

The Montague Reporter

THE BIG PICTURE

Local Beekeepers Hit Hard By Clawback of Farm Funds

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE CENTER – Local beekeeper, bee breeder, educator, and consultant Ang Roell appeared on *PBS NewsHour* on Monday in a segment on farmers facing revenue loss from the ongoing federal government dismantling.

The show addressed the shutdown of USAID, which purchases billions of dollars’ worth of products from mostly large farmers each year, and interviewed small farmers impacted by freezes and cuts in various United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs.

They Keep Bees, the farm Roell has built with their partner Bi Kline in Montague, is on the cutting edge of apiculture: breeding mite-resistant queens, mentoring beginner beekeepers, and planting a chestnut tree forest. USDA-funded contracting, consulting, and research has been a key element of its business plan.

Roell was working in Florida when we caught up on Wednesday to discuss the freezes and cuts, and what they mean for the Old Greenfield Road bee farm, in more depth. (The interview has been abridged and edited for clarity.)

MR: What federal programs supporting *They Keep Bees* have been impacted?

AR: We’ve lost a handful of things that we know about, and then some things are a bit more nebulous.

So what we know right now is that we lost our Climate Smart Agriculture funding, which is funded through the Inflation Reduction Act. That was funding earmarked by Congress, meant to pay farmers to make climate-adaptive improvements to their farms.

For us, that was putting up perimeter fencing around our orchard and our bee yard, compost and mulch for the tree enterprise we started a couple years ago – the trees are now one and two years old, so they need to be re-mulched



They Keep Bees co-owner Ang Roell says a quarter of the farm’s anticipated revenue for 2025 has been cut.

and re-composted – care for those trees, like soil amendments and soil testing, as well as prepping another section of the farm to establish a food forest.

We have a contract with the NRCS [Natural Resources Conservation Service] for irrigation to our orchard. Unlike other farmers we have not spent any of the money out yet, and our contract is now paused – we will not be able to install irrigation to 200-plus trees and shrubs, despite a two-year process of building a plan and contracting with NRCS for climate resilience.

I work on a big national project with other queen breeders via the Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education [Western SARE], and that is frozen. These are research projects for building and sustaining climate-resilient, genetically diverse honey bee stock.

Northeast SARE is the only one that isn’t paused, though I’ve also been told that due to the potential for government shutdown that one may be disrupted in March.

I also do consulting off the farm for other farm businesses, community organizations, and federal employee teams: trainings, convening teams for strategy, planning, facilitation of process. All of my contracts are either frozen

see **BEES** page A5

No Injuries In Fish Farm Roof Collapse

By BEN GAGNON

TURNERS FALLS – When part of the flat roof buckled under the weight of snow and ice at 8:34 a.m. Sunday at Great Falls Aquaculture in the airport industrial park, the fire alarm went off in the building, and the Turners Falls Fire Department arrived to find that several employees had left the building with no injuries reported.

“Human life is always our first concern, so that was a relief,” said fire chief Todd Brunelle, who worked with alternate building inspector David Jensen to assess the building and cordon off areas that they determined were unsafe. The department’s ladder truck was used to get an aerial view for the damage assessment.

Because the sprinkler system had been damaged, the municipal water line to the building was shut off. No major damage was done to the fish



The recirculating aquaculture facility in the industrial park raises barramundi.

tanks, and the employees reported that all the fish survived.

Although the fire department cleared the scene at 11:43 a.m., the weight of the snow and ice shifting on the roof caused it to buckle fur-

ther at 2:30 p.m. Another fire crew responded, followed by a second evaluation of the building’s safety. The portion of the roof that collapsed came to rest on a series of

see **FISH** page A4

State Hears Again From Critics on Hydro

By SARAH ROBERTSON

GREENFIELD – Everyone who testified Wednesday night at a hearing on a draft water quality certificate for two hydropower projects owned by FirstLight Power implored the state to do more to protect the ecology of the Connecticut River.

For the last 13 years, two of the largest hydroelectric facilities in New England – the dam and canal at Turners Falls and the pumped-storage plant at Northfield Mountain – have been undergoing a federal relicensing process. As one of the final steps, the state Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) must issue a Water Quality Certificate (WQC) outlining the conditions under which the facilities may be operated in order to meet state and federal surface water quality standards.

Last month MassDEP released a draft of the WQC, a 117-page doc-



State senator Jo Comerford (at rear) was among the commenters Wednesday night.

ument largely congruent with settlement agreements previously reached between the company, local municipalities, and other stakeholders.

The department is now collecting public feedback before pro-

ducing a final document. A hybrid format allowed more than 20 people to testify at Wednesday’s session either in person or virtually.

Standing outside the Greenfield see **HYDRO** page A3

ANALYSIS

A Skating Rink, But Not an Emergency

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – “We got a lot of ice, but no major power outages,” Montague’s emergency management director (EMD) John Zellman said as he was about to drive to Keene Wednesday morning in search of ice melt. “I had a heck of a time clearing the frozen snow at the end of my driveway.”

The former Turners Falls fire chief nevertheless praised the highway department, which had created the ice berm, for “doing their job under tough conditions.”

The *Montague Reporter* called around to emergency officials in our readership towns and found that none had declared emergencies during this weekend’s storm, which dumped over six inches of wet snow on roads and sidewalks and then topped it off with sustained freezing rain. It was the most formidable of four similar



The ice-glazed snow, seen here Monday night, was difficult to clear from walkways

storms during the past month.

“We did not have any issues during this storm,” said Gill EMD Gene Beaubien, noting that he had been informed of only one Gill residence that had lost power. “We have

had storms in the past that we declared a state of emergency, mostly snow and wind damage storms.”

Beaubien, who retired as fire chief himself last month, wrote see **EMERGENCY** page A6

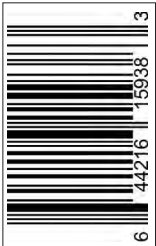
BREAKING THROUGH



Franklin Tech’s Haleigh Benoit, covered by Ludlow Lions defenders Abigail Toomey (left) and Eliana Garcia (right), looks to pass the ball as the Eagles hosted the Lions last Thursday. See Page A4 for more, plus a note from our high school sports reporter.

Snowstorm Vacation Week Chaos Yields Slim Edition

Three Letters to the Editors.....	A2	Book Review: The Despot, Then the Debt.....	B1
Local Briefs.....	A3	Sick Friend: Five Years of This.....	B2
10, 20, and 150 Years Ago.....	A4	Montague Police Log Highlights.....	B3
A Note From Our Sports Reporter.....	A4	Three Comics.....	B4
Snowlard Near the Gourmet.....	A6	The Montague Cryptojam.....	B4
Scraping on Prospect.....	B1	Children’s Page: Practically Non-Fiction.....	B5
Heartfelt Café: Vectors of Spice.....	B1	Tons of Events to Choose From.....	B6-B7
Valley View: All Roads Lead Home.....	B1	Art Exhibits & Calls.....	B6



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*
Janel Nockleby, *Poetry Page*
Maggie Sadoway, *Editorial Assistant*
Jamie Simpson, *Editorial Assistant*

Production Staff

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

Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August 2002

Technomancers!

“For me, this announcement is deeply personal,” Palmer Luckey wrote on his blog last week after the news broke that his company, Anduril, had taken over a \$22 billion contract to sell AI goggles to the Pentagon. “I’ve believed there would be a headset on every soldier long before there is a headset on every civilian.”

It’s go time for the 32-year-old, tropical-shirted billionaire brother-in-law of Matt Gaetz, who bragged to CNBC in November that he had “been on the tech-for-Trump train for longer than just about anyone.” On the heels of hitting the autonomous-death-goggle mega-jackpot, Anduril is also rumored this week to be poised to receive a new 10-figure investment from Luckey’s mentor Peter Thiel.

And though there is some speculation that the Trump administration might whittle away at military spending, the man poised to spearhead the whittling is himself a major defense contractor, so we’re not likely to see the psychic levitation of the Pentagon anytime soon. (Only a week ago the State Department contracted to spend \$400 million on armored vehicles from Tesla, then crossed out the “from Tesla” part after the public noticed and objected.)

The calculated chance that an asteroid will impact Earth in 2032 rose from 1.9% to 3.2% this week, and Musk’s D.O.G.E. project proceeded apace; *WIRED* magazine reported Wednesday night that the group had secured control at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, bad news if you’re an elections paranoiac.

Trump, for his part, chided Ukraine for starting its invasion by Russia, and then trolled the libs by declaring himself a “king.” Take that, libs. *A king*.

“They know that their remarks are frivolous, open to challenge,” sulkyEurobad-boyJean-PaulSartre said of anti-Semites in 1946, notably one of the easier years in history to criticize anti-Semites. “But they are amusing themselves, for it is their adversary who is obliged to use words responsibly.... They delight in acting in bad faith, since they seek not to persuade by sound argument but to intimidate and disconcert.”

You may remember this quote being bandied around during the first Trump administration by liberals trying to put a finger on just why they couldn’t defeat the president’s supporters by debate. The

quote pivots on a self-congratulatory kernel: *we*, they were saying, use words *responsibly*, and it is our cross to bear, being defeated by such cynical oafs.

This time around everything is different. To understand just how, we offer a simple analogy based on Master Blaster, a pair of symbiotic villains in the 1985 action-adventure film *Mad Max: Beyond Thunderdome*. Master, the brains, rides around on Blaster, the brawn, and they make an effective team for most of the film’s runtime, cruelly administering a post-apocalypse town where the people wear an awful lot of leather.

Okay, now the analogy: In 2016-17 Trump cleverly rode the GOP to power. In 2024-25, however, this Silicon Valley clique rode in on the shoulders of Trump. He has transformed from Master to Blaster. Really! We all saw him shudder as he helplessly watched Musk’s child wipe his boogers on the Resolute Desk.

If this sounds stupid and you’re wondering why you’re reading it in an esteemed local newspaper, let’s return to Palmer Luckey, who we should remind you is now one of the most powerful humans on Earth, the one authorized and funded to build a network of artificially intelligent killer robotics.

“Tactical heads-up-displays that turn warfighters into technomancers and pair us with weaponized robotics were one of the products in the original Anduril pitch deck for a reason,” Luckey rattled on. “The past eight years we have spent building Lattice have put Anduril in a position to make this type of thing actually useful in the way military strategists and technologists have long dreamed of, ever since Robert Heinlein’s 1959 novel *Starship Troopers*. Not just day and night and thermal and ultraviolet, but peering into an idealized interactive real-time composite of past, present, and future that will quickly surpass traditional senses like vision and touch.”

Most people seem to be hoping this nonsense will fizzle out by itself, but it seems unlikely.

In *Beyond Thunderdome*, Max, the protagonist and hero, defeats the Master/Blaster dyad by use of a high-pitched whistle, which drives Blaster to a frenzy. That isn’t the insight you should take away from this column, though. There is probably no little whistle. People who want a different future are going to have to organize.

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.

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

J.J. Charles has worked at the Spirit Shoppe in Gill since graduating from Turners Falls High School two years ago. He also serves in the National Guard. The Spirit Shoppe has three other locations in South Deerfield, Sunderland, and Greenfield. We are happy to report The Montague Reporter is available for sale at the Gill store!

Letters to the Editors

Plow Kudos!

Just like to shout out to the DPW snow plow guys. They have done a really great job in Montague Center and I think in Montague in general, with these most recent snowstorms. People notice and are talking about it.

I wish there was a way that residential driveways didn’t get plowed back in so badly, but I understand they are in a hurry going down the streets.

In general, you guys are doing a great job, and that means a lot to those of us who really can’t be out there with the shovels Thanks!

Jeri Moran
Montague Center

Erosion Needs Oversight

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Water Quality Certification (WQC) for FirstLight Hydroelectric Project – FERC license #1889 and #2485, for Turners Falls and Northfield Mountain – needs to require input and oversight by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and the conservation commissions of Erving, Gill, Montague, and Northfield over the erosion control plan of FirstLight’s operations.

In its draft WQC, MassDEP imposes a “Special Condition No. 25: Erosion Mitigation, Stabilization and Monitoring Plan.” This condition requires FirstLight to work with MassDEP to repair and stabilize existing streambank erosion, develop an erosion monitoring plan, implement and report on that monitoring plan, stabilize newly-identified segments of the bank, and enforce a “no-wake zone” for boats at Barton Cove.

MassDEP acknowledges the important work, and the almost 30-year effort, put in by the FRCOG and the Connecticut River Streambank Erosion Committee to monitor and mitigate erosion. Special Condition 25, however, does not require local input and oversight.

Under the current FERC operating license for its Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project, FirstLight is required to control and repair areas of riverbank erosion. Regulation and oversight of the projects to control erosion fall under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (WPA).

In 2009 the Gill conservation commission (GCC), as part of its responsibilities under the WPA, is-

sued an Order of Conditions (OOC) to FirstLight for streambank stabilization work (“Phase III”) along the Connecticut River. The intent was to establish a vegetative bench to reduce, if not eliminate, erosion.

FirstLight submitted a final report for this work to the GCC in 2016. The GCC has not issued a Certificate of Compliance, the final step in WPA oversight. The vegetative bench installed does not appear to be stable.

(I have been an appointed member of the GCC since 2015, but I am writing in a personal capacity.)

As bank stability has not been fully achieved, FirstLight must continue monitoring, and must also take any necessary remediation work.

In response to a letter sent from the GCC requesting help with enforcement, MassDEP distinguished the WQC from the OOC, stating that while consistency is sought between the two, each has its own requirements and process for enforcement. MassDEP considered the project an *in situ* pilot, or demonstration.

MassDEP is responsible for enforcing the conditions of the WQC. As for the OOC, the local conservation commission would generally have the primary role for enforcement, though MassDEP would have concurrent jurisdiction allowing it to enforce the document as well.

Requiring input and oversight by FRCOG and the Erving, Gill, Montague, and Northfield conservation commissions over the erosion impact of FirstLight’s operations will provide consistency between the authority of MassDEP and these local conservation commissions.

Phil Gilfeather-Girton
Gill

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

Village Neighbors, a nonprofit helping residents over age 60 in Wendell, Leverett, New Salem, and Shutesbury, is holding meetups at the Deja Brew Pub in Wendell on two Fridays this winter: tomorrow, February 21, and again on March 7

from 4 to 6 p.m.

“Join Village Neighbors members, volunteers, and perhaps some potential members for conversation, cocktails, mocktails, warmth, and light fare,” the group writes. There will be a cash bar. The meetup is held prior to the pub’s regular hours of 6 to 11 p.m., with live music at 7:30.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Turners Falls Fire District Nomination Papers Available

MONTAGUE – Nomination papers for the annual Turners Falls Fire District election are now available to all district residents from the District Office, located at 226 Millers Falls Road, until Monday, March 10.

Papers must be returned no later than Friday, March 21.

The District Office is open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

All potential candidates need

to obtain 30 signatures from registered voters of the Turners Falls Fire District.

Open offices are as follows:

- Prudential Committee, for a three-year term;
- Water Commissioner, for a three-year term;
- District Moderator, for a one-year term.

The annual election will be held on Tuesday, April 22 at the District Office from noon to 4 p.m.

Local children’s book author and illustrator **Astrid Sheckels will read from her latest book, *Hector Fox and the Map of Mystery***, at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls this Saturday, February 22, at 3 p.m. A scavenger hunt will follow her reading. The event is designed for ages 5 to 10, but all ages are welcome.

The book is part of Sheckels’ award-winning “Hector Fox & Friends” picture book series from Islandport Press. Check out her charming, detailed illustrations at astridsheckels.com.

Karakuri is the Japanese art of paper engineering. You can learn about folding, cutting, and gluing paper to make toys that move by buying a book, such as the classic *Paper Automata* by Rob Ives, which includes plans for four models to create at home – but getting instruction in person might be more fun.

At the Leverett Library’s **Playful Engineers: Mechanical Automata workshop** on Thursday, February 27 at 4 p.m., artist Jay Mankita will show you how to make hand-cranked moving toys with cardboard, wood, wire, and other stuff. Call (413) 548-9220 to register. You might find yourself with a new fun indoor hobby for the wintertime!

Another program at the Leverett Library, on Saturday, March 1 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., will delve into the **specifics of tree pruning** with

expert arborists from the Woodsmith Forestry and Tree Services.

After providing background on how trees grow, they will demonstrate structural tree pruning and provide hands-on practice for attendees. Space is limited; sign up at tinyurl.com/levlibtree.

On Friday, March 14 the Turners Falls High School Class of 2026 will host the **TFHS 2025 Dodgeball Tournament**. Fill out the form at tinyurl.com/TFHSDodgeball to register a team. A \$25 registration fee per team will be accepted the night of the event.

All proceeds go to the Class of 2026, who are raising funds for their senior class trip and to help cover the cost of caps and gowns for graduation. The “competitive” bracket offers a winners’ prize of \$150.

The Northwestern District Attorney’s consumer affairs office **shares this scam alert**: Government agencies will not call, email, or text and ask you to pay a fine or taxes with cryptocurrency, or urge you to “protect” your money by depositing it at a cryptocurrency ATM. Beware, too, of any online dating acquaintance who asks you to send or invest in cryptocurrency. If you have a question or problem as a consumer, contact the DA office (413) 774-3186.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

HYDRO from page A1

Community College dining commons where the hearing was held, a group of activists sang, chanted, and waved signs with the phrases “Deny” and “Parasite.” Inside the meeting room the energy was subdued, though attendee Annie Hassett used some of her three allotted minutes of testimony to sing Arlo Guthrie’s 1976 song “Patriot’s Dream.”

Some commenters asked for the WQC to require ongoing public involvement regarding riverbank erosion, which many believe is caused or exacerbated by the operation of the pumped-storage station at Northfield. Others said fish passage at the Turners Falls dam should be improved more quickly than the draft WQC would require.

State senator Jo Comerford used her three minutes to draw attention to information she said she believed MassDEP did not consider when it drafted the WQC. In November the state passed a sweeping energy reform bill that, among other things, redefines a “clean energy generating source” to include pumped-hydro storage plants. The bill also requires Massachusetts to procure a certain amount of additional energy storage capacity in the coming years. Northfield Mountain, the largest energy-storage facility in New England, would be eligible for these contracts.

“FirstLight, I think we all can imagine, stands to benefit considerably from this new law by becoming eligible for state procurements and clean energy incentives,” Comerford said. “If we can reasonably expect greater use and impact, given this new law, the protections must increase commensurately.”

Comerford asked the agency to consider how the new law may incentivize the company to pump and release the river’s water with greater frequency, and to factor that into the final WQC. She also said she supported a license period shorter than the expected 50 years, as well as the idea of requiring FirstLight to set up a decommissioning fund, though she acknowledged that both were outside the scope of a WQC.

Purchase of Power

Andrew Fisk, Northeast director for the nonprofit American Rivers and chair of the Connecticut River Migratory Fish Restoration Cooperative, said that the conditions proposed in the draft WQC do not meet the state’s own standards. He argued there was an inconsistency between the agency’s accommodation of certain protected

plant species and its disregard for fish, including the endangered shortnose sturgeon, which he reminded agency officials are newly believed to inhabit the river above the dam.

Fisk also criticized provisions in the draft that would set minimum and maximum water levels for the river at Barton Cove, but then also permit FirstLight to violate them 25 times per year.

“You are authorizing 25 days of violation of water quality standards, and saying for three years you will take no enforcement discretion,” Fisk said. “The justification for that can be nothing other than the company’s finances and their needs to meet market, or capacity, or power-purchase agreements they have made with customers.”

A number of commenters recommended that the department deny the WQC outright. Some, however, acknowledged that doing so would likely prompt a lawsuit by FirstLight. MassDEP wetlands director Tim Jones, who facilitated Wednesday’s hearing, said at an informational session in October that this concern was a factor in the department’s decision-making.

“The bottom line question is, who would you rather be sued by, the greedy corporations, or the people you are supposed to be representing?” said Glen Ayers of Greenfield. “Because, one way or the other, this is going to court, and you should be on the side of nature, the side of the environment, and the side of the people.”

“If the water quality permit is turned down the corporation is going to sue, and litigation will be for years, and the outcome is uncertain – and while that is going on, the harm being done to the river under the present situation will continue,” said Cummington planning board Dennis Carr. “What I find faulty is the conclusion that we should just take the crumbs that the corporation has to toss us.... The idea is to protect the river from harm, not so much to protect the Commonwealth from litigation.”

Williamsburg resident Miriam Kurland said state-level environmental protections were becoming more important, given the uncertainty surrounding federal regulatory power under the Trump administration.

“We need our state agencies to stand up to the enormous flood of favoritism going to the ultra-wealthy and corporate elite,” Kurland said. “We strongly urge the state DEP to... stop the corporate takeover, no matter the consequences.”

“Please work with us to shut this monster down,” added a young child who joined Kur-

land in her online testimony.

Several commenters called the river “dead,” and emphasized that its flow runs upstream at times when the company pumps water to its upper reservoir at Northfield Mountain.

Natural Thinking

“Being here with DEP, you make it hard to believe in anything,” said Greenfield’s Karl Meyer, a journalist and a federally recognized intervenor in the relicensing process. “I do not know how, in any person’s natural thinking, you can possibly issue a water quality certificate to a plant that runs backwards to a foreign national company.”

FirstLight Power’s parent company is a Canadian public pension investment fund.

Bruce Merriam, chair of the board of commissioners of the Turners Falls water district, discussed erosion he had noticed as a member of the Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club. Riverside water district chair Jeff Suprenant said similar concerns have been documented by the Franklin County Boat Club, of which he is a member.

Suprenant also complained to the officials about effluent discharged into the river by the fish farm at Turners Falls, an issue apparently unrelated to the hydropower relicensing.

Will Szal, a member of the advocacy organization Western Mass Rights of Nature, argued that as the water released from Northfield Mountain’s reservoir is often warmer than the river, it should be considered a form of thermal pollution under the Clean Water Act.

“Until the dams are gone, we’re going to continue to have a dead river here and I encourage some bigger-picture thinking about what we can do to support the aliveness of the region,” Szal said. “It could create an example nationally and internationally if the Connecticut was running free again.”

“We and our constituents do not know if we can trust the federal government’s responsiveness to the pressing environmental needs of our time and the concerns that we have laid out,” Comerford told the officials. “This is the moment for DEP to take a clear role and decisive stand to protect the longterm health and local oversight of the Connecticut River and the protection of the species, communities, and economies that depend on it.”

The deadline for public comment to be submitted to MassDEP is next Monday, February 24. A final WQC is expected to be issued in April.

RECYCLE

PAPER
Week of February 24
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054



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

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.)

WE DIG FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Loam
- Gravel
- Sand
- Natural Stone



(413) 774-1285

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

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



Birch Tree Bodywork

massage + workshops in Turners Falls & beyond
www.birchtree-bodywork.com
413.239.4575

\$10 off 1st visit with this ad

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



ROOT YOGA STUDIO

51 11TH ST., TURNERS FALLS

413.676.9076
ROOT-YOGA-STUDIO.COM

NEW STUDENT SPECIAL
THREE CLASSES FOR \$40

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on February 19, 2015: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Dangerous Snow Accumulation

Because of the amount of snow that has accumulated along the roadsides, the Town of Montague has declared a state of emergency. Starting immediately, parking is prohibited on the side of each road with odd house numbers. Parking is still allowed on the even number side of the road.

The towering snowbanks and parked vehicles are making it very dangerous and on most streets im-

possible for emergency vehicles and regular traffic to travel on.

Leverett to Discuss Expansion of School Region

A proposal to expand Amherst-Pelham Regional School District to include elementary schools will be presented to a public forum at Leverett Elementary School on February 26.

Currently the Amherst-Pelham regional district serves only middle and high school students from Amherst, Pelham, Leverett, and Shutesbury. The elementary schools in the four towns are in three separate districts.

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on February 17, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Good Neighbors

The Wendell Women's Club held a wonderfully successful pancake breakfast on February 12 to raise money for resident Sally Wilder, who lost her Davis Turn Road home to a fire on January 19.

Sally, her granddaughter, and her two children escaped without injury on a frigid cold night with only the clothes on their backs. Unfortunately the home and possessions were a complete loss.

Trees for Montague

Since 1999 the Kostanski Funeral Home has made a donation towards the planting of trees in

Montague, in memory of each person who passes on and whose family utilizes their services. The donations, which now total over \$5,000, were made through the Massachusetts Releaf program, part of the State Department of Conservation and Recreation.

In a February 1 letter to the selectboard, Karen Larrabee said not a tree has been planted in the last four years.

Larrabee, who owns Kostanski Funeral Home parlors in Turners Falls and Greenfield with her brothers Mike and Bill Kostanski, suggested that a committee be formed to work with the town to plant trees. Referring to the "Greening of Greenfield Committee," she added, "I have seen how great it works in Greenfield and I'd love to see Montague do the same thing."

150 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on February 17, 1875: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

Turners Falls and Vicinity

Did Job ever travel in a funeral procession, or experience such a cold spell as this?

Humorists never work. They play on words for a living.

Messrs. Campbell & Hazelton have a contract for arching a portion of the Hoosac Tunnel.

W.P. Crocker is anxious for delinquents to pay up their water rates.

Hawkes & Spaulding have placed a handsome fire and burglar proof safe in their store.

B.N. Farren, Esq., has been awarded the contract of enlarging the small tunnel west of North Adams.

Why do not the Dramatic Society of Turners Falls give a performance or two. Stir up boys, and give us some solid amusement; it will pay.

C.Q. Gillman has now got his grist mill running, and will attend to all who have grain to grind. The

want of a grist mill has long been felt, and it will pay well.

One of the events of the season will be a private masquerade party which is to come off in Riverside to-morrow evening. There is strife to see who shall lead in appropriateness of costume.

The first donation to the Public Library Association was made by the Hon. Wendell T. Davis of Greenfield, and consists of some twenty bound volumes. The librarian or any member of the soliciting committee would be pleased to receive further contributions like or in the form of money. As a public library is an object worthy the support of every one interested in the growth and prosperity of Turners Falls, we hope to hear of many donations as generous as that of Mr. Davis.

Willie Schuler met with a very painful accident on Saturday. He was coasting with other boys, and the cutter on which his brother sat ran into him, breaking his leg above the ankle. Dr. Coy set the shattered bone, and the patient is getting along finely.



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



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



BEES from page A1
or canceled. [That] all comes through the USDA....

Then I had grants submitted in the SARE and NIFA system for training women, queer/trans, and BIPOC beekeepers in advanced queen breeding skills. Those will be flagged as “DEI” projects by the current administration, putting projects with national collaborators at risk of receiving no funding – despite being in development for three-plus years, and receiving support and collaboration from some of the country’s leading geneticists.

MR: How much lost revenue is on the table? And do you two have other employees?

AR: Between the NRCS, the Climate Smart Ag, and the business assistance subcontracting I do, it’s \$45,000, which is about a quarter of our annual revenue.

We’re a two-person shop. We work a little bit with contractors and seasonal people, but not very much.

MR: How long have you had the Climate Smart revenue?

AR: 2025 and 2026 were supposed to be our two years to receive it. We had done a lot of legwork – meeting with a conservation partner, going through all the contracts, identifying all of the practices that we were eligible for. That was 2024.

MR: Did you have to go through any steps at Montague town hall, with the con com or anything?

AR: It’s mostly been through a project partner of ours, the Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust (PPLT) – they’re a land trust, so they have a conservation partner.

Our land in Montague is in town conservation, and then Chapter 61 and Chapter 61A, forest and agricultural conservation. We’ve lived on that land for almost a decade, and it’s been in both of those throughout.

[Climate Smart Agriculture] is more like, basically, if you are doing practices on your farm that are building climate resilience – building soil, et cetera – these payments are to cover those practices.

MR: Do you also own the land down in Florida?

AR: Just in Montague – we rent the apiary sites in Florida.

MR: And that’s so that the bees can winter down there?

AR: For the last seven years we’ve taken half our hives down to Florida and we do a queen season down here, which means we raise a bunch of queens in the early season for larger-scale producers. We raise a very specific type of bee called a Varroa-sensitive hygienic bee, and we do a lot of breeding and selection from the stock we have.

So we take half our stock down to Florida and set them up in the fall, because there’s a big nectar flow here in the fall, and we come back a few months later and raise queens

here for about two and a half months.

What that does is actually like a season extension for us: we get two seasons in, and we get to do a lot more selection with our bees; as we’ve been building our business and establishing our stock it’s very critical to what we’ve done. We also get to harvest a little extra honey and wax, and bring those home to sell in the early part of the season.

Up north, we do starter hives for beginning beekeepers, more queen production and semi-production.

In the last two years – this is kind of a tragic part – we had been moving our bees from Florida to North Carolina to establish a stock line there. We have a small queer community there that’s farm-based, and we’ve been looking at how we can shorten the trip, shorten our time away from home, and share the load of bee-tending, so for the last two years we’ve been building the capacity to do that.

Obviously, in October of last year, western North Carolina was hit by a hurricane. Our bee yards were washed away, and we lost all the stock we had been establishing there.

This year, we’re pulling the bees out of Florida and bringing them home to New England. We’re in a bit of a transitional space with what’s going to happen in North Carolina. We lost not just the bees, but also some really close friends, who passed away in the hurricane. So... It’s been a time. Trying to figure out how to reestablish the southern part of our business has been on the docket since then.

MR: Geez. I’m sorry. In terms of the facilities, were you able to get any aid after the hurricane?

AR: We’re still waiting for it. There’s another program through the USDA that’s meant to help with this kind of recovery, and is pretty widely used by beekeepers. I’ve never used it before.

In North Carolina this was the first time they’ve experienced an event of this scale in the western part of the state, so it’s been a lot slower on the uptake, and they’re being really vague. I don’t know if it’s because of the funding freeze that they still haven’t administered that money, or

because they don’t have as much experience doing it. They won’t tell me either way. When you look online, it says they’ll take four to six weeks to administer funding. We applied in October of last year, right as the hurricane happened, and we still haven’t received our funding.

So that in and of itself put a complexity on how we proceed this year, because we either need to invest that money to make up the losses – equipment, bees, et cetera – or we have to make the losses up internally, from the hives we already have. So we’re doing that now, instead of running our normal production season in the South – it’s just not feasible, without that money in hand, to do both.

And then the loss of the Climate Smart programming, as well as all the NRCS funding being paused, really puts a damper on what we can and can’t invest, because we don’t know what money we will or won’t be getting back this year.

MR: Do you know what you’re going to do at this point?

AR: It’s a little bit up in the air. We’re trying to make sure the hurricane relief funding is still going to come through, or, if it’s affected by the funding freeze, when we would be able to anticipate it. Beekeeping is our primary agricultural practice and establishing tree crops is secondary, so I need to make sure that the relief money is at least coming through this year to sort out our production calendar.

And then for the tree crop establishment, we’re looking at “What are the ways we can do it at a lower cost, just to sustain ourselves right now? What inputs do we absolutely need this year, and what inputs can we put off for another year, even if it’s not the best thing for the trees or the ecology?”

We probably can’t afford to put up the perimeter fence, because that was a big chunk of the money....

We do quite a bit of education and research on climate adaptation, so those projects are still going. One is funded by a private foundation, and another by another federal grant that is still active as of right now. We’re doing an assessment of what is going to create revenue for us, and how we



The apiary specializes in breeding bees that can detect and remove parasitic mites.

can leverage those things so we can survive through the end of the year.

And then we’re doing a fundraiser, through our website (www.theykeepbees.com). I wrote a blog post of all the different ways people can support us, with a breakdown of our spending. We’ll try to raise between \$10,000 and \$15,000, because we figured that would really help us get through this year. I don’t think it’s realistic to ask \$45,000 from our community.

We’re also looking at other small grants, private foundation grants.

MR: I spent some time looking through the “wall of receipts” that DOGE has up on its website, and it seems like almost none of what we’ve been hearing about in the news in terms of cuts is up there yet. It’s canceled Politico subscriptions, some clearly DEI-targeted cuts – and then USAID, but even with that there seems to be a big lag with what they’re posting.

AR: My lost contracts around trainings and technical assistance were probably flagged as DEI. I don’t have a firm confirmation of that, but they were grants meant to support women and LGBTQ farmers and farmers of color....

It’s just so discouraging, because you know what’s getting canceled. And then you can see all of these grants and partnerships that you’ve invested in, you know?

When we write a grant, it’s not like we just sit down, spit out a grant in an hour and submit it, and then wait for money to come in. You spend 40 to 80 hours writing the grant, and then a year cultivating the relationships that are going to be in partnership with the grant. You might meet people four, six, eight times to establish, “Okay, who are we together? What kind of work do we want to do?” All the research about the most effective way to go about the partnership, how it benefits either food system or biodiversity goals – there’s so much invested, from the recipient side, in this kind of funding.

And I think there’s this common misconception that this was just easy money sitting around waiting for queer, trans, and BIPOC people to come snatch it up. These are competitive grants that we have to invest a lot of time cultivating before we are even able to procure the contracts for.

The thing with federal funding that is complex for people to understand is, A, it’s earmarked by Congress already, so these are funds and contracts that were already in place – it’s the breaking of a contract with the federal government.

But B, the USDA funds these programs because they benefit both conservation and ecology. That has a broader benefit of a healthier ecosystem for state climate goals, for state biodiversity goals, for regional climate and biodiversity goals as well.

So even though they’re competitive, these funds are often higher than a private foundation – which might give you \$5,000 to \$10,000 to do a project – because they’re trying to get you to do the whole project, because that is going to benefit the state or regional climate and ecology goals.

It seems like there is this perception online that this was just wanton money that farmers were having thrown at them, but it was actually funded by the government because it benefits both the government’s and the people’s goals, set at the state and the federal level, with respect to climate resilience and biodiversity....

I put a link on the *They Keep Bees* blog that breaks down some of this stuff, and what people can do. I know everyone’s saying “Call your state and federal reps,” but actually calling the state climate department, especially in Mass, and calling the state ag department, to advocate for supporting farmers in this transitional time and using state funds to address some of the emergency that we’re all currently experiencing, is immensely helpful. And there are a few other things on there that people can do.



A queen bee developed by They Keep Bees for her genetic diversity.

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

ED L.

SMALL FURNITURE • COLLECTIBLES • DECORATIVES

374 Deerfield Street • Greenfield
Featuring: Lamps Mirrors Chairs Baskets
Call (413) 834 - 3128 TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT
MASK REQUIRED • EXCLUSIVE SHOPPING!

Dealer in used Home Furnishings

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

relieving chronic pain

Gretchen Wetherby, LMT
413-824-7063

bringing peace to tired muscles

gretchenwlmt@gmail.com • gretchenwetherby.massagetherapy.com

EMERGENCY from page A1

to explain the process: “The Gill Fire Chief/EMD/Police Chiefs discuss the situation together and then relay our concerns to the Gill Selectboard for review and then the formal declaration.”

“I have not been informed of any incidents related to the recent weather that would require my involvement,” Leverett’s EMD, Sean Connor, told us. “A few examples of declaring an emergency are an event that requires a need for multiple road closures causing first responder response issues, the need for evacuation of an area due to flooding, and wide area power outages for an extended time.”

Connor described a process for declaring a local emergency similar to Zellman’s and Beaubien’s statements.

The state *Handbook for Emergency Management Officials* says a municipality’s “chief executive officer” has the authority to declare emergencies. In smaller towns this is the selectboard chair, but the decision is made in collaboration with the EMD, the police, fire, and public works departments, and the board of health, depending on the nature of the emergency. In some towns the Council on Aging has a seat on the committee.

Municipalities will then often seek the assistance of state and federal emergency management agencies, according to Zellman.

After this weekend’s storm, National Grid electrical service to the majority of customers in the west Franklin County towns of Monroe, Rowe, Heath, Charlemont, and Hawley remained out through Monday and most of Tuesday, leading to an extensive mutual aid response



Local photojournalist Joe R. Parzych spotted this wide snowperson on Tuesday near China Gourmet in Greenfield.

from local towns. The town of Hawley officially declared an emergency. First responders went door-to-door, inviting residents to join them at warming stations.

Increasingly frequent extreme weather events are now generally viewed as a part of “climate change,” the warming of the earth’s temperatures “caused by human activities – primarily the burning of fossil fuels,” as the *National Geographic Education* website puts it, adding: “Blizzards are predicted to become more intense in the face of climate change, despite shorter winters and rising global temperatures.”

On the other hand, last year the *Boston Globe*, citing a study published in the journal *Nature*, stated that in our region, human-driven climate change is responsible for snow loss. Based on the reduction in the spring snowpack that feeds rivers like the Merrimack, the *Globe* interpreted the study by scientists at Dartmouth College as suggesting that “the northeast, including New Hampshire, is hurtling toward winters dominated by rain, rather than snow.”

The current winter weather appears to be consistent with these seemingly contradictory depictions of the impacts of climate change. Frequent, relatively small amounts of snow have been followed shortly by sleet and then freezing rain. This combination can lead to power outages, due in part to falling tree limbs, as well as to extremely dangerous sidewalks and streets.

The latter phenomenon may not fall under the purview of local EMDs, but icy roads and sidewalks can create major challenges for local residents – and the hospitals that serve them. “Massachusetts emergency rooms full with ice-related injuries,” a recent headline read on the CBS Boston news outlet WBZ.

A woman from Somerville broke her elbow after slipping on ice, the station reported, “and now she’s stuck waiting for days to see a specialist.” The woman posted the story of her ordeal on Facebook, “only to learn how many people had a similar experience.”

“Some people [had] worse injuries than me, so I’m pretty lucky to be in fairly good shape now,” she told reporters before being filmed tiptoeing gingerly along a narrowly-shoveled sidewalk.

The *Reporter* was unable to ascertain the ice’s impact on western Massachusetts emergency rooms.

A spokesperson for the Baystate hospital system, which includes Baystate Franklin in Greenfield, told us that “[t]hough we do track the types of injuries and illnesses we treat, we do not track the origin of injuries, so we don’t have data directly attributing fall injuries to ice.”

Dr. Sunny Shukla, associate chief medical officer at Cooley Dickinson Hospital in Northampton, was more transparent. “What I have seen is more falls which have led to broken wrists, sprains, and knee injuries,” he wrote. “With the ice, it is also easier to get concussed, and sprain an ankle. Due to the heavy snow we noticed an uptick in back pain/sprains as well.”

This newspaper predicts weather will continue to occur in the coming weeks, though temperatures may increase.



“I get to meet interesting people and I learn from them. And I have an opportunity to help out, often in very simple ways.”

Pam Porter
Volunteer Ombudsman

Find your purpose.
Volunteer with LifePath.

413.773.5555 | 978.544.2259
LifePathMA.org

 LifePath
options for independence

TOWN OF MONTAGUE
NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Lease of Property – Colle Building

The Town of Montague seeks proposals to lease the entirety of the Colle Building, located at 85 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA as further described in the formal Request for Proposals (RFP). The successful proposal will demonstrate ability of the proposer to provide stewardship and basic maintenance of the premises, organizational experience with arts, cultural, educational, philanthropic, or other related areas, and agreement to a lease term of three (3) years.

The RFP may be obtained at the office of the Assistant Town Administrator, Floor 1, Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 during regular office hours, by email to chrisn@montague-ma.gov, or by download via the Town’s website www.montague-ma.gov. It is the responsibility of the requestor to ensure receipt of the RFP.

Proposals are due to the Office of the Assistant Town Administrator, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 no later than 2:00 p.m. on Monday, March 10, 2025. The Town of Montague is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Montague Community Television News

In Case You Missed It: First Generation

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – The First Generation Ensemble’s production of *Mother Tongue* is one of the most powerful performances I have seen take the stage of the Shea Theater.

I filmed and edited their previous production at the Shea a few years ago, and while the raw and vulnerable confessional monologues were impactful then, their intense and relatable stories of displacement and migration feel more important now

than ever. Many of these young performers began working with the Performance Project as young refugees, and some are still working with the ensemble, some 10 years later.

I highly encourage all readers to not only watch their captivating performance, but to continue watching through to their audience talk-back. Their purity of spirit is refreshing, and provides a hopeful testament to the power of art.

You can find this year’s performance as well as the 2023 film on

MCTV’s Vimeo channel. And be sure to keep a look out for another live performance soon.

If board meetings are what you’re looking for, you know what to do. All MCTV videos are aired on Channel 9 and featured on the MCTV Vimeo page.

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

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

small victories
INTERIOR DESIGN



“Not just for fancy people!”
smallvictoriesdesign.com

sunbug solar | **A ReVision Energy Company** 

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



warm up at **THE VOO**

many entertainments



all scratch kitchen

cozy cocktails

78 3rd St TFMA

HOURS/SPECIALS  ORDER ONLINE:
thevoo.net



features@montaguereporter.org OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER FEBRUARY 20, 2025

Above: After the storm the denizens of Prospect Street worked hard to rip the thick, icy crust from their driveways and vehicles.

BOOK REVIEW

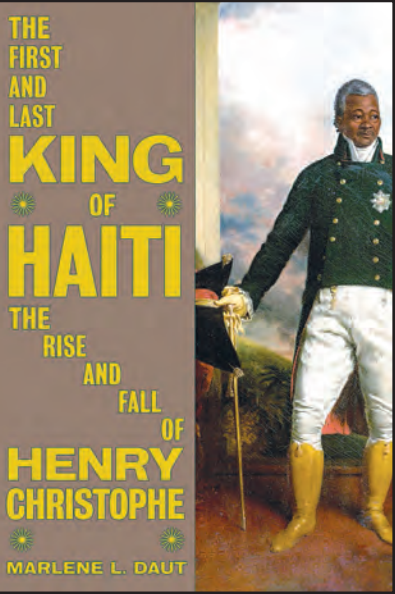
Marlene L. Daut, *The First and Last King of Haiti: The Rise and Fall of Henry Christophe* (Knopf, 2025)

By CLAIRE HOPLEY

LEVERETT – When Haiti gets into our news it’s virtually always because of some calamity, among them hurricanes and earthquakes. The earthquake that struck in 2010 killed around 200,000 people and left 1.5 million people homeless.

A cholera epidemic followed, due in some part to the failure to clear bodies and waterways. Recovering from such events is difficult because the history of Haiti’s governments is marked by coups, corruption, and dictatorship. Why is this? Natural disasters are not unique to Haiti, nor are volatile governments, yet Haiti lags in prosperity. It is the poorest country in the Americas. Food insecurity blights 93% of its 11 million people, and 59% percent live in poverty. Marlene Daut’s latest book has much to tell about the historical underpinnings of these deficits. Though *The First and Last King of Haiti* focuses on the 53-year life of Henry Christophe -- the man who ruled as King from 1811 until 1820 -- she elucidates the events that laid the groundwork for what Haiti is today by describing its conditions as a French colony and tracing the tempestuous revolutionary years that led to and followed the 1794 abolition of slavery.

Daut’s expertise is summed up in the titles of her earlier books: *Race and the Literary History of Haitian Revolution in the Atlantic World 1789-1865* and *Awakening the Ashes: An Intellectual History of the Haitian Revolution*. Notably she has argued that historians who look to the American or French revolutions as the source of 19th-century revolutionary movements elsewhere should instead shine their spotlights on the Haitian Revolution. It is the only one that overthrew a colonial power, like in the US, and a ruling dynasty, like in France, while at the same time abolishing slavery. It remains the only revolution ever initiated and fought by an enslaved people who became the country’s rulers. Christophe was among them. He was born in 1767 in Grenada, the son of an enslaved Nigerian woman and a man of mixed ancestry. Grenada was a British-held island but the French had previously controlled it, see **BOOK REVIEW** page B4

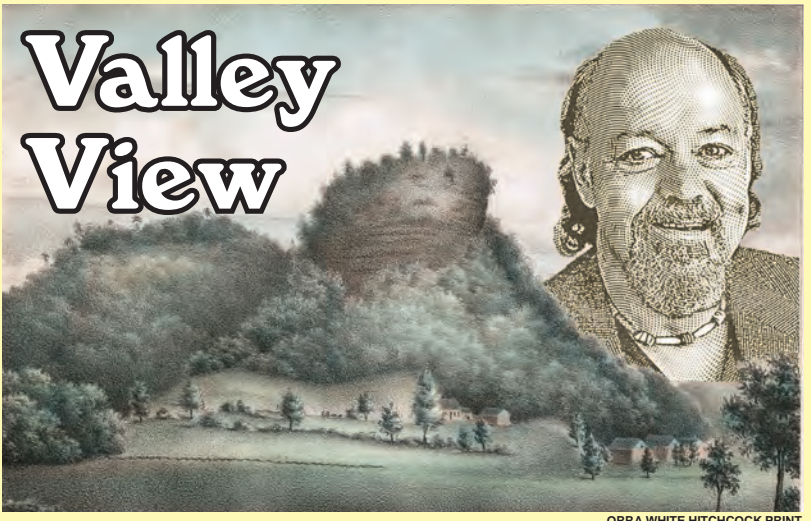


NOTES FROM THE HEARTFELT CAFE
by Trouble Mandeson

GREENFIELD – I recently enjoyed a pop-up Asian meal at a local restaurant from a visiting chef. It was a very reasonable \$30 per person and offered up a dozen or so courses of savory, delectable food. I say “or so” because I’m pretty sure our table missed out on the roll-your-own spring rolls, but by the last plate we were so stuffed it made little difference. The Black Verde World Street Food event was created by Chef Ting of Black Joy in Martha’s Vineyard. Her “Silk Road Menu: A Food Journey” event featured dishes from her travels around India, Tibet, Nepal, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Japan, Somalia, Vietnam, and Wakanda – the last for a soup called “Black Girl Pho.” As we enjoyed our Bathsheba’s Welcome – a cocktail made with Brut, an herbal liqueur called Amaro Nonio, muddled mango, and a stem of rosemary – we were introduced to mixologist Eve Marie of Dooky Chase in New Orleans, who came to Greenfield solely for the event. Her other creations included Scheherazade’s Kiss, Vandana’s Whisper, and Oshun’s Delight. Chef Ting gave a talk about her travels and the inspiration for her recipes along the Silk Road routes from Africa to China. She collected recipes from elders during her travels, with each “grandmother” gifting her with a wooden spoon. She now has 107 spoons and that is the title of her soon-to-be-released cookbook. She urged us to engage with others at the larger community tables as we consumed Indian onion pakoras, see **HEARTFELT** page B8



Using the recipe provided in this month’s column will net you a few pints of sweet, savory chutney which is great not just on Asian foods, but on any poultry and pork dishes. It can also be used as a spread on bread or crackers, and pairs well with cheese.



Cross-Stitches, *En Route* to a Rug

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – Monday morning. Eagles’ Super Bowl LIX rout in the rearview. Cold and calm. Skies icy gray. Intermittent flurries flying. Fresh snowbanks framing roads. Splendid day for a road trip. No sun. Classic bluegrass spinning. Loud. Stimulating. Stringed instruments trading the lead, helping to ricochet spontaneous thoughts through the rocky, vegetated canyons of my mind. What random thoughts entertain a solo, septuagenarian traveling man on such a ride? Bear with me. That’s precisely why I’m here. I’ll try to recapture snippets from that heavy-footed journey up the slice of our Connecticut Valley I call home. Call the mission pickup and delivery. Destination: Plainfield, New Hampshire. Awaiting me there at an auction house less than 90 minutes’ north was an Oriental rug I bought from the comforts of home during the second half of the runaway Super Bowl. I had found it in an online 600-plus-lot listing, registered for the sale, and suggested to my wife that a distracted Super Bowl marketplace could be the perfect place to buy it as a replacement for a threadbare Oriental that didn’t cost us a dime. We both liked the rug, particularly its large, solid, light-blue central field surrounding a small medallion. The design was remarkably different from any of our Persian rugs, and the first of its style I remember laying eyes on. Why not go for it? I can’t say we stole it. There were 26 bids – two of them mine. Still, when the hammer fell, I felt confident we had done well. Had we purchased it at one of those pricey retail shops advertised on TV, it would have cost at least five times what we paid. That’s what I love about auctions; that and the action, the banter. Social entertainment. Soon after my 9:45 a.m. departure from our upper Greenfield Meadows home, my thoughts began to swirl. Across the Pumping Station’s covered bridge on the back road to Interstate 91 in Ber-

nardston, the sight of the Eunice Williams Monument was the impetus. All it took was a quick glance at the steep hill behind it, climbing north from the riverside flat where an Indian tomahawk had abruptly mercy-killed Deerfield Reverend John Williams’ struggling wife. Weakened by recent childbirth, the unfortunate 1704 captive displayed obvious signs that she wasn’t capable of walking to Canada with her French and Indian captors. Shivering, swooning, and ready to fall after a frigid Green River crossing, she was struck down. I figured the weather for that tragic event some 321 years ago would not have been much different than what greeted me at the site. The northward trail looked cold and daunting indeed – likely about how it must have felt that fateful March 1 morning. As I drove past the monument to the top of a gentle slope heading to Leyden Road, my thoughts traipsed to a place called Larabee’s Grove. Definitely a well-known Greenfield placename back in the day, it appears in accounts of the 1884 monument-dedication ceremony as the place where participants gathered before walking a short distance to the engraved stone marker. I have often wondered where exactly that small patch of open woods or orchard stood. Then I ponder whether those Larabees were from the same bolt of cloth as Sixties slugger Len Larabee, of Greenfield baseball lore. I can’t imagine he isn’t connected to that “Country Farms” neighborhood. Had I been raised where I currently reside, community memory would have answered that question long ago. But I’m a Meadows transplant – South Deerfield was my playground. Not long after filling my tank in Bernardston, at a rare gas station where self-service is prohibited, I was heading north on the Interstate. Soon, heading down the hill to the first Brattleboro exit, I passed the “Fort Dummer” sign, which always stirs my historic juices. The French and Indian War fort was built in 1724 and see **VALLEY VIEW** page B3

Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

‘Rocky’

Meet Rocky, a nearly three-year-old Pomeranian-Chihuahua mix. He’s a sweet guy with a big personality in a little package. True to his breeds, Rocky has a lot to say.

This smart and eager-to-please pup is looking for a new home after his previous owner had to give him up due to their own health issues.

Rocky can be a little nervous in new situations and meeting new people, but once he warms up, he’s as sweet as can be.

He has lived with other dogs and done well, and he’s also been around kids without any issues. We’re not sure how he’ll do

with cats. If you’re looking for a fun-loving companion, here’s a fun fact: Rocky loves to swim.

Rocky’s adoption fee is \$550. If you have patience for a little guy who needs some time to settle in, he will be your loyal, loving sidekick.

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.

CLASSES

‘The World’s Smallest Mask’

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I kept seeing a flyer about a class on being a clown that takes place from February 24 until April 21 at Greenfield Community College. It is called “The Joy of Red Nose Clown.”

The teachers of this eight-week class, held Mondays from 6 to 8 p.m. as part of GCC’s continuing education program, will be Hannah Harvester and Moo Butler. “Find your inner idiot!” the college website says. “Get out of your comfort zone and try something completely new! Through games and improvisation, we will lead you through a process of Red Nose Clown to find and develop your own clown character.”

It sounded like too unique of an idea not to write about.

Harvester and Butler are both actually clowns. Harvester has a background in theater and studied at Swarthmore College, while Butler graduated from Hampshire College with a bachelor of arts in 2023

“I have known Moo for four years,” Harvester told me. “Moo has been clowning longer than I have. I have been clowning since 2019.”

“What we are teaching,” she explained, “is a very specific style of clowning. It’s called Red Nose Clowning.” Harvester and Butler learned red nose clowning from Nettie Lane, a clown teacher from Brattleboro who has been teaching for many years. Harvester took up clowning after seeing a performance Lane did with other clowns; she thought it was hilarious and moving, and wanted to try it for herself.

“We both continue to study with her,” she said. “This style of clowning is a great way to learn things about yourself through playing.”

As for why the pair decided to teach a clown class? “Because we both think clowning is a wonderful way to learn about yourself,” Harvester told me, “and have a lot of fun.... We will be finding the core of each person with each inner clown.”

Harvester explained that while “each clown has a very distinct character that comes from within themselves, and the costume is going to support that character,” it is possible that the class will not get to that. “We will only use the red nose when we are clowns,” Harvester said. “We call it ‘the World’s Smallest Mask.’”



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Instructor Hannah Harvester as her clown, “Margie Mashlanka.”

It appears there is quite a lot of interest in the class; Harvester mentioned that they had several people signed up already. “I think we are going to have a good group,” she said. For more information, see engage.gcc.mass.edu/workshops/the-joy-of-red-nose-clown.



WAIT ILLUSTRATION

By CASEY WAIT

TURNERS FALLS – Dear Readers,

What a crash landing into 2025, eh? It’s only mid-February, and yet so much has happened it’s difficult to know where to start.

Perhaps most obviously, we have a new president. I’m not going to spill much ink about him. You’re probably getting enough news about Trump and his coterie of ghouls as it is. I’m sure I will have no shortage of opportunities to write about them – our new head of Health and Human Services RFK, Jr. in particular – in the coming months and years.

Instead, I’m going to keep it personal. For me, February is a month laden with anniversaries. It marks three years of writing this little column. I began *Your Sick Friend* in an effort to fight my own social erasure. In February 2022, I was already noticing the way broader society was rushing to declare an end to the pandemic and knew sick and disabled people were going to be the ones left behind. I wish I could say that, with hindsight, I was wrong. Instead, things have only gotten more difficult.

I am still writing this column, despite the fact that even many of the people I was closest to in 2022 have joined the masses in referring to the still-very-active pandemic in the past tense. The last three years have also seen an incredible flourishing of COVID-related mutual aid groups, like mask blocs and test distros, and I want to celebrate this, but it’s also been a constant struggle to get people to care.

There have been many moments when I’ve felt like giving up. I don’t know if I will ever adequately express the pain of watching people you love get used to, and actively participate in maintaining, the conditions that ensure your exclusion. I genuinely hope, dear reader, it’s something you never experience. The only reason I’m still here – writing this column, but also just *here, alive, full stop* – is because of other sick and disabled people who remind me what true solidarity, love, and friendship look like in action. Thank god for you.

February 15 is the five-year anniversary of my very first COVID-19 infection. I contracted it while in New York City looking at a grad school. I was al-

ready chronically ill and disabled before COVID entered my system – in fact, I almost canceled my trip that winter because I was in so much pain from what I’d later learn was endometriosis that I could hardly walk. The night before I left for the city I bought my first-ever mobility aid, a now very worn leopard print cane. A week later I came home sicker than I’d ever been and never recovered. As I’ve written too many times since, each reinfection – all of which occurred after mask mandates were lifted – has made me permanently sicker.

Half a decade of Long COVID. I can’t believe I just wrote that: *half a decade*. I’m so angry. I’m so tired. I hurt inside and out. How am I supposed to continually beg you to care and still respect myself? How many times must sick people scream that we deserve to exist in community before we begin to hate the people who repeatedly let us down and leave us out? I am a dedicated and practiced optimist. I refuse nihilism and misanthropy. But Jesus Christ – sometimes it’s hard!

We are living through a full-blown fascist upswell, and so-called radicals can’t even wear masks? Can’t even make their punk shows accessible? How am I supposed to take you seriously at all when your maskless face shows me just how little you understand the material conditions at hand? How are we supposed to trust each other enough to effectively fight back? The stakes are life and death.

Please get serious. Get your head out of the sand, and wake up to the reality that we are never going back to 2019. There is no “post-pandemic.” COVID is still spreading, out of control, and it is decimating our immune systems. Kansas is seeing its worst-ever outbreak of tuberculosis. In Texas, measles is back. Flu is killing people in record numbers, and if H5N1 mutates to human-to-human transmission, we are in for levels of mortality that will make the spring of 2020 look like nothing.

Listen to sick and disabled people – we have been developing survival strategies we will all need as conditions worsen. Conditions *will* worsen. Get good at loving each other now.

With love and rage, as ever,

Your Sick Friend

Senior Center Activities FEBRUARY 24 THROUGH 28

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 2/24

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

Tuesday 2/25

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

Wednesday 2/26

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

Thursday 2/27

10 a.m. Montague Villages Board Meeting

Friday 2/28

1 p.m. Pitch
AARP Tax Prep by Appointment

WENDELL

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. The next clinic is March 5. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments.

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

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 2/24

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

Tuesday 2/25

9 a.m. Stretch & Balance
10 a.m. Line Dancing
11 a.m. Social Stringer
1 p.m. Movie: *It’s Complicated*

Wednesday 2/26

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

Thursday 2/27

9 a.m. Barre Fusion
10 a.m. Pilates Flow
12 p.m. Learn About Palm Reading

Friday 2/28

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting, Open Sew

LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held Wednesdays at 10 a.m., hybrid, at the town hall and on Zoom. Foot care clinics are the third Tuesday of each month. Luncheons are the fourth Friday at town hall.

Please check the town newsletter or LeverettConnects listserv for more info.

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
Airsealing • Energy Audits • Replacement Doors & Windows

Email: bryanhobbsremodeling@gmail.com
Now Accepting Credit Cards

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

mass save PARTNER

Bryan G. Hobbs
PO Box 1535
Greenfield, MA 01302

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

Enjoy the Comfort
of Insurance Protection



Competitive rates
and discounts
for all of your
insurance needs!

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

159 Avenue A
Turners Falls MA
413.863.4373
ahrist.com

VALLEY VIEW from page B1
survived about 50 years.

My first thoughts went to Major John Arms, a distant Deerfield relative and one of Fort Dummer’s and Brattleboro’s first settlers. His tavern was “Bratt’s” first, located a bit upriver from the fort on the river terrace that today holds Brattleboro Retreat. Arms Tavern was known as a favorite watering hole of Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys.

From there my thoughts jumped like an ovipositing mayfly to Ebenezer Hinsdale (1707-1763), the intemperate, Harvard-trained Deerfield chaplain and Indian missionary born in captivity at sea – his parents had been 1704 captives – and stationed by 1731 at Fort Dummer. He eventually built an estate that still stands as a museum across the river in his namesake Hinsdale, New Hampshire.

Though I have no direct genealogical links to the Hinsdale family, it sure seems like I do. For nearly 30 years I have called a historic Hinsdale dwelling my home, resting on the 1770 homesite of Ebenezer’s slightly younger brother Samuel. So, I guess I have blood in the game.

The ride from Bratt to Bellows Falls, Vermont and Charlestown, New Hampshire was unusually uninspiring under low, gray skies. That customary first glimpse of Mount Ascutney’s peak from a Route 91 highpoint outside of Putney was invisible, totally hidden behind cloud cover that day. Its absence was disorienting.

With that temporary issue in the rearview I was on my way to 91’s Black River crossing, just west and in view of Charlestown’s reconstructed French and Indian War Fort at No. 4. It’s a place where my roots lie deep through sixth-great-grandfather Lieutenant Isaac Parker, a Massachusetts soldier from Groton. I have regularly visited the museum for reenactments and other activities, especially when my grandsons were young, but also to catch up on new scholarship.

Unfortunately, historic Charlestown is a black hole of New England genealogy due to a mid-19th-century fire that destroyed the earliest vital records. Many a professional genealogist has met his or her match there. Though the aggravating void doesn’t affect my Parker family much, the same cannot be said for the many families they married into. These vexing gaps reach into my Whately Sanderson family – not to mention those of Deerfield miller Adonijah Taylor and his brother-in-law, the brief East Whately resident Nathaniel Sartwell, both of whom share Fort No. 4 legacies.

I never pass No. 4 without thinking about its first blacksmith, Mayflower descendant Micah Fuller. I am certain his daughter Lois Fuller married a great-uncle of mine

named Joseph Sanderson but, much to the chagrin of Joseph’s descendants trying to establish Mayflower roots, it has not been proven and may never be. Birth records for Micah Fuller’s children vanished in Charlestown flames.

Which brings us to the last part of my journey thought train I’ll share. It involves a peculiar house painter named John MacAulay, who dropped into my life for five years at the start of our current millennium. He lived in his GMC van that was often parked in my backyard overnight when the weather was right for painting. He dropped dead from heart failure about 20 years ago at a Greenfield laundry mat. He was 66.

John’s spirit always visits when I climb Springfield Mountain, just up the Interstate from Charlestown exit. He grew up in Springfield, Vermont and is buried there. Someday I intend to find his grave.

I paid John by the day, cash, and often fed him as a gratuity. When my wife and kids were away I’d grill something over which to chat in the carriage-shed seating area. A HAM radio operator, John introduced me to the conspiracy theorist Alex Jones before he became well-known, and also spoke often about the Rothschilds, diabolical bankers, and the Illuminati. Alive today, John would be a card-carrying Trump-cult member.

One day our carriage-shed discussion turned to hunting, and he told me a hair-raising tale about his late father’s Vermont bear-trapping exploits on Springfield Mountain. When a scouting mission revealed evidence of a monster bruin feeding regularly through an upland nut grove, he set a trap anchored with a towing chain to a heavy log he believed only a bulldozer could move.

When he returned the next day, the trap and anchor were gone, leaving a trail John claimed “could have been followed by Helen Keller.” Supremely cautious and alone, John’s dad followed the trail much farther than he would have imagined in his wildest dreams and killed the beast with his 30.06 rifle.

John was a boy at the time. He didn’t remember the bear’s weight. Just the massive carcass. A crowd pleaser, he said.

A good place to end. With a classic North Country hunting yarn that just keeps on giving every time I climb the central Vermont mountain on which it unfolded, likely before I was born.

Meanwhile, our new rug lies on the dining-room floor. A perfect fit.

Chalk it up as another worthwhile trip up a valley stained deeply with my DNA. That said, I don’t ignore the humble people who were here to greet us. They left indelible reminders of their ancient presence with petroglyphs pecked into Bellows Falls bedrock.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Reduction of Surface Friction; Shoveling Complaints; Drone; Man’s Harrowing Disappearance at Lower Canal; Gas Leak

Monday, 2/10

8:27 a.m. Report of school bus stuck halfway into the road on Millers Falls Road. Bystander directing traffic. Officer advised. Length of road checked; unable to locate.

10:18 a.m. Animal control officer picking up animal on Meadow Road.

2:09 p.m. Caller reporting that one of his drivers’ tractor-trailers was hit by another tractor-trailer in the parking lot of New England Extrusion. Officer advises no tractor-trailers on scene. Officer spoke to owners of both companies; advised of options.

2:23 p.m. DPW requesting assistance with a resident who is shoveling snow into the roadway on Highland Avenue. They asked them not to; situation now escalating. Officer advises no sign of DPW or residents outside on Highland. Called DPW back; they report that they left to avoid conflict. Confirmed address; it is Highland Street in Millers Falls, not Highland Avenue in Montague Center. Officer advised; will talk to male party. Officer advises no one outside and no snow in road at Millers Falls address.

5:03 p.m. Caller stating that a business on Millers Falls Road hasn’t shoveled their walks and her daughter had to walk through it.

7:06 p.m. Caller from East Taylor Hill Road advising that a drone has been hovering over their backyard for the past few days. It has lights that turn on and off periodically. Unknown where it is coming from. Caller called back to say that the drone has left the area. Response cancelled *en route*.

8:54 p.m. Caller from Park Street advises a dog has been outside barking for half an hour; also worried about the dog being cold. Officer advises that the dog has been taken in.

9:55 p.m. Multiple callers report hearing a male party yelling for help from the wooded area along the bike path near Montague City Road and Warner Street. Officer concerned person may have gone through the ice. TFFD responding to area; Greenfield PD sending officers and trying to secure a drone to use for an area search. Multiple responders searching wooded area along the bike path. Screams for help no longer being heard.

Northfield Dive Team being toned out for a possible water rescue/recovery if needed. Dive team on scene. Officer transporting a dog to emergency vet. Officer requesting GPD go to last known address of party and make contact with his girlfriend. Cell phone found on riverbank. Officer called 911 from

phone, but it did not give the owner’s name; GPD reports it comes back to match involved party’s girlfriend’s number. Officer states dog does not have chip. GPD states no answer at address; will attempt contact with relative in Connecticut. First-Light spilling over dam, water in canal slowed. PD clear; FD on scene will call if they need us to come back. Rescue efforts ceased overnight. PD spoke with possible victim’s landlord. Officer requesting road closure signs at Eleventh Street bridge and Depot Street. Franklin County Animal Control advises they were contacted by emergency vet; dog will go to shelter unless they find someone to home the dog temporarily. Officer advises everyone out of the water for the day.

Tuesday, 2/11

11:47 a.m. Caller reporting her Social Security check goes onto a debit card, and the debit card was hacked. Officer advised caller of options.

12:45 p.m. Caller from Montague Bookmill reports a male is frequenting the area and making females uncomfortable. Male does not talk to them. Caller wants on record in case something happens in the future. Report taken.

3:57 p.m. TFFD investigating an odor in an apartment on Fairway Avenue.

8:12 p.m. 911 caller reports he is involved in a motor vehicle accident; vehicle struck a tree near the intersection of Lake Pleasant and Old Northfield roads. Airbag deployment; no smoke/fluids; passenger reports knee injury and unable to hear out of one ear; caller reports his hands feel hot. Conference with Shelburne Control. Tow company responding. Parties refused medical transport. Officer will be mailing citation.

Wednesday, 2/12

7:42 a.m. 911 caller reporting an unwanted person on Franklin Street. Party was outside when officers arrived. Caller advised of options; involved party has left area.

2:43 p.m. Report of sidewalks not cleared of snow in front of multiple homes on South Prospect Street.

2:52 p.m. Gill PD requesting assistance with traffic due to a motor vehicle accident on their side of the bridge.

3:43 p.m. Landlord of an Avenue A apartment building was advised by a tenant that people are dealing drugs in the hallway.

6:03 p.m. Turner Oil reporting a 150-gallon oil spill in a basement on Park Street. Shelburne Control advised.

Thursday, 2/13

5:59 p.m. Party into station

to report larceny of jewelry; party who was staying with her admitted to taking it 10 days ago, and has not returned it. Both parties advised of options.

Friday, 2/14

7:46 a.m. Pedestrian complaining of unshoveled sidewalk on Turnpike Road. Observed unshoveled area. Proper advisement to be made.

8:10 a.m. Officer located a motorcycle and a car parked illegally in the Fourth Street public parking lot. Area tow companies have no space for vehicles.

10:54 a.m. Caller from K Street would like it on record that an older beat-up blue pickup truck was parked near his house. He could hear the two men inside talking about the windows of his home, and when the men saw him, they turned away and did not make eye contact with him. The truck also had a chain with a hook on the front. Advised of options.

11:36 a.m. Officer requesting tow of vehicle whose owner cannot be identified; it is impeding emergency gas line repairs on Avenue A. Sirum’s responding to tow vehicle. Eversource requested to disable power to an Avenue A building due to a gas leak. Officer requesting road closed signs from DPW to be placed on Avenue A at Third and Fourth Streets. Owner of involved building responding; ETA five minutes.

1:42 p.m. Caller from Davis Street advises that one of his recycling bins blew across the road, then a woman pulled up in a Rav4 and stole it. Caller gave a plate number, but no information came back on it.

3:21 p.m. 911 caller reporting that she just came out to her car on Third Street and it was hit. The car behind her was hit, too. Referred to an officer.

5:12 p.m. Canoe reported stolen on Stevens Street. Referred to an officer.

5:16 p.m. Caller from Fifth Street reporting an ongoing issue with people dumping trash on her porch. Referred to an officer.

6:42 p.m. Caller from East Taylor Hill Road saying that the drone is back; would like an officer to come out and look. Officer advises party was called; no answer; left a message.

7:16 p.m. Complaint re: barking dogs on East Main Street. Responding officer reports dogs not barking upon arrival; advised resident of complaint. Caller advised to contact landlord about complaint, as it is not a police matter.

Saturday, 2/15

1:44 p.m. Walk-in reports a vehicle hit his car while it was parked outside of Walgreens. Report taken.

4:53 p.m. Alarm activation

at Greenfield Cooperative Bank; attic motion. Alarm company called to cancel; one of the keyholders said that there are mice up there, but the doors are locked and the building is secure.

9:25 p.m. Caller reporting people are riding snowmobiles on the ball fields at Turners Falls High School. Referred to an officer.

10:08 p.m. Caller from East Main Street reports a neighbor has been blaring music all day and that a neighbor has sent her threatening text messages. Officer left message advising caller to block the involved number and report the music complaint to the landlord.

Sunday, 2/16

2:53 a.m. DPW reports a vehicle off the road near the Jarvis Pool building on Unity Street; states it nearly hit the building and is in a snow bank. Tow company on scene; vehicle winched out; no damage to vehicle. Operator on his way home.

8:28 a.m. 911 call from alarm company reporting commercial fire alarm on Australia Way. Attempting keyholder; transferred to Shelburne Control. TFFD advises roof is starting to collapse on the building. Everyone has evacuated safely.

8:56 a.m. Caller from K Street reports the neighbor’s kids are harassing her and throwing snow at her. Caller called back in stating she and her neighbor talked the situation out; no need for PD response.

8:58 a.m. Caller reporting he is trying to plow and a vehicle needs to be moved; seems to be abandoned. Reports vehicle is damaged. Car related to call earlier in week involving water search. Officer advised caller PD is unable to tow as vehicle is on private property, but if they wish to have vehicle towed, PD will accept and hold the vehicle. Northfield Mountain called advising the vehicle will stay at the location until a meeting is held on Tuesday.

9:04 a.m. 911 open line. No signs of distress. Heard a toilet flush. Confirmed misdial.

11:59 a.m. Caller from Third Street reporting her neighbor keeps shoveling his snow into her driveway and into the road. Referred to an officer.

2:44 p.m. Request for assistance with traffic due to roof collapsing at Australis Aquaculture. Officer copied direct.

3:37 p.m. 911 caller reports he hit a small tree, then spun into a snowbank on Wendell Road; reports he contacted AAA, and they won’t help at this time. Vehicle pulled out of snowbank by another citizen who stopped and helped.

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



Guitar Lessons in Turners Falls

technique, theory, musicianship
for the evolving guitarist

Louis Arnold

Guitarist

978 400 1142

lou.arnold@gmail.com

Doug’s Auto Body

Doug Smith - Owner



MA Reg. #RS2190

Ph. (413) 863-2785
Fax: (413) 863-0120
FREE ESTIMATES
REPAIRS ON FOREIGN & DOMESTIC CARS AND TRUCKS

39 Center Road
Gill, MA 01354
FREE LOANER CARS

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

BOOK REVIEW from page B1

and during one of their attempts to recover it, it seems that Christophe was seized by a French officer and taken to Haiti.

The French had ruled Haiti since 1697, when they set about enslaving Africans to work their plantations of sugar, coffee, and indigo. Slaves were typically branded with the name of the plantation they worked on, and they were often traded, so many were scarred with several brands. Working conditions were brutal and punishments sadistic. Life spans were short. Most enslaved people in Haiti were recently captured Africans, because most didn't survive long enough to have children.

When Christophe arrived in 1778 slaves outnumbered the 30,000 French settlers ten to one, while freed and mixed-race people of color equaled the French in number. This created a class system based on skin color, with consequent jockeying for money and prestige.

It is not clear when Christophe became free, but he possibly won freedom by serving with the French forces in the American Revolutionary War at the 1779 Battle of Savannah. He was only 12. He was wounded in the leg, and later walked with a limp.

Back in Haiti, he seems to have worked as a mason, and possibly in a hotel in Cap-Français, but by 1791 he was back fighting in the French army in the revolution that led to the abolition of slavery in 1794. He remained in the military for the rest of his life, becoming a general in both the French and Haitian armies.

The revolutionary wars of the early 19th century culminated in Haitian independence in 1804, with General Jean-Jacques Dessalines as its head of state. Christophe had long collaborated with Dessalines, but nonetheless con-

spired in his assassination in 1806.

Christophe, by then a battle-hardened general, was also a wealthy businessman who owned several plantations and houses. His base had always been in the north of the country, where he had been the military commander. Now he seized control of it, first as its President, then in 1811 declaring himself King. He believed that kingdoms were more stable than republics, such as the one established in the south by General Alexandre Pétion.

The two regions pursued different policies, and were almost constantly at war with each other. In the south, former plantations were divided into small parcels for subsistence farming, as former slaves had hoped for. However, in the north, Christophe focused on developing large-scale agriculture – especially of sugar and coffee – on plantations manned by a system called *corvée* that differed little from slavery. This produced crops sold to Europe, especially Britain, so Christophe's treasury became rich in British pounds, while the south remained poor.

Christophe was once described as an *anglo-mane* – an “Anglomaniac.” Of course he had every reason to shore himself up against the French, especially when the end of Britain's Napoleonic Wars was followed by the reign of Louis XVIII, who made serious efforts to regain Haiti, which had been France's richest colony. In face of this, Christophe made a deal with the British navy to warn him of French ships off Haiti's coast. He also attacked slave ships at sea and freed the captives.

When Britain abolished the slave trade in 1807, he corresponded with English abolitionists such as William Wilberforce and Thomas Clarkson. He had an English tutor for his son, and a Scottish doctor as his personal

physician. He even dreamed up a scheme to replace the Roman Catholic church in Haiti with the Anglican church. This, he realized, would take time, because Haitians would have to learn English.

Understanding that schools were essential to the country, he built them. He also built hospitals and roads. Indeed, he was a serious builder. He built six palaces including the enormous Sans-Souci, several châteaux, and numerous forts including Cap Laferrière. This fort and the ruins of Sans-Souci are now UNESCO World Heritage sites.

After suffering a stroke and learning that the troops he'd sent to quell the south had defected to it, Christophe shot himself.

In the aftermath of his death, opinion of him varied. Daut notes “a proliferation of anti-Christophe diatribes” in the US and Britain as well as in Haiti. Among them, his doctor wrote that “he had used his people harshly,” described him as “avaricious” and “licentious,” and accused him of having “prostituted the wives of most of his nobility.” Others, though, noted his efforts at land reform and school building. He had been tireless in seeking recognition of Haiti's nationhood from Britain and the United States.

In the southern part of the island, President Boyer – the former general who succeeded Pétion – floated the idea of paying an indemnity to France in return for recognition. He believed that formal recognition by France would lead to recognition from other countries. Shortly after Christophe's death, and now in control of the whole of Haiti, Boyer agreed to pay France 150 million francs.

This debt, contracted in 1825, was not paid off until 1947. Installments on this massive payment meant that Haiti had to borrow at

high interest rates continuously for generations, and had nothing left to fund education or build infrastructure.

Now, Haitians are asking for reparations. When French President Sarkozy visited Haiti after the 2010 earthquake and offered help, Haiti's deposed President Aristide pointed out that small doles of money would never mend Haitians' great problems: “We still have what we had 200 years ago in terms of misery. It is not fair.”

Daut's book is a massive achievement of research and scholarship. She leaves no stone unturned in pursuit of the facts, and diligently presents rival possibilities when in doubt. This makes her work extremely valuable. It is hard to imagine it being superseded any time soon.

It also makes the book long, and often dense. There is no avenue she will not follow, sometimes for too long. An example of her many diversions from the central path of Christophe's life are a very detailed 20-page account of the Battle of Savannah and frequent mini-biographies of French officers. At 507 pages plus extensive notes, her fascinating, lengthy read definitely cannot be tackled over a weekend.

Many of the book's illustrations are interesting and useful, not least the portraits of Christophe, his family, and the other generals he fought with. But the antique maps are too small to be useful, and the lack of a clear map of Haiti showing its towns is a serious and annoying lack for anyone trying to follow the course of the many military campaigns she describes.

These caveats notwithstanding, the book is often enjoyable, and undoubtedly illuminates the history of Haiti – and its current conditions.



MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

JWR AUK RNCRA WY WR;
JWKO-INUISWYD WK KWXMBL
IUBWKRAOYWIK JWRA JENGK.
- GENERAL MUNSON

CRACK THE CODE? SEND YOUR ANSWER TO: info@montaguereporter.org



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

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

HARVEY'S

NOW OPEN

166 AVE A

cocktails • small plates • good times

OPEN DAILY 4-9PM
Closed Sun - Mon

BOOK MILL

440 Greenfield Rd.
Montague, MA 01351

413-367-9206 www.montaguebookmill.com

Books you don't need in a place you can't find.

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

GREENFIELD
Cooperative Bank

NORTHAMPTON
Cooperative Bank

BestLocalBank.com | 877-682-0334

The Children's Page

a perfect Day

WORDS BY BEVERLY KETCH & PICTURES BY HANNAH BROOKMAN



EVERY YEAR THE LOVELIGHT SISTERS CREATE A TOWN EVENT IN PESKEOMPSKUT PARK! CHILDREN COME FROM FAR AND WIDE WITH THEIR FAMILIES, DRESSED IN THEIR GLADRAGS, READY TO DANCE AND SING.

THIS YEAR, THEY CHOSE THE THEME "THE STORYLAND BALL" AND THEY WERE WORKING TOGETHER WITH ALL OF THEIR FRIENDS TO TRANSFORM THE PARK. THEY WERE BUILDING A GIANT SHOE WITH A LITTLE DOOR AND WINDOW, TURNING THE BANDSHELL INTO A BALLROOM WITH FESTOONS AND THRONES FOR THE STORY-BOOK ROYALTY, AND GATHERING LOLLIPOPS AND TOYS TO HANG FROM ALL OF THE TREES.



THE FAIRIES WERE ALWAYS NEAR AS THE SISTERS AND THEIR FRIENDS CREATED EVERY PROP AND DECORATION, FLUTTERING WITH EXCITEMENT. MARA THE MERMAID AND ELDA LOVELIGHT WERE TAKING SPECIAL CARE IN CREATING A DOLL AND TEDDY BEAR PICNIC. VIOLA AND DOT WERE BUSY SEWING PEARLS AND SEQUINS ON THEIR BALL GOWNS. CHELLA WAS TO BE MOTHER GOOSE HERSELF, AND SHE WAS FILLING GOLDEN EGGS WITH CANDY FOR ALL OF THE CHILDREN IN TOWN. NOVELLA WAS HELPING EVERYONE AT EVERY TASK.



SHE WAS RUNNING TO GET MORE THREAD FOR VIOLA, FINDING THE MISSING DOLLY TEACUPS FOR ELDA, EVEN FINDING SHINGLES FOR THE ROOF OF THE GIANT SHOE, AND A HINGE FOR THE DOOR FOR MR. HARBINGER. EVERYWHERE SHE WENT, SHE SOLVED EACH PROBLEM, MUCH TO EVERYONE'S DELIGHT.

THAT NIGHT SHE FELL ASLEEP RIGHT AWAY AND DREAMED THAT SHE AND HER SISTERS WERE THE PLEIADES, DAUGHTERS OF ATLAS, TURNED TO STARS AND DANCING IN THE SKY. MEANWHILE, VIOLA WAS DREAMING OF ZANE, FOR SHE HAD BEEN TOO BUSY ALL DAY TO CHANGE THE RECORD, AND LISTENED TO THE A-SIDE OF HIS NEW ALBUM 100 TIMES WITHOUT EVEN NOTICING. TOMORROW WAS THE BIG DAY, AND EVERYONE WAS HAVING HAPPY DREAMS.



WHAT A FLURRY OF WORK HAPPENED THAT FINE MORNING AS EVERYTHING WAS PUT IN PLACE. THE SISTERS HAD NEVER WORKED SO HARD OR SO HAPPILY. BY THE TIME OF THE EVENT, THE PARK LOOKED EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THEY HAD DREAMED.




THEY STOOD TOGETHER LOOKING OVER THE COLORFUL SCENE WITH SPARKLING EYES. THEN SUDDENLY VIOLA LOOKED AT THE CLOCK TOWER AND EVERYONE REALIZED THEY MUST RUN AND GET THEMSELVES READY. ALL OVER TOWN, PEOPLE, FAIRIES AND MERMAIDS WERE DRESSING UP IN FLOUNCY GOWNS AND SPARKLING NECKLACES, BUT NOVELLA, WHO HAD HELPED EVERYONE THE MOST, HAD FORGOTTEN TO PROCURE A GOWN!

AS SHE WALKED TOWARD HER TRAILER, HER STEPS SLOWED AND HER HEART SANK. WOULD SHE EVEN GO? SHE BEGAN TO CRY AND SAT DOWN. IT TOOK HER A MOMENT TO REALIZE SHE WAS SURROUNDED BY A CLOUD OF FAIRIES. THEY FLUTTERED RIGHT UP TO HER FACE TO DRY HER TEARS. WHEN SHE TOLD THEM WHAT WAS THE MATTER THEY KNEW JUST WHAT TO DO.



OFF THEY FLEW TO GET DUSTINA. SOON THEY FLEW BACK WITH HER, AND SHY AS SHE WAS, SHE WAS MADE BOLD BY THE IMPORTANCE OF HER MAGICAL TASK. SHE WHIRLED IN THE AIR AROUND NOVELLA AND AS THE CLOUD OF HER DUST SETTLED, THEY ALL SAW NOVELLA AS NEVER BEFORE. EVERYONE EITHER GASPED OR HOVERED IN REVERENCE AT THE SIGHT OF HER GOWN. IT LOOKED AS THOUGH IT HAD BEEN SEWED FROM A FRESH FLOWER PETAL AND INDEED THE SCENT OF LILACS HOVERED IN THE AIR. BOTH NOVELLA AND THE DUST FAIRY BLUSHED AND SMILED WITH A KIND OF PRIDE THEIR MODEST HEARTS RARELY ALLOWED THEM.

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

UNNAMEABLE 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

WHITE ON BLACK
MONTAGUE
REPORTER
T-SHIRTS!

SUPPORT OUR
NON-PROFIT PAPER!

\$20 TO \$40
SLIDING SCALE

LOOKY HERE
28 Chapman, Greenfield

Feb 18th
SHORT
FILM
SPRINT!
6:30-8:30
\$15

Feb 20th
STILL
LIFE
SOCIAL
CLUB
6-8pm
\$10

EVERY
FRIDAY
MAKE
OUR
MERCH!
3-5pm
Free

Feb 22
COLLAGE
CLUB!
1-3pm
\$10

Feb 26
OPEN
MIC
FOR
WRITERS!
7-9pm
\$10

Feb 27
Figure
drawing
6-8pm
\$15

March 1st
VISION
MAPPING
1-3pm
\$15

March 2
Writing
Workshop
with
Stella Corso
4-6pm
\$40

Tuesdays
in March
Expressive
Arts
shindig
6:30-9pm
\$15

March 5
Risograph
mini Zine
Workshop
5-8pm
\$60

March 6
Still
Life
Social
6-8pm
\$10

March 8
Simple
Darning
Workshop
1-3pm
\$15

March 9th
Quilting 101
Part 2
(3 week series)
3:30-6pm
\$155

March 12
Make a
Marionette!
(7 week series)
6-8pm
\$225

March 15
Needle
Felt
Penguin
12-3pm
\$35

Find tickets and details at
LOOKY HERE GREENFIELD.COM

EVENTS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Montague Cultural Council 2025 Kick-Off*. With *Cloudbelly*, Antenna Cloud Farm, Good Music Makes Good Neighbors, Weathervane Community Arts, RiverCulture, the Nolumbeka Project, Música Franklin, Real Live Theater, live sculpture and painting, and more. Refreshments and cash bar. 6 p.m. Free.

11 Montague Avenue, Lake Pleasant: Tea and Crumpet Society, reading group. 6:30 p.m. By donation.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Open Stage performance*. Similar to an open mic, artists share theater, dance, music, spoken word, magic, puppetry, circus, comedy, and more, in any stage of development. Five-minute limit per act. 6:30 p.m. sign-up, 7 p.m. show. By donation.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Jenny Owen Youngs, Adeline Hotel*. 7 p.m. \$.

Minimum Security Mist Chalet, Holyoke: *Noise Nomads, Rear Window, Impure Luck, Phemale*. 7 p.m. \$.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Vampire Bird, Eamon Fogarty, Mimi Fang*. 7 p.m. \$.

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

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: *Free Body Estimate, beetsblog, Shane Justice McCord*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Open Mic Night*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *DJ Vibe Wise*. 7 p.m. No cover.

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

Jones Library, Amherst: *Farewell Sarathael, Film & Gender, Criticize, Letters of Marque*. 7 p.m. \$.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Mike Birbiglia*. 7 p.m. \$.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Max Creek*. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Little Lies, Fleetwood Mac* tribute. 8 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *Rebirth Brass Band*. 8 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Canalside Rail Trail, Turners Falls: *Nice & Easy Walk*. Geared for seniors, but open to all. Meet at the Great Falls Discovery Center. 1 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Village Neighbors Meetup*. Transportation available at (413) 345-6894. 4 p.m. Free.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Don't Go Outside, String Head, Marine Life, Tiger Moth*. 5:30 p.m. \$.

Leverett Village Co-op, Leverett: *Stephen Merriman*. 6 p.m. Free.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: Local authors showcase with *Paul Richmond, La Wanza Lett-Brewington, Joshua Michael Stewart, Joanne Hayes & Budge Hyde, Maria Williams, and Lindy Whiton*. 6 p.m. Free.

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: *Free Body Estimate, beetsblog, Shane Justice McCord*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Open Mic Night*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *DJ Vibe Wise*. 7 p.m. No cover.

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

Jones Library, Amherst: *Farewell Sarathael, Film & Gender, Criticize, Letters of Marque*. 7 p.m. \$.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Mike Birbiglia*. 7 p.m. \$.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Max Creek*. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Little Lies, Fleetwood Mac* tribute. 8 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *Rebirth Brass Band*. 8 p.m. \$.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *The Classics, Club Casualties, Deja Carr (stand-up)*. 8:30 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Olivia Nied*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Greenfield Savings Bank, Charley Neisner, Bill Roberts, Jamie Rourke, and Mona Seno, all working artists outside of the classroom, through March 6. Email jrourke@nmhschool.org to arrange a visit.

Greenfield Library, Greenfield: *Clouds in Shades of Grey*, black and white photographs of clouds by Paul Jablon, through February.

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

South Gallery, Greenfield Community College, Greenfield: *Zamharir (torture for the naked eyes)*, mixed-media works by Iranian artist Nima Nikakhlagh. Through February 25.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *New England Dreamscapes*, new paintings on slate by Sarah Adam. Opening reception Saturday, March 8 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Through April.

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



Local children's author and Greenfield Community College alum Astrid Sheckels will read her book *Hector Fox and the Map of Mystery*, shown above, this Saturday afternoon at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls.

Turners Falls: *Feeding Native Bees and Butterflies*. "Hear how you can make the difference in the survival of 390 species of native bees, and all the butterflies!" Presented by Tom Sullivan. Light refreshments. 1 p.m. Free.

Retreat Farm, Brattleboro: *Artful Ice Shanties* outdoor award ceremony. Prizes for notably artistic, inventive, fun, and thought-provoking shanties. 2 p.m. Free.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Local children's author reading. Astrid Sheckels, *Hector Fox and the Map of Mystery*. 3 p.m. Free.

Smith College Graham Hall, Northampton: Guest lecture, painters *Hilary Harkness and Alannah Farrell*, whose work touches on identity and the experiences of people of color, women, and the LGBTQ+ community. 5 p.m. Free.

Gill Fire Station, Gill: *Stop the Bleed*, basic skills to stop traumatic bleeding. Ages 16 and up. Email jrichardson@gillmass.org to register. 6 p.m. Free.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Winterpills*. 6 p.m. \$.

Montague Retreat Center, Montague Center: *MELT at the MRC* featuring *Boubacar Diabate, SambaLolo, DJ TreeJ*, yoga and ceremony, etc. 6:15 p.m. \$.

Element Brewing, Millers Falls: *Trae Sheehan*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Drawing Board Brewery, Northampton: *Nanny, Saliba, Virgo's Moon*. 7 p.m. \$.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Mike Birbiglia*. 7 p.m. \$.

Luthier's Co-op, Easthampton: *Wildcat O'Halloran, Robert Bushinsky, Dylan Patrick Ward*. 7 p.m. By donation.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Folksoul Band, Celebration Brass Band*. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Tommy Castro and the Painkillers*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sam Mulligan, Dave Richardson*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *French-Breton open jam session*. 2:30 p.m. Free.

EXHIBITS

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Atomic Dog: What I did to beat the blues*, paintings by Ryan McGinn, through April.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *A First-Class Machine Shop*, local history exhibit with images, text, maps, and artifacts, through February 22; *Where We Are, Together*, paintings by Cameron Schmitz, March 1 through May 26. *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: *Small Works Show and Sale*, through February 24. Guest artist Jacqueline Strauss shows her soft sculpture creatures at the gallery during February and March.

Rhodes Art Center, Northfield Mount Hermon: *Faculty Art Exhibit*, works by NMH teachers Steve Allison, YeJin Han,

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Depth be Depth*, work by Daniel Feldman, through March 1.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Wouldn't It Be Lovely*, group show by member artists, through February.

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 ARTISTS

Tiny Art Show Kits are available for pickup at the **Wendell Free Library** now until March 1. Pick up a 4" by 4" canvas – and paints, if needed – at the library for an exhibit in the library's Herrick Room, opening Saturday, March 8 with a reception from 11 a.m. to noon. The show will remain up through April.

Waterway Arts at 102 Avenue A in Turners Falls is looking for artists working in media traditionally seen as "craft" to participate in a group show in May. Apply and get more information at tinyurl.com/waterwayapp.

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

MYSTERY
TRAIN
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"

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

Rhodes Arts Center, Northfield Mount Hermon, Gill: *NMH Orchestra, Concert Band, and Jazz Ensemble*. Benefit for local service organization LifePath. Light refreshments. 3 p.m. By donation.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Lonesome Brothers*. 7 p.m. \$.

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Student Union Black Box Theater, UMass Amherst: Film screening, *You Are Not a Loan* (2021), documentary on student loan debt. Also streaming online at websites.umass.edu/feinberg/student-debt/. Followed by a panel discussion on March 6 with filmmaker Astra Taylor. 6 p.m. Free.

Cold Spring Hollow, Belchertown: *Fred Cracklin, Rhubarb Duo, Pearl Sugar, Throwaway*. 7 p.m. \$.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

GCC Main Campus, Greenfield: Workshop, *Defeating Humanity's Greatest Fear: Public Speaking*. 4 p.m. \$.

Leverett Public Library, Leverett: *Game Night*. 6:30 p.m. Free.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Eli "Paperboy" Reed*. 7 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *Joe Magnarelli*. 7 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Jesse Carr Trio*. 8 p.m. No cover.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Jazz Jam*, open session, with *Two For Jazz*. 6 p.m. By donation.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Gaslight Tinkers*. 7 p.m. \$.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Mary Elizabeth Remington, Darling Hill, Jasmine Bete-Mitchell*. 7 p.m. \$.

YMCA, Greenfield: *Pioneer Valley Roller Derby* recruitment night. No experience or gear required. All genders and bodies welcome. Register at pioneervalleyyrollerderby.com. 7:15 p.m. Free.

Northampton Center for

the Arts, Northampton: *Matthew Shipp*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

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

The Drake, Amherst: *Melt, Léa the Lox*. 8 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Montague Center Library, Montague Center: *Montague Villages Meet & Greet*. 10 a.m. Free.

Canalside Rail Trail, Turners Falls: *Nice & Easy Walk*.

Geared for seniors, but open to all. Meet at the Great Falls Discovery Center. 1 p.m. Free.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Kids' Art Show Reception*. 5 p.m. Free.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Film: *SAMSARA*. 5 p.m. \$.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: Book reading, Sylvia Wetherby, *Ophelia*. Snacks, music, craft. 5:30 p.m. Free.

Leverett Village Co-op, Leverett: *Rattlesnake Gutter Gutter*. 6 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *2 Car Garage*. 6 p.m. No cover.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Jimmy Just Quit*. 7 p.m. No cover.

De La Luz Soundstage, Holyoke: *Lisa Fischer*. 7 p.m. \$.

Northampton Center for the Arts, Northampton: *Greg Burk*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: Comedy, *Jane Condon & Maureen Langan*. 8 p.m. \$.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Dave Guy*. 8 p.m. \$.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Brattleboro Food Co-op, Brattleboro: *Bread Fest*, celebrating local bread with an amateur baking competition, demos and tabling, and a talk and book signing by Jonathan Stevens, author of *The Hungry Ghost Bread Book*. 12 p.m. Free.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *A Bridge Too Far*. What about building new bridges in Gilded Age Turners Falls drove neighbors, and whole towns, against each other? Join DCR staff as they piece together questions affecting



Matthew Shipp, titan of the jazz avant-garde, lands at the Northampton Center for the Arts on Thursday, February 27, the first of a three-night series of pianists at the venue. Sliding-scale tickets for all three are still available at www.nohoarts.org.

Montague's five villages in the 1800s. 2 p.m. Free.

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

Music Connection, Turners Falls: *The New Incarnation*. 7 p.m. By donation.

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

Leverett Elementary School, Leverett: *Community Contra Dance* with musicians *Van Kaynor, Annika Amstutz, and Becky Hollingsworth*, caller *Steve Howland*. 7 p.m. By donation.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Amythyst Kiah*. 7 p.m. \$.

Northampton Center for the Arts, Northampton: *Sylvie Courvoisier*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Scott Bravo*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *To Breathe Freely: Tenements of Turners Falls*. As the brick blocks went up, the Turners Falls tenements tested every aspect of the town. Join DCR staff as they use photographs, maps and news clippings to step back in time and learn about life in the tenements. 2 p.m. Free.

Polish American Club, South Deerfield: *Pioneer Valley Balfolk Dance, Mardi Gras Bal Masqué*. French-Breton music dance party with fun and easy dances. No partner necessary, instruction provided. Masks optional. *Hors d'oeuvres*

potluck. Jam session 2:45 p.m., dance 4 p.m. By donation.

Brewery at Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Rosie Porter*. 3 p.m. No cover.

Floodwater Brewing, Shelburne Falls: *Wishbone Zoe*. 4 p.m. No cover.

MONDAY, MARCH 3

Garden Cinemas, Greenfield: Screening, *The Sheik* (1921), with live accompaniment by *Jeff Rapsis*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Mic* with *Jim McRae*. 8:30 p.m. No cover.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

Amherst Cinema, Amherst: Screening, *Four Winters: A Story of Jewish Partisan Resistance and Bravery in WWII*, with director *Julia Mintz* to answer questions. 7 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

Greenfield Public Library, Greenfield: *Death Panel*, with speakers from the death industry. Part of a series on death and dying. 5:30 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*. 8 p.m. No cover.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

Greenfield Garden Cinemas, Greenfield: *Film Sprint Festival*. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Nova Arts, Keene: *The Rear Defrosters*. 7 p.m. \$.

YMCA, Greenfield: *Pioneer Valley Roller Derby* recruitment night. No experience or gear required. All genders and bodies welcome. Register at pioneervalleyyrollerderby.com. 7:15 p.m. Free.

looking forward...

FRIDAY, MARCH 7

Bishop's Lounge, Northampton: *Ruth Garbus Trio, Stella Kola, Cowperson, The Classics, Ruby Lou*. See www.backporchfest.com for full schedule. 6 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

Greenfield Public Library, Greenfield: *Winter Farmers Market*. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *SoulKeys*. In the lobby. 8 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Abstract Turntablism Workshop* by *Maria Chavez*, 5 p.m., followed by a concert at 8 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Folly of Three, The Fake Nudes, Creative Writing*. 9 p.m. No cover.

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Taxidermists, Mal Devisa, B.L.I.X.* 10:30 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

Nova Arts, Keene: *Glenn Jones, Liam Grant, Helen Hummel Trio*. 7 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *One Master, Midden, Compress*. 7 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *Gaslight Tinkers*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, MAY 17

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Cheap City, Pearl Sugar, The Leafies They Gave Me*. 7 p.m. \$.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Gin Blossoms*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

TUESDAY, JULY 29

Tanglewood, Lenox: *Emmylou Harris, Graham Nash*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

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

Peter Waters Painting Services

Interior/Exterior
Custom Residential
Fully Insured

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

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?!?!?

Call 413.422.1192 or visit www.REILCLEAN.com

Professional Painting & Decorating Contractor Since 1900

1900-2025 * Our 125th Year

ICOUTURE 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

HEARTFELT from page B1
fried vegetable fritters; *pani puri*, little crunchy balls with a hole on top to be filled with spiced potatoes, crunchy noodles, and a sweet brown sauce; and thin crepes filled with vegetable lentil stew called *dosa*.

There were Somalian potato chickpea balls, Japanese seaweed salad, and a rice dish and potato stuffed flatbread from Afghanistan. Chinese scallion pancakes, Vietnamese *pho* (pronounced “pha”), a deep, rich brown broth with little white enoki mushrooms protruding out of the cup, Nepalese peanut salad, and Tibetan stuffed *momo* dumplings.

The earliest recorded agriculture in Asia and India dates back to 3000 B.C. Once the Silk Road trade route was established, these ingredients, spices, and cooking methods began to spread across Asia.

The vast regions of Asia developed many different styles of cooking. Northerners used dairy and meat, while in the south they cooked with seafood and vegetables.

Recipes from Persian-Arabian cultures, who stir-fry and steam, made their way across to Southwest Asia.

Asian cuisine uses bold, complex flavors: spices and herbs, and a lot of ginger, garlic, and chili peppers. Sauces like soy, fish, and hoisin feature prominently. Chinese food made its way to America in the mid-19th century, but it wasn’t until the 1970s that we saw the rise of Vietnamese, Japanese, and Thai cuisine.

Chinese cuisine is one of the world’s oldest, and comes from Central China. As it evolved over time, it was influenced by other cultures through traders, missionaries, and nomads. The Chinese believe that eating good food fosters unity among families, forging strong relationships.

Chinese cooking uses fresh food bought or picked daily, and uses braising, steaming, stir-frying, deep-frying, boiling, and roasting. It’s built around the five flavors of *Yiyin*: sweet, sour, bitter, pungent

(*umami*), and salty. Each region has its own style based on geography and what resources are available.

Japanese cuisine also dates back thousands of years. Rice farming was introduced by the Chinese in 300 BC at the same time as Japan adopted their chopsticks, soy sauce, and tofu. At one time in its history Buddhist vegetarianism influenced the Japanese diet, making meat consumption taboo, though some still hunted deer and wild boar. After 1868, with the onset of imperial rule, meat eating became more common again. Japanese dishes include ramen noodle soup, sushi, and tempura.

India’s cuisine dates back to the ancient Indus Valley civilization around 2500 B.C. Fruits, vegetables, legumes, wheat, barley, and millet comprised the Indian diet, along with spices like turmeric and ginger. The diversity of flavors continued to evolve with British and Portuguese influences. Indian food is deeply intertwined with Ayurvedic principles, an ancient system of medicine. Food is seen as a means to balance and maintain harmony within the body.

In Thailand, the emphasis is on aromatics and spicy heat that fall into four categories – *tom* (boiled foods), *yam* (spicy salads), *tam* (pounded foods), and *kaeng* (curries) – and food is typically deep-fried, stir-fried, or steamed. Thai cuisine is also influenced by, and has influenced, the cuisines of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, India, Malaysia, and Indonesia.

In Korea the traditional dish of salted vegetables, *kimchi*, is made with garlic, ginger, and chili pepper. Added in are *gochugaru*, a Korean chili powder, spring onions, garlic, ginger, and *jeotgal*, a salted seafood. I once made kimchi from dozens of green cherry tomatoes I picked before an early frost, as the recipe can be modified in hundreds of ways.

While kimchi used to ferment in large jars kept outside, today there

INDIAN CHUTNEY

juice, pulp, and peel of one lemon
2 cups apple cider vinegar
2 cups (1 lb.) packed brown sugar
1 garlic clove, minced
1½ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. cayenne pepper
pinch of chili powder
3 lb. apples, pears, or peaches
¾ cup crystallized ginger,
cut but not minced
1½ cup golden raisins

Boil over medium heat for 30 minutes, stirring occasionally.
Core, coarsely peel, and chop the apples, pears, or peaches. Three pounds should yield about 5½ cups. Cut, but do not mince, the crystallized ginger. Add in the fruit, raisins, and ginger to the pot.
Boil for 35 to 45 minutes, until the fruit is tender but not mushy and the syrup is thick.
The chutney can be canned using the hot-water bath method, or just put in a jar – it will keep in your fridge for several weeks.

Recipe from Putting Food By
by J. Greene, R. Hertzberg,
and B. Vaughan, 2010 edition.



Adding a cinnamon stick and star anise to this chutney will infuse it with warmth and spice as it ages in the jar. Asian cuisines often highlight spices and herbs, and chutney is no exception – it can be prepared in many different ways. While it may have some heat, it also provides a cooling, refreshing contrast to the meal.

MANDESON PHOTOS



Egg rolls are just one of the many Chinese foods that are familiar worldwide. Crispy fried wrappers stuffed with either raw or stir-fried vegetables, they are often eaten with dipping sauces like hot mustard, duck sauce, or plum sauce.

are kimchi refrigerators where the odious but delicious dish is stored to keep other food from becoming kimchi-flavored.

If you feel inspired to try your hand at Asian cooking, I leave you with a recipe for an Indian (Kolkata) chutney, a condiment made from slowed cooked fruits, vegetables, spices, vinegar, and sugar which will complement and cool

spicy dishes. Chutney can be sweet, savory, or spicy, and ranges in texture from smooth to chunky.

Trouble Mandeson lives in Greenfield with her wife and their cat Peeps. She works as a personal care attendant, writes grants, feeds people, and is a hospice volunteer working to make death a positive experience.



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

NEED HELP?
WANT TO HELP?

Montague Villages

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

(413) 672-3095

www.montaguevillages.org

DIEMAND FARM

WENDELL, MA
THEDIEMANDFARM.COM

978-544-3806

TURKEY • CHICKEN • EGGS •
BEEF • POT PIES • DESSERTS & MORE

FIND ALL YOUR FAVORITES
AT OUR FARM STORE!

MUSIC
&
MOVIES

BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

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

Harriet Paine

REALTOR®

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

harriet@cohnandcompany.com
cohnandcompany.com

117 Main Street
Greenfield, MA 01301

GREENFIELD SOLAR

Local Solar PV Installers
for over 16 years
in western Massachusetts

“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!

A Game in Green
vintage

nice things for nice people like you

Worth the drive to Northampton (The Vintage Cellar)
and to Chester, VT (Stone House Antique Center)

& now online at agameingreenvintage.com

Dennis L. Booska
Dennis L. Booska, Jr.

Phone & Fax
413-863-3690

Booska’s Flooring

169 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Member
The Flooring Network.

Tile
Lino
Carpet

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