

The Montague Reporter

Six-Town School Plan May Go to Vote in Fall

By MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – When Gill, Northfield, Warwick, and Montague hold their annual town meetings over the next week, voters will hear short presentations from the Six-Town Regional Planning Board (STRPB) about a tentative agreement to form a new school district, pre-kindergarten through grade 12. In the coming weeks two other towns currently in the Pioneer Valley district, Bernardston and Leyden, will hear the same pitch.

From 2020 to 2023 the STRPB studied the feasibility of a larger district, with technical help from consulting firms that specialize in regionalization. “The findings of the research were clear,” the board plans to announce. “The benefits gained throughout all programs and services by combining the middle and high school enrollments would be significant ...”

Both the Gill-Montague and Pioneer Valley regional districts have been struggling for years with a vicious cycle: declining enrollments have led to reduced funding, and thus reduced staffing and educational and extracurricular offerings. Advocates of “super-regionalization” see it as a way to break this dynamic.

see **SIX-TOWN** page A5

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Strathmore Demolition Ambitions Shrinking?

By JEFF SINGLETON

“It’s change order night, Chris,” said Montague selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz to assistant town administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller during Monday night’s board meeting. “Three in a row.”

“It is, yup, three in a row,” Nolan-Zeller replied. “My apologies.”

The assistant administrator, whose job description focuses heavily on infrastructure, did not have to be so apologetic. The first two items he brought before the board were technically “contract amendments,” which fundamentally alter the goals of a contract, while a change order generally adds work to a contract due to unforeseen problems.

The most dramatic was an amendment to a design contract with the engineering firm Tighe & Bond, which has been attempting to figure out how to demolish the town-owned Strathmore paper mill complex while keeping a small, independently owned hydroelectric plant in the middle of the complex stable.

The firm’s original designs envisioned either reinforcing the walls of Building 9, as it is called, or building a new structure for the company, Turners Falls Hydro. But in February the company warned

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

Boutwell, Voudren Appeal to Masses

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE – With a local election coming up on Tuesday, May 20, candidates for townwide office gathered Sunday afternoon at the town hall to introduce themselves to the voters. The forum was broadcast and recorded by Montague Community Television (MCTV) and hosted by the cable station and *Montague Reporter*, with help from the Montague public libraries.

The only competitive race on the ballot this year is for the selectboard, and most of Sunday’s forum was dedicated to Chris Boutwell and Ed Voudren, two candidates for one seat, sharing their perspectives with the small live audience as well as the TV cameras. The discussion was facilitated by this reporter, and is now available to stream on demand on MCTV’s Vimeo page.

Boutwell is a five-term incumbent, having first been

see **APPEAL** page A2

Feds Pull Plug On AmeriCorps Youth Work

By LILIAN AUTLER and MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Funding that pays for dozens of youth service workers in our region through the AmeriCorps program was cut abruptly this week, leaving local agencies “devastated” and scrambling in the latest local impact of the ongoing federal government dismantling by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

Roughly \$750,000 annually comes from the federal program to DIAL/SELF Youth and Community Services, a Greenfield-based non-profit that serves youth in Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden counties and the North Quabbin, and which uses the funds to place 27 AmeriCorps members at schools and organizations throughout the region.

On Sunday morning, DIAL/SELF executive director Phillip Ringwood said, he received word that 17 of Massachusetts’s 31 AmeriCorps programs were cut entirely, including

see **AMERICORPS** page A4

ERVING SELECTBOARD

High Bids On Bridge Cause Towns To Squirm

By KATIE NOLAN

On Monday night, the Erving selectboard reviewed an April 22 email from Wendell project manager Phil Delorey about Erving and Wendell’s joint Farley Bridge repair project.

“The Bids came in for the Bridge Deck Redecking, and it is disturbing information,” Delorey wrote. “Only two bids were received, for \$359,560 and \$392,222, while our estimate from Gill Engineers was \$128,600. Our Grant award is for \$156,000.”

Highway superintendent Glenn McCrory said of the bridge, “It doesn’t serve Erving residents, except to get to Wendell.”

“Everybody’s costs have gone up,” selectboard member James Loynd commented. He suggested the most fiscally prudent action might be to close the bridge.

McCrory answered that in speaking with Erving residents, he heard support for keeping the bridge open. He suggested contacting the state Department of Transportation (MassDOT) to see if an additional grant was available. Delorey’s email also recommended contacting Franklin Regional Council of Governments and Rural Development, Inc.

see **ERVING** page A6



Last Friday, in honor of Arbor Day, the Montague tree advisory committee planted trees in four of the town’s villages; a fifth was planted on Saturday. This scarlet oak was planted on L Street Friday afternoon in memory of Gabe Rice. Gabe’s grandmother, Jean Hebden, remembered him: “He was sensitive, and he had a huge heart, and he gave the best hugs.”

Permits to Freely Assemble Not Sought

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – When does a group of citizens require a permit to organize an event or protest?

The issue came up at Monday’s Montague selectboard meeting when a resident who had not applied for a permit came before the board to announce a May 1 rally and march in downtown Turners Falls.

This prompted comments by

police chief Chris Williams that he had received “numerous phone calls from upset citizens” complaining about a loud, non-permitted rally in Montague Center a week earlier protesting the Trump administration’s anti-democratic policies.

The discussion began when Joanna Rueter, who lives on Oakman Street, announced a “celebration of labor and democracy” that is planned for downtown Turners Falls

this Thursday, May 1 at 5 p.m. Rueter said the event, which will start at Pesksompskut Park and proceed up the northwest side of Avenue A to the picnic tables at Second Street across from the Country Creemee, is intended as a “recognition of the history of labor here in Turners Falls and the surrounding villages.”

The organizers had not requested a permit for the use of public

see **PERMITS** page A5

South Street Bridge Nearly Perfect

By WILL QAULE

MONTAGUE CENTER – Once the South Street bridge received its first layer of asphalt on April 24, villagers began wondering whether the bridge – closed for construction since July 22, 2024 – might be about to open.

But to those eager to cross: Slow down, you move too fast...

“For the South Street bridge project in Montague, looks like we should be done with paving operations by the end of next week, possibly the week after pending any weather delays,” state Department of Transportation (MassDOT) construction engineer Nicholas Corey wrote in an April 30 email to the town. “There will be some seeding and planting operations still to come along with clean up, so we will be hoping to

see **SOUTH STREET** page A6



The new bridge’s cornerstone bears the date of its completion, though our investigation indicates it is not yet complete.

‘And the Tears of the Spring Into Roses Shall Bloom’

Illustration: Cleaner-Outers.....	A2	The Week in High School Sports.....	A8	Montague Police Log Highlights.....	B3
Three Letters to the Editors.....	A2	Valley View: Fish Tales.....	B1	A Very Special Episode of TLWFYITE.....	B4
Turners Falls and Vicinity.....	A3	Recipes: Three Moroccan Tagines.....	B1	Four Comics.....	B4
Medical Leave.....	A3	From The Light: Circles of Hell.....	B1	The Montague Cryptojam.....	B5
Shot Heard 'Round the Rotary.....	A4	Pet of the Week: New Shelter Debuts!.....	B2	Another Amazing Events Calendar.....	B6-B7
Official Potluck Reportback.....	A6	Monthly Libraries Listing.....	B2	Art Exhibits.....	B6
10, 20, and 150 Years Ago.....	A7	High-Output Print Art Project.....	B2	Puzzle Places, Puzzle Faces.....	B8



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

APPEAL from page A1

elected in a three-way race in 2010, and Voudren sat on the board from 1997 to 2004. They each gave short opening statements, then took turns talking on a series of topics prompted by the facilitator.

Voudren was raised in Gill and has lived in Montague for 40 years, and spent much of his career with the Montague police and Franklin County sheriff's department.

"That was also during the narcotics wars, and it was very bad in this town," he said. "And everybody in this town, residents and law enforcement, cured it. Now it's coming back, and I know why, but I'll explain it some other time."

Voudren said he is concerned federal government cuts will cause local damage, and is running because he wants to offer a fresh perspective.

Boutwell, also a longtime resident, said he has served on town meeting for 30 years and previ-



Chris Boutwell

ously sat on the board of health for "24.9 years."

"I've kind of been through it just about anything that comes down the pike in town," he said. "I have no agenda, I'm not after anybody or anything, I just deal with everyday problems. And trust me, we have them!"

The candidates each went on to comment on Montague's aging industrial buildings, public schools, natural resources, policing, public libraries, and municipal airport; on job and housing creation; on differences between the town's villages and the town's overall character; on supports for senior citizens, and on the role of the selectboard.

We encourage our readers in Montague to watch – a direct link is www.tinyurl.com/EDvsCB – and reflect, and send letters to editor@montaguereporter.org to discuss the race in our May 8 and 15 editions!



Ed Voudren

CORRECTIONS

Our April 24 profile of Montague Center fire chief Dave Hansen (*Montague Center Fire Chief retiring*, Page B1) contained a couple errors. On the topic of brush fires, we wrote this: "Montague has some experienced folks, including Rick Solon, the head fire warden with the state Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), who serves as Montague's town forest warden and the inspector at MCFD."

First and foremost, that's Rick Sawin – many apologies! But secondly, Sawin is *not* a fire warden at DCR. Our reporter was referring to fellow Montague Center resident David Celino, the chief fire warden at DCR, but his was not included in the filed article and a confused editor completely reordered the sentence to more clearly, but incorrectly, assign all three positions to Sawin. Sawin does serve as forest warden for the town of Montague and fire inspector and investigator – as well as assistant chief – for the Montague Center fire department.

For this mixup we apologize to Sawin, to Celino, to our readers, and to reporter Donna Petersen, whose sentence we misunderstood and butchered. Thanks go to Ann Fisk for setting us straight.

Ann also pointed out a third error: we bungled the email addresses to RSVP to for Chief Hansen's June 7 retirement party. The correct addresses are ssawin41@gmail.com and jklaus62yahoo.com.

Though it is not always possible to get everything right on the first attempt, the *Montague Reporter* is pursuing excellence in the frequency of our corrections, and we thank you for accompanying us on this path.

Published weekly on Thursdays.

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

PHONE: (413) 863-8666
EMAIL:
editor@montaguereporter.org
ads@montaguereporter.org
bills@montaguereporter.org
subscriptions@montaguereporter.org
events@montaguereporter.org
poetry@montaguereporter.org
science@montaguereporter.org

Send address changes to:

The Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

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

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

Annual Subscription Rate:
\$40 for walking subscriptions;
\$50 for driving route subscriptions;
\$75 for mailed subscriptions;
\$40 to \$75 for digital subscriptions.

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


NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION



NINA

M & M Removal Service is proud of their youngest worker, Dylan Nelson. At four and a half years old, he is eager to do cleanouts with his grandmother Mary Williams and aunt Kimberly Gleason. M & M is based in Montague and Greenfield and offers cleanout services all over Franklin County, with a special emphasis on recycling or donating what they remove. Find out more at mmremoval.com.

Letters to



the Editors

Battery Foes to Bring Siting Fight to Paper City

Wendell's No Assault and Batteries (NAB) invites neighbors in the *Montague Reporter* towns to join us at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, May 5 at Holyoke Heritage Park for an outdoor rally preceding the statewide Stakeholder Site Suitability hearing to be held in the park building at 5:30 p.m.

We are calling on state officials to protect our communities by:

- Siting solar and battery storage facilities on already disturbed lands;
- Preserving the right of towns to protect the safety of their citizens and ecosystems; and
- Restricting battery storage systems (BESS), which are prone to runaway thermal fires, to suitable sites away from vulnerable neighborhoods and lands.

Western Massachusetts is home to rich forests, farmlands, wetlands, and wildlife habitat that are often forgotten in the halls of government. It is up to us to protect the voiceless citizens of our Commonwealth who protect us in turn from advancing climate change.

Our voices must be heard as state agencies begin drafting energy siting guidelines that will affect our environment for years to come. Finding ways to achieve the Commonwealth's climate targets while protecting our natural environment is a goal we believe everyone can support.

NAB has submitted a list of *50 Siting Suitability Standards for Clean Energy Installations*, and registered to present these standards orally in person at the Stakeholder hearing on May 5. Others may also register to testify.

Full information on the sessions may be seen at www.mass.gov/info-details/2024-climate-act-stakeholder-sessions.

Come join us on May 5 – bring your posters, banners, and voices!

Holyoke Heritage Park, Appleton Street in Holyoke. Please contact us at nabunited@crocker.com if you would like to carpool.

NAB Coordinating Committee:
Court Dorsey, Laurel Facey, Nina Keller, Al Norman, Christopher Queen, Bill Stubblefield Wendell and Greenfield

Thanks for Forum; People Should Vote

Thanks to the *Montague Reporter* for co-hosting a candidates' forum on Sunday. It was a great opportunity to meet the people who are running for town offices in the upcoming election. And I appreciated the opportunity to hear responses to questions from both candidates vying for the Selectboard seat.

Forums like these give us residents a chance to get to know the people who will represent us in town government, whether it's a committee, board, or commission. For those who didn't see the forum in person or on Channel 9, they can view it on MCTV at vimeo.com/1079200432.

Please get out and vote on May 20!

Judith Lorei
Montague Center

Absurdity

I really like the idea of the "Turners Falls and Vicinity" column. I would be happy to contribute. It seems like you could really get absurd with it.

I'd recommend people could report on silly quotes they hear from random people within the vicinity of the *Montague Reporter* office; that's what I would want to read.

Bella Levavi
Greenfield

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): _____

TURNERS FALLS AND VICINITY.

(Title still temporary.
Haven't found
something better yet.)

Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

It is a very busy time of year. This week the **editor's inbox** got itself into such a state that by Wednesday night several of our correspondents thought to send follow-up messages asking politely if we had seen their Monday requests for free publicity.

If someone could add an eighth day into the week we will gladly move their project to the top of our list of interests.

The **Turners Falls Water Department** is mailing its semi-annual water bills this Thursday, May 1. Payment is due by June 1 to avoid a \$20 late fee.

Payments can be made in person at 226 Millers Falls Road, by mail to the same address, or online at www.turnersfallswater.com.



Carrier Rob Machado reports from the road: “Today, I decided to try letting Sadie help me **deliver your newspapers**. She is a trained service dog for an arthritis sufferer – for someone else – only she stayed too small, which is how I got her. As luck would have it, her training is helpful to me, too.

“She is pictured here doing a good ‘Pick it up, to my hand’ of a newspaper, then having a refreshing drink of water, during a pit stop between customers. She was *perfect*, and is very proud of herself for doing ‘Good Newspapers’! She was well-received at one of your customers’ homes.

“The only issue is that she had no use for the modest cash stipend carriers receive, and thinks cookie treats would be a more appropriate method of payment.”

Center for New Americans announced Tuesday that their annual fundraiser and showcase at the Shea Theater, **Immigrant Voices**, which was scheduled for this Sunday, has been “postponed.” We hope people will find other ways to support their work this spring. It’s a tough time.

A **house fire Tuesday night** on Leverett’s Teawaddle Hill Road displaced two residents, though everyone escaped safely. Their neighbor, Pat Duffy, asked us to share this online fundraiser with our readers: gofund.me/67df3cae.

“They are generous, kind-hearted people – always giving to our community,” Pat’s appeal reads. “Now it’s our turn to give back. Please contribute what you can to help Virginia and Mark get through this devastating time. Every dollar makes a difference, and all funds will go directly to them.”

On a side note, Pat mentioned to us: “Those folks are my neighbors and were involved in getting the waterline to our neighborhood. Ironically, the resulting fire hydrants helped provide enough water to put out the fire (rather than the trucks having to go fill up somewhere).”

Staying on the topic of habitat, someone asked us for an update on the stalled **Habitat for Humanity** project on First Street in Turners, so we gave the town admin a ring.

Walter told us the town has a cost estimate on hand for cleanup of the lot’s subsurface toxins – \$126,000 to \$313,000 – and is “actively talking with” two different state agencies that might fund the work. We’ll keep you posted.

We heard about it after the last edition went to the printer, and next week will be too late, so we promised to squeeze in a notice that the New England Learning Center for Women in Transition (NELCWIT) is holding *its* annual fundraiser next Thursday, May 8 at Terrazza, the restaurant at the Greenfield Country Club.

The event, titled **The Power to Persevere!**, will feature a buffet dinner, a cash bar, music by *Two for Jazz*, a keynote speech by the Rev. Dr. Andrea Ayvazian, and a great opportunity to learn about and support the work of the organization, which provides sexual and domestic violence crisis services to people of all genders, orientations, abilities, and immigration status.

Tickets are sliding scale, and are available at www.givebutter.com/P2P2025. The event runs from 5 to 7 p.m.

Blind item: “Bring bread to share, roses to wear, rose petals to toss in the air,” reads one announcement for the local May Day march. “Bring protest signs, noisemakers, musical instruments and your friends and family. Solidarity forever! The union makes us strong!”

The resulting condemnation was fierce. “Encouraging people to bring roses and strew rose petals is environmentally irresponsible,” someone warned on a neighboring town’s listserv.

We’ll get there somehow.

The talk this week about what to name the hypothetical **six-town school district** (*see article, Page A1*) reminded us of our old obsession, the naming of the “Pioneer Valley” itself by the

nascent Western Massachusetts Visitors’ Association in February 1939.

After the Association’s contest in local newspapers produced as its winner “King Philip’s Realm,” the business interests behind the group balked, pointing publicly to the fact that Metacomet “actually spent only two years of his life here,” according to the *Recorder-Gazette*.

Three weeks of “protracted balloting” among the business leaders of the three counties spat out the current name, which became so successful that less than two decades later the regional school in Northfield adopted it.

Now the tables have flipped, and planners are grasping for a historically authentic place-name for this neck of the woods, or for the river. If Philip had won, we might remember what it was.

If you are into patting sheep but don’t have **sheep of your own to pat**, this weekend is a big weekend. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, the Flynt Center of Early New England Life at Historic Deerfield is hosting its annual Heritage Breed Sheep Weekend.

Admission is free if you’re a baby through 12 years old, \$5 for 13-to-17-year-olds (why?), and \$20 for adults. There’ll be sheep-meeting, sheep-greeting, sheep-shearing, sheep-herding, sheep-inspired crafts, yarn-dyeing, yarn-weaving, and food. And even music: dulcimer dominator Tim Van Egmond rips it at noon Saturday, and established children’s yodeler Roger Tincknell got the noon slot Sunday. But mostly sheep.

The deadline for the **implementation of the Real ID**, originally called for by an act of Congress in 2005, has been extended countless times, but it appears to really be next Wednesday, May 7, 2025. Your driver’s license or other state identification must be Real ID-compliant if you want to board domestic flights, or enter military bases or federal courthouses. In our state, a driver’s license with a star in the upper right hand corner is a Real ID, in case you forgot whether you’ve switched.

Inside Medicine and *Snopes* have published the Trump administration’s leaked “Health and Human Services 2026 Discretionary Budget Pass-back Overview” document, the source of the rumor you may have heard that HHS plans to eliminate naloxone (Narcan) programs. See for yourself at www.tinyurl.com/HHSpassback – they’re hoping to slash and eliminate broadly, including **not just overdose prevention but all HIV work at the CDC, grants for at-risk rural hospitals, and Head Start**. The text also calls for “making all non-citizens, including permanent lawful residents, ineligible for public benefit programs.”

These proposals are not yet law, but time is ticking, and if you or someone you love is dependent on *any* programs for med supplies, stock up.

Send your little bits of news
to editor@montaguereporter.org.

UPDATES

Photo Correspondent Recuperating, In Good Spirits

By REPORTER STAFF

GREENFIELD – Our long-time reporter and *fotograf*, the word in Polish for photographer, Joe R. Parzych wrote Friday to let our readers know he is taking a break from reporting due to ear health issues, and has been staying at Baystate Franklin Medical in Greenfield trying to get better and take it easy.

“The doctors and especially the nurses are very kind and wonderful, working beyond the call of duty around the clock, helping me and others get better,” Joe writes. “I want to thank all the staff, top to bottom. Do not take it for granted, because we’re very fortunate. Staff is short everywhere, all over the world, and we

have to do the best we can – we have to appreciate the good things in life.”

Joe says his ear pain reminds him of sound vibrations. “It sort of feels like engineers using masonry drills, or the kind of drills that vibrate trying to drill rivets into steel beams or the concrete and steel decks on bridges,” he writes, adding that he cannot wait until he is better to scout out new construction projects and local farms with his camera, reporting on the scene.

“This is the first time in a long time that I’ve had this ear health pain since I was little,” he tells us. “It doesn’t help that I have saliva duct pain on top of that. Hopes and prayers this gets better soon.”

Feel free to correspond with the



The 18th (or so) Joe Parzych, at the fair.

Montague Reporter to ask how Joe is doing, or reach him directly at joerparzych@gmail.com.

Get-well cards can be sent to 14C Elm Terrace in Greenfield.

“Like father, like son, 18 generations of Joes,” he adds. “We are one of these people who can’t sit still – we are always active and on the go, multitasking while working, and never get bored. By the way, the food is excellent here at hospital.”

On Tuesday Joe reached back out to let us know he was going home to rest, but would still have a nurse coming in.

“I wanted to let them know that I am in good hands, and good spirits,” he says. “I was wondering how the river is in Turners Falls, while people are walking, seeing wildlife, etc.” He again requested a get-well card.

WINNING TOGETHER

THE BRICK HOUSE

5K

MAY 17, 10 am

Turners Falls, MA

RUN OR 1 MILE WALK & ROLL

Pre-register or sponsor the race!

All proceeds support the Brick House

brickhousecommunity.org/5k

Anne-Marie Taylor

Proofreading

amtaylorart@vivaldi.net

“Anne-Marie Taylor is the best proofreader in Montague. She is thorough, insightful, and professional. Her rates are reasonable. I am so happy I found her. You will be too.”

- David Detmold

Founding editor,

The Montague Reporter

SUPPORT LOCAL INDEPENDENT JOURNALISM

SEND ANY UNWANTED PIZZA COUPONS TO

THE “MONTAGUE REPORTER,”

177 AVENUE A,

TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376

ALSO ACCEPTED IN PERSON OR IN MAILBOX

NANCY L. DOLE

BOOKS & EPHEMERA

20 State Street, Bucklandside

Shelburne Falls

413-625-9850

ndole@crocker.com

OPEN three days a week

Tues, Weds, Thurs – 11 to 6

(also by chance or appt.)

WE DIG FRANKLIN COUNTY

• Loam

• Gravel

• Sand

• Natural Stone

[413] 774-1285

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

RENAISSANCE PAINTING

SINCE 1970

LICENSED, INSURED

INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING, ALL PHASES

POWER WASHING

BRIAN MCCUE, PRESIDENT


240 GREENFIELD ROAD • MONTAGUE, MA 01351

PHONE & FAX: 413-367-9896 • RENAISSANCEPAINTINGCOMPANY.COM

RECYCLE

PAPER

Week of May 5 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

GREAT FALLS FARMERS MARKET

Every Saturday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. May to October

Peskeompskut Park Turners Falls

AT LARGE

'Round the World: The Butterfly Effect

By CHIP AINSWORTH

NORTHFIELD – Looking for a 75-mile day trip that will take you 250 years back in history? Drive east on Route 2 to the Concord rotary and take the third exit onto Barretts Mill Road to the North Bridge Visitor Center at 174 Liberty Street, part of Minute Man National Historical Park.

This is where the fight for independence began on April 19, 1775. You can walk the North Bridge and be where patriots fell and the 8½-year war began.

The American Revolution we are celebrating is a long and complicated story. *The British Are Coming* by Rick Atkinson helps to provide a short version of how it began with the battles at Lexington and Concord, and what Emerson famously wrote was “the shot heard ’round the world.”

If the British hadn’t won the French and Indian War a decade earlier, New England today would be New France, and we’d be drinking espresso and eating tartines. The Crown wanted the colonies to foot part of the bill for their overseas effort, but then, as now, Americans hated to pay taxes.

“With no elected delegates in Parliament,” writes Atkinson, “the Americans had adopted a phrase heard in Ireland for decades: no taxation without representation.”

Consequently after sunset on December 16, 1773, about 50 men “dressed in the Indian manner” and calling themselves the Sons of Liberty went aboard three merchant ships – the Beaver, the Dartmouth,

and the Eleanor – and dumped tons of tea leaves into Boston Harbor.

At the same time, writes Atkinson, “Militia companies were training intensely, some had formed quick-reaction units called ‘minute men.’”

Proclaiming a “dangerous spirit of resistance” and fearing that losing the colonies would create a domino effect, the Crown steadily increased its fighting force in North America from 7,000 troops in 1773 to 121,000 at the height of the war to come.

British soldiers – derisively called “lobster coats” – were amongst the best-trained and well-equipped in the world. Armed with muskets that could shoot “heavy lead slugs moving at a thousand feet per second,” they left Boston after midnight on April 19 and marched under a near-full moon with orders to find and destroy hidden caches of gunpowder and weapons.

Though they were warned in advance by riders Paul Revere and William Dawes, the Lexington militia that assembled on the town green – merely a cow pasture at the time – was no match for the redcoats. Eight were killed, and nine others were wounded.

“Lexington had not been a battle, or even a skirmish, but an execution,” writes Atkinson.

After the Brits reached Concord they started a bonfire, and the patriots gathered at Punkatasset Hill assumed they were burning down the town. Many had fought in the French and Indian War and weren’t afraid to confront the Brits.

The British retreated back across the river and started shoot-



April 1775 saw the explosion of simmering resentments into open political violence.

ing. “Fire, for God’s sake fire!” Major John Buttrick commanded his militia. Soldiers from both sides were killed near the bridge, but the British would face a gauntlet of bullets and bayonets as they made their back to Boston.

Seventy-three Brits were killed and 174 were wounded, and 88 Americans were either killed or wounded.

In Arlington, writes Atkinson, “The day’s bloodiest fighting erupted street to street, house to house, room to room. Here twenty-five Americans and 40 British would die.”

In the bloody day’s aftermath Atkinson quotes a Roxbury physician who simply said: “Well, the nail is driven.”

During my visit I hiked part of the 4.6-mile Battle Road Trail that follows the British soldiers’ retreat. Commemorative red-white-and-blue bunting was draped from roofs and picket fences, and a British flag

was planted next to a granite marker: *Near this site was buried a British soldier of the 4th. The King’s own Regiment of Foot. Fatally wounded at North Bridge.*

Tourists wore tricorner hats and dressed in patriotic colors. Chattering schoolkids stood on the 110-foot long North Bridge and peered into the dark water, watching leaves and twigs be carried along by the water’s swift current. The original bridge washed away, as have several others.

Concord’s colonial homes reminded me of Main Street in Old Deerfield, and I started to talk about the Deerfield Massacre of 1704. “Where I’m from in Deerfield,” I said, but was quickly interrupted.

“Deerfield!” exclaimed a father who was with his wife and two young children. “Magic Wings!”

Chip Ainsworth writes sports for the Recorder, and news and opinion for the Reporter. He lives in Northfield.

AMERICORPS from page A1

the two administered by his organization: the DSAP Positive Youth Development Corps and the DSAP Restorative Relationships Corps.

“We want to make sure that people are aware that this is happening, and reaching out to our representatives in Congress,” said Ringwood. “Spreading the word is important.”

The cuts are effective immediately, just six weeks before the end of the current members’ service term in June. According to the *New York Times* the Massachusetts Service Alliance (MSA), which administers AmeriCorps contracts in the state, learned of the cuts last Friday and began informing organizations that the members, “who receive a minimal stipend and sometimes housing and money for food, could not be paid for the remainder of their service.”

“President Trump has the legal right to restore accountability to the entire Executive Branch,” White House spokesperson Anna Kelly told reporters this week. The billion-dollar program, she stated, “has failed eight consecutive audits and identified over \$45 million in improper payments in 2024 alone.”

Local organizations impacted by the cuts include the Brick House Community Resource Center, Música Franklin, Greenfield High School, North Star Self-Directed Learning for Teens, Frontier Regional High School, Pioneer Valley Performing Arts School, the Performance Project, Enlace de Familias, and the Community Music School of Springfield.

AmeriCorps members placed at Greenfield High School support students in the “reset room” to help them understand their needs and develop social emotional skills, according to Ringwood. During lunch, they provide opportunities for alternative engagement such as library time and games.

At the Brick House in downtown Turners Falls, members lead programming for teens at an after-school drop-in center and organize open mics, movie nights, art projects, health

education workshops, and other recreational activities. (*Disclosure: Mike Jackson, who contributed writing to this article, volunteers on the Brick House’s finance subcommittee.*)

“We are heartbroken at this news,” the agency announced Tuesday in a written statement. “AmeriCorps members are an essential component of our Teen Center, and we are proud to have three AmeriCorps alumni on staff. The DIAL/Self AmeriCorps program is a wonderful asset in our community – this is a devastating loss.”

Youth program director Hannah Bertrand told the *Reporter* the two AmeriCorps members who serve at the agency’s Teen Center are “essential.”

“AmeriCorps members here function as youth staff,” Bertrand said. “They bring kids to the park, build relationships with the youth. It’s an opportunity for these kids to meet adults who can be supportive – a lot of our kids don’t necessarily have phenomenal relationships with the adults in their lives.”

At the same time, Bertrand says, she has seen the program have a positive impact on the service members themselves.

“Youth work is not easy,” she said. “We see so much growth in the AmeriCorps volunteers.... For us the program has been bigger than just the ten-month volunteer stint; three of our staff are former members. We are part of a larger network of these folks. It’s a huge community-building loss.”

America’s Service Commissions (ASC), an advocacy network for national service program staff, responded with a statement on behalf of the “almost 30,000 AmeriCorps State and National and AmeriCorps VISTA members that are being forced to exit their programs prematurely.” “These members will be left suddenly without a living stipend and other benefits, such as healthcare, due to the termination of their program,” the statement read. “Many members will be facing housing, food, health,

and other financial emergencies as a result of losing their living stipends, which are likely their only source of income.”

Impacted organizations in Massachusetts are working together with the goal of allowing current members to successfully complete the final weeks of their terms. The host organizations typically contribute matching funds toward the program.

Ken Danford, executive director of the Sunderland-based school alternative North Star Self-Directed Learning for Teens, wrote: “I know that the combination of North Star, our local DIAL/SELF AmeriCorps program, and our Massachusetts Service Alliance will rally to make things whole for the current Service Members. We will be asking them to continue to serve on site as they would until further notice. We hope to have more information soon.”

“The people in DOGE who have canceled a Congressionally created program are not publicly elected officials,” Danford, who has hosted AmeriCorps members at North Star for ten years and whose own son volunteered under the program, wrote in a Facebook post. “Who in their right mind cancels a year-long program with six weeks remaining?... Canceling six weeks of AmeriCorps will not save real money. It simply shows the Service Members that they are not valued. It tells the youth, senior citizens, and organizations that receive their service that they are not valued. It tells everyone that contracts with the United States government are not valid.”

Brick House executive director Tom Taaffe told the *Reporter* on Tuesday that his agency is “trying to figure out how to deal with” the cuts.

“These are two adults that we really need in order to support our young people,” Taaffe said. “The members adapt to the needs of the kids, take time to listen to their challenges, mentor them, mediate arguments. They play basketball and do gaming with the kids. This year we have an AmeriCorps member with

music production skills, who has been working with kids in the music studio.... We were hoping to grow that program, but now the money is gone.”

Taaffe added that the cuts were “also a devastating blow for people transitioning from school to work and transitioning back into the workforce.”

“It’s a great program,” he said. “If anything, AmeriCorps members should be paid more for their work.”

On Tuesday, 23 states including Massachusetts filed a federal lawsuit arguing that the Trump administration’s sudden 85% cut to AmeriCorps, whose various programs place over 200,000 volunteers and stipended service workers annually, was made without Constitutional authority.

“AmeriCorps is the epitome of service and civic engagement, offering more than 1,100 Massachusetts residents meaningful opportunities to serve in various fields including public health, education, disaster relief and more,” said Massachusetts attorney general Andrea Campbell. “I am proud to join my colleagues in pushing back on the Trump Administration’s unlawful efforts to dismantle this service program.”

Danford wrote this week that North Star “hopes that the lawsuit will lead to an injunction and reinstatement of the contracts.” “In the meantime,” he said, “we’ve also been in touch with state lawmakers and the Massachusetts Service Alliance around creating a contingency in-state service corps option.”

“I would say to the community that now is the time to get involved locally,” Bertrand, the Brick House youth programs director, said of the cuts. “We are okay budget-wise, but there will be increasing challenges, and volunteerism and community care will be very important. If you have a skill, want to volunteer at the food pantry, whatever it is – it’s a good time to get involved.”



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

greenfield records

Vinyl records, cassettes, CDs, DVDs, books

discogs: johndoejunior buy/sell/trade

275 main st. greenfield ma

M-Th. 11-5
Fri-Sat. 11-6
Sun. 12-5

@greenfieldrecordsma
johnDOHjunior

greenfield-records.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

THE SPIRIT SHOPPE

PERMITS from page A1

property, and Rueter made the announcement during the period at the beginning of the meeting designated for “public participation.” She said there would be “10 to 15 people designated as peacekeepers, and traffic-or people-movers,” similar to the plan for the April 19 protest in Montague Center, which she called “completely peaceful.”

Rueter said the organizing group planned to visit “the stores along the path” prior to the event to inform them of the plan.

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz asked executive assistant Wendy Bogusz whether she thought a permit was required for the event. “We typically do have those, and we typically inform the police,” he said.

“When someone was just walking down the sidewalk, it’s their free right to walk,” Bogusz pointed out. “We haven’t required a permit for that, so that’s what I did tell them – because this came in [last] Thursday, after our agenda was already posted.”

The selectboard did not voice any objections to the demonstration, but town administrator Walter Ramsey asked Rueter to fill out an application for the use of Peskeompskut Park in any case.

Williams said he had been “unaware of the event” on April 19, but had received “numerous” complaints about “the amount of people, the noise level, and the way people were parking.”

Selectboard member Matt Lord asked if the noise had violated any bylaws or ordinances. Williams replied that he would have to “look at the bylaw,” as well as review videos he had received, as he was not there. He went on to say he had been told that visitors had parked illegally and in front of driveways.

“That’s an issue,” said Lord. “We don’t want people parking in front of people’s driveways.”

There has been controversy about the need for permits for protest marches in the past. In June 2020 a “Black Lives Matter” rally protesting the murder of George Floyd and racial bias in police use of force marched from Peskeompskut Park to Montague town hall without obtaining a permit. Montague police, who had been informed of the route by organizers, did not interfere with the non-violent march and rally, but were criticized for blocking access to the downtown area.

Reached for comment, Lord, who lives in Montague Center and said he attended the April 19 rally “with the whole family,” said that “the only reason I support permitting is to guarantee the safety of the participants.” He went on to say that the judgment as to whether that is necessary is “up to the organizers.”

At the meeting Williams said that when no permit is issued, “then at least some type of information [should be] broadcasted, so people know what to expect.”

According to the website of the Massachusetts American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), demonstrations on public property do “not usually” require a permit except when a march or parade requires a street closure or blocks vehicle or pedestrian traffic; when a rally is “expected to be very large, usually 100 people or more,” or when the event “will involve substantial sound amplification.”

“In these situations a permit may be required because of the potential disruption of other activities or because public safety services, including police protection, may be required,” the organization advises. “Check your local rules.”

The national ACLU states that while some limited permitting may be required, “police can’t use those procedures to prevent a response to breaking news events.”

According to the Montague town bylaws, Article IV, Section 13, “Three or more persons shall not stand or be near each other, in any street or public way in Montague Center, Turners Falls, or Millers Falls, so as to obstruct such street or way, or interfere with the free and uninterrupted use of the same for travel.”

Under Section 21 of the same article, “No person shall revel, quarrel, behave in a boisterous, indecent or disorderly manner, or use any indecent, profane, insulting or abusive language, or sing any lewd, profane or indecent song in any street or near any dwelling house or other building or in any public place.”

Article VI explains the consequences. “Any violation of Sections 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, and 28 of Article IV of these by-laws,” it reads, “shall be punished by a fine of not more than twenty dollars.”

Violations of Section 21, however, “shall be punished by a fine of not more than five dollars.”

Mike Jackson provided additional research.



SIX-TOWN from page A1

The pitch touts benefits to “course offerings, approaches to learning, athletic teams (and the ability to field teams), support for students with disabilities, professional development and collaboration, clubs and after-school programs, and more.”

Since last summer, the STRPB has been drafting a proposed agreement for the would-be district. It will only move forward if all six towns agree to sign on, by a vote at special town meeting (STMs).

“Holding STMs on the same day will ensure that every vote is meaningful, and will alleviate voters from being influenced by the outcome of another town,” chair Alan Genovese of Warwick wrote in a memo to the towns asking for time at the annual meetings. “In order for the Regional Agreement to be approved, it must pass a majority vote in all six towns.”

The town of Warwick left the Pioneer Valley district in 2023 after it voted to close the town’s elementary school, but Warwick has continued in the six-town process. The STRPB’s proposal would keep all the local elementary schools intact while merging middle schools at Northfield and high schools at Turners Falls.

The district would be governed by a 13-member school committee, with six members from Montague, two each from Bernardston and Northfield, and one each from Leyden, Gill, and Warwick. Vernon and Erving, which tuition secondary students into the existing districts, would be invited to continue under a similar arrangement.

Under an “aggressive timeline,” the STRPB says, approval by the six towns this fall could lead to a new district as soon as July 2027.

“If one town disagrees, then the project’s done – for now,” Gill mem-

ber Bill Tomb, who also serves on the STRPB, told the Gill-Montague school committee last Tuesday night. Since 2019 Gill-Montague has been handling the state grants funding the planning effort, most of it spent in payments to expert consultants. The current round of funding extends through December.

On Monday night, Montague selectboard member Matt Lord told his colleagues he has been “very impressed with the work that has come out of it for the agreement, and what the agreement can do for the six towns, and the schools within them.”

Though not on the STRPB, Lord has spent the last year on the subcommittee that drafted the regional agreement. The next “six to seven months,” he said, will see an “outreach effort” by the planning board to sell the public on the idea.

“I know these meetings have been long and arduous, and hopefully this will come to a positive change,” said selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz. “I think change is needed [at] both districts, and this is a good first step. Maybe not the final, but a good step.”

On Tuesday the STRPB held a remote meeting to check in about the announcements, an ongoing legal review of the draft proposal, and what name to give the proposed district.

The next step is a review by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). Genovese said Russell Dupere of Dupere Law Offices, which works for several of the towns, has been talking with the state ethics commission about whether he may work for the STRPB; for now, the document will be brought to DESE by the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (MARS) consultants who helped to draft it.

As for the town meetings, Genovese said Montague, Gill, and Warwick have been accommodating, but Northfield had not yet agreed to let the board present.

Leyden member Michele Giarusso said her town had published an update in a recently mailed newsletter, and that she hadn’t heard about Bernardston. Neither of Bernardston’s representatives were present.

The most in-depth discussion was about the would-be district’s name. A “subcommittee” consisting of two Debs – Deb Loomer of Gill and Deb Potee of Northfield – was formed to survey opinion in the six towns.

“Deb and I spent a lot of time, a lot of agonizing, very uncomfortable conversations with people, and writing letters to people who said, ‘No, I don’t want to play, I don’t want to participate,’” Potee reported. “That didn’t feel really good.”

Loomer said about 10 people ultimately gave input, and “the common thread through a lot of them was the word ‘river.’” Some results seemed unwieldy, or too closely associated with one of the existing districts at the expense of others. In the end, the two agreed to recommend “Great River Regional School District.”

“Someone [said] that was what the indigenous people called it,” Loomer added, referring to the Connecticut River.

Northfield representative Reina Dastous said she liked it. “I feel like it’s a nod to the indigenous roots, but not in an offensive way,” she said.

“It’s true that there is a river in each one of the towns,” Tomb mused.

After some discussion, the board voted 9 to 0 in favor of the name.

Attempts to appoint a public relations subcommittee floundered. “Do I have to speak?” Potee asked. “You can start the conversation

Tip of the week ...

With more people outside during the warmer weather, please exercise extra caution while driving and watch out for children, runners, bicyclists, and motorcyclists. Remember to look twice and save a life.

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

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

auto | home | business | annuities

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

MONTAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In accordance with the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Ch. 131, Sec. 40, the Montague Conservation Commission will hold a public meeting at **6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 8, 2025** to review the Request for Determination of Applicability RDA #2025-02, filed by Brett Grout c/o Franklin Regional Transit Authority to determine whether the construction of an 14’ x 20’ concrete block, for a covered salt storage shed, within 100-foot buffer zone at **3 Sandy Lane** (Parcel #21-0-149) is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act. A hybrid meeting will be held at the Montague Town Hall Annex, 1 Avenue A in Turners Falls, MA. Remote meeting login information and the filing is available for review at www.montague-ma.gov/calendar.

Legal Notice

TOWN OF MONTAGUE

SEWER USE REGULATION (SUR) AMENDMENTS

The Selectboard of the Town of Montague, as sewer commissioners under MGL c.41, s.21, is conducting a public hearing regarding amendments to the Sewer Use Regulation (SUR) on May 12, 2025, at 6 p.m., to allow the public an opportunity to comment on any of the proposed amendments.

The meeting will be held in-person at Montague Town Hall, Upstairs Meeting Room, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA.

Please note that while an option for remote attendance is provided as a courtesy to the public, the hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law. Members of the public with particular interest in this hearing should make plans for in-person vs. remote attendance accordingly. Remote access provided via Zoom link found at www.montague-ma.gov/calendar.

All proposed amendments to the Sewer Use Regulation can be viewed on the Town website at www.montague-ma.gov. For further information, please contact Chris Nolan-Zeller, Assistant Town Administrator, at (413) 863-3200 x109.

Our discounts are in full bloom!

Competitive rates and discounts for all of your insurance needs!
159 Avenue A | Turners Falls | 413.863.4373 | ahrist.com

at town meeting,” said Giarusso, “but it’s going to take grassroots efforts.... We need to sit in small groups and let people be honest, and have these honest conversations: Are they getting misinformation? Are they afraid of something?”

“The crux of the thing is people don’t want to volunteer for anything,” Pat Shearer, another Northfield representative, lamented. “And how we get around that, I’m not sure...”

Members agreed that they would like to learn more about a super-

regionalization effort in Berkshire County that failed in 2023.

Late in the meeting, the idea was raised that “the great river” may actually have been an English name for the Connecticut. As various attendees began sharing live results from online search engines, Genovese suggested that the STRPB could “let it marinate until the next meeting,” and then either “affirm it or have another discussion.”

The next meeting date was tentatively set for Tuesday, May 20.



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

Lic #36550-EL1-413-345-1687

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 INSUREDFREE 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

bringing peace to tired muscles

Gretchen Wetherby, LMT
413-824-7063

gretchenwmt@gmail.com • gretchenwetherby.massagetherapy.com

ERVING from page A1

about finding additional funding.

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache said that if the repair is not funded, the bridge might deteriorate and eventually be closed by MassDOT’s bridge inspection team. “I’m in favor of trying to find a way to fund it,” he concluded.

“I’m all for being a good neighbor,” Loynd added, “if we can afford it.”

Fire chief Philip Wonkka pointed out that the Orange ambulance uses the Farley Bridge for access to Wendell.

The board asked town administrator Bryan Smith to contact the Wendell selectboard and the Erving finance committee and treasurer so the board will have more information to make decisions about the bridge repair.

More Roads and Bridges

A High Street resident wrote the board asking the town to install guardrails along the road near her home, which is set in a hollow below street level. According to a memo from McCrory, “her concern is speeding traffic on the road and the potential of cars going off the road and into her house that sits below grade.”

McCrory said there was enough money in the “contracted services” budget to pay the approximately \$3,000 cost. The board authorized him to schedule the guardrail installation.

A North Street resident asked the board to re-install temporary speed cushions in the roadway near his property, primarily to protect children at play. McCrory said that when the cushions were in place in the past, some residents complained of the noise of vehicles going over them, and that vehicles were speeding in the length of road between the cushions.

“This isn’t solving the problem,” Loynd commented. He suggested increased enforcement of the speed limit.

Bastarache called the cushions a “temporary measure” and wondered about installing permanent speed bumps. Under the MassDOT Complete Streets program, he said, the road could be re-designed to slow traffic.

The board decided to discuss North Street speeding at their next meeting. In the meantime, McCrory said he plans to install a safety message board on the street.

Smith reported the design and environmental permitting for the Church Street bridge repair were complete, and easements had been obtained from four of the six affected property owners. However, the two outstanding easements require appraisals, and because the appraisal cost is expected to be greater than \$10,000, the town must solicit bids.

The board authorized him to award a bid to appraise the two easements. Smith said he expects the town will be able to advertise for construction bids in June. MassDOT will pay for the construction phase of the project.

Costs of Sewers

Wastewater superintendent Peter Sanders presented the board with calculations for establishing a flat-rate sewer use fee, resulting in a \$275 annual charge per customer. Sanders and the board have been discussing charging a sewer use fee for the past few months, to help fund major maintenance costs to the system. The board plans to implement the charges in FY’27.

At an earlier meeting, Sanders said the state Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) had noted that Erving is the only town in the state that does not charge sewer customers.

His proposed flat-rate calculation is based on water usage, dividing the total cost of water to customers by the number of accounts to develop an average per-household cost.

Board members asked for changes in the formula to account for water use by town buildings and by multi-family buildings that have only one water account. Sanders agreed to refine the formula for future discussion.

Other Business

The board appointed newly hired town planner Glenn Johnson-Mussad as Erving’s representative to the Franklin Regional Planning Board, and as the town’s alternate to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee.

The town election is scheduled for this Monday, May 5.

The board’s next meeting is scheduled for the following Monday, May 12, though it may be canceled in favor of a short meeting before the annual town meeting that Wednesday, May 14. Voters will consider 26 articles, including a town operating budget of roughly \$15 million.

Bastarache said an STM will also be held in June, before the end of FY’25.

Burdens of History

In November 2021, MassDevelopment awarded Erving a \$600,000 grant to partially demolish the buildings at the town-owned former International Paper

Mill. That grant has been on hold while the town has considered various plans for developing the property, including partial demolition and demolition of all onsite buildings.

In an April 25 memo, Bryan Smith wrote that MassDevelopment “first want the site and the project reviewed through their ‘House Doctor’ program.”

He told the board that the agency is proposing a grant of \$50,500 for an independent consultant of its selection to review plans for the property and recommend the best way to use the \$600,000. The board voted to accept the \$50,500 grant.

Historical commission chair Sara Campbell told the board that the commission voted at its April 1 meeting to reduce the number of its members from seven to five, and to establish a separate Pearl B. Care Museum committee, also of five members.

Commission member Theresa Dodge sent a memo with draft warrant articles changing the town’s bylaws to reduce the commission’s membership and establish the new museum committee.

Selectboard members were supportive of these changes, and said the article would be placed on the next special town meeting (STM) warrant.

SOUTH STREET from page A1

have the roadway open by possibly the end of May.”

“I will try to keep you informed of that moving target date,” added Corey, reminding Montague that officially, “the current completion date for this project is June 20th, 2025.”

While “possibly the end of May” is not set in stone, “2025” is.

“[T]he ‘cornerstone’ is beautiful,” village resident Ariel Elan exclaimed upon reviewing photographs of the almost-finished bridge and its engraved date, 2025. “I feel unreasonably joyful that someone at DOT understands this historic, aesthetic feature is meaningful and heartwarming to at least some of us.”

“Yes, it’s truly an aesthetic design,” agreed Karun Das of Chestnut Hill.

The road’s prior bridge across the Sawmill River dated from when the Works Progress Administration constructed the first paved road connecting Montague Center and Millers Falls. That project included three bridges across the Sawmill: the long concrete span carrying Federal Street just north of its intersection with North Leverett Road (1935), plus the shorter Center Street (1937) and South Street (1938) bridges, both made of steel.

MassDOT project engineer Christopher Cameron shared at a January 2023 public hearing that the 1938 bridge had “limited underclearance from the steel superstructure to the water’s surface. This creates a damp environment that accelerates the deterioration of the steel members,” which led to the bridge’s superstructure being rated “poor” and the bridge being considered “structurally deficient” when inspected by the agency.

The prior bridge was likely built low to the water, its west abutment extending well into the river, in order to keep the span short enough



The bridge’s west abutment, seen above at left, was formerly set in the river itself, constricting its flow. The new, longer span allows it to rest on both banks.

that it wouldn’t need a central pier. The abutment’s jut impeded river flow and led to extensive sediment buildup on both banks.

By completely replacing the bridge rather than just the steel members and deck, MassDOT has been able to elevate the bridge and increase its span, moving the west abutment out of the river. The accumulated sediment was also removed, restoring the river to its natural width.

The new bridge is built with precast NEXT F beams on integral abutments, allowing for the highest possible clearance. The new span is substantially longer at 58 feet and 6 inches, while the overall width remains 24 feet, of which nearly 21 is roadway.

The selectboard opted for a design without a bicycle lane or sidewalk because the bridge is in a rural area with low traffic and clear sight lines, and also because widening the footprint would have brought complications. The bridge is surrounded on three corners by

the Montague Wildlife Management Area and Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) farmland protected under Article 97.

The timeline changed in February 2024. Environmental concerns revealed in the project’s permitting process both advanced the start of construction – from mid-2025 to late 2024 – and lengthened the anticipated road closure from 100 days to a minimum of 207.

“That’s because the Sawmill River is a coldwater fishery, preventing in-water work between April 1 and July 31,” then-assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey explained to the selectboard.

South Street was closed to through traffic on July 22, 2024, and if the bridge reopens “the end of May” – not set in stone! – that would be Day 315, longer than 207 days but well ahead of the original timeline’s fall 2025 completion.

Until officials say otherwise, admire, but don’t cross: the bridge remains an active work site.

Reportback: Nearly 100 Attracted To Second ‘Leverett Together’ Potluck

By SHARON DUNN

LEVERETT – A multi-generational crowd of nearly a hundred Leverett residents brought an array of food to the Leverett Elementary School gym on Sunday, enjoyed five presentations by local initiatives, and participated in lively discussions on topics raised at an earlier potluck in February. The grassroots group Leverett Together hosted the two-hour event.

The presenters included Stacey Lennard, on Leverett’s Earth Day cleanup; Eva Gibavic on the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust; Cheryl Howland, on Cheryl & Eva’s Plant Exchange; Tim Shores, giving an overview of Leverett’s comprehensive plan; and Gibavic and Eric Donnelly, sharing information about a potential town forest to be voted on by town meeting this Saturday, May 3.

The discussion topics, generated at the February 8 potluck, were oriented toward action the community would like to engage in at this time of uncertainty in the nation. They included support of vulnerable communities, including immigrants; support of cultural and educational institutions; building capacity to respond to injustice; homesteading and self-sufficiency; and social events




for community-building. Leverett Together’s facilitators for these discussions were, respectively, Judi Fonsh, Judith Davidov, Tom Wolff, Steve Catt, and this reporter.

Most of the discussion groups plan to continue to meet to consider actions and events. Other Leverett Together steering committee members who contributed to the potluck included Barbara Tiner, Linda Hoer, Liz Kiebel, and Kip Fonsh.

Leverett Together anticipates announcing future community-building events for Leverett.

Top: ‘Nearly 100’ Leverett residents gathered for Sunday’s potluck, presentations, and discussions. Above right: Forester Eric Donnelly talks about the possibility of a Leverett town forest, to be voted on at town meeting this Saturday.





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

MONTAGUE from page A1

that either option could cost as much as \$10 million, effectively doubling the expected price tag for demolishing the complex.

On Monday, at Nolan-Zeller’s recommendation, the board voted to approve a \$17,250 amendment to fund “Alternative Design #2,” which “would leave the buildings immediately surrounding Building 9 in place.”

The design work is being funded under a \$5.1 million state earmark for the project, which was matched last summer by \$4.9 million from the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

The board also approved a \$30,000 amendment with another engineering firm, Wright-Pierce, to cover “additional construction administration services” in a project to upgrade manholes in Turners and Millers Falls. The work itself is being carried out by National Water Main Cleaning.

Finally, the board approved an actual change order of \$1,380.35 for the ongoing “streetscape” work on Avenue A by Mountain View Landscapes and Lawncare. The change was necessitated by ledge the company encountered at 38 Avenue A, the so-called “Cumby’s” parcel on the corner of Second Street, and is unrelated to the company’s recent proposal to remove the 12 ash trees between Second and Third streets.

Mountain View, Nolan-Zeller said, is currently working on an estimate of the cost of replacing only two of the trees and working around the other 10.

In other news, Nolan-Zeller reported that several weeks ago, the state Department of Transportation briefed legislators on the status of five bridges at the heart of the “canal district” in Turners Falls.

The replacement of these bridges, which include the “White Bridge” over the Connecticut River to Greenfield, the Fifth and Sixth street bridges over the power canal, and two condemned pedestrian bridges, is currently in its “25%” pre-design phase, according to a memo he shared with the board, and after more design and public hearings should be scheduled for construction in 2029.

He also noted that the state had agreed to negotiate construction rights-of-way with several of the property owners abutting the canal, a task that often falls to the local municipality.

“Every day it gets closer to actually happening,” said Kuklewicz, speculating that the project will begin before he dies.

Trees, Dogs, and Windows

Other highlights of Monday’s meeting included a new agreement with the Franklin County sheriff’s office to provide animal control services to the town, and the announcement that the board studying the consolidation of the Pioneer Valley and Gill-Montague school districts will propose voting on the idea at simultaneous town meetings this November (see article, Page A1).

During the time at the beginning of the meeting for public participation, Leonore Alaniz of Canal Street complained, having read the town’s public tree bylaw, that a tree was removed from in front of her residence last August without a hearing and has not yet been replaced.

Alaniz called on town officials to inform the interim tree warden, an employee of the public works

department, that a public hearing is required unless the tree is in “imminent danger.”

Town administrator Walter Ramsey said he would alert the warden and the tree advisory committee of the need for a replacement tree. “We will follow through with the tree bylaw,” he said, “which the new warden has been briefed on.”

Police chief Williams requested that the board approve a contract with the Franklin County sheriff’s office for services provided at the regional dog shelter on Sandy Lane. The main focus of his presentation was the use of the shelter’s animal control services, which have previously been provided through a collaboration with Greenfield and Deerfield. Williams said using the sheriff’s animal control officers, who investigate complaints about dangerous and “nuisance” dogs, would save money and provide more reliable service.

The board approved the contract.

Town planner Maureen Pollock announced that the local committee evaluating options for a “seed project” to receive \$50,000 through a state program designed to promote local “resilience” to climate change has chosen to fund window inserts for low-income renters and homeowners.

She said her office will be seeking volunteers and a coordinator, and has contacted the Franklin County Technical School for support. Each window, she said, will “need to be measured by our coordinator.”

Array Resurrected

Turners Falls airport manager Bryan Camden attended the meeting, along with two members of the airport commission. This was billed on the agenda as an “Airport Commission Quarterly Meeting,” though Camden said it was not a posted meeting of the commission as only two of five members were present. Kuklewicz termed it an “open discussion of challenges and so on.”

Camden reviewed what he called the “hot-button solar project,” a plan to earn revenue for the airport by leasing space to a company to build a solar array. The project was stalled last year after the electric company Eversource required the solar company to fund a major upgrade of the transmission wires at the airport industrial park as a precondition of connecting with the power grid.

Camden said the solar company had “all their documents in order” and was “ready to go.”

Camden said Eversource representatives had recently told him they are in the design phase of a plan that involves “ripping out the entire existing electrical system” at the industrial park and replacing it with “essentially a system 200% larger than what is there now.” He reported that this would involve a \$12-to-\$15 million investment, and that the electric company hopes to get at least part of it done by the summer.

Eversource, Camden said, would be paying for this upgrade, and would pass the cost along to ratepayers in the region.

Selectboard member Matt Lord

asked if the company that had won the bid to construct and lease the array, EDF Renewables North America, was still interested. Camden said the solar company had “all their documents in order” and was “ready to go.”

Ramsey also asked about the repavement of the “apron” at the entrance to the former Pioneer Aviation hangar, which the town now owns. Though town meeting allocated funds for this, Camden said it has been delayed by a required environmental impact study and may take an extra year, but that the town should still expect to be reimbursed for the money it has allocated.

Board members also asked about the heights planes are allowed to fly over residential areas and the noise they generate at certain times of the week. Camden responded with data on height requirements and said he would need information on timing and location before responding to noise complaints.

Other Business

Wearing their personnel board hats, the selectboard approved a new employment contract with town treasurer Eileen Seymour, who will cease being an “elected official” on May 20.

A letter of resignation from Great Falls Farmers Market coordinator Annie Levine was accepted, and the board appointed Jenny Vanderbilt to the position. Levine said that if an assistant manager position is approved by town meeting, she hopes to “step into that.”

The board approved Harry Kuenzel as an assistant electrical inspector and Ethan Thrower, a student at the Franklin County Technical School, for late-spring employment at the public works department. Thrower’s employment may be extended into the summer.

Pollock announced that Montague has received a \$34,000 grant from the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to update its open space and recreation plan. The plan, which was last approved in 2017 but expired five years later, allows the town to apply for a range of other state grants, she said, and will now only need to be updated every 10 years.

The board voted to accept the grant. Ramsey said he was happy to see the extended time frame, because “it was exhausting to stick to that cycle.”

The board discussed a protest rally planned for this Thursday in downtown Turners Falls (see article, Page A1), and approved the use of public property for an ambitious “Charity Ride” on June 14 to raise funds for cancer research, care, and services.

The ride begins in South Deerfield and passes through a number of towns. Organizer John Morin estimated 600 riders will participate in the event, but said they will pass through the town staggered in “multiple waves.” A police detail will be posted on Millers Falls Road at the entrance to the industrial park.

The selectboard retired into a non-public executive session to discuss the town’s negotiating strategy involving 15 Power Street, the so-called Railroad Salvage annex building, which the town sold to local developer Bob Obear under a land development agreement in 2017.

The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be held Monday, May 5.



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on April 30, 2015: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Generator Fundraiser

The Leverett Village Co-op is fundraising for a new generator that will cost around \$35,000. The hope is that with the new generator, the co-op will be a safe haven for locals during power outages, and it will also allow the co-op to avoid the large losses that come with the loss of power.

Without a generator, when the power goes out the co-op loses all the perishables, the cash registers no longer work, and employees have to make do with estimating the weights of fruits and vegetables with no scale.

Paul Rosenberg, general manager for the last 16 years, said for the first 10 years he was with the co-op there were no power outages. In the last five, however, there have been three costly power outages totaling \$10,000 in losses for the store.

20 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on April 28, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

It’s Too *#@ !*# Loud!

Montague health agent Gina McNeely has moved away from relying solely on sound level meters to monitor decibel levels at bars, nightclubs, and industrial sites.

At the continuation of the noise ordinance hearing on April 25, McNeely told the selectboard her research had swayed her away from what she regarded as a scientific, objective approach as the sole means of measuring noise, and she now favors including a common-sense approach to determining whether a bar band or factory is producing excessive noise when no sound level meter is available.

If noise is plainly audible 200 feet from the source of the sound,

that common-sense measure would constitute sufficient evidence that the proposed noise ordinance was being violated, McNeely said.

Wake-Up Call

Chip Dodge is a sergeant again. After being demoted to patrolman in 2000 following an off-duty fracas with a fellow police officer, Dodge took the qualifying exam in 2004, and at the same time took the sergeant’s exam. He passed both tests.

In answer to Montague board chair Pat Allen’s question as how he now views the incident that caused his demotion, Dodge said, “Some people may say I’m crazy, but I view it as a positive. I learned a really valuable lesson as far as how much my job, my career, and my family means to me. It was a very big wake-up call.”

150 YEARS AGO

Here’s the way it was on April 28, 1875: News from the Turners Falls Reporter’s archive.

Turners Falls and Vicinity

There is ice six inches thick in Barton’s cove.

The large ferry boat was launched yesterday, and put to work.

Mr. G.H. Goddard has placed milk teams on a route at Millers Falls.

Mr. Griswold will lay 1,000,080 brick this summer and will commence in a few weeks.

On dit, that a spelling match for the benefit of the library is to take place at Colle Hall, shortly.

L street, from Seventh to Fifth, is in a bad condition. A horse would get swamped there on a dark night.

Last Sunday was a good day for the livery stables. Everything in the shape of a horse was on the road.

After the first of May, N.D. Allen’s line of stages will leave Turners Falls at 2:45 p.m., instead of 1:30, as heretofore.

And now the oldest inhabitant takes his hat off and comes forward

to say that in all his experience he has never seen such a cold spring.

Mr. C.Q. Gilman, owing to ill health, has advertised his sash and blind factory and grist mill for sale. This is a rare chance for any man wanting to buy such a place.

Mr. Oakman has purchased five hundred volumes for the library association. As soon as they can be covered and numbered, the library will be open to the public, under certain conditions.

Mr. Dibble’s little girl was lost the other day for several hours, and fears were entertained for her safety, but after a diligent search was found on the sand patch, safe and sound, to the joy of the household.

The bridge has more advocates than it had a few weeks ago, now that there is a prospect of it being built at once. By and by the one won’t be found who will acknowledge that he opposed the bridge.

We understand that a movement is on foot to hang a first-class bell in the steeple of the Baptist church of this place. May the project receive the substantial endorsement of all who would like to see it carried into effect.



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

**OrigamiUSA**

Origami is for anyone, anywhere, anytime!

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

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

COPYWRITER

amtaylorart@vivaldi.net

(413) 549-5398

DOLAN & DOLAN
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Post-Season Positions Begin to Gel

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – With April wrapping up, the local high school rankings are starting to gel.

In baseball, Pioneer and Ware are riding high while Turners Falls is desperately trying to even their record up for a potential playoff bid. Franklin Tech, meanwhile, has a winning record, and hope that they can continue to win to improve their ranking.

In softball, some of the highest-ranked teams in the state are in Franklin County. But other local teams are struggling, and frequently lose by double-digit scores.

Baseball
TFHS 8 – Smith Academy 5
Pioneer 14 – TFHS 0
Ware 14 – TFHS 1
FCTS 7 – TFHS 1

Last Thursday the Turners Falls Thunder defeated the visiting Purple Falcons of Smith Academy, 8-5. Turners shot out to a 7-1 lead before Purple began to catch up, but on the minus side, Blue committed six errors in the win.

Seven different batters – Kainen Stevens and Brody Girard (two each), Julian Kaiser, Jackson Cogswell, Trevor Lyons, Liam Kerivan, and Freilyn Jose Abarua Corona – hit safely for Turners. Kaiser pitched the complete game, giving up seven hits, zero walks, and zero earned runs and striking out 10.



Turners Falls's Trevor Lyons delivers a pitch to Pioneer Valley's Jackson Glazier last Friday at Turners Falls. The Panthers outperformed the Thunder: Pioneer 14, Turners Falls 0.

On Friday, though, the undefeated Pioneer Black Panthers came to town and crushed the Thunder, 14 to zip.

Turners had four hits in the loss: Cogswell with a double, Stevens, Kerivan, and Ledwin Villafana. Girard, Lyons, and Abarua Corona shared pitching duties.

On Tuesday the Baseball Thunder went down to Ware and were mercied by the Green Indians. Ware scored 14 runs in four innings, and the Thunder only scored one in the fifth to prevent the shutout.

Girard had Turners's lone hit, while Kaiser scored their only run.

On Wednesday it was the visiting Franklin Tech Eagles' turn. Tech came out swinging, scoring six runs in three innings, and held that lead until the sixth when Kaiser batted in Girard to make it 6-1. Tech scored an insurance run in the seventh for a final score of 7-1.

Franklin amassed 10 hits in the win – two each from Tyler Yetter, Hunter Donahue, and George Gutierrez and the rest from Brody Hicks, Zaydrien Alamed, Nicholas Prasol, and Tucker Hicks – with Donahue cranking a home run and Brody Hicks a double. On the mound Mason Lehtomaki pitched a complete game, giving up one run on seven hits and two walks while striking out five.

While Turners got seven hits, it only translated them to one run. Abarua Corona (2), Girard, Cogswell, Kaiser, Kerivan, and T. Newton made hits with Girard and Kaiser hitting doubles. Stevens allowed eight hits and three earned runs with no walks and two strikeouts, and Kaiser the other two hits, an earned run, a walk, and two strikeouts.

Softball
FCTS 4 – Northampton 0
TFHS 5 – Greenfield 0
TFHS 14 – Mohawk 0
TFHS 17 – Mount Greylock 4
FCTS 18 – Athol 0

Last Friday afternoon Franklin Tech's softball squad defeated the Blue Devils down in Northampton. It was a scoreless tie through seven innings, but in the eighth Hannah Gilbert shot a double and Kylee Gamache clocked a triple, scoring Tech's four runs.

In the circle Gilbert pitched eight innings, allowed no runs, one hit,

and no walks, and struck out 18. Emma Petersen and Lindsey Taylor also hit safely for Franklin.

Later that night, the Turners Falls Thunder rolled over the bridge and defeated Green Wave 5-0.

Blue set the pace early: Mia Marigliano led off with a base hit, stole second base, and was advanced to third on a Janelle Massey fielders' choice. With two outs, Marilyn Abarua cracked a home run scoring Marigliano and herself.

In the fifth, Marigliano placed a two-out single and Madison Liimatainen followed it up with a double. She was replaced on second by McKenzie Stafford. Marigliano scored on a wild pitch while Stafford took third, and then Stafford came home on another wild pitch, giving Powertown a 4-0 cushion.

In the sixth inning Madisyn Dietz reached on an error and eventually scored on an Autumn Thorton sacrifice, giving Blue the 5-0 victory.

Abarua, Liimatainen, Massey, Marigliano, and Ameliya Galbraith hit safely for Turners, and Liimatainen allowed no runs, two hits, and three walks and struck out 15.

On Monday, Turners shut out the visiting Mohawk Trail Warriors 14-0.

Liimatainen opened the game. She let up two hits, and struck out the rest. With Turners pounding out the runs, Liimatainen was sent to the outfield and Thorton went to the circle to complete the shutout.

On Tuesday, the Thunder traveled to the Berkshires and defeated Mount Greylock 17-4. Greylock was able to score just enough runs to prevent a mercy, so this game went the entire seven innings.

Eight different players registered hits for Blue: four from Liimatainen, including two doubles; three from Dietz including a double; two each from Massey and Stafford including a home run from Massey, and one each from Marigliano, Abarua, Galbraith, and Addison Talbot.

Liimatainen pitched six innings, allowing two earned runs on six hits and a walk while striking out eight batters. Thorton came in as relief in the seventh and allowed one earned run off two hits and a walk.

The Eagles, meanwhile, headed east on Tuesday, smothering the Athol Red Bears 18-zip in a five-inning mercy-shortened game.



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS

Madi Liimatainen heaves a sigh of relief after making the final strikeout of Turners Falls's 5-0 rout of the Green Wave in Greenfield last Friday.

Taylor, Petersen, Gamache, Gilbert, Skylei Lapan, Gianna DiSciullo, Lyla Mickiewicz, Samantha Duncan, and Taylor Underwood all batted runs in for the Eagles while Ava Worden and Cordelia Guerin hit singles. In the circle, Gilbert fanned 14 of the 17 batters she faced.

Boys' Tennis
SICS 4 – TFHS 1
Frontier 4 – TFHS 1

On Friday in tennis, the visiting Springfield International Charter School defeated Turners 4-1. Turners' lone victory came on the second singles court as Mario Pareja won in three sets (6-3, 2-6, 10-7).

Noah Kolodziej and Vaughn LaValley were swept in first and third singles, Lucas Black and Noah Blanchard were swept in first doubles, and Max Briere and Nethanel Martin dropped a tie-breaker in second doubles.

On Wednesday, the boys lost to Frontier down in South Deerfield. This time Kolodziej won on the first singles court (6-3, 3-6, 6-4) while Pareja, LaValley, Black and Philipp Tischleder (first doubles), and Briere and Martin (second doubles) lost their respective matches.

Girls' Tennis
PVCA 4 – TFHS 1
Palmer 4 – TFHS 1
TFHS 3 – Renaissance 2

The hybrid Turners Falls girls' tennis team played three games in three days this week.

On Monday they lost to Pioneer Valley Christian Academy 4-1. Olivia Wolbach won first singles (6-2, 6-3) while Gianna Marigliano, Kharieliex Huertas Hernandez, Evelyn Galvez and Kenzie Flaxington, and Keira Feeley and Lily Sumner dropped their matches.

On Tuesday, the Thunder traveled to Palmer and were again beaten 4-1, with Wolbach winning first singles (6-2, 3-6, 10-8). This time Avery Heathwaite, Marigliano, Feeley and Huertas Hernandez, and Rhiannon Smith and Jo Licata lost matches.

On Wednesday the Thunder finally reversed their fortunes at Van Horn Park in Springfield against the Renaissance Phoenix. Wolbach, Heathwaite, and Marigliano all swept their singles opponents, while Huertas Hernandez and Shayly Martin and Izzy Decker and Feeley lost in doubles competition.

Next week: Track and field.

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

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

Professional Painting & Decorating Contractor Since 1900

1900-2025 * Our 125th Year

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

A Game in Green
vintage

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

& now online at agameingreenvintage.com

FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CO-OP
GREEN FIELDS MARKET – MCCUSKER'S MARKET

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

franklincommunity.coop
Green Fields Market • 144 Main St. • Greenfield

MUSIC & MOVIES

BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

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

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

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

warm up at

many entertainments

all scratch kitchen

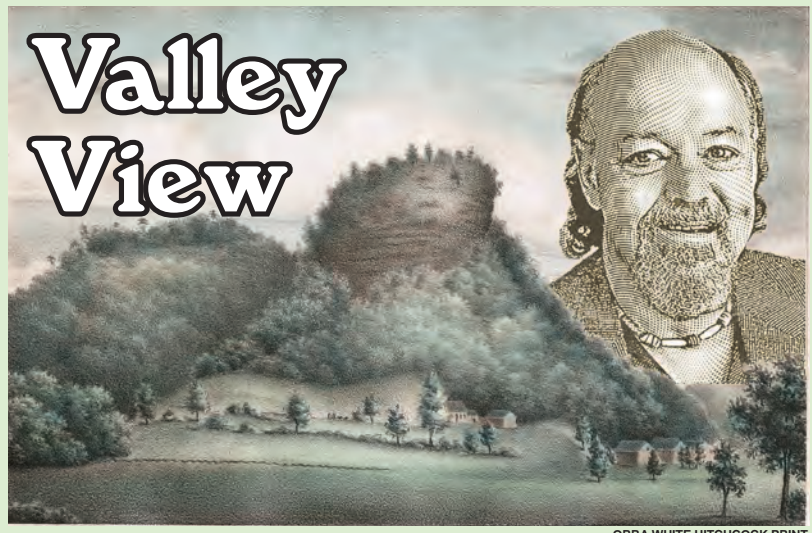
cozy cocktails

HOURS/SPECIALS

THE VOO

78 3rd St TFMA

ORDER ONLINE:
thevoo.net



On Big Brookies Past

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – A record Maine Eastern brook trout weighing nearly eight pounds darted through my Facebook feed last week.

The photo and story posted by a fellow New England Outdoor Writers Association member told the story. Both were pulled from a recent issue of the *Bangor Daily News*, which had lifted them from the smaller biweekly *Moosehead Lakeshore Journal*, which seems to have broken the story.

So why not drag it through the five fingers of Montague and bordering communities?

Caught on January 22 by well-known Greenville, Maine ice fisherman Eric Ward, the record fish was a brook trout for the ages, measuring 25 1/16 inches in length and weighing seven pounds, 10 ounces. The weight topped John Dixon’s July 4, 1959 Moosehead record by two ounces. At 25 ¼ inches, Dixon’s seven-pound, eight-ounce fish was a hair longer, with a girth of 17 ½ inches. The girth of Ward’s fish was not reported.

The largest brook trout recorded in Maine was caught in 2010 at Mousam Lake. That one tipped the scale at nine pounds, two ounces. Maine squaretails grow so large due to high populations of rainbow smelt in the food chain. These forage fish are preferred bait for ice fishermen, and keep big trout and salmon fat during their winter dormancy period.

Known to northern New England anglers as squaretails or brookies, Eastern brook trout (Latin name *Salvelinus fontinalis*) belong to the char family. They are historically the *only* native trout in our familiar slice of the Connecticut Valley. According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service, brookies populate eastern North American waters from the Great Lakes east to the Atlantic Ocean and south to Georgia along the Appalachian Range.

Squaretails are the first trout I learned to catch as a boy, bait-fishing a small, unnamed, mile-long spring brook that feeds the Con-

necticut River three or four hundred yards north of the intersection of Hillside and River roads in South Deerfield. The spunky, colorful, voracious fingerlings ranged in length from five to seven inches, and kept me and childhood buddy Mike Manson busy whenever our parents dropped us off there.

We’d return home with a creelful of the speckled beauties, which without exception went from creel to sink to batter bowl to a cast-iron skillet flavored with sizzling, splattering bacon fat. Thus the name “panfish,” brookies sweetest of them all, served with sides of thick-cut slab bacon and crispy home fries.

In later years at forbidden sites, we discovered much larger squaretails in the one- to three-pound range. We called them “bakers,” meaning oven fish. But why go there?

No. Check that. I must tiptoe back. I can’t sidestep my youthful indiscretions for this discussion. Why? The statute of limitations long ago passed.

The big brookies we routinely caught a half-century ago from posted, spring-fed impoundments are directly related to my first impression of the record brookie photographed in Ward’s hands. I wasn’t awestruck because I have seen many large local brook trout and heard of many others over the years.

The big brookies we caught were taken on lures in forbidden waters where they grew large. Golden Thomas buoyant spoons were most productive, but Daredevils and small Mepps spinners worked in a pinch, especially when cast at dusk into a 60-foot outflow neck that collided with the cold, shaded feeder stream once known as Sanderson, then Harvey, Brook. The action was fast and furious, and the one- to two-pound brookies ranged from 12 to 18 inches long.

Though I myself never caught a fish there that compared to Ward’s, I did indeed hear of one taken by a neighborhood kid who see **VALLEY VIEW** page B3

RECIPES

Three Moroccan Tagines

By CLAIRE HOPLEY

LEVERETT – Before paying my first visit to Morocco in February I searched cookbooks to learn about Moroccan food. In *Paula Wolfert’s World of Food* (1988) the author notes “Moroccan food, part Arab and part Berber... is unique; no other Arab country has such a rich and varied cuisine.” In *Arabesque* (2005) Claudia Roden called Moroccan cooking “[t]he most exquisite and refined of North Africa, famous for its couscous, its crispy multilayered pies, and delicately flavored tagines.”

I saw couscous on menus, but multilayered pies – *pastilla* – seemed more common. Boldly striped with wide bands of cinnamon and confectioners’ sugar, they were traditionally filled with pigeon but now usually with chicken. Individual-sized *pastilla* served with lemon slices are popular lunchtime meals.

A disgruntled American who had recently visited Morocco insisted “I never ever want to eat another chicken pie covered with powdered sugar.” I can see his point, but tastes vary, and in this case I’m on the other side: I’d love to eat another one – or six to seven. This could mean a second trip to Morocco, because they could be tricky to make at home.

On the other hand, *tagines* are pretty easy.

Tagines resemble casseroles. Both words describe a pot and the stews cooked in it. Moroccan tagines feature meat or fish. Vegetables and fruit such as apples, apricots, prunes, and quinces add color and flavor; spices add aroma and taste.

Using saffron, ginger, and cumin produces a yellowy tagine sometimes characterized as *m’qualli*; those with cinnamon and paprika form a brownish-red tagine called *m’hammer*. Add a touch of honey and a garnish of almonds or pistachios and you have famil-



Tagines, pots with conical lids in which the dishes with the same name are cooked, for sale at a market in Meknes, Morocco.

iar meat-and-vegetables jazzed up with ingredients that we would rarely if ever include.

If this mix of ingredients sounds exotic, the cooking vessel evokes the *Thousand and One Nights*. Made of see **RECIPES** page B5

ORDEALS

‘What The Foot?!’

By JOHNNY FROTTON

GREENFIELD – Life’s plan changes without notice.

I’m 62, and this is my first time in jail. I came in with diabetes and neuropathy, which I had been treating for 30 years – I lost a toe to it about five years ago. When I first came to the Pod, I started working out on the treadmill. I soon developed a heel sore that needed medical treatment. The jail’s medical department was quick to act and sent me out to the Wound Clinic and Vascular in Springfield.

The heel sore was slow healing, but I did recover. Soon upon my return, I was given a job in the kitchen, and things began going well again! Or so I thought.

I moved to different housing in the old jail. About two weeks into community service, a blood blister formed under my right foot. The medical department stepped in for treatment. We started treatment in the jail, and it was slow going at first, but later I was going out to the Wound Clinic for frequent visits. Everything seemed to be going well, but then suddenly I started having weakness and chills. I was sent to the ER.

Let the fun begin!

Laying in the ER, I was waiting and waiting. Finally, the ER doctor said that I had to stay the night and they wanted to run an MRI in the morning. I got a

see **FOOT** page B8



The author, keeping his spirits up while in recovery from his most recent surgery.

Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

‘KENDRICK’

Kendrick is a sociable 1-year-old dog who was shy when he arrived at the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter, but has now come out of his shell and enjoys being playful and goofy. He is a mixed-breed neutered male who loves his toys and going for walks. Kendrick is sometimes nervous around new people, and can be selective about his canine playmates. We don't know how he is with cats.

For more information about Kendrick, call the Regional Dog Shelter at (413) 676-9182.

Senior Center Activities MAY 5 THROUGH 9

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.

A six-week class, “Mindfulness Meditation for Stress Reduction,” will be offered on Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. starting May 22. Seniors 55+ from all towns are welcome. Call or email instructor Jean Erlbaum anytime for info or registration: (413) 230-1518, jean.erlbaum@verizon.net.

Monday 5/5
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
Tuesday 5/6
9 a.m. Chair Yoga
3 p.m. Tai Chi
Wednesday 5/7
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 5/8
1 p.m. Pitch
Friday 5/9
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 newsletter or the LeverettConnects listserv for more info.

WENDELL

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. The next clinic is May 7. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments. For Senior Health Rides, contact Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

ERVING

Open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1 Care Drive. Daily snacks and coffee. Fitness room and pool table open.
Monday 5/5
9 a.m. Good for U
10 a.m. Seated Fitness
12 p.m. Pitch Cards
1 p.m. Yoga
Tuesday 5/6
8:15 a.m. Nail Clip
9 a.m. Nurse
9 a.m. Stretch & Balance
10 a.m. Line Dancing
11 a.m. Social Stringer
Wednesday 5/7
9 a.m. Interval Training
10 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo
1 p.m. Veterans’ Service
Thursday 5/8
9 a.m. Barre Fusion
10 a.m. Pilates Flow
12 p.m. Senior Tech Help
Friday 5/9
8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting,
Open Sew

MAY 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.* Flower bookmark. At all branches while supplies last.

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

Saturday, May 3: *Used Book Sale.* Fiction, paperbacks, kids’ books, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks. Carnegie, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, May 3: *Free Comic Book Day.* Carnegie, 2 to 4 p.m.

Sunday, May 4: *Indigo Dyeing and Shibori Workshop.* Discovery Center, 1 p.m.

Monday, May 5: *Artist Reception.* Montague Center, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

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, May 7: *“The Extincts” Event and Drawing Demo.* Ages 7 and up. Discovery Center, 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 7: *Knitting Club.* Montague Center, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 8: *Book Club.* Douglas Adams, *Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy.* Millers Falls, 5:30 p.m.

Monday, May 12: *Friends of MPL Meeting.* Email kristopherlangston@gmail.com. Carnegie, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 13: *Audio Documentary: Eyes on Freedom.* Montague Center, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 15: *Book Club.* Rebecca Makkai, *The Great Believers.* Montague Center, 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 22: *Local History with Will Quale.* Millers Falls, 6 p.m.

LEVERETT

All month: *250th Community Quilt Exhibit.*

Every Thursday: *Mah-jongg.* Beginners welcome. 1:15 p.m.

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

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

Tuesday, May 6: *Craft Circle.* For adults. 6:30 p.m.

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

Thursday, May 8: *Library Tech Help:* Novelist and Goodreads. Drop-in 2:30 to 4 p.m.

Saturday, May 10: *Tool Care Fair and Plant Share.* 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, May 13: *Bookbinding: Stitched Journal Workshop.* 6 p.m.

Thursday, May 15: *LEGO.* Ages 5 to 12. 4 p.m.

Tuesday, May 20: Author talk, *Pleun Bouricius.* 4 p.m.

WENDELL

All month: *Paintings by Nina Keller.*

Every Friday: *LEGO.* 4 p.m.

Friday, May 2: *Tech Hub Skills.* Cloud basics workshop, followed by two hours of drop-in tech help. 10:30 a.m.

Friday and Saturday, May 2 and 3: *May Day Wind Streamer Craft.* Reg req’d. Friday 4 p.m. OR Saturday 10:30 a.m.

Every Sunday: *Yoga.* 10 a.m.

Mondays, May 5 and 19: *Fiber Group / Mending Circle.* 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Friday, May 9: *Office Hour* with Rep. Aaron Saunders. 1 p.m.

Saturday, May 10: *Fairy House Celebration.* 1 p.m.

Saturday, May 10: *Nina Keller Art Opening.* 1 to 3 p.m.

Friday, May 16: *Tech Hub Skills.* Google Docs workshop, followed by two hours of drop-in tech help. 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 27: *Adult Book Group.* Alice McDermott, *Charming Billy.* 10 a.m.

Friday, May 30: *Friday Night at the Library.* 5 to 7 p.m.

ERVING

Sunday, May 4: Author talk, *Esther Johnson.* 2 p.m.

Monday, May 5: *CNC Playgroup.* 10 a.m.

Every Wednesday: *After School Activities.* 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 11: *Friends’ Puzzle Swap.* 1 to 3 p.m.

Sunday, May 11: *Genealogy Drop-in.* 1 to 3 p.m.

Mondays, May 12 and 19: *Mucho Gusto.* Reg req’d. 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 18: *Clothing Swap.* For teens and pre-teens. 1 to 3 p.m.

Sunday, May 18: *Friends’ Craft Day.* Reg req’d. 1 p.m.

Sunday, May 25: *Book Club.* 2 p.m.

NORTHFIELD

All month: *In-Library Kids’ Scavenger Hunt.*

Thursday, May 1: *Spice Club pickup* starts. Sample and recipes while supplies last. *This month:* Old Bay.

Thursday, May 1: *Environmental Book Group.* Zoë Schlanger, *The Light Eaters.* 3 p.m.

Friday, May 2: *Coffee/Tea Social.* 10 to 11 a.m.

Saturday, May 3: *Puzzle Pick-Up.* For info, email friendsofdml01360@gmail.com. 10 to 11:30 a.m.

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

Every Wednesday: *Storytime: Music and Movement with Robin.* For toddlers and pre-schoolers. 10 a.m.

Wednesday, May 7: *Book Group.* Anthony Doerr, *Cloud Cuckoo Land.* 10 a.m.

Wednesday, May 7: *Tech Help.* Bring your device and ask your questions. 1 to 3 p.m.

Wednesdays, May 7 and 21: *Dungeons & Dragons.* Single-night campaigns for ages 16 and up, all XP welcome. Register at northfieldrec.com. 5 p.m.

Thursday, May 8: *Take-and-Make Craft.* Paper flowers. While supplies last.

Thursday, May 8: *Trivia Night.* Four Star Farms Brewery, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, May 14: *Readings Group.* Anton Chekhov, select stories. 3 p.m.

Thursday, May 15: *LEGO.* 3 p.m.

Thursday, May 15: *Intro to Biodynamic Gardening.* 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 20: *Friends Meeting.* 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 28: *Poetry Discussion* with Nick Fleck. 3 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 414.863.4246

Bryan Hobbs Remodeling LLC

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

Email: bryanhobbsremodeling@gmail.com
Now Accepting Credit Cards

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

Bryan G. Hobbs
PO Box 1535
Greenfield, MA 01302

Fred Holmgren

Piano Tuning & Repair

Stay tuned!

(978)544-5494
fredholmgren@gmail.com

VALLEY VIEW from page B1
was probably five or six years younger than me. This notable catch occurred in the late '60s. I would have been about 15, and heard the tale repeated by several witnesses fortunate enough to see the elementary school-aged boy lugging the fish up the hill home on a stringer.

Word was that the fish had to be nearly two feet long, because the kid couldn't keep its tail from dragging on the road.

I know fish stories tend to be exaggerated, but one of the tellers was a state policeman who had given much testimony in his day, not to mention fished the same, productive spot. In passing, he'd pretend he didn't see me and my friends fishing there. I guess he liked us because we were ballplayers, and he figured we could be doing much worse than fishing.

We referred to that tidy arrangement as "the hot setup," and had a blast fishing there. In later years, I took big squaretails from that same bucolic spot on White Wulff and Hendrickson dry flies. That was even more enjoyable than open-faced spin-casting and lures, especially on my friend's father's Tonkin cane rod.

In advancing years, when old enough to carry a shotgun, I hunted partridge and woodcock in adjacent woods traversed by a major feeder stream. There I discovered a settling pool at the base of step falls, where large, upstream-swimming brookies congregated on their fall spawning run. It was quite a sight to behold, and one that I shared only with the best of friends.

While I doubt I ever saw a seven- to eight-pound brookie in the mix, the visuals imprinted in my memory suggest that some of them may have gone four or five pounds, and that was likely the case for that aforementioned kid's catch that had the neighborhood buzzing.

My point is that back in the day, before acid rain endangered native brook trout, there was no need to chase off to the blackfly-infested Northwoods for big ones. They were available right here in our own back yards.

I can't help but wonder how many of them – the only trout available to the Indigenous people who lived here before us – are left?

Gary Sanderson lives in Greenfield. Questions and comments are welcome at gary@oldtavernfarm.com.



99 episodes are now available!

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



The Montague Reporter Podcast

ARTIST PROFILE

Ami Fagin: Hundreds of ‘Visual Haiku’

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I found a local artist who makes some very interesting prints, which she calls Visual Haiku graphics. Her name is Ami Fagin and she is out of New Salem, Massachusetts. “I have been here for 30 years,” she told me. “I am a self-taught artist.”

Her art was on the website for Paradise City Arts in Northampton, which has an art show each year that she has been a part of.

She said she calls her watercolor art Visual Haiku because “I used a rubric for each design, like a Haiku... I use that technique when making these prints.” She has an official website, and told me she does well with it when it comes to selling prints.

Fagin has been making reproductions and original fine art since 1985. Many of her prints resemble landscapes, cityscapes, and seascapes of some kind. She has one that is a seascape with a lighthouse off to the side of it.

She uses watercolors to create the Visual Haiku prints. The reproductions then get made, with each individual watercolor turning into 250 editions of her art, which she prints, signs, and frames by hand. Their quality is due to her “mastery in high-definition digital print technology and the use of only-the-best archival paper designed for fine art reproduction.”

Fagin started making these in 2015. She has published books, *One Hundred and One Visual Haiku* Volumes I, II, and III, printing over 300 of these Haiku in fine color for people to see.

Fagin has had a one-woman show at the Fruitlands Museum in Harvard, Massachusetts, and her art is at the Mill District Gallery in Amherst. Fruitlands is apparently one of two esteemed places to have a show at; another is the New England Open Market. She has been doing shows at both places since 2015. She is represented by the Michelson Galleries in Northampton.

Fagin is also the owner of 20th Century Illuminations print studio, recently re-branded Ketubah In Design, which apparently makes custom, illuminated wedding vows of many kinds on commission for people.

“Off-the-Wall Canvas Creations” is another line of Fagin’s work available through her website. It’s the most recent of her



Portland Head Light, from Ami Fagin's Visual Haiku series.

work, coming from her visual haiku.

Some of the prints on her website were obviously made for Christmas and Thanksgiving. One can be described as a house with Christmas decorations in front of it, and another has a musician playing a guitar next to a Christmas tree. That one is titled “Season’s Entertainment at the Rod and Gun Club.”

The Thanksgiving one features turkeys and is named “60 Angry Birds.”

Two others that I found unique are one of a bunch of Lay’s Chips, and one that features the Burger King logo.

You can find out about Ami Fagin and see all these prints I mentioned at www.visualhaiku.graphics, and check out her other studio at www.ketubahindesign.com.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

No Food Smell; One Truck Loudly Sucking, Another Fully Engulfed; Cheeseburger Backpack; ‘Attempting To Claim Tenant Rights’

Monday, 4/21

7:58 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road reporting smell of gas outside and in the house and basement. Transferred to TFFD.

Tuesday, 4/22

1:03 p.m. Caller states that a local taxi almost hit her and two others while they were walking across the street in a crosswalk on Avenue A. Area checked; unable to locate vehicle.

2:37 p.m. Report of minor two-car accident in front of the Gun Rack. Report taken.

10:17 p.m. 911 caller from Greenfield Road reports that a male banged on her door and accused her of ordering Chinese food with his credit card. Officer spoke with both parties. Male party is going to the bank tomorrow to get more information. Female party's trailer didn't smell like Chinese food.

Wednesday, 4/23

10:05 a.m. Caller from Park Street reporting there is a big tanker truck that has been sucking something out of a house for a couple of months now, and it's very loud. Officer advises prior oil spill; company has paperwork showing that they were hired to do a clean-up.

10:19 a.m. TFFD responding to Thomas Memorial Country Club; report of a Coca-Cola truck taking down wires. TFFD advises damage to pole. Officer responding.

2:10 p.m. 911 call reporting out-of-control brush fire on Old Sunderland Road. Transferred to Shelburne Control. Fire contained; PD units clear.

9:57 p.m. Caller from Davis Street advising of several young kids outside yelling very loudly at the Hillcrest Homes apartment complex. Kids were outside with parents. Parents advised of complaint.

Thursday, 4/24

10:57 a.m. 911 caller from Fosters Road reporting construction truck on fire with a 100-gallon diesel tank in the back, approximately 10 gallons full. Additional caller reporting truck is fully engulfed. Officer responding.

11:12 a.m. Attempted break-in at Ce Ce's Chinese Restaurant caught on camera last night; caller looking to speak to an officer. Report taken.

12:54 p.m. 911 caller reporting that a grey car on Route 63 swerved and dipped into a ditch, corrected, and turned onto Lake Pleasant Road. Report taken.

1:50 p.m. 911 caller reports she was driving on

Route 63 and someone cut her off; she had to slam on her brakes, and she has a small child in the back seat. Wanted it on record. Report taken.

3:53 p.m. 911 caller reports that a female party took his bag while he was at Unity Park and left on a bicycle heading up the Third Street hill. Caller states his friend is trying to catch up with her; advises female is wearing a cheeseburger backpack. Officer checking First and Grove Street area after speaking with caller; Chestnut Street also checked; negative contact. Officer spoke with caller again. Female was around 16 years old, all black clothes, piercings in her face. Investigated.

4:36 p.m. Caller reported that today he was traveling on Millers Falls Road and an older man was riding a bike, so he pulled to the left to give him some room and did not see a motorcycle going east-bound at a high rate of speed. Caller states that ever since then, the guy on the motorcycle has shown up at the caller's workplace; he just came there a few minutes ago, revved his engine, then took off. Would like a call back from an officer. Advised of options.

Friday, 4/25

1:12 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street states that a woman is letting a large black dog run loose around the apartments and it's scaring kids. Area checked; no loose dogs located.

6:37 p.m. 911 caller from Turners Falls Road reports that a vehicle that was in an accident is in his driveway. Second caller advising a female with a head injury is bleeding from the face. Call transferred to Shelburne Control. Officer requesting tow.

7:32 p.m. Party into station reporting that they came up from New Jersey to rent an apartment in Turners Falls, and the landlord wanted payment in gift cards. Referred to an officer.

Saturday, 4/26

1:02 a.m. Greenfield PD requesting female officer for a search. Officer will respond to their department to assist.

5:44 a.m. Caller from Oakman Street states his vehicle was gone through overnight. At this time, does not believe anything was taken. Advised caller incident would be logged and someone would call him. Officer left message.

8:59 a.m. Walk-in reporting that he is going to his residence to perform some repairs to the property; his ex-girlfriend who still lives there states that she will call police if

he shows up. No orders in place; house owned by male; female is attempting to claim tenant rights. Female party called in; male party is there, and she doesn't want him there. Situation mediated; both parties advised of options.

12:09 p.m. Caller's truck was broken into on High Street; it wasn't locked, but nothing was taken; just papers all over the place. Wanted it noted. Report taken.

4:14 p.m. 911 caller from Greenfield Road states grandmother was pulling into driveway and hit a car head-on. Unknown injuries. OnStar advises crash detected with air-bag deployment; no voice contact. Both operators out of vehicles. Officer requesting tow for both. Both parties declined medical attention.

6:36 p.m. Walk-in states that a vehicle has been parked on his property on Bridge Street for over a month; he doesn't know who it belongs to. Message left with vehicle owner to contact MPD about getting car off property. Property owner will give vehicle owner four or five days to move it. Caller called back stating he is working on getting a tow when he gets his check on the 1st.

7:47 p.m. Caller from Oakman Street states someone went through his vehicle last night and he has it on camera. Investigated.


10:17 p.m. Caller states he has driven by the Book Mill a few times today and there is a vehicle with two people sitting in it. Caller states they have had a couple of break-ins in the past few months and would like an officer to check on the vehicle. Business is closed; vehicle last seen two minutes ago. Young man and girl hanging out; they were moved along.

Sunday, 4/27

12:30 a.m. 911 caller advises she can hear and see people inside St. Stanislaus Society on K Street and it appears people are arguing and getting into each other's faces. Caller advises men and women are involved and the noise woke her up. Officer advises prior to arrival there was a verbal argument; involved male left before PD arrived. Officer states individuals inside location refused to provide names or any further information.

1:04 a.m. Caller from Franklin Street reports a small SUV with one occupant parked next to a fire hydrant. Caller states vehicle and person have been there for a number of hours. Officer advises he checked on vehicle. Female was in vehicle and was resting. No issues.

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

**FEDERAL STREET BOOKS**

8 Federal Street, Greenfield
federalstreetbooks.com

Doug's Auto Body
Doug Smith - Owner



MA Reg. #RS2190

Ph. (413) 863-2785
Fax: (413) 863-0120
FREE ESTIMATES

39 Center Road
Gill, MA 01354
FREE LOANER CARS

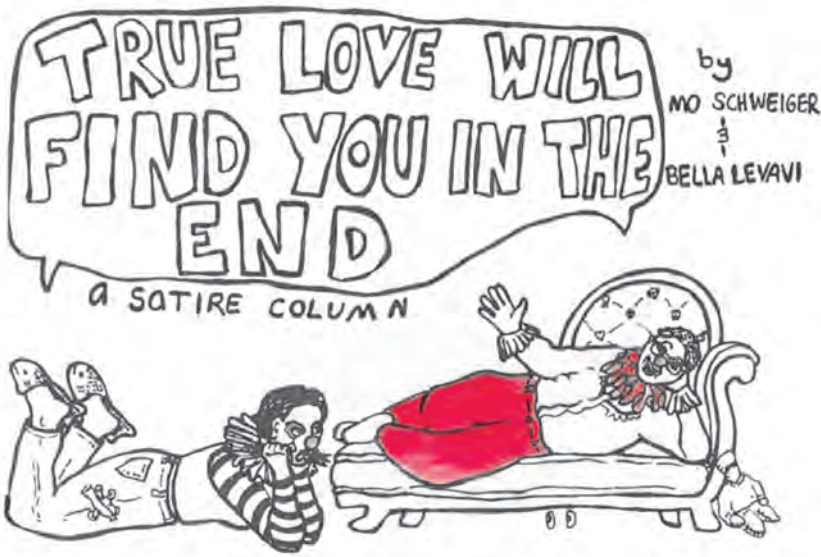
REPAIRS ON FOREIGN & DOMESTIC CARS AND TRUCKS

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



To Be or Not To Be: An Interview with Greenfield’s Only Transgender Cop

By MANDY MUDBALLS

GREENFIELD – All five heads at the failed art opening flew toward the doorway as a manicured wrist slithered into the Greenfield Public Access Television Station office-turned-art gallery.

The wrist was followed by a bald head, topped with a Russian fur hat, upon the apex of which gleamed a Greenfield Police Department badge adorned with its wearer’s pronouns: she/they.

“Here to protect *and serve!*” she proclaimed to the patrons – and untouched Stop & Shop charcuterie platter – in the office covered with

watercolor paintings of Poet’s Seat Tower, which included accurate renditions of the structure’s iconic graffiti.

That was the first time I laid eyes upon the Downtown Greenfield Business District Police Officer Chloe Ranger.

“I believe that all cops are bastards, but as long as we have the police, I feel like it should only be drag queens,” says Ranger, unprompted, as we sit down for the conversation that would become the backbone of this article, even though she is in fact a member of the police and is not a drag queen.

I am interested in speaking with

Ranger because I don’t want a cop at my rave, and neither do any of my numerous transgender friends and catgirlfriends. At my noise show potluck, the only sirens I want to hear are the ones coming from hand-built synthesizers. At my Lesbian Olympics, I don’t want anyone showing up in a police uniform that isn’t a stripper.

That is to say, I want to hear from Ranger how she squares her queer identity with her job as the Greenfield Police Department’s only transgender cop. It seemed to me as an abolitionist, as a queer person, and, perhaps more importantly, as someone who was born to hang and is unable to spend a moment without my buddies, that this must be a lonely situation, as most queer people are not interested in spending time with a cop, and as her fellow cops have not historically been kind to people of her identity.

“Often I either have to defend

why I chose to be a police officer, or just say that I’m bad at it,” Ranger says about her role on the force. “Everyone interprets that to be like, I just let anybody do whatever they want. But really I just don’t marginalize any people. So in reality, I’m an exceptionally good ‘good cop’... I’m very, very, very, very good.”

Ranger says she believes the role of the police should be constantly evaluated, and is seeking answers to the question of “how [her] community wants to be policed.” To her in her role as the Downtown Business District Police Officer, this looks like forming relationships with people who face housing insecurities, understanding drug addiction as disease rather than crime, and trying to make Main Street a place “for everybody.” (She explained this “everybody” as including even people who “buy kombucha at the co-op” and people who live in tents

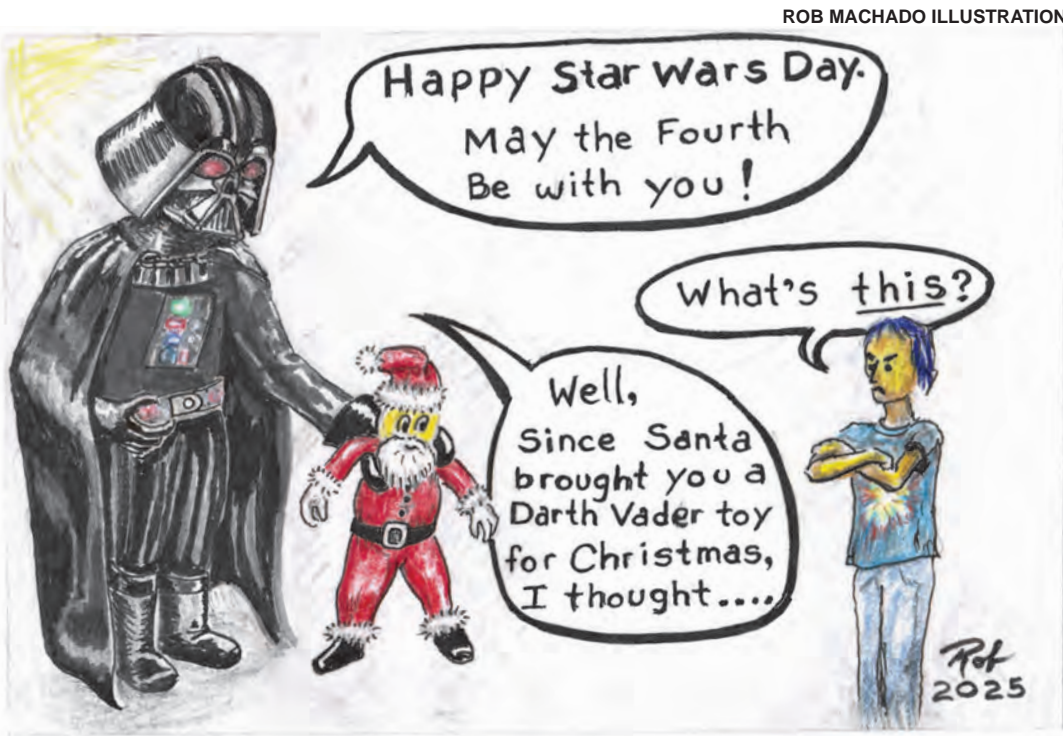
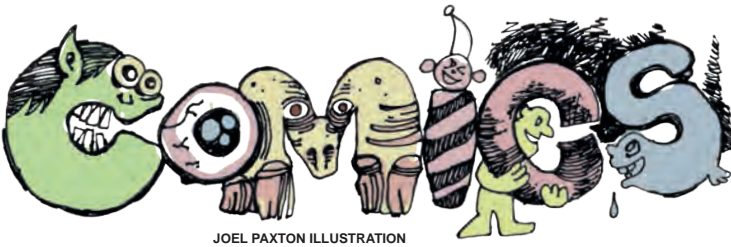
near the Green River, even as she characterized this as a “Pete Buttigieg answer.”)

“We enforce the laws that we want to enforce based on what the community wants,” Ranger says, adding that she’s trying to synthesize lots of different people’s hopes for Greenfield.

Hailing from Amherst’s Cushman Village, Ranger worked for a short time as a comedy writer before joining Deerfield’s EMT force, and later its police force as a part-time officer. (I hope that when my own comedy writing career inevitably flops, I do not become a cop, just a creator of hilarious annual reports and spreadsheets.)

“I was chief of the ambulance service for a decade, and then COVID hit and my egg cracked,” she says. “I was like, ‘Oh shit, I’m trans. Oh my god.’ When I started transitioning, Deerfield went super

see **TLWIFYITE** next page



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!



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.birchtreebodywork.com
413.239.4575



ROOT YOGA STUDIO

51 11TH ST., TURNERS FALLS

413.676.9076
ROOT-YOGA-STUDIO.COM

NEW STUDENT SPECIAL
THREE CLASSES FOR \$40

TLWFYITE from previous page

sour on me – after a 20-year career, I was suddenly a *persona non grata*. I was just saying it; I wasn’t even really transitioning openly.”

After this experience Ranger got a job working remotely for the state of Massachusetts, where she served as the deputy director of the organization that regulates emergency services.

“It was a great job on paper, but it was sucking my will to live,” says Ranger, explaining that the remote nature of it was nearly impossible for her because she is such an extrovert.

Ranger was then approached by the new Greenfield Chief of Police, Dodd Todge, who recruited her to the new position of Downtown Business District Police Officer in 2024. She accepted the offer even though it meant taking a pay cut.

I ask Ranger if she thinks this move was an attempt to overcorrect from the last police chief, who lost a case and then an appeal finding he conducted racial discrimination against a Black officer. To this, Ranger replies: “I don’t think that [Todge] needs to be held accountable for the sins of the person before

him, but I do think he should be held accountable for the sins of policing.”

Ranger assures me that Todge does not even roll his eyes when she jokingly refers to the police headquarters on High Street as the “dom station,” in relation to the *sub* station on Main Street.

“[Todge] misgenders me less than I misgender myself,” she adds.

“My damage is that I have to be a martyr,” Ranger tells me. “I’m like, ‘Tell me what you need, I’ll do it – anything to make you happy or comfortable. I will sacrifice all of these things myself to make sure that you have one iota of happiness.’”

“I’ve been much better received and loved and welcomed by public safety enforcement than I have by the queer community,” she says.

This seems to me to be the crux of the dissonance between Ranger’s stated goals and her self: she says that she is willing to set aside her own belonging in community for the sake of that community, but then, whose feedback is she receiving to inform her decisions?

I am not here to litigate Ranger’s identity, but it seems to me that in order to be a conduit for the desires

of the queer community, one must have experience in queer spaces to draw from to inform your actions. Like I said, I don’t want to find out that the person I just trespassed with into an abandoned factory to scope out a new location for a free store could arrest me for it. I believe that queerness and the police are in direct opposition – we didn’t get the phrase “be gay, do crime” for nothing. To me, queerness is about collective rebellion against traditional norms, and the police are literal agents of the government, something even more repressive than said norms.

Do I think that Ranger, as a person, deserves to feel a sense of belonging and find queer joy just as I have with my three trans roommates? Yes. But do I think that Ranger would fare better if she took her hopes for community-building outside of the police force and just became an underpaid social worker like everyone else?

Also yes.

True Love Will Find You in the End,

Mandy Mudballs



MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

SDSER YESGI

FGBMS ASYLUM GM

G THDSTSUI, ASFHTSM

G ABMLUSMM, GUP

SDSUIBGZZR PSYSUSEGISM

LUH G EGFWSI.

- SELF CHOOSE

CRACK THE CODE? SEND YOUR ANSWER TO:
EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

RECIPES from page B1

ceramic, usually terra cotta, its serving cover forms a cone with a topknot. Set over a shallow base it is cunningly designed to make food meltingly tender. Inside the rising steam has nowhere to go except up that cone, where it condenses, turning the toughest meats into succulent delicacies.

Moroccans are not the only people to come up with such a pan. A Dutch oven, or a deep, tightly lidded casserole, works in the same way.

Using one of these pans, a slow cooker, or even a pressure cooker as many Moroccans now do, we

can easily cook tagines. Among their charms is variety and flexibility. Meat-based tagine recipes typically work equally well with beef, lamb, or veal. Veal also substitutes for chicken.

A tagine that calls for apricots could have prunes instead – or some of both. Pears can replace apples. In Morocco potatoes or bread usually accompany tagines, but you could serve a rice pilaf.

Here are some recipes. In all cases quantities are approximate, because they depend on your preferences and the size of cooking dish you are using.



CHICKEN AND APPLE TAGINE

large pinch saffron, or ¾ tsp. turmeric

4 large chicken thighs or legs

1½ tsp. powdered ginger

1 tsp. cumin

salt and pepper to taste

1 Tbsp. oil

1 Tbsp. butter

1 medium onion, chopped

1 garlic clove, minced

3 Tbsp. chopped parsley

2 firm eating apples such as Golden Delicious, Gingergold, or Granny Smith

salt and pepper to taste. Turn the oven to 275 degrees.

Heat the oil and butter. Gently cook the onion in it for 4 or 5 minutes. Add the garlic along with the remaining ginger and cumin, plus the turmeric if you are using it. Sit the chicken pieces on top. Scatter on the parsley. If using saffron, add it with its liquid now.

Add enough water to reach the top of the chicken, cover, and transfer to the oven. Cook for 60 minutes or until the chicken is very tender.

Peel the apples and slice them thickly. Add the slices, replace the lid, and cook for another 15 minutes or until the apple is cooked. The apple should not fall apart, so do not choose MacIntosh or other varieties that quickly disintegrate.

MEAT TAGINE

WITH APRICOTS AND ALMONDS

Lamb is the most popular meat in Morocco, but beef works in this recipe too. Use whichever you prefer.

1½ to 2 lb. shoulder lamb chops or stewing beef

2 tsp. powdered cumin

1½ tsp. cinnamon

1 tsp. hot paprika or pimenton picante

2 Tbsp. olive oil

1 large onion, chopped

2 garlic cloves, minced

2 tsp. honey (optional)

salt to taste

½ lb. dried apricots

½ cup skinned almonds, or 3 Tbsp. sliced almonds

1 to 2 tsp. sesame seeds (optional)

Trim any excess fat off the meat, then lightly dust it with a little of the cumin, cinnamon, and paprika. Set aside. Turn the oven to 275 degrees.

Put the oil in the tagine or other pan, add the chopped onion and garlic, and cook gently for 4 or 5 minutes. Stir in the remaining spices. Put the meat on top and add enough cold water to just cover. Add the honey and salt to taste.

If using whole almonds, put half of them in now. (Leave sliced almonds for later.)

Transfer to the oven and cook for 2 to 3 hours, or until the meat

is very tender.

As soon as you put the meat in the oven, rinse the apricots, put them in a bowl, cover with plenty of water, and let soak for an hour. Transfer to a small saucepan and cook gently until tender, adding more water as needed. Reserve.

To finish the tagine, add the apricots about 15 minutes before serving time, and continue cooking in the oven. For serving, remove the tagine, add the remaining whole almonds or flaked almonds. If you like, garnish with sesame seeds.

MONKFISH TAGINE

WITH CHERMOULA AND VEGETABLES

Morocco has a long Atlantic coast, and fish is popular. Choose a firm fish for a tagine. Chermoula is a Moroccan herb-and-spice sauce or marinade.

For the chermoula:

large pinch of saffron threads (optional)

3 or 4 Tbsp. olive oil

freshly squeezed juice of 2 lemons

1 tsp. cumin

2 Tbsp. finely chopped cilantro

2 Tbsp. finely chopped parsley

¾ tsp. hot paprika or dash of cayenne

1 or 2 big garlic cloves, minced

½ tsp. cinnamon

For the monkfish:

1 Tbsp. olive oil

1½ lb. monkfish (or swordfish) tails

salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

16 small potatoes

1 large green pepper

2 large tomatoes, sliced

¾ cup diced tomatoes, fresh or canned

To make the chermoula, mix the olive oil and lemon juice in a small bowl, then stir in half the cumin and all the other ingredients. Stir well and set aside.

To make the fish and vegetables, wash and pat dry the fish. Cut into serving pieces, then season with salt, black pepper, and the remaining

cumin from the chermoula recipe.

Place in a glass or ceramic dish, and spread half the chermoula on top. Also add the saffron and its liquid, or half a cup of water if you are not using saffron. Let rest for an hour, or longer if more convenient.

When ready to proceed, turn the oven to 275 degrees. Oil the base and side of a tagine or ceramic or enamel casserole. Put the tomato slices on the bottom, making sure it is entirely covered. Season them with salt and pepper.

Pour on the remaining chermoula, then place the fish on top. Wash the potatoes and cut them into thin slices, and put about a third of them on the fish with the green pepper cut in strips. Arrange the remaining potatoes around the dish, and season with salt. Scatter on the diced tomatoes. Cover tightly.

Cook for 45 to 50 minutes, then check to see if the potatoes are done. If not, continue cooking for another 10 or 20 minutes. Serve with crusty bread or rice.

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.

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

LOOKY
HERE

28Chapman, Greenfield

STILL
LIFE
SOCIAL
CLUB
THURSDAYS
MAY 1, 15 & 29
6-8 PM \$10
BYO SUPPLIES

MORNING
SHIFT
SATURDAYS IN MAY
10:30 AM - 12 PM
COMMUNITY OPEN WRITING
FREE AND BY DONATION

Make a
Marionette
with British
Control!
4 WEEK CLASS
Wednesdays
5/7 - 6/18
6-8 PM
\$225

SIGURE
DRAWING
Thursdays
MAY 8 & 22
6-8 PM
\$15
Bring your
own supplies!

QUICK
LIGHT-UP
JEWELRY
MAY 9th
5:30 - 7:30 PM
all ages
\$25
all materials
included

WORLD
COLLAGE
DAY
collaborative collage
workshop
SATURDAY
MAY 10
1-3 PM
\$20

OCULT
POETICS
WITH CACONAS
Saturday
May 17th
1-3 PM
\$9

LIGHT-UP
NOTE CARDS
PAPER CIRCUIT
WORKSHOP!
Sunday May 18th
1-3 PM
all ages
\$25

MAKE A
MONSTER
NEEDLE FELTING
W/ RE-SHOP
Saturday May
23rd
1-3 PM
\$25

SWEATSHIRT
or JEAN
WEAVING
- Sunday -
May 25
12-5 PM
\$115

MUSIC
SHOW
Sunday 5/25
4pm doors/8pm show
Bobbie, Taggie,
or Best of Her
& More!

Collage
Club
Saturday
May 31st
1-3 PM
\$10

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

EVENTS

submissions:
events@montaguereporter.org

THURSDAY, MAY 1

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Bread & Roses Parade and Rally*, face painting, brass band, march to Discovery Center, speakers. 5 p.m. Free.

FRIDAY, MAY 2

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

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Bird Migration Madness*. Presentation about migration, nesting, habitat, and bird song, with crafts and a matching game. For all ages. Materials provided. 4 p.m. Free.

Waterway Arts, Turners Falls: Opening reception for *Art=Work*, May group show. 5 p.m. Free.

Easthampton Film Fest, Easthampton: Film screening, *Tallywhacker*. 5 p.m. \$.

YMCA, Greenfield: *Movement-Based Empowerment Workshop*, with Estelle from Box Your Way Fit! Register at tinyurl.com/boxingtofit. 6 p.m. Free.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: Opening reception for *Portraits in RED: Missing and Murdered Indigenous People*, by Nayana LaFond. 6 p.m. Free.

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.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *New England Repertory Orchestra*. 7 p.m. \$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *GDI, Gagu, Hedge, Scorpion Porch*. 7 p.m. \$.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Dead Gowns, Rick Rude, Footings*. 7 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Myrtle Street Klezmer*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *All Out*, hyperpop dance party. 8 p.m. \$.

Rat Trap, Holyoke: *Phrøeggs, NRG, Creative Writing, Mental Irrigation*. 8 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, MAY 3

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Farmers Market* opening day. Market will run every Saturday through October. SNAP accepted. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$

Wissatinnewag, Greenfield: *Guided Visit and Hike*, led by Nolumbeka Project president *David Brule* and land steward *Brent Pitcher*. The talk and walk will cover stories of the land from a “spiritual, historical, ecological, and archaeological perspective.” Space is limited; for details and registration see tinyurl.com/Wissatinnewag. 9:30 a.m. Free.

French King Bowling, Erving: *Bowl for Kids' Sake*, fundraiser for *Big Brothers Big Sisters of Western Mass*. See www.bbbswm.org/events to register teams. 10 a.m. \$.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: Opening reception for landscape painter *Steven Howe*. 11 a.m. Free.

Holyoke Senior Center, Holyoke: *Flywheel Zine Fest*. 11 a.m. Free.

New Salem Public Library, New Salem: *Animal Talk*, presented by master herpetologist *Jessica Decoteau*. Learn about the lives and habits of lizards and amphibians. Featuring live reptiles. 1 p.m. Free.

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

Sub Rosa, Northampton: *Queers for Palestine*:

EXHIBITS

Waterway Arts, Turners Falls: *Art=Work*, group show, May 1 through June 6; opening reception this Friday, May 2 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Where We Are, Together*, paintings by *Cameron Schmitz*, through May 26.

Montague Center Library: *Ann Feitelson: Quilts*, through this Friday, May 2. This Monday, May 5 from 5:30 to 7 p.m., opening reception for *Art/Poetry, Poetry/Art*, group exhibition running through July 2.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: *Vanessa Kerby*, guest artist showing ceramics through May.

Rhodes Art Center, Northfield Mount Hermon, Gill: *Japanese Pop Art & Landscape*, paintings by *Greenfield* artist *Kimiko Donohoe*. Through May 30, with an opening reception

this Friday, May 2 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *The Perennials*, group show by 10 local painters. Opening reception this Sunday, May 4 from 3 to 5 p.m.

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: Opening reception Friday, May 9 from 5 to 8 p.m. for *Lydia M. Kinney*, solo exhibition; *The Overlap*, GCC student group exhibition. Both through June 13.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *New Roots in Riverbanks*, exhibit about Eastern European immigrants to the valley, through May. Opening reception Friday, May 2 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. for *Portraits in RED: Missing and Murdered Indigenous People*, paintings by *Nayanna LaFond*, through July; opening reception Saturday, May 3 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. for paintings by *Steve Howe*, through May.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield: STEAM Art and Science, group



Check out the opening reception for *Greenfield* artist *Kimiko Donohoe's* new show, *Japanese Pop Art & Landscape*, this Friday at 6:30 p.m. at *Northfield Mount Hermon*. *Donohoe's* subjects include landmarks on the *NMH* campus.

Writing the Resistance, with authors *Sim Kern, Hannah Moushabeck*, and *George Abraham*. 5:30 p.m. \$\$.

Solar Canopy, Hampshire College: *Barbie.AI, Clock Serum, Ice Rasta, Primitive Accumulation, Alex Zhang Hungtai, id m theft able, World Babe Center, zbs.fm, Bently Anderson*. 6 p.m. By donation.

Deep Thoughts, Northampton: *Wishbone Zoë, All Feels*. 6 p.m. \$.

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *Lung, Dollflower, PMS*. 7 p.m. \$.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Gaslight Tinkers, Miles Hewitt*. 7 p.m. \$.

Workshop13, Ware: *The Big League Collective, Norma Dream*. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Tony Montanaro: A Love Story*, one-woman multi-media show by *Karen Montanaro*, with opener *Jack Golden*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Guiding Star Grange, Greenfield: Contra dance with *Wild Asparagus*, beginners' workshop, *George Marshall* calling. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Mullins Center, UMass Amherst: *Tinashe*. 8 p.m. \$.

Marigold, Brattleboro: *beetsblog, JustLee*. 8:30 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Dr. J*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SUNDAY, MAY 4

Yankee Candle Headquarters, South Deerfield: *20th Annual Antique Truck Show*. Vendors, food, raffle. Rain or shine, all welcome. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free.

Montague Center Common, Montague: *May Day Celebration*. Begins with procession from post office, followed by carol singing, maypole dancing, and Morris dancing. Participants encouraged to bring a picnic. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free.

Stationery Factory, Dalton: *Central Berkshire Record Show*. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$.

Franklin Community Co-op Community Room, Greenfield: *First Sunday Word*, open mic and featured readers. 1 p.m. By donation.

show of art that incorporates elements of science, through May 18.

Gallery A3, Amherst: Opening reception this Thursday, May 1 at 5 p.m. for *Confluence*, paintings by *Paula Hite*.

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*. Both through May 30.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Moments in Time*, illustrations by *Fabio Deponte*, through June 9.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne: *Copper Etchings in Bloom*, by *Bobbi Angell*, and *Dreams From My World*, oil paintings by *Trina Sears Sternstein*, both through June 29 with an opening reception next Saturday, May 10, from 2 to 4 p.m.

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

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



Ed Teraut, Owner

Peter Waters Painting
Services

Interior/Exterior
Custom Residential
Fully Insured

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



CALENDAR

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Indigo Dyeing and Shibori*. Hands-on workshop with Gail Callahan. For adults, and children ages 6 and up accompanied by an adult. 1 p.m. Free.

Vermont Jazz Center, Brattleboro: *Spring 2025 Student Showcase*. 1 p.m. By donation.

Erving Public Library, Erving: *Author Talk*, Local author *Esther Johnson* will discuss her mother's life in Finland and immigration to America, and her new book *Millie's Life in Recipes and Stories, An Immigrant's Story*. 2 p.m. Free.

Polish American Club, South Deerfield: *Pioneer Valley Balfolk Dance*, a French-Breton dance party celebrating La Fête des Muguets, or Lily of the Valley Day. No partner necessary. Instruction and hors d'oeuvres provided. Potluck and jam session, 2:45 p.m.; dance, 4 p.m. \$

Greenfield High School, Greenfield: *Franklin County Community Chorus Spring Concert*. 3 p.m. \$.

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

Blue Rock Restaurant, Shelburne Falls: *Shelburne Falls Area Women's Club Centennial Celebration* with cocktails, buffet meal, entertainment, and guest speakers. RSVP to *christine.baronas@gmail.com* or (413) 625-6697. 4 p.m. \$.

Feeding Tube Records, Florence: *Connect 4*. 4 p.m. No cover.

Palladium, Worcester: *Dying Fetus, Cradle of Filth, Fleshgod Apocalypse, Ne Obliviscalis, Undeath, Vomit Forth, Corpse Pile*. 4 p.m. \$.

Progression Brewing, Northampton: *Reading, Richard III*, presented by Valley Players. 6 p.m. By donation.

The Tank, Agawam: *Geronimostilton, Silent Spring, Letters of Marque, Feeble Hands, KG and the Heartbreakers*. 6 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *AJJ, Jake McKelvie*. 7 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Emily Margaret Band, NCPsound*. 8 p.m. No cover.

MONDAY, MAY 5

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

TUESDAY, MAY 6

New Salem Public Library, New Salem: *Songs and Stories of Appalachia and Rural America* with *Michael and Carrie Kline*. 7 p.m. Free.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *DiTrani Brothers, Resonant Rogues, Bandit Queen of Sorrows*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

Treasure Shop, Hadley: *Takaat, Carinae, Dust Witch, Doomsday Device*. 7 p.m. \$.

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

THURSDAY, MAY 8

Terrazza Restaurant, Greenfield: *Power to Persevere*, benefit for NELCWIT with *Two For Jazz*, keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Andrea Ayvazian. Sliding scale tickets at *www.givebutter.com/P2P2025*. 5 p.m. \$.

Amherst Cinema, Amherst: *Film, Far Out: Life On & After the Commune*, with post-film discussion with director Charles Light and commune members. 7 p.m. \$.

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

FRIDAY, MAY 9

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Village Neighbors Meetup*. 4 p.m. Free.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Community Freestyle Dance*. 6:30 p.m. By donation.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Montague Square Dance*, with *Sally Newton, Michael Donahue, Alex Scala* and caller *Sally Newton*. Jammers welcome. Families welcome for circle dances and beginner squares, 6:30 p.m.; regular squares, 8 p.m. By donation.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Michael Nix, Gloria Matlock*, and *Twice as Smart Children's Choir*. 7 p.m. By donation.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Kris Delmhorst, Rose Cousins*. 7 p.m. \$.

Holyoke Media, Holyoke: *Videodrome, Miracle Blood, Perennial, Velveteen*. 7 p.m. \$.

Palladium, Worcester: *Emperor, Wolves In The Throne Room*. 7 p.m. \$.

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *Dumbest Fella Alive; Hush, Puppy; Someone Else*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Roomful of Blues, Dave Keller*. 8 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Hendersons*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Tillis Hall, UMass Amherst: *Bruce Hornsby & YMusic present BrhyM*. 8 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *Splendid Torch, High Tea*. 8 p.m. \$.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Mike & Ruthy, Warm Shadows*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Cranky-Fest*, epic illustrated storytelling. 2 p.m. Free.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Shared Spaces: Creating Bird-Friendly Cities and Communities*, celebrating World Migratory Bird Day with ornithologist Chad Witko. 2 p.m. Free.

Incandescent Brewing, Bernardston: *AfterGlo*. 6 p.m. No cover.

Raven Used Books, Shelburne Falls: Book talk, *KUNI: A Japanese Vision and Practice for Urban-Rural Reconnection* by Richard McCarthy. Refreshments. 6 p.m. Free.

Tori Town, Holyoke: *Stay At Home Dads, The Buddy System Forever, Gianna, Hush Puppy*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Great Falls Harvest, Turners Falls: *Peter Stampfel, Wednesday Knudsen, Cosmic Ray, J. Burkett, Junk Orbit*. 7 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Música Franklin* afterparty with *Saskia Laroo*, jam session. 7 p.m. No cover.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Community Contra Dance*. 7 p.m. By donation.

CitySpace, Easthampton: *The Maladaptive, Mibble, Maeve, Solimar*. 7 p.m. \$.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Loboko, Lollise, Selector Tomás*. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *13, Taylor Swift tribute*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Episcopal Church of Saints James and Andrew, Greenfield: *Teenagers! Works of Mozart, Shubert, and other historical composers written in their teens*, presented by *Da Camera Singers*. 7:30 p.m. Free.

Guiding Star Grange, Greenfield: *Contra dance with Countercurrent Duo, Liz Nelson* calling. 7:45 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *Spelling, Feminine Aggression, Jessi's World*. 8 p.m. \$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Weegee, Red Herrings, Ian St. George & The Emergency Index, Creative Writing*. 8 p.m. \$.

Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, Great Barrington: *Del McCoury Band*. 8 p.m. \$\$.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Amulette, Mutineer, Monarchs and Masses*. \$. 8:30 p.m.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Food House, Avas*. 10:30 p.m. \$.

looking forward...

TUESDAY, MAY 13

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Honoring Our Elders: Patricia Miller*. 6:30 p.m. Free.

FRIDAY, MAY 16

The Drake, Amherst: *Gold Dust, The Croaks, Silvie's Okay, Mibble*. 8 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, MAY 17

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *Film & Gender, Nurse Joy, K.O. Queen, Space Camp*. 7 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, MAY 24

Midnight's, Brattleboro: *Landowner, beetsblog, Pond 1000*. 8 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Combo Chimbita*. 8 p.m. \$.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Linda Smith, Cindy, Jeanines, Kryssi B*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11

West Whately Chapel, Whately: *Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem, Darlin' Corey*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

CitySpace, Easthampton: *Murphy's Law, The Take, Pink Slip, Green Street Fiends*. 7 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Don Gadi*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SUNDAY, JULY 13

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Judy Collins*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, JULY 19

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Sarah Sherman*. 8 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, JULY 26

Palladium, Worcester: *Hot Water Music*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton: *Josh Ritter & The Royal City Band, Amy Helm, Steve Poltz, Cloudbelly*, more. 10:30 a.m. \$.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Tree House, Deerfield: *Godspeed You! Black Emperor*. 7 p.m. \$.

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

small victories

INTERIOR DESIGN

“Not just for fancy people!”

smallvictoriesdesign.com

Serving Home Grown Farm-inspired Food & Drink

H & O

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

SWANSON'S FABRICS x THE STASH HOUSE

Fabric & Fiber Craft Supplies
Sewing Studio Classes & Workshops

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

FOOT from page B1
private room. Nice!

It was Monday, December 23, 2024. I had to stay at the hospital, and security had to keep watch on me that night. In the morning they put on a GPS unit. I was on my own.

Hospital food is different from jail food; it is bland and served in smaller portions, but on the upside, there's more variety to choose from. They had pudding for snacks anytime, plus chocolate ice cream and fresh fruit, too. But, they count calories.

TV sucked big time because there were only about 13 channels. I did not watch much TV. In the hospital you mostly just take your pain meds and sleep.

Finally, the MRI was done. It was Friday, December 27, and they were ready to do surgery. I met surgeons and they talked with me about removal of my big toe. They also talked about a below-knee amputation. I was getting scared! *What the F###!?* This started out as a blister and now they're talking about cutting off my foot, I thought. Why is this happening to me?

Soon they moved me into surgery and put me under. I woke up to see that my foot was there. I was happy. My foot was wrapped up and I spent the weekend waiting for the post-surgery inspection on Monday.

Finally, it was Tuesday, December 31 and I was headed back to jail. When I got back to booking, Sam from the medical department was waiting for me. He asked about how I felt and what needs I may have going forward. He also told me that I would need to transfer back to D-Pod from Minimum, and I would get a handicap cell, too. I understood why. I was not happy, but back to D-Pod I went.

Is this roller coaster over yet? A few days later I headed to follow-up appointments. The surgeon was not happy with the wound. It was not healing, and getting worse – the infection was spreading. He told the COs to take me to the ER, and he would call ahead.

At the ER, me and the COs were just waiting back in the hallway. The ER was busy. Finally they got me a room. They strapped on a GPS and wished me luck. The hospital also had me clean myself with special wipes, and then off to pre-op I went.

Pre-op is where you meet the surgeons to talk about your procedure and sign the paper work.

I did both of these and then they wheeled me down the hall and through the doors. *This room is super bright, wow!* They started the O₂, then I was out. Next I woke up back in pre-op. They asked how my pain level was, and then back to the room. Great, it was time to feed me! I was waiting all day with no food or water.

At this point I was taking IV med at all times, sometimes in both arms. The nurses checked my vitals, too. They are nice. They do a lot and sometimes they're hard to find even with the call button. The bed folds up and down and if you try to get out, the alarm will sound.

I was in the hospital for about 20 days this time around, which is a long time. I had a lot of visitors this time. Bernie stopped by and he was super helpful. He listened to me vent – “What the F###” – over and over. He helped me with questions I needed to ask, and got me the information too. Emily and her supervisor stopped over to make sure that I knew they would help me through this. They asked if there was anything that I needed and they hooked me up with t-shirts and underwear – things I needed.

I appreciated everyone's visit, and I would like to thank all of them.

After the testing, IVs, and the debridement, they weren't sure if they could save my foot. I needed to make a choice to save the part of the leg I had. It was a sad time. At the time I was thinking about how life would be without my leg. Hopefully this is the last time I'd have to do surgery.

I still needed to do a stress test and a CAT scan, but then I was ready. Finally, on Wednesday it was time again. I woke up under the pain meds, looked down, and it was gone. My foot was gone. *What the F###?! I* spent the next two days there for observation, and then back to jail.

I was glad to be leaving. Once I was back in booking at the jail, Nurse Sam was waiting for me again. They wheeled me down to D-Pod, and my friends were happy to see me. They asked me if I needed anything from them, and they also gave me space from classes because I was on bed rest for two weeks. The staff was super cool with extra gear – this made a big difference – and now I am back to classes and the pain is under control.

Physical therapy is going well. My therapist is cool and funny.

FACES & PLACES



Turners Falls resident Asa “AJ” Bucinskas, 8, a whiz at jigsaw puzzles, concentrates hard as he tries to beat his own speed record for a 100-piece challenge.

She works with me twice a week, but wants me to work on my own too. If I don't fall and hurt myself in these next two weeks they should be taking out my staples, and I will be able to start a new chapter in my life getting a prosthetic foot.

I am ready for the new challenge. I hope that my readers get the feeling that this was a bad time, but I needed to stay positive and work it out. There's a lot of people that supported me, too, and I want to say thank you to everyone.

This article first appeared in The Light, a newsletter by Franklin County Jail and House of Correction (FCSO) residents.

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



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Sign Up for the Brick House 5K!

TURNERS FALLS – The Brick House Community Resource Center's annual 5K fundraiser will take place Saturday, May 17, at 10 a.m. on the Canalside Rail Trail bike path in Unity Park. Everyone is invited to attend this fun, community-spirited event! Walkers, rollers, and skaters are welcome to sign up for a non-competitive one-mile-course. Prizes have been donated by numerous local vendors.

Online pre-registration at www.brickhousecommunity.org/5k/ is encouraged. Kids 18 and younger can register for free, and there are “pay what you can,” donation, and fundraising options on the page. Standard pre-registration is \$40, and race day registration will be \$45.

All proceeds will help the Brick House provide programming which supports individual, family, and community well-being through collaboration on economic development, youth development, leadership development, and education.

We are excited to announce the course has been professionally measured and certified! To sponsor or volunteer, contact development@brickhousecommunity.org.

This year's sponsors include Charter Next Generation, Greenfield Savings Bank, Greenfield Cooperative Bank, Renaissance Builders, Partridge-Zschau Insurance, Judd Wire, Franklin Community Co-op, Gilmore & Farrell Insurance, Freedom Credit Union, Dolan & Dolan Attorneys at Law, the Turners Falls Athletic Club, Booska's Flooring, and LOOT Found & Made.

Prizes have been provided by the Rendezvous, Aubuchon Hardware, Swanson's Fabrics, Kharma Salon, LOOT, Replay Music, Dreamhouse, Waterway Arts, the Rock, Fossil, & Dinosaur Shop, the Country Creemee; Unnameable Books, the Upper Bend, Upinngil Bakery & Farm Store, and Big Y.

All walkers, rollers, runners, and skaters are eligible for prizes!

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

DIEMAND FARM

WENDELL, MA
THEDIEMANDFARM.COM

978-544-3806

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

FIND ALL YOUR FAVORITES
AT OUR FARM STORE!

Turners Falls Pizza House

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

PIZZA, GRINDERS,
DINNERS, SALADS, BURGERS

www.turnersfallspizza.com

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

Harriet Paine
REALTOR®

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

harriet@cohnandcompany.com
cohnandcompany.com

117 Main Street
Greenfield, MA 01301

GREENFIELD SOLAR

Local Solar PV Installers
for over 16 years
in western Massachusetts

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

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

the Y

FIND WHERE YOU BELONG
AT ANY AGE.
FIND YOUR Y.

JOIN TODAY!
www.your-y.org

FRANKLIN COUNTY'S Y
451 Main Street
Greenfield, MA

Erik Doolittle
landscape maintenance

Erik Doolittle
owner

Cell (413) 834-1531
462 Fox Hill Rd.
Bernardston, MA 01337

Dennis L. Booska
Dennis L. Booska, Jr.

Phone & Fax
413-863-3690

Booska's Flooring

169 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Member
The Flooring Network.

Tile
Lino
Carpet

Montague Villages
NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS
BECOME A MEMBER!

To learn more, volunteer, or make a donation, go to
www.montaguevillages.org