

The Montague Reporter

Year 23 – No. 17

MARCH 27, 2025

\$2

editor@montaguereporter.org

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

montaguereporter.org

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

New Town Coordinator Starts; Next Shared Fire Chief Named

By JOSH HEINEMANN

At their meeting last Wednesday, March 19 the Wendell selectboard confirmed their choice of Wendell resident Kelly Tyler as the new town coordinator. And this Tuesday, the Wendell and New Salem selectboards appointed Wendell fire department captain Matthew O'Donnell to succeed shared fire chief Joe Cuneo, who is retiring in June.

Tyler signed a contract at the March 19 meeting for 32 hours a

week, up from the 28 hours that the prior town coordinator, Glenn Johnson-Mussad, worked. Being a Wendell resident, she said she expects more of her time will be spent in the office, but she has not yet set regular hours.

Tyler had already started work – learning her responsibilities with interim coordinator Chris Wings – on March 17, and Wings was committed to guiding her for at least her first week. In the selectboard office see **WENDELL** page A5

EARTH OPENS UP



On Wednesday a sinkhole opened up in Turners Falls in the parking lot at 42 Canal Street, just next to the White Bridge to Greenfield. This newspaper received many reports of the hole. As of 4:30 p.m. it was surrounded by sawhorses belonging to the public works department and continuing to actively crumble. "It's on private property," public works superintendent Sam Urkiel told us when reached for comment. "The property owner should be contacted." Curt Sherrer, who has been renovating the property into a cidery and restaurant since 2018 and owns it under a trust, did not respond to a request for comment as of press time.

GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill Residents Express Concern For Their Immigrant Neighbors

By KATE SAVAGE

A group of seven concerned residents attended Gill's selectboard meeting Monday to discuss how the town could offer protection to immigrant individuals and families facing the threat of deportation under the Trump administration.

"What's the current status of this under the Trump administration, now that there is additional pressure on individuals and communities?" asked James Asbel, who spoke for the group.

Police chief Christopher Redmond brought information about

Gill's current policy. During Trump's first term, the selectboard voted to become a "safe community," instructing the police to ignore requests from the federal government to hold non-criminal detainees for violations of immigration law alone.

This policy is shared by several neighboring towns and is in line with state law, which "outlines that local law enforcement in Massachusetts will not honor civil detainers," explained Redmond. "But if there is a criminal warrant issued by a federal court, then we are obligated."

"Do you anticipate that the local see **GILL** page A8

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Belts Tightening Amid Worry Regional Assessment Will Spike

By GEORGE BRACE

On Tuesday, Leverett's selectboard and finance committee edged closer towards adopting a town budget to present to voters for approval at town meeting on May 3. After months of meetings and hearings, the budget is largely set, but several additional cuts were discussed, and the Amherst regional school budget assessment remains up in the air.

The draft FY'26 budget under consideration totals \$7.89 million,

a 5.3% increase over the current year. Accounting for other revenue sources such as local aid from the state, funding this budget would require a property tax rate of \$16.09 per \$1,000, a 5.93% increase.

Finance committee chair Phil Carter said that town administrator Marjorie McGinnis had calculated that this would result in \$272 in additional property taxes on a \$300,000 home.

School committee chair Jya see **LEVERETT** page A6

US Senator Rallies State To Oppose SNAP Cuts

By SARAH ROBERTSON

WASHINGTON, DC – "We have to not agonize, but organize, right now," US Senator Ed Markey said Wednesday night. "It's an important historical moment."

More than 500 people were tuned into a virtual meeting to discuss the potential impact of cuts to federal food assistance programs. The "office hours" event was hosted by two Massachusetts Democrats, Markey and US Representative Jim McGovern, as well as the state's four major food banks, the Mass Law Reform Institute, Project Bread, and the Massachusetts Food System Collaborative.

"The fight ahead of us will be hard," Markey said. "Republicans don't need Democrat votes to cut food security programs as part of budget reconciliation. But we have no choice but to take this fight on – to put the pressure on them to not cut these programs."

One in six Massachusetts residents uses federal funds from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to purchase food, see **CUTS** page A5

G-M SCHOOL COMMITTEE

'General Fear' As Department Of Education Is Dismantled

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – "There's an enormous, general fear," superintendent of schools Brian Beck told the *Montague Reporter* on Tuesday of the dismantlement of the US Department of Education. "We are very dependent on state and federal funding, and unless the state provides us with more... there are positions [reliant on] federal funding."

When the Gill-Montague regional school committee passed a final FY'26 budget for the district earlier this month, the \$28,822,112 "all funds" budget included \$1,734,998 in federal grants. Of that, \$900,000 was food service support from the US Department of Agriculture.

The rest included \$402,556 in special ed funding – under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Early Childhood Special Education program – \$320,805 in Title I funding for low-income districts, which covers teacher salaries at Hillcrest and Sheffield elementaries; \$75,000 under Titles II through IV; and \$36,637 for retirement costs.

The Trump administration fired half of the Department of Education's roughly 4,000 employees earlier this month, and last week the see **GMRSD** page A8

THE BIG PICTURE

'But Never Enough Attorneys To Help Everybody...'



Jennifer Dieringer is Community Legal Aid's managing attorney in Greenfield.

By MIKE JACKSON

GREENFIELD – For the last three decades, the main civil legal aid organization serving central and western Massachusetts has not staffed an office in Franklin County. Attorneys with Community Legal Aid (CLA) supporting tenants facing eviction, workers in dispute with their employers, and low-income people in general trying to navigate family law, seal criminal records, or access benefits did so on day trips from the nearest office in Northampton.

That changed this winter, when CLA opened a very swanky new office at 14 Hope Street in Greenfield, straight across the street from the district courthouse.

The building, long the headquarters of the *Greenfield Recorder*, was purchased in 2022 by real estate developer Mark Zaccheo of Olive Street Development, who rented the front section to the newspaper, set up an office for himself, and extensively renovated a 3,263-square-foot rear space for new commercial rental.

The *Reporter* caught up with CLA managing attorney Jennifer Dieringer last week to discuss the move, as well as CLA's areas of practice. The office felt sunny, open, and modern, its sleekly painted ductwork, confident wallpaper patterns, high wooden ceilings, and large thriving plants a sharp contrast to the ways bureaucracy and civil litigation can suffuse and petrify the experience of poverty in America.

This transcript of our interview has been abridged, reordered, and edited for clarity.

MR: I always say this when I start taping, but if anything's off the record, let me know.

JD: Okay! I don't know what kind of hard-hitting questions you're going to ask, but I have no comment on the current federal situation.

MR: I think there could be some things that touch on its impacts...

JD: I mean, the short answer is it's too soon to tell – we haven't had any impacts yet. We're bracing.

MR: This office is really striking. When did it open?

JD: We opened to our staff in November, and the ribbon-cutting was in January.

MR: You've had another secret office in Greenfield for a while, where you were meeting with clients on an as-needed basis – how long was that going on?

JD: Over 30 years ago, we closed down our fully-staffed office in Greenfield because of funding reasons, but we kept the space to meet with clients as we needed to.

I think we served Franklin County well, relative to the poverty population. But about two years ago we were in a strong financial position, and it was always on the wish list to reopen the Franklin County office – you know, "build it and they will come."

see **BIG PICTURE** page A4



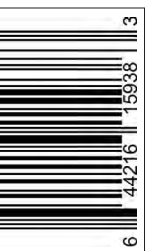
JACKSON PHOTOS

CLA's new digs, with the Franklin County district courthouse beyond them.

Oh And We Again Forgot to Mention the Region is in Critical Drought Status

Editorial.....	A2
Illustration: Quilt Venue.....	A2
Local Briefs.....	A2
Ice Off the Lake Winner Announced.....	A3
Op/Ed: Seekers of Souls.....	A3
The Week in High School Sports.....	A6
Montague Selectboard Notes.....	A7
10, 20, and 150 Years Ago.....	A7
Who Said You Can't Tuna Fish.....	B1

West Along the River: USAID Memory.....	B1
Naturalists (Not Naturists) Lead Tour.....	B1
April Library Listings.....	B2
Montague Police Log Highlights.....	B3
The Montague Cryptojam.....	B3
Four Comics.....	B4
Our Monthly Spanish Page.....	B5
Exhibits.....	B6
Another Double Page Event Calendar.....	B6-B7



The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

Editorial Staff

Mike Jackson, *Managing Editor*
Victoria Maillo, *Spanish Page*
Beverly Ketch, *Children's Page*
Spencer Shorkey, *Science Page*
Janel Nockleby, *Poetry Page*
Sue Blauner, *Events Calendar*
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

A Note To One Subscriber

Dear Bob,

We received your renewal check Wednesday and will be happy to keep the paper coming. We don't take your subscription for granted, or anyone's, and when you called earlier this week to let us know you were on the fence about renewing, we took your feedback seriously.

"And don't tell me to write a letter," you said, cutting us off at the pass. We've been here before.

But it's tough, maybe tougher than you think, to run a newspaper that wants to reflect the community when some voices are pervasively louder, or more determined to achieve print publication, over years and over decades. Anyone reading local Facebook comment sections can confirm that conservative political views are still completely common in these towns, and not exactly kept quiet. But they don't show up much on this page.

Most people now get most of their news online – a Pew poll last fall found that 58% preferred from digital devices, as compared with 32% from TV, 6% from radio, and 4% from print. Within digital, "social media" (25%) passed "search" (23%) for the first time as the best way to find news, though "news websites or apps" still led (29%). "Podcasts" held steady at 9%.

A lot of these people are feeding themselves only what they want to hear. You should be thanked for not doing that, because it seems to be part of the trouble we're in.

To directly address your concern that this print outlet has an editorial bias against the president:

Trump was elected with 49.8% of the vote, and his administration is making vast, dramatic changes to the American government – chang-

es intended to be permanent. He has acted on a new and convenient theory about the executive branch's power to override the legislature – freezing and canceling trillions of dollars authorized by Congress to be spent – and is now testing, like a bull on an electric fence, the idea of ignoring court decisions. This is the dismantling of the traditional American system. His favorite approach to deal-making – with other nations of the world, with universities, with law firms that take on clients he dislikes – is to threaten harm, extract concessions, and maybe back down. He has invited the richest men in the world onto his team, and they are self-dealing in plain view, slashing research and social programs with the admitted goal of earning themselves tax cuts.

And a lot of people love it. Half the country is stunned and terrified, but the number who believe the country is on the "right track" is the highest it's been in decades – 44% or 45% as of this week. America has been polarized for years thanks to the two-party system, but the difference between pro- and anti-Trump information diets has at this point led to two different realities.

So, we'll have to see where it goes. Our paper specializes in scrutinizing the workings of five towns and a school district, and we do that without bias. We believe some of these federal changes threaten catastrophe. Maybe we're wrong.

And here's the other thing: If the next four years do go as badly as we fear, people locally who disagree on politics are going to have to help each other out to get by. In light of that, we *also* think it's important to keep talking. So thanks for giving us a piece of your mind.

TWO CORRECTIONS

In our March 20 edition we reported that Brian McHugh, community development director at the Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority, who oversees the federal Community Development Block Grant program for the town of Montague, had told us "that the [Trump] administration's 'Buy American, Hire American' policies may increase the cost of construction."

McHugh let us know that our reporter had misheard him, and that this was not a comment on the current administration's policies.

"It is the Build America, Buy

America Act," he wrote, "which is not a policy but an Act within the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act signed into law by the Biden administration."

We apologize to Mr. McHugh, and to our readers, for the error.

In the same edition, a graphic on Page A4 indicated that the week of March 24 would be dedicated in Montague to the recycling of "bottles and cans." This was erroneous – it was a paper week. We must have changed it twice by accident. We sure hope it did not lead to any failed recycling attempts. This week's graphic should get us back on track.



Donna Giard with her long-arm quilting machine at the Where We Create quilt center in Bernardston. Her 3,000-square-foot location is a fabric store, classroom, quilting studio, and retreat, with room for 12 to 15 quilters to work on projects at the same time and three bedrooms available for those who travel from a distance. Learn about all the services there at wherewecreate.net.



LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by NINA ROSSI

In celebration of Women's History Month, Kate Spencer of Montague Center will give a **presentation on women in medicine** next Monday, March 31, from 12 to 1 p.m. at Greenfield Community College in Room 250 North.

Spencer will discuss well-known figures like Florence Nightingale and Marie Curie, as well as overlooked pioneers such as New York City abortionist Madame Restell and Native American nurse Susie Walking Bear Yellowtail. She will explore the medical and social history of vaccinations as well as the struggles for women's rights, and look into the future of the revolutionary gene-editing technology CRISPR.

Visit gccfor.me/whm-medicine for more information and to reserve a spot. The talk is free, and includes lunch.

The Millers Falls Community Improvement Association is hosting a **village clean-up day** Sunday, April 6. Help pick up trash and make the village look its best. Bring your own gloves, and meet in front of the library at 9 a.m. for coffee and muffins before receiving your trash bag and assignment.

Shoemaking factories thrived for a hundred years in New England, but no longer. As a longtime simple shoemaker, Sharon Raymond of Wendell would like to reverse this reality by **teaching people to make ecologically sound shoes** that don't contain petroleum products. She and her husband Robert still wear leather

shoes she made 20 years ago.

On Saturday, April 12 from 1 to 2 p.m., Sharon will teach how to make some toddler shoes at a workshop at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls. All materials will be supplied. Find out more at simpleshoes.com.

The Happier Valley Comedy troupe is offering a free **improv workshop for dementia caregivers** on Monday, April 14 at 10:30 a.m. at LifePath in Greenfield.

"If you're caring for someone living with dementia, then you already have experience with improv," the troupe writes. "Would you like to learn skills that will add positive communication skills and a more cooperative spirit to your care partnership?"

Register for the two-hour workshop, "Caregiving With a 'Yes, And...' Mindset," at tinyurl.com/care-mindful.

Applications are open for a **new Habitat for Humanity home** on Birch Street in Greenfield. The two-bedroom, all-electric home is restricted to a first-time homebuyer and offers one-story living with a maximum price of \$175,000.

Applicants must register and attend an information session. The first will be held Monday, April 14 at 6 p.m. at the Greenfield Public Library. Register at tinyurl.com/homeshabhum.

An **Easter EGGstravaganza** is held at Unity Park in Turners Falls every year. The tradition will take place Saturday, April 19 this year, rain or shine, at 1 p.m. Children

ages 4 to 12 are invited to take on the challenge of finding approximately 5,000 candy-filled eggs strewn throughout the park. Bring a bag, basket, or bucket, and wait for the horn to sound signaling the start of the hunt.

The **Montague Soap Box Races** are coming back to the Unity Park hill on Sunday, June 1. Registration is now open for three age brackets. The gravity-fed racers must be homemade with a minimum of three wheels. You can learn about building one at www.soapboxes.com and start a fun family, school, club, or scout troop project.

The event is a fundraiser for Montague Parks and Rec. Find out more at www.montaguesoapboxraces.com. You can also contact Parks and Rec with questions: (413) 863-3216.

The **Poet Laureate of Massachusetts** is a new statewide position that comes with a \$15,000 honorarium. The Poet Laureate is responsible for inspiring the next generation of poets and readers; advancing literacy, education, and shared understanding; and expanding access to poetry throughout the state. Applications are accepted until April 10 at www.massculturalcouncil.org.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library provides children from birth to age 5 with a **free book every month**. The Library reportedly sends out over a million books each month, all over the world!

Locally, the towns of Erving, Leverett, New Salem, Orange, Shutesbury, and Wendell are part of a partnership between the New Salem Academy and the Dollywood Foundation. Parents or caregivers from those towns may sign up at imaginationlibrary.com/usa to be part of this initiative to promote a love of reading in youngsters.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

Published weekly on Thursdays.

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

PHONE: (413) 863-8666

EMAIL:

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

Send address changes to:

The Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Advertising and copy deadline is **MONDAY at NOON.**

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

Annual Subscription Rate:

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

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

WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS!

ORIGINAL CONTENT ONLY, PLEASE LIMIT 4 PER YEAR

Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

editor@montaguereporter.org

Sign Me Up!

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email (optional): _____

WINNERS

Hicks Racks Up Fourth Win in Ice Lottery

By DAVID JAMES

LAKE PLEASANT – In the 2,025th year of Our Lord, in the 151st year of the formal founding of Montague’s youngest and smallest village as a Spiritualist campground and summer resort, and in the 48th year of this community’s Ice-Off-the-Lake Contest, this year’s annual event has produced the first energetic entity to have won as a material Earthling, as well as a Spirit World soul.

From the traditional Raisin Rose-picket midway across the Bridge of Names, which connects the original East Village of Lake Pleasant with its suburban West Village counterpart, at precisely the traditional time of 5 p.m. on March 21, Judge Jackie Stein and this writer-in-recusal as purchaser of what turned out to be the winning ticket, declared the late Varion Hicks, formerly of Charlemont, Boston, and 11 Montague Avenue, next door to the Lake Pleasant Post Office, to have won the 2025 contest... for nary a single cube of ice was to be spotted on the open-water surface following an antique-bird-watching-binocular sweep of the lake from left to right, then right to left, thrice, to establish with absolute certainty that this year’s event had, indeed, concluded.

Since 1977 the contest has been a rite of seasonal passage for villagers. Participants pay a dollar each to make a blind-luck draw from an ancient plastic pretzel jar – under strict supervision to be sure they don’t choose a more likely date from a fistful of tickets – of a folded slip of paper or two with a date between February 22, the earliest ice departed in 2012, and April 19, the latest date of ice vanishment in 1978.

In non-leap years there are 57 days between these opening and ending dates, so the pot is \$57 after

all tickets have been sold. In leap years the winnings are \$1 more.

Hicks was born in 1911 and Earthly-died in 2003. He was a three-time contest winner alive, in 1987, 1994 and 1998, and became a first-time winner this year as a living-dead denizen of the Spirit World.

Hicks was noted for chauffeuring the late Louise Shattuck – an artist and animal sculptor, English Cocker Spaniel breeder and trainer, and Spiritualist medium and automatic writer – on Franklin County byways and highways in a “Vintage 1776” Dodge LE station

wagon, a United Kingdom Union Jack flapping from its radio antenna, at a speed never greater than 15 miles an hour and forever and always trailed by a horn-honking parade of angry motorists.

If this year’s contest had ended two days before it did, this writer would have become a two-time winner. If the contest had concluded one day sooner, this writer’s estranged wife, Debra Goodman of Roanoke, Virginia, a.k.a. the Blue Ridge Mountain Fox, would have won.

If the contest had ended one day later... or two days later... or even three days later, Louise Emond of Turner Street in the West Village would have been a first-time winner.

However, the 2025 contest winner was not determined before March 21, nor was it determined thereafter. Close-but-no-cigar non-winners will just have to wait for that proverbial “next year, a champion” – as did so many Boston professional teams for so many years.

P.S. Wonder if Mr. Hicks will find a benefactor for next year’s Ice-Off-the-Lake contest? Now that he has proven the Spiritualist tenet that “continuity of life” post-human death is no obstacle to winning, there is no telling how many more notches Varion will be tempted to carve into his virtual belt.



Judge Jackie Stein eyeballs the absence of ice on Lake Pleasant and announces a contest winner.

TURNERS FALLS WATER DEPARTMENT METER READING BEGINS MONDAY MARCH 31

GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

KINDERGARTEN OPEN HOUSE

For all children who will be 5 years old BEFORE September 1, 2025

Kindergarten Open House: Gill Elementary
40 Boyle Road, Gill
Tuesday, April 1, 2025
5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Kindergarten Open House: Hillcrest Elementary
30 Griswold Street, Turners Falls
Wednesday, April 9, 2025
5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Please bring:
– Birth Certificate or Affidavit
– Record of Immunization
– 2 forms of Proof of Residence

In addition to registering at a Kindergarten Open House, families may return registration paperwork to the Office of Student Services
35 Crocker Ave., Turners Falls
until April 30, 2025

For more information, please call:
Hillcrest Elementary 863-9526
Gill Elementary 863-3255



OP ED

Time, Once Again, for File-Sharing

By DOMINI LENZ

GREENFIELD – By 1933, the formerly 5,000-strong German anarchist organisation Free Workers’ Union had been reduced to a few hundred people operating in secrecy, working in small groups to sneak refugees out of the country and distribute propaganda aimed at destabilizing the Nazi regime. Pamphlets were produced in Holland and smuggled across the border, bearing unsuspecting titles to keep the authorities from catching on.

One such pamphlet, titled *Eat German Fruit And You Will Be In Good Health*, became so popular among miners that they started to greet each other with “Have you eaten German fruit as well?”

Propaganda has been a key part of the antifascist struggle for as long as fascism has existed as an idea. Fascism relies on a popular misunderstanding of the issues – the people cannot stand united against a threat they cannot recognize. Fascists, historically, have known this, and so have tended to aggressively crack down on art they deem subversive. They know better than anyone how tenuous their grasp on power is, how easily their regime can be toppled.

Compared to the far right of today, the Nazis had a relatively simple go of this – they scoured the country for things they didn’t like, and they burned them. Now, in an age when entire books and films can be stored in unbreakable code on a fingernail-sized fleck of crystal, reproduced for free without limit, and undetectably beamed across the world in seconds, this task is much more complicated. Their success hinges now on suppressing the average person’s ability and inclination to store, copy, and share content they consider a threat to their power.

Today, most media is not physically possessed by the people who consume it. Films, books, news articles, and scientific studies are generally stored on central servers, and copies sent to authorized devices that request them, where they are consumed and then deleted. The owners of these servers are typically large

corporations which have not, historically, been especially interested in resisting government pressure. Generally, when government officials have decided it’s time to lurch to the right, capital has eagerly lurched with them.

For example, last year, in the midst of a brutal genocide funded largely by its own home country’s government, Netflix removed a film collection titled *Palestinian Stories* from its online service. Twenty-four films that served to humanize the Palestinian people and inform the world of their unimaginable suffering at the hands of a blood-stained global hegemony were suddenly rendered legally inaccessible, the painstaking efforts of their creators binned like last month’s broccoli. As Netflix CEO Reed Hastings said in 2019, after blocking from Saudi Arabia a talk show episode critical of the US ally’s government: “We’re not trying to do ‘truth to power.’ We’re trying to entertain.”

With the current administration’s escalating attacks against historically oppressed populations, it’s not hard to imagine how these practices might come home to roost. Anything that doesn’t align with the socially regressive values our leaders have prescribed for us could find itself in the crosshairs. Fascism, historically, has involved the merger of state and corporate power – the administration doesn’t have to ban something if it can work behind the scenes with business leaders to take it off streaming. Private control over intellectual property means subversive media can be neatly made legally inaccessible overnight without First Amendment concerns even coming into play.

This does not necessarily mean, however, that content can simply be disappeared. The internet is, among other things, a powerfully democratizing machine. Through what’s called peer-to-peer networking, users may send files to each other directly instead of relying on central servers; anything from archived blog posts and television shows to expensive software and classified government documents can be held on one person’s computer and shared for free with anyone who might seek it out.

Much of the software enabling this has existed in some form for decades. Soulseek is one example. Based on the same basic protocol as the more famous but ultimately ill-fated Limewire, Soulseek prompts each new user to specify a folder on their computer to be shared on the network. Any Soulseek user anywhere in the world can search the contents of every single one of those folders in seconds, making Soulseek an incredibly powerful tool for finding basically anything one might want.

There is no means by which any government or corporate power can exert meaningful control over these search results. Through Soulseek, a book about the Tiananmen Square protests can be downloaded as easily in Beijing as it can in Berlin.

(A word of warning: sharing copyrighted or otherwise illegal content through Soulseek or by any other means can be dangerous unless your connection is obscured. This is typically accomplished with a VPN, which both encrypts your connection and hides its origin. Trustworthy VPNs, while not free, are considerably cheaper than any major streaming service, and will serve you far better.)

There are other means of peer-to-peer file sharing. Torrents are perhaps more popular than Soulseek, though they typically – but not always – rely on websites, such as The Pirate Bay, to connect users to the files they contain. The process is straightforward, and guides can be easily found online.

Scientific papers can be found on the website Sci-Hub, and books can be found on Library Genesis.

The internet is now our primary means of accessing information. If we let entrenched power structures control how we use it, we let them control the information we have access to. We let them shape what we know and how we think, our very conception of the world.

By taking control of it, we take control of ourselves – and of some small part of our collective destiny.

Domini Lenz lives in Greenfield.

WE DIG FRANKLIN COUNTY

- Loam
- Gravel
- Sand
- Natural Stone



(413) 774-1285

Montague Center Congregational Church
4 North Street

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Saturday, March 29
8:30 to 10:15 a.m.

MENU:
Homemade Pancakes
Real Maple Syrup
Assorted Meats
Coffee, Tea, Juices

Cost: \$10

Walk-In Service

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

FEDERAL STREET BOOKS

8 Federal Street, Greenfield
federalstreetbooks.com

WITH JOHN PAGANETTI
NORTHFIELD, MA
413.248.3537

VERY SERIOUS MASSAGE.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



RECYCLE

BOTTLES & CANS
Week of March 31
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054

GREENFIELD FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE
Locally Owned Since 1918

269 High Street - Greenfield
(413) 773-9639


Local Farmer-Owned

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

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

www.greenfieldfarmerscoop.com

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.)

Happy 34th Birthday Joey!

Love Mom, Katie, Steve, Uncle Tom, Aunt Leslie, Cousin Nick, Mat, and Jesse.



Also, happy 27th anniversary to our local photo beat correspondent, who has been capturing readers since April 1998, in the days of darkroom film photography.

Joey's photography has appeared in local, regional, and national publications, including our favorite, the unique Montague Reporter. We are blessed to enjoy the things in life that keep us active.

If readers want to wish him a happy birthday, feel free to correspond with him at joerparzych@gmail.com or send a card to him at Joe R. Parzych, 14C Elm Terrace, Greenfield, MA 01301.

BIG PICTURE from page A1

MR: How long had you been looking at real estate within a block of the courthouse?

JD: For a while, though that wasn't a concern so much as being in downtown Greenfield, where people could easily access by bus.

It was not easy! We looked at a bunch of second-floor places – all beautiful spaces, like in the brick buildings on Main Street – but they were oddly configured, or they weren't really big enough, or the elevators didn't always work, and we need to be accessible.

And then we saw this, and it was such a mess that it was hard to imagine. None of these walls existed, it was all just a bunch of cubicles, and there were drop ceilings that covered half of the windows, and a lot of the windows were boarded up or fogged so you couldn't see out of them.

We got help from Mark's brother David, who's an architect, and we worked with this amazing firm out of Northampton called Workroom Design Studio, who helped us envision what it could look like.

MR: Did you manage the whole build-out and move in? What was the biggest challenge?

JD: Yes. I also managed the Berkshire office, so I had the three counties for a while, but now that we're here full-time I gave Berkshire to somebody else and I'm just focusing on Franklin and Hampshire.

I'd never done anything like this before, and I had some help but it was quite the learning experience. I wasn't the general contractor – Mark did that – but making sure we knew what was happening on our end was an adventure. Just trying to figure out the timing of it, because we were hiring new people and also moving people around.

We have permanent attorneys here now: a family law attorney, a fair housing attorney, a regular housing attorney, an elder attorney, and an employment attorney, and we are in the process of hiring a criminal records attorney. Slowly but surely, we're building. And this is the miracle: only two of us don't live in Franklin County! I split my time between here and Northampton.

MR: Do you practice yourself?

JD: I do. I mostly manage the offices, but my background is in housing, so for example today I was in court helping out.

MR: How'd it go?

JD: It was very, very busy, a packed courthouse. A lot of tenants defaulted, which is to say that they didn't show up, which is unfortunate because then the landlord can automatically move to eviction... it makes it a more complicated situation. We had a couple of cases settle, so it was good, we were able to help a good number of people today.

MR: In housing court, the judges are in different towns on different days?

JD: Yeah, in the Western Mass housing courts – the judges, the housing court specialists, and the clerks – all circuit through. Springfield is Monday through Friday, 9 to 5, and then the circuit courts are generally one day a week in each of the counties – for Franklin County, "eviction day," as it's called, is Fridays, so we were just there this morning.

We run a "Lawyer For the Day" program, so we have at least one

lawyer in court on eviction day, and we're available to help as many tenants as we possibly can. The judge comes onto the bench before the list is called and explains to everybody what the process is, and then says, "Community Legal Aid has a lawyer here today." We do the Queen's wave so everybody knows who we are, and then tenants can connect up with us.

The housing court specialists, the mediators, are really good at connecting folks with us, and some landlord attorneys are actually really great about it as well – attorneys whose landlords really don't want to evict the person, but want to solve whatever problem has been presented. We are often able to work collaboratively with landlords to get tenants to stability so they can stay.

MR: And you're working pro bono for all the clients?

JD: Community Legal Aid does not charge clients for any of our services. We are funded by the state, by the federal government, and by a variety of grants and foundations and private donations.

MR: So you're kind of the public defenders in civil court?

JD: Yes, but the major difference is that there's no entitlement to counsel for civil cases, whereas in criminal cases if you're low-income you're entitled to counsel.

We have the challenge of always having far more folks qualify for our services, meaning that they're low-income enough, but never enough attorneys to help everybody. I think our turn-away rate is about 40% now, and housing is far and away our largest area of practice – that's where the most need is.

Our primary funder is the state legislature, and they have been generous enough to give us increases every year over the past couple of years, and that has allowed us to help more folks. Our development department has also grown over the last decade or so...

MR: In terms of the legislative appropriation, does that come in the form of a grant that you have to periodically bid on?

JD: Yes! There's something called MLAC, the Mass Legal Assistance Corporation – they hold the state line item for legal services, and distribute it to all the legal aid programs in the state according to poverty population.

They help us lobby for our funding. Every year there's something called Walk to the Hill, where we go and talk to the legislature about the need for legal services. We are unbelievably fortunate in western Mass to have incredibly generous legislators who really understand the need for legal aid, partially because they're constantly referring constituents to us for assistance.

MR: We've interviewed CLA in the past about the eviction moratorium – we were expecting to see an eviction "cliff" when it ended.

JD: Across the entire Commonwealth we have seen evictions are consistently up from what they were last year. I suspect there's a number of reasons: rents continue to go up on the private market, the waits for subsidized housing are longer and longer, more folks are rent-burdened – and a lot of landlords are selling, because the house prices are so high and the inventory is so low.



Above: A wide hallway with art, plants, sunlight, and pro bono civil legal services.

We also have some speculators coming in, businesses from other places, and what they do is they buy "small-a" affordable units, units that are not subsidized but are more affordable, and they the first thing they do is they try to evict all the tenants for no cause so they can renovate and flip them and then charge exorbitant new rents. It's been pretty devastating.

MR: You're seeing that happen in Franklin County?

JD: Yes... I don't think they're coming from inside the county.

Certainly we're able to negotiate ample time for folks to be able to do a housing search and move out, if the landlord's insistent on having the unit vacant... The law in Massachusetts provides for at least a six-month stay for everybody, and up to a year for households that have either disabled or elderly folks in them. We're good at negotiating for the time.

MR: What areas of civil litigation are you guys not involved in?

JD: Things like personal injury: that's an area where a private bar will take it on a contingency fee basis, so there's no payment up front.

Looking at it a different way, what we tend to focus on are the areas that have the most impact on the low-income population: family law for survivors of domestic violence; obtaining and maintaining benefits; housing law; immigration; education; criminal records law.

We're constantly having these conversations about "What does the community need? What role are we not filling?" Education and criminal records are examples of work we weren't doing 10 years ago, and now have very vibrant units.

MR: Education – that's like supporting families in working with public school districts?

JD: Exactly. Especially kids with disabilities and special needs, helping with IEPs, helping with families whose children are looking at disciplinary actions – we often see a connection between students who struggle with disabilities, and aren't getting services that they need, and disciplinary actions.

MR: Then further down the pipeline, criminal records expungement – the last I remember hearing a lot about that was back during CORI reform. Where's the front line now?

JD: There are legislators still really trying to reform CORI – Jo Comerford in particular – but Massachusetts remains a difficult state to seal and expunge criminal records. It's not automatic, there's a process,

and it can be cumbersome. We do a lot of sealing work; we do some expungement work, for cases that fall into that somewhat narrow category.

But we also deal with the collateral consequences of having a criminal record, which is mostly that it really impacts folks' ability to get subsidized housing and employment. We will do hearings to try to secure people housing and employment when the stumbling block is a criminal record in the process of expungement.

MR: How do you get the referrals for that – do people just know CLA is a place they can go?

JD: In Franklin County, we're winding up a five-year DPH grant the Franklin Regional Council of Governments wrote, all about helping folks stabilize who have either substance use disorder or a criminal record. Often the two are intertwined.

Part of what we did with the money is a ton of outreach to all of the nonprofits in Franklin County and the North Quabbin, and we take direct intakes from some of those folks. On the last Wednesday of every month, from 10 a.m. to noon, we embed a lawyer at the Community Justice Support Center in downtown Greenfield, and people can just drop in.

Usually people know to come to us, because a bad thing is happening – they got an eviction notice – but with record sealing, they might not even know that they are able to seal their records, so a lot of it is community education.

MR: Do you do immigration support work in Greenfield?

JD: It's actually another entity. We have a subsidiary called Central West Justice Center. They do our immigration work, and they do not receive any federal funding. They will come up from Northampton or Springfield to help with immigration cases. We have a little conference room for attorneys visiting from other offices – the immigration folks can meet with clients in there, and it's nicely set up for them.

We also have a collaborative with Western New England Law School, so sometimes we have clinical students here. We have nine little offices here altogether, including the student space...

The side part of the building, with the beautiful wooden exterior, is from the 1800s, which is super cool. I have to credit Mark for really bringing this building back. It's so beautiful, and it's so centrally located. It's really important to have it be a vibrant space for the community.

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

SWANSON'S FABRICS X THE STASH HOUSE

Fabric & Fiber Craft Supplies
Sewing Studio Classes & Workshops

SHOPPING & DONATIONS
Wed - Sun | 11 am - 5 pm
320 Avenue A.
Turners Falls Ma, 01376
(413) 800-2891



CUTS from page A1

according to Markey, accounting for \$2.6 billion of the overall \$115 billion the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) invests in the program annually.

Last month, House Republicans narrowly passed a budget resolution calling for \$2 trillion in cuts to federal spending. Included in the proposal is \$230 billion in cuts to SNAP over the next decade, as well as \$880 billion in cuts to Medicaid.

The Trump administration has also recently suspended about \$1 billion in payments for American schools, farms, and food banks through the Local Food for Schools Program and Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement, throwing once-reliable and mutually beneficial arrangements into chaos, the legislators said.

"It's a national scandal that in the richest country in the history of the world, we have tens of millions of our fellow citizens who are hungry, and they want to make it worse," McGovern said.

"Cutting SNAP is a rotten thing to do," he added. "Not only is it morally wrong, but it will hurt our country and our economy dearly.... If kids are hungry, they don't learn in school. If people are hungry, they are not productive in the workplace. If people are hungry, they end up getting all kinds of health issues. There is a cost to hunger."

Food Bank of Western Massachusetts program director Christine Maxwell said her organization is serving an average of 132,000 peo-

ple each month, a number significantly higher than in the first years of the pandemic. More than half of SNAP recipients also rely on food banks, she added.

"Food banks are already straining under the burden of higher food costs, and soon will be impacted by tariffs, and cuts in the amount of food that we get from the federal government," Maxwell said. "Should SNAP cuts go into effect, that would place an unprecedented strain on our network.... It would be impossible for food banks and private philanthropy to fill that gap."

"The unfortunate reality is that the political will to address hunger faded, and with it, the federal boost to these programs ended," said Project Bread public policy director Leran Minc. "Under this new administration and leadership in Congress, we face existential threats to the ways we support our food-insecure neighbors."

The anti-hunger nonprofit, headquartered in East Boston, advocates for policies that increase access to affordable and nutritious food.

Though public attendees' microphones were muted, the text chat function was available for the duration of the meeting.

"My husband and I used SNAP when I was fighting cancer and could not work," an attendee named Sue Cushing wrote. "Without it, I don't know how we could have survived. I'm glad we did not have to declare bankruptcy."

"I am an SSI recipient and receive the maximum SNAP benefits

allotment for a household of one," wrote another attendee, who identified himself only as "Robert." "I took out a personal loan to pay for food last month."

Keyna Thomas reported that Aging Services of North Central Massachusetts served over 186,000 meals to seniors in 2024, and "anticipate[s] growth as the aging population grows."

"Over 4,000 seniors benefit from food programs at both in-person cafe sites and through Meals On Wheels," she wrote. "In person cafe sites reduce social isolation for seniors who may not have family nearby, and delivery drivers also are trained to do wellness checks on homebound seniors. Eliminating any USDA programs will be a net negative for the health of Massachusetts residents."

And an attendee named Laura Sheridan wrote: "We need more potlucks!"

The legislators said that they hope to sway four Congressional Republicans to vote against the cuts in the coming months.

"I believe that hunger, when all is said and done, is a political condition," McGovern told the audience. "We know what we need to do to end it, but we lack the political will."

Markey urged the public to continue to testify about the cuts' potential impact. "We're going to need your voices - we need to hear your stories," he said. "We need you to remind us in Congress why protecting SNAP and other food benefits is so important."



WENDELL from page A1

on the wall behind the two women hang four poster boards, each with a long list of things for the coordinator to keep track of.

Tyler said she was thrilled to be in the new position, and told the selectboard she is not afraid to ask questions. The members offered suggestions as to who can provide her with answers, including former Wendell coordinator Regina Curtis and New Salem coordinator Jessica Mooring.

Shared Fire Chief

The Wendell/New Salem public safety planning committee, which has been meeting since 2022 to plan for and find the next chief for the two fire departments, recommended Matthew O'Donnell for the post. The town selectboards met jointly with the committee on Tuesday to approve the appointment.

O'Donnell has been a member of the Wendell fire department for eleven and a half years, and was promoted to captain this year. He has worked for 23 years as a research ecologist at Conte Anadromous Fish Research Laboratory in Turners Falls.

On March 17, as part of the federal government reduction, he was offered a "voluntary early retirement" package. At the joint committee and selectboard meeting Tuesday, he said he had to reply to the federal retirement offer by midnight that night, and needed a firm commitment from the towns before ending his long career at the lab.

O'Donnell said that after joining the Wendell fire department, "I fell in love with the fire service, and thought several times about making a move into some sort of full-time position, but financially, I just couldn't do it." The retirement offer, he said, made it possible for him to apply for the relatively low-paying shared chief job.

In the job posting, the shared chief salary was listed as approximately \$60,000 annually.

O'Donnell will retire from the Conte Lab May 31, and Cuneo will retire as the towns' shared fire chief June 30. Both O'Donnell and Cuneo said the overlap will allow time for the former to transition into the position.

Shared Road

Project manager Phil Delorey and New Salem selectboard chair Sue Cloutier Zoomed in to the March 19 meeting to push forward a solution for the conflicting map lines between Wendell and New Salem, which leave 0.6 miles of Wendell Road in one town,

or maybe in the other.

State and county maps show a bump in the towns' borders that puts the stretch of road as a county road in Wendell. Town maps - and local understanding - have the town line on the west side of that stretch, putting it in New Salem.

Neither town has accepted that portion of Wendell Road, and neither has received any Chapter 90 highway aid from the state for its maintenance.

Delorey suggested that Bob Dean, director of regional services at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), meet with selectboards of both towns as a start. Wendell may petition FRCOG to discontinue the road as a county road, then vote to accept it.

The thought is that if the road is in Wendell when Chapter 90 money is disbursed, Wendell could receive the money, then forward it to New Salem. The latter town may then pay for repairs, combining it with money for the repair of road on both sides of that short stretch in order to make a longer, continuous repair. The towns could then work on altering the town lines to put the whole road officially in New Salem.

Wendell selectboard member Gillian Budine suggested sending to a lawyer a sample letter of agreement allowing Wendell to transfer Chapter 90 money to New Salem.

Cloutier said she thought changing the accepted town might be complicated, but that she hoped the repair could happen this spring.

Other Business

Leverett has offered Wendell \$1,500 for a 35- or 40-year-old tractor the highway crew no longer uses. Delorey said he was concerned that the tractor may be considered surplus public property, and so would have to be offered in Wendell's auction of surplus property, scheduled for Saturday, April 26, at 10 a.m. at the highway garage.

Several people have expressed interest. An auction may include a minimum bid of \$1,500.

Budine said she thought that since the tractor was not on the auction list, the selectboard may deal with it as the board sees fit. Treasurer Carolyn Manley, not present at the March 19 meeting, had asked that the tractor be put on the April 2 agenda, and the board agreed to do that.

Linda Hickman was appointed as inspector of animals.

Katie Nolan provided additional reporting and writing.



Tip of the week ...

Regularly inspect your water heater for leaks and rust. A leaking heater can easily damage flooring, resulting in costly repairs. Rust or water around the unit may signal a need for professional inspection.

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

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

auto | home | business | annuities

**Town of Montague
TOWN CLERK**

The Town of Montague, MA Selectboard seeks qualified applicants for the position of **Town Clerk**. The position is responsible for direction, supervision, administration, and operation of the Town Clerk's Office, including, but not limited to, the maintenance of official municipal records, vital statistics, town census, issuing licenses and permits, and other official documents, collecting payments, administering fair and impartial elections, and providing information to the general public and town departments.

The Town seeks a collaborative candidate with a thorough knowledge of statutes and regulations applicable to the duties and responsibilities of a municipal Town Clerk's office, including the conduct of local, state, and federal elections, and the maintenance of public records. Minimum qualifications include an Associate's degree and 3 to 5 years of related experience; certified Municipal Clerk designation; or any equivalent combination of related education, training, certification, and experience. The selected candidate must be able to be bonded and hold a valid driver's license.

Salary starts at \$67,277 and the scale goes to \$82,394. Work week is Mondays through Thursdays, 35 hours/week, with some evening meetings. The Town of Montague is committed to a collaborative team environment and competitive benefits. A job description is available at www.montague-ma.gov. Target start date is May 19 to June 2, 2025.

For priority review, please submit resume and cover letter by April 11, 2025 to: Chris Nolan-Zeller, Assistant Town Administrator, Chris@montague-ma.gov

EEO/AA Employer.

**LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
LEVERETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

The Leverett Conservation Commission, in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c.131 §40), will hold a public hearing on April 7, 2025 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Leverett Town Hall, 9 Montague Rd, Leverett, MA to review a Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Friends of Leverett Pond for **cattail removal in the Leverett Pond buffer zone**.

The application is on file and is available for public inspection in the Conservation Commission Office on Wednesdays, 12 to 2 p.m. or by appointment at (413) 548-1022 ext. 3. This notice is also available at www.masspublicnotices.org.

"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

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

OrigamiUSA

Origami is for anyone, anywhere, anytime!

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

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

DOLAN & DOLAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

Fred Holmgren
Piano Tuning & Repair

Stay tuned!

(978)544-5494
fredholmgren@gmail.com

LEVERETT from page A1

Plavin reported that contract negotiations with Leverett Elementary School (LES) teachers had concluded the night before the meeting, and the school was seeking a 4.96% increase over FY'25 rather than the 4.4% figure in a previous estimate, resulting in a total budget of approximately \$3.2 million.

Plavin said that a negotiated cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) of 4% each year over the next three years for LES teachers affected the budget, but that cuts had been made in other areas to partially accommodate it. LES is the largest component of the town budget.

Carter suggested the school consider using \$7,500 of the money accumulated in the school choice fund to reduce its budget request, saying that the account has functioned as a "rainy-day" fund, and that "I think maybe a rainy day is here."

Selectboard member Jed Proujansky added that he understood that the school choice fund was "not a well without a bottom," but it was a "very difficult year for the town," and he would like the school committee to give the suggestion "serious consideration."

Fin com member Bethany Seeger said this request was fair, but the school committee should be the

ones to determine where the money came from. Plavin said she would discuss the idea with her committee.

Resident Steve Nagy and fin com member Nancy Grossman expressed dissatisfaction with the availability of up-to-date school budget information. Nagy said current information should be made available on the town website, as it is from other departments. He said he was not able to find the full proposed budget to review before the hearing, and Grossman noted difficulty in tracking information down, often requiring "last-minute" emails. She also reiterated a request for more detail.

Plavin responded that this in-

formation was available on the school's website, and that if it was supposed to be on the town site and was not, the oversight was due to turnover among school officials during the last year. Proujansky suggested that a link from the town site would do the job.

ARPS Default Looms

Carter reported that Leverett's second-largest budget item – money for the Amherst-Pelham regional public school district (ARPS), which includes Amherst, Pelham, Leverett, and Shutesbury – remained "a big unknown," contributing to budget deliberation difficulties. He said that an assessment method approved by the regional school committee, calling for each town to increase its contribution by 6.5% to fund a budget that already reflected a reduction of services, had been rejected by the Amherst town council on Monday.

Barring a change, Carter said, the rejection by Amherst will result in the district defaulting to a state-mandated assessment method, under which Leverett's contribution would rise by 14% next year. Leverett's contribution in FY'25 is \$1.6 million.

In view of these circumstances, Carter warned that further cuts in the town budget were advisable. He suggested a target increase of 5% rather than 5.3%. In addition to LES adding \$7,500 from school choice funds, he suggested that the fire department reduce its budget by \$1,500 and, though he said it pained him, that the town postpone a \$10,000 contribution to its stabilization fund, which is used for capital projects and saves the town in the long run on interest.

Fire chief Brian Cook said a recalculation of the wages in his department's budget would result in a \$1,406 reduction, and he could find the remaining \$94.

"That was easy," replied selectboard chair Tom Hankinson.

Council on Aging

Council on Aging (COA) chair Judi Fonsh said her group felt "really strongly" that its request for more funding to increase its only paid position from four hours to 19, to create a coordinator position, should be reinstated after having been reduced to 10 hours at a prior meeting.

Fonsh said grant-funded studies to determine the needs of Leverett seniors had pointed to the creation of the position.

Council member Tom Wolff noted that 40% of Leverett residents were over 60, and that a rejuvenated lunch program was now attracting 50 people rather than six to eight, showing the success of the COA's work.

"We need to be able to support that population with a teeny amount of money," he said, "but we're hearing a message of nickels and dimes."

Hankinson replied that the mes-

sage Wolff should be hearing was that "We're a town with a lot of expenses, in a very difficult year, that wants very badly to have and support an entity like you, but we don't have the cash."

Hankinson and others suggested that the increase to a 10-hour paid position could serve as a stepping stone, and that the group should come back next year and see if the hours be expanded.

Others suggested ways the COA might expand its services, such as looking into shared services with other towns and existing programs Leverett might be eligible for.

Loose Ends

Highway superintendent Matt Boucher was asked if he would be willing to opt out of the Franklin County Technical School's intern program, or cut back on the student worker's hours to reduce the approximately \$15,000 expense. Boucher replied that the program was "working out good," and that it would be disappointing, but that he understood the budget pressure and would look into it.

Board of assessors member Jim Starros explained that increases in his department's software budget reflected necessary upgrades, though an \$1,800 request removed by the selectboard at a prior meeting could be postponed until next year.

Other Business

The selectboard approved the hiring of Andrew Nepal as a part-time police officer. Police chief Scott Minckler said Nepal has over 20 years of full-time experience at Springfield Technical Community College, and is certified through the Massachusetts Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission.

Minckler said Nepal is "well-qualified" and "laid back," and that a former Leverett officer had spoken highly of him. He added that the department was down to three part-time officers, and that Nepal's offer to work three or four shifts per month would "really help out."

McGinnis reported that engineers working on the Dudleyville Road drainage project have asked what surface the town will choose for the top layer of the road: crushed gravel, oil and stone, or pavement. While work on the final layer is two years away, the engineers said the choice will affect work in the coming year on the lower levels of the road.

Boucher said there may be by-laws affecting the decision to resurface a dirt road, and that the whole town should have a say at town meeting.

Hankinson asked Boucher if he would be willing to help draft a special article for town meeting. Boucher replied that he would recuse himself from offering any opinion on the surface choice, but would help draft something for voters to consider.



High School Sports Week: Students Gear Up for Spring Season



Practice makes perfect: Franklin Tech ninth grader Laura Fuess warms up on the hurdles last Tuesday as the Turners Falls track team prepares for the upcoming season. Sports photographer David Hoitt created this composite from four photographs.

By **MATT ROBINSON**

TURNERS FALLS – In the 2024 spring sports season, several individuals and teams from Franklin Tech and Turners Falls High School advanced into the postseason. Here is a quick review, and an outlook on the 2025 spring season:

In **track and field** last year, the Franklin Tech Eagles sent seven boys and a relay team to the Western Massachusetts individual playoffs, while the Turners Thunder sent five girls and two relay teams.

The Franklin boys and Turners girls will all start their 2025 season up at Mohawk Regional on Tuesday, April 8.

As in track, athletes from both Tech and Turners form the **tennis teams**. Last year both the girls' and boys' teams had losing records, partly due to forfeits from low numbers. The boys reached the playoffs, but were defeated 3-2 by the visiting Mashpee Falcons in the Division 4 MIAA tournament.

This Thursday, the boys play their first match of the year against Pope Francis, down in Springfield. Meanwhile, the ladies will host Mohawk next Monday.

In **baseball**, the Eagles won their 2024 opener against Turners, but finished the regular season with an 8-9 record before losing to Drury in the Western Mass Class C quarterfinals.

The Thunder, meanwhile, bounced back from

that opening day loss to finish 13-6, winning the Bi-County Conference championship by defeating Athol in a grueling marathon contest. Their season concluded with a Round of 32 loss to Ware in the MIAA statewide Division 5 tourney.

Next Tuesday the teams go head-to-head at Franklin Tech.

Last year the Franklin Tech **Softball** Eagles lost only two regular-season games – both by one run, and both to top Division 5 teams, Turners Falls and Greenfield. They unfortunately couldn't defend their state Vocational title due to scheduling limitations, but they entered the MIAA state tournament as the fifth seed and got as far as the Final Four, losing to Georgetown after allowing four unearned runs in the first inning.

The Eagles' season starts next Tuesday, April 1 at home against Greenfield.

The Turners girls began the 2024 season with only seven players. Two soccer players decided to go out for the team and a seventh-grader was promoted to varsity, giving Powertown nine players and one reserve.

Despite this, the Softball Thunder finished 2024 with a 19-5 record, and brought the state championship back to Turners Falls for the 11th time, shutting out Georgetown 5-0 in the title game.

The Thunder open their season next Monday at home against Northampton.

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

Birch Tree Bodywork
massage + workshops in Turners Falls & beyond
www.birchtree-bodywork.com
413.239.4575
\$10 off 1st visit with this ad

ROOT YOGA STUDIO
51 11 TH ST., TURNERS FALLS
413.676.9076
ROOT-YOGA-STUDIO.COM
NEW STUDENT SPECIAL
THREE CLASSES FOR \$40

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

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE!
STRANGELY LOW PRICES.
A WISE INVESTMENT.
CALL 863-8666

ED L. Dealer in used Home Furnishings
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!

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Pre-Town Meeting Meeting Planned, In Hopes of Keeping It to One Night

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard at its Monday night meeting decided to schedule a “pre-town meeting” at the end of April, just a week before the annual town meeting. This proposal by town administrator Walter Ramsey came after the board voted to approve the budget and articles that will be voted on May 7, an experiment in holding the annual meeting on a weekday evening.

The idea of abandoning the traditional annual town meeting on the first Saturday in May was initially broached by then-town clerk Kathern “Beanie” Pierce in early August.

Pierce argued that changing to an evening meeting on a weeknight might avoid the problem of losing a quorum, which nearly ended last May’s all-day annual. She presented a list of 25 Massachusetts municipalities with representative town meetings like Montague’s, which showed that only two still had meetings on Saturdays.

Two weeks after that, executive assistant Wendy Bogusz shared the results of a poll of 52 town meeting members, 63% of whom supported the move to an evening meeting. Bogusz said that town counsel Gregg Corbo of KP Law had advised that the annual Saturday meeting, which is stipulated in the town bylaws, could be changed by the selectboard without a town meeting vote.

Without taking a formal vote, the board agreed at that time to change the annual meeting to an evening meeting on May 9, “as a trial this year to see how it goes,” in Bogusz’s words.

On September 9 – perhaps realizing that May 9 will be a Friday – the board shifted gears and decided to hold the meeting on Wednesday, May 7, with May 14 “as a backup day, in case we can’t complete all the business in one day,” according to Ramsey, who said he had checked with the school district and was told the high school auditorium would be available both days.

Ramsey had initially suggested a 5:30 p.m. starting time, but selectboard members seemed to feel this would be too early for members with children. They appeared to land on 6:30 p.m., though again these decisions were made without a formal vote.

In making his new proposal on Monday to hold a “pre-town meeting” in April, Ramsey did not mention the possibility that the annual meeting might require two evenings in May, but the proposal may have been intended to help avoid that outcome.

He told the board he was considering either Tuesday, April 29, or Wednesday, April 30, and that he needed to consult with the finance committee, which meets Wednesdays. On Wednesday he proposed to the fin com that the meeting be held on April 29, and the reaction of committee members was positive.

The pre-town meeting, intended to allow members to discuss the articles on the town meeting warrant in advance, will be held virtually. Ramsey said he would “be happy to facilitate [it], with the assistance of other town staff.”

Selectboard members are continuing to portray the weeknight annual meeting as an experiment. According to the town bylaws, the Saturday date for the annual town business was codified by a 1974 act of the state legislature in response to a vote by a special town meeting. The current draft of the Montague bylaws notes changes throughout that were the product of town meeting votes.

In his brief note to town officials last August, Corbo cited Massachusetts General Law Chapter 39, Section 9 to suggest that changing the annual town meeting date would not require a bylaw change. The statute he quoted reads, in part, that “notwithstanding the provisions of this section or of any other law, bylaw, or charter to the contrary, a town, by the vote of its board of selectmen or town council may delay the annual town meeting...”

The selectboard delayed the annual town meeting in 2020 and 2021 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the *Reporter* is not aware of any instances in which the selectboard has permanently circumvented a town bylaw without a town meeting vote to change the bylaws.

The Annual

The decision to hold a pre-town meeting came after selectboard votes on the articles to be sent to the annual meeting.

The board endorsed all proposed updates to the “salary schedules” for elected and appointed officials; an FY’26 town operating budget of \$12,747,055; separate budgets for the Clean Water Facility (\$3,221,303), municipal airport (\$425,732), and Colle building (\$52,250); and assessments from the Gill-Montague and Franklin County Technical School districts (\$12,663,178 and \$841,660, respectively).

These budgets would be funded from a variety of sources. Receipts from the lease of the Colle fund that building’s expenses, and both taxation and sewer user fees fund the Clean Water Facility.

The board then endorsed three “special articles” – including \$59,000 for tuition and transportation of a Montague resident to Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School in Northampton – and 17 capital requests, including allocating \$36,470 to the public works department’s discretionary fund, which selectboard member Matt Lord had opposed at previous meetings.

Lord voted “aye” this time around, but then voted against guardrail upgrades on Meadow Road, which were nevertheless endorsed 2 to 1.

A number of non-financial special articles were also endorsed, including authorizing the selectboard and board of assessors to enter into a 10-year agreement for annual payments *in lieu* of taxes from First-Light Power, the largest taxpayer in Montague, which has been contesting valuations of its property. The board also endorsed measures to increase the tax exemption on personal property from \$1,000 to \$10,000, to implement more liberal repayment policies for residents un-

der tax title, and to keep the timeline for holding “unclaimed property” a town, not a state, decision.

An article to enter into a new 10-year lease with the Shea Theater Arts Center was endorsed, but amendments to the charter of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, though placed on the town meeting warrant, was neither endorsed nor opposed, with members citing uncertainty about the impacts of the proposed governance changes.

Chaos

On the spring holiday front, the board approved a request from parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz for a license to play amplified music at the annual Peter Cottle Extravaganza at Unity Park on Saturday, April 19.

Dobosz said that in addition to amplified music, “We have to let everybody know what the rules are to keep things relatively orderly during the chaos.”

“Orderly chaos... That’s what you specialize in, Jon,” said selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz.

“I’m glad someone noticed,” said Dobosz.

Other Business

The selectboard approved a contract with Innes Associates, Ltd. to provide the town with technical assistance in rezoning the section of Montague City that includes the property of the now-demolished Farren Hospital, which has been granted to the town.

The \$60,000 contract is funded by a grant from the state Office of Housing and Livable Communities. Assistant town administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller commended the public outreach efforts of town planner Maureen Pollock and Emily Innes of the consulting firm.

Nolan-Zeller also noted that Avenue A sidewalk reconstruction in front of the Great Falls Discovery Center and town hall is beginning this week, funded by a combination of a Congressional earmark and American Rescue Plan Act funds.

The Gill-Montague senior center will be closed on Friday, April 11 for electrical upgrades and work on the bathroom floor, he announced, and responses to requested bids for an owner’s project manager for renovations at the Carnegie Library were due this Tuesday.

The board changed the required signature for the town’s community development block grant application, as approved the previous week, from Ramsey to Kuklewicz.

Ramsey noted that the brokerage contract for the town’s purchase of electricity is due to be renewed at the end of December. “I’m just putting this on the board’s radar,” he said. “It’s something I’ll be looking at.”

At the end of Monday’s meeting the board lifted the town-wide winter parking ban, otherwise scheduled to end next Tuesday, April 1, as of that very evening.

The board then retired into two non-public executive sessions, one to discuss the potential discipline of a town employee and the other to consider strategy involving collective bargaining and the recent pay and classification study.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on March 26, 2015: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Basketball’s Best of the Best

Two of Turners Falls’ best basketball players, Liam Ellis and Nick York, competed with the best-of-the-best in the Hall of Fame All Star game on March 20.

“At the beginning of the year, if you asked me if I would be playing in this game,” York said, “I would’ve said no in a heartbeat.”

During Senior Night, Ellis entered the very exclusive 1,000-point club.

Cable Contract Kerfuffle

After a volatile, hour-long discussion Monday, the Montague selectboard decided against issuing a request for proposals (RFP) for the town’s cable access contract, but declined to grant the current provider a 10-year renewal, instead endorsing the negotiation of a contract through 2017.

Member Mark Fairbrother, who joined the cable advisory committee in the fall, called Montague Community Cable, Inc. a “broken organization” and advocated for an RFP. There were fierce disagreements over how poorly MCCI is doing, and how to guide the organization toward improvement.

Flu Fears Nix Egg Hunt

Diemand Farm has canceled its annual Easter egg hunt.

Because avian influenza, carried by migratory birds, has been confirmed as close as the Midwest, the farm decided to keep the public away from its animals for biosecurity reasons.

20 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on March 24, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

were able to save 1,476 trees from being cut down, according to the district’s estimates.

Erving Saves 1,476 Trees

At the March 21 Erving selectboard meeting, the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District pegged Erving’s recycling rate at 35.8%, up from 28.8% the previous year.

Through recycling efforts, town residents not only saved on town waste disposal costs, but

Safety Issue at Sheffield

The Sheffield school stage is off-limits until the fire curtain can be re-rigged, Gill-Montague regional school district superintendent Sue Gee reported at the school committee meeting.

“This is something we absolutely have to address,” she said, as it is a safety issue.

150 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on March 24, 1875: News from the Turners Falls Reporter’s archive.

He intends turning out about 5,000,000 brick during the coming season. Mr Goss has taken the contract for building a new freight house, 500 feet long by 80 wide, for the Fitchburg railroad, at Charlestown, and will resume work on the new insane asylum at Worcester as soon as the weather will permit.

Turners Falls and Vicinity

Miss Kate Gillman has been engaged as organist in the M.E. Church.

Mr. Hance thinks they’ll hire the Lumber Company’s hose house for a cotton mill.

A tin-pan serenade greeted a newly married German couple last evening.

A petition is in circulation praying that the commissioners open up and make public highways Canal street from the suspension bridge to Seventh street, and Seventh street from Canal to Avenue A.

On Sunday four cattle belonging to K.L. Goddard walked on the ice down to the dam, and drank from the water at the brink of the fall. The largest one broke off a piece of ice with her fore foot, and the greatest wonder is that the whole herd did not go over the falls.

Mr R.L. Goss has prepared for the spring campaign by drawing to his brick yards about 1,200

The Dramatic entertainment by the young people of Montague City on Friday evening, was a very meritorious affair, and is highly spoken of by the large number present. The first piece on the programme was the play “We’re all Teetotalers,” in which several parts were admirably taken. Tableaux and dialogues preceded the farce, “A Little More Cider,” and after the entertainment a dance was kept up till a late hour.

There was a strike of the handle finishers in the Cutlery, Saturday. The workmen say that the company had been continually cutting down the prices of their labor till at last they were unable to earn more than from seventy to ninety cents a day, which they considered small pay for able bodied men, and so struck.



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

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

ELECTRICIAN
CHRIS M. STRAKOSE

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

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

FULLY INSURED FREE CONSULTATION

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

gretchenwmt@gmail.com • gretchenwetherby.massagetherapy.com

GMRSD from page A1

president ordered Secretary of Education Linda McMahon to do everything within her authority to dismantle the department. While the administration insists it is simply passing control to the states and that the special ed and title funding will remain intact, former department staff have told outlets including *The Hill* they do not believe those remaining will be able to meet obligations.

There has been extensive public debate this year in Massachusetts over the education funding formula known as Chapter 70, after the majority of districts were awarded only a token increase. The future of federal funding has been nearly entirely unspoken at Gill-Montague school committee meetings.

“Right now the biggest challenge is the uncertainty,” said Beck.

Business manager Joanne Blier said districts report their demographics and spending to the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), which forwards the information to the federal level. “Who’s going to send the money from the feds to the state?” she asked. “Someone has to do that math.... I had a meeting recently about federal grants with DESE, and they don’t know, either.”

Police Compromise?

Tuesday night’s public meeting began nearly a half hour late, with the committee recessed in executive

session to weigh releasing minutes from previous executive sessions.

Montague police chief Chris Williams was on hand to discuss the school resource officer position, which has been funded primarily by the district but is slated for elimination next year as belts tighten.

Chair Jane Oakes said the committee had received a petition, initiated by high school students and signed by 176 students and 89 “members of the community,” urging the district to retain officer Dan Miner and his comfort dog, Mack. The committee praised the petitioners.

Williams said the town was considering funding the return of Miner to the schools in the fall, provided his department reaches full staffing otherwise. “We’re short three, we have two in the academy,” Williams said. “People aren’t applying to be police officers.... Every department in the state is feeling the squeeze.”

After he left, some members asked if the district should contribute funds. Montague member Heather Katsoulis said she would oppose spending on a police officer “given the crunch,” but “if the town’s going to pay for it, I’ll take anyone who wants to come help us out.”

Competency

Turners Falls High School principal Shawn Rickan came to discuss changes to the school’s course offerings, as well as the district’s plan to evaluate student competency,

following a citizen-backed state law that the MCAS standardized test is no longer a graduation requirement.

The test will still be taken. “They use it to grade our schools,” Rickan reminded the committee.

Diplomas will be awarded to students who pass two core English, two math, and two science courses. Some courses were consolidated, but new ones include Introduction to Guitar, Exploration of Film Music, Environmental Science & Sustainability, Digital Photography 2, AP Chemistry, and AP European history.

“We have a pretty robust offering here, so we’re pretty proud of that,” Rickan said. The changes were authorized by unanimous vote.

Other Business

One Montague seat on the committee has been vacant for months, so four will be on the ballot in May. Executive assistant Tara McCarthy reported that only the three incumbents had thus far pulled papers.

The legislature is expected to extend the permission for committees to meet virtually, though it is otherwise due to expire next week.

Through April 4, anyone attending any event at the schools may bring perishable goods to contribute to the district’s annual food drive. Opportunities include *Shrek! The Musical* at Turners Falls High School this Thursday through Saturday at 7 p.m. and this Sunday at 2 p.m.

Greenfield Cooperative Bank Presents

MacBeth

MARCH 28 - APRIL 6
SHEA THEATER
TURNERS FALLS
Tickets \$25

Directed by Nia Lynn
Royal Shakespeare Company

GREENFIELD Cooperative Bank

Shea Theater

RiverCulture Eggtooth Productions
Mass Cultural Council
Community Foundation of Western MA

montagueshakespearefestival.com

GILL from page A1

police would be asked to facilitate ICE?” Asbel asked Redmond.

“You’re talking about as small of a police department as you can get,” the chief answered. “We have no holding facilities. There’s not much we can do for them. That would all be done at the sheriff’s level, down at the jail.”

Asbel commented that in that case, that additional levels of support for immigrants in Gill, such as equipping them with legal representation, would likely need to come from volunteers rather than town officials.

“Our objective, as good neighbors, is to give them as much security that we care about them as possible, and are looking out for their outcomes, and that includes making sure they know what their recourses are and who they can turn to,” he said. “I’m just stating that now as a recognition that that’s not something you can do, that’s something

that depends on volunteerism.”

Selectboard chair Greg Snedeker encouraged the group to write about the issue in the town’s newsletter. “I think the town is very supportive of what you’re trying to achieve,” he said.

Asbel also informed the board about three bills pending in the state legislature that would protect immigrant rights, which he said he learned about in an information session run by state senator Jo Comerford.

The Safe Communities Act would prohibit local law enforcement from coordinating with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), or pursuing immigrants for non-crime related matters; the Immigrant Legal Defense Act would provide public funding for legal representation; and the Dignity Not Deportations Act would ensure no state funds or resources are used in support of ICE activities.

“We understand that people are living in fear,” said Asbel. “We had

a guest in my house who’s from Iran over the weekend – she’s married to an American. It’s a whole new ballgame for them. She can’t leave the country now, because she doesn’t know if she’ll be able to get back in.”

Other Business

The board approved the highway department’s upcoming spring projects. With state Chapter 90 funding, it will repave two sections of West Gill Road: 1.3 miles from Main Road up to 144 West Gill Road, and a small section from 194 West Gill Road to “where you come out of the trees at the golf course,” said highway superintendent John Miner. The project is expected to cost \$584,354.

Using local revenue, the department will also seal cracks along the entire length of Dole and River roads.

The board renewed the seasonal restaurant liquor license for Schuetzen Verein. Member Randy Crochier recused himself from the vote, as

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

he is a member of the club.

The board accepted a proposal from Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) to assist the town in completing the planning process for the state Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant program. “The ‘climate-change preparedness plan’ is another term for it,” said town administrator Ray Purington.

In exchange, the town will pay FRCOG a lump sum of \$20,000 from an MVP planning grant received in early 2023.

Crochier again recused himself

from the vote, as he is employed at FRCOG.

Purington announced a community dance at town hall on Sunday, March 30 at 2 p.m., with music by the members of 1,000 Gibbons, also known as Boyz of the Landfill. “That’s ‘Boyz’ with a Z, not an S, which I think makes them hipper,” said Purington. “It’s a community family dance: all ages welcome, easy and fun, no dance experience needed, and, of course, free.”

The dance is sponsored by the Gill recreation committee.

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

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

DIEMAND FARM

WENDELL, MA
THEDIEMANDFARM.COM

978-544-3806 FIND ALL YOUR FAVORITES AT OUR FARM STORE!

Harriet Paine
REALTOR®

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

harriet@cohnandcompany.com
cohnandcompany.com

117 Main Street
Greenfield, MA 01301

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

warm up at THE VOO

many entertainments

all scratch kitchen

cozy cocktails

78 3rd St TFMA

HOURS/SPECIALS ORDER ONLINE: thevoo.net

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

FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CO-OP

GREEN FIELDS MARKET • MCCUSKEY’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



features@montaguereporter.org OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER MARCH 27, 2025



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

USAID COMES TO MY VILLAGE

By DAVID BRULE

AZROU and ERVINGSIDE— Many years ago, I found myself at my first teaching job in a remote Berber village in the Middle Atlas Mountains of the Maghreb. That is the name given to the northwest corner of Africa, which we English speakers call Morocco.

After a Peace Corps training period in Arabic and in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL), I requested to be assigned to a *lycée* (high school) far from any city. I found the perfect village for me, called Azrou, named after a prominent rocky pinnacle located just outside the edge of the village.

Up in the mountains, the landscape was nothing at all like one would expect of any typical Sahara desert scene. I dwelt on the edge of a forest of Cedars of Lebanon, inhabited by Barbary apes, exotic birds like hoopoes, in the homelands of various indigenous Berber tribes.

The Berbers are the original inhabitants of this land, and as has happened to indigenous peoples all over the planet, they had been relegated to second-class status, first by the invading Arabs in the 700s, then by the colonizing Spanish and French.

So this was to be my first real job: teaching English in a regional high school in the mountains, which was primarily a boarding school for Berber pupils. This school had been built during the French Protectorate – circa 1850 to 1950 – as a school for Berber students, reputedly as a part of the divide-and-conquer strategy, to emphasize and politicize the racial divide between Berber and Arab. It was called the Lycée Tarik Ibn Ziyad, named for a celebrated Berber general who played a leading role in the invasion of Spain by the Moors in the years around 800 AD.

Just seven miles across the Mediterranean from Morocco lies the landmark named for Tarik, the massive geological feature, Gibraltar. In Arabic, *Djebel Tarik*, Tarik’s Hill, became transformed into “Gibraltar” over time.

Students at the lycée needed to demonstrate proficiency in English and French in order to qualify for the baccalaureate diploma. My students were already proficient in Berber, Arabic, Spanish, and French. English was their final hurdle.

During my first year of teaching there, it turned out that the forty-day movable religious holy season of Ramadan fell during the winter. Up in the mountains, winter is cold, damp, snowy – and particularly difficult when one is fasting from sunrise to sundown.

My students were all far from home, far from family and the support of a home-prepared hearty breakfast and a nutritious breaking of the daylong fast at sunset.

Those long, cold winter days took their toll. Students suffered through late afternoon classes on grumbling stomachs and lack of sleep. Conjugating complicated English verbs or memorizing dialogues from textbooks became a tedious chore.

As their teacher I could hardly spend my lunch hour wolfing down a sandwich, coffee, and dessert while the students were clearly straining and striving to faithfully observe their religious obligation. So I decided I should really join them in the fast, and we all carried on as best we could. It made things a little easier for them knowing I was going through the same effort and hunger pains along with them.

I had learned early on that a good number of my students could not afford to live in the dormitories or did not have relatives

see WEST ALONG page B4



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

The author (back row, second from right), with his English language students at a high school in Morocco in 1969.

Above: A rare angle on the Country Club Apartments, high-tension lines, Migratory Way, and Mount Toby.

A Tour of ‘Non-Voting Neighbors’ In Wendell State Forest

By BEN GAGNON

WENDELL – Enjoying a sunny day with temperatures hovering around 60 degrees, more than 40 people gathered in the parking lot of the Wendell State Forest by Ruggles Pond last Saturday, to be guided on a tour of plants and animals that typically go unseen and unnoticed.

“This is just a stroll to visit our non-voting neighbors,” began volunteer biologist and naturalist Bill Stubblefield, sporting a long white beard. “Today we’re going to go out and see some of our friends and get acquainted with a community of organisms.” The walking tour was sponsored by the Wendell State Forest Alliance, which has battled in court against local logging, and No Assault & Batteries, which formed in 2023 to oppose a new energy-storage battery plant being built in Wendell.

But the gathering of people from towns near and far, ranging from southern Vermont to Boston, Cummington, Northampton, Colrain, and Greenfield, was more about exploring moss, lichen, and dragonflies than politics.

The first thing the group learned was that weevils lay eggs in acorns, where the larvae develop – but only if they’re lucky enough to avoid wasps that also target acorns to deposit their larvae, which feed on the weevil larvae. The acorns that avoid both weevil and wasp larvae have at least a fighting chance to become oak trees, eventually.

As the large group meandered slowly down the road, the discus-

sion turned to moss and lichen, with a preface from Stubblefield.

“Some people see lichens growing on trees and think it’s bad for the trees,” he said. “Actually, lichen growing on trees is okay. The fact is when you don’t see a diversity of lichens in a forest, it often means there’s a problem with air pollution. As you can see, there’s plenty of lichens here.”

see FOREST page B3



Local naturalist Adam Kobl explains a fern.

RECIPES

CONSIDER THE TUNA

By CLAIRE HOPLEY

LEVERETT – On January 6 news outlets reported that a Pacific bluefin tuna had fetched \$1.3 million at auction in Tokyo. CNN said it was the size of a motorcycle, while the *Washington Post* noted that at 608 pounds it weighed as much as a grizzly bear. Masahiro Takeuchi, the 73-year-old fisherman who caught it, described it “as fat as a cow.”

The purchaser was Onodera, a Japanese group of Michelin-starred restaurants. Noting that the year’s first tuna brings good fortune, the company president wished a “wonderful year” to those who ate it. Lots of people benefited because most of this tuna was destined to become skinny slices of sashimi. But could Onodera recover its cost – roughly \$2,100 a pound – with skinny slices? Maybe not.

Nonetheless, the news of the astronomical bid was great publicity, so presumably the purchase was canny. Certainly, Onodera knew what it was doing: it has been the highest bidder at Tokyo’s tuna auction for the last five years.

This is stuff to ponder as you throw together lunchtime tuna sandwiches, not least because, despite current inflation, canned tuna remains one of our cheaper protein foods. Fresh tuna is pricier – probably one of the two or three priciest fish on the counter – but even in these inflationary times, it is not \$2,100 a pound. So what explains the vast price difference between Japan’s tuna and ours?

One major factor is that Japanese are crazier for tuna than we are. They eat a quarter of the world’s catch, mostly serving it raw in sashimi and sushi. But tuna swim in all the warmish waters of the world, and they are general favorites. People in many Asian and African countries are tuna lovers, as are those who live around the Mediterranean. Many have classic tuna dishes to rival Japan’s sashimi.

Salade Niçoise from southern France is a main-dish salad of lettuce, tomatoes, potatoes, green beans, black olives, and hard-boiled eggs topped with tuna. Italy’s *Vitello Tonnato* is thin veal escalopes smothered in a tuna sauce. It’s one

of the nicest cold dishes of summer, and just as delicious – and cheaper – made with turkey breast.

Spain’s classics include *atun encabollado* – fresh tuna with onions and peppers – and *mojama*, salt-cured tuna. For a special treat,

see RECIPES page B8



The fresh ingredients for Tuna with Onions and Peppers – recipe on Page B8.

Pet of the Week



'TED'

Ted is here and states he is ready to find a place to call his own.

Ted is a four-year-old domestic shorthair who came to Dakin as a stray. He let his rescuers pet him right away and made quick friends with our vet staff, even when we gave him pesky vaccines.

Because Ted was a stray, we do not have any history on him. He will likely do well in any kind of home as long as there is a slow introduction in place. Ted would love to meet you and, hopefully, come home with you soon.

Ted's adoption fee is \$299 and includes: neutering; a rabies vac-

cine; current distemper vaccines; a FeLV/FIV blood test; a microchip, implanted and registered to you; treatment for fleas, ticks, and ear mites; a veterinary exam and health certificate at Dakin; and a free vet exam within 30 days after adoption with participating veterinarians.

If you're ready to adopt now and want to learn more about, meet, or adopt a 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., calling us at (413) 781-4000, or visiting www.dakinhumane.org.

Senior Center Activities MARCH 31 TO APRIL 4

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 3/31

- 10:15 a.m. Aerobics
- 11 a.m. Chair Exercise
- 3:30 p.m. Senior Tech Class

Tuesday 4/1

- 9 a.m. Chair Yoga
 - 12:30 p.m. Tech
 - 3 p.m. Tai Chi
- #### Wednesday 4/2
- 9 a.m. Veterans' Agent
 - 10:15 a.m. Aerobics
 - 11 a.m. Chair Exercise
 - 12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
 - 4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 4/3

- 10:30 a.m. Brown Bag Luncheon
- 1 p.m. Pitch
- 6:30 p.m. Tree Advisory Committee

Friday 4/4

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

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. For more information, contact (413) 548-1022 or coa@leverett.ma.us. Please check the town newslet-

ter or the LeverettConnects listserv for more info.

ERVING

Open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1 Care Drive. Daily snacks and coffee. Fitness room and pool table open.

Monday 3/31

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

Tuesday 4/1

- 1 p.m. Yoga
- 8:30 a.m. Nail Clip
- 9 a.m. Ask the Nurse
- 9 a.m. Stretch & Balance
- 10 a.m. Line Dancing
- 11 a.m. Social Stringer
- 12 p.m. Friends' Meeting

Wednesday 4/2

- 9 a.m. Interval Training
- 10 a.m. Chair Aerobics
- 12 p.m. Lunch & LRC
- 1 p.m. Veterans' Service

Thursday 4/3

- 9 a.m. Barre Fusion
- 10 a.m. Pilates Flow
- 12 p.m. Brown Bag Lunch
- 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting, Open Sew

WENDELL

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. The next clinic is April 2. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments. For Senior Health Rides, contact Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

APRIL LIBRARY LISTINGS

Montague Public Libraries

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

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

MONTAGUE

All month: Grab & Go Craft. Coffee filter butterfly. At all branches while supplies last.

Every Tuesday: Imagination Station. Drop-in craft for ages 6 to 12. Millers Falls, 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Every Wednesday: LEGO. Carnegie, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 2: Knitting Club. All ages. Montague Center, 4:30 p.m.

Every Thursday: Bilingual Music and Movement. Montague Center, 10 a.m.

Every Saturday: Drop-in Community Puzzle. Carnegie, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, April 5: Used Book Sale. Fiction, paperbacks, kids' books, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks. Carnegie, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, April 5: Haiku Postcards. Family workshop, ages 8 and up. Discovery Center, 1 p.m.

Sunday, April 6: Artist Talk. Arista Alanis, author of *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude*. Discovery Center, 2 p.m.

Thursday, April 10: Book Club. Jasper Fforde, *The Well of Lost Plots*. Millers Falls, 5:30 p.m.

Monday, April 14: Friends of MPL meeting. Email kristopherlangston@gmail.com. Carnegie, 5:30 p.m.

Monday, April 14: Virtual Visit with Ross Gay. Discovery Center or via Zoom, 7 p.m.

Monday, April 14: Afterparty with the Frost Heaves and HaLeS. Rendezvous, 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 15: Meet and Greet with Montague Villages. Millers Falls, 3 to 4 p.m.

Tuesday, April 22: Buildwave Event. Ages 5 and up, call (413) 863-3214 to register. Discovery Center, 11 a.m.

Thursday, April 24: Space Food Activity. Carnegie, 2 p.m.

Sunday, April 27: Writers' Showcase and Concert. Discovery Center, 3 p.m.

Monday, April 28: Craft Club. All ages. Montague Center, 4 p.m.

LEVERETT

All month: Feathers and Fur by Mary Schreiber.

Every Monday and Wednesday: Online Qigong. See leverettlibrary.org for info. 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 1: Craft Circle. For adults. 6:30 p.m.

Every Wednesday: CNC Playgroup. Ages 0 to 5 with caregiver. 10:30 a.m.

Every Thursday: Mah-jongg. Beginners welcome. 1:15 to 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 3: Intro to Paper Quilling. Ages 8 and up. Registration req'd: leverettlibrary@gmail.com. 4:30 p.m.

Every Saturday: Tai Chi. Intermediate to advanced 10 a.m.; beginners 11 a.m.

Sunday, April 6: Fundraising Concert. Beth Logan Raffeld Trio. 4 p.m.

Tuesday, April 8: Library Tech Help. Drop-in 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 9: ABLE Accounts Presentation. 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 12: Juggler Meadow String Band. 1 p.m.

Tuesday, April 15: Birding By Ear Talk. 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 17: LEGO. Ages 5 to 12. 4 p.m.

Wednesday, April 23: Birding By Ear Walk. Registration required at leverettlibrary@gmail.com. 8 a.m.

NORTHFIELD

All month: In-Library Kids' Scavenger Hunt.

Every Tuesday: Drop-in Knitting/Crafting. 6 to 8 p.m.

Every Wednesday: Storytime: Music and Movement with Robin. For toddlers and preschoolers. 10 a.m.

Wednesday, April 2: Book Group. James McBride, *Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*. 10 a.m.

Wednesday, April 2: Tech Help. Bring your device and ask your questions. 1 to 3 p.m.

Wednesdays, April 2 and 16: Dungeons & Dragons. Single-night campaign for ages 16 and up, all XP welcome. Register at northfieldrec.com. 5 p.m.

Thursday, April 3: Spice Club pickup starts. Sample and recipes while supplies last. *This month: lemon peel.*

Thursday, April 3: Environmental Book Group. Margaret Renkl, *Comfort of Crows*. 3 p.m.

Friday, April 4: Coffee/Tea Social. 10 to 11 a.m.

Friday, April 4: S'mores and Campfire. 5 to 6 p.m.

Saturday, April 5: Puzzle Pick-Up. For info, email friendsofdml01360@gmail.com. 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 9: Readings Group. George Eliot, *Daniel Deronda* (second half). 3 p.m.

Thursday, April 10: Take-and-Make Craft. April opossums. While supplies last.

Thursday, April 10: Circles of Safety Workshop. For parents and caregivers (especially those raising teens) to learn about preventing child sexual abuse. 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 15: Friends Meeting. 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 17: LEGO. 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 17: Lifesaver Awareness Training. 5:30 p.m.

Friday, April 18: Indoor Mini-Golf with LED glow-in-the-dark lights. 6 to 9 p.m.

Friday, April 25: Teen Night after hours. 6 to 9 p.m.

Tuesday, April 29: Swallows. Mara Silver, Northfield Bird Club. 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 30: Poetry Discussion with Nick Fleck. 3 p.m.

WENDELL

All month: Tiny Art Exhibit.

Every Tuesday: Adult Art Group. 5 p.m.

Every Wednesday (except April 23): CNC Playgroup with Sylvia. 10 a.m.

Every Wednesday: Movie. 4 p.m.; Yoga. 6:20 p.m.

Every Friday: LEGO. 4 p.m.

Friday, April 4: Tech Hub Skills. Internet basics workshop, followed by two hours of drop-in tech help. 10:30 a.m.

Every Sunday: Yoga. 10 a.m.

Monday, April 7: Yesterday's Mail, multimedia presentation by the Wendell Historical Society. 6:30 p.m.

Mondays, April 7 and 21 : Fiber Group / Mending Circle. 6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 11: Office Hour with Rep. Aaron Saunders. 1 p.m.

Sundays, April 13 and 27: Writers' Workshop with Paul Richmond. 1 p.m.

Friday, April 18: Tech Hub Skills. Social media basics workshop, followed by two hours of drop-in tech help. 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 22: Adult Book Group. E.M. Forster, *A Room with a View*. 10 a.m.

Tuesday, April 22: Author Book Talk. Duncan Watson, *Everyone's Trash*. 6:30 p.m.

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 Falls 414.863.4246

Bryan Hobbs
Remodeling LLC

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

Email: bryanhobbsremodeling@gmail.com
Now Accepting Credit Cards

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

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



GAGNON PHOTO

Dozens gathered at Ruggles Pond last Saturday for a guided nature tour.

FOREST from page B1

Stubblefield proceeded to identify a lichen known as common greenshield along with three others, pointing out the cup-shaped fruiting bodies of cladonia lichen. He added that a wide variety of insects are attracted to tree trunks to feed on sap.

"I bristle when science classifies organisms as beneficial or harmful," said Stubblefield. "They all have a place in the world. It's not useful to put those kinds of labels on our friends. Trees are generous, and share their bodies with a lot of different species."

Volunteer naturalist and field botanist Adam Kohl pointed out that an array of spongy green mosses growing along the roadside are home to a plethora of tiny creatures, including beetles and the winter firefly – a "non-lighting firefly."

"There's a whole community of tiny organisms we walk by every day," said Kohl. "Different species of moss like to grow together and host everything from sedges to partridge berries."

Further down the road, Kohl pointed out a hole in a tree made by a woodpecker. "They're going after deadwood that's filled with carpenter ants," he noted.

Kneeling on the ground, Kohl retrieved a small evergreen leaf with brown edges and introduced the group to the phenomenon of "leaf miners." It turns out the larvae of flies feed on evergreens over the winter, leaving noticeable serpentine trails or blotchy marks on the leaves.

"The larva of beetles, moths and flies are leaf miners that make a home in the leaf, sometimes creating a tiny tent to live inside," said Kohl, holding up an evergreen leaf for the group. "Leaf miners will pupate in the leaf or in the ground."

"What are they mining?" asked a member of the group.

"Well it's not bitcoin," said Kohl, who proceeded to identify several

species of evergreen fern that are also the targets of leaf miners. He noted that some mosses have the same structure as ferns, just much smaller. He also pointed out dewberries and creeping blackberries.

Arriving at Ruggles Pond, Kohl used a net to scoop through the water along the shoreline, dumping various items into a white plastic box. The result was a pile of leaves and twigs, and a tiny fish about an inch long, flopping around.

"We found a fish," said Kohl. "I wasn't expecting that."

"What kind of fish?" asked a spectator.

"I don't know," said Kohl, who specializes in plant life. "But we'll let it back in the pond."

After returning the tiny fish to the pond, Kohl poked around in the box with a pair of tweezers, identifying aquatic isopods and caddisfly larvae, which he placed inside small vials of water.

"Some of the caddisfly larvae develop in cases made from the roots of plants," he noted, handing out the vials. One member of the group used a macro lens to photograph a tiny developing fly inside a vial. Kohl pointed out that the stream exiting Ruggles Pond contains an entirely different mix of species due to different levels of dissolved oxygen, including dragonflies and mayflies.

Walking along the sandy beach, Stubblefield said he saw a spotted salamander on a recent visit, adding that Ruggles Pond is home to sunfish, fallfish, big minnows, leeches, white suckers, and bullhead catfish, along with a community of otter and beavers.

"It's a bit too early for the turtles and frogs – they're cold-blooded and they winter in the mud," said Stubblefield. "They're still waking up, but soon enough they'll come out and sit in the sun. In every different season, there's a different show."



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Rabbit, Deer, Several Raccoons, and Herbie; Pole Down; Tree Down; Guys Being Jerks; 'Officer Advises No One in the Park is Fornicating'

Monday, 3/17

12:09 a.m. 911 transfer from Shelburne Control. Caller states male party is intoxicated and trying to cause issues with his ex-girlfriend who has a friend over and he does not approve. Female wants male party settled down for the night. Verbal altercation. Services rendered.

6:24 a.m. Caller reports that his vehicle was broken into overnight in the Canal Street parking lot. Window is smashed. Nothing appears taken. Officer checked surrounding areas and other parking lots; everything appears normal. Report taken.

9:07 a.m. Caller states that there is a black dog that looks unhealthy running around on Bridge Street near the brewery. Animal control officer notified.

11:22 a.m. 911 caller from Old Sunderland Road states that a male party named "Herbie" showed up at her house and started going through her boyfriend's truck that was parked in the driveway. She started yelling at him to leave; caller states that he then came toward her and tried to get into the house, but she shoved him away. Male party left on a minibike. All parties advised of options.

12:48 p.m. Caller states that she was just hit by another vehicle on Seventh Street alongside Peskeompskut Park. No injuries, but damage to both vehicles. Report taken.

2:22 p.m. Caller states that someone dumped a bunch of personal trash in the Sheffield School dumpster. There is mail with a name on it. Officer left message for involved male about the issue.

Tuesday, 3/18

9:36 a.m. Caller reports there is an injured rabbit in a bush on Avenue A. ACO notified.

3:28 p.m. Caller from Bangs Street concerned about a raccoon that is walking around in the area and appears aggressive. Second caller reporting

raccoon acting aggressively in their backyard on Millers Falls Road. ACO unavailable. Referred to an officer.

3:34 p.m. Multiple callers reporting vehicle into telephone pole at Main Street and Kells Road. Wires down; pole down in road. Eversource notified. Officer requesting DPW put barricades up at the Main Street-Route 47 crossover and at the intersection of Main and South streets. Southbound traffic will have to go down Swamp Road to get to Route 63 or School Street. DPW responding. MCFD toned out. Eversource on scene. Vehicle operator refusing medical treatment. Tow requested for vehicle. Officers clear. Eversource remaining on scene to replace pole. Road will be closed for several hours.

Wednesday, 3/19

1:59 a.m. 911 caller from Avenue A states the apartment below his is blaring music and it's shaking his apartment. Quiet upon arrival.

10:05 a.m. Caller from Millers Falls Road reporting possible rabid or sick raccoon in yard. Message given to ACO. ACO removed raccoon.

10:42 a.m. 911 caller reporting smoke in the area of Federal Street at Lake Pleasant, probably a half mile into the woods. MCFD advising permit was granted to burn.

1:32 p.m. Officer conducting vehicle stop on Bridge Street. Summons issued for uninsured motor vehicle, unregistered motor vehicle, and number plate violation.

1:57 p.m. 911 caller reporting a small fire at Highland Park in Greenfield. Transferred to GPD.

1:58 p.m. Caller would like to speak to an officer regarding identity theft. Officer spoke with caller and dropped off statement forms.

2:56 p.m. Caller reports she was walking and saw a man and woman in Peskeompskut Park. The woman

was sitting on the man's lap, and she's positive they were having sex. Also believes they are homeless. Officer advises no one in the park is fornicating.

Thursday, 3/20

7:53 a.m. Caller reports that her son had his computer stolen from his apartment; states her son is 19 years old. Advised caller to have her son call the PD to report the incident. Caller's son called in to report the computer stolen. Officer spoke with caller and advised him of his options; will be following up with roommates as well. Caller called back in stating that a male came to his girlfriend's house in Greenfield and said "I smashed your computer." Statement forms filled out. Greenfield PD called in on 911 stating a female called them reporting that the suspected male has a firearm. GPD out with parties.

12:19 p.m. Party into station looking to speak with an officer; states her ex-boyfriend stole her dog. She contacted MSPCA, and they stated she needed to come to the PD and get the ex-boyfriend's address before MSPCA will do anything. Advised caller we cannot give out addresses. She would like to speak to an officer. Involved male still has address with female on file with RMV. Advised of options.

3:24 p.m. 911 caller from Adams Street reporting a rabid raccoon on his porch that has porcupine quills sticking out of it. States it's ruining his porch furniture. Referred to an officer.

6:01 p.m. Walk-in reporting that her front license plate is gone. She is unsure if it fell off or was stolen. Advised of options.

6:27 p.m. 911 caller reporting male party in Food City parking lot came up to his window screaming "I have a gun." Older gentleman, gray hair. Caller reports party left the scene and turned up the Seventh Street hill. Officers out with possible suspect; male was not involved. Officer advises caller states male party was on the phone with 911 while screaming that the caller had a gun, not himself. No 911 calls regarding this incident prior to reporting party calling. Greenfield advises negative calls regarding issue. Control advising same.

Friday, 3/21

10:01 a.m. 911 caller states that someone broke into his cabin on Highland Avenue and took several items.

He has gone through the property and states that nobody is there now. Report taken.

1:18 p.m. Officers assisting with a warrant arrest on Avenue A. A 61-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a default warrant. 2:25 p.m. Caller states that she was just rear-ended by a pickup truck at Unity and Park Streets. Officer requesting Rau's to tow the pickup truck. Report taken. 5:51 p.m. Walk-in from Third Street reports on-going harassment from a neighbor. Advised of options.

8:36 p.m. 911 caller reports two males and a female yelling and swearing at each other on Eleventh Street. Officers spoke with involved female and advised her of the complaint. 9:57 p.m. 911 caller from L Street reports someone pulled up in an older tan vehicle and honked the horn before backing away. 10:32 p.m. Report of injured deer in the road on Turners Falls Road. Animal deceased upon officer's arrival. Message left for DPW.

Saturday, 3/22

10:16 a.m. Walk-in reporting that another female had her bank information, made a fake ID, and tried to cash checks in Springfield and Chicopee. Advised of options.

4:27 p.m. Report of a suspicious vehicle on Spring Street. Unable to locate.

7:06 p.m. 911 caller reporting tree down, blocking the entire road, on Greenfield Road. Second caller reporting same. Officer requesting DPW, chainsaw and bucket loader. No wires involved. Tree removed.

7:23 p.m. Caller calling in on behalf of her father inquiring if his vehicle had been involved in an accident. Reports it was stolen by a female yesterday morning and is now being posted on Facebook as having been in an accident. Advised caller we have no reports and she needs to report the vehicle stolen out of her father's jurisdiction. Caller en route to Chicopee PD. Wondering if drive-by could be done to see if father's vehicle is at involved female's house. Officer checking the Patch for the vehicle. Negative findings. Caller called back reporting police report filed in Chicopee.

Sunday, 3/23

1:16 p.m. Report of a disabled vehicle, partially in the road, on Bridge Street. Tire is back on the vehicle, and it is now in a parking space.

Monday, 3/24

5:55 a.m. 911 caller reporting apartment at top floor of Avenue A building is playing music loudly. Officers advised.

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!
HA BOA RCOOAZLUP RUABZ
EZ EGDAR. NEWDGAAW
LE ECO HBOOYEOD.
- GALA SANDALS
 CRACK THE CODE? SEND YOUR ANSWER TO:
 INFO@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

97 free episodes now available!

Look for us on Apple/iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, Anchor, Castbox, and elsewhere...

The Montague Reporter Podcast

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 978 400 1142
 Guitarist lou.arnold@gmail.com

Doug's Auto Body
 Doug Smith - Owner

 MA Reg. #RS2190
 Ph. (413) 863-2785 39 Center Road
 Fax: (413) 863-0120 Gill, MA 01354
FREE ESTIMATES **FREE LOANER CARS**
 REPAIRS ON FOREIGN & DOMESTIC CARS AND TRUCKS

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

WEST ALONG from page B1 to stay with in the village.

But they had developed an interesting solution.

Over the years, they had formed a sort of cooperative co-housing arrangement. Families had joined together to rent a stucco-and-adobe house on the outskirts of town. The older students took care of the younger newcomers, and in turn, once the older students graduated, of course those younger students took over the house leadership, and so on. This rotation and renewal had gone on for decades.

So when they learned of my fasting during Ramadan, most days after sundown they invited me to their house to break the fast. With the help of some women from the village, the boys cooked, prepared the nutritious hearty soup called *herrera*. Then came the dates, couscous, tajines...

At this point, I had an idea.

I had just met a USAID worker in the capital city of Rabat. He was a Mennonite, fulfilling alternative service instead of serving in the US Army.

He suggested he could help this cooperative housing effort. It would be a perfect fit for one of the USAID self-help programs.

We organized a series of visits and determined that we could, through USAID funding, provide new beds and mattresses, cooking oil, and flour for the students' organization.

The sturdy beds were fabricated in the city by Moroccan craftsmen, as were the mattresses. The flour and oil came in containers in-

scribed with lettering that said "A Gift From The American People," with an open hand extended to another in friendship.

We had the beds and supplies delivered directly to the cooperative so that we could be sure that nothing would be siphoned off by local politicians to sell on the black market.

It was a joyous sight the day the bedding arrived! Old threadbare mattresses were tossed out the upstairs windows to be burned in a pile in the yard. Five-gallon tins of cooking oil and sacks of flour were delivered to the kitchen. It was a great celebration, and we – the USAID workers and myself, plus the students from the Lycée Tarik Ibn Ziyad – all sang and danced together that day.

I can testify here that USAID worked for these students.

We were off the radar in that little village. Our project didn't make headlines in newspapers back home, but in the lives of our students and in the village, we made a big difference. I'm sure that this kind of story was happening all over the Third World.

And now, what have we?

Under the selfish slogan of "America First," two obscenely rich and powerful autocrats are in charge of dismantling USAID, as well as our democracy and destroying our institutions at home and abroad. Those alliances we had built with peoples all over this planet through small acts of kindness and generosity are being torn apart.

We cannot just stand by and let this happen.



Artist Profile: Sarah Adams

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I found an artist who was showing at the LAVA Center in Greenfield named Sarah Adams. She makes what can be called "dreamscape images" with her art, which I like very much.

Adams has apparently been doing this for some time. She told me she learned how to "manipulate paint to create abstract landscapes on found materials. I experimented with watercolor, ink, spray paint, stencil, printmaking, and assemblage over the years."

She is now focused on digital painting for her illustrations, sketching, and acrylic paint for found surfaces for painting.

As for why she creates what she does for her art, she said it is because it brings her joy and peace. She is in love with the local landscape, and the North Quabbin region in general. "I enjoy paying tribute to my home," she told me, by creating her art.

Besides these kinds of pieces, Adams has also worked on many public murals for Greenfield. These include the "Honeyglow" bee on a Main Street lamp post, art banners, and two utility box ones. These have gotten good feedback, according to her.

She has also donated her artwork to be auctioned off at fundraisers to support local community



Quabbin Evening, painting on slate by Sarah Adams.

spaces, such as Stone Soup Café and Looky Here, and a few more places in Greenfield that have featured her art are Artspace, the Greenfield Gallery, and the Greenfield Holiday Pop-up. There was also a street art show in Worcester called start on the Street.

Adams's friends and family are, in her words, "huge fans of my work." Many have her pieces in their homes. She said she feels this about her art: "Whether it's a

large wall painting or an art magnet, I feel truly honored knowing my art is making someone happy in their home."

I think the dreamscape element to her art makes it very unique-looking, which is what I like most in art.

Sarah Adams's exhibit of new paintings on slate, New England Dreamscapes, is showing at the LAVA Center, 324 Main Street in Greenfield, through April.



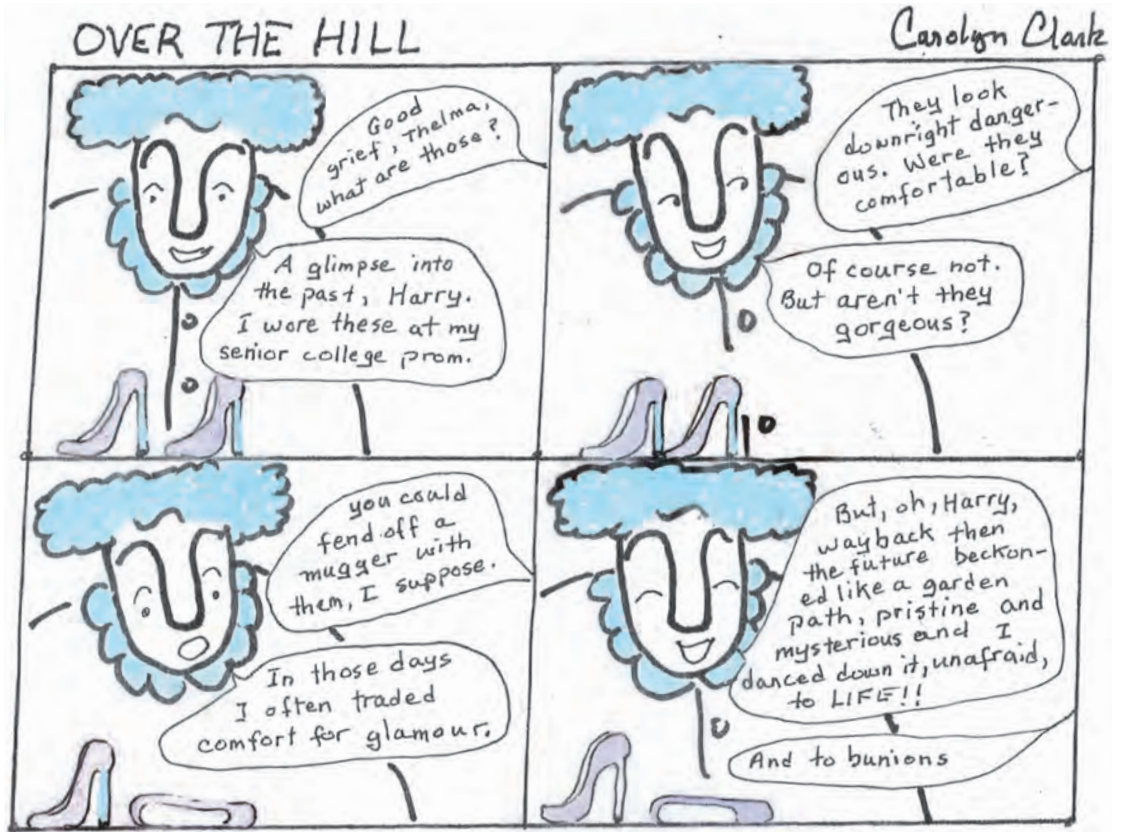
JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION



SUZETTE SNOW-COBB ILLUSTRATION



ROB MACHADO ILLUSTRATION



Carolyn Clark

JAN ATAMIAN ILLUSTRATION



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!

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

Tile
Lino
Carpent

Member
The Flooring Network.

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

Aquí se habla español

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



OPINIÓN

A vueltas con la educación.

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

GREENFIELD – El presidente Trump firmó el 20 de marzo una orden ejecutiva con el fin de dismantelar el Departamento de Educación como previamente había prometido en su campaña electoral.

La secretaria de Educación, Linda McMahon, que juró su cargo solamente hace unos meses, será la encargada de supervisar el cierre de este departamento. Trump se dirigió a ella durante la ceremonia de la firma recalando que ojalá no estuviera en el cargo mucho tiempo, pero que iba a encontrar otra cosa para ella.

La última palabra acerca del desmantelamiento del departamento, debe darla el Congreso que debe autorizar esta decisión, y ya sabemos que la mayoría es del Partido Republicano. Aún así, seguramente la decisión será llevada a los tribunales como ha pasado con otras muchas de las medidas que ha ido tomando el actual gobierno de la Casa Blanca.

Esta decisión era muy esperada por la mayoría del Partido Republicano más conservador. Por lo tanto, la firma de la orden ejecutiva fue celebrada como un logro más de la actual administración en la Casa Blanca. El mismo presidente Trump llamó a este jueves, “el Día de la liberación educativa”. Este es un sueño del Partido Republicano desde los años 80, y con una mayor aceleración desde la pandemia, que es cuando los movimientos cristianos y religiosos empujaron por una mayor fuerza de los derechos de los padres respecto a la educación, el cierre de las escuelas, la educación on-line, las medidas a tomar con los estudiantes LGTBQ, e incluso la lucha contra las vacunas.

No se trata solamente de dinero, aunque los argumentos utilizados por el gobierno sean principalmente económicos, ya que la administración dice que “aunque se ha aumentado un 245% el gasto por cada estudiante desde hace 50 años, los índices de lectura y matemáticas han caído a mínimos históricos en estos años.”

Esa afirmación es cierta, lo que no significa que dismantelar el departamento de Educación sea la medida adecuada. Hace unos meses, en enero de 2025 se publicó el informe bienal de calificaciones académicas en los Estados Unidos, que mostró que ha habido escasa mejoría desde la caída de calificaciones después de la pandemia. Los resultados de este informe muestran también una tremenda desigualdad: los estudiantes de mayor rendimiento están acortando la brecha con los resultados previos al Covid-19; mientras que los estudios de menor rendimiento muestran una brecha cada vez mayor.

Los resultados se basan en muestras realizadas a estudiantes de todos los estados en cuarto y octavo grado. En el mismo informe de este año, los datos muestran que los es-

tudiantes de octavo grado tienen un nivel de lectura por debajo del nivel básico. Esto significa que les faltan las habilidades básicas como conocer el significado de las palabras o entender un cuento corto después de leerlo.

Peggy Carr, comisionada del Centro Nacional de Estadísticas de Educación, dice que los resultados no pueden atribuirse solamente a la pandemia pasada sino que la educación y las escuelas están enfrentándose en estos momentos a desafíos importantes. Uno de ellos es el absentismo escolar, asistir a la escuela es pieza clave en la enseñanza, y otro de ellos es la salud mental de los niños y adolescentes.

Los peores datos de este informe se recogen en los estados de Florida y Arizona, que curiosamente fueron los primeros en volver a las clases después del cierre establecido por la pandemia.



Aún con estos datos en la mano, está claro que la ideología tiene una parte importante en todo este asunto. Por ejemplo, el gobierno ha cancelado fondos a la Universidad de Columbia en NYC, debido a que considera que dicha universidad no adoptó las medidas adecuadas frente a los casos de antisemitismo en el campus. Otro de los cortes monetarios ha sucedido en la Universidad de Pensilvania, con la explicación de que acogía entre sus filas deportivas a una atleta transgénero. Otra institución que ha perdido fondos federales es la Universidad de Georgetown liderada por los jesuitas, en Washington DC, ya que su currículum está basado en temas de igualdad y diversidad.

La idea del gobierno de Trump es que las escuelas que reciban los fondos remanentes del Ministerio, no pueden promover iniciativas de diversidad, equidad, e inclusión (DEI), ni tampoco de ideología de género.

El Departamento de Educación ha abierto un formulario en su página web, que por cierto, es muy simple de rellenar, para que

los ciudadanos se quejen de universidades o distritos escolares que traten de estos temas. El propio departamento ya ha iniciado investigaciones en 51 universidades de diferentes estados aduciendo que utilizan preferencias y estereotipos raciales en sus programas y actividades educativas. También alegan que estas universidades tienen estudios de posgrado que violan la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, ya que tienen lazos con The PhD Project, una organización que ayuda a que estudiantes de grupos sociales o raciales menos representados, puedan estudiar doctorados de económicas y financieros.

Y aún más, el Ministerio ha enviado una carta a diferentes instituciones, en la que estas son amenazadas y acusadas de discriminación contra los estudiantes blancos y asiáticos. El gobierno ha promovido también la detención y deportación de estudiantes que participan en protestas políticas acusándolos de pertenecer a grupos terroristas.

El gobierno de Trump quiere conseguir, con el cierre del Departamento de Educación, eliminar cualquier control de los estándares federales y dar poder a los estados para que lleven a cabo las políticas educativas que quieran. Hay un pequeño truco en esto: no significa que el Departamento de Educación vaya a desaparecer, sino que se reducirá casi al límite, especialmente en lo que se refiere a ayudas monetarias, aunque estas ya estaban a cargo de los estados en una cantidad de 90% antes de la firma del decreto.

Por su parte, la Presidenta de la Asociación Nacional de Educación, Becky Pringle, publicó un comunicado en el que señaló que el esfuerzo del gobierno de Trump por cerrar el Departamento de Educación puede tener consecuencias catastróficas para los estudiantes de todos los estados del país. Pringle añadió que la ratio de estudiantes por maestro se hará cada vez más grande, se cortarán los programas de capacitación laboral, las tasas universitarias serán más caras, casi inalcanzables para las familias de clase media, se eliminarán las ayudas para estudiantes con discapacidades, y las protecciones a los derechos civiles de estudiantes y profesores.

¿Y en qué consistía la labor del Departamento de Educación en Estados Unidos?

El Departamento de Educación administra varios programas de subvenciones, entre ellos el de Título I, que administra fondos a escuelas que se encuentran en áreas de alta pobreza, al que eran destinados unos 18 mil millones de los fondos federales. Otro de los programas que administra es el llamado IDEA que financia el costo de estudiantes con discapacidades, en torno a unos 15 mil millones de dólares. Y por último, y el más grande, los préstamos estudiantiles que es un billón y medio de dólares.

Hay otros países en el mundo que no

tienen un Departamento o Ministerio de Educación central o federal, por ejemplo, Canadá. El país vecino tiene las competencias en educación transferidas a las provincias o federaciones. En España, las competencias en educación están a cargo de las diferentes autonomías, aunque sí existe un Departamento de Educación central.

Esto no significa que la calidad de la educación pública sea mala, al contrario, Canadá se encuentra entre los primeros países del mundo junto con Singapur, Finlandia y Corea del Sur. La educación es gratuita en Canadá desde los 5 hasta los 16 años, y todos están obligados a asistir a la escuela.

La OCDE (Organización para la Cooperación y el Desarrollo) realiza el informe PISA, se realiza a nivel internacional y mide la calidad de la enseñanza en diferentes países. El puntaje de los Estados Unidos fue de 488 en 2022, lo que indica que está por debajo de otros países miembros de la OCDE, y aún con este mal puntaje, EEUU consiguió frenar la caída de otros muchos países ya que la administración Biden dedicó 122 mil millones de dólares a mejorar las condiciones de los estudiantes de enseñanza elemental y secundaria.

Las medidas adoptadas fueron comprar dispositivos electrónicos para todos los estudiantes confinados en casas, asistentes sociales para hacer el tránsito a la escuela más fácil y especialmente la contratación de tutores para poder hacer seguimientos a los estudiantes en grupos reducidos.

En cuanto al gasto público en educación que se calcula con el PIB (Producto Interior Bruto), según el Banco Mundial, los Estados Unidos gastaron en 2021 un 4,5%, frente al 7,1% de Islandia. Por supuesto, la diferencia es muy grande entre estados: Vermont gasta 23.542 \$ por estudiante, mientras Carolina del Sur gasta 10.000 \$ por estudiante.

La peculiaridad principal de los Estados Unidos se basa en que la financiación de las escuelas se basa en los impuestos locales de la propiedad. Y es aquí donde se inicia la desigualdad que es patente desde los primeros años de escolarización. No tiene la misma financiación una escuela de un barrio rico de Boston que las escuelas en Turners Falls, donde los impuestos derivados de la propiedad son mucho más bajos, debido a que las propiedades son mucho más baratas.

Esta es una distinción muy grande con otros países donde cada estudiante recibe el mismo dinero por parte del gobierno, no importa la zona donde viva. Las posibilidades de llegar a la universidad son también mayores para un estudiante que vive en el distrito rico cerca de Boston, en relación con un estudiante del distrito de Montague.

El dismantelamiento del Departamento de Educación solamente acelerará más esta desigualdad.

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

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

GREENFIELD
Cooperative Bank
NORTHAMPTON
Cooperative Bank
BestLocalBank.com | 877-682-0334

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.

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

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

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
DOORS & OPENERS
Devine Overhead Doors
Gerry Devine
106 West Street
Hadley, MA. 01035
Hampshire: 586-3161
Franklin: 773-9497

UNNAM EABLE BOOKS

"We buy and sell used and new books"

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

66 AVENUE A • TURNERS FALLS

WHITE ON BLACK MONTAGUE REPORTER T-SHIRTS!

SUPPORT OUR NON-PROFIT PAPER!

\$20 TO \$40 SLIDING SCALE

EVENTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

Bookends, Florence: *Nell Sather, Norma Dream, Little Cliff, Wiring*. 7 p.m. \$.

Holyoke Media, Holyoke: *Dei Xhrist, Spatial Decay, KaneLoggiaHYPOTHESIS, Matt Krefting*. 7 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Nice & Easy Walk*. 1 p.m. Free.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope Story Hour* for ages 3 through 6, accompanied by an adult. Learn about frogs through story, activities, and crafts. 1:30 p.m. Free.

Four Phantoms Brewing, Greenfield: *Periscope Jazz Band*. 6 p.m. No cover.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *New Roots in River Banks: Polish and Other Eastern European Immigrants to Franklin County, 1880-1920*, featuring Jeanne Sojka of the Polish Genealogical Society of Massachusetts and Peter Thomas, who will present recorded oral histories and slideshow about descendants of Polish and Ukrainian immigrants. 6 p.m. Free.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Are India and the US Going Down the Same Road? A Conversation About Race, Caste, Democracy and Human Rights*, with author and attorney Suraj Milind Yengde. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Red Eft, Dinos, Rhubarb Duo*. 7 p.m. \$.

Prescott Tavern, Hampshire College, Amherst: *Bubble Scary, I Have No Mouth, Target Scammers*. 7 p.m. \$.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Leon Trout, Mono Means One*. 7 p.m. \$.

De La Luz Soundstage, Holyoke: *Club D'Elf*. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Montague Shakespeare Festival* presents *Macbeth*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Pink Edwards, Greenfield: *Wishbone Zoë, Hedgewitch, Matthew Thornton*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

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

Blanchard Great Room, Mount Holyoke: *Criticize, Showgirl, Ladybeetle, Space Camp*. 7:30 p.m. No cover. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Adam S.Z & The Inner Fiyah*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Voltage Box & Friends, Picnic Committee*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, Great Barrington: *José González*. 8 p.m. \$\$

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

Montague Congregational Church, Montague Center:



Country up-and-comer Houston Bernard provides entertainment at the Brewery at Four Star Farms this Saturday evening in Northfield. No cover.

Pancake Breakfast with "real maple syrup, assorted meats, coffee, tea, and juice." Walk-in service. 8:15 to 10:15 a.m. \$.

Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center, Northfield: *Waterfowl Prowl*, led by local naturalist and birder David Brown. Meet at the center and carpool or caravan to observation points in the area. 9 a.m. Free.

Artspace, Greenfield: *Clean-Out Sale* of creative art supplies, art and music books, and more. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. By donation.

Second Congregational Church, Greenfield: *Sweet Spirit: Songs of Joy, Peace, and Freedom*, performed by the youth of *Música Franklin* and *Twice As Smart*. 2 p.m. Free.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Artist reception, *Cameron Schmitz: Where*

We Are, Together. 3 p.m. Free.

John M. Greene Hall, Smith College, Northampton: *Five College Choral Festival*. 5 p.m. Free.

Brewery at Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Houston Bernard*. 6 p.m. No cover.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Anda Union*. 7 p.m. \$.

Robert Crown Center, Hampshire College: *She, Criticize, mybodywasfound-inahollowtree, Cobalt Arms, Feeble Hands*. Mutual aid benefit. 7 p.m. \$.

Pulaski Club, Easthampton: *Little House Blues*, 7 p.m. No cover.

Institute for Musical Arts, Goshen: *Dear Ella*. 7 p.m. \$.

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

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Slant of Light, Drawn, Sensor Ghost, Hollow Deck*. 7 p.m. \$.

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: *Where We Are, Together*, paintings by Cameron Schmitz, through May 26. Reception this Saturday, March 29, from 3 to 5 p.m., with an artist talk at 4:15 p.m.

Montague Center Library: *Ann Feitelson: Quilts*, through May 2.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: *Jacqueline Strauss*, guest artist showing soft sculpture creatures, through March, and *Hallie's Comet Fine Jewelry* by Christina Giebner, through May 20.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Feathers and Fur*, works by Mary Schreiber, through April.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Playmakers: Making Sense of the World Through Art*, artwork by Whitney Robbins, Bobby Brown, and Joan Green. Through April, with an opening reception Saturday, April 5 from 2 to 5 p.m., including a dance performance at 3 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Kids' Art Show*, works by area youth, through March 28.

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Teen Art Show*, work by youngsters across Franklin County, through April 25.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *New England Dreamscapes*, new paintings on slate by Sarah Adams, through April. *New Roots in Riverbanks*, history exhibit about Polish and other Eastern European immigrants to the Connecticut River valley, through May.

TEOLOS Gallery, Greenfield: *Peter Ruhf: Magical Surrealism*, sixty years of paintings, drawings, and prints. March 28 through April 26, with a reception from 5 to 9 p.m. this Friday, March 28.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield: *Annual Photography Exhibit*, 19 New England photographers exhibiting in black-and-white and color, through March 30. *STEAM Art and Science*, group show of art that incorporates science, April 4 through May 18.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Sue Katz and Gloria Kegeles*, photographs, painted wood, and assemblage, through March 29. *Closed and Wide Open Spaces*, paintings by Nancy Meagher. April 3 through 26, with a reception next Thursday, April 3 at 5 p.m.

Science & Engineering Library, UMass Amherst: *The Soil Beneath Us*, mixed media works by Malaika Ross about the rhizosphere. *Harvesting Color: A Seasonal Journal*, art about ecology and herbalism using a variety of green alchemic processes by Tonya Lemos. Through May 30.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Animal, Vegetable, Mineral*, paintings by Edith Bingham, through March. *Hurry Up Spring*, April 2 through 28.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne: *Student Art Exhibit*, work by fifth- and sixth-graders at the Mohawk school district, through April 27.

Hosmer Gallery, Forbes Library, Northampton: *Zine Libraries of Western Mass and Beyond*, zine collections from regional libraries, through April, with a reception Saturday, April 12, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Borgia Gallery, Elms College, Chicopee: *For a Pair of Wings*, works by Hannah Hurricane. through April 18.

CALLS FOR ART

Holyoke Art and Taber Art Gallery are looking for artists working with, or on, paper to show their work at the **Holyoke Paper Festival**. Submissions also open for workshops or talks about possibilities and significance of paper. Apply by April 14 at holyokeepaperfestival.com/enter.

The **Montague Center Branch Library** invites poets inspired by art to write poetry, and artists inspired by poetry to create art for an exhibit opening in May. Bring work to library by April 30. Email kmartineau@cwmares.org with questions.

LOOKY HERE

28 Chapman, Greenfield

MARCH 14: **carousel: STILL LIFE** 3/20
6 week writing workshop on Mondays 6-8pm 3/17-4/21 \$150
OPEN MIC FOR WRITERS 7-9pm \$10 * donation
EXPRESSIONS WITH WREN MARCH 25 6:30-9pm all materials included \$15
MARCH 29: **COLLAGE CLUB!** all materials included \$10 1-3 PM
Quilting 101 Part 3 Sundays with RAE 4/6, 4/13, 4/27 3:30-6pm \$155
Painting in Harmony: color theory with Julia Zins Wednesdays 4/9-4/30 6-8pm \$125
Binging the SYNTAX for green, brown, oranges w/ Shilla Corso 4/20 Virtual 4-6 PM \$40

APRIL 6th: **VISION MAPPING** 12:30-2:30 \$15
APRIL 12th: **COLLAGE** 12:30-2:30 \$15

KIDS ART CLOSING March 28 Artist @ 4A 5-8 PM

Figure Drawing Thursdays 3/13, 3/27 4/10, 4/24 6-8 PM BYO materials * \$15

Writing TAROT with Melissa 4 weeks on Tuesday 6-7:30 4/1-4/22 \$100

SHOP HOURS
Wed - Fri 12-5
Sat & Sun 12-3

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"

SCSC

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

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

CALENDAR



looking forward...

FRIDAY, APRIL 11

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Stephan Crump Sextet*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Willie Lane, Matt Valentine, Spectre Folk*. 8 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Millers River, Athol: *River Rat Race*. 1 p.m. Free.

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Indoor Mini-Golf*, with LED glow-in-the-dark lights. 6 to 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 19

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Creative Writing, Missed Cues, Willie & Wednesday*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SUNDAY, APRIL 27

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Concert and Writers' Showcase*, with featured performer *Erica Wheeler* and participants from the NEA Big Read workshop series. 3 p.m. Free.

SUNDAY, MAY 4

Yankee Candle Headquarters, South Deerfield: *20th Annual Antique Truck Show*. Vendors, food, raffle. Rain or shine. 8 a.m. Free.

THURSDAY, MAY 8

Nova Arts, Keene: *William Tyler, Jake McKelvie, Frozen Corn*. 7 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, MAY 18

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Sun Ra Arkestra*. 8 p.m. \$.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Rubblebucket, Lollise*. 8 p.m. \$.

THURSDAY, JULY 24

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Jeff Tweedy, Hannah Cohen*. 7 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, JULY 26

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *The Mountain Goats, Guster*. 7 p.m. \$\$\$.

SUNDAY, JULY 27

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Little Wings*. 8 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Bonnie "Prince" Billy*. 7 p.m. \$.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Daily Operation, Easthampton: *billy woods*. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Montague Shakespeare Festival* presents *Macbeth*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Vermont Jazz Center, Brattleboro: *Rhythm Future Jazz Quartet*. Benefit for the Windham County Heat Fund. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Molto Ohm, Julia Handschuh & Anna Hendricks, Stella Silbert & Nat Baldwin, Rivka Nisinzweig & Charlie Iris*. 8 p.m. \$.

The O's Music Bar, Sunderland: *DJ Lucas, Papo2oo4, Subjxt, Paul, 22BB, Lil Souf, Slip and Slush, iAMPROFIT*. 8 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *The Slackers, Some Ska Band*. 8 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Gaslight Tinkers*. 8 p.m. \$.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Hardcar, Cop/Out, Radical Joy*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Girls to the Front*, drag show. 9:30 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

Finders Collective, Turners Falls: *Seed Swap*. Browse free seeds and bring some to share if you want. Make sure to label them and share their story if you do. Masks req'd. 12 to 4 p.m. Free.

Brick House Community Resource Center, Turners Falls: *Know Your Rights: Legal Protections for LGBTQ Tenants and Families in Massachusetts*, workshop with Community Legal Aid. Free pizza and snacks. 12:30 p.m. Free.

Erving Public Library, Erving: *EPL Building Fifth Birthday Party*. Memories, photo booth, light refreshments. 1 p.m. Free.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Montague Shakespeare Festival* presents *Macbeth*. 2 p.m. \$

Town Hall, Gill: *Community Dance*, with *Boyz of the Landfill*. 2 p.m. Free.

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

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Jokers Republic, Solgyres, Won Word Trend, Green Street Fiends*. 3 p.m. \$.

Second Congregational Church, Greenfield: *A Balm in Gilead: Songs of Resilience, Hope, and Healing* performed by *Twice As Smart* youth and the *LAVA Community Choir*. Program includes a multimedia discussion of the history and meaning of the spirituals. 4 p.m. Free.

Feeding Tube Records, Florence: *Emily Robb, Krissy & Wednesday*. 4 p.m. \$.

Florence VFW, Florence: *Torture, Fatal Realm, Cross of Disbelief, Posthumous Obsession, Faceless Enemy*. 6 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *Habibi, The Stevenson Ranch Davidians*. 8 p.m. \$.

MONDAY, MARCH 31

Greenfield Community College, Greenfield: *Women in Medicine*, presented by *Kate Spencer*. (See Page A3 for more details). Includes lunch. 12 p.m. Free.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Rock Candy, Famous Mammals, Spectre Folk*. 8 p.m. \$.



Big shot on the East Coast: Art-rap legend Kool Keith (Ultramagnetic MCs, Dr. Octagon) comes through Easthampton restaurant Daily Op next Tuesday.

TUESDAY, APRIL 1

Chicopee Public Library, Chicopee: Opening reception, *NAMI Western Massachusetts 14th Annual Art and Poetry Show*. Featuring the work of local artists and poets living with mental health conditions. 6 p.m. Free.

Daily Operation, Easthampton: *Kool Keith*. 7 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

GCC Dining Commons, Greenfield: *Get Involved: 2025 Involvement Expo*. Free food, activities. "Discover ways to connect, create, and contribute to Franklin County." RSVP at gccforme/getinvolved. 6 p.m. Free.

Hadley Public Library, Hadley: *The Science of Groundwater*, with *Dr. Christine Hatch*. Presentation on how water stewardship impacts communities. Pizza and drinks provided. Zoom available; register at sci-stories.org/dr-christine-hatch/. 6 p.m. Free.

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 3

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Erica Dawn Lyle & Marshall Trammell, belltonesuicide, Hurry Scurry, Cryovacs*. 7 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, APRIL 4

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Nice & Easy Walk*. 1 p.m. Free.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: Film, *Wings of Desire* (1987). BYOB and snacks "speakeasy" with music at 6 p.m., feature at 7 p.m. By donation.

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

Element Brewing Company, Millers Falls: *David Brule & His Irish Band*. 6:30 p.m. No cover.

Floodwater Brewing, Shelburne Falls: *Deep Seize*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Red Baraat*. 7 p.m. \$

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Montague Shakespeare Festival* presents *Macbeth*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Wildcat O'Halloran Band*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Fatboi Sharif, K-The-1?, Wave Generators*. 10:30 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *League of Women Voters Legislative Coffee*, open to the public, with guest speakers *Natalie Blais* and *Jo Comerford*. Refreshments served. 3 p.m. Free.

All Souls Church, Greenfield: *The Legacy of Pete Seeger*, with dozens of musical performers and readings from his words. "Led by old friends of Pete." 3 p.m. Free.

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

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: Poetry with *Julie Choffel, Curtis Emery, Matthew Klane, Zoe Tuck*. 7 p.m. \$.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Sound Journey with Nirmal Chandraratna*. 7 p.m. \$.

Bartlett Hall, UMass Amherst: *Bread & Puppet*. 7 p.m. Free.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Lez Zeppelin*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Montague Shakespeare Festival* presents *Macbeth*. 7:30 p.m. \$

St. James Church, Greenfield: *GCC Community Chorus spring concert*. Includes choral pieces by Schütz, Bach, Handel, Haydn, Brahms, Barber, Pinkham, and Arnesen. 7:30 p.m. Free.

Whately Town Hall, Whately: *Max Wareham & The National Bluegrass Team; Berklee Women and Non-Binary People Ensemble*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Shakedown CITI*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Brad Vickers & His Vestapolitans*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

Millers Falls: *Millers Falls Village Clean Up Day*. Meet in front of the library for coffee and muffins before getting your assignment and trash bag. Bring gloves. 9 a.m. Free.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Mr. Liam, Rocking Puppies*. 10 a.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Montague Shakespeare Festival* presents *Macbeth*. 2 p.m. \$

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

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Beth Logan Raffeld Trio*. Benefit for an accessible, interactive community park on the library grounds. Tickets available at www.tinyurl.com/LevRaffeld or at the library. 4 p.m. \$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Killer Fiction, Wishful Thinking, Schenectavoidz, eleveninchstormtrooper, Brain Vacuum*. 5 p.m. \$.

Iron Horse Northampton: *Martin Barre*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

MONDAY, APRIL 7

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Yesterday's Mail*, multimedia presentation by the Wendell Historical Society. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Greenfield Garden Cinemas, Greenfield: Silent film, *The Lost World* (1925), with live accompaniment by *Jeff Rapsis*. 6:30 p.m. \$

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Väsen-Duo*. 7 p.m. \$.

TUESDAY, APRIL 8

Nova Arts, Keene: *mssv, Landowner*. 7 p.m. \$

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

Peter Waters Painting Services

Interior/Exterior
Custom Residential
Fully Insured

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

Reil CLEANING SERVICES LLC Improve Air Quality & Heating/Cooling Efficiency

DUCT CLEANING

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

WHAT'S IN YOUR VENTS?!!?

Call 413.422.1192 or visit www.REILCLEAN.com

Professional Painting & Decorating Contractor Since 1900

1900-2025 * Our 125th Year

COUTURE BROS.

Christian S. Couture, President

- * Commercial
- * Residential
- * Industrial

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

RECIPES from page B1

ventresca, the tender belly flesh, either fresh or canned in jars, is prized everywhere.

Mediterranean people have been eating tuna for literally thousands of years, but tuna didn't become popular in America until the early 1900s, when West Coast canning companies battled a sardine shortage by canning albacore tuna, previously merely a bait fish. Tuna also thrive in East Coast waters, but they weren't eaten until late-19th century Italian immigrants snapped them up. Since Italians were poor newcomers, their food was rather despised, but by the 1930s cheap canned tuna was a sandwich and casserole staple.

With the world full of tuna-loving countries, the other factor that explains the big price difference between Japanese and American tuna is that there are many varieties, not all equally esteemed. The big sellers at Tokyo auctions are Pacific bluefin tuna. The closely related Atlantic bluefin tuna is also often air-lifted for sale in Tokyo. Both are characterized by their large size and dark-red flesh.

Not quite as big as bluefin – or as overfished – yellowfin tuna is often served as a replacement. Called *ahi* in Hawaii, it's often eaten raw, but much is canned. Albacore, the only tuna that can be marketed as "white," is also relatively plentiful, and often canned. Both canned albacore and yellowfin often cost a tad more than canned skipjack tuna. This is partly because the smaller skipjack swim in shoals, and so are easier to catch, and partly because their fishier taste does not appeal to everyone.

Like all fish, tuna acquire mercury from the ocean and store it in their flesh. When we eat them, we get that mercury. It takes a while for our bodies to get rid of it, so the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advises pregnant women not to eat tuna.

Nonetheless, the FDA puts canned light tuna in its "Best Choices" food category, advising six to

Montague Community Television News Do You Have Ideas

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – Do you have an idea for a video? Is there an event you think we should cover? The Montague Community Television station is equipped with a studio, cameras, lights, and microphones, as well as friendly staff members who are available to help. Stop by the station at 34 Second Street in Turners Falls anytime between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, or contact us at (413) 863-9200 or info-montaguetelevision@gmail.com with your project proposals or questions.

Our in-house productions this week include Tuesday's GMRSD

school committee meeting, multiple Montague finance committee meetings, selectboard meetings from both Gill and Montague, and interviews with the Gill Indivisible group, which pickets the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge each Friday afternoon.

And definitely check out *Customers From Hell 2025*, an ingenious locally produced short about working in food service!

You can find all of our videos on Channel 9 on your cable, and on our MCTV Vimeo page. Follow us on Facebook or find us on Instagram @montaguecommunitytv. Find videos and more on our website, montaguetelevision.org.

nine ounces per person a week. (Other health agencies recommend greater amounts.) As for the risks of overfishing, the Marine Stewardship Council notes that successful management has made albacore and skipjack tuna sustainable species.

If you buy fresh tuna in the supermarket, you can judge its freshness by its intensely dark-red color and its gleaming flesh. Supermarkets regularly slice tuna an inch or more thick, but this is way too thick – whichever way you cook it, it will be bone-dry when it's done. Leaving the center semi-raw helps, but many people don't like it this way. Ask for slices no thicker than half an inch, or buy a thick slice and cut it thinner yourself.

As for canned tuna, if it's packed in water it has fewer calories. Less taste, too. That may be okay for a tuna salad that includes lots of flavorful ingredients, but it's no good for anything else. Choose oil-packed tuna, draining off any excess before serving it.



TUNA WITH ONIONS AND PEPPERS

- about 1 1/4 lb. fresh tuna, cut 1/2-inch thick
- about 5 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 tomatoes
- 1 large onion
- 2 green frying peppers
- 1 1/2 tsp. cumin
- 1 tsp. oregano
- 3/4 cup roasted red pepper strips from a can or jar
- salt and pepper to taste

Wash the tuna and pat it dry. Cut into four serving-size portions. Set aside.

To peel the tomatoes, cut the skin all the way round, pour boiling water on them, leave for 3 minutes, then rinse in cold water and peel off the skin. Cut into rounds. Peel and halve the onions then slice into thin semicircles. Cut the green



peppers, remove the seeds and white ribs from inside, and cut the flesh into thin strips.

Put 2 tablespoons of oil into a

lidded frying pan. Heat over moderate heat, and add the onions. Cover and cook gently for 5 minutes.

Now add the tomatoes, green pepper, cumin, oregano, and salt to taste. Cook gently, covered, for about 15 minutes, stirring often; add the red pepper strips and cook until everything is very tender.

Cook the tuna by putting 3 tablespoons of oil in another pan over low heat. When it has warmed slip in the tuna pieces, season with salt and pepper, and cook for 3 minutes. Flip. Season the other side and cook for a minute.

As soon as the tuna looks pale all through, it's ready. Serve on the vegetables, adding a slice of lemon and potatoes or rice.

Serves 4.

PASTA WITH TUNA AND GREEN PEAS

Most kids like both pasta and peas, so this is an easy family dish.



- 12 oz. corkscrew or penne rigati pasta
- 2 tsp. salt
- pepper to taste
- two 7-oz. cans oil-packed tuna
- 3 cups defrosted frozen peas
- 1 tsp. dried thyme
- 2 to 3 Tbsp. chopped parsley, or 1 Tbsp. chopped basil
- 2 Tbsp. mayonnaise
- Parmesan or other grated cheese

Preheat the oven to 300 degrees. In a large saucepan, boil three pints of water. Add the pasta and the salt. Cook for 8 to 10 minutes or as suggested by the maker.

While the pasta is cooking, drain the tuna. Turn off the oven and put

in the tuna to warm. Put the peas in a pan, cover with hot water, and simmer for 3 minutes.

About 2 minutes before you expect the pasta to be ready, drain the peas. In a bowl, combine them with half the warmed tuna, the thyme, and half the parsley or basil. Mash coarsely with a potato masher to squish up the peas, season to taste with salt and pepper, and stir in the mayonnaise.

Drain the pasta, return it to its pan, add the pea mixture, and toss. Tip into a warmed serving dish. Top with the remaining tuna and herbs, then sprinkle with Parmesan or other cheese. Garnish with cherry tomatoes.

Serves 3 or 4.

SALADE NIÇOISE

There are many variations to this main-dish salad. This recipe is typical.

- 1 fat garlic clove
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 to 3 tsp. lemon juice
- 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- salt and pepper
- 1 large romaine lettuce
- 2 medium tomatoes
- 6 radishes
- 3 hard-boiled eggs
- About 12 bite-sized pieces cold boiled potato
- 3/4 cup cooked sliced green beans
- 1 Tbsp. chopped parsley
- 2 to 3 torn basil leaves
- 1/3 cup black olives
- 2 cans oil-packed chunk or ventresca tuna

Rub the cut edges of the garlic all around the salad bowl. Drop the garlic in the bottom and add the

oil, lemon juice, Dijon mustard, and salt to taste. Whisk to make a dressing and set aside.

Wash, dry, and tear the lettuce. Wash the tomatoes and radishes. Cut the tomatoes in wedges, and the radishes into halves. Shell the eggs and slice into quarters.

Remove the garlic from the dressing. Add the parsley and basil along with the potatoes and green beans. Toss gently. Now add the lettuce. Toss briefly again. Add the tomatoes, radishes, and a little salt. Toss gently once more.

Finally, fold in the olives and one of the cans of tuna. Serve the other can of tuna on top of the salad, along with the boiled eggs.

Serves 4.

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

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!

TURN IT UP!
MUSIC & MOVIES
BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

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

NEED HELP?
WANT TO HELP?
BECOME A MEMBER!

Montague Villages
NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

(413) 672-3095
www.montaguevillages.org