

The Montague Reporter

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APRIL 23, 2026

\$2

editor@montaguereporter.org

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

montaguereporter.org

Monument to 1676 Massacre Deeded Over to New Stewards

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL – “Captain William Turner / with 145 men surprised and / destroyed over 300 Indians / encamped at this place / May 19, 1676.”



This tiny plot of land in Riverside is changing hands, though it must be used for “monumental purposes.”

The inscription on a small granite monument, which stands on a small triangle of land where the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge now meets Route 2, is locally notorious for the stark, and seemingly positive, terms in which it describes an event many today consider to have been an act of ethnic cleansing, a massacre of non-combatant Native people by English troops.

But as of this week, the monument has new owners.

The directors of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association (PVMA), the Deerfield-based historical society that erected the monument to Captain Turner in 1900, voted on Wednesday to deed the property over to the Nolumbeka Project, a nonprofit working with tribal organizations to develop a better public understanding of the region’s Indigenous history.

Nolumbeka, in turn, does not intend to be the monument’s final owner, according to its president, David Brule. The organization has signed a memorandum of understanding with

see **MONUMENT** page A5

Turners Fire, Water Budget Grows By Over Eight Percent

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – By its scheduled 7 o’clock starting time Tuesday night, the Turners Falls fire district, which oversees a fire department and a water department, had attained the quorum of 25 voters required for an annual and was ready to go, district clerk Deb Bourbeau declared. The first order of business was to elect a moderator and Rich Kuklewicz, who serves on the Montague selectboard and was already sitting at Bourbeau’s side, was chosen for the task.

The two were flanked on the right by the three members of the district’s prudential

see **DISTRICT** page A7

GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill Pulls Plug On EV Station

By KATE SAVAGE

At Tuesday’s selectboard meeting, the Gill selectboard voted to shut down an electric vehicle charging station and inched forward on making repairs to the Riverside Municipal Building. They also mourned the passing of former town videographer, Rick James.

Town administrator Ray Purington said he thought the electric vehicle charging station at the town-owned building on Route 2 was “a luxury we can’t afford.”

Purington said the charging station was installed with funding from a state Green Communities grant and a Volkswagen emissions settlement grant, with the requirement that the town keep it operational for five years.

That was five years ago.

Since then, Gill has collected an average

see **GILL** page A7

‘Peecycling’ Program Plans Franklin County Launch

By SARAH ROBERTSON

BRATTLEBORO – When it comes to solving the dominant issues of our time, from food production to climate change and the housing crisis, policy experts have proposed a wide range of solutions.

It’s not often, however, that the word “urine” enters those discussions.

Human urine is a potent source of nitrogen and phosphorus, which are the essential components in most agricultural fertilizers. However, these nutrients can become harmful pollutants when they accumulate in waterways, causing algal blooms, killing fish, and throwing ecosystems out of balance. Up and down the Connecticut River Valley,

see **LAUNCH** page A4



Massachusetts urinators may soon be able to divert their excess nutrients away from waterways, where they can act as pollutants, to instead fertilize local farms.

Montague Couple Coming Up On Seventy-Five Years Together



Charlie and Mary Dodge at their home on Federal Street, with an arrangement of daffodils picked by Charlie between them.

By BEN GAGNON

MONTAGUE – “I looked up and saw her coming through the door and I said, ‘Wow, that’s the girl I’m going to marry.’”

It was 1951 and Charlie Dodge was 18, recovering from a badly broken leg at the Farren Memorial Hospital.

The girl was Mary Melanson, also 18, who worked the candy counter at Garden Theater in Greenfield. In the weeks that followed, Charlie called Mary at the theater and sang her songs over the phone like “You Are My Sunshine,” and “Beautiful, Beautiful Brown Eyes,” though he changed the lyrics to match Mary’s blue eyes.

“He was a very good singer and he would

yodel, too,” said Mary in an interview this week at the couple’s home on Federal Street. “He kept calling me and asking me to marry him, but I said I couldn’t get married, I’m only 18. Finally a friend told me to follow my heart, and one day I said yes.”

A minister married the couple on May 12, 1951, at the home of Charlie’s mother Josephine on Turners Falls Road.

“I wore a borrowed dress and a borrowed veil,” Mary recalled. “I had \$30 in the bank.”

“I had nothing in the bank,” Charlie chimed in.

Next month, the couple will celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary with the help of their extended family, including

see **COUPLE** page A6

State Funding Comes Through For New Homes In Turners Falls

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – Last week, amid the blitzkrieg of press conferences carried out across Massachusetts’s western counties by officials from Boston, a piece of consequential news for Montague was announced in Springfield, as MassHousing unveiled its capital grants for the coming year under the state’s Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP).

Two of these are intended to bring new housing to Turners Falls: a \$1.07 million grant restored to Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity for its plan to build six affordable houses on First Street, and another \$250,000 to Rural Development, Inc., an arm of the county housing authority, to knock down a condemned house on Unity Street and build a new one in its place.

These grants come from the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities (EOHLC), which has a mandate from governor Maura Healey and the state legislature to break the gridlock that has been slowing the

see **HOUSING** page A8

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Officials Hope, And Prepare, for Smooth, Efficient Town Meeting

By GEORGE BRACE

Leverett’s selectboard meeting on Tuesday was brief and mainly devoted to preparation for the annual town meeting next Saturday, May 2.

The town meeting warrant contains 37 articles including the town budget, the election of town officials, funding for the Amherst-Pelham regional school district, zoning changes, and requests for Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds. Three of the articles were initiated by citizen petitions, and for the second year in a row, none of them pertain to national or global politics.

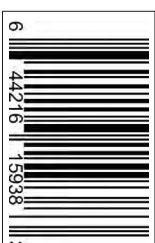
Town moderator Larry Farber went through the warrant with the selectboard for the purpose of clarifying procedures and getting a “heads up” on articles that may be contentious or likely to trigger requests for written ballot votes. The discussion was focused on preparing for a smooth and efficient meeting, not the content of the articles themselves.

Two of the articles identified by the selectboard as possibly being contentious were one pertaining to the future of the historic Field building, which included the possibility of the town selling it, and a request for CPA funding for preservation of the privately owned Slarrow Sawmill.

see **LEVERETT** page A5

Look On Our Works, Ye Mighty, And Despair!

Beautiful, Beautiful Brown Eyes.....A1	Clean Rigid White Block Foam.....A6	Crawled Out of Winter Quarters.....B3
Accumulate in Waterways.....A1	Candy, Guns, and Ammo.....A6	Pretty High in a Fire Pit.....B3
Tending Land and Bodies.....A2	Capture the Wonderfulness.....A7	Dabble Among the Jellies.....B4
In the Background of Nature.....A3	Fully Involved Upon Arrival.....A8	More Elemental and Subtle.....B5
That Linear Nutrient Flow.....A4	Back to Their Winning Ways.....B1	Feldspar, Falsa, Fiddlehead Fern.....B6
The Enthusiasm in the Room.....A4	Coaxing Out Early Flowers.....B1	Vundabar, Videopunks, Violent Femmes.....B7
Getting On Soapboxes.....A5	This Upcoming Flood of Patches.....B2	Fascinating on the Minefields.....B8



The Montague Reporter

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Founded by
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August 2002

Letters to the Editors



Sixty-Six Questions...

I understand there are proposed plans for a new library on Avenue A, across from the Shady Glen. This, along with other budget items, will be addressed at the town meeting in May. Warrant articles include the school budget, police budget, and other financial issues. I hereby submit questions for all you readers about the proposed library project:

I understand the grant is for 50% of the cost. What are the costs to us taxpayers? And the cost for renters of property? Has a traffic study been done? Will it be safe for disabled people and families to walk across Avenue A to this location at night? How many crosswalks are on Avenue A? Will there be traffic lights right after the bridge?

What is the impact on the Discovery Center, and the use of their green space and parking lot? Events? Construction trucks? Will the building close? What's the impact on the Creemee? Can this proposed lot accommodate 300 patrons – drivers or walkers? How many parking spaces?

Is the building accessible for children and adults with disabilities? Are the plans for the children's room on the second floor? What is the impact for autistic children, or disabled grandmas, to use the elevator? Can it accommodate large families? Will the elevator be working?

What are the costs to maintain the new building? Elevator? Janitors? Plowing? Outdoor lighting? Sidewalks, etc.? New librarians? Electric heat? Sewer and water? Will the building be open at night? Avenue A construction for sewer? Local, state, and federal budget impact?

What will happen with the old library? Real estate revenue for the town? Value? Upkeep costs? Will the new building be used as an emergency evacuation center? Parking? First floor bathrooms and kitchen? Outdoor lighting? Parking lot lighting? Sidewalk lighting? Cost of snow plowing of sidewalks and parking lot for events? DPW costs? Traffic cop for nighttime events? Patrol?

Impact on Powertown neighbors? Traffic? Lighting? Noise? Parking? Construction trucks and noise? Walkers', or drivers', safety? One-way street? Did you walk the proposed site? Size of the building? Are there lights on all the sidewalks leading to the library site? Will all the sidewalks be cleared of snow? What are the other financial costs for the town residents? Technical school? Farren housing development costs? Sewer? Water? DPW? Police department? School? Town employee costs? Priorities?

Betty Tegel
Turners Falls

... Answered, On Site

We are grateful to local disability rights advocate Betty Tegel for her thoughtful questions about the main library building project.

The Carnegie Library's inaccessibility is one of the main drivers behind the Library Trustees' pursuit of a new main library. In a new library building, patrons would no longer have to contend with steep stairs, narrow aisles, or the building's single, tiny, inaccessible restroom.

Indeed, the new building was designed to meet – and often exceed – American Disability Act (ADA) requirements. The space between bookcases would be wide enough to allow motorized wheelchairs as well as strollers through, and books would not be shelved overhead or close to the floor, ensuring that

everyone has access to library collections. Accessible restrooms, an elevator, and the main service desk would all be steps away from the parking lot entrance, ensuring easy navigation for those utilizing the accessible parking spots.

Answering all of Betty's questions in this paper would require a prohibitive amount of space, so we've created a special page on the library website.

You can access the full list of her questions, and our answers, at montaguepubliclibraries.org/betty.

Caitlin Kelley, Director
Montague Public Libraries

Will Quale, Chair
MPL Trustees



Jeff Bianchine manages The Print Shop, a collaborative makerspace in Holyoke where we recently created new Montague Reporter coffee cups using a dye-sublimation printer and heat press. For a monthly fee, members can take advantage of Jeff's training to make posters, postcards, vinyl transfers, stickers, banners, personalized hats, puzzles, t-shirts, ornaments, lawn signs, mugs, water bottles – you name it! Check out www.printshopholyoke.org. (You can purchase our new 15-ounce ceramic mugs at our office, or find us at the Great Falls Farmers Market and other local events.)

In Their Lifetimes

In response to Peter Garbus's op/ed ("Harnessing the Energy of No Kings, and Taking Action"), and Adrienne LaPierre's thoughtful response, "Listen to What is Emerging in this Moment":

Young people are active outside of normal political action channels precisely because they do understand the long history of deep, structural, and greed-driven barriers in the existing geopolitical system. They also know those barriers to an equitable, inclusive, sustainable future are also driving rapidly accelerating climate mayhem and biodiversity collapse. They face the likelihood of a die-off of a significant portion of humanity, not to mention many other species, *beginning and deepening in their lifetimes*.

Therefore, to survive, let alone thrive, younger people judge that: 1) investing effort in the normal channels may well be counter-productive, and 2) there's an urgent need to build alternative structures ASAP, and doing so is far more rewarding and sustainable.

I see real efforts to build resilience within food systems, increase access to housing and land, remember regenerative ways of tending land and bodies, and move resources to marginalized and frontline communities. There is direct political engagement around interlocking systemic issues including war/genocide, prison abolition, immigrant justice, and environmental protection.

So yes, there is – at least for some – a real generational disinterest in organizing under the mantle of/within this country's two dominant political parties. Parts of prior generations have felt similarly, but climate chaos and biodiversity collapse present real game-changers.

A friend with lots of interaction with young people hears them asking:

- What differentiates mass protests that are met with violence and suppression from those that have police protection?
- How do our strategies need to change if we understand issues as entrenched, bipartisan, and systemic: i.e., what lessons can we draw from US history and the history of US foreign policy?
- What happens when mass mobilization outpaces organization and political education: i.e., what lessons can we draw from Occupy, the Arab Spring uprisings, etc.?
- What is the extent of bipartisan consensus among political elites, and around what issues, as evidenced by their actions, not their words?
- How does that consensus relate to the kinds of issues that are important to voters across party lines, and how might that inform young people's long-term strategies?

Paul Lipke
Montague Center

The Practical Side

Thank you, Adrienne Lapiere, for your thoughtful and constructive response to my April 2 op-ed following up on No Kings Day. I feel called in as opposed to called out, encouraged to engage and learn.

In my op-ed, I implied that the younger generation seems to be disengaging from politics, while "we [elders] still believe that individuals and institutions ought to put up a good fight." It was sloppy of me to be dismissive and wrong; not the first time I've misunderstood. I apologize.

Just a few years ago I gave a graduation speech imploring our graduates not to dismiss their elders.

I said we need all of us to make this world a better place. We elders need to listen to young people who are digging into the structures and power relationships that underlie institutions I still believe we have to fix.

The challenge, for me, isn't really about generations. It's about how we try to solve problems. Fixing our institutions might be a teardown job. If so, where do people live during the renovation? And what do the new plans look like? I respect and value those who say there's a better way. But the practical side of me wants to see how to move toward getting it done. I'm not waiting for perfect plans. But I do look for possible next

steps that can be accomplished.

I tried this prompt after reading Adrienne's thoughts: What leaders or thinkers combine arguments for radical, systemic change with practical steps toward solutions? A number of results came back, giving me promising starting points for further learning.

Who should we be listening to? What ideas are out there for changing systems? Good ideas still need action plans, so let's look for both.

Thanks again, Adrienne. I'm listening. Let's go!

Peter Garbus
Greenfield

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TURNERS FALLS AND VICINITY.

Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

This column will be **one year old** tomorrow. It first ran on April 24 last year, launching on the occasion of the honeymoon of our prior Page A3 columnist. After waffling for a couple months I decided to stick with the title, which is lifted from the old *Turners Falls Reporter*. I like it.

Send me stuff, though, to mention here.



MAGGIE SADOWAY PHOTO

Last week I mentioned fires had displaced residents in Sunderland and Leverett. I was actually hoping a link to **contribute to the family who lost their home** in Leverett would be available, but didn't find one as of press time.

There is, in fact, a GoFundMe page up to support them – two adults and four young children. The short link is gofund.me/1eddaac2f and I should mention that the first character after the slash is a numeral one, not a lowercase L.

I'm really loving the profile of the elder Dodges in this edition. Big thanks to their granddaughter Jessica for tipping us off about their **impending, impressive, milestone**.

Our reporter suggested I ask the readers – are any of you involved in a marriage of 50 years or longer? Do you know of many in our coverage towns? Have you ever heard of a 75th before? I poked around a little online and couldn't find any data about how rare it is beyond "extremely."



WILL QUALE PHOTO

Monday was Patriots' Day and Wednesday was Earth Day and **this Friday is Arbor Day**. Saturday will be World Penguin Day and Sunday's National Pretzel Day, but let's not get ahead of ourselves.

Arbor Day, which in a normal world would have been called Tree Day but was invented in the 1870s by an inveterately racist former governor of Nebraska and apparently at his suggestion uses the Latin word for "tree" instead, is observed in this vicinity by tree plantings spearheaded by the Montague tree committee.

If you're around during the daytime Friday or have a lunch break, check one out. It's supposed to be sunny out and it's always very satisfying and civic to stand around, and maybe even help in a small way, while people plug a hole in the earth with a tree. For the full schedule, see the sidebar ad on Page A4.

The **farmers market** in Greenfield starts this Saturday, and the one at Peskeompskut Park in Turners starts the following Saturday, May 2 (see sidebar ad on Page A3).



JOE R. PARZYCH PHOTO

Will Quale (at left) and Joe R. Parzych (above) took pictures of the same double rainbow 13 minutes apart last week and sent them in. This is great.

"You can see the silhouette of a tree reflected at Foster's Supermarket, an awesome place to shop," Joe writes. "I'm dedicating this to the late Ronnie James Dio, singer of Rainbow with ex-Deep Purple guitar player Ritchie Blackmore. 'Man on the Silver Mountain' is one of many people's favorite songs.... We are **thankful, fortunate and blessed**, everything is going well. And you can hear the birds in the background of nature after a rainstorm."

Montague's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant "2.0" – a new track of the state funding program designed to be more responsive to the direction of those residents who will be most messed up by the changing climate by virtue of being on the margins and/or front lines

(no one ever just says *the poor* these days, besides like Pope Leo) – ended up being narrowed down to **plastic window inserts**, and the plastic window inserts are now upon us.

The concept is that the state grant is covering materials, and a great many plastic window inserts are being assembled by volunteers and then given to any of our neighbors whose windows might be drafty and whose incomes might be below a certain eligibility threshold.

See the sidebar ad on Page A7 and let your phone get a whiff of that QR code to be told more. The next winsert-assembly date is this Saturday, so if you want to help out and are a morning person please jump on that. The May 16 session has been cancelled, we've learned, as it was realized that that is the date of the anniversary of the wartime massacre here at the Falls and it would have conflicted with commemoration events, so the next session is looking like June 10.

We haven't heard much from either **candidate for Montague selectboard**, and we're now within a month of the election (May 19), but the Montague Dems and MCTV have pulled together a candidates' forum in order to extract and record a good volume of talking from them.

The public is invited to watch the forum – which is not a debate – on Tuesday, May 5 at 6:30 p.m. live on cable Channel 9, or after that on MCTV's Vimeo channel. Up to 30 lucky civilians may participate in the forum's live studio audience, upstairs at the town hall, though they must register with Ariel Elan at BlessAll77@proton.me to do that.

Nate Card vs. John Snyder. You must choose.

Beth Orton's coming to the Shea Theater in September. That's a pretty good pull! Good job.

To put it in context, Orton is playing 13 dates. DC, Philly, NYC, Somerville, and then little old Turners Falls. After us it's Toronto, Detroit, Chicago, and Minneapolis; LA, San Francisco, Portland, and Seattle. We're lucky...



There's **new mugs!** Nina made them! Online sales are a hassle, so find us in the streets.

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

OBITUARY

Barbara (Vance) Alfange

October 8, 1932 – April 10, 2016

Barbara (Vance) Alfange, 93, died on Friday, April 10, 2026, in Greenfield, Massachusetts. She was born in Pierre, South Dakota, on October 8, 1932, the daughter of Lanky (Earl) and Pat (Velma Whitney) Vance. Her parents were avid nature lovers, with her mother, Pat, known for her sprawling flower gardens and a yard of plentiful birds. Thus started Barbara's own love affair with nature, especially bird watching.

After graduating from Pierre High School, she continued her education at the University of Colorado, where she met her husband of 64 years, Dean Alfange. In 1967, Barbara and Dean moved from Lehigh, Pennsylvania, to Leverett, Massachusetts, where Barbara worked for Smith College and ran a rare book business, specializing in literature by women, and Dean was professor of constitutional law and civil liberties and Dean of Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Acting Provost at the University of Massachusetts.

Barbara was a member of the Leverett Con-

servation Commission, committee chairman for the Leverett Bicentennial Celebration, a devoted volunteer at the Greenfield Food Pantry, a trustee of the Leverett Library, and founder of the Friends of the Leverett Library.

She was a longtime and instrumental advisory board member of Paris Press, suggesting literary works by women for the press to acquire, proofreading, and assisting with the press's archives. In addition, she served as a program coordinator for Round the World Women, which connected international women, students, and non-students with volunteers from the greater Amherst community.

Along with several nieces, nephews, and cousins, she leaves many lifetime friends who will miss her dearly. She will be remembered for her wit, her passion for jazz, the visual arts, Scrabble, and democracy (supporting the recent No Kings rallies by holding up her handmade sign at the entrance to the Arbors).

There will be a celebration of Barbara's life



in May 2026.

Donations in her honor may be made out to the Montague Reporter, 177 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA, 01376, the Leverett Library, or the Greenfield Food Pantry.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Kostanski Funeral Home. For condolences, please visit www.kostanskifuneralhome.com.

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Montague: Arbor Day Tree Plantings

Friday and Saturday,
April 24 and 25

Please join us for planting trees this Arbor Day weekend, April 24 and 25, in the five villages of Montague.

On Friday, the Montague Tree Committee invites residents to join in celebrating Arbor Day by planting a Tulip Poplar at 10 a.m. at the corner of Poplar Street and Greenfield Road in Montague City.

Join us on the Patch at the corner of G Street and Eleventh Street at 10:30 a.m. to plant a Scarlet Oak.

Join us in downtown Great Falls at 106 L Street near the Fifth Street alley to plant a flowering dogwood tree at 11 a.m.

Join us at Highland Park in Millers Falls, at the parking lot at the end of Lyman Street, at 11:30 a.m. to plant a red maple.

Join us at the Bell Tower on Adams Road in Lake Pleasant at noon to plant an apple tree.

On Saturday, April 25, join us at the North Street side of the town common in Montague Center at 11 a.m. to plant a flowering redbud.

Bring work gloves! Let's keep Montague green and growing!

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- Natural Stone



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LAUNCH from page A1

agricultural runoff, wastewater treatment plants, and septic systems all contribute to an overabundance of nitrogen and phosphorus in the watershed.

One organization is now trying to solve those problems, and more, by recycling urine in Franklin County. And they've just won funding to do so.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation developed the Long Island Sound Futures Fund in 2005, and recently awarded the grant to the Rich Earth Institute to help develop a urine recycling program in Franklin County. The nonprofit has been researching and developing ways to advance the use of human waste as a resource since 2012, and along the way founded a popular urine-based fertilizer business in Brattleboro.

"What we're doing at Rich Earth, and many other places around the world, is working to reconnect that linear nutrient flow back into the food nutrient cycle," said Julia Cavicchi, the organization's education director. "Where we can keep our waste out of our water so our water is cleaner and safer to use and live in, and our nutrients can be easier to reclaim and keep in our local food systems."

The two-year \$146,496 grant from the Futures Fund will cover the planning and implementation of new "peecycling" projects throughout the county. The Rich Earth Institute hosted a kickoff event at the Sunderland Public Library on April 8 to introduce the public to the concept and glean ideas from local farmers, waste management experts, and town officials about how urine recycling can fit into the region's largely rural landscape.

Every year, Deb Habib, the co-founder of the Seeds of Solidarity Farm in Orange, invites Rich Earth to set up a urine collection booth at the North Quabbin Garlic & Arts Festival.

"Everything that we're creating is going to end up somewhere. So why not connect ourselves with something positive rather than something polluting?" Habib said. "The fact that we're connected by all these watersheds in this region really reminds people that there's no such thing as 'away.'"

Founded in 2012, the Institute claims to have established the first and largest community-scale urine recycling program in the country.

Demand for its urine-based fertilizer, marketed to area farms as "U-Grow," exceeds supply. Currently, nutrients are collected from 33 urine-diverting toilets in Vermont, and 260 individual "donors" who deliver their urine to collection stations located near the municipal transfer stations in Brattleboro and Bellows Falls.

Donors log their contributions, and the organization hosts an annual "Piss-Off Competition" to celebrate its "most prolific contributors," Cavicchi said. The Rich Earth Institute currently provides U-Grow to nine farms, mostly to grow hay.

Chelsey Little – the superintendent of Montague's wastewater treatment plant, the Clean Water Facility – attended the kickoff event at the Sunderland library after meeting with Rich Earth staff last year.

"They did a little presentation for me during the meeting, and I just fell in love with the idea," Little said. "It makes sense if we have people diverting the urine out of the waste stream, because that's less of the nitrogen removal treatment that we have to do at the facility."

Human urine makes up less than 1% of the waste sent to a typical wastewater treatment plant, but accounts for about 75% of the nitrogen and 60% of the phosphorus these facilities must process, according to a recent study from the University of Surrey in England published in the *Journal of Environmental Chemical Engineering*.

As a condition of its current wastewater discharge permit, the Montague Clean Water Facility must reduce the amount of nitrogen it releases into the Connecticut River. Little wants to install urine collection and treatment infrastructure at the plant to achieve this.

"It's a win-win," Little said. "To scale it up is pretty cost effective as well... if we did all of Montague, and then the smaller surrounding towns."

Installing the equipment at the Clean Water Facility would be cheap, easy and effective, costing only a couple thousand dollars, Little said. Pasteurizing urine for agricultural use requires heating it to 80° C (176° F) for at least 90 seconds, then keeping it in a sealed container to prevent the ammonia from off-gassing. Bright-



Rich Earth Institute education director Julia Cavicchi demonstrates nutrient cycles using a model at the organization's Brattleboro headquarters.

water Tools, a spin-off company that operates at the Rich Earth Institute's Brattleboro headquarters, has developed technology to do this, and has also been experimenting with freeze concentration to make U-Grow easier to store, transport, and apply to farm fields.

"Farmers are becoming desperate for alternatives from an affordability standpoint, and also to have more nutrients available," Cavicchi said.

About 70% of farmers in the US claim they cannot afford all the fertilizer they need for the upcoming growing season, according to a survey conducted earlier this month by the American Farm Bureau Federation. Factored into those costs is the US and Israeli war with Iran, which has led Iran to block ships carrying fuel and fertilizers from leaving the Persian Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz. Nearly half of the global supply of urea, a synthetically derived form of nitrogen, and about 30% of the world's ammonia supply are exported through the Gulf, according to the Farm Bureau.

In addition to providing potent fertilizer to farmers, proponents of peecycling say it also saves water. Every five gallons of urine collected prevents 100 gallons of water from being flushed down the toilet, according to Rich Earth Institute data analysis, which equals about 4,000 gallons of water saved per person each year.

"We use large amounts of clean potable water to just move these nutrients from one place to another," Cavicchi said. "By doing a relatively small act, in terms of volume, of diverting our urine at the source, we can have a relatively big impact on preventing downstream nutrient pollution and procuring those nutrients for use in local agriculture."

Andrea Donlon, a senior land use and natural resources planner for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, said that peecycling in Franklin County could help municipalities address the increasingly expensive disposal cost of "biosolids" – the thick residual waste from treatment plants.

"I'm interested in learning more about the logistics of collecting urine," Donlon said. "I'm thinking of all the aging wastewater infrastructure we have, and the need to build more housing in places that don't have any infrastructure."

Mariah Kurtz, a senior livability planner at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, said that sewer and septic capacity issues are a common bottleneck to the development of new housing. Building a new septic system, or expanding an existing septic system, can be a complicated and expensive undertaking.

"Thinking creatively about our waste solutions can unlock new types of housing in new locations that can allow for more housing, and could potentially allow for more affordable housing," Kurtz said. "I think that this is at the beginning of a conversation that could have interesting results in our area."

With the right regulatory reforms, peecycling and other forms of onsite waste diversion could reduce the volume of waste flushed into septic

systems. With the extra capacity, homeowners could build additional bedrooms or accessory dwelling units without having to make costly upgrades to their existing septic systems

After years of successful advocacy to develop state-level policies that allow for various types of urine collection systems in Vermont, the Rich Earth Institute has turned its sights southward. U-Grow was approved for use and sale in Massachusetts in 2025, and the organization is looking into how municipal and state governments could go about permitting urine collection and treatment facilities in the state as well.

"There's a lot to figure out in terms of collaborating with state regulatory officials, and legislators and town government officials about all those questions and the concerns they raise," Cavicchi said.

Partnering with academic institutions such as University of Michigan and Cornell University, the Rich Earth Institute has led studies on the soil health impacts of using urine as a fertilizer. They found that despite the presence of pollutants and pharmaceuticals in human urine, crops fertilized with it tend not to absorb the pollutants "at a significant human health exposure pathway level," Cavicchi said. The nonprofit has been following other researchers investigating how various crops uptake and interact with potential pollutants found in urine.

At the Sunderland library kickoff event, some farmers expressed interest in using urine-based fertilizer on their fields, and perhaps even hosting collection and treatment facilities onsite. Others suggested partnering with local septic hauling companies to transport urine, or setting up portable toilets at public events to raise awareness about the benefits of peecycling. For Rich Earth, next steps include hosting on-farm fertilizer demonstrations, organizing toilet installation site visits, and partnering with schools and local groups for education events.

"We came away from the kickoff event feeling buoyed by the enthusiasm in the room, including from many who helped spark this effort and are now eager to collaborate on bringing the nutrient cycling vision into reality," Cavicchi said.

The Rich Earth Institute will host an open house on Thursday, April 30 at its Brattleboro headquarters at 355 Old Ferry Road, located next to the Windham Solid Waste Management District. The event is open to anyone interested in its work in Brattleboro or the new project in Franklin County.

"There are many organizations all around the world, and also all across the country, working on compost toilet solutions, the use of urine in perennial agriculture, building-scale designs, and portable toilet businesses," Cavicchi said. "We're all kind of working together to figure out different ways that urine recycling can be practical, and fundable and enjoyable, in all sorts of different contexts."

This article was copublished by
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LEVERETT from page A1

Selectboard members Jed Proujansky and Tom Hankinson commented that an article seeking CPA funding for the construction of a new “accessway” to the Gordon King Estate conservation land should be discussed on its merits, and that though its passage would resolve a legal case brought last year against the town, it would not be appropriate, in Hankinson’s words, to “rehash” that case in the discussion.

Hankinson commented that overall he thought there would be differences of opinion on some articles, but he did not see “bitter divisions.”

Farber said he planned to ask people to keep their comments to two to three minutes until everyone has had a chance to speak. “This is a place for voting on articles, not for getting on soapboxes,” he said.

Selectboard chair Patricia Duffy said Farber should say that at the meeting.

Town officials up for election include members of the board of assessors, board of health, finance committee, library trustees, planning board, school committee, and selectboard, as well as the town constable. As of Tuesday there were no candidacy announcements indicating contested races, though in Leverett nominations can be made from the floor on the day of the meeting.

Two positions on the board of health and one on the school committee have no announced candidates.

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis said there had been some

confusion over the wording of an article presented by the regional school committee, but the \$1.94 million request included in the article for the district’s assessment was correct. She said she hoped a school committee member will clarify the parts that were unclear.

Numerous zoning bylaw changes are proposed, pertaining to a variety of subjects including dog kennels, ground-mounted solar installations, accessory dwelling units, and the town’s “floodplain overlay district.”

The three articles brought by citizens’ petitions would transfer \$200,000 from the town’s free cash account to reduce property taxes, adopt a state law reducing speed limits in thickly-settled neighborhoods and business districts from 30 to 25 miles per hour, and change the designation of Camp Road from a private road to a public one.

Ellen Drews, a resident of Camp Road and sponsor of the petition, appeared at the meeting to say the change was requested to improve emergency response accessibility and provide “equitable” town services, such as snowplowing, to its residents.

In discussing the possibility that written ballots rather than voice votes may be requested for certain articles, Farber noted that he had the authority to call for ballots, as in a case where he felt a voice vote was unclear, and that otherwise a motion from the floor is required.

Town clerk Lisa Stratford added that written ballots are required for electing town officials.

Quorum requirements were also discussed. Stratford said that 5%

of the town’s approximately 1,500 registered voters – or about 75 residents – are required for a quorum. After the meeting, she shared a story from years ago of a phone call being made late in a town meeting to a chorus practicing elsewhere in the Leverett Elementary School, asking members to come down to the meeting to meet a quorum call.

Leverett’s annual town meeting will take place in the elementary school’s gymnasium on Saturday, May 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Other Business

Proujansky reported on a recent meeting of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, saying that a new department of emergency management had been formed, and a committee to support single-payer healthcare is likely to be formed soon.

He also said there had been discussion of looking more closely into opportunities for creating “efficiencies of scale” for schools through regionalization. “If we continue going the way we’re going,” he commented, “it’s going to ultimately bankrupt us, and probably every other town in Franklin County.”

McGinnis said the town had issued a call for bids for constructing the stage component of the library’s nature park project, and that library director Hannah Paessel wants to see the entire project completed by the end of July.

McGinnis reported that after a winter break, work on the Dudleyville Road drainage project has started up again “in earnest.”



MONUMENT from page A1

the southern Vermont-based Elnu Abenaki Tribe and the Chaubunagungamaug Band of Nipmuck Indians to serve as “co-stewards” of the property, Brule said, and a plan is underway to add an Indigenous interpretation of the 1676 event to the site.

“It’s a tiny plot of land, but it’s hugely symbolic,” Brule told the Reporter.

The parcel was given to PVMA by Timothy Stoughton, who owned a large spread at Riverside and “expressed great pleasure in turning over to the Association the land which had a value chiefly in its connection with the early history of the valley frontier,” according to records of the September 1900 PVMA picnic dedicating the monument. There was a luncheon, a platform draped in bunting, entertainment by a “quartette” of songstresses, and hour upon hour of speeches.

“Two thoughts are naturally engendered when one stands upon this spot,” the eminent Deerfield historian George Sheldon told the crowd. “Your soil drank the blood, and from it you turn up the bones of an extinct people; and the name of Turner persistently smites the ear from your thundering waters.”

Stoughton donated the parcel with a quitclaim deed stipulating that “said land is to be forever kept for monumental purposes, in commemoration of the battle.” According to PVMA executive director Tim Neumann, the land’s exact boundaries remain unsurveyed; what the organization granted to Nolumbeka this week is essentially the same quitclaim deed.

“We wanted to give the space to the Indigenous people for their voice at that spot, and give them the freedom to do that without checking back with us,” Neumann told the Reporter.

A ballot went out to all of PVMA’s 380 members, and only one voted against the transfer. “And that was only because they thought it was too shabby, that we should fix it up,” Neumann said.

According to Neumann, PVMA had been considering the move for years, and approached Nolumbeka, with whom it has a long-term working relationship, to help facilitate the transfer of stewardship.

“The ultimate goal is to provide some sort of an answer, or a counterpart, to the monument,” Elnu Abenaki cultural relations officer Rich Holschuh explained. “There’s a whole lot of readjusting and relearning, and

remembering, that needs to be done.”

Over the last decade, the town of Montague spearheaded a multi-phase project, funded by the American Battlefield Protection Program, to study what happened at the Falls on May 19, 1676. The consensus that has emerged is that the “Falls Fight” should be treated as two events: a dawn surprise attack on a village of non-combatants that left hundreds dead, followed by a strong Native counter-attack that drove the English troops back through present-day Greenfield and into Deerfield.

The massacre and battle were a turning point in the uprising known as King Philip’s War, and ultimately in the cultural dissolution of the Pocumtuck people. Survivors were taken in by a half dozen other peoples scattered across the Northeast.

In conjunction with the 350th anniversary of that event, according to Brule, the core group of stewards, who have been working together throughout the battlefield grant study, will announce a call for proposals “to put a new sculpture, or symbol, on that plot of land that would have meaning for Indigenous people.”

Attempts to reach Liz Coldwind Santana-Kiser, tribal historic preservation officer for the Chaubunagungamaug Band of Nipmuck Indians, were not successful before press time.

“It doesn’t hurt to continually remind people that this land belonged to somebody else, and there was a long history of misunderstanding and mistreatment of Indigenous people,” Neumann said. “And a little quarter-acre piece of land isn’t going to make up for that, but... We all wouldn’t be here if history had been different.”

“My thoughts are that it might be helpful to have something side by side with what’s there to provide a counterpoint,” Holschuh said. “Not an overwriting or an elimination, but a comparison, so that people can see where things may have gone sideways.... Everyone who is here now needs to be involved in this, and recognizing the heart of the matter, which is reconnecting and building relationships.”

The Nolumbeka Project has organized a Day of Remembrance event on May 16, beginning at 11 a.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center. More information is available at www.nolumbekaproject.org.



Tip of the week ...

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**TOWN OF LEVERETT
LEVERETT LIBRARY OUTDOOR STAGE
INVITATION FOR BIDS**

The Town of Leverett will accept sealed bids for the construction of an outdoor covered stage and associated site improvements at the Leverett Library located at 75 Montague Road. Foundations and electrical conduit for the stage are in place. Complete specifications and bidding documents are available from the Administrator at townadministrator@leverett.ma.us.

Sealed bids, plainly marked “Leverett Library Outdoor Stage Bid,” will be received by Marjorie McGinnis, Administrator, at 9 Montague Road, Leverett, MA 01054 **until May 13, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

A pre-bid site visit is set for April 30, 2026 at 10:00 am at the site. Bid is subject to prevailing wage rates as per MGL Chapter 149, Section 26 – 27f inclusive. The Town of Leverett reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in total or in part as they may deem to be in their best public interest.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Conte Sewer Connection Project at the Eastern Ecological Science Center at the S.O. Conte Research Laboratory in Turners Falls, Franklin County, Massachusetts. The project would connect the facility to the Town of Montague’s municipal sewer system, replacing the existing septic system with a more reliable and environmentally protective wastewater management solution.

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. § 306108), the USGS is also considering the effects of the proposed undertaking on historic properties. This notice is being provided to inform the public and to solicit input from individuals or organizations with knowledge of, or interest in, historic properties that may be affected by the project.

A public comment period is open from April 23, 2026 through May 22, 2026. The Environmental Assessment is available for public review at: <https://www.usgs.gov/nepa/news>.

Comments may be submitted by email to contecomments@usgs.gov, by mail to U.S. Geological Survey, Eastern Ecological Science Center, S.O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center, 1 Migratory Way, Turners Falls, MA 01376, or through an online comment form accessible via this QR code available on the USGS website.

All comments received will be considered in the development of the EA. For more information, contact Jordan D. Sizemore, Environmental Protection Specialist, at (360) 929-0783.

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COUPLE from page A1

seven great-great-grandchildren.

After the wedding, Charlie went back to work in the tobacco fields while still on crutches.

"Nobody thought I could do it, but if there's a will, there's a way," said Charlie. "There were no easy jobs in those days." The couple recalls shopping at Buckmaster's general store in Montague Center, which

sold everything from radios to bread, candy, guns, and ammo.

"They used to say, 'Come in and pay us when you get paid,'" recalled Charlie. "It's not like that anymore." Soon the couple rented a tiny apartment on Hope Street in Greenfield, across from the B.B. Noyes Foundry where Charlie worked. In later years he worked at Greenfield Tap & Die, Hardigg Industries in South Deerfield, the D.M. Jewett

pickle factory, also in South Deerfield, and as a brakeman on the railroad.

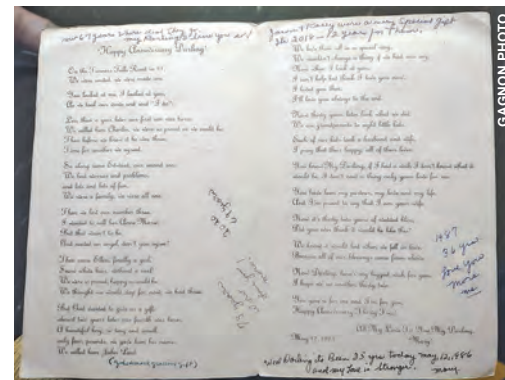
By 1964, the couple had scraped together enough savings to buy a lot of land for \$1,200 on Federal Street near Lake Pleasant. They lived in what they described as a "shack" on the property, but slowly they built a house made from timber bought at auctions from old tobacco barns that were being torn down. While Charlie was at work, Mary used a shovel to dig out a basement with the help of their growing family.

Mary said she's often been asked how they stayed married for so long.

"Every year he would go down the driveway and come back with mayflowers – every couple of days he would come back with a beautiful bouquet," said Mary, nodding towards a fresh arrangement of daffodils in a vase on the table between them. "I've never met a more sweet and gentle man than him. God made us for each other. We never went to bed at night without saying a prayer and holding hands."

Mary added that neither has taken a drink of alcohol, and they both quit smoking cigarettes in 1964. The couple has always had dogs in the house and when the Internet came along, they decided to live without it.

For Charlie, the answer to their longevity is simpler.



Mary's 32nd anniversary poem to Charlie from 1983, marked by observations in the years since.

"When I met her I said, 'That's my wife,'" he said. "I was going to marry her for life, and I did."

While doing manual labor over the years, he kept having trouble with his wedding ring and came up with a unique solution. He opened his wristwatch and covered the face with a picture of Mary.

"It doesn't tell time, but that's my wedding band," he said.

In 1983, Mary wrote a loving poem to Charlie on their 32nd wedding anniversary. As it turns out, the poem tells the story of less than half of their marriage.



Happy Anniversary Darling!

On the Turners Falls Road in 51,
We were united, we were made one.
You looked at me, I looked at you,
As we took our vows and said "I do."

Less than a year later our first son was born,
We called him Charles, we were so proud
as we could be,
Then before we knew it he was three,
Time for another we agreed.

So along came Edward, our second son,
We had worries and problems,
and lots and lots of fun,
We were a family, we were all one.

Then we lost our number three,
I wanted to call her Anne Marie;
But that wasn't to be,
God needed an angel, don't you agree?

Then came Ellen, finally a girl,
Snow white hair, without a curl!
We were so proud, happy as could be,
We thought we would stop for now,
we had three.

But God decided to give us a gift,
almost two years later our fourth was born.
A beautiful boy, so tiny and small,
only four pounds, we gave him his name,
We called him John Paul.

We love them all in a special way,
We wouldn't change a thing if we had our way,
Now when I look at you,
I can't help but think I love you now,
I loved you then,
I'll love you always to the end.

Now thirty years later look what we did,
We are grandparents to eight little kids.

Each of our kids took a husband or wife,
I pray that they're happy, all of their lives.

You know My Darling, if I had a wish,
I don't know what it would be,
I don't need a thing, only your love for me.

You have been my partner, my love and my life,
And I'm proud to say that I am your wife.

Now it's thirty two years of wedded bliss,
Did you ever think it would be like this?

We knew it would last when we fell in love,
Because all of our blessings came from above.

Now Darling, here's my biggest wish for you,
I hope we see another thirty two.

Yes, you're for me and I'm for you,
Happy Anniversary Thirty Two!

– Mary Dodge, May 12, 1983



SUBMITTED PHOTO



GAGNON PHOTO

Top: Charlie at work in the tobacco fields. Above: Charlie's wedding band.



The Bascom Hollow team at work in 2025, aided by an obliging friend.

Gill Picks Up

Twenty-seven plus families and individuals are fanning out over the town of Gill this week to celebrate "Earth Week" by picking up roadside trash.

Ranging in age from 7 to 75+, they have each volunteered for quarter- to half-mile stretches of road – or more – mostly near or around their homes. Some push further, making sure the environs of the Gill Town Forest are included, or the (sadly) litter-ridden slopes of unpopulated sections of Barney Hale and Pisgah Mountain roads.

And then, risking life, limb and tick-bites, there's the volunteer in protective

gear who forks beer cans out of that little wetland off Route 2 in Riverside.

Some of these people have let us know they are out there on their walks year-round, picking up the trash that's been discarded.

If you see them, slow down and give these volunteers a friendly wave of thanks! And if you want to join us, it's not too late. Email phrosby@gmail.com so we can acknowledge the work you've done on our Earth Week Map of Honor.

Submitted by the Gill Roadside Trash Pick-Up Team.

Montague Gathers Foam

Styrofoam recycling is happening again this spring at the Montague Transfer Station! After the first two styrofoam collection events, almost 100 Montague residents have dropped off styrofoam, and the first container is completely full.

Don't worry, though – it's not too

late! The last collection will happen this Saturday, April 25 from 9 a.m. until noon, with a new container on site by then. So bring your styrofoam (clean, rigid white block foam only) on Saturday.

Submitted by Kate O'Kane.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Kate O'Kane, Leigh Rae, and Marina Goldman supervise the styrofoam collection last Saturday at the Montague transfer station.

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DISTRICT from page A1

committee, which oversees the fire department, and on the left by its three water commissioners. The meeting took place in the Franklin County Technical School cafeteria.

The fire district's territory includes the villages of Turners Falls, Montague City, Millers Falls, and Lake Pleasant, though the latter is only served by its water department, receiving firefighting services from a separate Montague Center district. Several sources we spoke with, including Bourbeau and district accountant Eduard Bublik, estimated the total number of residents qualified to vote at the annual meeting at nearly 5,000.

The total turnout Tuesday night was approximately 40.

None of this seemed to faze the district leadership or those in attendance, who dispensed with the 15 articles on the warrant in less than half an hour.

The first four articles would be familiar to most members of Montague's town meeting – "house-keeping" measures allowing the district to receive various reports, bonding the treasurer and giving her the authority to engage in short-term borrowing in anticipation of revenue, and allowing the prudential committee and water commissioners to accept grants.

The only "debate" at the meeting was over the district's FY'27 operating budget of \$4,333,427, an increase of 8.4% over the current year. After Kuklewicz read all the

line items that comprised the budget, an attendee from Turners Falls named Steve Fitzpatrick questioned the salary of the fire chief, which was listed as \$128,400.

"The prudential committee set a precedent three years ago, and this is the result," Fitzpatrick said. "Now the fire chief is the most important position in town."

Another attendee then "called the question," leading to the only vote at the meeting that did not pass unanimously. Bublik later pointed out to the *Reporter* that the budgeted item, representing the salary of newly promoted fire chief Luke Hartnett, is a decline from the current year.

All registered voters who live in the Turners Falls fire district may go to the polls next Tuesday, April 28 to vote on candidates for elected district positions.

The remaining nine articles passed unanimously, with little discussion. Articles 7 and 10 established reserve funds for "extraordinary and unforeseen" expenditures by the fire and water departments and deposited \$100,000 in "free cash," the certified balance left over from prior years, into each.

Article 6 appropriated \$63,350

to buy out the unused vacation pay of retiring fire chief Todd Brunelle, and Article 8 allocated \$119,563.30 to cover the cost of fixing the water main break on First Street last August. Another \$50,000 was authorized for purchasing and equipping a new truck, and \$100,000 was placed in a fund dedicated to the future purchase of department vehicles.

The final article, which sets the amount of leftover money allocated to "reducing district taxes," was approved with a balance of \$0.

Property owners in the district pay into the district, at a current rate of \$4.35 per thousand dollars in assessed value, on tax bills sent out by the town of Montague. (Owners in the Montague Center district pay 90 cents per thousand dollars.)

All registered voters who live in the Turners Falls fire district may go to the polls next Tuesday, April 28 to vote on candidates for elected district positions. Voting takes place from noon to 7 p.m. at the water department building at 226 Millers Falls Road.

Incumbent water commission chair Bruce Merriam will appear on the ballot, but three other incumbents – prudential committee member David Zamojski, Bourbeau as clerk, and Kuklewicz as moderator – are running write-in campaigns to keep their positions, Bourbeau told the *Reporter*.

In Montague Center, the water district's annual meeting will be held Monday, May 4 at the fire station.



GILL from page A1

of \$125 annually in revenue. But the town pays \$740 a year to ChargePoint just for the proprietary cloud access plan that collects payments, along with electricity expenses, which Purington estimated at \$35 a month, or \$420 a year. That makes the charging station's revenue about one-tenth of its cost.

Selectboard member Greg Snedeker, who led the meeting in the absence of chair Charles Garbiel, noted that it is a "Level 2" charging station, which requires hours to fully charge a car. It is also at a location – in the parking lot of the Riverside municipal building – without many amenities.

"To be blunt," added Purington, "you drive five more minutes and you get to Montague or Greenfield, where there's things to do" while a car is charging.

Attendees debated upgrading the station, moving it to the public safety complex or town hall, or finding a way to bypass ChargePoint's proprietary software.

One resident suggested the charging station was unfair. "You want to pitch in to fill my diesel tank for the next five years?" local farmer Dan Flagg asked the selectboard.

"For 50 years, I have been paying for your diesel," said selectboard member John Ward, referring to government subsidies which deflate fuel costs.

Snedeker added that fossil fuels also externalize their negative impacts. "If the corporations internalized all their costs and had no negative externalities, most of them would be out of business," he argued. "A lot of private-sector costs get pushed onto the public sector."

Nevertheless, the board decided to turn off the charging station while they consider other possibilities. "We'll give it a little memorial service, say a few words before we throw the breaker," laughed Snedeker.

Snedeker noted that federal grants for EV stations were drying up, but said he could foresee a future in which there is more investment in installing fast-charging stations throughout the region. Fast-charging stations in Deerfield, he said, currently make a profit of \$1,200 to \$2,000 a month, even taking into account their higher expenses.

Riverside Repairs

Historical commission member Bob Perry brought good news to the board: no asbestos was found in samples taken from inside and outside of the Riverside Municipal Building. Jim Hawkins, building commissioner with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), informally inspected the structure and re-

ported that with a few minor improvements it could safely open to the public.

The historical commission and resident Ray Steele, who leads a volunteer handyman group, expressed a willingness to make the necessary repairs if the town buys the materials. However, they worried about the building's looming issue: its old, leaky roof.

Purington said that with his work on the FY'27 town budget and the possibility it will require a Proposition 2½ override vote, he would not be able to look into the issue until June at the earliest.

Steele worried that a formal bidding process for the entire roof replacement would take too much time, and that a final bid would be too expensive. He suggested he could help with necessary repairs right away, in a piecemeal fashion.

"You have an opportunity to be a little bit Yankee-like and get the job done, but stay within your budget," he said.

Snedeker responded that he did not want volunteers working on the roof because of liability issues. Finance committee chair Claire Chang added that professional roofing crews have protocol, training, and experience working together.

"Do you know roofers?" Steele asked.

Several attendees expressed frustration with the slow pace of building repairs. "Our way of dealing with building maintenance is not up to snuff," said Perry.

"Neither is our roads. Neither is almost everything in town," Snedeker responded. "It's just the plight of a small, rural town."

Other Business

Purington expressed gratitude to the late Rick James, who passed away April 6.

"Rick was our first videographer for the selectboard meetings and other town functions," Purington said. "Rick was always a big presence in the room, with a booming voice that let you know he was there. He was so much fun to work with. I appreciate everything he did for the town. His heart was always right there for Gill. I'm gonna miss him."

The board awarded farm field leases for the 2026 growing season. Dan Flagg was awarded the Boyle lot for \$200, and Brian Peila the Mariamante field for \$175.

The town forest committee will lead a vernal pool walk at the Blake Town Forest this Sunday, April 26, from 2 to 4 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to dress for an outdoor walk, and to bring their boots if they want to enter the wetlands.



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RiverCulture is inviting the public to submit photos that capture the wonderfulness of Montague's five villages, its natural beauty and cultural vitality.

Winning photos will be used in the **new RiverCulture website, to be unveiled in June.** Deadline 5/4

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Montague Community Television News

Egg Fracas Captured

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – It's Peter Cottontail's Eggstravaganza at Unity Park! Four minutes and forty-five seconds capture the joy and anticipation of nearly one hundred Montague children and their families who all lined up on Saturday, April 4 to witness and participate in the mad dash to collect the thousands of candy-filled eggs that lined the freshly green grass. Mr. Cottontail himself was there to give hugs and pats on the back.

MCTV has been covering this event for years, and it's one of our favorites. If you are feeling as nostalgic as I am, maybe from the soundtrack by Lepreezy, you too can visit our archive to view the collection. All MCTV uploads, new and old, can be found on our Vimeo page by clicking "Videos" on our website, MontagueTV.org.

There you will also find a book reading by the one and only David Detmold, a presentation on the Town of Montague's "Hill Neighborhood Green Infrastructure Master Plan," Bob McNeil's reading for National Poetry Month, and of course the most recent meetings of the Montague finance committee, Gill-Montague school committee, and Montague and Gill selectboards.

If you've never been by the station, please stop by! Not only is it a welcoming and friendly place, it's also a community resource available to anyone who is interested in learning how to record and produce videos! Come check it out. We are located at 34 Second Street and are open Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can also email us at infomontagueTV@gmail.com or even call us up at (413) 863-9200.

And if you see us out there filming, say hi!

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Two Unattended Deaths; House Burns; Door Secured; Tagger Nabbed

Sunday, 3/1

12:31 p.m. Welfare check on Main Road. Responders confirmed an unattended death. 1:45 p.m. Caller reports a safety cone missing following a tow. Referred to Erving PD.

Monday, 3/2

11:58 a.m. Assisted Montague PD with assault, Hillcrest Drive. 10:40 a.m. Assisted with a court-ordered vehicle seizure on Old Bernardston Road. 2:27 p.m. Welfare check requested on South Cross Road. Individual had lost his cell phone. 8:10 p.m. Black poodle reported loose on Lovers Lane in Greenfield. Owner contacted.

Wednesday, 3/4

10:20 a.m. Medical emergency on North Cross Road.

Thursday, 3/5

9:13 a.m. Welfare check requested for a male and female involved in a disagreement on the sidewalk on the French King Highway. Parties declined services.

Friday, 3/6

11 a.m. Medical emergency on South Cross Road.

Saturday, 3/7

8:40 p.m. Medical emergency on Main Road.

Sunday, 3/8

10:35 p.m. French King Highway caller reported a landlord-tenant dispute.

Monday, 3/9

8:35 a.m. Main Road citizen reported landlord-tenant issues. Civil options provided.

3:16 p.m. Couch debris reported on Main Road. Debris removed by highway department.

11:04 p.m. French King Highway caller reported suicidal ideation via text message. Contact made by state police. Determined to be a misunderstanding.

Wednesday, 3/11

5:02 p.m. Smoke reported in the woods along the French King Highway. State police found individuals had a burn permit. Assisted with traffic control due to obstructed visibility.

Thursday, 3/12

11:09 a.m. Damaged catch basin creating a hazard on Main Road. Highway department notified.

11:52 a.m. Front door of a Main Road residence found wide open. Interior cleared. Wind suspected.

Friday, 3/13

8:53 a.m. Disabled vehicle, French King Highway. Owner made private arrangements.

11:42 a.m. Wallet returned to owner at the station.

Saturday, 3/14

9:28 a.m. Assisted Erving PD on Moore Street. Vehicle vs. tree. Investigation ongoing regarding the identity of the operator.

Sunday, 3/15

9:45 a.m. Loose beagle reported, Main Road. Dog was located and the owner updated.

12 p.m. Vehicle struck a sign after sliding on gravel on Route 10. No injuries.

3:04 p.m. Male subject reported spray painting a utility box and traffic sign. Parties located; criminal complaint will be issued for tagging. MassDOT was notified.

Monday, 3/16

7:58 p.m. Suspicious vehicle and flashlight observed in a field, Main Road. Owner was fixing sap lines.

Tuesday, 3/17

10:31 a.m. Medical emergency on Grove Street.

11:58 a.m. Live power line down, Vassar Way. Eversource responded.

Wednesday, 3/18

3:04 p.m. Medical emergency on the French King Highway. PD requested entry to apartment and confirmed an unattended death.

Thursday, 3/19

12:09 p.m. Vehicle lock-out, Horserace View Road. Party contacted a tow company.

Saturday, 3/21

3:06 p.m. Stray dog without tags reported on Bascom Road. Owner located.

8 p.m. Medical emergency on Boyle Road.

Sunday, 3/22

2:14 p.m. Medical emergency on West Gill Road.

Monday, 3/23

6:25 p.m. Unattended burn reported on South Cross Road. FD extinguished two burn sites. Homeowner advised of laws.

Wednesday, 3/25

2:30 a.m. Residential structure fire, Vassar Way. Building fully involved upon arrival. No PD assistance required as it is a dead-end road.

Thursday, 3/26

9:55 a.m. South Cross Road caller complained about a loud truck operating at high speeds.

Friday, 3/27

11:11 a.m. Medical emergency on Memorial Grove Road.

Monday, 3/30

8:38 a.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with a car vs. tree accident involving a child, Route 10. Patient refusals obtained.

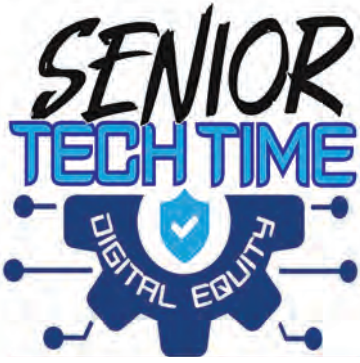
Tuesday, 3/31

7:30 p.m. Scam reported on Myrtle Street.

Wednesday, 3/31

1:14 p.m. Medical emergency on Dole Road.

9:05 p.m. Tree, possibly struck by lightning, on fire in the woodline on Main Road. FD responded.



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In partnership with The Gill Montague Council on Aging and Franklin Regional Council of Governments. This project is funded by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute at the Mass Tech Collaborative under the Municipal Digital Equity Implementation Program. Funding was provided by Massachusetts ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds.

HOUSING from page A1

development of new housing in Massachusetts.

"I am pleased that our partners at the state, including EOHLC, continue to invest in Montague," town administrator Walter Ramsey told the Reporter. "These seven affordable homeownership units will move Montague toward our goal of making sure there is appropriate and adequate housing for people at all income levels."

Habitat on First

The Habitat project would build six houses, side by side, on a seldom-used municipal parking lot across from the town hall on First Street. The area was included in a special zoning overlay passed by town meeting to facilitate housing development – Chapter 40R Smart Growth zoning – and the nonprofit signed a purchase and sale agreement with the town in 2023, and held a series of public meetings about the plan. It was derailed, however, by the discovery of toxic substances in the subsoil.

"The contamination was colloquially called 'urban fill,' which is probably under a lot of old buildings in Turners Falls that were torn down," Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity executive director Megan McDonough explained. "Some of it gets buried – and some of it had heavy metals, and things that we don't want to see in the soil these days, so the town has gone through all the proper channels to get that cleaned up."

That cleanup was carried out last year by the state Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), which is expected to issue a clean bill of health in the coming months. In the meantime, McDonough said, a grant from MassHousing expired. The organization reapplied last fall, and the funding is now restored.

McDonough said the site is one of four Habitat for Humanity projects funded under this round of the NSP. "We're really grateful that the town of Montague stuck with it, and saw this through," she added.

Permitting and final designs are scheduled over the

next six months, McDonough told the Reporter, which could mean construction will need to wait until after next winter. She estimated that three of the units may become available in spring 2028, and the other three a year later.

Families are eligible for the organization's affordable mortgage program if they make under 60% of the area's median income.

Knock-Down on Unity

Rural Development, Inc. (RDI), the development arm of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHRA), is getting into the receivership business, FCRHRA director Gina Govoni told the Reporter this week.

The project was piloted in 2024 with a home in Greenfield in need of serious renovation. A building on Unity Street in Turners Falls will take more effort. The abandoned properties are assigned to receivers by the state attorney general's office.

"This is the second of RDI's Rural Homes projects," Govoni wrote. "We are taking on receivership projects that are largely being overlooked by the private sector with the goal of keeping these homes affordable to moderate-income households."

According to Govoni, RDI will oversee the demolition of the Unity Street house this summer or fall, then hire a contractor, to build a small, energy-efficient home. A special permit was granted in December. "We need the subsidy to make this work," she explained. "The sale price will be set around \$215,000, which only covers a portion of the cost of demo and construction."

The house would then be sold by a lottery, with the plan to make it inhabited by next spring. For this program, the income cap is 80% of the area median income.

"Even with the NSP funds, RDI is subsidizing staff time to make Rural Homes projects happen," Govoni added. "We see this as an investment in our community."



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APRIL 23, 2026

Above: The northern sky over the Cutlery Block, late Sunday night.

BOOK REVIEW

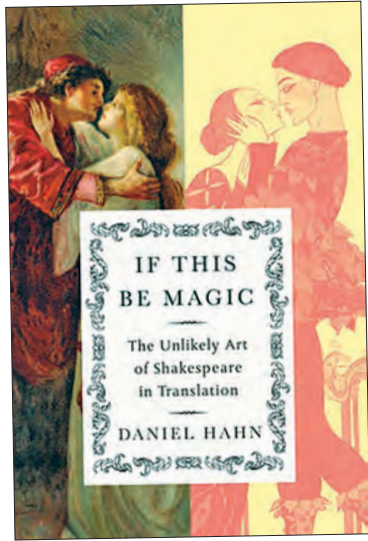
Daniel Hahn, *If This Be Magic: The Unlikely Art of Shakespeare in Translation* (Knopf, 2026)

By CLAIRE HOPLEY

LEVERETT – If you translate a Shakespeare play from English into another language, is that play – with all its words replaced – still truly Shakespeare as Anglophones know him, or is it merely an adaptation? That is the question Daniel Hahn raises in his new book *If This Be Magic: The Unlikely Art of Shakespeare in Translation*.

Many people would say a translated play is an adaptation, siding with Robert Frost, who claimed that “poetry is what gets lost in translation.” But Hahn, who translates to and from Spanish, Portuguese, and French, argues persuasively that “Shakespeare with every word changed can still be great and can remain Shakespeare.”

However, it’s no easy task for Shakespeare’s gold to remain gold despite the translator’s transforming



hand. Hahn notes crucial skills a good translator must have: the analytical ability to identify “what Shakespeare is doing with every line besides conveying semantic data,” coupled with the writing talent “to construct a line in her language with all the same moving parts.”

Even with these skills, translators encounter problems. Take the iambic pentameter, for example. An *iamb* is a two-syllable pattern with a weak stress followed by a strong one. An iambic pentameter is a ten-syllable line of five iambs: *da-DUM, da-DUM, da-DUM, da-DUM, da-DUM*. It’s the basis of

Shakespeare’s blank verse, because this stress is typical of spoken English. Of course too much of it gets boring, so Shakespeare often varies it. The opening line of *Twelfth Night* exemplifies this with four iambs
see **BOOK REVIEW** page B8

High School Sports Report: Eagles Edge Out Crosstown Foes

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – Last Friday, April 17 the Franklin Tech Eagles beat the Turners Falls Thunder at home, 4 to 3, by scoring the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning. The Eagles, who had suffered their first loss against

Hopkins that Monday, were set to get back to their winning ways while the Thunder, who had just beat Athol for their first victory of the season, were hoping to keep their streak alive.

The usual suspects were at the game and though I spent most of the game behind the backstop with the

Tech crowd, I did get a chance to socialize with the Turners people also.

Turners came up empty in the first inning, and in the bottom of the inning, Tech scored their first run off a Wayde Bardwell RBI. In the second, Franklin increased their lead to 2-0.

But in the third inning, Turners began to hit the ball. With the bases loaded, Julian Kaiser batted two runs in. Then an Eagle throwing error scored Turners’s third run of the contest, and Tech came up to bat in the third trailing by a run.

Although both teams got runners on base, neither could cross the plate again until the bottom of the fifth. With a runner on third, Brody Hicks hit a sac and suddenly it was all tied up.

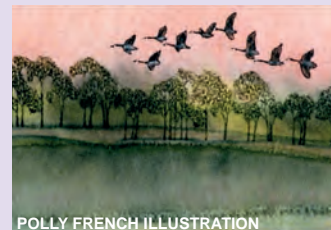
The game remained knotted until the bottom of the seventh, and many folks were talking about extra innings. But with one out and the winning run on third, Nicholas Prasol placed a grounder just inside the third base line. Hunter Donahue ran past the ball and scored, giving Tech the 4-3 win.

Prasol had the hot bat for Tech, getting three hits and batting in two runs. Donahue, Bardwell, Levi Clark, and Cody Yetter also hit safely for the Eagles – Donahue twice – with Bardwell and Hicks
see **SPORTS** page B8



DAVE HOITT PHOTO

Turners Falls High School hurler Ethan Eichorn delivers a pitch to Franklin Tech’s Aiden Winn during the cross-town contest at Tech on April 17. The Eagles secured a 4-3 walk-off win with a tie-breaking hit by Nick Prasol in the seventh inning.



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

WEST ALONG THE RIVER

APRIL CAPRICE

By DAVID BRULE

THE FLAT, ERVINGSIDE – If a “caprice” is a state of being moody, impulsive, and temperamental, then that’s what we’ve got going on out here. I can say that much for it.

April has been breezing through, thoughtless and typically hypocritical, coaxing out early flowers, then delighting in casting a freeze on all of us.

Poets chide and disparage April’s contrary nature.

Edna St. Vincent Millay snarks at April as she “comes like an idiot, babbling and strewing flowers...”

T.S. Eliot chimes in with his quote: “April is the cruelest month...”

Even Billy Collins chides April, in his poem “A Terrible Beauty”:

*If you happened to miss this year’s
Cruelest Month Competition,
It began with all twelve contestants
Taking the stage together
In the order of the calendar year...
Many wonder, when April,
a perennial loser
Would even bother to show up...*

Yet all I can say, in spite of the *literati* and their caustic sneering, is that this April morning I have now in front of me is way better than the ice and snow we’ve just left behind.

And I’m happy enough just listening to my New England white-throat sparrow whistling *old Sam Peabody, Peabody* as sweetly as anyone could wish. His tune, innocently and earnestly whistled, is one of the best parts of a spring morning.

Then I can add the loveliness of the peach tree that planted itself all

by itself, springing from a peach stone one of us threw off the porch one summer a few years ago. It is beginning to blossom pink, unlike the cherry tree, still waiting in the wings, which will soon be loaded with white flowers and orioles.

They say the Japanese have a specific verb for describing the viewing of cherry blossoms.

On the other hand our own English language is a bit threadbare when it comes to talking about nature. English tends to objectify all we see with spiritually vacant adjectives. We say, confidently and flatly, that we are happy to see the pink of the peach tree, and then change the subject and move on to other banal matters like that loss last night by the hapless Red Sox, or the steadily increasing cost of gas.

But back to the peach blossoms. What do we really *see* when we see them?

I’d settle for a special verb for viewing the wine-drenched plumage of the purple finch, or a verb for listening to the evening chorus of the chiming spring peepers, or, simply, the whistle of the white-throat.

In the middle of these thoughts I manage to get distracted by the ceaseless conversation of the newly-arrived mockingbird, or the *rata-tat-tat* of the local woodpecker. Then I remember I’m supposed to be viewing the peach tree, just now opening its petals to the capricious April morning.

Out of the corner of my eye I catch a glimpse of a dandified male, not far away up in the old oak tree. That’s the old tree I’ve told you about, the one with a mysterious green-tarnished doorknob embedded in its trunk.

Or rather, I should say, that see **WEST ALONG** page B4

JOHN J. AUDUBON ILLUSTRATION



Wood ducks (Aix sponsa).

Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

'MIA'

Mia is a beautiful four-year-old female Shih Tzu, a sensitive girl who is used to her family and her routine. She loves to play with toys, especially balls and toys that squeak. She will bark when she hears noises outside, but is otherwise a pretty calm dog.

Mia would prefer to be in an adults-only home, and would love to be the one and only dog. She will require her people be patient and go at her pace, and will take about

a week to feel comfortable with her new family. She is mostly house-trained and will need reinforcing. There is a \$199 adoption fee.

If you're ready to learn more about, meet, or adopt Mia, start by calling Dakin Humane Society in Springfield at (413) 781-4000 to be sure she is available. Open adoption hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Visit www.dakinhumane.org for more information.



You Need To Install That Update You've Been Ignoring. Right Now.

By RYNE HAGER

TURNERS FALLS – AI is a lot of things to a lot of people: It's marketing, it's automation, it's a work amplifier, and it's a bullshit generator. It's also getting reliably useful for certain categories of work, and one of them is cybersecurity. And that means AI might be a good reason for you to start taking security updates – and your security in general – much more seriously. Very, very soon.

While finding unique exploits in software remains a creative process, a lot of the nuts-and-bolts practice of security comes down to reusing known strategies broadly across similar situations. But it's exactly this kind of brute-force recombination that LLM-based automation is pretty good at.

Anthropic, maker of AI-based marketing hype and tools, has recently teased but not yet released a new security-oriented LLM model, Mythos. Anthropic claims Mythos is finding record-breaking numbers of security vulnerabilities for a handful of invite-only companies across world-critical software, including the so-called "open-source" systems that many of our most important systems are based on.

The company is known to hype itself, and we've reached a phase of broad AI-as-magic credulity that prevents the level of critical analysis these claims merit. But this really *is* one of the things AI is likely to be pretty good at, and I've been hearing from security researchers that the volume of publicly documented exploits – known in the biz as "CVEs," unique public records listed in the database of Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures – in open-source software is set for a big bump as a result of Mythos.

This is good and bad. Immediately, though, it means a lot of holes in software that people don't know about – or worse, that bad actors, governments, or state-backed groups are using but have successfully kept secret – are going to be patched and closed, hindering unauthorized access to our data.

All of the things we rely on for modern living are online, from banking to work and communications, and the right hole in the right place can destroy our lives despite any fantasies provided by our own individual efforts to disconnect: You can throw away your phone and computer and become a hermit in the woods, but you can't throw away the bank's computer, or the state's. For those of us that *haven't* embraced an off-grid lifestyle, this upcoming flood of patches means a couple of important things.

First: LLMs will reach a point where they're going to make finding and using security vulnerabili-

ties much easier for everyone, and that includes The Bad Guys. As performance and efficiency continue to improve, these types of models will be accessible at a lower budget, trivializing processes that were previously labor-intensive. In short, finding new vulnerabilities and taking advantage of them will get a whole lot easier – if not fully automatable – very soon.

But, second: Just as it's getting easier for folks to apply more strategies to find holes and get inside, the same technology is automating better ways of plugging the holes *first* to keep them out. And so the perpetual game of cat-and-mouse is likely to remain a broad stalemate – at least until advancements in quantum computing have unpredictable consequences for encryption – for those that take the small effort to keep up with these changes.

Unfortunately, some of the responsibility for keeping up with these changes is on you. No one can force you to adopt the basic good practices needed to be a beneficiary of the improvements that address these new risks except yourself.

And so, I have a few very important pieces of basic advice for those willing to listen. If you're already on your toes when it comes to technology, these should all be obvious, but if you're not, I strongly urge you to consider them:

First, the idea of not installing operating system updates to resist changes in interface or style that you didn't like was always a bad security practice, and soon it's going to be exactly the sort of inaction that makes you a target. I get it, change is sometimes arbitrary and stupid – Apple's new fake-glass iPhone interface is objectively bad, with low-contrast text and design that explicitly works against accessibility and ease of use.

But you're going to need to bite the bullet and install the latest iOS, and any other updates you've been putting off anyway. Basic security starts with installing updates to make sure you aren't walking around with a bunch of known and actively exploited holes very literally in your pocket. Install all the new security updates as they become available.

Second, if you aren't using a password manager yet, the grace period to learn how they work and tediously move all your accounts over to them has nearly ended. Do it *now*.

LLMs, above all, are enhancing the gruntwork of basic data input and processing, and a whole lot of hacking just comes down to various types of brute force combinations, which includes trying out any data divulged in recent hacks. If you're reusing passwords across your digital accounts, your own personal security is only as good as the security at the worst site or service with

access to that password. The punishments for bad security at companies are light to non-existent and big hacks happen all the time, so you really shouldn't trust unincorporated third parties as the lynchpin in your personal security model.

Using a unique password for each site, stored by a password manager, means each hack can only impact one service – outside trusting that password management system itself, anyway, but the next step can help with that, too.

Third, embrace two-factor or multi-factor authentication wherever you can. Passkey-based systems are the most convenient and secure – they can even eliminate the tediousness of passwords! – but hardware key systems such as a YubiKey are also great. Even the very worst two-factor that comes from having to tap out a code sent to your phone is better than depending on a password alone.

I know it's unfortunate that the responsibility for good security today rests on the individual, especially since modern life requires that our data be outside of our control in a system that precludes the kind of consent we should have. (This column, and all good technology columns, will ultimately be data privacy columns until the day our governments provide us with real data privacy protections.)

But much as being a good citizen means understanding changes in public policy and the system of government that represents you, and being a good driver means undergoing the education, testing, certifications, and ongoing commitments required for that responsibility, modern digital living really does mean understanding and adopting the basic tenets of computer security and keeping abreast of the biggest changes.

I bet we'll see a *lot* of updates in the coming months to address the lowest-hanging security vulnerabilities spotted by these new security-oriented LLM models. But I suspect this is only the start of a sea change that impacts how LLMs are used on both sides of the security threat paradigm, delivering other big consequences we'll all need to take note of in the coming years.

In the meantime: Stay on top of those updates, switch to a password manager if you haven't yet, and adopt multi-factor systems such as passkeys wherever you can.

These things aren't optional anymore, and ignoring the need is going to have real consequences, real soon.

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

Senior Center Activities APRIL 27 THROUGH MAY 1

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 4/27

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

Tuesday 4/28

9 a.m. Stretch and Balance
10 a.m. Line Dancing
11 a.m. Social Stringer
1 p.m. Navigating Scam Threats

Wednesday 4/29

9 a.m. Interval Training
10 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Drumatix at Erving Elementary School

Thursday 4/30

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

Friday 5/1

8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting and Open Sew

Tuesday 4/28

9 a.m. Chair Yoga
12:30 p.m. Tech Tuesday
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 4/29

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

Thursday 4/30

1 p.m. Pitch

Friday 5/1

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

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. The next clinic is May 19. Luncheons are held on the fourth Friday of each month at town hall. For more information, contact (413) 548-1022 or coa@leverett.ma.us, or check the town newsletter or the Leverett-Connects listserv.

WENDELL

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. The next clinic is May 6. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments.

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

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

Monday 4/27

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
3 p.m. Beginner Yoga
4 p.m. Spanish Class

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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on April 21, 2016: News from the Montague Reporter archive.

through Connecticut into the eastern part of the state.

Turners Adds Two Firefighters

Despite well-publicized criticism of a proposed fire department budget increase for the coming fiscal year, an annual meeting of the Turners Falls Fire District at Hillcrest Elementary School on Tuesday night unanimously approved every article on the warrant.

This included a combined fire and water budget of \$2,741,334, roughly \$80,000 more than the budget proposed by the district's finance committee. The increase will add two additional firefighters to the staff.

Gas Pipeline Opponents Celebrate

Citing a lack of commitment at both the supply and demand ends of its proposed Northeast Energy Direct natural gas pipeline, Kinder Morgan announced Wednesday that it was suspending the project.

The news was met with celebration and excitement among the project's opponents, though some expressed disbelief, and others said they would be shifting their efforts to stop Spectra's Access pipeline, which would transport shale gas

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on April 20, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter archive.

has his way they will soon be just as popular in American kitchens.

Lady Killigrew Founders Move On

Wanted: Someone who loves Montague, knows the Bookmill, and wants to run a thriving small business in a beautiful historic building with a scenic view.

Finding the right people to purchase the Lady Killigrew Cafe is important to Matthew Latkiewicz, 27, and Sarah Reid, 30, who founded the popular European-style cafe two and a half years ago. The business is listed on the market for \$78,000.

"We're not closing," said Latkiewicz. "We want the Lady Killigrew to continue, and it will continue. We opened the cafe... because we love this old building, and we love the community."

A Gourmet Fish

In the back of the Australis indoor aqua-farm in the Turners Falls industrial park, tanks 20 feet wide and two stories high stretch to the ceiling. Each holds more than 150,000 gallons of water, nearly as large as the main tank at the New England Aquarium. At Australis, ten tanks this size hold tens of thousands of barramundi fish, born in Australia and raised here in the largest fish farm in America.

One of the most popular table fish in Australia, this native favorite used to be available to Americans only as an expensive import. But if Joshua Goldman, the Montague Center resident who built the facility in 1990,

140 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on April 21, 1886: News from the Turners Falls Reporter archive.

Two families from Boston have arrived at the Lake Pleasant camp ground and opened their cottages for the season. It has been decided by the association to erect a bridge across the ravine.

Turners Falls and Vicinity

Now that the warm days have come, and the people have crawled out of winter quarters, the open sewer trenches have become human traps.

Many will go to Boston next Tuesday to attend the hearing on the petition of the fire district for a charter to supply the village with water.

The water bucket brigade form a steady morning line from the spring overflow at the canal to their houses all over the village. The company's water pipes are broken like pipestems in the sewers.

Croquet sets have made their appearance on every level spot in the village. The French people are inveterate players of the game, and the men engage in it without ladies, invariably.

Dickinson Holton is building a good sized barn in the rear of his Fourth street block.

M.J. Book will have ice cream on Saturday evening of this week, and every Saturday evening during the summer.

John Fennell walks every Sunday to Greenfield to church. He is a man over 60 but the outdoor exercise adds to his vigor. Thus his interest in religion keeps his bodily health up to match his moral health. If everybody walked six miles to church, religion wouldn't be so gloomy to some.

The distemper taking all the forms of "a cold" is slowly making its rounds of the village, and no one will be missed an affliction. Some began to have it the first of March, and some of the first taken down have been laid up a whole month. This month, however, the patient don't seem to wear the band of salt pork around his throat more than a day or two.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Foul Tongues; Possum Rehab; Peeling Out; Urban Explorers; Dirt Bike With No Tags; Paying In Change; Bail Scam

Monday, 4/13

2:07 p.m. Greenfield PD requesting officer check a J Street address for a male whose medical alarm was activated while he was mobile. Male was not at home. Officer spoke with him on the phone. He stated it was accidental, and he is fine. Greenfield PD advised.

3:22 p.m. Caller from Mormon Hollow Road reports that people are riding dirt bikes on his property and they are not supposed to be there. Property has been condemned by the board of health. Officer called health department. All structures on the plateau in question have been condemned. People may be on the property, but not in the structures. Caller advised by officer.

5:41 p.m. Caller from K Street reports her neighbor is out front yelling at her and her daughter. Yelling could be heard in the background. Male neighbor then called to report he is having an argument with his neighbors. Officers sent. Situation mediated. Report taken.

6:15 p.m. Caller advises he heard two juvenile youths using foul, sexual language directed toward his son and his son's friend at the skate park. Caller upset that youths were violating the skate park code of conduct. Advised caller that the park is patrolled by the PD after hours, and there are no staff on site. Caller declined to provide specifics as to what was said. Advised caller complaint would be put on record.

9:13 pm. Landlord of a Fourth Street property received a call from a tenant regarding loud arguing in the upstairs apartment. Situation mediated by officers. Parties advised of options.

9:30 p.m. 911 caller from K Street reports receiving threatening texts and social media posts from his landlord's son. Officer attempted to call back but got no answer; unable to leave voicemail.

11:51 p.m. Officers attempting to serve warrant on Davis Street. Male party not home.

Tuesday, 4/14

3:23 a.m. Caller from Third Street states someone was knocking on her door, but she doesn't see anyone in the area. States it may have been her nephew. Officer states the screen door was locked, and it didn't appear that someone could knock on the door.

11:54 a.m. Caller reports that a sick-looking fox type animal is walking around on Montague City Road near Farren Avenue. Animal control officer (ACO) notified; they could not locate the animal, but they have notified Fish &

Wildlife as well.

2:35 p.m. Caller from Oakman Street states that there is an injured opossum in the road outside of his house. ACO notified. Animal secured; they will attempt to bring it to a rehab.

4:24 p.m. 911 report of brush fire at Marshall and High streets, spreading fast. Transferred to Shelburne Control. Officer states flames in 30-foot area; two units used to knock down flames.

6:45 p.m. Officer flagged down and told there were some people in the water pump station area. Officer checking area; did see people on the other side, but nothing showing.

7:24 p.m. Caller from Mormon Hollow Road states teens are riding four-wheelers and peeling out in the dirt driveway. Officers advised; couldn't respond due to higher-priority calls.

7:24 p.m. 911 caller states that a small dark sedan hit a telephone pole at Avenue A and Fifth Street; damage to front; no plate. GPD checking both bridges and Turners Falls Road. Officer requesting tow. Ever-source contacted for pole. A 58-year-old Turners Falls woman was arrested and charged with leaving the scene of property damage; OUI, liquor or .08%, second offense; and possessing an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle.

Wednesday, 4/15

10:12 a.m. Caller states that there is a sickly fox walking around the high-tension lines behind Park Villa Apartments. Referred to other agency.

Thursday, 4/16

8:26 a.m. Officer flagged down by store manager about a shoplifting incident. Suspects located in parking lot. Small plant was taken. Item returned to store. Manager requesting parties be verbally trespassed. Services rendered.

1:21 p.m. Caller states that his car was struck while parked on Third Street. Officer spoke with caller and observed slight damage; caller will email pictures of the initial damage

at the location of the hit-and-run; no witness info.

1:23 p.m. Caller states that she saw two teenage-looking boys run from a convertible car and jump over the fence around the Erving Papermill with backpacks on; they then entered the building. Shelburne Control notified; MPD officer assisting Erving PD on scene. Officer advises he has two individuals prone on the ground and has read them their Miranda rights. Summons issued.

6 p.m. Caller from Mormon Hollow Road reports teenagers are riding their dirt bikes on the property. Per earlier call, board of health had clarified that the owner can be on the property but not in the structures, which have been condemned. Officer advised.

7:41 p.m. Officer conducting stop of a dirt bike with no plate near Food City. A 38-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested and charged with operating an unregistered motor vehicle/trailer; unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle; uninsured motor vehicle; and speeding/rate of speed exceeding posted limit.

Friday, 4/17

8:06 a.m. School resource officer advising of minor two-car accident in Tech School parking lot.

12:11 p.m. 911 caller requesting officers to Carroll's Market; store employee is reportedly not selling him a drink because he is paying with change. Situation mediated.

12:57 p.m. Walk-in from Millers Falls reports that over the winter, someone cut wires that connect to the transmission on his vehicle. The dealership found where the wires were cut, and the caller found the wire in his yard later that day. His insurance company advised him to put this incident on record with the police department. Investigated. Advised caller that incident would be on record.

4:30 p.m. Caller from Fitchburg reporting that someone called her claiming to be from the Mon-

tague police department stating that her grandson was locked up and asking for \$3,900 to get him out. Caller confirmed grandson is home and was not arrested and would like to file a report. Referred to her local PD.

6 p.m. Report from Franklin Street of scratches on vehicle that appear to be vandalism. Caller believes this occurred last night. Report taken.

7:41 p.m. Caller complaining of loud noise coming from tractor-trailer unit with the refrigeration unit running on L Street. Officer advised. Caller called back at 8:46 p.m. advising that the unit is still running. Officer spoke with registered owner, who stated he is leaving in 10 minutes. Officer will remain in area until he leaves. Owner advised that if this happens again, town bylaws will be enforced.

8:23 p.m. Officer providing mutual aid to Erving for a motor vehicle accident involving pedestrian on Semb Drive.

9:43 p.m. Report of a dozen or so teenagers being loud and yelling at the end of Depot Street near the bike path entrance. Group moved along; officers will remain in area to make sure they move along.

Saturday, 4/18

11:47 a.m. 911 report of two-vehicle accident at North Leverett Road and Federal Street. Airbag deployed in one vehicle. Rau's towing both vehicles. One party transported by AMR.

2:23 p.m. Caller from Montague Bookmill reporting hateful writing in the bathroom; would like an officer to make a report. Reporting party states there has been ongoing hate graffiti and vandalism dating back to November. Will follow up with owner of store re: security/surveillance options.

Sunday, 4/19

10:44 p.m. Caller reports that someone has a fire pit behind the apartment building in the Fourth Street alleyway. Control advised. TFFD has issued a permit for that area.

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WEST ALONG from page B1
 a wood duck in that tree caught a glimpse of me, weird human being scribbling on a page about a duck in a tree.

He and his secretive mate are eyeballing the frog pond and me at the same time. He stretches his neck inquisitively, looking at me sideways as ducks do.

You could call this a staring contest stand-off. Who will move first? Me, because I need more coffee from the kitchen? Or him, because his mate wants him to join her on the pond?

I guess it'll be me, because I'm suddenly distracted by three wine-colored purple finches sitting in a perfectly positioned still life, together among the early green leafy

buds of the spindly lilac branches. I move, lifting my binoculars to check out the finches.

Yet the wood duck doesn't take alarm when I slowly shift the binoculars to look directly into his red iris just before he pivots on his branch to wing down and follow his mate as she paddles about in the frog pond.

He had seemed a little uncomfortable when I lifted the cup for the last drop of coffee. But he definitely decided I was no risk and meant him no harm, so he joins his mate to dabble among the jellies of frog eggs.

I finally go to the kitchen to fill my cup, and to tell my own mate the news of the wood duck in the tree on this momentous day.



EVENT PREVIEW

Honoring the 104th Infantry Regiment

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I recently spotted a flyer about an anniversary event for a ceremony to honor the ultimate sacrifice of soldiers in Bois Brule, near Apremont, France, during World War I. The flyer was posted at the Upper Valley Pioneer Veterans Services office in Greenfield, and the event will be held this Sunday, April 26, at 11 a.m. at the Apremont Triangle Park in Springfield.

The soldiers of the 104th Infantry Regiment were from Springfield, Westfield, and Greenfield, and they trained at Camp Barlett in Westfield. On April 26, 1918 the regiment was given the Croix de Guerre for the battle at Apremont.

The awarding of the Croix de Guerre has a mural to its name in the state capitol building in Boston, called *The Decoration of the Colors of the 104th United States Infantry*, painted by Richard Andrew. It's also what caused the park in Springfield to be created. This year's event marks the 100th anniversary of the original dedication of the park.

The committee for the anniversary event consists of John Driscoll, Mark Kalin, Ronald Senez, Brian Willette, and James Willie. All of these men are retired from the Army. Senez was previously Battalion Commander 1-104 Infantry from Westfield.



Richard Andrew's mural commemorating the regiment's award at the State House.

I learned from Willie how the committee came together. "It was formed to make this year's event special," he said. "Formed about two years ago. Three of us, all of whom have ties to the 104th Infantry Regiment, came together and began planning for this event. As time went on, two others joined us, bringing the total to five members."

The committee will be joined by a brass quintet from the 215th Army Band, a Massachusetts Army National Guard band from Fall River, who will play the National Anthem as well as the French National Anthem. Another very cool thing is that before the ceremony, a group

of 10 to 20 veterans will ride their motorcycles into the park area and park their bikes alongside the park.

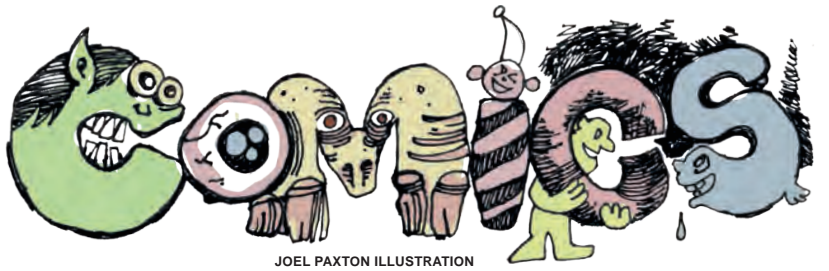
I learned from Chris Demars of the Upper Valley Pioneer Veterans Service that this historic battle is connected to Greenfield as well. Company L of the 104th Infantry was stationed at the Armory in Greenfield, and consisted of at least 150 men. A man named John Galvin got the Silver Star in the battle. The American Legion Hall here is named after him.

This anniversary event sounds like one with a history across a big part of the Pioneer Valley. People should check it out.

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JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION

OVER THE HILL Carolyn Clark

Harry, did you know that almost half of U.S. children have Smart-phones by the time they're 11?

Thank goodness that wasn't a possibility when Anne was a child.

Really! What are parents thinking!?! Studies show that especially at that age - children are at risk for depression, obesity and sleep deprivation.

Cyberbullying and peer pressure are now worse than ever. These babies' brains have another ten years to develop into anything remotely mature, Harry.

When I was eleven... Kick the can... bicycles... dress-up... parcheesi... Anne of Green Gables... Umm... so deprived...

Are we just a couple of old farts, Harry, to think childhood was more fun back then?

SUZETTE SNOW-COBB ILLUSTRATION

Cool Cats on the Ave Suzette

I've heard the humans have a special day for environmental protection.

And A Day for trees!

Earth Day on April 22nd

Arbor Day this year is April 24th

I clean out the cat food cans so they can be recycled.

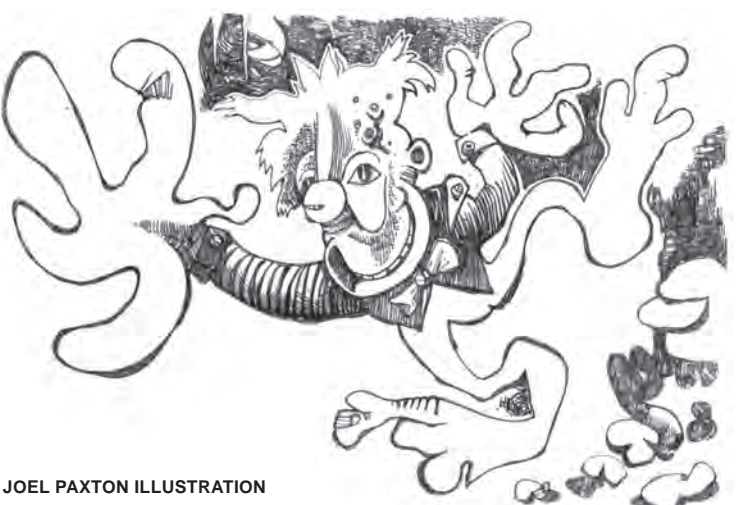
And you do a fine job getting every last bit.

Cashew likes trees, she sits under the apple tree a lot.

That's because she's stalking birds Apollo.

Good thing she has a bell collar on!

SUZETTE SNOW-COBB ILLUSTRATION



JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION

THE ADVENTURES OF SADIE #6

What a WASTE of money!

BATH TISSUE

ROB MACHADO ILLUSTRATION

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THE SPIRIT SHOPPE



Above: A detail from an illustration from the 19th-century Phrenological Journal.

the (pseudo) SCIENCE page



If you have questions, comments, or news tips for our Science Page Editor, please send them to science@montaguereporter.org.

On Checking One's Head

By JOSH WATSON

TURNERS FALLS – “Pseudo-science,” reports Paul Stob, in his newly-released book *The Empire of Skulls*, was a term coined in 1859 specifically for phrenology, the assessment of mental and psychological characteristics from the shape and terrain of someone’s skull, by the physician and Harvard professor Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., to describe a “self-adjusting arrangement, by which all positive evidence, or such as favors its doctrines, is admitted, and all negative evidence, or such as tells against it, is excluded.”

“According to Holmes,” Stob writes, “phrenologists accepted whatever ‘data’ supported their work and dismissed the mountain of data that proved them wrong.”

Stob takes issue with that description of phrenology, preferring it to be understood as representative of an era during which scientific and medical knowledge had progressed, if it had not yet been perfected. In relating the history of this era, from the start of the 19th century until just after the end of the Civil War, he describes a social tapestry ranging across all segments of the population from which the strands of pseudoscience cannot be extracted.

In the age of large learning models, the foundations of looks-based assessment are associated with facial recognition software and government intrusion into our personal affairs. Indeed, an early example of the AI-phrenology link was reported in an October 9, 2017 article in *The New York Times*. Michael Kosinski, a researcher from Stanford University, had created a program which, when presented with side-by-side photos of a gay man and a straight man, was able to identify which man was gay. Kosinski claimed to have created what was nicknamed “A.I. Gaydar” in order to “raise the alarm” about the dangers of facial recognition software, but he instead received countless death threats.

For many years, however, phrenology was considered a state-of-the-art and quite useful tool for self-understanding, and a path to self-improvement.

There has perhaps not been a time in human history when people did not presume, rightly or wrongly, traits based on the physical appearance of other people.

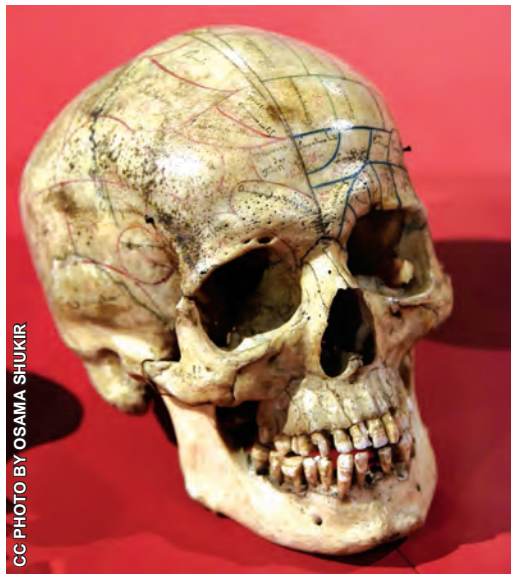
In the 18th century, this practice acquired a sheen of scientific legitimacy when it became known as physiognomy. The Dutch physician Petrus Camper, Stob writes, found that higher “facial angles” – taller, more vertical foreheads – were associated with higher intelligence than lower facial angles. This correlated, Camper claimed unsurprisingly, with the higher facial angles of white Europeans, and the lower facial angles of Africans and Asians.

The German physician Franz Joseph Gall, newly graduated from medical school in about 1785, began to see parallels in appearance and psychological profiles. As he sought dozens, and then hundreds, of skulls to examine, physiognomy narrowed to phrenology.

Eventually a schism arose between Gall and his assistant Johan Spurzheim, and Spurzheim formalized the cranial regions among two primary categories, *Feelings* and *Intellect*, with ample subcategories divided between them. Spurzheim’s work achieved significant success in Europe and, eager to spread his ideas, he traveled to the United States, where he died of typhoid three months later.

Stob’s book primarily is about the Fowler family, brothers Orson and Lorenzo and their sister Charlotte, who not only popularized phrenology in the United States but created a business empire from it. Their salon – known as a “cabinet” – welcomed anyone who could pay and who sought to have their strengths, weaknesses, and proclivities “charted” in pursuit of self-improvement.

Many of the wealthiest and famous skulls of the day visited the Fowlers’ cabinet for examination, the skulls’ possessors firm believers in the efficacy of the science. Nearly every public figure of the time, in hopes of finding an explanation of who they fundamentally were, let the Fowlers’ fingers walk across their skulls.



A phrenological skull on display at the Science Museum in London.

Indeed, the Fowlers believed phrenology to be an enormous public benefit. By this method, anyone could discover latent talents, and focus their time on self-optimization and opportunity rather than waste it on skills naturally unbestowed.

By the 1850s the Fowlers had built their self-help publishing empire into a thriving concern, mailing out hundreds of thousands of books and pamphlets each year on phrenology, memory, self-improvement, religion, and other topics for which Americans hungered.

They became advocates of hydrotherapy, known as the “water cure,” under which the sick would consume glass after glass of ice water, wrap themselves in cold wet sheets, and plunge into ice baths for days on end in an attempt to purge their bodies of impurities and purify their minds.

The Fowlers also took up mesmerism, though the term they preferred was “animal magnetism,” in order to send their followers into fugue states of semi-consciousness. Stob

writes that the inventor of this technique, Franz Anton Mesmer, felt animal magnetism was “akin to electricity but more elemental and subtle. You could actually control the flow of this invisible fluid inside of someone else, without even touching that person. [Physicians] could effectively perform miracles, assessing, diagnosing, and healing the most horrific illnesses without laying hands on a patient.”

The Fowlers adopted and promoted the Spiritualist movement, holding seances during which their younger half-brother, Edward, discovered he had a spirit guide, J.P. Cornell, a banker dead since 1849. Edward channeled Cornell as he rolled on the floor like a man possessed and proclaimed, Stob writes, that “the past is an atom to what is before us. God is everything. The earth is a part of God. What do we mean by eternity and the universe? Imagination is far below its conception.”

This was the spirit of Cornell, putting the wisdom of the dead into Edward’s mouth.

Stob, perhaps too credulously, relates the Fowlers’ many uncanny successes, assessing criminals and royals alike always with spot-on accuracy and often with an unsubtle note of flattery.

The newspaperman and Republican Party founder Horace Greeley’s skull indicated “great strength of mind with a high order of intellectual capacity and mental worth.” Politician Horace Mann possessed “remarkable Firmness unusually stimulated to activity by circumstances as if his course of life had been a pioneering one.”

Perhaps unsurprisingly, it was about this time that the famed huckster P.T. Barnum appeared in the mix. Lorenzo, despite having long held that the size of a brain is correlated with higher intelligence, ran his fingers along the skull of Charles Stratton, professionally known as the 3-foot 4-inch tall General Tom Thumb and a personality long attached to P.T. Barnum’s museum. Stratton’s head, Lorenzo decided, was “in harmony with that of his body.”

“Phrenology,” Stob writes, “thus explained how a dwarf, born to poor parents in Connecticut, could rise to the top of global entertainment and charm the world.”

The poet Walt Whitman became a devotee while he was still the editor of the *Brooklyn Eagle*. When Whitman’s collection *Leaves of Grass* was published in 1855 and then deemed “obscene and sinful” by the New York newspaper *The Criterion*, the Fowlers stood by him, their Phrenological Cabinet only one of two locations in New York where *Leaves* remained available.

Although phrenology has a reputation as a method for dressing gutter racism in scientific garb – the slave owner and phrenology advocate Charles Caldwell is thought to be the model for the phrenology-touting Calvin Candie character played by Leonardo DiCaprio in the Quentin Tarantino movie *Django Unchained* – and although the Fowlers expressed a belief that the “Caucasian race is

superior in reasoning power and moral elevation to all the other races,” the Fowlers were, in fact, devoted abolitionists.

They were long connected to William Lloyd Garrison, the publisher of the “fire-spitting” abolitionist newspaper *The Liberator*. This connection revealed complex views on race among Northern whites at the time, but also Orson’s strongly held and, at the time, wildly controversial view that races should mix and not remain “pure.” Mixing, he wrote, created

physical propensities hitherto unknown, which, instead of dying with those individuals or generations in which they originated, will not only live and spread throughout the countless millions of their descendants, but also form new bases or causes, the product of which will be phases of character and kinds of talent now unknown and inconceivable to mankind.

The Fowlers had created advertising copy in support of their publication, *The American Phrenological Journal*. In 1858, Black abolitionist Frederick Douglass, who had become friends with Garrison, ran the ad in Douglass’s newspaper *The North Star*.

“To reform and perfect ourselves and our race,” the advertising declared, “is the most exalted of all works... this, Phrenology, Physiology and Vital Magnetism embrace, and hence expound all the laws of our being, conditions of happiness, and constitute the philosopher’s stone of Universal Truth.”

Stob suggests this was a way of “inviting Black readers to investigate a science of equality.” But Douglass was conscious of how the tenets of phrenology were abused to justify further oppression of Black Americans. In an 1854 speech at Case Western Reserve University he denounced the writings of another phrenologist, Samuel Morton, whose 1839 book *Crania Americana* was unapologetically biased on behalf of Caucasian heads.

Douglass, Stob writes, “shrewdly withheld judgment on the science, publicizing it when he saw fit, rebuking it when it improperly portrayed his race, and always thinking of its long-term impact.”

The Fowlers’ business began to fail in the 1860s after a series of setbacks and family dynamics, including a fire in their publishing house, a split between the brothers, and bad press from Mark Twain, who thought phrenology a grift and was willing to say so. Perhaps the biggest setback was the publication, in 1859, of Charles Darwin’s *On the Origin of Species* which drew the nation’s attention in a different direction – away from instant self-help, and toward the idea of a generational-scale evolution.

The story of the Fowlers has faded from living memory, and phrenology, once omnipresent, is now widely considered to be quackery. But pseudoscience continues on in one form or another, an ongoing grift of unproven medical theories which provide comfort to some but by their very presence overshadow quieter, more effective treatments. Americans demand it.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 23

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Comedy Project Workshop*. Contact andrea@thelavacenter.org to participate. 6 p.m. By donation.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Peter Weis*, poetry reading. 6 p.m. Free.

Northfield Mountain, Northfield: *Beaver Pond Wildlife*, presented by naturalist David Brown. 6 p.m. Free.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *King Philip's War in Your Backyard: From Wequomps to Peskeompskut*. History talk by David Brule. 7 p.m. Free.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Comedy Project Open Mic*. 7 p.m. By donation.

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

Poplar Street and Greenfield Road, Montague City: *Tulip poplar planting*. 10 a.m. Free.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope Story Hour: Who Lives in a Tree?* Ages 3 to 6. Story, activities, and crafts. 10:30 a.m. Free.

G and Eleventh Streets, Turners Falls: *Scarlet oak planting*. 10:30 a.m. Free.

L and Fifth Streets, Turners Falls: *Flowering dogwood planting*. 11 a.m. Free.

Highland Park, Millers Falls: *Red maple planting*. 11:30 a.m. Free.

Adams and Massasoit Streets, Lake Pleasant: *Apple tree planting*. 12 p.m. Free.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Clay Play Afternoon*. 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Free.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Carnegie Critter Corner*. Petting zoo. 3 p.m. Free.

Incandescent Brewing, Bernardston: *Pre-Emption Road*. 6 p.m. No cover.

Abandon Dream, Turners Falls: *Alex Homan, Ribbit Wabbit, Deciballs, Part Time Job, Junk Orbit*. 7 p.m. By donation.

Pink Edwards, Greenfield: *Party of the Sun, Matt Emmer, Erin Morse*. 7 p.m. \$.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Live Dead & Brothers*. 7 p.m. \$.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *The Toasters, Turkey Blaster Omega, Pink Slip*. 7 p.m. \$.

THCC, Easthampton: *Warm, City of Iron*. 7 p.m. \$.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Murphy's Blues Explosion, Down in the Ground*. 7 p.m. \$.

Next Stage Arts, Putney: *Ablaye Cissoko, Cyrille Brotto*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Simon White & Rhythm Inc*. 8 p.m. No cover.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Onatah Love*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Montague Town Hall, Turners Falls: *Winsert Community Build*. Volunteers assemble window inserts for free distribution to residents. In the Annex. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free.

Greenfield Public Library, Greenfield: *Author talk*. Jonathan Mark Haber will discuss his book, *In Plain Sight: A Memoir Infused With Military Psychological Operations*, including evidence confirming an ancient, advanced civilization on Mars. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Town Common, Montague Center: *Flowering redbud planting*. 11 a.m. Free.

Greenfield Savings Bank, Turners Falls: *Downtown district coordinator Christian LaPlante* discusses local economic development initiatives. Snacks provided. 1 p.m. Free.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *AnnE, Lizcore, Tiny Nick, Feldspar 00000, Mibble, Letters of Marque, Kony762, Sapien Joyride, Rhubarb Duo, Sleep Destroyer, Peach Creek, Muda!*, *Free Rock*. 3 p.m. \$.

Brewery at Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Dew on the Vine*. 5 p.m. No cover.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *The Pandora Consort* performs and discusses music by Hildegard von Bingen. 6:30 p.m. \$.

Unnameable Books, Turners Falls: *Bobbie Saapato, Many Hands, Ian MacPhee*. 7 p.m. \$.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *All Voices Cabaret*. Music, poetry, storytelling, theater, dance. 7 p.m. \$.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Caroline Davis, Matan Rubinstein*. 7 p.m. \$.

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

Nova Arts, Keene: *Draa Hobbs Jazz Quartet, Hiroya Tsukamoto*. 7 p.m. \$.



Above: A bulblet fern fiddlehead. The Pioneer Valley Fern Society's first Fern Walk of the season takes place Sunday afternoon on Mount Toby.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Best of Valley Voices Story Slam*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Mullins Center, Amherst: *Malcolm Todd, Waka Flocka Flame*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *BASSTHOV3N*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

Brattleboro Commons, Brattleboro: *Protest Sound Systems*, outdoor sound class with Stone Church tech director Dan Richardson. Enroll at stonechurchvt.com. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Free.

All Souls Church, Greenfield: *Author talk, Claiming Earth as Common Ground: The Ecological Crisis Through the Lens of Faith*, by Rabbi Andrea Cohen-Kiener. Questions and answers follow. 12:30 p.m. Free.

Mount Toby, Leverett: *Fiddlehead Fern Walk*, led by Randy Stone. Meet up in the parking lot off Route 63; the walk is on Roaring Brook Trail. Moderate level hike, some uneven ground, wet areas and slopes. Details at pvfernsociety.org. 1 p.m. Free.

EXHIBITS

Waterway Arts, Turners Falls: *Enough: A Collaboration*, visual artists' responses to pieces written in the Paper Trail Creative Writing Workshops exploring what it means to "have enough, do enough, be enough." Through May 23.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *All Our Relations*. Work by Deborah Spears Moorehead, Seaconke Pokanoket Wampanoag, and Robert Peters, Mashpee Wampanoag, focusing on pre-colonization, the 350th anniversary of Metacomb's (King Philip's) War, and the Great Falls Massacre of 1676. Through May.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: *Landscapes* by guest photographer Ray Brod, through May.

Montague Center Library, Montague: *Captured Glimpses of Sunset in Our Town*, familiar landscapes photographed by Barbara Foley, through May.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *The Art of Dorothy Masterson Bennett*, a former Leverett resident who passed in 2024 at 92 years old, through April.

Leverett Crafts and Arts, Leverett: *Art for the Earth*, forty artists celebrating their love for the Earth in a variety of media, through April 26.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Elaine VanGelder*, paintings inspired by the patterns of nature, closing with a reception on this Friday, April 24 at 5 p.m. *Trees*, informational exhibit celebrating tree projects in Greenfield, closing with a reception Thursday, April 30 at 5 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Trevor Powers, Looky There*, risograph-printed photographs exploring the color and texture of organic and manmade objects, plus artists books and a free zine, through May.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield: *STEAM – Art & Science*, art that reflects aspects of science, technology, engineering, and math, through May 17.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Flora & Fauna*, artists' books and oil paintings by Nancy Meagher and Laura Holland, through April.

Hampden Gallery, UMass Amherst: *Fragile Connections*, neon-lit sculpture and delicately engraved glass forms by scientific glass blower Sally Prasch. Through May 8, with a reception today, Thursday, April 23, at 5 p.m.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Earth and Sky*, paintings by watercolorist Mary Walsh Martel, through April.

Oxbow Gallery, Easthampton: *Holding Still*, recent oil paintings by Turners Falls artist Karen Evans, through April.

CALL FOR ART

RiverCulture, Montague's creative economy program, invites submission of photos that capture the natural beauty and cultural vitality of the town's five villages. Selected images will be used on a new RiverCulture website. Deadline is Monday, May 4. Winners receive a \$20 gift card to a local business or restaurant. Details on the submission form at tinyurl.com/rcwebpix.

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CALENDAR



looking forward...

Wesley United Methodist Church, Hadley: *The Egmont Ensemble*, performing works by Mozart, Dvořák, and Franck. Benefit for the Western Mass Asylum Support Network. 3 p.m. \$.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *All Are Interested In All*, panel discussion on an 1840s worker cooperative in Florence, with *Christopher Clark*, *Steve Strimer*, *Tom Goldscheider*, and *Larisa Demos*. 3:30 p.m. \$.

Quarters, Hadley: *Western Mass Electronics*, with featured artist *manjumpingtoheaven*. Bring your own synth, drum machine, sampler, etc. 7 p.m. No cover.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Graham Parker*. 7 p.m. \$.

Midnight's, Brattleboro: *Perennial, Tea Eater*. 8 p.m. \$.

MONDAY, APRIL 27

Visions Video, Northampton: Screening, *Ghost in the Shell* (1995), with live score by *Videopunks*. 7 p.m. \$.

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *World Play: Cross Cultural Playgroup*. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: Montague selectboard member *Marina Goldman* drop-in office hour, with a library trustee and a library building committee member. 4 to 5 p.m. Free.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Knitting, Crafts & Game Night*. 7 p.m. Free.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

Greenfield Community College, Greenfield: *Health Occupations Job Fair*. Over 20 employers in attendance with open jobs in the region. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Poetry Discussion Group*. No pre-reading required. 3 p.m. Free.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: Matinee movie, *The Killing* (1955). 4 p.m. Free.

Whately Town Hall, Whately: *Aladair Fraser & Natalie Haas*. 7 p.m. \$.

THCC, Easthampton: *Thunderforge, Valkyrie's Fire*. 7 p.m. \$.

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Steel Wheels*. 8 p.m. \$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *Brainwash Victims, Grem, Violent Protest, No Stayer*. 8 p.m. \$.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

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

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Comedy Project Workshop*. Register with *andrea@thelavacenter.org*. 6 p.m. By donation.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Warbler Madness*. Video and discussion on local warbler migration. 6 p.m. Free.

Gill-Montague Senior Center, Turners Falls: *Precinct 4 Public Meeting*. All residents of the precinct welcome. 6:30 p.m. \$.



Left to right: French saxophone improviser *Sakina Abdou*; *Bill Nace*, former WestMass resident and shredder of the guitar and two-string taishogoto, who released an album with Abdou last fall; and Nace's longtime collaborator, Connecticut ripper *Paul Flaherty*. They meet as a trio next Sunday afternoon, May 3, atop a stacked bill at a new venue on Deerfield Street in Greenfield.

New Salem Public Library, New Salem: *Identifying and Managing Invasive Plants*, presented by *Brian Colleran*. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The 2018 Handel Society MDP Competition*. Staged reading of *Jeremy Geragotelis's* new play. 7 p.m. By donation.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Whitney Johnson, Lia Kohl & Macie Stewart* trio; *Adam Schatz & Carmen Quill* duo. 7 p.m. \$.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *The Felice Brothers, Nic Panken*. 7 p.m. \$.

THCC, Easthampton: *Federico Balducci, DNIAL, Burial Woods, Ye Gods*. 7 p.m. \$.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Party of the Sun, Advance Base, Kristin Daelyn*. 7 p.m. \$.

Palladium, Worcester: *Cryptopsy, Necrot, Fulci, Blood Monolith*. 7 p.m. \$.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *7-11 Jesus, Saliba, Glasss, Perfect Nails*. 9 p.m. No cover.

FRIDAY, MAY 1

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

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Road Dogs, Ciarra Fragale, Wishbone Zoë, Saliba*. 6:30 p.m. Free.

Four Phantoms Brewing, Greenfield: *Game Night*. 6:30 p.m. Free.

THCC, Easthampton: *The Summoned, Tentacles!!!, Billy*. 7 p.m. \$.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Paper City Picture Show*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Screening, *Born In Flames* (1983), with introduction by director *Lizzie Borden*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

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

Hutghi's, Westfield: *The Lousekateers, A.P.E., The Prozacs, The Mighty Suicide Squirrels*. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Emily Wells and Friends*, presented by Antenna Cloud Farm. Tickets at tinyurl.com/WellsAndFriends. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *John Sheldon*, benefit for Good Neighbors. 7:30 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *HIRS Collective, Commitment, ABBATIA, Deathless Forever, Film and Gender*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *dj junco, Feldspar 00000, Margyle*. 9 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, MAY 2

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Farmers Market*. Opening day with soil testing, gardening advice, all-ages planting activities, and more. SNAP accepted. Market will run every Saturday through October. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$.

Unity Park, Turners Falls: *3-On-3 Basketball Tournament & Block Party*. Free entry; 12-17 and 18+ age brackets. Food and games, prizes by local sponsors. 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Free.

French King Bowling Center, Erving: *Bowl for Kids' Sake*, benefit for Big Brothers Big Sisters. Register at www.beacons.ai/bbbbswm. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. \$.

Mohawk Trail Regional High School, Buckland: *Audrey's Angels Craft Fair*. Benefit for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Honoring Elders*, featuring *Adele Penniman*. 2 p.m. Free.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Balkan Percussion Workshop*, with *Matt Moran* of Mountain Lions and Slavic Soul Party. 4 p.m. \$.

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

Brewery at Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Space Bar*. 5 p.m. No cover.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Mountain Lions, O Ksenos*. 7 p.m. By donation.

Greenfield High School, Greenfield: *Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra and Chorus* perform *Verdi, Brahms, and Franck*. 7 p.m. \$.

THCC, Easthampton: *Clamfight, Dirt Pile, Mollusk*. 7 p.m. \$.

Hutghi's, Westfield: *The Lousekateers, A.P.E., The Prozacs, The Mighty Suicide Squirrels*. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Emily Wells and Friends*, presented by Antenna Cloud Farm. Tickets at tinyurl.com/WellsAndFriends. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *John Sheldon*, benefit for Good Neighbors. 7:30 p.m. \$.

The Drake, Amherst: *HIRS Collective, Commitment, ABBATIA, Deathless Forever, Film and Gender*. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *dj junco, Feldspar 00000, Margyle*. 9 p.m. No cover.

SUNDAY, MAY 3

Montague Center Common, Montague: *May Day Celebration*. Procession from post office, carol singing, maypole and Morris dancing. Participants encouraged to bring picnics. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Free.

Erving Public Library, Erving: *Mending Workshop*. Bring two items to mend. 10:30 a.m. Free.

Green River Church, Greenfield: *Spectre Folk, Nace/Abdou/Flaherty* trio, *Meginsky/Garbus/Baldwin/Gelineau/Allen* quintet, *Julie Bodian, barbie.ai*. 2 p.m. \$.

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

Hope Center for the Arts, Springfield: *The BoDeans*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

MONDAY, MAY 4

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Secret Chiefs 3, Dust Witch*. 8 p.m. \$.

TUESDAY, MAY 5

Montague Town Hall, Turners Falls: *Selectboard Candidates Forum*. Broadcast on MCTV. 6:30 p.m. Free.

SATURDAY, MAY 9

The Drake, Amherst: *Vundabar, Slow Fiction*. 8 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, MAY 15

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Sam Mulligan* album release, *Hot Rod, The Rocking Puppies*. 7 p.m. By donation.

SUNDAY, MAY 17

399 Main, Greenfield: Screening, *The Voice of Hind Rajab* (2025). Discussion to follow. 12:30 p.m. Free.

SATURDAY, MAY 23

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Unlucky Shots, Matthew Larsen and The Documents*. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

FRIDAY, MAY 29

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Major Stars, Mountain Movers, Rose Thomas Bannister*. 7 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10

Iron Horse, Northampton: The Mekons. 7 p.m. \$.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

Daily Operation, Easthampton: *BASIC, Slant of Light*. 7 p.m. \$.

Palladium, Worcester: *Coheed and Cambria, Arm's Length, Kaonashi*. 7:30 p.m. \$\$.

THURSDAY, JULY 2

Great Falls Harvest, Turners Falls: *Miranda & The Spatulas, Animal Piss It's Everywhere*. 8 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, JULY 24

Pines Theater, Northampton: *Gillian Welch & David Rawlings*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Violent Femmes*. 7 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

Tanglewood, Lenox: *Carrie Underwood*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Home Body*. 8 p.m. Free.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Big E Arena, West Springfield: *Alice Cooper*. 7:30 p.m. \$\$.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Beth Orton*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

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The Greenfield Farmers Market is back!

Shoppers can expect to find everything from organic produce and pasture-raised meats to fresh-cut flowers and homemade preserves. The market also accepts SNAP and HIP benefits, helping ensure fresh food is accessible to all members of the community.

The market will feature live music, family-friendly activities, and educational programming centered on sustainable agriculture and healthy eating. The market continues to support local farms and small businesses while providing residents with direct access to high-quality, locally sourced products.

The Greenfield Farmers Market runs for 28 weeks, Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., rain or shine, at Court Square.

Community members and visitors alike are encouraged to attend and support local growers all season long. See you there!

SPORTS from page B1

racking up RBIs. Clark pitched the entire game for Franklin, giving up two earned runs, walking five and allowing five hits.

For Turners Falls, Kaiser and Jackson Cogswell had two hits each,

while Brody Girard had one; Kaiser had two RBIs and Ethan Eichorn batted in one run for the Thunder. On the mound, Eichorn gave up eight hits and three earned runs, walked two batters, and struck out two.



DAVE HOYT PHOTOS

Nice try: Franklin Tech's George Gutierrez (left) tries to avoid the tag by Turners Falls's Julian Kaiser during last Friday's game at Tech.

BOOK REVIEW from page B1 followed by an emphatic *spond-ee*, which has two equal stresses: DUM-DUM:

If music be the food of love, play on

Note that English is a stressed-timed language, in which stress conveys meaning. French and many other languages are not. So, what is a French translator to do? Bend over backwards to keep Shakespeare's iambic pentameters, even though they're foreign to French? Or translate them into the twelve-syllable alexandrines of French Renaissance drama familiar to French audiences?

Hahn discusses what is gained and what is lost with such decisions – not just when the target is French, but in several other languages, too.

Rhyme is another problem. Shakespeare uses it often: sometimes in tidy couplets to end a speech, often at high dramatic moments such as the first meeting of Romeo and Juliet, and always in songs within the plays. But two words that rhyme in English rarely rhyme in another language. Moreover, some languages don't have many rhymes, while others have lots – and Japanese doesn't use rhyme, so a rhymed translation would sound weird to Japanese ears.

Even when a translator finds rhymes, they can be inept. Hahn cites a couplet from *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as an example:

*If we shadows have offended
Think but this, and all is mended*

He notes that "offended" and "mended" are the right rhyming words because they contrast and balance each other. In contrast, a Welsh translation rhymes the words *bechu* and *wnewch-chwi*, meaning "sin" and "what you'll do" respectively. But they neither translate the English well nor have the aptness of Shakespeare's pair.

Yet a third conundrum is how translators are to turn English into languages that gender their nouns, and adapt adjectives to go with them. English used to do this, having masculine, feminine and neuter nouns until about 1,200 years ago. Wisely, I think, it was abandoned, possibly because the gendering of nouns such as "table" or "computer" or "snow," which are neither male nor female, seems a pointless complication to me, and a real

hurdle to Anglophone learners of French, Spanish, Russian, and the many other gendered languages.

Pleading that "languages are hugely complex, often highly eccentric operating systems," Hahn suggests that lack of gender may lead to mystification. It's possible to read a page or two of a first-person novel and not know whether the narrator is male or female. Similarly, when the Countess in *All's Well That Ends Well* enters reading a letter, the audience cannot tell who it's from. On the other hand, gendered languages make it harder to convey ambiguity, and all writers love some of that.

The six easy words of Hamlet's most famous line, "To be or not to be," do not necessarily yield the same translation. Hahn lists 15 Spanish translations.

Another way that English contrasts with many other languages is that it has lots of monosyllables, including numerous basic words. Hahn assembled basic vocabulary books of 100 words from eight languages to assess how many monosyllables each had. The Greek and Italian each have one monosyllable. Chinese had 25, and French and German had 46 and 47 respectively.

English topped them all with 75. Writers in English can write wonderfully staccato lines. But translators dealing with an iambic pentameter that has short English words have a serious problem turning it into their polysyllabic languages.

They can also have difficulties with proper nouns. Te reo Maori and Japanese have no consonant clusters, so Dunsinane becomes "Tahinane" in Te reo Maori, and Macbeth is "Makubetsu" in Japanese. As for Prince Hal, *hal* is fish in Hungarian, so a Hungarian translator invented "Riki" as a nickname for him, basing it on Henrik, a version of Henry, Hal's given name.

Hahn's consideration of the many problems confronting translators is thorough, but never tedious. He presents complex information briefly, opposite examples that are often entertaining. Even at the level of seemingly straightforward

words, he shows that there are the innumerable obstacles to the accurate delivery of meaning and nuance from one language to another.

Take Lady Macbeth's question to her husband: "Are you a man?" Four easy words – what can be hard about turning them into another language? But every English speaker knows that Lady Macbeth is not inquiring about his species or his gender. She is not even asking him a question, except in the rhetorical sense. She is goading him into actions that she defines as manly. A literal translation will not, therefore, work.

Similarly, the six easy words of Hamlet's most famous line, "To be or not to be," do not necessarily yield the same translation. Hahn lists 15 Spanish translations, showing that the apparently simple line is harder than it seems, not least because Spanish is the native language of many countries, all of them having variations. The same is true too of English, French, Portuguese, Chinese and several other languages.

Relatively few readers will turn to *If This Be Magic* because they want to become translators. But it is a fascinating book for anyone with even the vaguest interest in language. It's a rich account of quirks and quiddities of English, and fascinating on the minefields lying in the path that takes us from one language to another.

Much of this could be tedious technicality were it not for Hahn's easy personal style and wit. Quite simply, his book is a fun read.

The cover of *If This Be Magic* superimposes the title over two paintings of Romeo and Juliet moving into a kiss. On the left is a romanticized Victorian portrait of the pair as hot-blooded lovers, Romeo's passion signaled in his blood-red clothes. On the right is a cool art nouveau depiction of a rather androgynous couple. Here Juliet seems the more eager of the pair, while Romeo's leafy costume suggests he's a refugee from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Neither picture is titled, but you have no trouble recognizing that both couples are Romeo and Juliet – a perfect illustration of Hahn's conviction that careful and inspired translations of Shakespeare remain Shakespeare, even if every word is different.



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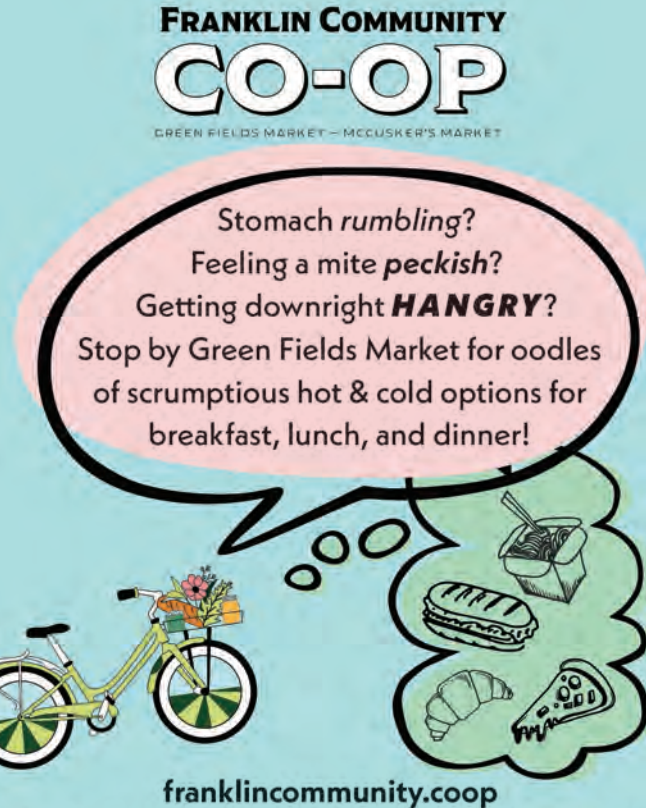
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