

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 18 – NO. 19

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 12, 2020

GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Three Candidates Named For G-M Superintendent

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – Tuesday was a big night for the regional school committee. They passed the FY'21 budget, heard that Turners Falls High School had been approved by the state for an Innovation Pathways program in health-care, and received recommendations for three final candidates for district superintendent.

Tracy Novick of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) delivered the names and applications of three final candidates to replace superin-

tendent Michael Sullivan this summer. A screening committee culled 22 applications and interviewed six semifinalists before passing along the list of three.

Following a set of mutual site visits and interviews, the school committee will select later this month from either Mary Jane Rickson, interim superintendent of the Maynard Public Schools; Brian Beck, principal of Hopkins Academy in Hadley and a resident of Montague; and Karen Ferrandino, director of student services at Frontier Regional.

see **GMRS** page A8

Local Towns, Schools Prepare For Arrival of COVID-19 Virus

By ISABEL KOYAMA and MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker declared a state of emergency Tuesday following an overnight spike in confirmed cases of COVID-19, the novel coronavirus that is sweeping the globe this month. As of Wednesday, the virus has been officially classified as pandemic by the World Health Organization.

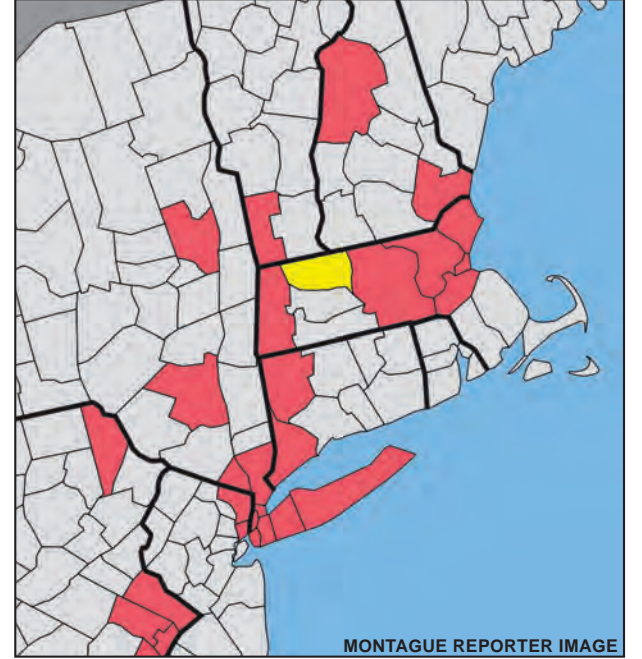
With 95 presumed positive cases in-state, 7 of which are in Berkshire County, Franklin County health officials are preparing to face the arrival of COVID-19 to their communities.

Last Wednesday, Cooperative Public Health Service's (CPHS) regional public health nurse Lisa White attended a hearing at the Massachusetts State House where she testified before the Public Health Committee on the unique needs of rural towns in preparing for the coronavirus. At that time, White says, the only testing in state was being done at state public health laboratories.

While no cases have been confirmed as of press time in any of Franklin County's 26 towns, it is possible that some cases are going undetected.

"We all know the basic preventable steps are the same as the flu," reports White. "Our risk is considered to be low, but do we think COVID-19 is going to be circulating at a community level? I think that answer is yes."

White, who serves 14 communities for the CPHS district under Franklin Regional Council of Governments



Patients have thus far tested positive for the novel coronavirus in about 25 Northeastern US counties (shown in red).

(FRCOG), says that people should prepare to "behave differently" as the outbreak progresses, stocking up food pantries and being thoughtful about attending public events. "We don't know if there has been community transmission because we're only testing severely ill

see **VIRUS** page A5

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS



JOE KOPERA PHOTO

Reader Joe Kopera captured Sunday night's full moon beyond the cupola of the First Congregational Church in Montague Center.

Distrust Contaminates Teawaddle Water Effort

By JEFF SINGLETON

LEVERETT – Last spring the Leverett town meeting voted unanimously in favor of a motion to address the ongoing problem of contaminated groundwater on Teawaddle Hill Road. The motion, to finally solve the problem caused by a "toxic plume" emanating from a town-owned landfill capped in the 1990s, was divided into three sections to reflect different solutions. Each section had an appropriation.

The first solution on the warrant would have extended a water line from the affected homes to the Amherst drinking water system, at an estimated cost of \$2,330,000; the second would "install a series of new wells," drilled into the bedrock below the plume, for \$150,000; and the third appropriated \$20,000 to appraise the value of the homes prior to their taking by the town under eminent domain.

An amendment to the motion which reordered the options, so that the drilling of new wells appeared first and the pipeline to Amherst second, was approved. Taking by eminent domain remained in third place.

Since that meeting, there has been some progress in evaluating all three options. A test well

see **WATER** page A5

Zoning Proposal Generates Some Steam, Some Friction



WOOD PHOTO

Two city councilors hope to spur denser residential development.

By SAMANTHA WOOD

GREENFIELD – With the conclusion of a public hearing last week, the clock began ticking for the city council to act within 90 days on a slate of proposed zoning changes. But before they can do so, the proposal must be first voted on by both the planning board and the council's economic development committee (EDC).

The proposal, made by councilor Tim Dolan, Precinct 5, and council vice president Otis Wheeler, Precinct 7, would

see **ZONING** page A4

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Newest Boss at WPCF Is "Impassioned About Wastewater Treatment"

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard, at its March 9 meeting, voted to hire Chelsey Little as the new superintendent of the town's Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF).

Little, who holds a bachelor's degree in biology as well as a master's in public health, currently directs the Northfield wastewater facility, is the daughter-in-law of retired WPCF chief operator John Little, and wrote in her letter of application that she is "impassioned about wastewater treatment."

"That sentence just sold me right there," said selectboard member Michael Nelson.

Town administrator Steve Ellis introduced Little to the board, reviewing her qualifications and the

work of the committee that recommended her.

The search committee, according to Ellis, included DPW superintendent Tom Bergeron, town accountant Karen Olsen, treasurer Eileen Seymour, Ellis himself, WPCF chief operator (and interim superintendent) Kevin Boissonault, former superintendent Bob Trombley, and Randy Ames, "a local business person who works with a number of wastewater treatment facilities."

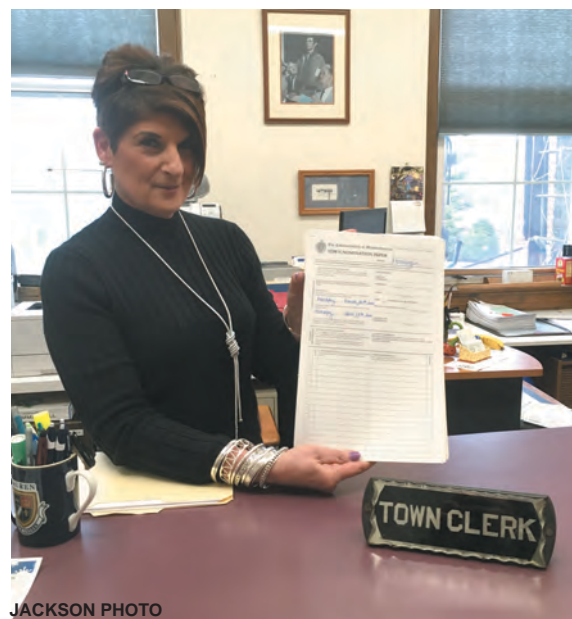
Another member of the committee, WPCF employee Tim Little, recused himself due to his family connection.

Ellis said that the committee had reviewed two qualified candidates and "strongly felt that Chelsey

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

Few Local Candidates Throwing In Hats

By MIKE JACKSON



JACKSON PHOTO

Montague clerk Deb Bourbeau waves nomination papers.

FRANKLIN COUNTY – As the spring election nears, nominations are open for local office. So far, incumbent selectboard members are running unopposed for their seats in Montague, Gill, Erving, Wendell, and Leverett, though at least two candidates will vie in Wendell for an additional seat vacated early by Christine Heard. As of this week, both of Montague's positions on the Gill-Montague school committee appear to be wide open for the taking, but interested candidates must act soon to gain a spot on the ballot.

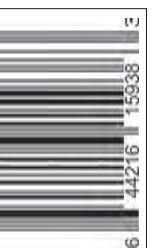
Heard's decision to step down midway through her eighth three-year term has so far resulted in two of her fellow Wendell residents, Nan Riebschlaeger and Gillian Budine, announcing their intentions to fill it.

"I have served the town in several capacities, and would like to serve on the selectboard," Riebschlaeger, who currently chairs the planning board and co-chairs the energy committee, told the Reporter. "I feel I have something to

see **CANDIDATES** page A6

Don't Stop After Just One Page...

Editorial.....	A2	West Along the Windy River.....	B1
Letters to the Editors.....	A2	Studios at the Disco Center.....	B1
Illustration.....	A2	Montague Police Log.....	B3
Local Briefs.....	A3	Five Comics, One Puzzle, and Pi.....	B4
Guest Editorial: WLOE at 40.....	A3	Out Of The Park.....	B5
Wendell Selectboard Notes.....	A6	Spanish-Language Page.....	B6
10 Years Ago This Week.....	A7	Arts & Entertainment Calendar.....	B7
The Author's Corner: Adaptation.....	B1	Montague Reporter on the Road.....	B8



The Montague Reporter

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Editorial Group

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Victoria Maillo, *Spanish Page*
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Lisa McLoughlin, *Science Page*
Gloria Kegeles, *Editorial Assistant*

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Charlotte Kohlmann, *Layout Assistant*
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Technical Administration

About Face Computing

Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August 2002

Do:

(adapted from www.flattenthecurve.com)

Wash your hands. More than 20 seconds with soap and warm water. Unlike some really stubborn viruses (like polio), viruses in the coronavirus family typically don't survive longer than a few hours on most hard surfaces, though it can be up to days. Bleach or ethanol are more effective at decontaminating surfaces than they are disinfecting human skin. So don't hoard the hand sanitizer, that should be used only when you do not have any access to a soap and water sink.

Stay connected, but avoid crowds. It is best to stand at a distance from people. 6 feet or more is safest from infectious droplet spread. The higher your underlying risk factors, the more you should avoid crowds. CDC has recommended that older adults "stay at home as much as possible."

But keep in mind that over the longer term, this isolation could have negative impacts on many people's mental health. Cultivating meaningful relationships is a well established but under-appreciated determinant for all health outcomes.

Lower your overall risk with everyday choices. Taken together, making safer everyday choices on average – not just this week but for the next several months – can flatten the curve. Continue to support your local economy, but go off peak; staggering by even 15 minutes can reduce crowding. Everything from restaurants to art museums to public transport will be less risky (and more pleasant!) off peak.

Get your flu shot – and if you're 60+, pneumonia vaccine too. Better late than never. The flu vaccine won't protect you at all against coronavirus. However, it *does* reduce your likelihood of contracting flu, and therefore your likelihood of needing to be hospitalized, which reduces your chances of contracting coronavirus. If you're 60+ get your pneumonia vaccine as well, for the same reason.

Cancel all non-essential face-to-face medical visits. Hospitals are hot spots for transmission; get your vaccinations at a pharmacy rather than at the doctor. Find ways to do your PT at home if possible.

Cancel all non-essential travel anywhere. This illness can start slow and accelerate suddenly. If you are away from home when it does, you're away from the sys-

tems that could keep you fed and cared for even if you turn out not to have a bad case.

Even if you remain healthy, you could end up being quarantined. It is at best boring, at worst terrible conditions, not to mention potentially really expensive.

Stock up on food and essentials: early, gradually, and responsibly. Buy a little more than what you need. Preparedness isn't about doing nothing, but also about not overreacting. It's about doing your part to put the *slack in our systems* so that short disruptions are smooth as possible, can absorb extra load, and resources remain available for those most in need.

Don't bother buying bottled water; tap water is very unlikely to be impacted, and anyway, boiling would be adequate if it turned out it were needed for unforeseen reasons. Intestinal symptoms of coronavirus are very rare; there's no reason to expect that supplies of toilet paper will dry up. Get what you need. Leave the rest for others.

If you can work from home, do so as much as possible. Ask your manager if it would be permissible for you personally. Encourage your colleagues. If you can work from home, do it precisely because your barber, your kid's teacher, your local restaurant staff, your barista, and your doctors, etc. can not.

Get a flu buddy, and make backup plans for care of children, pets, and those in need of special assistance. Especially if you live by yourself. In the event of local transmission, call each other daily. If anyone is sick, call them twice daily and have an agreed-upon contactless plan for delivering food, pain relief, and medications, as well as for backup care of dependents.

Reduce non-essential social interactions. If you're not really certain to enjoy it yourself or to bring joy to someone you really love, then *just skip it*. Attend remotely. Show your face for a few minutes and head back out. Send a gift.

Keep your home clean. If you have the ability to do so, consider a "staging" area for clean entry into your home. Remove shoes, outerwear. If you work in a high-risk environment like a hospital, nursing home, etc., wash your clothes immediately and then dry them at high heat, or at least dry in the sunshine.

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION



Mark Lattanzi skims the sap boiling in his evaporator last Sunday afternoon in Montague Center. Lattanzi has 88 taps on neighborhood trees, and says he's made 19 gallons of syrup so far this season.

Wash hands right away. Isolate your mail, packages, and purchases (including food) before bringing them into the house and leave them isolated a few hours at a minimum.

If you are in an especially high risk group, you might want to consider leaving goods isolated a longer time (a few days), avoiding eating raw produce, and decontaminating products that come into your house.

Look beyond yourself. At all times, be kind to each other and be mindful of other people's worries. You may be in a low-risk group and feel this is nothing to fret about, but your 80-year-old neighbor or your friend with recent heart surgery may feel quite differently. Every person matters; no one is "expendable."

Prepare a hot zone in your house. Prepare your home for the possibility you'll need to isolate and care for an infected member of your household. Stock the room in advance with food that the infected person can consume with zero preparation and without face-to-face interaction with others. If you have a dedicated bathroom for the infected person, that is best.

Spread the word. Call a friend. Call your family. You have the most influence on people you personally know. While there are certainly reasons not to panic, most people should be more concerned than they are. Raise the floor of awareness, not the ceiling; this will be much more effective in the long run.

Do your best to demonstrate, teach, and reinforce good hand hygiene for kids, but be realistic too. Keep your kids' fingernails (and yours) as short as is (safely) possible so that virus has fewer crannies in which to hide.

Only if you are in a financial and operational position to do so, consider temporarily tutoring or home schooling, or even just keeping kids home from after-school activities or for part of the day. Don't compromise your kids' education, but every little bit of distancing helps.

Do what you can, and don't sweat the rest. You should not feel personally responsible for everyone.

Letters to the Editors

Strengthening Your Neighborhood Networks

I've been meaning to let you know that I really enjoyed Mike Jackson's recent "exit interview" with Christine Heard of the Wendell selectboard, and I have been thinking a lot about the bit at the end, which described how neighbors in Wendell got together after an extreme weather event and organized themselves so they'd be better prepared for future emergencies. And then about how that effort was superseded by a plan that centered the skills of professional emergency responders.

When I first read that part, I was thinking about it as an example of a persistent tension I've noticed between community members and professionals: Who has authority? What role do lived experience and homegrown solutions have in local decisions? Can small towns benefit

from joining larger systems without losing what makes them unique?

However, while those questions continue to interest me, at the moment what I can't stop thinking about is something more basic: Knowing your neighbors is always worthwhile, but in hard times it can be vital.

In that spirit, I'm challenging you, my fellow readers, to work on strengthening your own neighborhood networks now. Think about what you have to offer and about scenarios where you might need help, and take advantage of this opportunity to make some new connections with people who live near you.

No matter what happens in the next few weeks or months, I don't think you'll regret it.

Jen Audley
Turners Falls

Three Good Things

I don't usually write letters but your stellar community newspaper just stands out, especially the February 20 and 27 editions I'm catching up on after being away.

First, I was impressed that your business manager, Annie, contacted me about my new sub which I receive in the mail. Bravo for such good service!

I loved Stephanie Baird's sex-positive health column that is full of well-researched information and written in an easy, accessible style.

Kudos to your Poetry Page editor, Christopher, for including the Carolina Turroni poem, *One day, suddenly*. My wife and I have recently lost our mothers, so we wept "wet faced-crying" (thanks Imogene Pruitt-Spence!) as I read the poem to her out loud.

What more can anyone expect from a well-crafted community newspaper? Thank you!

J.J. White
Greenfield

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LOCAL BRIEFS

LARKINROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Downtown Turners residents would like to have a schedule for when street sweeping happens so that they can sweep all the sand into the gutter, but that's too hard to predict, as I found out when I called the highway department to check on the matter. The weather, plus equipment and operator availability, are factors that come into play so that promises cannot be made on certain dates for the cleaning.

They did do a test run on their new sweeper recently, which replaced their "old-old-old" one. Now they have their "old-old" and their new, instead of the "old-old-old" and "old-old." They will try to get the downtown area swept before the parking ban is lifted on April 1.

So just get out there on a nice day and sweep the debris into the gutter within the next few weeks if you are a downtowner.

Local history buff alert: A photo essay in the current issue of the *Historical Journal of Massachusetts* features the history of papermaking in Turners Falls. Sheila Damkoehler wrote this overview of the industry and the key role it played in the growth of the planned industrial community here.

The journal is the only one devoted exclusively to Massachusetts history, from its Native American roots to the present day, and the journal receives enough support from Westfield State University that they can offer subscriptions for only \$12 a year. This gets you two publications of about 200 pages each, filled with research by prominent historians, local historians, and grad students. There's also a free online archive of articles. See westfield.ma.edu/historical-journal for more information.

There is also a mini-exhibit at the Discovery Center, created by Damkoehler in 2018, about the town's papermaking history. It's in the hallway beyond the Great Hall – check it out!

The Western MA Food Processing Center is seeking a **local artist to design and paint murals** on a solar hot water system tank at their facility at 324 Wells Street in Greenfield.

It's got some pretty big walls, all outside and exposed to the weather: a 14-foot by 6-foot front wall, and two 8-by-6 side walls. The request for proposals has a deadline of April 1. For information email Helen Perham at helenp@fccdc.org or call (413) 774-7204 x 114.

Commercial composting has come to Turners Falls! Amy Donovan of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District let us know that the Upper Bend, Black Cow Burger Bar, Shea Theater, and 253 Pharmacy have started composting programs, joining the Gill-Montague School District, which has been composting since 2011.

The project to get commercial composting started in Turners Falls was nurtured by the Greater Quabbin Food Alliance and Drawdown Montague. Services to these businesses are provided by the Compost Cooperative, a worker-owned business.

For information about composting for a business, organization, or event, please contact Amy at (413) 772-2438 or amy@franklincounty-wastedistrict.org.

Dr. Frances Rahaim offers financial advice at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls this Saturday, March 14 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Dr. Rahaim provides debt consolidation advice and has written a book, *Debt or Alive: Uplifting Stories and Positive Solutions for Life After Debt*, and will have copies available for sale. She also hosts the weekly radio and TV show, "The Money Doctor." Dr. Rahaim will answer your questions and sign book copies at the event, and the bank will provide light refreshments during this free program.

Great Falls Books Through Bars is holding another work day at La Mariposa Collective, 115 Avenue A Turners Falls, on Saturday March 14 from 1 to 4 p.m. Come read letters and pack books to send to incarcerated folks across the country. Stay as much or as little as you want; no experience needed and all are welcome.

There are also other ways to help, and the organization has only enough money for one more shipment of books, so donations are really needed. You may donate to them at patreon.com/gfbtb/posts, or stop by on Saturday to find out more.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the LAVA Center in Greenfield with the Farley String Band between 1 and 3 p.m. this Saturday, March 14. The free concert presents Irish reels and jigs by the band composed of almost a dozen musicians.

There'll be green snacks, music and dancing, and fun for all. Donations are welcome to support the space, which aims to be an arts incubator and community center.

Samantha Staelens of the **Children's Advocacy Center** will be at the Greenfield Public Library to answer questions and provide information about their many services. The Center is dedicated to minimizing secondary trauma and stress to child victims and ensuring access to support services for families. Staelens will be at the library on Monday, March 16 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Head to Amherst on March 17 at 7 p.m. for a public talk by members of the **Extinction Rebellion Western MA** at the Unitarian Universalist Society. They will discuss the historical legacies leading to the climate emergency, and describe facts about the emergency as well

as solutions that the group has formulated through their study of social movements. Everyone is welcome, and there will be plenty of time for discussion afterwards. For details, see xwesternmass.org.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center does a great job presenting exhibits and related programming that reflect pressing social issues, such as a show of portraits and narratives of people in recovery. A new round of shows approaches **the issue of homelessness** from a broad range of perspectives, and seeks to raise funds for the Groundworks Collaborative, which supports families and individuals facing homelessness and food insecurities in the Brattleboro area.

The exhibit "Steven Kinder: 522,830" presents photographs by Kinder of homeless he encountered in New York City. Kinder has worked with images of the homeless for years, offering them compensation for the opportunity to paint their portraits. "He simply asks us to see them," states curator Katherine Gass Stowe.

Another gallery in the museum presents "Coffee & Conversa-

Australia: Bringing It Home" at 7 p.m. Co-sponsored by the Interfaith Council and an ad hoc group, the press release says: "Join us for a ceremony to honor the preciousness of life, and to commit ourselves to our unique role in caring for creation." All are welcome.

"Bicentennial Man" will be shown at the Wendell Free Library on Saturday, March 21 at 7:30 p.m.

The 1999 movie, starring Robin Williams, details two centuries in the life of an **unusually sentient android** who learns about humans while trying to escape destruction by his creators. The film is free, and part of a series of sci-fi, fantasy, and horror movies at the library. Come for a short film half an hour before the main feature.

Residents are encouraged to get involved in the planning for **Leverett's 250th anniversary** in 2024 at a meeting on Sunday, March 22 at 3 p.m. in the Leverett library. Everyone is welcome! Committees are being formed, and brainstorming is underway.

On Monday, March 23, the LAVA Center in downtown Greenfield will host another round of **Climate Change Theater Action** readings at 6 p.m. Several of the favorite short plays from this 2019 series will be presented. For more information, see localaccess.org.

Discover the **owls of New England** at a free presentation by Peter Cristoph at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls on Thursday, March 26 at 7 p.m. Cristoph, a well-known naturalist and award-winning photographer, presents stunning photos of owls and stories that entertain and educate. You might learn some secrets about how to photograph owls in their natural habitat!

Big Brothers Big Sisters is having a "groovy" fundraiser at two local bowling alleys on March 27 and 28. "Slide Back into the '60s"

is the theme of both of the **Bowl for Kids' Sake** events. The first one will be at the Shelburne Falls alley, then on the 28th at the Route 2 French King Bowling Center in Erving.

There will be a life-size Plinko game, '60s dance instruction, a newlywed-theme photo booth, costume contests, and more. The nonprofit organization matches youth in Franklin County with adult volunteer mentors. To register, or for more information, visit bbbs-fc.org or call the office at (413) 772-0915.

Go out **looking for birds in Turners Falls and Gill** with experienced birder Bill Lafley. He will lead tours at Barton Cove and the Power Canal, two excellent places to view migrating birds, on Saturday, March 28 between 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

The program, sponsored by the Northfield Mountain Environmental Center, begins at the Discovery Center, with carpooling to other locations. Pre-registration is required by calling (800) 859-2960.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.



Ann Tweedy sent this Greenfield Recorder photo of an epic chicken barbeque at Leverett's 200th anniversary celebration in 1974. Leverett residents, and any other interested persons, are invited to start planning for the town's 250th anniversary in 2024 at a meeting on March 22 at 3 p.m. at the Leverett library.

tion: **Stories of Homelessness**," a 2015 video project between Brattleboro artist Liz LaVorgna and filmmaker Wyatt Andrews. The stories have been updated, and LaVorgna documents how the landscape has changed for unhoused people in Brattleboro in just the past five years.

A note from Turners Falls RiverCulture announces a **Cultural District meeting** on Thursday, March 19 at the Gill-Montague Senior Center on Fifth Street. Suzanne LoManto will present a brief overview of the Cultural District program from 6 to 6:15 p.m., followed by a discussion about its structure. The last hour of the evening will be given over to a brainstorming session on potential projects the district might fund, in areas such as public art, advertising, and promotions, performances, etc.

Come share about what you would like to see happen in Turners Falls, whether it's a repeat of a previous event or something new you have thought about.

Also on the 19th: Temple Israel in Greenfield presents "**Song for**

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Week ending Mar. 6:

Grade 6
Jenna Petrowicz

Grade 7
Starrli Bell

Grade 8
Michael Boyle

Related Arts
Shayly Martin
Ovalle

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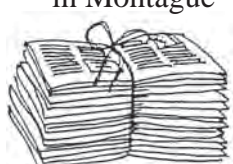
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GUEST EDITORIAL

It Was Called *Women and Life on Earth*

By ANNA GYORGY

WENDELL – Forty years ago this month, 600 women came together at UMass on the vernal equinox weekend, the start of spring 1980. The event was called *Women and Life on Earth: a conference on eco-feminism in the 1980s*. They gathered as women active in different movements – for peace, safe energy, sustainable agriculture, women’s and community health – under the newly articulated concept of ecological feminism.

Later this month, 40 years later, women will meet in this key election year to discuss action plans for 2020, recalling the earlier event and asking: How can we work together for the changes needed in the coming decade? For the health of our home communities – and of the planet?

March 28, 2020 is another anniversary: 41 years after the meltdown at the Three Mile Island reactor near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. That accident brought sudden awareness of nuclear dangers, and a rapid shift in public opinion. This was the case in Franklin County, where years of opposition to twin nuclear reactors planned for the Montague Plains suddenly made sense.

It was after the 1979 accident at Three Mile Island that 12 women activists met and decided to organize a conference together around the new term “ecofeminism.”

Back in 1980 we were concerned with more than stopping nuclear power, ecological and mil-

itary dangers. We were also deeply involved in projects for life. These included forms of sustainable agriculture, founding food co-ops, recycling and composting projects in our towns, and community solar and weatherization projects.

Out of the March 1980 Women and Life on Earth conference came the Women’s Pentagon Action, which brought 2,000 women to Washington, DC that November for a day of workshops before encircling the Pentagon in a dramatic action, demanding “No more amazing inventions for death.”

The 1980 conference had other “herstoric” spinoffs. The Women for Life on Earth movement in England established a Women’s Peace Camp at the Greenham Common airbase. There they protested for years against the stationing of nuclear cruise missiles, eventually successfully.

The cruise missiles were part of a buildup in nuclear weapons, a Cold War danger that had spread worldwide. Now the stakes are even higher. Forty years later, the nuclear threat remains real, with a massive buildup of nuclear bombs, large and small.

Both the nuclear/military danger and the climate crisis affect lower income and communities of color the most, in the US and worldwide. The income inequality that has reached obscene levels is paralleled by greenhouse climate pollution inequality. The less industrialized nations produce only a fraction of harmful greenhouse gases, yet they suffer its effects more than

wealthier countries. Oxfam reports that 10% of the world’s population creates 50% of this pollution. There are rich polluters around the world, not just here at home.

So, what to do in this new decade?

In early 2019, the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice decided to call a meeting of groups and women activists in our area to exchange goals and plans for this year, hoping for greater cooperation. We call it WLOE2020. Not all will agree on solutions or actions to take. But we will hear each other, and recognize some of the extensive work and care going on in our area.

We know that many more women are active and care about peace, ecological, racial and economic justice in our area than those who will join our 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. meeting at Greenfield Community College on Saturday, March 28. We see this gathering of some 20 groups and 100 women as a start, with reporting at www.traprock.org and elsewhere.

March is Women’s History Month, a good time to remember the history of women and their communities, as we look forward to making more.

Wendell resident Anna Gyorgy was one of the planners of the 1980 conference and Women’s Pentagon Action. She’s now part of the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice, organizing the March 28 event. She can be reached at info@wloe.org.

ZONING from page A1

change a number of Greenfield’s zoning codes in an effort to make them less restrictive, with the goal of opening up opportunities for increasing housing stock in the urban core.

More downtown density is one of the goals in the Greenfield Sustainable Master Plan of 2014. It could help preserve open space and farmland on the edges of town, while creating more walkable places to live, improving environmental sustainability and quality of life.

The proposed zoning changes have been met with both strong community support and with opposition, from Mayor Roxann Wedegartner and others, over their details and the way they were brought forward. After much feedback, Dolan and Wheeler are now offering compromise amendments for the planning board and EDC to consider.

The process began last fall, when Dolan and Wheeler asked that zoning be put on the agenda for discussion at several planning board meetings. After those discussions, and following recommendations from the Greenfield Affordable Housing Project, which was tasked with addressing the needs of people without shelter, the pair proposed a series of zoning changes in what is known as the “urban residential” zone.

These would allow three-family dwellings by right, and eliminate parking minimums outright. Minimum lot sizes would be reduced from 8,000 to 2,000 square feet, frontage from 65 to 30 feet, and open space requirements from 40% to 20% of building lots.

The original proposal would also simplify the definition of an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) to “a self-contained unit” capped at 900 square feet, allow them by right, and remove the requirement that the primary dwelling be owner-occupied.

The definition of a “family,” and related occupancy limits, would be removed from the zoning code, referring instead to health and safety codes to govern how many people may live in a dwelling.

The Neighbors Look On

In recent years, Montague went through a lengthy process of tidying up language and changing restrictions in its own zoning code. These changes, which were approved in February 2019, were not as significant as those proposed in Greenfield. As both municipalities face a demand for more housing, some reformers seek to increase neighborhood density with measures that include cutting parking requirements and making it easier for homeowners to add accessory dwellings.

In an interview this week, Montague town planner Walter Ramsey explained that his town “amended our accessory apartment bylaw to make it easier to do accessory apartments... allowing them by right in certain cases, and by allowing them to be in separate units, like outbuildings. That’s allowed for four new accessory apartments to come into town.”

Montague also made some changes to its parking regulations, including experimenting with on-street parking by permit in the winter. There has been a concern about reducing parking minimums in Greenfield, given the use of winter parking bans to make way for plowing. Cities like Boston have on-street parking; after a storm, plows clear the streets and residents shovel out their vehicles. Ramsey said he coordinated with the Montague highway department for limited trial runs of the system in specific locations.

Dolan and Wheeler “basically took what Montague did and are taking it a step further, in terms of progressive zoning changes, in order to improve affordability and density,” Ramsey said. “That wasn’t our number one priority in our zoning updates – it was mostly housekeeping over several decades – but there was a little bit of making it easier to allow for new types of housing in town. I am encouraged by what Greenfield’s doing, taking it one step further by allowing even smaller lot sizes.”

“If we had built out to our zoning code, it would not be the com-

munity that we necessarily would want,” he added. “It would be a different-looking place, particularly in residential zones. It’s the legacy of zoning that we’re dealing with.”

Wedegartner explained her view that there are “too many different things here, in one package of zoning, that really deserve their own hearing and their own review.”

The Public Weighs In

A public hearing on the Greenfield proposal, hosted jointly by its EDC and planning board, opened on February 11 and was continued to March 5.

Last week’s session drew a smaller crowd, many of whom had attended the first night.

David Singer, Greenfield resident and member of the zoning board of appeals, sent a letter expressing concern about the process leading to the proposed changes.

“I am pleased about the discussion and thoughtfulness inherent in the proposal,” Singer wrote. “I am suggesting however, that at the end of the day the zoning changes submitted be tabled. Instead, the Planning Board and Planning Department along with the City Council [should] open up the discussion in a manner that starts with our city planners and Planning Board, moves to citizen input, then goes to the Council for its role in transcribing, presenting and advocating for zoning changes that have broad support.”

“The suggestions made are perhaps appropriate for dense, urban areas but not for rural towns like Greenfield,” wrote resident Sandy Thomas. “Why would Greenfield intentionally change zoning that would decrease property values?”

Others praised the proposal. “I would also like to speak in favor of changing the bylaw against unrelated people living together,” said Greenfield resident Pia Diana Martin II at the hearing. “I would not

have been able to survive without that type of situation.”

“I think it’s incredibly unfair and, frankly, discriminatory to ban people who are unrelated to each other from living in close quarters, especially considering how hard it is to have mobility in the town if you’re low income and can’t afford a car,” Martin added. “I think we should have a certain level of disregard for people who are speaking only in terms of property values when they consider how we should structure our town.”

“I am a homeowner in Greenfield and a landscape designer and planner at Regenerative Design Group, a local firm here in town,” wrote Rachel Lindsay. “The zoning changes proposed here not only create much-needed additional flexible and affordable housing, they also exemplify the type of development that our communities should be taking in order to preserve open space and maximize carbon sequestration and other ecological services they provide.”

On the proposed change to the definition of family, and its constraint on the number of people who may live in a dwelling, John Bailey spoke up. “I’ve had experience with the whole unrelated-persons law, and all the regulations that go with that,” Bailey said. “Having to refer to ‘blood’ in the nature of your relationships to determine whether you are OK to live together is totally insane...”

“It seems to me that most of the negative comment comes from people up on Highland Ave. and that area, so it’s often a class issue about development, and where it happens. I think we are coming to a time where things need to change – faster, bigger, better, in many directions – and we have waited way too long.”

The Mayor Objects

“There is a lot of good in this,” said Mayor Roxann Wedegartner. “My problem really, at the end of the day, is with the process.”

Both in comments at the hearing and in a phone interview, Wedegartner explained her view that

see ZONING next page

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WATER from page A1

has been drilled by the engineering firm Wilcox and Barton Inc., and water from below the plume tested to evaluate Option 1.

There have been intermittent discussions with Amherst officials about a potential pipe connection to that town's water line, and an assessment of the cost has been made. An appraisal of one of the four houses, which could be taken in an eminent domain process, has been completed.

Finally, a fourth option – not on the town meeting warrant emerged at the end of last summer. This would involve installing in the homes a new treatment process called “electrochemical oxidation” being developed by a firm called Aclarity which started at UMass-Amherst.

But any goodwill that may have existed between town officials and the homeowners affected by the contamination seems to have been shattered. Selectboard meetings covered by the *Montague Reporter* have been characterized by frequent “anger over slow well progress” and accusations that the board is biased in favor of taking the houses by eminent domain. The homeowners say that the option of a connection to Amherst, voted on by town meeting, has not been seriously considered.

Two incidents at recent board

meetings show the level of contention, On March 3, chair Peter d'Errico said the engineering firm Tata & Howard produced an estimate of the cost of an Amherst connection “over what was authorized [by town meeting].”

“No, you don't have an estimate,” said resident Stephen Nagy. “We don't have a bid until we have a bid. We don't have a real number until we know what it is going to cost. You know that, Peter.”

“You counsel patience,” added his neighbor Virginia Goodale, “but in the meantime, it feels like you're plotting to take our homes.”

According to the minutes of a board meeting on November 26, the issue of assessing homes for the purpose of eminent domain arose:

“[Town administrator] Marjorie [McGinnis] had emailed [homeowner] Sue Pacheco to tell her that the town has initiated an appraisal on her house for eminent domain taking. She chose Sue because Sue stated in a meeting that she was so fed up with the water issue that she wished the town would just buy her house. [Pacheco] didn't remember it that way and proceeded with a verbal attack. Once all was calm again, Tom offered an update.”

Town officials, on the other hand, insist that no decisions have been made and no votes taken by the board on any of the options ap-

proved by town meeting. As a result – and perhaps fearing legal liability – officials interviewed for this article were hesitant to respond to questions about the town's emerging priorities.

The motion approved by town meeting provided no guidance as to how the town should weigh the three options, and the reasons for moving the Amherst connection from first to second on the list were not stated in writing. The switch may have been made to prioritize what appeared at the time to be the less expensive proposal, drilling new wells below the bedrock. But the single test well drilled by Wilcox and Barton produced contaminated water, so that option appears to be nearly off the table.

D'Errico told the town meeting that cost would be an important consideration, but certainly not the only one. The estimate offered by Tata & Howard shows the cost of a six-inch pipeline to Amherst slightly less than the town meeting appropriation. But Guilford Mooring, the director of the Amherst public works department, told the *Reporter* that an eight-inch pipeline would be needed if Leverett wishes to install a fire hydrant in the area.

Like those in Leverett, Amherst officials seemed to be hesitant to talk about the discussions between the two towns. At a meeting on January 21, d'Errico stated that Am-

herst was not interested in helping to build a pipeline across the town border. “They've got their hands full with capital projects,” he said, “and they just threw up their hands.”

Homeowner, Patricia Duffy of Citizens for Landfill Environmental Action Now! (CLEAN!), who lives in the neighborhood, said the town meeting appropriation was not approved on the assumption that Amherst would chip in. “We always knew they weren't going to pay for it,” she said.

At the January 21 meeting, McGinnis was asked to request “clarification in writing” about Amherst's stance on the connection. On Tuesday, she told the *Reporter* that she had not yet received a response.

Amherst town manager Paul Bockelman did not respond to questions from the *Reporter* as of press time. But public works superintendent Mooring said discussions with Leverett about a water connection have taken place on and off for a number of years.

“We've always said we will look at any concrete plans that come before us,” he said, noting that there is a similar water connection between Amherst and Pelham. But Mooring said he was not up to date on the discussions with Leverett, and thus could not comment as to their current status.



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ZONING from previous page

there are “too many different things here, in one package of zoning, that really deserve their own hearing and their own review.”

She recommended taking a closer look at Greenfield's large “urban residential” district, and creating more carefully defined zoning that accurately reflects the lot sizes and differing neighborhood characteristics within it. “I think there has to be a recognition and an honor to the way that Greenfield built out, and why people built the way they did.”

“The town engineer has a lot of concerns about changing the level of density in certain sections of the urban residential zone, and that is related to infrastructure,” Wedegartner added. “The water and sewer up there is old; it can barely handle the capacity of the density we have up there. Those projects are millions of dollars.”

After the close of the hearing, Dolan characterized the opposition by the mayor and others as “slow walking” the proposed changes. This, he said, is a “classic tactic to delay affordable housing.”

Wedegartner says the process for changing zoning that has been in place for years has led to positive changes. “It is the regular established process,” she said. “It was how we got solar into our zoning, and got our ADU, and a lot of things that are considered progressive zoning. And a lot of people have been part of that process.”

The mayor said she would have preferred to have held community forums for the purpose of education and discussion before the clock started on the public hearing process.

“I would remind everyone that, following planning board and EDC recommendations, this goes to full council. It requires a 3/4 majority, and failing that or failing action from council, it fails,” Wheeler said during the hearing.

“This process started five months ago, when we brought the general

ideas to the planning board, where after two months of discussion, we did start the process that we are now in. I just want to assure everyone there's room for both of your committees to revise the proposal and to come to compromises around that.”

Seeking Middle Ground

After hearing feedback from the mayor and Eric Twarog, Greenfield's director of planning and development, Dolan and Wheeler are offering amendments to their original proposal as a compromise. Dolan has posted them online at timdolan.net.

For instance, where the original proposal recommends changing 8000-square-foot lot requirements to 2,000 square feet, the amendments would make a more moderate change to 4,000. Likewise, instead of eliminating parking minimums, the amendments suggest reducing them by roughly half.

“At every point we have solicited input, and we continue to solicit input,” Wheeler said. “[These] are draft revisions, released in the spirit of transparency. It will be the responsibility of the planning board and the [EDC] to make a motion,” he said, to amend the proposals as they stand.

“As long as we are proposing changes to a lesser extent, it is not necessary to restart the public hearing process,” argued Dolan.

Across the river, Walter Ramsey says he sees Greenfield's proposed changes as a positive evolution, and is watching how they move forward.

“So many people live in one community, work in the other – we really share the same labor market and commuted, and housing market for sure,” Ramsey said.

“We're both kind of working on similar goals. And I'm proud of them for taking it one step further with the zoning changes that they're proposing.... It's just good that we've had a little collaboration and cross-pollination of ideas.”

VIRUS from page A1

individuals at this time,” White says. “When there's more ability to test, there will be more information on the actual levels of infection.”

“Knock on wood; at this point we don't have any [positive cases],” reports Montague public health director Daniel Wasiuk on his town's current status. Wasiuk, who has been communicating with fellow board members on a daily basis as of late, says they are taking it “one day at a time.”

“We're monitoring [COVID-19] through our disease surveillance system, MAVEN,” he says. “If there is a positive case, we will be notified. That's when the board of health has a legal responsibility to isolate or quarantine.”

According to a Wednesday NECN report, at least 22 undergraduate institutions in New England – 14 of which are in Massachusetts – have decided to either close or move classes online in response to the rapid proliferation of COVID-19. This list includes the nearby Amherst College and UMass-Amherst.

Gill-Montague Schools

At Tuesday night's Gill-Montague school committee meeting, district superintendent Michael Sullivan reported that his administration is staying abreast of developments in the pandemic.

“There's a lot of good communication going on within the education world, and the healthcare world, within Massachusetts,” he said. “I'm talking with the local boards of health.... It's very data-driven and level-headed.”

Facilities manager Heath Cummings, Sullivan said, was being proactive about cleaning surfaces in the schools, including doorknobs and railings. Special sanitizer will be provided for shared computer stations, including ultraviolet wands.

In Wellesley, students were dismissed after a half day for a special cleaning of the schools, but no public elementary or secondary schools had yet been shut down. (On Wednesday, two schools in Wayland were shut down for a similar cleaning, and Hopkinton closed its schools indefinitely on the news that two patients in town had tested positive for the virus. Additional closures were announced in Lynnfield, Arlington, Plainville, Chelsea, Framingham, Milford, Weston, Winchendon, Somerville, and Boston at press time.)

Technology teacher Katie Hopp, Sullivan reported, is currently surveying students to see how many have internet access that could allow them to work from home in the case of school cancellation.

“If they said ‘you're sending your kids home for 14 days,’ could we talk about doing ‘blizzard bag’ kind of teaching?” Sullivan asked.

Erving representative Theresa Kolodziej asked whether the school committee could meet remotely during a quarantine, given the requirements of the state open meeting law. The law states that a quorum must

first be present together in public before remote participation is authorized by additional members.

“We'd have to have the crowds stay home,” said Montague member Michael Langknecht.

Montague member Damkoehler pointed out that many families depend on school lunches. “There are a lot of families that are relying on the schools,” she said. “If you think about how much kids eat, and think about adding two meals a day to the grocery bill for two weeks – sadly, that could break a family.”

Sullivan said the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has reassured districts that if classes are canceled to comply with a quarantine, the school year will not be extended into the summer – in Gill-Montague's case, past June 18. Still, he said, compensatory services such as speech therapy that the district is required to provide would have to be made up, perhaps in summer school.

Information Pandemic

Erving board of health clerk Betsy Sicard told the *Reporter* Tuesday that there would be a district meeting on Wednesday night attended by health officials from Erving, Northfield, and Leverett to discuss COVID-19. With emails coming in from schools asking what to do about field trips and meetings, Sicard says there is an urgency to “get something concrete to tell the public.”

Greenfield mayor Roxann Wedegartner addressed the outbreak in a letter to Greenfield residents on March 6 outlining guidelines for how people can mitigate spread of the virus, including frequent hand washing, staying home when sick and avoiding touching the face.

Wedegartner met with the city's fire chief, health director, superintendent of schools, and other department heads to address the city's preparedness for a local outbreak. “The City is monitoring the situation and will keep the public informed,” she writes.

Montague health director Wasiuk says that his town's board of health has been working in accordance with the state Department of Health and CDC guidelines to “educate and do public outreach.” Still, mitigation is largely up to the individual. Along with general hygiene and social distancing, Wasiuk says that limiting non-essential travel is highly important.

But with several independent schools in the region on spring break, and Massachusetts public schools anticipating a week-long vacation in April, travel may be difficult to limit.

“That could be a precarious situation, depending on where they're traveling to,” says Wasiuk of hopeful spring vacationers. “It's hard,” he adds. “They need to see the beach – we all do.”

For more information on the coronavirus response in our local towns, see frcog.org/covid-19-resources. More general advice can be found at www.flattenthecurve.com.

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CANDIDATES from page A1

offer to the town in that position.”

“All my life I have lived in a family involved in public service, in one way or another,” Budine, who grew up in the town, wrote in a public announcement of her decision. “I feel it is important to try to contribute when one is able to commit the time and energy.”

Dan Keller, who is up for re-election for his three-year seat, is so far running unopposed. This Saturday, March 14 is the last day to pick up papers at the town clerk’s office, and Monday, March 16 is the last day to turn them in with signatures.

Town clerk Gretchen Smith did not reply by press time to a query about other open seats in Wendell.

Erving and Gill

Across the Millers River in Erving, only incumbent William Bembury has turned in papers for the selectboard, and Erik Semb and

Brian Guerin seem to be running unopposed for their seats on the school committee.

Bembury did not respond to a request for comment as of press time.

Town clerk Dick Newton said that nomination papers must be turned in by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, and can be picked up anytime before then. Twenty Erving voters’ signatures are needed to get a candidate on the ballot.

Crossing the Connecticut to Gill, we find a similar situation. Greg Snedeker is running unopposed to stay on the selectboard, and Bill Tomb to keep one of Gill’s three seats on the Gill-Montague school committee.

“Although I feel I still have many things to learn, I am using what I’ve learned in the past six years on the board to better serve the Town and will continue to do so if elected,” Snedeker said, touting his roles on the six-town school regional planning board, capital improvement

planning committee, and broadband buildout project, and as liaison to the fire department as areas in which he has “enjoyed representing and helping the town.”

According to town clerk Doreen Stevens, nomination papers must be turned in by Thursday, March 26. “I have no races, as of yet,” she reported.

Tomb, who was voted onto the committee in the middle of a term after Shawn Hubert quit early, had a simple explanation as to why he wishes to stay on. “I enjoy it,” he said. “I support public education, one hundred percent.” Tomb served three terms on the committee in the 1980s, and says he re-joined because he has “more time” for the activity again.

Nomination papers for the school district are available at the central office on Crocker Street in Turners Falls. According to administrative assistant Sabrina Blanchard, the last

chance to take papers out is by the end of the work day on March 26, and they must be returned by 4 p.m. on Monday, March 30.

Montague

Two of Montague’s six seats on the school committee are up for re-election each year, and as chance would have it, neither of this year’s incumbents, Thomasina Hall and Cassie Damkoehler, plan to run again.

“Serving on the GMRSD SC has been one of the most interesting things I’ve done,” said Hall, who like Tomb joined for a partial term after April Reipold resigned last year. “It can be difficult at times due to all the moving parts you are responsible for, and the multitude of people you serve in the community – students and families, staff, and more.”

Hall cited time pressures as her reason for deciding not to run again. She is finishing a master’s degree in education, teaching math and science full-time in the Holyoke public schools, and helping raise two sons, who attend Franklin County Technical School.

“While my time serving has been brief, I do feel like I accomplished a lot in the way of advocating for families and staff,” Hall told the *Reporter*. “I feel that I was able to shine a light on some of the weaknesses in our leadership, and motivate some real change.”

Damkoehler did not respond to a request for comment as of press time.

“No one has pulled papers for the two open seats for Montague,” Blanchard reported on Tuesday.

“I think it’s a worthwhile endeavor to be engaged in,” Bill Tomb said when asked if he had advice for Montague residents considering putting their names on the ballot. “It does take a little bit of time, but it’s certainly workable, and it’s a good community service – to try to represent different points of view if those happen to come into play. Since I’ve been on, in the last year and a half, it seems to be a pretty congenial group.”

As for Montague’s own town government, town clerk Deb Bourbeau said only three people had taken out nomination papers as of Wednesday morning: Sherry Roffi and incumbent David Harmon, running for two of three open library trustee positions, and Susan Honeycutt, for the Montague Housing Authority.

Bourbeau said she predicted incumbents Paula Girard of the Housing Authority and Michael Nelson of the town selectboard would get their names on the spring ballot via the Montague Democratic Caucus. Montague’s Democrats, who will meet at the town hall at 6:30 p.m. next Wednesday, March 18, can place their caucus picks directly on the ballot, circumventing the public nomination process.

“I always highly recommend that if they have opposition, they take out nomination papers through the town as a backup, just in case they lose the caucus,” warned Bourbeau.

Nelson will be running for his third full term on the selectboard, though he was elected a year before that when Pat Allen resigned early in 2013.

“I am excited to be running for Selectboard again to continue working with our exceptional town hall staff,” Nelson told the *Reporter*. “Our town has made incredible physical, economical, and fiscal strides in recent years, and it’s a pleasure being a part of the team

building our community.”

The easiest entry into town government in Montague is its representative town meeting: 126 residents, 21 from each of six precincts, who together have the final say over the town’s budget and bylaws. Like selectboard and school committee members, town meeting members serve three-year terms, though in practice Bourbeau finds herself canvassing to fill seats when members move or otherwise opt out.

“Precinct 2 has a ton of openings – they have seven,” she said on Wednesday. There are currently more open seats than candidates running in all six precincts.

The last day to take out nomination papers at town hall is Thursday, March 26, and they must be returned by 5 p.m. on Monday, March 30.

Bourbeau explained that the number of signatures required to run for townwide office, currently 37, is calculated according to state law as 1% of the previous state election’s voter turnout. Montague saw unusually high turnout in May 2018, perhaps owing to a non-binding referendum question on the ballot pertaining to the high school athletic logo, and so now more signatures must be collected by nominees than before.

Candidates for town meeting only need to collect 10 signatures, but they must all be from residents of their own precincts.

“Believe it or not, I get to know people’s signatures,” Bourbeau said. “I go by the addresses first, but it rings a bell. And we have your signature on file, so I can always look it up.”

She added that after the 2020 Census results come out, when towns are able to redraw their districts, she plans to advocate for Montague to be split up into three districts rather than six.

Leverett

Absolutely nobody is taking out nomination papers for town office in Leverett, but that’s normal: it is the last remaining Massachusetts town to nominate and elect candidates directly from the floor of town meeting each spring. This year’s annual town meeting starts at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 2.

Town clerk Lisa Stratford recently sent out a newsletter to residents noting whether incumbents for various offices intended to remain in their positions.

Selectboard member Tom Hankinson’s seat is up for renewal this year, and he says he intends to run again. Hankinson was originally elected in 2015 to fill Rich Brazeau’s chair after he stepped down midterm, and reelected unopposed in 2017.

“I have enjoyed working for the town as a member of the Select Board,” Hankinson wrote, citing among his accomplishments his “lead role” in sprinkler system repairs at Leverett Elementary School, technical support around the drinking water crisis on Teawaddle Hill (*see article, page A1*), and his liaison role with several committees and departments.

“Many challenges lie ahead,” he added, “including ongoing budget management in light of Proposition 2½, and, deeper exploration into town revenue opportunities to offset personal property taxes.”

As of this week, it appears that there will also be one or two openings on the Leverett school committee, one or two on the board of assessors, and one on the board of health.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Cannabis Moratorium Would, In Fact, Affect Proposed West Street Grow

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Two groups met the Wendell selectboard at its March 4 meeting, taking most of that meeting’s time. But first, as the meeting opened, former highway commissioner Harry Williston presented the plan that he and former selectboard member Ted Lewis developed for overhauling the veterans’ memorial on Wendell’s north common.

Their plan calls for removing the stones and weeds that are there now, excavating and backfilling and leveling with sand, then topping with paving stones, for whose color he and selectboard members chose brick red. It would be maintenance free. Williston said the common committee approved of the design, and said the estimate for the complete job, with a contractor doing all the work, is \$6,000.

Selectboard member Christine Heard asked where the money would come from, and suggested that Williston talk with the finance committee. Fin com member Al McIntire was in the room, and said he heard.

Lucas Thayer of Appleguy Flowers, LLC and others met the board next to clarify their position with the town, and their intentions for growing marijuana at a West Street property. The company representatives spoke to the selectboard at their February 19 meeting, and I incorrectly reported here that their application to grow in town preceded any moratorium that the town might impose, because the application preceded any moratorium discussion or official action.

If Appleguy Flowers’ first step had been a public hearing with the planning board, that would have been true. But the planning board held a hearing on March 2 and decided to ask for a temporary moratorium at the annual town meeting, to give the town time to create new regulations. If it passes a town meeting vote, it will impact the Appleguy Flowers application.

Thayer described Appleguy’s proposed site, on the east side of West Street, as “like a staircase.” The growing area would be on the second step down, less visible

from the road, and over 100 feet from any wetland. The property has a barn on its north side, and lower down an outhouse and well. On the south side there is a small “hobbit-like” house.

In answer to a question from Heard about lighting, Thayer said the plants require day length to be getting shorter in order to flower (and it is flowers that provide resin), which makes lighting counter-productive. The state requires security cameras, but those can be infrared-sensitive. Security lights can be motion-sensitive and infrared.

At the February 19 meeting, Thayer had said he hoped to expand because the market is far from saturated, but on March 4 he said that any expansion would be at another site. He is required to sell at least 85% of his product, but he said he is not hoping to become a “ganja millionaire.”

Virus Spreads

Board of health chair Barbara Craddock, police chief Ed Chase, fire chief Joe Cuneo, health agent Elizabeth “Wibby” Swedberg, citizen Judy Diemand, and FRCOG regional preparedness program manager Tracy Rogers came to speak to the Wendell government of possible complications if coronavirus spreads to Wendell and surrounding towns.

Selectboard chair Dan Keller began by saying there is already some concern in town. The disease has probably spread ahead of its detection, because its symptoms are similar to flu symptoms: fever, cough, runny nose, and shortness of breath. Tests for the virus have yet to be approved by the FDA, and details about the virus’ survival outside the body are still unknown.

Craddock said the federal government cut support of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), so understanding this new virus and developing an effective nationwide response will be slowed. As of the meeting, no Massachusetts case had been confirmed outside Norfolk County.

Cuneo said masks are not useful, and that a mask that is damp and warm from breathing is likely a good environment for the virus’

survival. Health responders, like the fire department, already need to take precautions during a response. So far the risk here is low.

Craddock said normal precautions should be emphasized: frequent hand washing, not touching your face, and sneezing into a tissue and throwing it away.

Wibby mentioned the possibility of a self-quarantining person needing a 14-day supply of basics, and of runs on supermarkets. A volunteer could deliver necessities to a quarantined person’s driveway.

McIntire said that quarantines and shutdown of industries in China appear in satellite photographs as a decrease in pollution.

Other Business

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said that Mass Audubon is again offering Wendell teens age 11 to 14 two camperships: one for the week of June 21 to 26, and one for August 9 to 14. Each camper’s family will be responsible for only \$50 of the normal cost.

Interested campers should submit essays on “the importance of nature” by April 14, and the selectboard will pick winners at their April 15 meeting.

Dollars for Wendell Scholars got permission for a place in the next newsletter. Heard said that article should advertise available scholarships.

Town facilities manager Ted Lewis has turned in his keys. Heard said he could be called if someone needs information on the history of town actions or buildings.

Board members listed projects for upcoming town building maintenance. Keller started with insulation of the town hall floor, and mold treatment with concrobium. Paint on the office exterior wall outside the front entrance is peeling from splashes off the roof.

Heard said the town hall needs paint, inside and out, and the curtains hang poorly and need washing or even replacement. Glycol in the office building and heating systems need to be replaced, but not both at once.

It is time to review and release, as appropriate, minutes of past executive sessions.

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MONTAGUE from page A1

Little was the right candidate to present to the selectboard... The things on her resume that we wanted to share were her academic and professional preparation, [and] the direct connection between her courses of study, at both the bachelor's and master's level, with the job."

Little said she had specialized in microbiology as an undergraduate, "which is why I love wastewater treatment – because it's really about the bugs and keeping them happy, because they're the ones that are cleaning their water for you." She said that her master's degree was in public health, and her interest was in "environmental public health."

She told the *Reporter* in an interview that she got involved in the wastewater treatment field by working at the Greenfield treatment plant, and then directing the Northfield plant.

Little also told the selectboard that as a Montague resident, she has "a vested interest in the facility being run efficiently. I also pay a sewer rate, so I can appreciate how the residents feel about their sewer rates."

Finding a new superintendent has been a long haul for both the search committee and the town. Former superintendent Bob McDonald quit abruptly last September, and was replaced by a leadership team that included Boissonnault and Trombley. In December the search committee chose Eric Meals, the Hatfield superintendent, who accepted the post but then abruptly withdrew from the position less than a month later to stay in Hatfield.

Leadership instability at the plant has coincided with serious challenges over the past several years for the system itself. The state-ordered suspension of the non-traditional "Montague Process," which had generated revenue for the department by processing "solids" from other towns, combined with the closing of the Southworth paper mill in 2017 resulted in large sewer rate increases.

The WPCF has also had to deal with a crisis of the Millers Falls sewer system, which has inundated the Erving plant where the village's sewage is treated with massive infiltration and inflow during rain and wet winter weather. A costly repair project may not have sufficiently reduced the infiltration.

Asked if she was familiar with the recent history of the plant, and that she would be "a little on the hot seat," Little said she was aware of the department's issues. "I think the place needs some stability," she said. "I'm excited by the challenge."

The board voted to accept the search committee's recommendation, and directed Ellis and chair Rich Kuklewicz to negotiate the "particulars of the contract" with Little.

Alcohol Supply

The selectboard voted to transfer the all-liquor license held by the Montague Center Village Store from the Ling Ling Corp., owned by Dennis Lynch, to Slow Village Ahead, Inc., owned by Dennis' daughter Kathy Lynch.

In response to a question from Kuklewicz, the elder Lynch said he had been running the store since 1984. "So I guess its time for you to take a little break," said Kuklewicz.

"I think it's great that it's going to be kept in the family," Nelson added.

Dennis Lynch said a store had been at the current location since 1788, and that "there have been only four owners" in that time. The board approved the transfer.

The board approved a request by Tamara and Bill McKerchie of the Upper Bend Café in Turners Falls for a "Common Victuallers License" to serve food, and another request to place tables and chairs on the sidewalk in front of the café.

The board waived the fee for the tables. "I hate that fee," explained Nelson.

Ellis noted that the table placement would allow for the sidewalk clearance required under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

While at the front table, the McKerchie's asked that the board place an article on the May annual town meeting warrant to request an additional all-liquor license from the state for their business. Bill McKerchie said the owners were not "looking to turn the Upper Bend into a bar, and not looking to extend its hours." The board voted to place the license request on the town meeting agenda.

Later in the meeting, there was a broader discussion of a potential town meeting article to request that the state legislature expand the

town's quota of licenses, in order to better serve establishments in the downtown business district. Speaking in support of the idea, Ellis described the growth of restaurants and other entertainment businesses in the district.

"I have always believed that we should have at least one license in hand to allow an exciting development to happen," he said, adding that the long wait for a new license "could discourage a would-be entrepreneur." Ellis also recommended that the town develop policies for the "proper use" of these licenses.

The board reviewed the status of the town's current licenses, including a recent additional license granted by the legislature. Kuklewicz advocated for a "more comprehensive plan." "I worry about more liquor licenses, quite frankly," he said, "because I come from a time when they were abused."

"They were on every corner," said member Chris Boutwell.

Kuklewicz agreed that there were now many more "responsible" businesses that could benefit from liquor licenses. "I would just like to see a more cohesive plan," he said.

Ellis said it was his impression that it had become "fairly routine" for towns to ask for additional licenses, and that the state was granting them. "As local economies have been transformed it's become much more routine," he said.

The board did not take a vote on the issue, but directed Ellis to draft a more detailed proposal, including a number of additional licenses, to put before town meeting in the spring.

Other Business

Town planner Walter Ramsey came before the board with a variety of requests, including approval of the latest grant award for a set of projects funded under the state "Complete Streets" grant. The board voted to award the job to HM Nunes and Sons Construction of Ludlow for a total of \$326,833.

The project had been rebid due to the fact that earlier bids had come in above the grant amount. The new amount will require some state Chapter 90 funding. Ramsey said the projects, including the Montague Center sidewalk repair, will hopefully begin this April and be completed during the summer.

The board approved a \$9,235 contract for the restoration of the statue in Spinner Park to the local firm Carriage House Designs.

At Ramsey's request, the board also approved an Agriculture Preservation Restriction for a farm near Old Greenfield and Ferry Road. Under the restriction, the state pays farmers who agree to keep their properties free of residential or commercial development the difference between the fair market and agricultural value of the farm.

There was a lengthy update on a variety of potential projects in the "Canal District" between the power canal and Connecticut River.

Ellis told the board he had "exciting news" about a \$32,900 winning bid for the Unity Park Fieldhouse roof restoration, nearly \$50,000 below the projected cost.

"I'll make that motion before they change their mind," said Nelson. The board approved it, and issued a "notice to proceed" with the project. Ellis expressed optimism that the project would not "drag out" into the summer.

The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be held on March 16.

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**LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK**

Here's the way it was March 11, 2010: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

G-M Schools: L is for Level Funding – and Layoffs

Level funding the Gill-Montague Regional School budget will mean laying off four teachers, 11 paraprofessionals, one custodian, an administrative assistant, and the school resource officer.

That's what superintendent Carl Ladd recommended to the school committee on Tuesday.

According to Ladd, it would cost the district \$797,070 more than last year for the district to provide the same educational services. To get to a level funded budget of \$16,537,788, the district would have to cut by this amount.

The school budget planning process is being turned on its head, said school committee chair Michael Langknecht. He said school principals used to submit budget requests first, and then the district budget was built to meet the program needs of the schools. Now, he said, administrators must plan their programming according to an already established budget number.

Parties Work to Pare Erving School Budget

"We can't print money," said selectboard chair Andy Tessier, at the beginning of Monday's budget negotiation with the school committee. "Only Obama can print money. How are we going to solve this problem?"

The selectboard had asked all town departments to bring in level funded budgets this year, in consideration of expected cuts in state aid, and all town departments did so, except the school committee.

Originally, the school committee brought back a request for about \$50,000 more than last year's \$2.95 million number for the elementary and secondary school budgets, and the selectboard worked to accommodate that request.

But due to increases in students tuitioning to upper grades at Gill-Montague, the school committee upped that number to about \$200,000 above level funding, throwing the process into disarray.

The school committee came to the table Monday with cuts of \$39,000, still far short of what the selectboard sought.

School committee member Scott Bastarache proposed the town use funds designated for the senior center to make up the difference.

"This will create a greater prob-

lem down the road," said Tessier, as well as creating the appearance of "seniors vs. students" in town.

The suggestion was rejected.

Wendell Will Consider Conservation Development Bylaw

The Wendell planning board will hold two public meetings next month on proposed changes to the town's zoning bylaws which together would "encourage a new form of development that maintains a working landscape, a viable wildlife corridor connecting the Quabbin Watershed through Wendell to the Connecticut River, and encourages ecologically responsible residential development."

The meetings, which will take place Tuesday, April 6 and Thursday, April 8 at the town hall, will allow the planning board to hold a dialogue with the public about the proposed bylaw changes, said planning board chair Deirdre Cabral.

Cabral said the proposed bylaw changes are innovative, and may be groundbreaking in the Commonwealth.

One bylaw change would regulate "how often building permits can be allowed for lots subdivided from a larger parcel. The rate at which permits could be issued would be once every seven years for such lots, thus slowing the roadside suburban sprawl typical of development in Wendell for the last 40 years.

"Landowners who want to develop lots more frequently can use the second bylaw, conservation development, with lots that don't require three acres or 200 feet of frontage, but also have protected land. Both development options would be considered 'by-right' in the revised zoning bylaws."

Turners Falls Airport Will Reduce Budget by 15%

The Turners Falls airport commission will be bringing in a budget with a "15% or greater decrease from this year's budget," said chair Peter Golrick, at the commission's regular meeting on Monday night.

Golrick said the commission would present a \$36,540 operating budget for FY'11, down from \$45,263 this year.

He said the savings would come in large part from the lower salary being paid to newly hired part-time airport manager Michael Longo, who replaced Michael Sweeney, who had served in that capacity for six years, and had moved up the pay scale during that time. Sweeney resigned last September.



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

The Upper Bend Café has requested an all-liquor license.

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GMRSD from page A1

Rickson will tour the district Monday the 16th, Beck on Wednesday the 18th, and Ferrandino on Thursday the 19th, a half-day. All three will be interviewed publicly by the school committee on the evening of Monday the 23rd, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Novick asked committee members to provide a list of categories for the identical questions all three candidates will be asked during the interviews – these ranged from “budget experience” to “community engagement” and “declining enrollment and population” – and chair Jane Oakes signed up teams to visit the candidates’ own districts from March 16 to 20. Members were warned not to discuss the candidates when they carpool to the host districts.

The school committee will then dedicate its next regular meeting on March 24 to deliberating among the candidates, with the intention to give one an offer after that meeting.

Novick shared that Ms. Rickson was also under consideration by the Mahar Regional district, which is also seeking a new superintendent.

Sullivan announced last fall that he would be moving on after the current school year, his seventh in the district.

Budget Goes to Towns

The committee approved a \$21,510,639 general funds budget for FY’21, a 5.4% rise over FY’20. To balance the budget, \$150,000 will be drawn from the “excess and deficiency” fund, the school district’s equivalent of a free cash account. The budget must be approved by both towns at town meeting this spring.

Since last month, Montague’s affordable assessment rose by \$57,342, causing Gill’s to rise by a corresponding \$8,297. The ad-

ditional revenue will be allocated toward a \$48,000 tractor for the district, with the remaining \$17,649 going toward the hire of a paraprofessional in the Turners Falls High School therapeutic program during the current school year.

Business manager Joanne Blier said the purchase of the tractor, originally included on the list of capital improvement requests of the towns, was decided “because it was looking like it was something they weren’t going to fund.”

The budget passed unanimously, 8-0. Montague member Thomi Hall was absent.

Innovation Pathways

Middle and high school principal Joanne Menard reported on progress toward the schools’ improvement plan.

Menard shared data about disciplinary action, broken down by gender and race. 52 suspensions have been meted out at the middle school, and 17 at the high school; of the 69, 42 were male and 27 female; 45 white, 12 Hispanic, and three African-American students.

Menard offered some explanation as to why suspensions were down from recent years. She cited a more cohesive administrative team that gives students clear expectations; improving relations between students and teachers; and restorative meeting practices after anti-social behavior.

She also announced that the school had been selected by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) for an Innovations Pathway designation.

“The commissioner’s been very busy with the coronavirus, and I don’t know if he’s signed the papers,” Sullivan cautioned. “We’ve been told we’re going to get it.”

In the fall, the high school will assign five 9th-graders to the first

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year of the program, which focuses on preparing them for jobs in “healthcare and social assistance.” Gill-Montague will be partnering with the MassHire Franklin-Hampshire Workforce Board and Community Action Pioneer Valley on the project.

To continue to qualify, the schools must run a number of AP classes, several of which student representative Kaitlyn Miner observed were not currently offered at the school. During their senior year, Innovations Pathway students will be transported in school vans to fulfill 100-hour internships at area workplaces. Upon completion, their diplomas will bear a special designation.

Montague member Cassie Dam-

koehler praised the new principal for her “hard work,” noting that she was frequently seen at sports games and other community events. Other members echoed her praise.

Other Business

Sullivan reported to the school committee that the administration is staying abreast of developments in the COVID-19 pandemic. A general discussion was held about contingency planning in the case of a potential quarantine order. (See article, page A1.)

The committee unanimously approved a school trip for the Gill Elementary 6th grade, from April 27 to May 1, to a program called “Outdoor Classroom” at Camp Cody in Freedom, New Hampshire, a three-

mile drive to the north.

Gill math teacher Dave Grout spoke about the trip, which replaces what had traditionally been a trip to a different Nature’s Classroom program in Sargent, New Hampshire, but is run by former staff of that site at a lower cost.

Student representative Kaitlyn Miner reported in detail on a student council conference in Hyanis, and announced that the senior class is selling Krispy Kreme donuts to fund a class trip. The donuts, she said, are available until March 25, and prospective customers should contact a senior.

The school committee’s next two meetings are scheduled for March 24 and 31 at Turners Falls High School.




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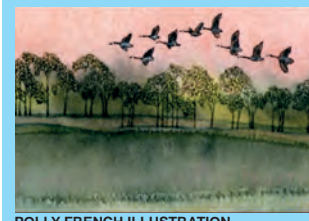
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WEST ALONG THE RIVER
WAYWARD
MARCH WINDS

POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

*Sometimes I go about in pity for myself,
And all the while
A great wind is bearing me
across the sky.*

– Ojibwa saying

By DAVID BRULE

MILLERS FALLS – March 6. A raw March morning, noisy with bird song in spite of the freezing temperatures. The song sparrows insist on welcoming spring, the increasing daylight encouraging the hopeful and cheery males to sing more and more convincingly to an invisible female.

High overhead, clouds are wispy mares’ tails trailing across the sky, while down here in the garden the dried-out flower stalks of last year’s bee balm still stand tall, having weathered the mild winter.

White pines tower as they are meant to do, 90 feet up over yonder at the edge of the river, forming a green island rising above the lower story of winterberry and alder. In summer a soft carpet of pine needles is warm and springy under bare feet. But this season in March, the needle bed is pocked with little divots dug nicely by the early spring skunk tip-toeing about in his black silk-slipped feet, looking for supper. His scent will linger on the morning air.

English sparrows have already claimed the yellow and blue birdhouse at the edge of the kitchen vegetable plot. They’ve begun filling their home with every manner of junk; their cockney tastes are unexplainable to the casual observer. Their nests are an untidy mess for those of us who are familiar with the neat cup-shaped creations covered with moss and lichens by our native woodland birds.

String, rags, discarded feathers – preferably soiled white ones – and other odds and ends, along with weed grasses, all serve as a comfy home for this rag-picker imported here through no fault of its own. They were brought into the country in the 1800s to do what they do in

England: to break up dropped horse muffins on New York City streets in their pursuit of the undigested oats that passed through the horse.

March 7. I should have known something different was up when I saw the clouds scudding across the sky in a completely different direction from the previous day. No wispy mares’ tails out of the southwest this time, but heavy smoky clouds blowing in from the northeast.

During the night, the winds had come up, rattling down the chimney to where I had pulled up my bed closer to the hearth fire. The wind’s insistent voice was trying to wake both sleeping man and dog. We stirred without really rising from our sleep. The family is away in Brittany for the winter, for who knows how long, maybe trapped for awhile by this latest plague on our doorstep. Abandoning the distant upstairs rooms for the season, I’ve set up my winter quarters once more in the sunroom to be nearer to the fireplace and dog companion.

Instead of counting sheep while trying to settle back into a fitful sleep disturbed by the roaring wind, I found myself counting restless snippets from wind stories, songs, and poems. Remembered phrases were randomly popping up as thoughts can do when you’re trying to find a way to fall back to sleep in spite of the noise outside your windows. Along came Robert Frost, Bob Dylan, Dylan Thomas, “An ill wind that...,” etc., Pete Seeger... You get the restless picture.

One that came to me was a remembrance of Tomás O’Crohan recounting a windy day on the Blasket Islands off the Kerry coast. With St. Patrick’s Day just around the corner, I favored his story as worthy of the season.

I made it a point, before falling back to sleep, that over coffee in the morning I would read that ephemeral description of a windy day in an extinct village on the Great Blasket.

see WEST ALONG page B3



A woodcut illustrating Olaus Magnus’s 1555 “History of the Nordic Peoples.”

Agriculture, Art, and History Connect at the Discovery Center

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS – Four artist studios are set up inside the Great Hall at the Great Falls Discovery Center for the “Corn, Cranberries, Tobacco and Art” exhibit, including one where visitors are invited to make their own art. Presented by the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association and whipped into shape by exhibit magician Sheila Damkoehler, the other three delightful “imaginary studios” are dedicated to the artists of the Fuller family of Deerfield, highlighting their connections to the land, to agriculture, and to the arts.

The family members represented in the show span three generations, but the Fuller artistic line goes back two generations before and after these three artists as well, even extending into the present day.

I took a tour and talked with Sheila Damkoehler, the outreach coordinator for the PVMA and Memorial Hall Museum in Deerfield, as she prepared the exhibits. Damkoehler is also a seasonal interpreter at the Discovery Center, and created the “On a Roll” display there which gives an overview of the history of papermaking in Turners Falls. She has helped design and install several shows at the Center, many of them traveling exhibits, and she always aims to include interactive components that will engage people.

Coming into the Hall, it was wonderful to see the expanse of floor broken up by portable walls made by attaching two hollow core doors at right angles – these lightweight surfaces are used by Damkoehler to define the studio spaces, and to display images and related text. The use of these walls helps smaller works hold their ground against the surrounding walls of the hall, since you wend your way around and into these studio



ROSSI PHOTO

Sheila Damkoehler put together an exhibit showing imaginary studios of Deerfield’s artistic Fuller family at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls. Here is George Fuller’s painting studio.

spaces before seeing them.

Included in the hall are George Fuller’s painting studio, Arthur Negus Fuller’s printmaking studio, Elizabeth Brooks Fuller’s en plein air studio, and a studio belonging to you – the visitor! When I met Damkoehler, she was replacing signage with new versions that she see DISCOVERY page B2

THE AUTHORS’ CORNER: AN ADAPTATION

By IZZY VACHULA-CURTIS

TURNERS FALLS – Happy March! I recently read *Somewhere Only We Know* by Maureen Goo, and I absolutely loved it. *Somewhere Only We Know* is based on the movie 1953 *Roman Holiday* starring Audrey Hepburn. Today I’m going to be reviewing both *Somewhere Only We Know* and the movie *Roman Holiday*, and comparing them. Enjoy!

Somewhere Only We Know is about a K-pop (Korean pop) star named Lucky. Since Lucky was little she dreamed of being a pop star, and made her dream come true by becoming the most famous K-pop star in Asia.

When Lucky first started performing, she adored it. She got to interact with her fans, and got super excited before each concert. Now, Lucky is having mixed feelings about her career. She doesn’t find the same joy she did when she first started performing. Her management and security is overprotective, she is on a strict diet, she doesn’t enjoy her costume, etc.

So, after Lucky performs her most famous song, “Heartbeat” in Hong Kong on her tour, she takes her anti-anxiety meds and then ventures out of her hotel room in search of a hamburger, which she rarely gets to eat because of her diet.

On Lucky’s way to get her hamburger, she crosses paths with a boy named Jack Lim, an aspiring photographer who is trying to get pictures for a tabloid. At first, Jack just thinks she is a regular girl and doesn’t realize she is famous, which makes her happy because she wants to escape from being herself for a while. This leads to an eventful day, full of boat and ferry rides, sunsets, cafes and restaurants, shopping, and more.

I loved this book so much! It reminded me of *The Sun is Also a Star* by Nicole Yoon, because the charac-

ters spend a day together, and potentially fall in love at the end. The ending was also super cute, so I really hope Maureen Goo writes a sequel!

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys love stories, or books like *To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before*, *A Match Made in Mehendi*, or *The Sun is Also a Star*.

There is an article on the Book Riot website titled “20 Best Asian American YA Books To Read In 2020.” I was excited that it includes *Somewhere Only We Know*, *A Match Made in Mehendi* and *To All the Boys I’ve Loved* see AUTHORS page B5



PHOTO COURTESY IZZY V/C

Our correspondent with this week’s book... and a poster of the movie that inspired it!

Pet of the Week



IMAGE COURTESY DAKIN HUMANE SOCIETY

“CLOVER”

This is Clover, an 11-month old female domestic shorthair housecat currently hanging out at the Dakin Humane Society shelter in Leverett.

The cat is a small carnivorous mammal. It is the only domesticated species in the family *Felidae*, and often referred to as the “domes-

tic cat” to distinguish it from wild members of the family. Cats can rotate their ears 180 degrees. Most cats have no eyelashes.

Anyway, want Clover to live at your house? Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.

Senior Center Activities

MARCH 16 THROUGH 20

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted.

Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call 863-9357. Messages can be left on machine when the center is not open.

M, W, F: 10 a.m. Aerobics

10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

T, W, Th: 12 p.m. Lunch

Monday 3/16

8 a.m. Foot Clinic by appointment

12 p.m. Pot Luck and a Movie

Tuesday 3/17

10:15 a.m. NO Chair Yoga

1:30 p.m. A Matter of Balance

Wednesday 3/18

9 to 11 a.m. Veterans' Agent

12:30 p.m. Bingo

1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Mobile Food

Pantry Pickup

Thursday 3/19

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10:15 a.m. NO Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Cards & Games & Pitch

4 p.m. NO Gentle Yoga

Friday 3/20

AARP Tax Prep by Appointment

No activities, no classes

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregated meals. Lunch is at 12 p.m., with reservations required two days in advance. Call (413) 423-3649 for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Paula Better, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.

Monday 3/16

8:45 a.m. Stretch & Sculpt

10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance

12 p.m. Homemade Lunch

12:30 p.m. Card Game: Pitch

Tuesday 3/17

8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

12 p.m. St. Patrick's Day Lunch

12:45 p.m. Friends Meeting

Wednesday 3/18

8:45 a.m. Sleep Yoga

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

12 p.m. Lunch at Quabbin

12:45 p.m. Bingo & Snacks

Thursday 3/19

8:45 a.m. Interval Training

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

10 a.m. A Matter of Balance

11:30 a.m. Massage appointments

12 p.m. Homemade Lunch

Friday 3/20

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting Workshop

9:15 a.m. Walking Group

9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling

12 p.m. Congregate Lunch

LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

Wednesday 10 a.m. Flexibility & Balance Chair Yoga at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free).

Friday 12 p.m. Senior Lunch. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and programs, or for a ride.

DISCOVERY from page B1

thought stood out more, an example of her concern with the visitors' point of view and ability to absorb information from the signage, which she presents in both English and Spanish.

I asked her how the idea for this exhibit came about.

“Last spring our curator was going off to an intern fair at UMass and decided to offer an art history internship. He wanted to reorganize our painting storage area in the Memorial Hall Museum, so we started thinking about the Fullers, because we have so many of their paintings,” she answered.

“And PVMA celebrates 150 years this year! We thought this would be a great exhibit to have for our anniversary year, because PVMA was such an important repository for this work.”

George Fuller

The earliest paintings in their collection are George Fuller's, from the 1850s. George grew up at the Fuller homestead in the Bars section of Deerfield.

“He was studying art and would come back and help on the farm when he could,” explained Damkoehler. “Then his father took ill and died in 1859 and George came back and took over the family farm.”

George continued to paint, but he didn't get a whole lot of attention. It was the failure of the tobacco market 15 years later that turned his career around, oddly enough. Farmers in the valley, including George, invested heavily in the crop, and when the price dropped it was disastrous.

George was facing bankruptcy and went to Boston to deal with financial matters. “He packed up some of his paintings to take to a gallery, and it was an immediate success,” recounted Damkoehler. “When he died, his paintings were being bought for more than any other painter in the country at the time.



Sheila Damkoehler installs a print by Arthur Fuller in the Great Hall exhibit “Corn, Cranberries, Tobacco and Art.”

He was wildly famous!”

A wooden easel in George's Great Hall studio holds a reproduction of a portrait that George can be seen in the act of painting in a nearby photograph. His love of landscape is evident in other paintings shown around the walls, scenes of rural life in muted colors that were very popular in George's time (he died in 1884).

Elizabeth Brooks Fuller

Elizabeth was George's granddaughter, born in 1896 to George's son George Spencer. Though her father died when she was only 15, her extended family of artists encouraged her to go to the Boston Museum School.

She went on to study in Paris for three years, painted at Mohegan Island in Maine and at the Dublin Colony in New Hampshire, and summered in Arizona where she also enjoyed painting landscapes. She was a violinist in the Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra.

A portable easel in her studio reflects the *plein air* painting that she loved to do, as do the landscape reproductions hanging nearby. She died in 1979.



Winter, an etching by George Fuller's youngest son Arthur, circa 1930. Courtesy of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association's Memorial Hall Museum collection.

Arthur Negus Fuller

Arthur was George's son, born in 1879. I was immediately drawn to the brighter colors of Arthur's colorful etchings.

“He started as a painter, then did monotypes, then etchings,” Damkoehler said. “From what I understand he did some abstract paintings of landscapes, and he and his brother bought a printing press in Boston, and then he bought the Little Brown House in Deerfield and had a printing press there, too.”

Since Damkoehler could not install a real press in Arthur's Great Hall studio, she made a station nearby where visitors may run cards through a mini embossing press to create a raised design on the paper.

The Visitors Studio

The fourth studio area in the Great Hall was still being put together as we talked, with Damkoehler pulling out tiny wooden easels that displayed miniature – we're talking two-inch square – examples of landscape paintings.

“I am going to debut a little painting exercise at the opening this Saturday,” explained Damkoehler. “I'm trying to make sure the instructions are clear, so it won't be frustrating.”

Damkoehler will be observing the do-it-yourself exercise to see how people handle the brush pens, q-tips and sponges to make their little landscapes on these tiny squares, and see if it goes smoothly enough that it can be done without assistance. (The Hall is not generally staffed unless there is a program going on.)

Not yet installed while I was there Monday were a kids' easel and chalkboard, and a wall of landscape examples was yet to be put up in that area as well.

Damkoehler says she hopes to run a few printing workshops during the April school vacation, but plans have not been at all confirmed yet. Stay tuned to schedules put out by the Center in a week or two for April activities.

If you'd like more information on the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association and the art of the Fuller family, visit deerfield-ma.org. The Memorial Hall Museum itself is currently closed for the winter until it reopens for the season from June through October.

A reception for “Corn, Cranberries, Tobacco and Artists” will take place this Saturday, March 14, from 1 to 3 p.m. The exhibit will be up until April 29.

The Great Falls Discovery Center is open five days a week, Wednesdays through Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

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WEST ALONG from page B1

March 8. And so I found myself the next day, hunkered down out of the angry morning wind, thumping through O’Crohan’s chronicle of life in the Blaskets one hundred and fifty years ago. He called his autobiography, written in Gaelic, *An tOileánach (The Islandman)*:

It’s a winter’s wind and it feels it... Sheep that have been blown out of their resting places in the hills are trying to force their way into the houses. The young woman who was as spruce as the swan on the lake, when she comes in with a bucket of water, the comb has been snatched from the back of her head by the wind, her hair is straying into her mouth, there is mud on her clothes, the water is half spilt, and she is as cross as someone who is out of tobacco...

Alas, these days I’m a fair distance in time and place from that Great Blasket Island that he wrote about. I was often a solitary summer visitor there, walking among the ruined cottages, hearing voices coming in off the Atlantic, blowing through the abandoned houses. The last people there were all moved off the island in the mid-’50s, the vast majority having already emigrated to Springfield, Mass. Memories of the island life now only exist in the writings of the long-ago story-tellers like Tomás, Peig Sayers, and Maurice O’Sullivan.

No sheep were trying to muscle their way in the back door here, but the day remained blustery, under a true March wind.

Fallen leaves from last autumn, which I was hoping would remain covered by snow and out of sight

at least until April, blow about for everyone to see, as testimony of my procrastination in November. Birds are still singing at the top of their voices, stimulated by the bright brisk winds. Red-wings ride the roller coaster branches, whipped by the northeast blow as they face the east-rising sun. Wind pummels and flows over their perfectly designed shapes, beaks facing into the slipstream.

By early evening, the wind is a hundred miles away, leaving everything still and quiet in its turbulent path. The same bare branches seek to grasp up to the sky, their gnarled and twisted fingers reaching into the gathering dusk. Silhouetted against the purple glow and paling yellow in the west, a squirrel dances along the tallest branches going about whatever squirrel business he has in that monkey mind of his.

Chill descends over the yard with the dusk. I watch the sky for an early woodcock who might be out courting. Too cool tonight for the little fellow, he needs at least 42 degrees – and besides, he shouldn’t be here for another two weeks, in spite of the Full Worm Moon that will be rising tonight.

It is not yet time either to see Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn line up together with the waning crescent Moon in a week from now, as noted in the *Old Farmer’s Almanac*. That will happen on the 17th and 18th of this month. For now, a quiet evening descends, with nary a breeze after the commotion of the past days.

I’ll content myself with the bright evening star up there, and trace with my eye the Belt of Orion and the Great Bear rising in the velvet sky.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

**Stop Calling The Cops About The Yellow Kayak!
It’s Been Out On The Rocks Since January.**

Sunday, 3/1

9:32 a.m. Officers reporting damage to storefront windows at several Avenue A businesses, in addition to those reported earlier.

11:59 a.m. Walk-in found a small black male dog in her driveway and brought it to the station. Officer meeting caller at animal shelter to secure the dog for the night.

1:27 p.m. Caller from Whitney Way states that she heard two gunshots somewhere near her home. Unable to locate.

8:08 p.m. Walk-in reports that her roommate’s dog has been missing since around noon. The dog slipped out of its collar while walking on leash and usually wanders back home within a short amount of time. Described as an all-black Chihuahua and greyhound mix.

8:11 p.m. Caller states that a car with its headlights on has been parked by the playground near Montague Center School for a couple of hours. Operator was sleeping upon officer’s arrival. No impairment. Moved along.

Monday, 3/2

8:21 a.m. Caller reporting vandalism to exit door on Walgreens side of Food City. Caller does not believe it was previously reported but is aware of the vandalism incidents from the other night.

9:02 a.m. Report of overturned yellow kayak between rocks off Newton Street. Caller advises it looks like it’s been there a while. Matches description of kayak that has been previously checked on and that fire department will retrieve when weather conditions are safer.

5:53 p.m. Verbal warning issued to operator for going 20 m.p.h. under the speed limit on Montague City Road.

8 p.m. Party into station to report a random number sending him threatening messages and a picture of male genitalia. Services rendered.

10:39 p.m. Caller reporting loud music playing at Moltenbrey Property on Avenue A. Officer clear; couldn’t get into building; tried multiple apartments.

Tuesday, 3/3

2:36 a.m. Caller from Moltenbrey Property states that a male down the hall is making a lot of noise and causing a disturbance; ongoing issue; would like officer to speak to him. Parties advised of complaint.

12:24 p.m. Officer reporting two-car accident on Third Street. No injuries. All units clear; both vehicles were able to drive away.

12:49 p.m. Caller reporting that there is a yellow kayak hung up on the rocks in the river off Newton Street. Was advised that TFFD

and Erving FD have confirmed that there is no hazard at this time.

10:10 p.m. Caller from South Prospect Street reports that a train has been idling in the area of his house for several hours, causing a noise disturbance. Called Pan Am; they are aware of the train and having a crew coming at 2 a.m. to man it.

Wednesday, 3/4

6:48 a.m. Burglar alarm for Town Hall. Officer states that he saw a DPW worker at this location about 10 minutes ago; responding to check on it. Clear; states that there are a few DPW trucks on scene; no issues at this time.

11:05 a.m. Attempting warrant arrest. Unable to locate.

12:28 p.m. Caller reporting a dead deer on the embankment 50-75 feet past the parking access to Rock Dam. No obvious signs of foul play and no signs of ravaging by animals. Animal control officer advised and will try to locate/remove deer. ACO located deer and reports that he is going to let nature take its course. Deer is not a hazard at this time.

8:16 p.m. Fire alarm received through WARN system at Turners Falls High School. FD responding.

Thursday, 3/5

1:32 a.m. Caller from L Street reports that he heard noise from the downstairs apartment, neighbor yelling and someone running out of the back of the building. Neighbor reports that his apartment was broken into and trashed. Report taken.

2:26 a.m. Report from Central Street of an injured or ill raccoon on the side of the road. Officer located raccoon, which appears to be playing in the mud, possibly ill. Unable to euthanize due to location. Requested ACO

be notified to check in the morning. Officer later checked animal; it is deceased. Message left for DPW.

6:46 a.m. Caller reports a male party jumping into traffic near the Country Creemee in effort to find transportation to Greenfield. Officers spoke to involved; he was upset that he missed his ride. Will be going back inside to make calls.

7:06 a.m. Carbon monoxide detector activation on Ripley Road. Occupant has evacuated and is not feeling ill. Shelburne Control and MPD officer advised.

7:51 a.m. Two callers reporting a brown and white full-grown bulldog with no collar walking across the Canal Street Bridge. ACO advised; unable to locate dog at this time.

10:29 a.m. Report of large amount of smoke coming from Millers Falls Road across from Norman Circle. TFFD advises that address does have a valid burn permit.

11:32 a.m. Caller from Crescent Street reporting two suspicious males claiming to be from a solar panel company. Parties inquired with her yesterday about purchasing solar panels, which she declined. Caller saw same two men drive by her house today and is concerned. Advised caller that no crime has taken place at this time but her call will be logged.

12:02 p.m. Caller reporting a dog wandering around by itself on Turners Falls Road; believes it is headed toward the Plains. Caller reports that dog is wearing a green collar with tags. ACO notified; dog located and returned to owner.

1:18 p.m. Caller requesting to speak with officer about identity theft.

6:42 p.m. Caller requesting assistance; states she ran over a raccoon and believes she is dragging

it under her vehicle; can hear a loud noise coming from the undercarriage. Officer advises molding by passenger side wheel well became dislodged. Animal was removed. Caller is on her way.

9:18 p.m. Caller from Central Street reporting that her bedroom smoke alarm is sounding; unsure of reason. FD responding.

10:07 p.m. Detectoguard reporting fire alarm sounding at the Rendezvous. FD responding.

Friday, 3/6

8:31 a.m. 911 caller reporting two-car accident at Eleventh Street and Avenue A. Report taken.

1:52 p.m. Officer requesting DPW respond to pick up a dead raccoon on the sidewalk near Walnut Street. DPW notified.

2:11 p.m. Caller states that a telephone pole is leaning over the access road alongside Canal Street and that the wires are now hanging very low. Verizon notified.

5:03 p.m. Caller from L Street reports that her next-door neighbor has what appears to be a small camera pointing into caller’s windows. Officer spoke to several people in building next door; they advised that the camera belongs to the landlord. Will follow up with that party.

7:21 p.m. Caller reports that she rear-ended the vehicle in front of her on I-91 North in Springfield earlier. She was unable to get off the highway due to heavy traffic and was concerned about reporting. Advised to contact state police in Springfield and that information would be documented here as well.

Saturday, 3/7

1:08 a.m. Officer found vehicle on Denton Street with driver side door open and no one around. Officer advises vehicle has been secured and doesn’t appear to have been gone through.

MOVIE REVIEW

Shazam! (2019)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I wouldn’t call the comic book character Shazam one of the well-known comic book superheroes. I know Batman and Superman better than this guy. But I know who he is, and the story behind him, which I guess is why I decided to rent this on Redbox when I couldn’t get my first choice at the time.

They actually keep on track very accurately with the story of this guy from the comic book. He’s just a young foster kid named Billy, who has no interest in being part of a family, when he gets these powers by a wizard named Shazam. The wizard is played by Djimon Hounsou.

Like he does in the comics, Billy says that name, Shazam, to get the powers and become the wizard’s champion. I also mention that this young boy who’s the chosen champion, changes into a grown man in his signature suit when he says that name. The adult version of him is played by Zachary Levi.

But I should also mention two other things. One is that being part of a family, when he has no interest in it, comes in handy when he remembers something the wizard said to him. Second is that a champion previously rejected by the wizard becomes a major problem for Shazam later on. This whole deal has kind of wrecked this other guy’s life.

The wizard was trying to protect the world from demons that represent the Seven Deadly Sins. When



they join forces with the wizard’s reject is when the major problem gets started.

I won’t spoil this movie for you by telling you exactly how this kid’s new family comes in handy, but it’s a very cool way that they do. It’s also very helpful with assisting Shazam in dealing with the Seven Deadly Sins. I won’t say how they defeat this guy and the sins.

Billy, by the end, has a nice appreciation towards the family he now has.

The movie wasn’t a disappointment to me. I had no interest really in seeing it in theaters when it was there, but I am happy I saw it on DVD. This holds people’s attention enough, which makes me think they will be able to get a sequel for it off the ground. I can’t believe that some people wouldn’t feel the same about having a sequel to this.

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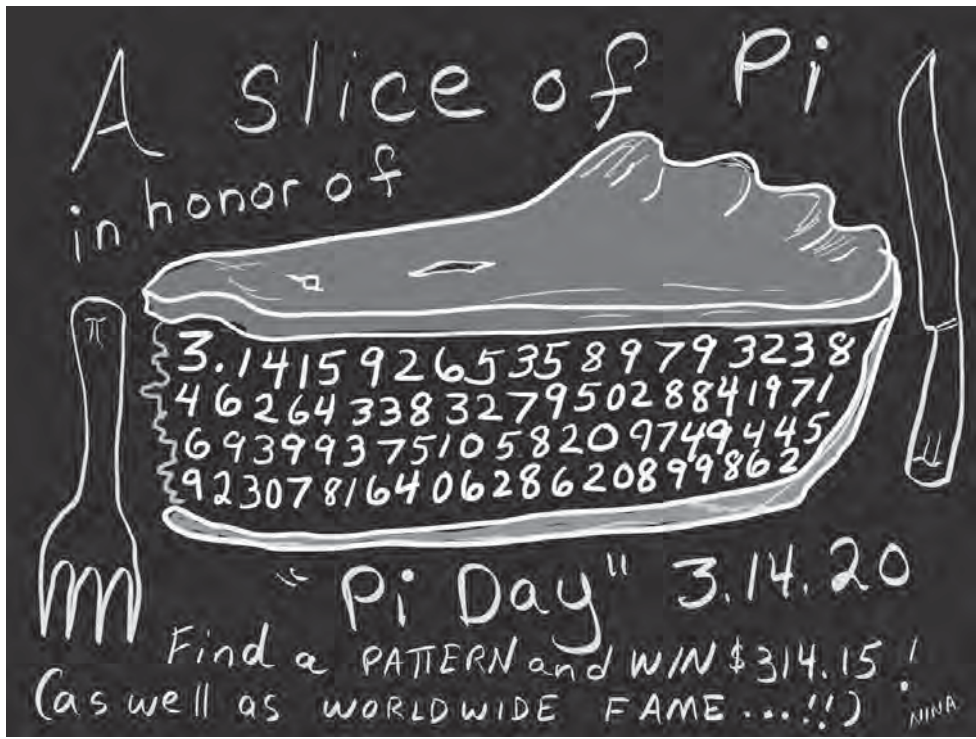
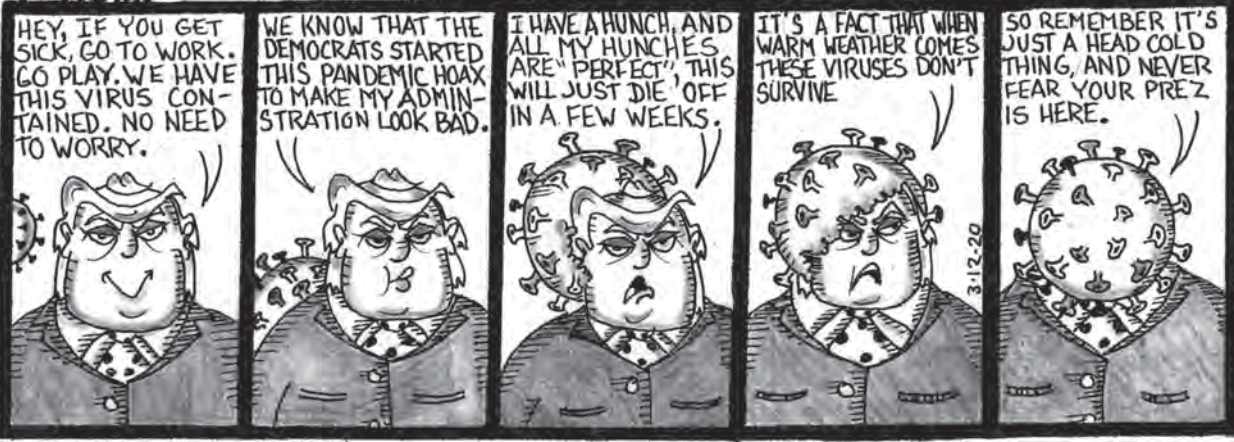
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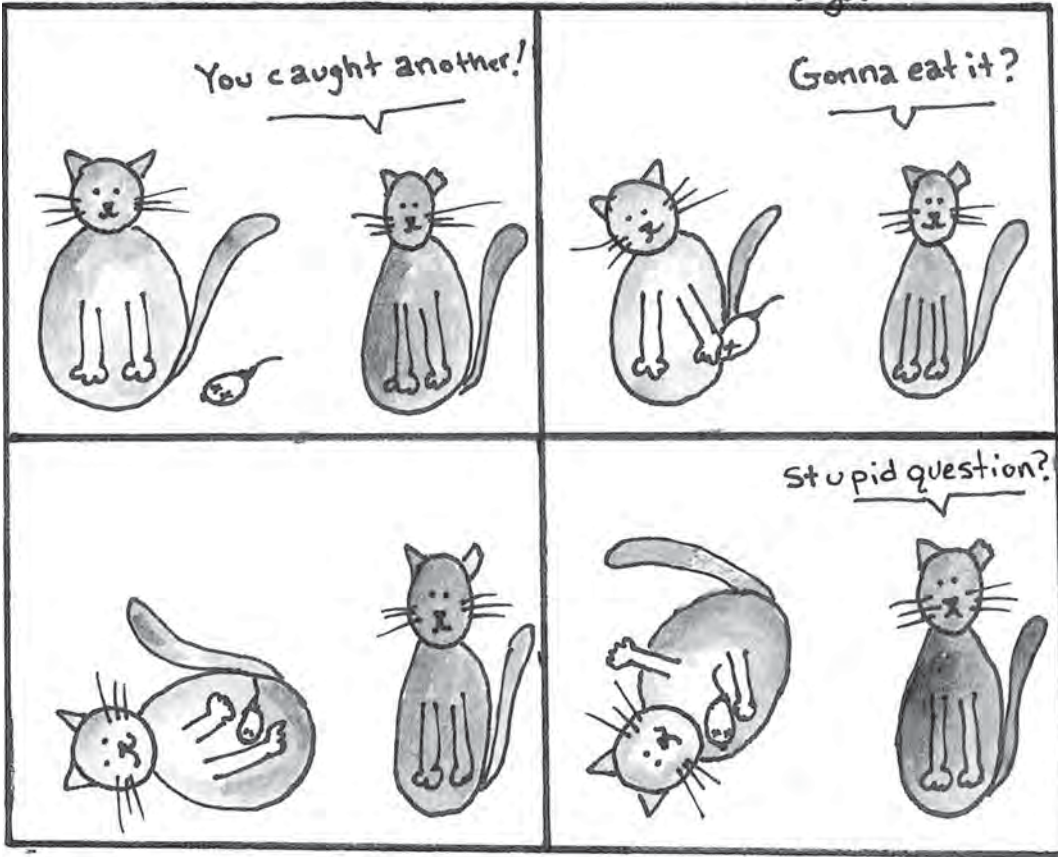
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Submit your comics and puzzles to editor@montaguereporter.org. Original & local only, please!

Montague Community Television News

Something Soul-Raising, Something Spicy

By MICHAEL SMITH

Moonlight Davis and Morning Star Chenven performed at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls this past February 28. Their music is joyful and soul raising, something we could all use now and then. Check them out for yourself at our website, montaguetv.org.

We've also got the latest episode of the Franklin County Varsity Sports Report. Watch it for the latest updates on local high school sports, served up spicy by your host, Bobby C.

And if you need to calm down from all the excitement, you can check out the latest selectboard meetings from both Gill and Montague. Also, don't forget to check out our Facebook page!

Something going on you think others would like to see? If you get in touch, we can show you how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment.

Contact us at (413) 863-9200, infomontaguetv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We'd love to work with you!


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AUTHORS from page B1
Before, and many other good books, which are similar to some of the novels I've reviewed. So if you enjoyed some of the books I reviewed lately, you might want to check out the others on this list.

Roman Holiday is about a princess named Ann (Audrey Hepburn) who, similar to Lucky, isn't happy with being a princess, or the strict rules and schedule she must follow. So she escapes the mansion that she's staying in while in Rome and sneaks out to explore the city.

While exploring, medicine that her doctor gave her to help her sleep starts working, and she falls asleep on a bench, where a reporter named Joe Bradley (played by Gregory Peck) finds her, and brings her to his apartment to keep her safe. Joe tells his editor that he should be able to get an interview with the princess, but then he starts falling in love with Princess Ann.

One of my favorite things about the movie is how funny Audrey Hep-

burn is, and I liked when Princess Ann and Joe Bradley spent the day together in Rome! I also liked the part where Ann whacks a police officer in the head with a guitar so she can run away without having to go back to her mansion.

I really loved both *Roman Holiday* and *Somewhere Only We Know!* They were both super cute, and fun to watch and read. I liked reading the book first, though, because I think older movies can be a little hard to understand, so I liked kind of knowing what was going to happen since *Somewhere Only We Know!* is very similar.

Thank you so much for reading this Authors' Corner column!

Also: I was recently interviewed by Sarah Brown-Anson about my column for the *Montague Reporter Podcast*, so if you haven't already listened to that, you definitely should... and I hope that if you choose to watch *Roman Holiday* or read *Somewhere Only We Know!*, you like them!



OUT OF THE PARK MARCH 2020

By JON DOBOSZ

UNITY PARK – Hello everyone! Hope you're all enjoying this very mild weather we've been having. As a matter of fact, it hasn't been much of a winter at all, so I'm sure that many of you are downright ecstatic!

As many of you know, our spring is almost as busy as our summer. One of the first events we host during the season is our annual **Peter Cottontail's EGGstravaganza**.

This year will be our 15th EGGstravaganza, and it will be held at Unity Park on Saturday, April 11 at 1 p.m., rain or shine.

Children ages 4 to 12 are invited to take part in this great community tradition that will include pictures with Peter Cottontail, raffles, a bake sale, and of course, our Egg Hunt with 5,000 candy- and toy-filled eggs. Participants must bring their own basket or bag for the eggs. We would like to thank our event sponsors, the Montague Elks and Greenfield Savings Bank.

We also still have some spots available in our **Tee Ball and Rookie Baseball programs**. Both programs are held from April 25 to June 6 on Saturday mornings. Tee Ball is for kids ages 4 to 6, with Rookie Baseball for 7 to 9 year olds. Rookie Baseball is a coaches-pitch program, and we recommend kindergarten players start with Tee Ball before playing Rookie ball.



Hurry up and register your little one now before all the spots are taken.

In recognition of May being National Water Safety Month, MPRD is partnering with the Greenfield Y to offer a **Basic Water Safety Program**. This program will include hands-on practices and techniques on how to stay safe within a water environment.

You have a choice of attending one of two session dates, either Saturday, May 9 or May 16. They will be held at the Turners Falls high school swimming pool from 1 to 2:30 p.m.. All attendees are encouraged to bring their bathing suits and get into the water (bring a towel, too). Children must be accompanied by an adult. Content is similar for both sessions, so if interested, you only need to attend one. Pre-registration through MPRD is required, and this is a free program. Looking beyond our spring pro-

grams, we'll be starting **Summer Camp registration** for Montague residents on Monday, March 30. As of now, camp will go from Monday, June 22 to Friday, August 14 (if the school district doesn't have any more snow days).

Summer Camp is held Mondays thru Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., but we do have early and late care options. We offer theme weeks, field trips, special events and trips to Laurel Lake. The camp is designated as a licensed day camp through the Mass department of public health. Non-residents may start to register on Monday, April 27.

We're also in the throes of planning our **Movies in The Park Series**. We currently have an online poll to give the general public the opportunity to vote what they would like to see this summer. Turners Falls RiverCulture is hosting the poll, so log onto turnersfallsriverculture.org by March 27 to vote your preferences!

That's about it from here. If you wish to receive additional information on these and other programs, feel free to contact us at (413) 863-3216, log onto montague.net, or view our Facebook page. Other than that, enjoy the start of spring, and we'll talk to you next month!

Jon Dobosz is the director of parks and recreation for the town of Montague.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Exploring Creative Reuse With Trash-y Art & Science

By REPORTER STAFF

NORTHFIELD – A “Trash-y Art & Science” exhibit is going up soon at the Deerfield Valley Art Association gallery at 105 Main Street in Northfield this month, with associated workshops and events filling their calendar during the two months the show is held.

Trash-y Art & Science will have a soft opening on Thursday, March 12 between noon and six, where you can see pieces made from repurposed materials as well as art and craft on the theme of STEAM – Science, Technology, Art and Mathematics – made by members of the association, which has an enrollment of more than 200 artists and craftspersons.

Trash talks and trash classes in connection with the show will have themes such as sustainability, climate change, repurposing and recycling. Attend a workshop from 2 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, March 19 facilitated by Greening Greenfield to make a **reusable shopping bag** for yourself (and one or more to donate). All materials are provided; pre-register at the gallery or by emailing margedvaa@gmail.com. This workshop is free, but fees (generally \$30 to \$35) apply for some of the others, so please check with the gallery when you register.

Bernardston filmmaker Rawn Fulton, best known for *Root Hog or Die*, his 1973 film about New England farmers, is screening his **1994 short film Sustainable Lives, Attainable Dreams** on Friday, March 20. The film, which was prepared for the National Wildlife Foundation, spotlights three countries where people are trying to halt the effects of population growth. Fulton will lead a post-screening discussion.

On Thursday, March 26 at 7 p.m. Barry Deitz offers a lecture called “Reduce! Recycle! ReUse! New Art and Old Stuff.” Deitz will survey some of the twentieth century artists who took different materials and mediums and **redefined what**

art was, such as Duchamp's urinal and Picasso's bicycle seat. He will examine the growth of ready-made and found art, junk art, assemblage, and other creative reuse art genres.

The more formal artists' reception for the show is scheduled on Sunday, March 29 from 1 to 3 p.m. Heading into April, look for an **Upcycled Clay Pot** workshop with Rhonda Wainshilbaum on the 19th. Rhonda will show how to attach broken shards of pottery to a clay flower pot – bring your own, or use one that is provided, and if you want to incorporate hunks of glass, jewelry, tiles, beads, buttons, etc. bring those too.

There're two sessions with artist Donna Estabrooks on April 25: “**Trash and Found Objects**” at 1 p.m. and “**Newspapers and Magazine Art**” at 4 p.m. Have fun with glue guns and lots of “junk”!

The art exhibit ends with a “**Trashion**” fashion show at the gallery, and businesses and individuals are encouraged to participate in this fundraiser. Got an idea for a wearable design that's upcycled from other clothing, bedding, curtains, etc.?

You're also encouraged to make something completely outrageous with clean trash, industrial scraps, paper, and whatever else you can figure out how to fasten together. Register by April 1 for this at the gallery or by emailing margedvaa@gmail.com.

There are other “non-trashy” workshops scheduled in the next eight weeks, too, like **drawing classes** with Bill Rathbun, a Pi Day **pizza party** with Hillside Pizza, a tree of life **paper cut workshop** with Tamar Shadur, a gratitude **journal workshop** with Maureen Moore, and possibly more to come – check for updates on the DVAA Facebook page or website: deerfieldvalleyart.org.

Hours at the 105 Main Street gallery are Thursdays 2 to 6 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays from noon to 6 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. Call (413) 225-3132 during gallery hours for information.

Sunwheel Events Mark the Equinox

AMHERST – The public is invited to celebrate the beginning of spring at the UMass-Amherst Sunwheel on Thursday, March 19. In addition to the accustomed talks at 6:45 a.m. and 6 p.m. at sunrise and sunset among the standing stones, UMass astronomers will offer views of the moon and planets at about 6 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

At the hour-long presentations for sunrise and sunset, astronomer Stephen Schneider will explain the seasonal positions of the sun, moon, and Earth, why the Gregorian calendar we use results in changing dates for the equinox, and other questions about astronomy.

Schneider says that this year, the sun crosses the celestial equator just before midnight, at 11:49 p.m. in the eastern time zone on March 19 – the earliest date in 124 years. This reflects the accumulation of small differences between the length of the year and the 365.25 days our leap-year system is based upon.

If the sky is clear there will be an opportunity before

dawn to see a pretty grouping of the waning moon, Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars low in the eastern sky. Jupiter and Mars will be very close to astronomical conjunction.

About one half-hour after the sunset presentation, the sky will be dark enough to view Venus, which will be close to half full and near its largest angular separation from the sun – known as its “greatest elongation.” The astronomer says, “We can also take a look at the star Betelgeuse, which has been behaving strangely over the past few months.” Before sunset, during the evening presentation, a solar telescope will also be set up to safely observe the surface of the sun.

The Sunwheel is located south of McQuirk Alumni Stadium, just off Rocky Hill Road, or Amity Street, about one-quarter mile west of University Drive. Visitors should be prepared for especially wet footing. Rain or blizzard conditions cancel the events. Check for cancellation announcements at www.umass.edu/sunwheel.

Solid Waste District Moves Headquarters

GREENFIELD – Franklin County Solid Waste District has relocated from its longtime headquarters at the Energy Park on Miles Street to 117 Main Street, 2nd Floor in Greenfield. The new office location is in the Cohn & Company building which is between Rite Aid Pharmacy and Holy Trinity Church.

At the Solid Waste District office, Franklin County residents can purchase compost bins, compost pails, and recycling bins at reduced rates, and obtain compost and recycling information and instructions.

Residents of Franklin County may also bring medical sharps for safe disposal and receive a free empty sharps box.

Residents may deliver mercury-containing thermostats and thermometers for free disposal at the Solid Waste District office. Wall-mounted thermostats often contain a significant amount of mercury, and should never be put in trash or recycling bins. Residents who bring in an old mercury thermometer may exchange it for a free non-mercury thermometer.

The office is generally open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., but due to a small staff, sometimes the office is closed during these hours. Visitors should call (413) 772-2438 to ensure the office is open prior to visiting.

Visitors can park on Main Street in a metered space and enter through the front door, or park for free behind the building. There is a handicapped parking space and an elevator at the back of the building. The District's office is on the second

floor in the front of the building.

For more information on any of these programs, or to learn more about recycling, composting, and hazardous waste disposal, contact the District office at (413) 772-2438 or info@franklincountywastedistrict.org, or visit franklincountywastedistrict.org.

MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.



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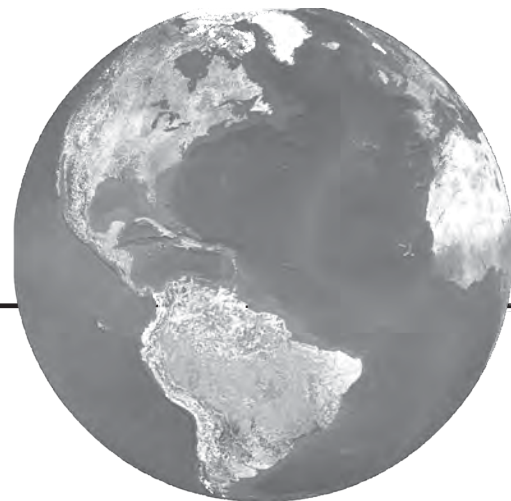
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Aquí se habla español

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



“Nos queremos vivas” : Día Internacional de la Mujer

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO
DE AGUILERA

TURNERS FALLS – El 8 de marzo se celebra el Día Internacional de la mujer, pero lo que muchos no saben es que este día conmemora un luctuoso suceso que ocurrió el 8 de marzo de 1908 en el que 129 mujeres y 23 hombres perdieron la vida en el incendio de la fábrica Cotton en Nueva York. Las trabajadoras y trabajadores estaban participando en una huelga y decidieron permanecer en el edificio para protestar. El dueño de la fábrica cerró las puertas y al declararse un incendio el edificio se convirtió en una ratonera y no pudieron salir.

En 1910 se celebró en Copenhague la Segunda Conferencia Internacional de Mujeres Socialistas que tomaron la decisión de celebrar el 8 de marzo como Día Internacional de la Mujer. La institución oficial del 8 de marzo a nivel mundial no ocurrió hasta 1975 cuando las Naciones Unidas declararon este día en coincidencia con el Año Internacional de la Mujer.

En dicha conferencia en 1910 se pidió también el sufragio universal femenino, acción no exenta de controversia en aquellos años y que durante diferentes períodos de la historia ha sido revocada en muchas ocasiones. La primera vez que las mujeres pudieron votar fue por casualidad en Nueva Jersey en 1776 al usar la palabra personas en lugar de hombres, pero esta ley dejó de tener validez en 1807. En Wyoming en 1869 se declaró el *suffragio igual*, es decir, podían votar hombres y mujeres, pero no aquellos de piel oscura.

En Europa, el primer país en permitir el voto femenino fue Finlandia en 1907 seguido poco tiempo después de Noruega y Suecia. En España, el derecho al voto de las mujeres fue recogido por primera vez en 1931, pero con la dictadura de Franco desaparecieron las elecciones y las mujeres no pudieron votar de nuevo hasta 1976 con la llegada de la democracia. En Suiza las mujeres no pudieron votar en elecciones presidenciales hasta 1971.

En cuanto a Latinoamérica, en Argentina las mujeres pudieron votar por primera vez en 1947 aunque con anterioridad lo habían hecho a nivel. En Chile, las mujeres pudieron votar por primera vez

1951, pero solamente si no tenían ideología de izquierdas. El derecho pleno al voto no llegó hasta 1970. Un caso interesante se dio en Ecuador en el que la doctora Hidalgo se inscribió como votante y pudo votar en las elecciones de 1924, siendo considerada la primera mujer que votó en la historia de América Latina.

En México las mujeres pueden votar solamente desde 1955, aunque anteriormente hubo algunos intentos de conseguir el voto para las mujeres, pero les fue negado con la excusa de que “los sacerdotes podían influir en sus votos”. La primera vez que las mujeres pudieron votar en Perú fue en 1957. Uruguay permitió el voto a las mujeres por primera vez en 1938. En Puerto Rico las mujeres pueden votar desde 1935.

Dentro de América Latina la discriminación no se ejerce solamente contra las mujeres, sino especialmente contra la mujer indígena con estadísticas que muestran la violencia y el machismo ejercido contra ellas. Las organizaciones y colectivos de mujeres indígenas llevan años trabajando para conseguir participación en decisiones políticas y acerca de sus propios territorios. Solamente el 15% de las autoridades elegidas por los pueblos indígenas son mujeres, aunque sobre ellas recae y ha recaído la tarea de preservar sus valores y su cultura, así como la defensa de sus territorios.

La mujer indígena trabaja duro: laborando en los campos, atendiendo a los hijos, y se levanta más temprano y duerme más tarde. Trabaja mucho, pero no es reconocida. Mientras que los hombres trabajan 8 horas y tienen un salario. Aun así, en la mayoría de comunidades campesinas, el jefe de la familia es automáticamente el hombre y por ello no se considera su opinión en las decisiones políticas y comunales. Por ello, este domingo pasado las grandes ciudades de América Latina y España se han llenado de mujeres y hombres vistiendo de violeta y con eslóganes reivindicativos en sus pancartas.

En España, las manifestaciones contaron con menor presencia de gente que los dos últimos años debido al miedo al *coronavirus* y a la crisis que existe actualmente entre el movimiento feminista y los colectivos de transexuales por la nue-



Rigoberta Menchú, Premio Nobel de la Paz.

va ley de libertad sexual. El lema de la manifestación en Madrid fue: “Con derechos, sin barreras, feministas sin fronteras”. Algunas pancartas exhibían eslóganes creativos como: “El patriarcado mata más que el coronavirus”. En España uno de los principales problemas que reivindican los colectivos de mujeres y feministas es la violencia y la brecha salarial que se sitúa en el 23%.

En Ciudad de México la protesta en las calles ha sido mucho mayor que en años anteriores hartas de cifras de asesinadas y desaparecidas que crecen cada día en México. La cifra es de 10 mujeres asesinadas cada día por el mero hecho de ser mujer. La manifestación del 8 de marzo fue seguida por un paro nacional el 9 de marzo que hizo que el 57% de la población femenina en México cesase en sus actividades laborales reivindicando mejores oportunidades y el fin de la violencia machista. La brecha salarial en México es del 34%. Uno de los lemas fue: “El estado no me cuida, me cuidan mis amigas”.

En Santiago de Chile las mujeres llevan en las calles protestando desde finales del año pasado contra las políticas del presidente Piñera y volvieron a salir este domingo pasado vestidas de verde y morado y coreando la ya famosa canción *Un violador en tu camino*. La estrofa más famosa es: “Y la culpa no era mía, ni de dónde estaba, ni cómo vestía.” Esta frase resume el abuso de poder de los jueces que en casos de violación y acoso sexual culpa-

bilizan a la víctima por su forma de vestir en lugar de cargar contra el violador o acosador.

En Buenos Aires, las mujeres argentinas salieron a la calle para tratar de impulsar una ley del aborto que no acaba de consolidarse. Los abortos clandestinos son un problema en la sociedad argentina y las cifras de menores embarazadas o con hijos son muy elevadas. Llevaban pañuelos verdes que simbolizan el sí a la ley del aborto y el no al fundamentalismo religioso.

Colombia se encuentra actualmente enfrascada en la misma lucha para tratar de sacar adelante una ley del aborto que despenalice a la mujer. Las calles de Bogotá se llenaron de canticos que reivindicaban el fin de la violencia contra las mujeres y mejores condiciones laborales.

No quiero terminar estas líneas sin mencionar a mujeres que, por diferentes razones, han sido importante para el resto del colectivo femenino en español:

Clara Campoamor (1888-1972): Fue abogada y política, además de una conocida sufragista española que consiguió el voto para las mujeres en 1931. Tuvo que salir exiliada de España durante la Guerra Civil y murió en Suiza.

Son Juana Inés de la Cruz (1648-1695): Nació en Nueva España, territorio que ahora es México. Fue una monja jerónima, filósofa y escritora. Se la conoce como la primera feminista en el mundo hispánico y luchó por la educación de la mujer, un derecho

que les era negado a las mujeres en el siglo XVII. Sus versos más conocidos son:

*Hombres necios que acusáis
a la mujer sin razón
sin ver que sois la ocasión de lo
mismo que culpáis*

Frida Kahlo (1907-1954): Famosa pintora mexicana, muy conocida por sus autorretratos en los que refleja su propio dolor por las circunstancias difíciles que atravesó en su vida. Fue amiga personal de Picasso, Trotsky, y André Breton. Se la considera una representante del feminismo ya que se dibujaba a sí misma en sus obras con rasgos andróginos al exagerar sus cejas y su bigote.

La Malinche (1501-1551): Nació en Veracruz, y fue una de las 20 mujeres náhuatl entregadas como esclavas a los españoles por parte de los indígenas de Tabasco. Se considera la interprete y consejera de Hernán Cortes con el que tuvo un hijo, Martín, que es el símbolo del mestizaje.

Rigoberta Menchú (1959): Indígena maya quiché que recibió el Premio Nobel de la Paz en 1992 y el Premio Príncipe de Asturias de la Cooperación Internacional en 1998. Intentó ser la primera mujer presidente de Guatemala presentándose a las elecciones, pero no logró el apoyo esperado. Su autobiografía *Yo soy Rigoberta Menchú y así me nació la conciencia* narra las vicisitudes de los indígenas en Centroamérica.

Gabriela Mistral (1889-1957): Pensadora, poeta, y pedagoga chilena. Recibió el Premio Nobel de Literatura en 1954. Jugó un papel fundamental en las políticas de educación en Latinoamérica.

Las hermanas Mirabal (Patricia, Minerva y María Teresa Mirabal): Tres hermanas dominicanas que fueron asesinadas en su lucha contra el dictador Leónidas Trujillo. Su vida fue contada por la escritora Julia Álvarez en *El tiempo de las mariposas*. Cada 25 de noviembre se celebra en su honor el Día de la No Violencia contra la Mujer.

Manuelita Sáenz (1795-1856): Nació en Quito y se la conoce como la heroína de la Independencia de América del Sur y la primera feminista en América del Sur. Salvó la vida de Bolívar durante un intento de asesinato.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EVENTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Chess Night* feat. *Chris Weisman* playing jazz guitar. Bring your own board; winners play winners. 7 p.m.

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Karaoke Night*. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Drag Queen Bingo*. \$ 8 p.m.

Sierra Grille, Northampton: *Toxic Friends, Felt Star, Bloodmobile*. \$ 9:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The Hampton Trio*. Original music and arrangements from baroque to contemporary for an ensemble of classical guitar, mandolin, and mandola. Sliding scale admission. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Gibson Brothers, The Green Sisters*. \$ 7 p.m.

Ten Dozen Birds, Brattleboro, VT: *Felt Star, Blood Mobile, Lady Queen Paradise*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Morning Vodka with Mr. Drag & Karl*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Steal Your Peach Band*. Tribute to the Grateful Dead and the Allman Brothers. \$ 8 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Arc Iris* and the *HDC Dance Ensemble* present *iTMRW*, a sci-fi ballet. \$ 8 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Rosie Porter and the Neon Moons*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *John Lentz Trio*. 8:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Raff Theruler*, with special guests. Hip-hop in the Wheelhouse. \$ 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Farley String Band*. 1 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Community Art Show Reception*. 6 p.m.

St. James Church, Greenfield: *Greenfield Drum & Dance*. African dance, followed by a Drum and Dance instead of the usual Dance Spree. \$ 6 p.m.



Riff Raff (a.k.a. Jody Highroller, a.k.a. the Versace Python...) will bring his cartoon take on Houston hip hop to Hawks & Reed next Wednesday night.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Open Mic*, featuring *Deep Chinappa* and the *DeepC Divers Band*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Whiskey Treaty Roadshow*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *Zydeco Connection*. Benefit for the Friends of the Erving Public Library. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jimmy Just Quit*. \$ 8 p.m.

The 413, Easthampton: *Police Kittens, The Original Cowards*. \$ 8 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Bonnie Prince Billy, Jonathan Richman*. \$ 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Astrology Rave in Pisces*. \$ 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Fissure Cat, Ramshackle*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *River City Slim & The Zydeco Hogs, Bayou X*. \$ 2 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ragged Blue*. 3 p.m. *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

Irish Shenanigans. In the Perch. \$ 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Brand X*, with *Randy McStine*. \$ 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Toned, Hot Dirt, Vic Rawlings*. Electro-acoustic improv and math-rock. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Riff Raff*, with *Fatty Thicc, Lagoon, Don Lox*, and *Big Drip*. Spring breeeeak! \$ 8 p.m.

New City Brewery, Easthampton: *Planetary Party* feat. *Combo Chimbata*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Owsley's Owls*. Grateful Dead family night. 9:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

The Hive, Greenfield: *Kimaya Diggs, Michi Wiancko*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Menino da Mãe* (Lisbon, Portugal), *Scorpion Porch, Owen Manure*. Punk & electronics. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

LAVA Center, Greenfield: British Soul listening party: new *Izo Fitz-Roy* LP. Free. 5 p.m.

Element Brewing Co, Millers Falls: *Brule's Irish Band*. 6 p.m.

Gateway City Arts, Holyoke: *Mdou Moctar*, psychedelic guitar from Niger, with *Ami Dang*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *R.A.P. Ferreira*, with *Kaila Chare*. \$ 8 p.m.

Guiding Star Grange, Greenfield: *Contra Dance* with *Dave Eisenstadter*, caller, *Tracy Scott Lucky*, fiddle, *Andy Davis*, accordion, and *The Back Row Band*. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *James Muschler Dance Party*. In

the Perch. 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

Mystery Train Records, Amherst: *Mia Friedman, Sound of Pot, Federico Balducci, ARKM Foam, Toppus Bottomus*. \$ 6 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *CINEMASTORM* double feature: *Mad Max: The Road Warrior* (1981); *Priscilla: Queen of the Desert* (1994). \$5 admission, cash bar. 7:30 p.m.

Mt. Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Joe Jencks*, singer-songwriter. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Movie, Bicentennial Man* (1999). Free. 7:30 p.m.

St. James Church, Greenfield: *Dance Spree*. Freestyle boogie: no shoes, no alcohol, no rules. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Chris Scanlon & The Other Guys* perform The Who's *TOMMY*. \$ 8 p.m.

Ashfield Lake House, Ashfield: *Perennial, Dérailleurs*, glam punk covers. \$ 8 p.m.

Hutghi's at the Nook, Westfield: *Glenn Jones, Elkhorn with Willie Lane, New Parents*. \$ 8 p.m.

Palladium, Worcester: *Method Man, Redman, Sewa Side Squad, Killa T*. \$ 8 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Brook Batteau*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

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EXHIBITS

Amherst Town Hall Gallery: *Rodney Madison*. Paintings in oil, acrylic, collage and mixed media works. A self-taught artist, Madison is also a teacher and activist. Through April.

Art Deviation Gallery, South Deerfield: *Edgy* and thought-provoking art from around the world. Featured artists from France: *Christophe Mourthé, Cathy Peylan*, and *Anne Eliayan*.

ArtSpace Gallery, Greenfield: *Photographs by Al Norman*. Two collections of photos, one documenting various protests and political rallies, the other looking at nature's symmetry and our collective humanity. Through March 13; followed by *Pastel Studio Annual Show* March 19 through April 15, with a reception March 20 at 5:30 p.m.

Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts & Arts: *Louise Minks*. Paintings by Minks in the Barnes and Hall galleries, through March 21.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center: *Steven Kinder: 555,830* and *Coffee & Conversation: Stories of Homelessness* are two new exhibits presenting different perspectives on homelessness. A variety of related programs are scheduled on this topic as well, see the museum's website for more information. Also on view *Alison Wright: Grit and Grace, Women at Work* portraits of women around the world working to survive and transform their communities; *Roger Clark Miller: Transmuting the Prosaic*, a video and sound instal-

lation; *Postcards to Brattleboro: 40 Years of Mail Art*, some of Stuart Copans "Schmuel" mail art collection. Reception Saturday, March 14 from 3 to 5 p.m. Through May.

DVAA Gallery, Northfield: *Trash-y Art and Science Show*, a STEAM exhibit, opens on March 14; reception Sunday, March 29, 1 to 3 p.m. Through May 3.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Fertile Ground: Corn, Cranberries, Tobacco, and Artists* exhibit in the Great Hall. The Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association's traveling exhibit explores connections between the Connecticut River Valley's agricultural landscape and generations of artists in the Fuller family of Deerfield. Designed to engage all ages, with English and Spanish translations. See article on the front of this section. Reception Saturday, March 14 at 1 p.m.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Something Old, Something New, Nothing Borrowed & A Taste of Blue*. Photographs of jazz greats by Bobby Davis. Through April 18.

Herrick Gallery, Wendell Free Library: *Paintings by Martha Senn*. Through April. Reception Saturday, March 14 at 3 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Wingmaster's Art Exhibit*. Drawings by Julie Ann Collier and photographs by Jim Parks. Parks and Collier rescue and rehabilitate birds of prey. Many of the birds have been with them for years, and their personalities shine out in the images. Through April.

MONDAY, MARCH 16

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Music in the Morning*. Children's music series. Live, interactive music by educator *Marcy Gregoire*, accompanied by movement specialist *Hilary Lake*. Puppets, costumes. 10 a.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Open Mic Night*. New open mic night for fresh and local musicians. 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *St. Patty's Day Party*. Green beer, *Scott Kuzmeskus*, etc. 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Rosemary Caine's The Wilde*

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Looky Here 2020: A Submission Based Art Show*. Works by over 30 regional artists in a variety of media: paintings, poetry, video, sculpture. Through April.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Triple SSS 2020: Sensual, Sexual, Smut*. Group show of erotic art from 30+ artists, including sculpture, photography, poetry, prints, and more. Through March 21.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Marilyn Andrews: Works in Clay*. Retrospective exhibit of this artist's work, who died in 2019, includes over 75 pieces which each use the human figure. Through April 26, with a reception on Saturday, April 18 at 2 p.m. featuring music by Forest Avenue.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Mud Season*, a group show putting a positive spin on this challenging time of the year. Paintings, ceramics, leather, paper cuts, jewelry, wood and ornaments by member artists. Through March 30.

Smith College Art Museum, Northampton: *Black Refractions*, highlights from the Studio Museum in Harlem, through April 12. Also at the museum, *A Dust Bowl of Dog Soup: Picnuring the Great Depression*. Featuring 50 photographs and prints from artists including *Dorothea Lange, Arthur Rothstein, Marian Post Wolcott, Martin Lewis*, and more. These artists helped shape social policy by making the travails of rural America visible during the Depression, which stimulated enthusiasm for Roosevelt's New Deal programs. Through June.

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Contest Melts Down In Lake Pleasant

By DAVID JAMES

LAKE PLEASANT – An unwinterly winter put an early end to the 44th annual Ice Off the Lake contest in this youngest and smallest of Montague’s five villages.

With the wind whipping southwesterly across the water March 6 at precisely 5 p.m. contest Chief Justice Pat Otto, Sr. stood shivering on the Bridge of Names at the official Raisin Rosen judging picket, hoisted a pair of binoculars to his watering eyes, surveyed the surface of the lake, and in a loud voice announced to an assembled audience of one cold soul that not a single sliver of ice could be seen, declared the 2020 contest ended, and the winner to be Snowbird John Anderson of Denton Street.

As with so much of life, however, what one sees depends upon where one stands. Because there

is no site on the Bridge of Names which commands a view of the entire lake surface, a winner usually is declared even though ice still exists around the bend to the northwest near the Turners Falls Water Department pumping station, or out of sight to the southeast in the cove below the railroad embankment and tracks... and such was so this year.

Since 1977 the contest has been a rite of seasonal passage. Participants pay a dollar to play and take their chances with a pot-luck draw of a date of departure of ice and sole claim to the winner-take-all pot.

The event date range this year was February 22 through April 19. Those dates represent the earliest and latest dates ice has left the lake since the contest began. The start date was established in 2012, and the end date was determined by ice departure results of 1978.

MONTAGUE REPORTER ON THE ROAD



At left: features editor Nina Rossi snucks away to the International Blues Challenge Festival in Memphis in January. Here she is on the legendary Beale Street. At right: Leigh Rae of Montague Center (right) traveled with several others from this place to visit Micha Archer of Leverett (left) in San Gerardo de Rivas, Costa Rica. The village is located near the base of Mount Chirripo, the highest peak in the country at roughly 12,500 feet. Going somewhere? Take us with you! Send photos to editor@montaguereporter.org.

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