Athol, Charlemont, Greenfield, Hawley, Montague, Orange, Petersham, Shelburne Falls, South Deerfield, or Sunderland, and must be completed by June. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis at tinyurl.com/together-grant.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.



Reader Denise Milkey is a neighbor of the General Pierce Bridge, and shared this photo from Sunday dusk of the bridge in the snow.

OP ED

Deleting Your Facebook: Big Questions, and Few Answers

By LEIGH RAE

MONTAGUE CENTER – I recently decided to delete my Facebook account.

Since 2009, I have used Facebook to stay in touch with friends and family, and to promote volunteer efforts I was involved in. Lately I have become dismayed by the way large tech companies are “falling into line” with the new administration instead of using their enormous power to help curb the disinformation that is degrading our ability to be responsible citizens and stewards of democracy.

My digital footprint is probably more modest than most. On social media, for instance, I long ago deleted my Twitter account, I have never had a TikTok account or a Threads account, and I am planning to delete my Instagram account soon.

I suppose my decision to delete my Facebook account is a form of protest – small for sure, but it feels like the right thing. This decision is more complicated for others who use social media as a means of promotion to support their livelihood, so opting out of Facebook isn’t for everyone.

And now I am finding that it is more difficult than it should be.

I started with a Google search. There are two actions one can take to leave Facebook – deactivation or deletion. Deactivation allows you to hide your profile, your timeline, and your posts, but Facebook still retains all the information you have put up on the platform.

People often deactivate their account when they think they might want to reactivate it in the future.

Deletion purportedly removes all of your data from the platform. Once you delete your account, you cannot retrieve the information.

Both deactivation and deletion looked relatively straightforward to accomplish. Even though I decided to delete my account, I had questions about whether simply deleting it would eliminate all of my information. What about my comments and interactions with other people and groups? Would they be deleted, too?

And, of course, since Facebook relies on advertising to support its empire, I assume that much of my information is already in the hands of advertisers. Would that, too be captured somehow and deleted? There were no easy answers online that satisfied my questions.

Unsure how much might be retained if I simply deleted my account, I decided the most effective way to regain control over the past 15 years of my Facebook history would be to manually delete all of that information.

For sure, I thought, there would be a way to aggregate interactions and posts and delete a bunch at a time. Another Google search indicated that this was possible, but when I tried it, my page froze; a message warned me that the task I had initiated would take some time. I was only able to delete 25 interactions at a time, and even then I was surprised that several hours after initiating

a deletion, the page was still frozen and the message remained.

I was also frequently instructed to re-enter my password multiple times before I could continue any action.

After several days – and some six to eight hours trying to delete just five of the 15 years of my information on Facebook – I gave up my cautious approach and went back to Google seeking directions for a complete and hopefully immediate account deletion. Unfortunately, the instructions I found did not match the prompts on my page. After spending nearly an hour tinkering with almost every prompt under the Settings dropdown menu, I was able to find the correct prompt and successfully initiate the account deletion.

The Facebook Help Center then emailed me to say that I have 30 days to cancel my account deletion and after that it is final. However, the Help Center also indicates that it may take 90 more days to delete everything, and that copies of my information may remain in backup storage in case Facebook determines it should be recovered. (See www.facebook.com/help/224562897555674/ for specifics.)

I am left with three very big questions:

1. Meta Platforms, Facebook’s parent company, is a huge tech company currently reported to have a market capitalization of \$1.5 trillion – the eighth largest company in the world. The depth of its expertise must be considerable. So why is it so difficult to de-

lete specific account content, or to delete an account entirely? And why isn’t there more transparency about what happens to your information after you delete your account?

2. When one does delete an account, why does it take up to three months for such a powerful tech company to comply with that request?

3. And finally, why is Facebook permitted to keep our data in backup storage indefinitely? I understand that the privacy laws in Europe are considerably more robust. Why haven’t our leaders adopted stronger laws?

Leigh Rae lives in Montague Center.

The editors add...

We asked our resident tech columnist, Ryne Hager, about this. Ryne wrote: “Facebook’s Help Center documentation notes that when you delete an account, ‘your profile, photos, posts, videos, and everything else you’ve added will be permanently deleted,’ though ‘some information, like messages you sent to friends, may still be visible to them after you delete your account,’ so any of our readers interested in deleting their own Facebook accounts don’t need to worry about deleting individual posts first.”

Seeking confirmation that comments on other users’ posts are in the former category, we contacted the Facebook press office, but still had not heard back as of press time.

– Eds.

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


greenfield records
Vinyl records, cassettes, CDs, DVDs, books
discogs: johndoejunior buy/sell/trade
275 main st. greenfield ma
M-Th. 11-5
Fri-Sat. 11-6
Sun. 12-5
@greenfieldrecordsma
f johndoejunior
greenfield-records.com

SWANSON'S FABRICS
x
THE STASH HOUSE
Fabric & Fiber Craft Supplies
Sewing Studio Classes & Workshops
SHOPPING & DONATIONS
Wed - Sun | 11 am - 5 pm
320 Avenue A.
Turners Falls Ma, 01376
(413) 800-2891

Guitar Lessons in Turners Falls
technique, theory, musicianship
for the evolving guitarist
Louis Arnold
Guitarist
978 400 1142
lou.arnold@gmail.com

RECYCLE

PAPER
Week of January 27
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054


WE DIG FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Loam
- Gravel
- Sand
- Natural Stone



(413) 774-1285

NANCY L. DOLE BOOKS & EPHEMERA



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

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

GREENFIELD FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE
Locally Owned Since 1918

269 High Street - Greenfield
(413) 773-9639

Local Farmer-Owned

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

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

www.greenfieldfarmerscoop.com

SUPPORT LOCAL INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM



SEND ANY UNWANTED PIZZA COUPONS TO

THE
"MONTAGUE REPORTER,"
177 AVENUE A,
TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

ALSO ACCEPTED
IN PERSON OR
IN MAILBOX

OP ED

The Kigali Genocide Memorial

By SAMUEL BLACK

LEVERETT – The Kigali Genocide Memorial is a white building on a hill. It was “created through a collaboration between the Government of Rwanda and the Aegis Trust and is managed by the trust on behalf of the Rwanda ministry of National Unity and Civic Engagement. Through peace education in Rwanda and beyond, Aegis enables people to give up revenge, lay down weapons, champion humanity.”

From the reception center of the Genocide Memorial a door leads to a video room that prepares, but does not prepare, visitors for their journey. The video presentation offers a small light of forgiveness and hope that is voiced by surviving mothers, fathers, and children of those killed or missing.

This small flame is fanned by the determination of the Aegis Trust to teach others to find that light and help it grow into one that will uplift humanity and protect us from doing actions that will hurt others.

It is important to know that the hill sloping down from the Genocide Memorial is lined with terrace after terrace of mass tombs, each holding stacks of caskets that bear individual victims of the Rwandan genocide, each casket respectfully draped in a ruffled cloth. The many massed tombs on memorial hill hold more than 250,000 victims of the genocide and there is plenty of room on the site to dig more tombs to cherish bodies that are still being uncovered.

Similar massed tombs are present throughout Rwanda in small towns and in the countryside, each holding someone’s loved ones, many unidentified. Like the memorial hill in Kigali these other mass tombs allow the respectful burial of newly discovered victims of the genocide.

From the video orientation room a stairway leads down to the memorial building, which is shaped as a shamrock. A corridor opens on the outer wall of the first leaf. It quietly passes around the building, its inner wall lined with images, explanations, and videos documenting events leading up to, during, and after the period of Rwanda’s 1994 ethnic slaughter; its outer wall is lined with visitors taking the same jour-

ney as you through this horror.

Remembrance of Rwanda’s genocide leads to that of Namibia, the Holocaust, Cambodia, and the Balkans. It ends at a children’s room where, in simple lines, individual child victims, whose back-lit images are shown above the lines, are remembered for their age at death, the food they liked, those who they loved, their personality, the games they played, and how they were killed.

I stepped outside and was directed to the tombs and gardens.

My guide was a survivor. He is 40 years old, 90 days of which were spent hidden in a stone oven with his mother during the genocide. His father was killed while out scavenging for food, his brothers and sisters were killed outside the house where he was hidden. The tombs hold his father, brothers, and sisters. He said he is happy to spend each day with them. At home there is just his mother and him.

The tombs are long and flat with a walkway around them, and on an adjacent wall are black tablets with the alphabetized names of victims that lie there and have been identified, and many other tablets not yet inscribed. Burial of Rwandan genocide victims is an ongoing process. Around the tombs, down the hill, terrace after terrace, through the gardens, birds sing and from time to time I passed another visitor. Sometimes I felt I couldn’t breathe, and now, writing this, sometimes I feel that I can’t breathe.

I was in Kigali for seven days, from September 1 to September 7, attending the African Food Systems Forum as an associate of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Here farmers and those who support or work with them all along the food chains in Africa gather, talk, listen, form alliances, solve problems, point out new ones, and face them together.

The goal is to feed Africa, to help it grow, literally and metaphorically. Some delegates are in the farming business, others the commercial sector; some work on the land, others are CEOs, or entrepreneurs, or politicians, or philantro-

pists of small or enormous foundations, the latter including the Consultative Group for International Agriculture Research and the Gates Foundation; or leaders of small and huge development agencies, the latter including USAID. Some are scientists in national or international institutes, some professors, or students, all problem solvers of one kind or another.

Alongside major presentations and panel meetings in the auditorium off the Kigali Convention Center there were more intimate specialized gatherings in breakout rooms, small lecture rooms, and even conversation pods, nothing more than a soundproof booth with a table between two short benches.

There was also a youth dome on the roof of the convention center that housed a parallel gathering where youth – deemed in Africa to be those, so I was told, from 14 to 35 years of age – made their claim on the future of agriculture in Africa and knocked on the door of politicians and others to let them in.

Kigali is a beautiful city of rolling hills and delightful buildings, not one towering above another. I am glad that I visited the Genocide Memorial just before leaving. Prior to my visit I was aware of, but did not feel, the genocide, although it took place only 30 years ago.

Many in Rwanda, the youths, those who are no longer youths, those recently emerged or longer-term elders intimately remember the genocide and have, in the intervening years, made or are trying to make, peace with the angels of remorse and forgiveness, helped by a government committed to “social cohesion, equity and equality of opportunity.” Present-day Kigali is a testament to realization of that commitment.

I visit everyone could walk through the Kigali Genocide Memorial. I believe that it is one of the most important buildings in the world.

Samuel Black lives in Leverett. His background is in immunology with a focus on veterinary tropical diseases. He is a Professor Emeritus of the University of Massachusetts, Department of Veterinary and Animal Science, and serves as a consultant with USAID for food security in Africa.

WENDELL from page A1

7 p.m. on Wednesday, February 12 as the time for a special town meeting. A draft of the February warrant was among the meeting materials.

Article 1 would put free cash into stabilization. As much as \$280,678 is possible, but before finalizing that amount, the selectboard was waiting for the finance committee’s input at a money managers’ meeting scheduled for January 22.

Articles 2 through 5 would pay bills from prior fiscal years: \$617.57 for the con com, \$536.07 for the board of health, \$914.95 for the fire department, and \$360.82 for WRATS. Article 6 would add \$4,500 to police funding, though town coordinator Glenn Johnson-Mussad said that the money will not be needed.

Article 7 would add \$2,500 to the town clerk’s salary, citing extra responsibilities added to her position, and Article 8 would add \$8,500 to the school transportation budget. Article 9 would allow creating a payment plan for property owners’ past due taxes.

Johnson-Mussad said state senator Jo Comerford had nominated him to attend a citizens’ legislature seminar March 25 and 26. The board approved a motion allowing him time to go.

Johnson-Mussad reported that he expects to pay more this year than normal for printing town reports.

He plans to have three printed, and possibly four, to catch up for the years the books were not printed. By printing only the number of copies asked for, he will save some money. Money that was authorized for the earlier town reports and not spent was returned to free cash.

Board members signed a letter to Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) director of planning Jessica Atwood backing a FRCOG grant application for a county-wide municipal energy manager.

The selectboard, following a recommendation by the library board of trustees, hired Amanda Detlof as library custodian, scheduled for two to five hours a week with a possibility of more hours to fill in for the town custodian. Detlof had met with the present custodian already.

Trustee co-chair Phyllis Lawrence stayed connected through the meeting until time came for the discussion of pest control. The library has a dry stone foundation, and more mice have reportedly been coming inside recently. The selectboard is considering a proposal by Minuteman Pest Control of Northampton, and Lawrence said she hoped they would include the library.

Lawrence also said she hoped that any poison used would not impact raptors that prey on the mice. The mice are expected to eat the bait and return to their nests to die,

and not be available for raptors.

Johnson-Mussad said he had been in contact with Minuteman, and that the town needs mouse control now. Board members voted to approve meeting with Minuteman about what is needed.

The fees are \$375 for the first visit at one building, then \$120 a month afterwards, and \$350 for the first building and \$110 a month at additional buildings. The town office building and town hall are considerations, and an option for the library is open, depending on the poison used. Reading the potential contract, selectboard member Paul Doud saw that the town will be assessed an extra \$50 for any bait station that is damaged or removed.

Selectboard member Gillian Budine suggested the building maintenance fund as a source of money for the service.

DiDonato said the town’s municipal light plant (MLP), which manages the broadband network, will need a new manager and a new member in spring. The May election will include the MLP board, and the manager is appointed by the board. The MLP is a standalone body, and town treasurer Carolyn Manley said she would have to check to see whether the manager position is covered by the town personnel policy.

The present manager, Ray DiDonato, plans to step down but

stay on the MLP board, and Laurie DiDonato, also a member of the MLP board, wondered whether having herself and her husband on the board needed consideration by the state ethics commission.

DiDonato said she has been in a back-and-forth conversation with police chief Scott Minckler about illegal activity in Wendell Depot, at a spot near the railroad right-of-way and the Route 2 right-of-way. They discussed a parking ban, but DiDonato said people use that parking space for legitimate reasons, such as fishing and carpooling. She suggested banning parking after dark, or banning loitering, and adding checks by police officers.

Doud said he was not sure it was a big problem.

Selectboard members agreed to waive the town hall use fee for a gathering to honor Martin Luther King on January 20.

The meeting ended with an executive session, with the reasons given: “[t]o comply with or act under the authority of any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements (approval of meeting minutes); and to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body, and the chair so declares.”

They returned to open meeting only to adjourn.

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


Renaissance Excavating, Inc.



COMPLETE SITE WORK

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

INFO@RENBUILD.NET
413-863-8316



RENAISSANCE BUILDERS

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

KEN'S TAX PREP

Old fashion service at old fashion prices
145 Federal Street
Greenfield MA. 01301

Frank Dudek
frankd_74@kenstaxprep.com
413.773.5600 Office
413.772.5782 Fax



DATA from page A1

I finally caught up with him this week to learn the back story.

MR: What made you decide to do this project?

RF: I live in a co-op, and over the course of the pandemic we've had a set of agreements so that we're not just giving each other COVID all the time. Those agreements have always involved layered mitigation strategies, and have always been responsive to the status of the pandemic – meaning we're more careful when things are more intense, and not quite as careful when things aren't.

That was pretty easy for the first few years, because there was all this case count data. We used a website called Covid Act Now, and we used case counts and positivity, and the version of *r* that they used

to measure the degree to which it was spreading. And we had a scaled set of practices – like masking in public, like testing – that had variability depending on how high the COVID incidence was.

And that, of course, got a lot harder when they stopped collecting that information.

MR: Yeah.

RF: And in the first place, everybody needing to figure out how to respond to the pandemic based on the available data, as individuals or small groups, is a sign that your public health institutions have already pretty much abandoned you.

When that data was no longer available, and all of a sudden all we had was wastewater – which is an imperfect indicator of what's going on virally – you've got individuals trying to recreate functions that

should be played by large, well-funded public health institutions. It was a ridiculous position to be in.

But we started trying to use the wastewater data to get a sense of how intense it was out there. For a while, Biobot [Analytics] had a public-facing dashboard where you could see all the county-level data, which was pretty helpful.

And then when that contract changed, a little over a year ago –

MR: This was the CDC's contract with Biobot?

RF: Yeah, I guess Biobot lost a big federal contract, so it had to contract its operation substantially, and no longer maintains that dashboard. However, they still do collect and process the data for the state, and the state has its own dashboard.

Once we got to the point of needing to use that, the thing that came up was that the data was either at the level of individual sewer systems – which are kind of too small-scale to be that useful, because I don't spend any given day interacting with people from a single sewershed – or state-level data from the CDC, which is kind of too coarse, because it includes all of eastern Massachusetts which really seems like a different viral watershed.

So I got the idea that I would try and produce a regional figure that would be more useful to us in deciding what precautions we wanted to take. That involved hunting down the population served, or flow rate information, for these various sewer systems, which has not generally been easy and has restricted my capacity for expanding these breakdowns beyond the four counties in western Mass. I basically had to search up EPA permitting contracts.

MR: And look at the specs for each wastewater plant, what it's loading. Did you have any prior background in statistics, and particularly, in visualization?

RF: I have done quantitative science and data analysis and visualization since working on my PhD, which I finished in 2015. I'd actually avoided math and statistics up until then – I was a little bit phobic about it – but I discovered that I loved it, and it's still a big part of my work, although not in the public health field.

I currently work for Regenerative Design Group as a senior researcher. We're working on agricultural

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

FirstLight Power DRAFT 401 Water Quality Certification

This Public Hearing Notice is available in alternative languages (Español) on MassDEP's website at: www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-public-hearings-commentopportunities

Notice is hereby given that FirstLight Power has filed an application for a 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC application) with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). That application is required as part of FirstLight's pending application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to relicense FirstLight's Connecticut River hydroelectric dam and associated facilities in Turners Falls and Montague and the pumped storage facility in Northfield, all under the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. § 797(e).

The WQC application is available on FirstLight's and MassDEP's websites at: www.northfield-relicensing.com/401-wqc-documents?per_page=1000 and www.mass.gov/info-details/401-wqc-for-the-firstlight-hydroelectric-relicensing-project

For additional information, please email FirstLight at relicensing@firstlight.energy or MassDEP at dep.hydro@mass.gov

Public Comment and Hearing

MassDEP will conduct a hybrid public hearing (in-person and remote) on MassDEP's DRAFT WQC on **February 19, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.**, at the Cohn Family Dining Commons, Greenfield Community College, One College Drive, Greenfield, MA.

For remote participation registration is required at this link: https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register?jvN_J1z45n9HRnq51xAECMJITQ

After registering for the remote session, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. The purpose of the hearing is for members of the public to comment orally on the DRAFT WQC.

The DRAFT WQC will be published on January 24, 2025, on MassDEP's project website at: www.mass.gov/info-details/401-wqc-for-the-firstlight-hydroelectric-relicensing-project

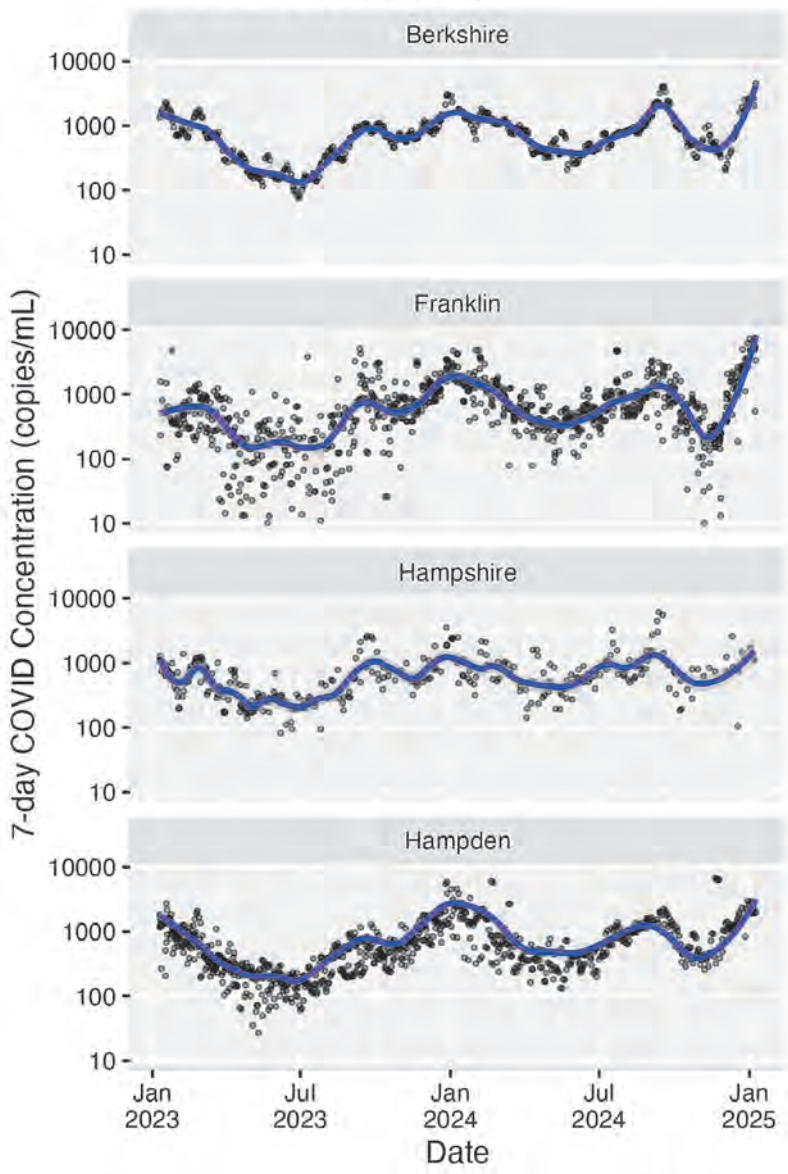
Written comments will be accepted from January 24, 2025, until 5:00 p.m. on February 24, 2025. The Department encourages electronic submission by email to dep.hydro@mass.gov which must include "FirstLight 401 WQC" in the subject line. In lieu of electronic submittal, paper comments may be mailed to Elizabeth Stefaniak, Attn: FirstLight 401WQC, MassDEP-BWR, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114.

For special accommodations for these hearings, please call the MassDEP Diversity Office at (617) 292-5751. TTY# MassRelay Service 1(800)439-2370. This information is available in alternate format upon request. MassDEP provides language access interpreter/translation services to limited English proficient individuals free of charge. If you need an interpreter to participate in this meeting, translation services can be found at the following link: www.mass.gov/info-details/massdep-language-translation-assistance.

By Order of the Department of Environmental Protection
Bonnie Heiple, Commissioner

Wastewater COVID Concentration for Western MA

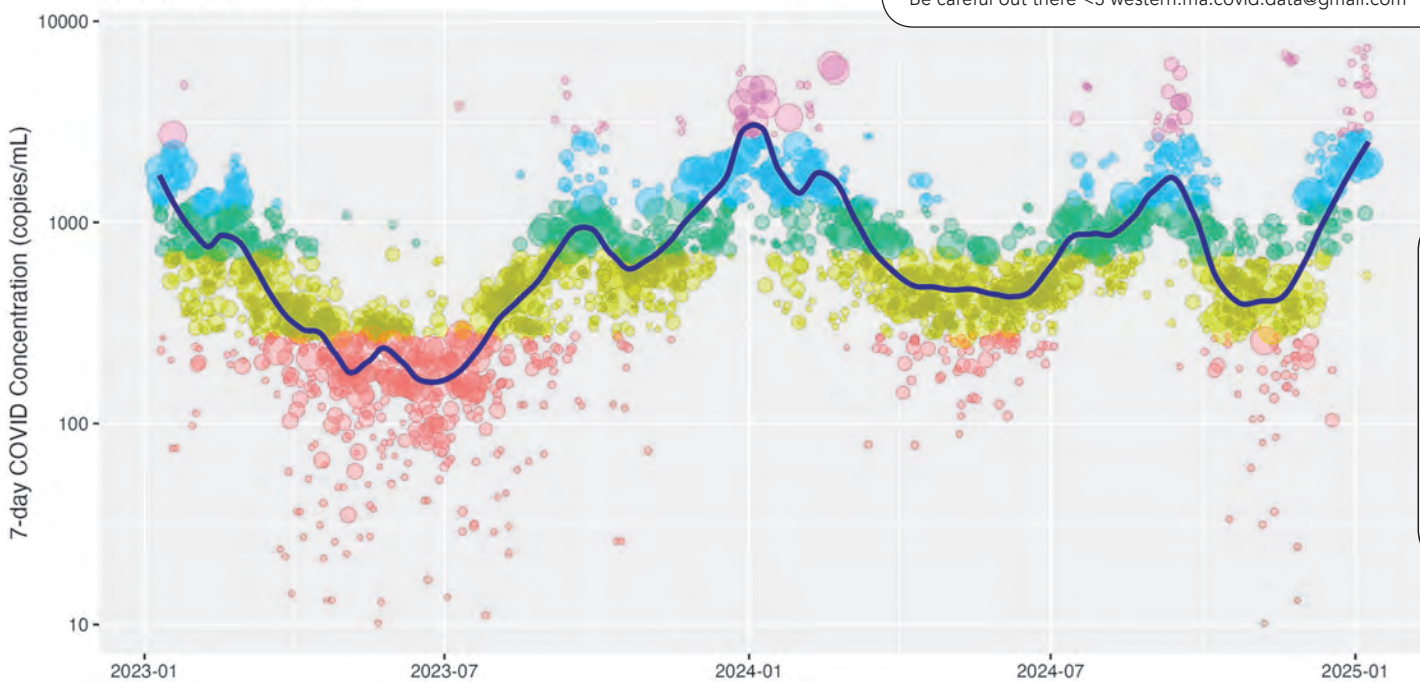
2023-01-10 to 2025-01-09



Trend line is smoothed conditional mean, points are individual system reports. Both are weighted by population and reporting. Be careful out there <3 western.ma.covid.data@gmail.com

Wastewater COVID Concentration for Western MA

2023-01-10 to 2025-01-09



Wastewater COVID concentration for 11 sewer systems in Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin counties. Trend line is smoothed conditional mean, points are individual reports. Both are weighted by population and reporting interval.

- WWA levels were calculated using the CDC methodology, with the exception that the (2-year) baseline is updated each time the WWA is calculated.
- CDC methodology here: <https://www.cdc.gov/nwss/about-data.html#data-method>
- Population weights from various sources (EPA estimates whenever available).

Be careful out there <3 western.ma.covid.data@gmail.com

Wastewater Viral Activity Level

- very high
- high
- moderate
- low
- minimal

IMAGES BY RAFTER FERGUSON

MR: Last winter's peak was really high – something like the second-highest case count so far in the pandemic was associated with that spike, from what I remember – and it really looks like we're in the same ballpark this month!

RF: Yeah. We're roughly as high as we've ever been in the past two years.

MR: Why do you think they're not making assessments of viral spread readily available to the public?

RF: Well, I think it's entirely political and economic in nature. It interferes with business, and it interferes with the smooth functioning of the economy. There's a sense that the public health is secondary to the economy – it can't be allowed to interfere.

Which really throws people who are especially at risk – older people, people with suppressed immune systems or any kind of chronic health condition – and anyone who is connected with them or in community with them, all under the bus.

MR: Is there a worry that this final data is going to go away?

RF: I'm certainly worried. Biobot's contract here is with Massachusetts, so I feel like we're a little insulated from the whatever batshit lunacy the new administration is going to roll out, but I'm not sure how far that protection will actually go. I'm not sure how deep the state's commitment to continuing this monitoring, and making the information available, is going to run.

I also feel the fatigue of dealing with COVID – I feel the discouragement, and the desire to give up in the face of being largely abandoned by our public health institutions. But it's really worth it to keep protecting ourselves and the people we love. And it's doable. We don't have to be perfect, but we can keep doing everything we can.

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

STONEDWORK
— BUILD. REBUILD. MEND. —

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

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
DOORS & OPENERS

Devine Overhead Doors
Gerry Devine

106 West Street Hampshire: 586-3161
Hadley, MA. 01035 Franklin: 773-9497

DOLAN & DOLAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

Tip of the week ...

Skiers and snowboarders, your season is here! Prioritize safety to avoid injuries and lawsuits. Speak to your insurance agent and confirm your homeowners insurance has the appropriate liability coverage.



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

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

auto | home | business | annuities

Montague Community Television News

Grange Talk Now Up

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – The history of the Montague Grange was celebrated on December 5 in the final installment of the town's yearlong *Food, Farms, and Factories* series. We have coverage of Will Quale's talk from the event, as well as the musical performance by "All Over the Map," with contra calling by Steve Howland.

Our recordings of both the Montague selectboard and finance committee meetings are up to date.

All MCTV videos are aired on

Channel 9, as well as featured on the MCTV Vimeo page.

If there is ever a meeting, event, performance, or happening in the Montague area that you think MCTV should capture, let us know! And if you also have an idea for a show, MCTV is always available to assist in local productions as well. Just reach out!

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

Avian Influenza Confirmed at UMass

By SARAH ROBERTSON

AMHERST – Two dead geese found on the UMass Amherst campus have tested positive for bird flu, a highly contagious disease that has been infecting poultry, cattle, pets, and people nationwide.

The state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) confirmed this week that the birds died of a strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). The state and university are cautioning anyone on campus to avoid feeding or interacting with wild birds.

"In early January, several Canada geese were reported sick and died at UMass Amherst and have been tested for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)," MassWildlife assistant director of outreach and education Nicole McSweeney told the *Reporter*. "Preliminary results came back consistent for HPAI infection. Samples were submitted to the National Veterinary Services Lab for confirmation testing. It can take several months to receive confirmatory results back."

The UMass cases come amid a global outbreak of HPAI, a disease of growing concern to the poultry industry and to public health. A particular strain, H5N1, is capable of infecting mammals. Egg shortages have been reported across the United States due to the outbreak, pets and zoo animals have died after eating contaminated food, and the nation's first human death was reported this month.

According to the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC), 67 human cases of H5N1 bird flu have been recorded nationwide since the cur-



Officials did not acknowledge our inquiries as to whether the geese reported to have died in Turners Falls on New Year's Eve, including this one, were ever tested.

rent outbreak began in 2022, including the first human fatality on January 6 in Louisiana.

"While tragic, a death from H5N1 bird flu in the United States is not unexpected because of the known potential for infection with these viruses to cause severe illness and death," the CDC stated in a press release. "CDC has carefully studied the available information about the person who died in Louisiana and continues to assess that the risk to the general public remains low. Most importantly, no person-to-person transmission spread has been identified."

Globally, more than 950 human cases of the H5N1 strain have been reported to the World Health Organization since the first case in 1997. About half have resulted in death.

According to the CDC, 136,327,394 birds raised for commercial egg and meat production

have died of the disease, or been culled to prevent its spread, since 2022. Flocks on farms and in backyards have been affected in every state, with the epicenter in California, where a large number of commercial cattle have contracted the disease as well.

Wild birds, especially waterfowl, tend to be vectors of transmission. Earlier this month, dead and sick Canada geese were seen by the power canal along Migratory Way in Turners Falls, as reported in our January 2 edition. Despite repeated requests from the *Reporter* for comment, MassWildlife officials have not confirmed whether they are investigating the dead birds at the canal.

On Sunday, MassWildlife reported that over 60 deceased Canada geese, swans, and other birds found at a pond in Plymouth likely died of the flu.

High School Sports Week: Four Wrestling Wins – and a Loss for the Town

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – Last Saturday the Franklin Tech Wrestling Eagles hosted seven teams in the Eagle Dual tournament. The Birds went 3

and 0 in the rumble. On Wednesday they celebrated Senior Night by pinning the Mahar Senators 49-27.

Also this week, Turners Falls lost another of our own. Herman "Mike" Podlenski, Jr. passed away

on January 16.

Mike graduated from Turners Falls High School in 1973, and was a starting lineman on the undefeated 1971 football team. He was also a member of Troop 6's infamous Moose Patrol – and more.

He grew up on Wentworth Ave., and he was a big part of my childhood. Back in the day, when 20 to 30 kids would all play together, he was one of the leaders. The last time I saw Mike was at a remembrance for another Wentworth Ave old-timer, Mrs. Theresa "Gracie" Menard, held earlier this year.

Rest in peace, Mike. You are fondly remembered by many of us.

Wrestling

FCTS 71 – Worcester Tech 12

FCTS 63 – Granby 15

FCTS 41 – Southwick 40

FCTS 49 – Mahar 27

On Saturday, seven schools descended on Franklin Tech for the Eagle Dual brawl. The Birds finished the day with three wins against Worcester Tech, Granby, and Southwick.

Against Worcester Tech, Johnathan McIntyre (106), Camden Bonnett (150), Benjamin Baker (157), Jackson Morey (190), and Seamus Collins (215) all pinned their opponents, while Maxon Brunette (126) won his match 17-0.

In the Granby battle Baker (157), Collins (215), Carsten Couture (120), and Connor Herzig



Franklin Tech's Seamus Collins (left) and Mahar's Xavier Flagg compete in the 285 weight class on Wednesday, Senior Night, at Franklin Tech.

(144) won by pins, and Brunette defeated his opponent in the 126 weight class 9-3.

The Southwick match was the closest fight of the night, and Tech pulled it out by a single point. Six Eagles won their matches by pins, with three brawlers winning in less than a minute: Hunter Parker at 35 seconds, Morey at 32 seconds, and Collins at a stunning 13 seconds.

Paul Giard finished his combatant in 1:01, Herzig his in 2:21, and it took Travis Eastman 5:25 to hold his foe's shoulders down. Couture was unable to win by a pin, but outscored his opponent 17-1 to clinch

the Eagles' well-deserved win.

On Wednesday night, the Eagles won a dual match against Mahar.

In this tussle Collin Eddy (35 seconds), Morey (35 seconds), and Couture (36 seconds) made quick work of their adversaries while Eastman (1:12), Baker (1:15), and Mia Marigliano (1:33 in the 132-lb weight class) needed a little more time to finish their antagonists. Brunette outpaced his rival 13-1 while Bonnett won his match by a single point, 3-2.

The Eagles go on the road this Saturday to challenge the Gryphons of Greater Lowell Tech.



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS

Eagles wrestler Mia Marigliano (left) works to bring her opponent Kaleb Johnson to the mat as Franklin Tech hosted the Mahar Senators on Wednesday. Marigliano, a Turners Falls High School senior, is an experienced wrestler on the Franklin Tech team.

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

Rau's Auto
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR
(413) 367-2475
531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague
24 hour emergency towing
Best service licensed Mechanics

FEDERAL STREET BOOKS
8 Federal Street, Greenfield
federalstreetbooks.com

SPIRITS, BREWS & FINE WINES
53C S. Main St. South Deerfield, MA
295 Amherst Rd. Sunderland, MA
New Location Now Open:
6 Main Road, in Gill
(formerly Jan's Package Store)
Come check us out!
Deerfield: (413) 665-2456
Sunderland: (413) 665-5030
Gill: (413) 863-5730
THE SPIRIT SHOPPE

SPLIT from page A1

believed that by working together, they are better reflecting the organization's values and avoiding the challenges of a traditional single-directorship model.

"It helps to walk the talk about equity," Faller said about the new co-directorship structure. "We are subverting traditional hierarchical systems. We are creating systemically more room for collaboration in our organization and creating more room for productive conflict."

Though the co-director model is new for Just Roots, Faller and LaTronica pointed out that similar collaborative leadership had been present in the organization's past. LaTronica explained that a similar collaborative approach was effectively in place during former executive director Jessica O'Neill's training.

"The way our teams have been organized, it has always been collective," LaTronica said. "It took a little digging in and looking back at our history, and looking forward and saying a lot of ED models are places where burnout happens. Neither one of us was excited to apply by ourselves."

Together, Faller and LaTronica bring a combined 12 years of experience working at Just Roots.

LaTronica joined the organi-

zation eight years ago as the farm manager before transitioning to the director of farm operations. Prior to Just Roots she had worked on farms in eastern Massachusetts, and she relocated from Jamaica Plain to Greenfield for the role.

Faller, who has a background in farming and nonprofit work, has been with Just Roots for four years as a program director.

When the executive director position first opened, Faller and LaTronica were still focused on their separate roles. As the transition unfolded, they began working together on governance, financial oversight, and HR, gradually overlapping their responsibilities and finding a collaborative path for their new positions.

"We are excited to model how we want collaboration to look across the organization," LaTronica said. "It is a great opportunity to continue what we are doing, but refresh and come into our adolescence as an organization in a way."

The two said they are using this transition to audit their current programs and determine what is working well, while also considering new programs to focus on in the coming year.


"[We are] overdue for strategic planning, rebranding, and reconsidering the way that Just Roots exists

within our community," Faller said.

Faller also expressed particular excitement about Just Roots's program in which doctors can prescribe food and services to food-insecure Medicaid patients. Through the use of MassHealth's Section 1115 Demonstration Waivers, insurance will cover the cost of year-round community-supported agriculture (CSA) shares, cooking classes, and cookware for eligible patients.

The pair also noted that sign-ups for the farm's summer CSA – which runs June through October – will open at the end of this month, and recommended signing up early as spots fill up quickly. Members with the benefit can use SNAP – and the Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) – to pay for their shares in installments.

LaTronica invites anyone curious about the organization to visit the farm on Glenbrook Drive, or talk with Just Roots staff at the Winter Farmers Market at the Greenfield Public Library.

"When we started to look at models across the country, we realized this is a model that is sustainable and puts collaboration at the heart," she said. "That is true of the culture of our organization. But we had to name it, and say 'We want this model.'" 

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on January 22, 2015: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Waiting for the Ice to Melt

As the days grow longer and ever-so-slowly warmer after winter solstice, the eyes of Lake Pleasant villagers turn to watching for ice to depart from Lake Pleasant's namesake body of water. Since 1977, an "Ice Off the Lake" contest has been a rite of seasonal passage. Residents ante up a dollar and take their chances.

The contest date range is February 22 through April 19, the earliest and latest dates ice has left the lake since the contest began. Judges gather daily on the Bridge of Names. If no ice can be seen, according to the rules, no ice exists, and the contest is declared done.

Something New: Emergency Alerts

Fire chief Joe Cuneo asked the Wendell selectboard to consider funding a reverse 911 system. That would allow someone to make a call to everyone in town with only one call. The list of numbers would come from the Verizon land line directory, but a person could sign up with a cell phone number.

Board members liked the idea; member Dan Keller suggested it should be on the annual warrant.

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on January 20, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

town's \$400,000 purchase price, which would kill the deal.

Cosby Scolds Parents

Speaking to parents at Turners Falls High School on Wednesday, Dr. Bill Cosby admonished them to spend more time with their children.

"How can you be afraid to raise this child properly?" he asked. "My hope is that tonight when I leave that this town will be a different place. I'm asking you to get yourselves together. Let those children know that they are loved, but [that] they're not going to get away with the bad stuff."

Fiske Pond Purchase Approved

On Tuesday, Wendell voters and selectboard moved forward on the purchase and permanent conservation of the 125-acre Fiske pond property. Tuesday's non-binding ballot question was answered affirmatively by nearly two-thirds of the voters who cast ballots.

The Commonwealth's Division of Conservation Services, however, may decide not to award a grant to reimburse 70% of the

150 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on January 20, 1875: News from the Turners Falls Reporter.

ten, this morning.

R.N. Oakman, Esq., chairman of Selectmen, has made a permanent arrangement with the Fitchburg Railroad Company by which all legal voters at Turners Falls and Montague City may hereafter attend all town meetings, by passage over their road at one-half fare, which in a measure, betters the old arrangement. But more must be done to call out a full vote of Turners Falls.

The little settlement of Hoosac Tunnel Station is the last locality to suffer from malignant diphtheria. The disease has raged fearfully in that vicinity and shows no signs of abatement. Conway has not yet got rid of the scourge, either.

The women righters are in the Legislature with a petition. Sorry, but many less deserving petitions will be granted, while they say them nay.

Friday last, the new and beautiful town hall in Erving was dedicated, with much ceremony. After great wrangling they have at last got by far the best town house in the county, although the tax payers of the town say they have got to pay for an unnecessary luxury.

Turners Falls and Vicinity

The new Riverside brass band consists of a tin horn, a clarinet and a fiddle.

The Peasant Bard pays a graceful tribute to the late Hon. Alvah Crocker.

A neat frame has been placed in the post office by the department, for the reception of the daily weather reports and probabilities.

The house built and occupied by L. C. Alexander, on Third street, was sold last week to Samuel R. Pierce of Greenfield, for \$1150.

Preachers who advocate the hot place doctrine have the weather against them in warning sinners to flee from the wrath to come.

The trains have been delayed for several days, owing to the burning of the wooden bridge, 175 feet long, on the Vermont and Massachusetts, one mile west of South Royalston.

The Clark & Chapman Machine Company commenced running nine hours a day, instead of



LaTronica and Faller, hanging out in one of the farm's greenhouses on a subzero January day.

SHERIFF from page A1

He then served as a probation officer at the district court in Orange and at the then-Franklin County Community Corrections Center until 2002, when he was elected as a state representative.

In the legislature Donelan served on a range of committees dealing with mental health, housing, and higher education. He also served on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee and sponsored legislation.

As a state rep he participated in a 2008 study of the organization of school districts in Franklin County, funded by a grant obtained by then-state senator Stan Rosenberg. After several years the project disbanded without agreeing on a countywide consolidation plan.

"Everything we said back then about the impact of declining enrollment proved to be true," Donelan told the *Montague Reporter* this week, noting the current "grassroots" effort to consolidate the Pioneer Valley and Gill-Montague districts.

In 2010 the Franklin County sheriff's job opened up and Donelan, perhaps tiring of the constant commute to Boston, ran for the job and won. He has since been reelected twice to six-year terms in the position. Though the Franklin County government was abolished decades ago, the sheriff has continued as the administrator of the Franklin County House of Corrections, officially as a state position.

In his interview with the *Reporter* he stressed his record implementing programs to deal with mental health and substance abuse, as well as creating an environment where the jail has been "a great place to work."

"I feel we led the nation in the transformation of


correction," Donelan said.

Donelan said he plans to spend more time at a home he owns on Cape Cod, "especially in the summer," and that he will "dabble in education and training" in the field of public safety, but did not want to discuss any future job opportunities at this point, given the transition to a new sheriff.

"I have nothing bad at all to say about Chris Donelan," said Greenfield attorney Isaac Mass, who has represented inmates at the jail. Mass expressed concern that Donelan's retirement could generate pressure for the consolidation of county jail administration. The most recent iteration of a state Criminal Justice Commission has been, as part of its mandate, "reviewing the operations of the sheriffs."

Donelan said that he was "always on edge" about the possibility of consolidation, but that he thought any evaluation would see "how effective our programs are" at the Greenfield facility.

Montague police chief Chris Williams said that Donelan has been "great to work with." He cited collaboration with sheriff's deputies on the Special Response Team, a regional group which responds to emergency situations such as crisis negotiations, lost children, and gun violence. More recently Greenfield and Montague have entered a collaboration with the sheriff's office to train deputies in the field.

Williams said that at a meeting of town police chiefs on Wednesday, attended by Donelan, "some of us were trying to talk him out of retiring." "Twenty years ago, none of the local police in the area wanted to have anything to do with the county sheriff," Williams said. "That has all changed." 

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



OrigamiUSA

Origami is for anyone, anywhere, anytime!

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

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


French King

Restaurant & Motel

BREAKFAST AND LUNCH
 FRIDAY – 8 A.M. TO 2 P.M.
 SATURDAY & SUNDAY – 7 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

DINNER
 FRIDAY & SATURDAY – 4:30 TO 9:30 P.M.

CALL TO CONFIRM: (413) 423-3328



Fred Holmgren

Piano Tuning & Repair

Stay tuned!

(978)544-5494
fredholmgren@gmail.com



WELLS from page A1

“This is not only a public health issue but also an equity issue,” she said. “Residents living in rural areas who will never have access to a public water supply should not be excluded from having the same public health protections.”

If passed, the bill would grant the state Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) the authority to set standards for certain contaminants, and to define testing requirements for both new and existing wells. The bill would require that wells meet these standards before a home may be sold – as is the case in Massachusetts today for septic systems, which need to pass a so-called Title 5 inspection before a sale.

The bill would also provide financial aid to homeowners to remediate contamination. Leverett selectboard member Patricia Duffy is among the many homeowners across the state who have learned they had tainted well water. Three years ago her neighborhood, where a number of wells had been affected by groundwater seepage from a former town landfill, was connected to the Amherst municipal water system.

“Not everyone is aware of the need or can afford these services, creating a regional equity issue...”

**– Amie Shei
President, The Health Foundation of Central MA**

Duffy says she supports the proposed legislation, but worries whether financial aid for “eligible” homeowners, as the bill defines it, will be sufficient.

“As having had these issues in my own home, I know that they are intrusive and also expensive; plus they affect the value of the homes involved,” Duffy wrote to the *Reporter*. “We need to see legislation that guarantees no harm to residents pertaining to a condition that was not caused by them. I’m not sure if this legislation covers the full extent of the problem.”

The proposed legislation would enable MassDEP to help homeowners install treatment equipment through “loan guarantees and interest subsidies for an eligible project.”

“Sure, a wealthier person might be able to handle the associated costs of mitigation, but is that equitable?” Duffy asked. “And, how much of the costs are covered for the ‘eligible’ resident, including a loss in home value?”

Strong Support

A 2023 survey of 1,000 Massachusetts residents conducted by MassINC Polling Group found widespread support for government oversight of private well water quality protections. According to the poll, 97% believed that “[e]very

Massachusetts resident should have access to safe drinking water,” and 92% felt the state government should play a role in ensuring that.

While 75% supported MassDEP setting standards for private wells, as it does for municipal water, support rose to 80% if the regulation included aid for private well owners, and 87% supported requiring a well test before a home is sold – though only 72% of private well owners said they supported this.

After receiving a \$100,000 appropriation in the state budget last year, MassDEP has been studying the feasibility of a statewide testing program. Under the new law, the agency would determine which contaminants must be tested, and local boards of health would enforce those standards – or have the power to set more stringent ones.

“Wells require regular testing and maintenance, just as public water systems do,” said Amie Shei, Ph.D., president of the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts (THFCM), “but not everyone is aware of the need or can afford these services – creating a regional equity issue that can be addressed through this legislation.”

Shei’s organization, along with RCAP Solutions, a nonprofit community development corporation based in Worcester, lead the Coalition for Safe Drinking Water, an advocacy group that tested water from over 500 private wells across the state between 2020 and 2022. About a third, the coalition found, had levels of contamination higher than state health standards for public water systems, or amounts that posed potential health risks.

“Too many homeowners are not aware of what’s in their well water,” RCAP Solutions president Brian Scales wrote, “or how the presence of PFAS and other contaminants could harm their family’s health.”

Try, Try Again

In the 2023-24 legislative session, bills in the House and Senate titled *An Act promoting drinking water quality for all* were heard by the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources but were sent to study and did not pass. Blais signed on as a co-sponsor in the House, and state senator Jo Comerford was a petitioner in her chamber with senator James Eldridge, who represents municipalities in the Middlesex and Worcester district, where many public and private water supplies have high PFAS levels.

Eldridge is a lead sponsor of the bill again in the new legislative session, which began on January 1, and Blais is co-sponsoring the House version with two colleagues, Meghan K. Kilcoyne of the 12th Worcester district and Danilo Sena of the 37th Middlesex district.

“As the Legislature continues to address PFAS contamination in communities across the state this session, it’s crucial that the hun-

MOTHER TONGUE

BY FIRST GENERATION THE PERFORMANCE PROJECT

Stories of Culture, Struggle, Identity, and Revolution

SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 1st
7:30 PM

SHEA THEATER
ARTS CENTER

71 Avenue A
Turners Falls

\$15 - \$25
general public

recommended for
ages 12+

For tickets & info

SCAN ME

performanceproject.org
413-374-4938

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Gill Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency

dreds of thousands of households relying on private well water have access to clean and safe drinking water,” Eldridge said in a statement issued last week.

Homeowners across the state have been dealing with high concentrations of polyfluorinated chemicals, or PFAS, a toxic man-made chemical class commonly found in firefighting foam and waterproof products. Wells in Leverett, Shutesbury, and Westhampton have tested among the highest groundwater concentrations of the chemicals statewide.

A cluster of private wells in the center of Shutesbury were contaminated with high levels, which public officials believe came from fire-suppressing foam used on the town fire department grounds. Contaminated wells near the Barnes Air National Guard base in Westfield are suspected to be caused by a similar source. A number of wells in North Leverett have shown some of the highest PFAS levels yet found in the state, but the cause has not been identified.

Enjoy the Comfort
of Insurance Protection

Competitive rates
and discounts
for all of your
insurance needs!

159 Avenue A
Turners Falls MA
413.863.4373
ahrist.com

THE TOWN OF LEVERETT BOARD OF HEALTH
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Board of Health will hold a public meeting February 3, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. at the Leverett Town Hall, 9 Montague Road, Leverett, MA to act on a request for variances under Chapter 218 of Leverett Code provisions 218-6.1, 218-6.2, 218-9, and 218-9.1. The applicant is the Friends of North Leverett Sawmill, PO Box 57, Leverett, MA 01054 for work (construction of a new onsite sewage disposal system) at 63 North Leverett Road. Copies of the request, exhibits and plans can be obtained by contacting Foresight Land Services at (413) 499-1560.

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

FRANKLIN COMMUNITY
CO-OP

GREEN FIELDS MARKET — MCCUSKER'S MARKET

Stomach rumbling?
Feeling a mite *peckish*?
Getting downright **HANGRY**?
Stop by Green Fields Market for oodles
of scrumptious hot & cold options for
breakfast, lunch, and dinner!

franklincommunity.coop

Green Fields Market • 144 Main St. • Greenfield

DIEMAND FARM

WENDELL, MA
THEDIEMANDFARM.COM

978-544-3806

FIND ALL YOUR FAVORITES
AT OUR FARM STORE!

Turners Falls Pizza House

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

PIZZA, GRINDERS,
DINNERS, SALADS, BURGERS

www.turnersfallspizza.com

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

A ReVision Energy
Company

Certified B Corporation

Together, we're making life better by building
a just and equitable electric future.

Get Started at
revisionenergy.com

Connect With Our Team:
hello@revisionenergy.com • 978.308.9041

Music
Connection

We buy and sell vinyl, compact discs and movies

(413) 512-3540 | 187 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376
(603) 644-0199 | 1711 S. Willow St., Manchester, NH 03103
musicconnection.us



JULIA HANDSCHUH PHOTO

features@montaguereporter.org OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER JANUARY 23, 2025

Above: Monday marked the inauguration... of this winter's sledding on Unity Hill!

ANOTHER WINTER DAY TRIP: MONTAGUE TO LENOX

By MAGGIE SADOWAY

TURNERS FALLS – Two days into the new year, *Montague Reporter* readers were invited to contribute to a new series of homegrown travelogues. The prompt was for “a great day-trip destination, one to



RUTH WHEELER PHOTO

A pedestrian bridge at Woods Pond in Lenox, good for hiking and biking year-round.

two hours’ travel from these parts.” The inaugural essay on January 2 had us listening for sound in the “Nearest Marble Cavern” in Dorset, Vermont; on January 9, “Sunday Drives We Love” took us to a spooky grist mill in Vermont and a grocery store in Great Barrington.

Here I offer an off-season visit to Lenox, where I lived from 1980 to 2016. There’s more to the town than Tanglewood picnics, outdoor Shakespeare plays, and Millionaires.

Taking 91 and the Pike to Lenox is minutes faster, but I prefer the back roads of Routes 112 and 116 with their steep hills and iconic signs all pointing south, and the incongruous cows on the roof of Cummington’s Old Creamery on Route 9.

I often stop at Sangar’s store high up in Windsor to grab a few potato samosas – hot, and \$3.50 each – and to chat with Prem, who makes them. I ask what new obstacles are bedeviling her farming relatives back home in India under Modi’s directives; she tells me my sister, who still lives in Lenox, was in recently after a day of cross-country skiing almost next door at Notchview.

Some readers might ditch the Lenox trip here, and just hit the trails.

Taking Holmes Road through Pittsfield lets us glance at Arrowhead where Herman Melville could gaze at whale-shaped Mount Greylock in the distance as he penned “Bartleby, the Scrivener.” For \$300, you can spend a solitary hour at his desk.

In Lenox, turn right off 7 South onto West Dugway Road and drive through Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, with its owls and beaver dams.

Parsons Marsh on Undermountain Road is a good see **DAY TRIP** page B2

RECIPES

AT LEAST IT'S CITRUS SEASON

By CLAIRE HOPLEY

LEVERETT – Citrus fruits always command significant territory on produce counters. Hills of lemons and foothills of limes and grapefruit flank mountains of oranges.

This colorful landscape may suggest that citrus fruits are always in season, but those who flee to Florida in the cold months know that winter is the time when the dark-leaved orange trees produce their golden-globed fruit. This is when school groups offer fundraiser boxes of oranges and grapefruit straight from southern groves, and supermarkets have orange specials. Lemons, limes and grapefruit are also cheaper.

And, of course, these wintry fruits taste best when they are in season.

Oranges are native to China, but now come in many varieties. Tangerines and clementines were developed in North Africa, with tangerines taking their name from the Moroccan

city of Tangiers and clementines from Père Clément, the Algerian priest who propagated them.

Mandarin oranges share the color of a Chinese mandarin’s robes,

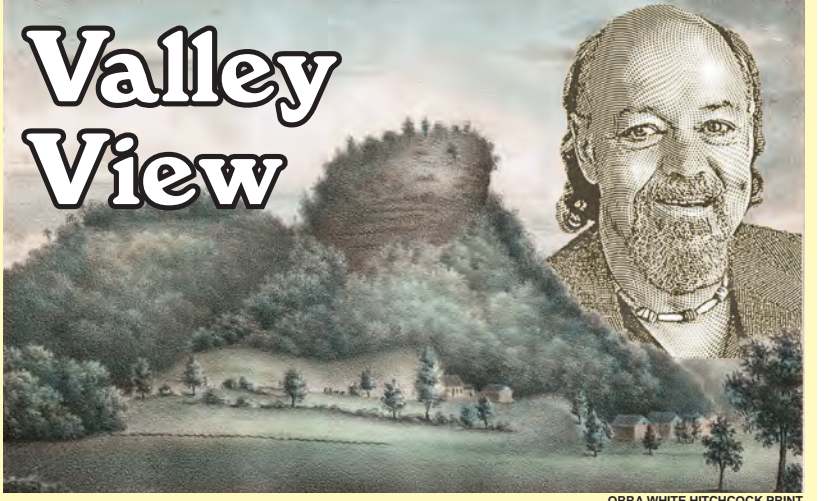
meanwhile, while the tiny kumquats which you can eat skin and all are *kam quat* in Chinese, which means “golden orange.”

see **RECIPES** page B8



HOPLEY PHOTO

Winter is when Florida’s orange trees produce their fruit – and other citrus become cheaper, too!



ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK PRINT

A Barn Long Since Left

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – Wedged inconspicuously into a slim, dim, and dusty space between a wall-length book cabinet and the northeast corner of my study hangs a framed, matted, five-by-seven-inch pen-and-ink sketch of a younger me signed by late *Manchester Union Leader* illustrator John Noga.

Despite ultraviolet-protective glass, the paper has taken on a warm sepia tone that speaks to its age. It was drawn more than 40 years ago for the “sig” accompanying my monthly Connecticut Valley column in *Massachusetts/New Hampshire Out of Doors*. Owned and operated by publisher/editor Bryant “Red” Chaplin, the popular regional publication was known to readers as MOOD.

I was pushing 30 at the time of the sketch. I wore a full head of curly hair and a trim beard and mustache, with a glint of the devil in my eye.

When I catch a glimpse on my daily rounds, it often evokes memories dating back to my early freelance-writing days, when I dared to question the viability of our ambitious state and federal Connecticut River Atlantic salmon-restoration program, ultimately derailed 13 years ago due to poor results.

Back in the 1980s I was the only mainstream media voice – or New England Outdoor Writers Association (NEOWA) member – openly questioning a salmon comeback. I presume older members preferred to believe misleading press releases and promotional words of wisdom from hopeful fish and wildlife agencies and salmon organizations. Veteran outdoor scribes in the cocktail lounge might’ve admitted it was pie in the sky, but figured why not be supportive and give it a chance?

Chaplin and I forged a great working relationship during the 10 or 11 years we shared before his 1992 cancer death at 65. We often chatted on the phone and always took full advantage of our social interactions at the annual three-day NEOWA meeting and banquet at the Sheraton-Boxborough. Born with deep Yankee roots in 1926, he

was two years older than my father.

One time during a typically spirited phone call, I worked up the nerve to ask Red what he did with his columnist sketches. When he generously offered to send me mine if I wanted it, my answer was yes, sure, if he didn’t mind. He promptly made a copy for his files and dropped the carefully packaged original in the mail.

It is the best gift I ever received as a journalist, working long, erratic and thankless hours for meager pay.

I immediately took my treasure a mile down the road to Andy’s Frame Shop, across the road from the South Deerfield cemetery where my ashes and those of my wife and sons will eventually lie in the Sanderson plot of my grandfather, his parents and two sisters.

A glance at my youthful portrait stirs memories from the late 1980s, when Chaplin defended me in a dispute precipitated by a fellow MOOD columnist. My foe, a police captain from Northampton and a loyal Atlantic Salmon Federation member, was longer-tenured than me and fed up with my salmon-restoration skepticism. When he threatened to resign if I wasn’t canned, or at the very least silenced, Red assured him he’d hate to lose his taxidermy column yet would not satisfy his demand. He was in the business of selling papers, he informed him, not refereeing political dustups between his freelancer staff.

Which brings us to the present day, and a January 9 *Reporter* op-ed in which ubiquitous Connecticut River activist-gadfly Karl Meyer took exception to my continuously evolving opinions about the status of our prehistoric salmon runs. He is apparently unaware of new research by two retired, respected archaeologists with impressive chops who are studying old records to reassess and further clarify our prehistoric New England salmon runs.

The impetus was their doubt about the accuracy of former UMass anthropologist Catherine Carroll Carlson’s 40-year-old characterization of ancient New England salmon runs as “insignificant.” This see **VALLEY VIEW** page B4

Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

'PELUCHE'

Meet Peluche! This little four-year-old Maltese is a bundle of joy, weighing in at 7 pounds, 4 ounces. This little pup is also a bundle of energy and benefits from exercise and play. He's happy to meet anyone and everyone. His previous owner says Peluche is friendly with other dogs, housetrained, and can sit for a treat. Like most small dogs, Peluche has got a big bark. What's not to love?

In his last home, he lived with tiny kids who made him nervous. We recommend kids 12 and up who can be respectful and gentle.

Peluche's adoption fee is \$550, and includes neutering, rabies and kennel cough vaccinations, a heartworm test, current parvo and distemper vaccines, and a microchip implanted and registered to you.

If you're ready to adopt now and want to learn more about, meet, or adopt this pet, you can start the process by coming to the Dakin Humane Society in Springfield during our open adoption hours, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12:30 to 3 p.m., or calling us at (413) 781-4000, or visiting www.dakinhumane.org.

DAY TRIP from page B1

place to stretch your legs. An accessible path and boardwalk wind a third of a mile through woods to an observation deck for a stunning view of the marsh.

Back in the car, it's a short distance to Stonover Farm, where locals have long loved the perky ducks in their roadside pond – or maybe you'd like to pop in to reserve a wedding date at this popular venue.

Olivia's Overlook, actually in Stockbridge, is worth the winding drive up the mountain behind Kripalu Yoga Center for a panoramic view of Lake Mahkeenac below. If hiking's your thing, try the trails there or backtrack to take a couple hours to climb to the fire tower.

For flatter terrain, go far down Housatonic Street to Woods Pond, where the historic train station and Casella's transfer station are. (Maybe the big "WTF" sign – Waste Transfer Facility – still welcomes you.) There's a pedestrian bridge across the icy water to the woods, where hardy folks like my sister ride their bikes year round.

Hikers, walkers, and dogs are keen on Kennedy Park with its 15 miles of trails in the town center, just beyond the Church on the Hill with its oh-so-New-England steeple.

Lenox was – and still is – home to many writers. Melville's buddy Nathaniel Hawthorne had his Little Red House, now visible to visitors only from the outside.

The Mount, Edith Wharton's mansion, is closed in winter, but you can wander the grounds and perhaps sit on a bench to admire the Gilded Age architecture or read *Ethan Frome*, based on late 19th-century societal constrictions and a tragic sledding accident that took place in Lenox in 1904.

Hungry? On Franklin Street in the town center, have a meal or – my favorite – a chunk of carrot cake at Haven Café, before they close at 2 p.m. Or try Betty's Pizza Shack, a beloved fixture on Housatonic Street since 2003, self-described as a funky pizza joint with surfer influence. Choose from a couple dozen pies, including Surf the Goat and King Kamehameha. It's kid-friendly, according to my young grandson, with adult beverages for grownups, but bring cash or check – no plastic.

Not to be missed is The Bookstore, across the street from Betty's. Matt Tannenbaum bought the store in 1976, days before his 30th birthday, opened it many a midnight hour to sell each new *Harry Potter* book to crowds on the sidewalk, and still regularly discusses new books on WAMC public radio. At some point he added a wine bar called "Get Lit." "Get Fit," of



SADWAY PHOTO

SADWAY PHOTO

At Parsons Marsh, seen here in a sunnier season, an accessible boardwalk winds a third of a mile through woods.



RUTH WHEELER PHOTO

The old block containing The Bookstore, at far left.

course, became the nickname for the natural foods store my sister and I owned in the same building.

A 90-minute documentary, *Hello, Bookstore*, is on YouTube, fun to watch if you love independent bookstores and their oddball owners. You'll marvel at how Matt's fiercely loyal community kept him going during the pandemic.

The stately Lenox Library on Main Street has a tranquil reading room two stories high. Originally the Berkshire County Courthouse, this 1815 Greek Revival building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

It's been a library since 1874 – and has sometimes shared its space with a jail, a bank, the telephone switchboard, and even a doctor's office. If it's open, tell Gene or Amy my late husband Jack Sadoway sends his best – he shelved books there for some 20 years, and donated his drawing of the façade to the library, done in his stippling style with thousands of dots.

Among many downtown galler-

ies is Concepts of Art/Lenox Judaica on Church Street, with fine art, jewelry, and hundreds of Jewish ceremonial items.

Maybe you joined the exuberant crowds at the Shea Theater and Greenfield Garden Cinemas a few years back to whoop it up as local people and places filled the screen in *The Man Who Killed Hitler and Then the Bigfoot*. To see where the Hitler segments were filmed, hop over to Ventfort Hall in Lenox.

Famous for its stained glass and resident ghosts, this mansion was commissioned by Sarah Morgan, sister of J.P. – who didn't board the Titanic because he was too ill to travel. Also on the National Register of Historic Places, the building was finished in 1893, then nearly torn down in the 1990s before it was saved by the hard work of a local preservation group. You can explore the grounds even when the building is closed, and readers with SNAP benefits may be eligible for free admission.

As you head back to Montague, what better place to end your day than Chocolate Springs, open until 7 p.m., on the Pittsfield-Lenox Road? Save a few pennies – well, a lot of pennies – for a velvety mousse cake or raspberry-infused dark chocolate bonbon, made in-house by famed *chocolatier* Josh Needleman and his crew.

Perfect for savoring on the 90-minute drive home.



Do you have another great day-trip destination, one to two hours' travel from these parts? Write it up, and join our winter series! Send yours to editor@montaguereporter.org.



SADWAY PHOTO

The Lenox Library, which has seen many uses, as stippled by Jack Sadoway.

Senior Center Activities JANUARY 27 THROUGH 31

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

Monday 1/27

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

Tuesday 1/28

9 a.m. Chair Yoga
10 a.m. Grandparents Raising Teens
12:30 p.m. Tech Tuesday: Drop-in Tech Help
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 1/29

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 1/30

1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 1/31

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
2 p.m. Chair Dance

WENDELL

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. Next clinic is February 5, 2025. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments.

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

LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held Wednesdays at 10 a.m., hybrid, at the town hall and on Zoom. Foot care clinic is held monthly. Contact (413) 548-1022 x2 or coa@leverett.ma.us.

ERVING

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

Monday 1/27

9 a.m. Good for U
10 a.m. Seated Fitness
12 p.m. Pitch
1 p.m. Yoga

Tuesday 1/28

9 a.m. Stretch & Balance
10 a.m. Line Dancing
11 a.m. Social Stringers

Wednesday 1/29

9 a.m. Interval Training
10 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursday 1/30

9 a.m. Barre Fusion
10 a.m. Pilates Flow

Friday 1/31

10 a.m. Quilting Workshop

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

Pipione's
SPORT SHOP

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

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

Bryan Hobbs
Remodeling LLC

Blown Cellulose Insulation • Spray Foam Insulation
Airscrewing • Energy Audits • Replacement Doors & Windows

Email: bryanhobbsremodeling@gmail.com
Now Accepting Credit Cards

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

Bryan G. Hobbs
PO Box 1535
Greenfield, MA 01302

mass save PARTNER

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

863-2471
28 Montague St
TURNERS FALLS, MA

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

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



At CES 2025, There's AI – and Then There's 'AI.'

By RYNE HAGER

LAS VEGAS, NV – The 2025 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) has just ended as I report back to the *Montague Reporter* from the event, and by the time you read these words, every bit of news about every interesting product will have long since been pumped from the showfloor and published. But the show's impact lasts for months past the doors' closing as companies compare their ideas to the next guy's.

Just like last year, AI was the big priority – or the big gimmick, depending on your viewpoint.

I can't seem to stop writing about this subject, mostly because everyone else can't stop talking about it, including the companies that are actually building the devices we talk about in this column. It's a little disillusioning, in large part because many companies are using the term "AI" to describe pretty much anything they'd like, including features we've all been using since long before the AI era.

The most egregious example, for me, has been the rise of "AI" in TVs. From basic content recommendation systems to the frame interpolation that creates that godawful fake-smoothed soap opera effect folk never turn off, everything that's old is new again – and it's all magically powered by "AI" now, despite the fact that it works just the same as it did before.

In other cases, companies are talking about the impact their devices have on AI, when the only actual connection is that you can use *someone else's* AI product through their hardware – as if the term is some kind of label for quality.

There are other "real" examples of AI in new product categories, but even these cover a range. In many cases, the marketers are just labeling old machine-learning and deep-learning features, like translation or transcription functionality, as AI. That's not necessarily *wrong*, but it feels a little disingenuous when "AI" now has a different meaning.

The goalposts for what qualifies as artificial intelligence have been expanding in recent years, to the point that almost every change has some kind of angle for calling it AI. Now you have to pay attention to previously technical terms like "transformer model," "large language model," and "generative AI" to spot the sorts of game-changing features that kicked off this most recent blitz.

These features, which are what most people in the know think of when they think about AI, are mostly still too energy-intensive and complicated to install in cheap TVs or washing machines without the assistance of remote, forest-burning data centers.

It's hard not to be a little cynical in this environment, when you

see companies making these kinds of bunk claims firsthand. Combine that with the recent news that Microsoft and Open AI's benchmark for the world-changing "AGI" (artificial general intelligence) is merely the ability to make \$100 billion from its customers, and AI starts to feel increasingly like snake oil rather than the world-changing productivity blessing we were promised.

While I'm attending CES on the side of the exhibitors this year – and would probably upset more than a few clients if they read this – I spent a lot of time on the showfloor talking to friends still in tech media, and learned this AI misuse and abuse is already starting to raise a few hackles even for those not as intimately familiar with the engineering behind these products.

More than a few of my friends expressed frustration at seeing otherwise good products that debuted here being tainted by needless "AI" claims on the part of the companies making them. I was told it's particularly discouraging because, once you strip away the superfluous AI marketing, many of these new gadgets are interesting and genuinely useful.

You don't need to be Nostradamus to see that generative AI is going to change the world, because it already has – for better *and* worse. We're still exploring the limits of its utility as we start to run into different walls, but it's a vastly unexplored space.

Some of the products that debuted at CES, such as Nvidia's Mac Mini-sized AI supercomputer, are going to allow us to apply existing systems in new and novel ways over the coming year.

And while software models are starting to run into new limits in regards to data and training, developers will almost certainly create new architectures in the coming years that sidestep some of these problems, and new hardware should eventually make AI efficient enough that asking Chat GPT a mundane question won't cumulatively burn through hundreds of watts of power at some remote data center.

But in the absence of these kinds of foundational technological improvements, slapping "AI" on the side of a product like a sticker doesn't help anyone, except big companies with bad marketing sell more to folk that don't know better.

To that end, I'm pretty confident in one claim I can make for my readers this year: If you see the term "AI" in a TV ad, in product name, or on the side of a box this year, chances are decent you can ignore it – if it does matter, they'll talk about those features in other ways that make more sense.

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

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Truck Still There; Shadow People Evade Capture; Rider Loves Bus; Ice Endangers; Car Rolls Over Legs

Monday, 1/13

9:45 a.m. Montague Housing Authority requests assistance at Keith Apartments with a tenant who is harassing maintenance workers. Tenant advised not to bother them.

9:48 a.m. Report of tree on power lines, Wills Ferry Road. Eversource notified; advises tree is a hazard but no wires are involved.

11:04 a.m. 911 caller concerned that someone was recording her; when she called 911, she heard someone in the background asking who she was talking to, then the phone was disconnected.

Tuesday, 1/14

9:54 a.m. Officers located a male with two active warrants on Avenue A. Arrested 34-year-old Rowe man on a straight warrant and transported to station.

4:24 p.m. Old Sunderland Road caller says he just noticed his pickup truck is gone. Officer spoke to daughter, who says he doesn't know what he's talking about. Truck is parked at the store. Officer drove by the area and confirmed the truck is there.

5:25 p.m. Caller reported she hit and killed a cat on Millers Falls Road. Same caller called back to say it was a fox. DPW notified; officer removed fox from road.

11:54 p.m. Report of a vehicle crashed into the woods off Aviation Way. Female party, 17 years of age, out of vehicle. Shelburne ambulance called for, Rau's to tow. Sergeant advised operator's mother is on the scene.

Wednesday, 1/15

5:02 a.m. Gray Trek bike reported lying in the road at the corner of Second and L streets. No report of stolen bike. Sergeant reports it looks old.

11:45 a.m. 911 caller from Powertown Apartments says two males are yelling at each other in an apart-

ment. Officer found no disturbance; male party in the apartment by himself.

1:45 p.m. Caller from East Main Street in Millers Falls reports a male party across the street has been threatening him with violence. Advised of options.

3:21 p.m. Telephone call about a possible scam email requesting a document from Montague town hall. Caller has no connection to Massachusetts and wanted to talk with an officer. Advised to delete email.

Thursday, 1/16

2:30 a.m. Assisted DCF with a check on a family. Negative contact.

3:40 a.m. Turners Falls Road caller reports he woke to noise, similar to people going up and down his stairs. Advises he believes these individuals to be out in his yard at this time, and does not have a description other than they look like shadows. States he has called this in before but nobody has been caught.

Sergeant checked area, no sign of anyone around.

11:03 a.m. Walk in to the station looking for options regarding an elderly stepfather who continually threatens him.

2:46 p.m. Baystate Franklin sent a fax about a domestic dog bite on South Prospect Street.

5:27 p.m. Car hit a deer on Route 63. Deer ran off.

7:12 p.m. Caller from Avenue A apartment building says a ton of people have been in the hallway since this morning and refuse to leave. Officer checked the area, nothing found.

Friday, 1/17

11:52 a.m. Caller reporting a man climbing through a window at the Highland School apartments. Officer advised; determined male party had been talking with a friend through a window.

4:59 p.m. Report of a red truck swerving all over Turners Falls Road, southbound near Swamp Road.

5:13 p.m. Water main break reported on Crescent Street with water in the road, creating icy conditions. DPW contacted. Turners Falls water department responding.

Saturday, 1/18

3:50 a.m. Barking reported on Federal Street. Caller is concerned animal is hurt or under attack.

9:01 a.m. Panic button alarm activated at 253 Farmacy. Confirmed to be a false alarm.

9:46 a.m. Central Street caller reports her cameras caught someone trying to break into her house at 1 a.m., front and rear doors. Officer advised.

1:53 p.m. 911 misdial from Old Sunderland Road.

4:16 p.m. A Jeep with bald tires was reported speeding and clipping a guardrail around 4 p.m. on Main Street. Report taken.

4:27 p.m. 911 caller reports a car hit the sidewalk on the Turners Falls-Gill bridge and drove off with front-end damage. Second caller reports the same, stating it was a blue Nissan hatchback. Bridge checked; bumper piece found, no damage to bridge. Unable to locate vehicle.

4:32 p.m. Assault by neighbors reported on Central Street.

4:48 p.m. Bus driver from FRTA reports a woman refusing to get off at the Food City stop and causing a disturbance. Officers responded; the female was unhappy but was removed from the bus.

5:56 p.m. Employee at Walgreens reports a man keeps coming into the store requesting help, but doesn't say with what. Officers responded, male transported to Baystate Franklin.

Sunday, 1/19

4:18 a.m. Caller advises roads are icy all over the town and DPW should salt them. Officer confirmed, DPW notified.

5 p.m. Caller reports mul-

iple cars with hazards on on Turnpike Road, with one sideways and blocking traffic. Unfounded.

7:17 p.m. Several calls about a motor vehicle accident on Millers Falls Road. Two cars involved, heavy front-end damage. Rau's to tow.

7:35 p.m. North Leverett Road caller reports she thought her car was in park but it wasn't, and when she got out, she slid on the ice and the car rolled over her legs and into a telephone pole. Husband was able to get her back into the car. Rau's to tow. Eversource checked pole; all is fine.

9:42 p.m. State police out on Turners Falls-Gill bridge with a female walking from Gill to Greenfield, refusing assistance. Male wants her to get back in a car so he can take her home. Referred to an officer in case she continues onto Avenue A.

10:14 p.m. Caller reports a black SUV covered in snow turned on to Fifth Street and struck a red car parked there. Officer states the car had been struck previously, and there doesn't appear to be new damage.

Monday, 1/20

10:14 p.m. 911 misdial from Highland Street.

5:06 a.m. Greenfield PD reports a 911 misdial from L Street.

8:17 a.m. Assisted motorist with a lockout, East Taylor Hill Road.

2:06 p.m. Walk-in reports that while traveling towards the General Pierce Bridge in Montague City she slowed down and was rear-ended by another vehicle. Wants officer to see damage. Advised of options.

3:08 p.m. Walk-in states she had some issues at home a few months ago and moved in with a friend. Her mom had gifted a vehicle to her, but now plans to report it stolen. Advised of options.

Listening to Indigenous Voices

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I have an interest in Native American culture, so I decided to write about Jennifer Lee and a project she did with the Nolumbeka Project and the filmmaker Robbie Leppzer called *Indigenous Voices*, a series of videos featuring Native Americans and their culture.

"We made the videos with local Native people that we know in the area," Lee told me, "so that people could hear from some Native people what's on their mind." They were funded by "50 surrounding towns that contributed to the making of the movies, to help teachers teach about Native people today and yesterday."

Lee, the producer, is a Northern Narragansett educator and bark basket maker. She grew up without knowledge of her own Native ancestry, according to the official Nolumbeka Project website. She herself is in one video, called "Historical Perspectives From the Wigwam."

I personally found some of the videos very interesting. In one video Tom Porter, a Mohawk Bear Clan spiritual elder, talks about how you should deal with young people today, and expresses concern about the environment.

I asked Lee if the videos have been popular, and she told me that people love them. "An engineering professor at UMass uses the videos to show his students another viewpoint than they're used to," she added.


I asked her what her favorite one was, and she told me it is "The Woodworker." That video is about Wes Pecor, a Massachusetts tribal descendant wood carver. "He's a very unsung hero," Lee told me. "People were willing to do these interviews, and we got funding so that we could pay them."

In Pecor's video, we get to see him carve a huge dragonfly on wood, and he talks about how his art is a form of expression about his relationship with nature. Besides showing him creating the dragonfly carving, I saw a few of his other carvings in the video. One was of a bear and another was of a tree, and a third carving was of a dragon.

Those carvings were quite good and cool-looking. This guy incredibly made some kind of chair for one of his carvings. I would be happy to buy one of his pieces to have. The video showed how he felt about his carvings and nature – he feels nature is his church.

You can see all of the videos in the series online at nolumbekaproject.org/indigenous-voices.

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



ROOT YOGA STUDIO
51 11TH ST., TURNERS FALLS

413.676.9076
ROOT-YOGA-STUDIO.COM

NEW STUDENT SPECIAL
THREE CLASSES FOR \$40

Doug's Auto Body
Doug Smith - Owner



MA Reg. #RS2190

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

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

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

ELECTRICIAN
CHRIS M. STRAKOSE

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

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

FULLY INSURED **FREE CONSULTATION**

VALLEY VIEW from page B1

conclusion became the unchallenged backbone of her 1992 doctoral dissertation, *The Atlantic Salmon in New England History and Prehistory: Social and Environmental Implications*, which sounded our salmon-restoration death knell. Her assessment was based primarily on the rarity of salmon evidence in the archaeological record she reviewed in reports from 75 known prehistoric Northeastern fishing sites.

The question now entertaining erudite Ph.D.s Peter Thomas and Stuart Fiedel is: why so few New England salmon remains, and quantifiable reports? We know from credible colonials that salmon were not only here but plentiful enough to be viewed as a valuable food resource to transplanted Europeans and indigenous natives alike. So, why the scarcity of archaeological evidence? They speculate there's a good reason that we're all missing.

Who can blame them for their dogged determination to answer this vexing mystery?

Let us not forget that Carlson's thesis, and other academic reports like it, are never to be viewed as the final word, but rather as a starting point for future discovery. She was at the time a young doctoral student trying to earn an advanced degree, not a venerable archaeologist with mountains of experience behind her. On the other hand, Thomas and Fiedel are griz-

zled veterans at the twilight of their careers. They're not trying to invalidate or undermine her work, just fine-tune accuracy.

Look at it this way: Carlson planted the flag, they're advancing it. Why is that so threatening to Meyer and his self-professed "Connecticut River hero, who grew up in the Great Northwest of legendary salmon runs she knew well?" Is it possible that comparisons could have clouded her perspective with preconceived, provincial opinions? Maybe. No shame in that.

The last time I looked at the Thomas/Fiedel work in progress, I was surprised to discover it had grown to more than 200 pages. I knew it was underway because I am always poking around for new information, and have contributed occasional insight. No doubt, Carlson was on the right track when her findings were radioactive to tunnel-visioned Connecticut River salmon-restoration officials and the "high-cotton" choir singing praise of their altruistic program. But they need to be tweaked.

Although I can't prove it without exerting more effort than it's worth – and doubt Meyer would ever admit it – I'm quite confident he learned of Carlson's bombshell scholarship from my old *Greenfield Recorder* column, "On The Trail." At least I know that's how we first met, when he reached out to

me by email. That would have been around 1988, long before he embarked on his busy freelance-writing tour about 25 years ago. By that time salmon restoration was on its last leg, and I had moved onto other topics.

Don't forget, the 1980s and early '90s were the glory days – if there was such a thing – of the failed Connecticut River salmon-restoration effort. Critical voices were then rare indeed – and frowned upon by the many true-believers offering blind support. A record 529 salmon were counted migrating upriver during the 1981 spawning run. Then came the second-best run of 490 in 1992, the year Carlson's Molotov cocktail hit the street.

Other than those two record runs, success was thin, with one string of three consecutive counts of 300 or better between 1985 and 1987. There were only two others, for a total of seven over a 46-year experiment ending in 2013. The total salmon count during that entire 46-year effort was 6,098, a number that wouldn't have been sufficient *annually* to justify ending their endangered status and opening a sport-fishing season.

Truth be told, our Connecticut River restoration program never had a chance. But it wasn't because salmon weren't here to greet European explorers. Greatly complicating matters were factors like industrial dams and

pollution, climate change, regional water temperatures, and gluttonous colonial overharvest that stacked the deck against sustainability. Many biologists knew this, but were reluctant to say it out loud. I believe one of them was Meyer's trusted source and friend Boyd Kynard – a top-shelf fisheries biologist and, incidentally, one of three advisors who approved Carlson's dissertation.

As far as I can tell, Kynard was never a loud, confrontational critic. Just a calm, diplomatic voice of reason who didn't hesitate to warn his scientific brethren that Connecticut River salmon restoration might not work.

Why Meyer insists on accepting Carlson's findings as the final word on regional salmon research is beyond my comprehension. The program's demise is old news. That horse left the barn long ago. Why not explore something new?

Wouldn't it be interesting to figure out why – even though salmon absolutely *did* seasonally populate many New England rivers – their remains are virtually nonexistent in the archaeological record?

Wouldn't Mr. Meyer be better served by focusing on his loud shortnosed-sturgeon crusade and leaving ample space for new scholarship aimed at solving a confusing salmon mystery?



MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!
USN VLFMUMZDF DPNOD
FNDKNB LON OL DFUNPODUMKN,
LON EIBU NMUSNP YN D RIOZN
LP D PLAIN. - NEED ALFREDO
CRACK THE CODE? SEND YOUR ANSWER TO: INFO@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG



The Children's Page

Welcome Home DUSTINA

"IT'S TOO GRAY AND COLD OUT TO LEAVE THE HOUSE TODAY," CHELLA SAID. SHE TOOK A SIP OF HER TEA AND STARED OUT AT THE CLOUDS BLOWING ICY WHISTLES THROUGH THE SKY. SHE TURNED TO LOOK INSIDE.

EVERYTHING SEEMS SO DREADFULLY DRAB! LOOK AT ALL THESE COBWEBS!

WELL, IT'S A SPLENDID DAY FOR TIDYING UP!



VIOLA ORGANIZED THE BOOKS ON THE SHELF AND CHELLA SWEEPED THE CORNERS OF THE ROOM AND UNDERNEATH THE SOFA. BUT UNDER THE NEATH, THE DUST BUNNIES HOPPED AWAY FROM THE BRISTLES OF THE BROOM THAT CREEPT BELOW THE SOFA, SCOOPING UP A SLEEPING DUST FAIRY NAMED DUSTINA.



DUSTINA SQUEAKED, BUT VIOLA WAS SINGING LOUDLY AS SHE ORGANIZED AND THAT MADE CHELLA DANCE ALONG, AND NEITHER COULD HEAR DUSTINA'S CRIES FOR HELP. "EXCUSE ME! HEY! WELL I NEVER!" THE DUST FAIRY SHRILLED WHILE CHELLA PUSHED HER WITH THE BROOM INTO A DUST PILE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM.



DUSTINA HOLLERED LOUD ENOUGH TO STOP THE SISTERS RIGHT IN THEIR TRACKS. CHELLA STOPPED SWEEPING, BUT DUSTINA ROLLED A FEW MORE SECONDS IN A MINI DUST AVALANCHE. "I'M DUSTINA AND I LIVE WITH MY TWO DUST BUNNIES, MOSPY AND TUMBLEWEED."

THE TWO BUNNIES PEEKED OUT FROM THE COUCH.

"THERE ARE TWO BUNNIES LIVING UNDER OUR COUCH?"



NO WAY! THERE ARE HUNDREDS!

THE SISTERS WERE QUITE SHOCKED. "HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN THERE?" ASKED CHELLA



YEARS!?



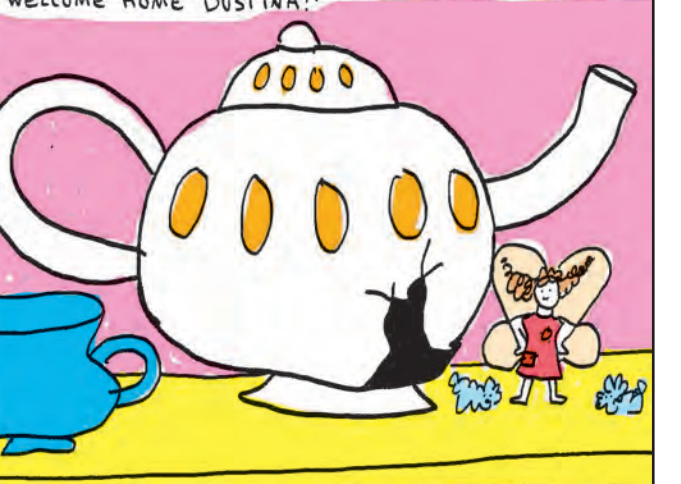
THE SISTERS CHIMED IN UNISON, UNAWARE THEY HAD ANOTHER HOUSE-MATE ALL THIS TIME.

WELL ARE YOU SURE THAT UNDER THE COUCH IS COZY ENOUGH?



"REALLY?" SAID DUSTINA. "YOU'LL MAKE SPACE FOR ME IN THE CUPBOARD?" "OF COURSE", SAID VIOLA

THE SISTERS OFFERED A TEA KETTLE WITH A TINY CRACK, A PERFECT DOOR FOR DUSTINA AND HER TWO PET DUST BUNNIES. AS DUSTINA FLEW TO HER NEW HOME IN THE CUPBOARD, HER DUSTY FAIRY DUST SPRINKLED ON THE COUNTER AND VIOLA AND CHELLA SNEEZED AND LAUGHED. "WELCOME HOME DUSTINA!"



WORDS BY VANESSA BREWSTER & PICTURES BY HANNAH BROOKMAN

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

WOODCAT
CONSTRUCTION LLC
SERVING FRANKLIN & MIDDLESEX COUNTIES
SLOW RENOVATIONS
OF ODD STRUCTURES
info@woodcat.co / ig: woodcat_builds / 508 306 1822
BONDED/INSURED/MA CSL & HIC

Harriet Paine
REALTOR®
C (413) 475-4203
O (413) 223-1367
harriet@cohnandcompany.com
cohnandcompany.com
117 Main Street
Greenfield, MA 01301

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

EVENTS

Memorial Hall Theater
POTHOLE PICTURES

Jan 24 & 25 at 7:30 p.m. \$6
THE MUPPETS

Muppets reunite in this 2011 Academy Award-winning adventure to save Muppet Theater.

Music at 7 p.m.: Friday, David Bates;
Saturday, The Farley String Band

51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls 625-2896



Little House Blues

Harmonica-driven, Chicago-style Blues
Leverett Village Coop
Pizza Night!
Friday, January 24
6 - 7:30 pm
littlehouseblues.com

UNNAM EABLE BOOKS

"We buy and sell used and new books"

Weds 10-6
Thurs 10-6
Fri 10-8
Sat 10-8
Sun 10-6

66 AVENUE A • TURNERS FALLS

LOOKY HERE
28 Chapman

LOOKY HERE GREENFIELD GMAIL.COM

★ STILL MAKE SHORT FILM
LIFE SOCIAL MERCH SPRINT
6-8 PM \$10 3-5 PM \$5
1/23 & 2/6 FRIDAYS 2/18 6-8:30

★ UNPRODUCTIVE WORKSHOP
BEHAVIORS WRITING (6 WEEKS)
WITH SIERRA DICKEY \$120
MONDAYS 6-7:30 PM \$120
STARTING FEB 3RD

★ LADYSPAIN DRAWING
READING 6-8 PM
★ EMILY PETTIT THURSDAYS
★ KEL WARREN 1/16 & 1/30

★ SARAH WISBY
★ VANESSA BREWSTER ★ QUILT
★ COLLAGE CLUB 101
SATURDAY 1/25 3 WEEKS
1-3 PM \$10 3:30-5:30 SATURDAYS
\$155 1/25

★ OPEN MIC KIDS ART
FOR WRITERS SHOW!!!
1/31 7-9 PM KIDS AGED 0-12
\$10 DONATION ARE INVITED TO
SUBMIT BY 2/8

★ SIGN UP IN ADVANCE
LOOKYHEREGREENFIELD.COM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

Brewery at Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Silverback Swing Django Reinhardt Birthday Celebration*. 6 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nerd Night*. 8 p.m. No cover.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

Quabbin Gate 29, New Salem: Explore with the *North Central Mass Nature Journal Collaborative*. There will be a fair amount of walking on flat terrain and a moment for journaling. 9:30 a.m. Free.

Canalside Rail Trail, Turners Falls: *Nice & Easy Walk*. Easy-paced, 1 to 2-mile guided walk, geared for seniors, but open to all. Meet at the Great Falls Discovery Center. 1 p.m. Free.

Leverett Village Co-op, Leverett: *Little House Blues Band*. 6 p.m. Free.

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: *Ramon & Jessica, Call Me Bea*. 7 p.m. \$.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Jacob Kordas*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Floodwater Brewing, Shelburne Falls: *Kalliope Jones*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Film, *The Muppets* (2011). Songs and storytelling with *Davis Bates* at 7 p.m.; screening at 7:30 p.m. \$.

Next Stage Arts, Putney: *Gaslight Tinkers*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *True Stew*. 8 p.m. No cover.

The Drake, Amherst: *Minstrels in the Gallery*, Jethro Tull tribute. 8 p.m. \$.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Catamount, Outro, Mutineer*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Les Déraillleurs, Ex-Temper*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

Greenfield Community College, Greenfield: *Workshop, Finding the Calm in the Storm: Somatic Tools for Emotional Health & Stress Reduction*. 10 a.m. \$.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Free Day*. Exhibits, performances, tours, workshops, all free to all. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free.

Fisher Museum, Harvard Forest, Petersham: *Tree Coring Demonstration and Tour*. 11 a.m. Free.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Hands Across the Hills* book launch and reading. 1 p.m. Free.

Brewery at Four Star Farms: *Self-Care Saturday*, with non-alcoholic beverages, music by *Lightwork Orchestra*. 1 p.m. No cover.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Forgotten Immigrants: The Bohemians of Turners Falls*. Beginning in the 1870s, drawn by the promise of work at the John Russell Cutlery factory, almost 300 Bohemian immigrants left farms in central Europe to start life anew in the industrial village of Turners Falls. This illustrated talk by local historian Jim Bridgman, based on over 35 years of research and his new book, *Forgotten Immigrants*, explores the lives of these intrepid pioneers. 2 p.m. Free.

Dreamhouse, Turners Falls: *Anti-Zionist Jewish Deli Night*. 5 p.m. No cover.

Lupinewood, Greenfield: *Electro Acoustic Mechanics Launch Party* feat. *Mal Devisa, Harm, Enchanted Mirror*. 6 p.m. \$.

Montague Retreat Center, Montague: *Samir Langus & Friends, DJ Luminus*, yoga and ceremony. 6 p.m. \$.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *TSB Rock Band*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Floodwater Brewing, Shelburne Falls: *Free Range Cats*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Cinemastorm*, movie double feature: *Rock & Rule* (1983) and *Interstella 5555* (2003). Movie trivia for prizes. 7:30 p.m. Free.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Film, *The Muppets* (2011). Music at 7 p.m.: *The Farley String Band*; screening at 7:30 p.m. \$

Next Stage Arts, Putney: *Firas Zreik*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *The New Rockwells 10th Anniversary Show*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Suicide Squirrel Squad, Demented*



Jesse Olsen Bay and Dina Maccabee – a.k.a. Ramon & Jessica – play this Friday night at Unnameable Books in Turners Falls with Call Me Bea.

Montague Retreat Center, Montague: *Samir Langus & Friends, DJ Luminus*, yoga and ceremony. 6 p.m. \$.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *TSB Rock Band*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Floodwater Brewing, Shelburne Falls: *Free Range Cats*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Cinemastorm*, movie double feature: *Rock & Rule* (1983) and *Interstella 5555* (2003). Movie trivia for prizes. 7:30 p.m. Free.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: Film, *The Muppets* (2011). Music at 7 p.m.: *The Farley String Band*; screening at 7:30 p.m. \$

Next Stage Arts, Putney: *Firas Zreik*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *The New Rockwells 10th Anniversary Show*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Suicide Squirrel Squad, Demented*

Parlor Room, Northampton: *The New Rockwells 10th Anniversary Show*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Suicide Squirrel Squad, Demented*

FX, *Wishful Thinking, Massive History*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rival Galaxies. The Frost Heaves*, Benefit for MA ACLU and Planned Parenthood. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

Millers River Environmental Center, Athol: *Workshop, Tracking and Journaling with Will Close*. Deepen your awareness and connection to the natural world through wildlife tracking and the use of nature journaling and field sketching. Primarily held in the field. 1 p.m. Free.

Black Birch Vineyard, Hatfield: *StarCats*. 1:30 p.m. No cover.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *French/Breton Jam Session*. Open to the public. 2:30 p.m. Free.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Roger Street Friedman, Ari & Mia*. 3 p.m. \$.

Feeding Tube Records, Florence: *Kryssi and Wednesday, A.P.I.E.* 4 p.m. \$

EXHIBITS

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wax, Water and String*, paintings in encaustic, watercolor, and embroidery by Pam Allan, through January.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *A First-Class Machine Shop*, local history exhibit with images, text, maps, and artifacts, and *Deep Roots: A History of Agriculture in the Connecticut River* on display in the hallway.

Montague Center Library: *Auto Partitas*, mixed media triptychs based on automotive parts by Nina Rossi, through February.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: Guest exhibit featuring Andrew Vlock and Chinatsu Nagamune, ceramic and textile artists from Leverett, through January. *Small Works Show and Sale*, February 2 through 24. Reception Sunday, February 2 at 1 p.m.

Greenfield Public Library, Greenfield: *Franklin County's Forgotten Alien Encounters*. In the Local History Room, through January.

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Forward*, a community art exhibit about evolution, change, and movement, with work by 37 local artists. Through February 28.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Salt, fat. Sweet!*, work by Caroline Davis, through February 8.

South Gallery, Greenfield Community College, Greenfield: *Nima Nikakhlagh*, mixed-media works by Iranian artist Nikakhlagh. January 27 through February 25. Gallery talk on Wednesday, February 19 at 12 p.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Botanical Photography*, by Marilyn London-Ewing, through February.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Improvisations*, paintings by Gordon M. Green and GK Khalsa, through February 1.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Peace and Joy*, holiday arts and craft exhibit by member artists, through January.

D'Amour Museum, Springfield: *Look Again: Portraits of Daring Women*, woodcut and collage prints by Leverett

artist Julie Lapping Rivera celebrating the achievements of women who defied the status quo, through February.

CALLS FOR ART

Sawmill River Arts Collective in Montague Center announces their 13th Annual Small Works Exhibit and Sale, a non-juried show of works measuring up to 10 inches including the frame, February 2 through 24. Submit up to two pieces of art before January 27. Details at sawmillriverarts.com.

The **Town of Montague** will install six large-scale site-specific wheat paste murals on historic brick buildings in May. Three selected artists will receive \$4,000 each to design a pair of murals that integrate themes identified by the community. Full details and application at riverculture.org. Deadline February 16.

Looky Here Kids Art Show: Kids aged 0 to 12 are invited to submit framed work by February 8. Opening reception Feb 28, closing March 28. Email lookyheregreenfield@gmail.com for deets.

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

MYSTERY MASTERS
AMHERST

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

178A N Pleasant
413-253-4776

Serving Home Grown
Farm-inspired Food & Drink

H & O

44 Hope Street, Greenfield, MA 01301
Ph 413 774 3150 | hopeandolive.com

SHANAHAN CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CO. INC.
"Rock solid service with level advice"

SCSC

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

298 Avenue A, Turners Falls. 413-863-4322
www.shanahansupply.com

CALENDAR



looking forward...

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Geordie Greep*. 8 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Ja'Duke Theater, Turners Falls: Lights, Community, Action!, four-act musical revue to benefit the Center for Self-Reliance Food Pantry. 6 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Greenfield Community College Dining Commons, Greenfield: *Full Snow Moon Gathering and Eastern Woodlands Social Dance*, with Wampanoag Nation Singers and Dancers. Bring rattles, enjoy refreshments. 1 p.m. By donation.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Field Notes*, storytelling event to benefit Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture. 4 p.m. \$.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Workshop with Everything Computers*. For parents and caregivers to learn how to protect kids on the internet. To register or for more info contact Stacey at slangknecht@brickhousecommunity.org or (413) 800-2496. 10:30 a.m. Free.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Valentine's Day with Lady Pop*. 7 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Mount Toby Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Pamela Means*. 7 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *The Suitcase Junket, Cloudbelly*. 7 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Lucy Kaplansky, John Gorka, Patty Larkin, Cliff Eberhardt*. 7 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Major Stars, Mibble, Bulle, Initiate Explosion, Sister Xmas*. 8 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

Symphony Hall, Springfield: *An Acoustic Evening with Trey Anastasio*. 7:30 p.m. \$\$.

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

Palladium, Worcester: *Mayhem, Mortii, Imperial Triumphant, New Skeletal Faces*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

The Drake, Amherst: *Tank & The Bangas, Elliott Skinner, DJ Zeus*. 8 p.m. \$.

Mesa Verde, Greenfield: *Black Verde World Street Food Pop-Up*. 5:30 p.m. No cover.

Floodwater Brewing, Shelburne Falls: *Jeffrey Foucault & Company*. 6 p.m. No cover.

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

Online: *Your Voice, Your Wellness: A Focus Group for Better Aging Services*, hosted by LifePath's Healthy Living "Wellness Unplugged" program. Register in advance at www.lifepathma.org. 10 a.m. Free.

Mesa Verde, Greenfield: *Five Eyed Fox Pop-Up*. 5 p.m. \$.

Greenfield Public Library, Greenfield: Author talk, *Bella Levavi and Mo Schweiger*, with Q&A and readings from their zine anthology of their *Montague Reporter* column "True Love Will Find You In The End." 6:30 p.m. Free.

Second Congregational Church, Greenfield: Talk, *How to Choose Bird-Friendly Plants*. Sponsored by Greening Greenfield. 6:30 p.m. Free.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

Erving Public Library, Erving: *All-Abilities Social: Build a Bird Feeder*. All welcome; snacks provided; sign-up required. Two sessions, noon to 1:30 p.m. and 4 to 5:30 p.m. Free.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Half Waif, Kristine Leschper*. 7 p.m. \$.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wes Brown*. 8 p.m. No cover.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

Brewery at Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Silverback Swing*. 6 p.m. No cover.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Tommy Filiault, Lil Ted Blues Band*. 8 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

Greenfield Community College, Greenfield: *Music Matters Benefit Luncheon* for Música Franklin. Register at www.musicafranklin.org/musicmatters. 11:30 a.m.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: Exhibit launch and reception, "History of LAVA: Memorabilia and Photography." Art-making table for kids and grownups with Jovonna Van Pelt. 5 p.m. Free.

Leverett Village Co-op, Leverett: *On The Lam*. 6 p.m. Free.

Downtown Greenfield: *Winter Carnival*. All day. See www.greenfieldrecreation.com for map and full schedule. Parade of Lights, 6 p.m.; fireworks at

Beacon Field, 7 p.m. Free.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Vimana*. 6 p.m. Free.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Well-Suited*. 7 p.m. \$.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Open Mic for Writers*. 7 p.m. By donation.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Wallace Field, High Tea*. 7 p.m. \$.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Aleksi Campagne, Kaiti Jones*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Woody's Enchanted Forest*. 8 p.m. \$.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Farley String Band*, 12 p.m.; book launch and reception, *Valley and Beyond: A Writers Read Anthology*, 2 p.m.; improv comedy workshop with Henry Balzarini (email hbquit@hotmail.com to register), 4:30 p.m.; Open Stage with Kemah Wilson, 7 p.m. Free.

Downtown Greenfield: *Winter Carnival*. All day. Fatbike group ride on the Greenfield Ridge, 3 p.m.; Glow Party at Greenfield Middle School, 5:30 p.m. See greenfieldrecreation.com for map and full schedule. Free.



Legendary first-wave shoegaze outfit Slowdive (seated) performs Friday, January 31 at MASS MoCA in North Adams. As of press time, tickets appear to still be available.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Moon Hollow*. 8 p.m. No cover.

The Drake, Amherst: *Bag Lady, The Prozac, 40 Lashes*. 8 p.m. \$.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Two-Step Night* feat. *Les Taiouts, The Honky-Tonk Angels*. Cajun; country karaoke. 8 p.m. \$.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Slowdive, Quannnic*. 8 p.m. \$\$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bluegrass & Beyond*, featuring *An Evening of Honky Tonk Music with Betsy Dawn Williams*. Williams is a local singer and musician who fronted the country swing bands *Girl Howdy* and *The Nite Caps*. Swing dance, two-steps and waltzes will be on the menu for this evening of classic country music. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield: Workshop, *Coiling Pine Needles*. Marsha Leavitt teaches this ancient art. Participants will create wall pieces using long pine needles that have been treated with glycerin to make them flexible. Contact marsha3072@gmail.com for information on fees and registration. Fees include materials. For ages 16 and up. 9:30 a.m. \$\$.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *CitySpace Bluegrass*. Jam session. 4 p.m. Free.

Abandon Dream, Turners Falls: *beetsblog, bobbie, Adam Tobin, Beverly Ketch, Alex Homan, Nat Baldwin, Asa Horvitz*. 4:30 p.m. No cover.

Brewery at Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Wishbone Zoe & guests*. 5 p.m. No cover.

Greenfield Moose Lodge, Greenfield: *Bingo Night*, benefit for programming at the Greenfield Public Library. 6 p.m. \$.

A.P.E. Gallery, Northampton: *In The Dark Times There Will Be Singing*, speakers, musicians, poets, etc. Benefit for ACLU. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Jessica Lea Mayfield*. 7 p.m. \$.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *The Niels, Wheelzies*. 7 p.m. \$.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Pablo Giménez Spanish Ensemble*. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *First Generation Ensemble* presents *Mother Tongue*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Next Stage Arts, Putney: *Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Emily Margaret Band, NCP Sound*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

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

the Y
JOIN TODAY!
www.your-y.org
FRANKLIN COUNTY'S Y
451 Main Street
Greenfield, MA

FIND YOUR BEST SELF.
FIND YOUR Y.

Peter Waters Painting Services

Interior/Exterior
Custom Residential
Fully Insured

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

Reil CLEANING SERVICES LLC

Improve Air Quality & Heating/Cooling Efficiency

DUCT CLEANING

Free Video Inspections - Log On To See It
Air Duct • Baseboard • Dryer Vent Cleaning

WHAT'S IN YOUR VENTS?!?!?

Ed Terault, Owner
Call 413.422.1192 or visit www.REILCLEAN.com

RECIPES from page B1

Blood oranges made their way to America only fairly recently. They may or may not have a red blush on the skin, but inside are streaked with crimson; they may even be entirely red. They come from the

Mediterranean island of Malta. Any recipe with “Maltaise” in its name is telling you that it’s made with blood orange juice.

Oranges are sweet, and blood oranges especially so. Grapefruit, too, can be sweet enough to eat

raw. But not lemons.

Yet lemons are omnipresent in our kitchens because they are so useful. As a condiment lemon juice sharpens salad dressings, zings fish, and tangs drinks. As an aroma the zest flavors cakes and cookies. As a gar-

nish a slice of lemon floats enticingly in tea, and sits ready for spritzing on cocktail glasses or plates of fish.

Lemons grow in Mediterranean climates with hot summers and cool, but not freezing, winters. They are basic ingredients in the food of Greece, Turkey, Italy, and Spain, and they took happily to the similar climate of California, which now grows most of our supermarket lemons.

Limes are more finicky. They have no truck with any hint of cold; they grow only in the tropics. When Europeans and most American cooks use lemons, cooks in North Africa and Central America use limes. Indeed, lemons and limes are closely related so you can substitute one for the other – provided that you remember that limes are sourer, so you will need less to do the job of seasoning or flavoring.

The closeness between lemons and limes shows in their names. Both come from the Arabic *limah*, a reminder that it was the Arabs who brought lemons, limes, and oranges

from their original Asian homes to the West, planting citrus groves in Spain when they ruled the country in medieval times.

The Spanish, in turn, brought oranges to the New World. Christopher Columbus took seeds to Haiti in 1493, Juan Ponce de León introduced them to Florida in 1513, and Spanish Franciscans planted them in California in 1769.

The multitude of citrus recipes ranges from drinks through salads and main dishes to desserts and candies. Some sample recipes follow.

One thing worth remembering is that for zesting, shiny thick-skinned fruits are easier to grate.

A second is that for juicing, you can warm the fruit in a microwave for 30 seconds, or in a warm oven for five minutes. If you leave them too long in the heat they may burst, so make a slash in the skin to prevent this. The heat will break down the cell walls, so when you squeeze the fruit, its juice flows readily.



LEMON CHICKEN

6 chicken thighs, bone in, skin on
1 Tbsp. Dijon mustard
1 tsp. dried thyme
1 tsp. dried oregano
½ cup lemon juice, fresh-squeezed
black pepper and salt to taste
about 3 Tbsp. olive oil

Cut excess skin or fat off the chicken thighs. In a shallow baking dish mix the mustard, thyme, oregano, and lemon juice. Add a generous grating of black pepper.

Put the thighs in the mixture in a single layer and marinate them for 1 to 2 hours or so, turning them over once or twice.

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Grease a shallow baking pan with olive oil and pour in

the marinade remaining after you have removed the thighs from it.

Pat excess liquid off the thighs with a paper towel, then season them with salt and brush them with olive oil. Put a tablespoon of olive oil in a frying pan over moderate-high heat.

Add the thighs, skin side down, and cook for 4 minutes or until the skins are nicely golden. Transfer them skin-side-up to the prepared pan. Bake for 20 minutes or until clear – not pink – juice emerges when you poke a skewer in the flesh.

If you like, you can add half cooked potatoes to the pan of chicken to serve alongside. Rice is another good accompaniment.

Serves 4 to 6.



CHILLED LIME MOUSSE WITH CHOCOLATE

one 14-oz. can condensed milk
3 or 4 large limes
1 cup heavy cream
1 or 2 drops green Easter Egg dye, optional
about 1 oz. dark chocolate

Beat the condensed milk with an electric beater in a medium bowl, or in a standing electric mixer, until it becomes very thick and pale – about 10 to 15 minutes. In another bowl, beat the cream until the whisk leaves well-marked trails in it.

Grate the limes to produce 1 teaspoon of zest. Set it aside. Heat the limes for a minute in the microwave or longer in an oven until they have softened. Place a sieve or strainer over a bowl and squeeze the limes into it. (The sieve will catch seeds and flesh. Discard these.) You should have half a cup of juice.

Stir this half-cup of juice and teaspoon of zest, into the condensed milk, then fold in the whipped cream. This mixture is

the palest yellow. To make it pastel green, stir in one drop of green Easter egg dye; use two drops for an apple green.

Spoon the mixture into 4 to 6 coffee cups or small bowls, or put it all in one serving dish. Place in the freezer for two hours or longer – even overnight, if more convenient.

Grate the chocolate by scraping a potato peeler down the side of

the chocolate bar. (Lindt 70% Excellence was used in our picture.) Sprinkle on top just before serving.

If you serve straight from the freezer, the mousse is like an ice cream. If you let it stand at room temperature for 10 to 15 minutes, the flavor is stronger, and the dessert is more like a very light pudding.

Serves 4 or 5.



HOPLEY PHOTOS

ORANGES IN CARAMEL SYRUP

4 big navel oranges
1 or 2 blood oranges
(or extra navels)
1¼ cups sugar
2 cinnamon sticks

Peel the entire skin from the oranges so no white pith remains on the fruit. Slice the oranges on a plate so you catch the juice. If any slices fall apart, put the pieces in the bottom of a serving dish and arrange the more beautiful slices on top, mixing the blood orange slices with the navel slices. Add the juice from the plate.

Boil a cup of water and keep it very hot. Put the sugar in a saucepan with two-thirds of a cup of cold water and the cinnamon sticks. Boil rapidly for about 8 to 10 minutes.

As the water evaporates it changes color, becoming yellowy and then light brown. Watch eagle-eyed until it is medium-dark brown, then remove the pan to the sink and immediately pour on two-thirds of a cup of very hot water. Stand back because it will sizzle,

and perhaps splash – this is the reason for having the pan in the sink.

You will now have a dark-brown caramel. (If it is lumpy, return it to the heat and stir until the lumps dissolve.) Pour it on the oranges, and put them in the fridge to chill for an hour or up to 24 hours. Use the cinnamon sticks as garnish.

Serves 4.



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

 Abby Graseck
Zen Shiatsu
Turners Falls & Gill

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

Professional Painting & Decorating Contractor Since 1900
1900-2024 * Our 124th Year

COUTURE BROS.

Christian S. Couture, President

* Commercial
* Residential
* Industrial

Tel: (413) 863-4346 Fax: (413) 863-3740
400 Avenue A - PO Box 270 - Turners Falls, MA 01376
www.couturebros.com | HIC Lic. 100326

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

Booska's Flooring

169 Avenue A, Turners Falls Tile
Lino
Carpet

Member
The Flooring Network.


warm up at **THE VOO**

many entertainments

all scratch kitchen

cozy cocktails

78 3rd St TFMA

HOURS/SPECIALS  ORDER ONLINE: **thevoo.net**

A Game in Green




romanticize your space, buy vintage (sourced by us)

In Northampton, at the Vintage Cellar (Vault):
the booth in the way back corner
and keep up with us on Instagram: @game_in_green

TURN IT UP!


MUSIC & MOVIES

BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

 Local Solar PV Installers for over 16 years in western Massachusetts

GREENFIELD SOLAR

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

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