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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 2, 2020

Social Distancing? We Aren't As Far Apart As We Think



Clockwise, from top left: Reporter Eva Hankowski; Eva's aunt Ana Juez Hankowski of Pelham, who facilitated the call to her relatives in Spain; Andrés Juez Muňoz and Belén Martín Peirò; and Alberto Juez Muňoz.

By EVA HANKOWSKI

AMHERST – We as humans have become so connected to each other that even in crises we can hardly stay apart. Almost all the countries in the world have been infected by the coronavirus pandemic, and no one knows how long it will last. So, last Saturday, I called a few of my family and friends all around the world to check in with them, and to ask how the coronavirus has impacted their lives.

Even though there were some different stories from place to place, most of the wants of people were the same. The two most common were "I want to see my friends," and "I want to go outside." Everyone I called is getting used to this new way of life, working or going to school at home, or just staying home to stay safe. Overall, I called people in Florida, Spain, Hong Kong, England and Finland, and these were the stories they told.

I spoke to my uncle Derek Hinden, 47, who lives in an apartment in Hong Kong. Hong Kong was one of the first places to be affected after China. January 2020 was the start for them, and a lot of residents left Hong Kong for other parts of the world when the news of the virus first got out.

Months later, after almost re-setting themselves after the mass of the virus calmed down,

see **DISTANCING** page A5

Town Closes Playgrounds, **Citing Coronavirus Concern**

By IZZY VACHULA-CURTIS

TURNERS FALLS - On Monday, the Montague selectboard and the board of health met together to discuss closures regarding local parks and play spaces. The two boards decided to close local public playgrounds. This includes the skate park at Unity Park. Parks as a whole, like the open lawns at Unity Park, have not closed, but social distancing is still recommended.

This decision may inconvenience people, but the town felt the need to take "extraordinary measures in the interest of public health," Steve Ellis, Montague town administrator, wrote in a public announcement. The boards have noticed public attractions such as public playgrounds drawing big groups of people, and



The playground at Unity Park, and all others in town, are closed to the public.

Coming Soon to Turners Falls: A "Bike Shop for the People"

By ANYA HANKOWSKI

TURNERS FALLS – Nik Perry is a Turners Falls local and the owner of a new bike shop, Sadie's Bikes, opening soon in Turners Falls off the bike path where Buckingham Rabbits Vintage used to be. Nik says that he would like to open the shop on May 1, but because of what's going on with the coronavirus pandemic he might not be able to, but he will open as soon as he can.

In college Nik didn't have a car,

JULIAN MAYO PHOTO

so he got around by bicycle. Nik said that his bike would break often and he would not have the money to pay to fix it. So instead, he learned how to fix his own bike. He then became a bicycle mechanic and started working at a bike shop, and now he is fulfilling his dream of owning his own bike shop.

Sadie's Bikes is personal to Nik, and he hopes that when it opens it will be more than just a bike store. He wants it to feel welcoming for

see **BIKES** page A7

Special Edition

All content in this edition of the *Montague Reporter* was created by local people who *happen* to be under the age of 18. We hope you enjoy reading it! For more information about this project, see page A2.

needed to take precautions.

"These areas have been observed to attract large numbers of people," Ellis wrote, "with swings, railings, slides and other features touched by dozens in a single day." The town doesn't necessarily have the resources to clean these objects and structures, so this decision was unanimous.

I asked Jon Dobosz, director of Montague parks and recreation, why the boards made this decision. "The Governor made a ruling on March 23, which directed the general public to not gather in groups larger than ten, in addition to practice social distancing," he explained.

"Unfortunately, it was observed

see PLAYGROUNDS page A4

Shop Owners Feel the Impact **Of Shutdown**

By LUELLA MILLER

TURNERS FALLS - On Tuesday, March 17 the Massachusetts governor ordered all nonessential businesses to close due to the world wide pandemic. Now most are struggling to figure out what they will do next.

"Because of the closures, we are not able to generate income and we don't get to see our regular customers, many of whom are our friends. I feel sad that I have to close, and worried about the unknown, but I also feel happy to be in this community," said Erin MacLean, an owner of the Loot Shop in downtown Turners Falls.

Outside of an Online World

By CHARLOTTE VALLE

FRANKLIN COUNTY - The coronavirus has affected many people these past few weeks. Schools across the country have closed, many people are trying to stay away from others as much as

I interviewed Ruth Demo, Dottie (who asked that we not use her last name), and Lena O'Dou on how their experience of this time has been.

that don't have access to the inter-

net when they are home.

After the interviews, I discovered that the lack of internet access hasn't been as much of a challenge to receive local news, as it can be a letdown to those who like to read some of the local papers. I was told see OFFLINE page A3

they can, and many forms of communication are now virtual.

While this is all happening for the safety of ourselves and the community around us, it has had a slightly different effect on those

Dance Classes Go Digital

By HANNAH WARNOCK

TURNERS FALLS - During this pandemic all public facilities have had to close, including schools, restaurants (except take out and delivery), and small businesses such as the Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts. This closing affects many people in our community, because many of us are registered at Ja'Duke and we don't have our after school activity anymore. To make up for this closure, Ja'Duke has decided to start online dance classes.

The pros of having online classes

can include further progression on our upcoming shows. This is good because it allows for the shows to not be postponed for as long. Another pro of having online dance classes is that it allows for the students to get their recommended daily dose of physical activity.

With every pro follows cons. One con of having online dance classes is that some students might have a lack of space, so that they can't practice the dances we are learning full out. Another con is that we have had some troubles with the see JA'DUKE page A6



Though the company's shows are postponed, video conferences keep students moving.



Originally slated for Greenfield, Sadie's Bikes is now under construction in this building on Canal Road in Turners Falls.

"I think all the downtown businesses should try to stick together as much as possible, and I hope that other businesses are able to brave the storm and open when it's safe to do so," she said.

The hard thing about being in such a small town with so few shops is that if we lose even one

see SHOPS page A8

A New Addition Awaits Students' Return

By SYNA KATSOULIS

TURNERS FALLS - The Gill-Montague Regional School District recently acquired their first full-time comfort dog this past March. Montague Mack, a 10-week-old chocolate lab, who is rather adorable, is being taken care of by Officer Dan Miner, the school's resource officer.

With the assistance of Miner, Mack's job is to create strong bonds with the students and help them work through difficult times that might involve emotional trauma or other special needs. Mack will bring people together and hopefully let Miner create stronger relationships with the students.

For example, if a student is having a bad day, they can arrange a 5-minute time out with Mack to reduce their anxiety. He might also work with counselors or other staff members in order to help students with special needs, who have endured some sort of trauma, or who are just having a bad day to



Mack, preparing for school to resume.

see ADDITION page A3

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mike jackson

Julian Mayo

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Use That Strength To Lift Others

By GENESIS RIOS

TURNERS FALLS – It feels the world I was born into has been taken from me without prior notice, without warning.

Coronavirus snuck in like a thief in the middle of the night while I slept in peace, and robbed me of my friends, my family, my education and to an extent – my freedom.

It provoked the world to change drastically. The world as I knew it no longer exists. People's lives have been taken from them. Anxiety, panic and fear have taken over.

Seeing the lack of essentials in stores allowed me to see there is a virus far worse than coronavirus, called *selfishness*.

My eyes witness an elderly woman in tears because she didn't make it to the water aisle in time to grab a gallon of water. My heart goes out to her. I open my mouth and ask my mother if we could give the elderly woman our water. My mother replies, "Of course!" and my conscience feels relief. At that very moment I begin to understand for myself that kindness and selflessness are the cure.

Some say this is like the flu, but I don't recall the entire world shutting down over the flu or stores lacking essentials over the flu. I don't recall the flu taking life as I knew it from me.

Therefore I kindly ask of my readers: follow precautions, think of others and buy what you need, spread kindness and support. If you happen to be handling the situation a lot better than others, use that strength to lift others – don't tell them they're silly for panick-ing. I am 11 years old and I understand this, we all should!

I am scared. I've panicked. I've lost sleep, but I've not lost hope.

Genesis Rios is a fifth grader at Sheffield Elementary, and lives in Turners Falls.



vachula-curti

For this week's special edition of the *Montague Reporter*, managing editor Mike Jackson and features editor Nina Rossi were joined by two very special guest editors: seventh-grader Julian Mayo, former editor of the *Gill Elementary Times*, and eighth-grader Izzy Vachula-Curtis, former editor of the *Turners Falls Waterfall*.

For a week and a half, the four



of us held meetings nearly every day over Zoom to create, discuss, assign, write, and edit this issue.

As we worked on the edition, we heard the news that the statewide shutdown of schools will be extended from three to seven weeks, though educators will soon be expected to meet with students online to support "distance learning."

While this project itself was an attempt at distance learning – or at least at passing the time during quarantine – we also wanted to publish younger people's perspectives of what COVID-19, and the shutdown of our schools and public attractions, has meant for them.

All in all, a total of 31 other youth from our communities answered our call for contributions. Thank you to all those contributors: Adeline, Anna, Anya, Asher, Bea, Birch, Charlotte L., Charlotte V., David, Effie, Eva, Finnegan, Genesis, Hannah D., Hannah W., Jackson, Jason, Kaitlyn, Koda, Lilya, Luella, Markie, Millie, Myra, Naomi, Sasha, Sora, Stella, Syna, Tilly, and Vita.

And thanks especially to all the family, friends, and community members who supported them in their assignments.

We're proud of how this edition turned out, and we hope our readers enjoy it. We also hope to inspire you with an example of how the current disruption can be taken as an opportunity – to experiment and learn, to remember the resources we have, to incite new interests, to strengthen our connections with others, to break old patterns, and to create new and positive experiences together.

Mike, Nina, Julian & Izzy



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Knowing We Can Change Everything

By HANNAH D'ALESSANDRO

GUEST

EDITORIAL

SHUTESBURY – Since I was old enough to talk, I have been able to listen to any song in the world, at any time, as many times as I want. I could also watch any movie, read any book, and learn the answer to pretty much any question in

forts to gain attention from our leaders about issues that are important to our future. Even with all of that, we still have to do more.

These national crises have been created by past generations, but dumped on Generation Z. Every generation blames the ones that came before for the problems they are facing, but there is no point I wonder, if the government can act so quickly, why can't we do anything about gun control? About violence in our country? About making sure women have access to the healthcare they need? Just today, I read an article saying in some states they are trying to list abortion clinics as non-essential business.

a matter of seconds. I don't know a world without cell phones.

Generation Z, or the iGen, despite growing up with so much technology, has also grown up with fear. We were raised in a post-9/11 world, where global warming is a growing threat, and I have watched the school emergency drills get stricter each year as gun violence becomes more and more normalized in our country.

We've seen the legalization of gay marriage, and the start of the "MeToo" movement, but we've also seen a tolerance of bigotry trickle down from our own administration. We have been sent quite a mixed message about what our world and country values.

The iGens are the biggest generation so far, making up 27% of the US population. Gen Z is the least patriotic generation, and the least interested in government, military, and church. Our lack of interest in these previously respected foundations is often used to criticize Gen Z – we are branded as lazy and obsessed with our screens – but I believe this disinterest points towards a readiness to deconstruct broken systems and build new ones.

Already, Gen Z has organized climate strikes, the March For Our Lives, and made massive ef-

in placing blame. The truth is that global warming will largely be our responsibility.

I feel a tremendous weight on my shoulders as a young person. We can't solve all these issues alone, but we watch as nothing gets done and we understand if they don't get solved that we are the ones who will suffer. We need help from Millennials, Gen X, and Baby Boomers. You are the people with jobs, you are the people in positions of power, you are the people that can vote, and we need your help to make sure that we have a safe future. These problems can no longer be only a burden that Gen Z feels, we all have a role in this, and we can all have a role in change.

Recently I was struck by the words of Jamie Margolin, an 18-year-old and founder of the climate justice organization Zero Hour. She wrote an article for the *Washington Post* that I encourage everyone to read. In her writing she outlines how the efforts that Gen Z has made to bring attention to the climate crisis have been repeatedly ignored by politicians despite the fact that iGen-ers are the ones who will suffer the consequences of this problem. She also looks at how the world has stopped for COVID-19, and she asks, why can't we do that for climate change?

These issues might not affect the politicians in office right now, but they will affect every young person, and our children and grandchildren.

COVID-19 is not the first global crisis that Gen Z has experienced. But the virus has been more visible than any, because it has forced people to change the way they live. Maybe this discomfort will move us to act. Global warming is not a new problem, but as long as people are pacified it is easy for them to brush the issue aside. We do not want to live in a world that tolerates gun violence, denies anyone basic rights, or refuses to acknowledge a global crisis.

I saw how quickly we responded to COVID-19. In a matter of days we completely changed the way our lives look. Change is uncomfortable, but we are doing it.

Because of this I know we can solve the other problems, too. Let us all be hopeful and work together so we can ensure a safe future for Generation Z, and for the generations to come.

Hannah D'Alessandro lives in Shutesbury and attends Amherst-Pelham Regional High School. This editorial was written exclusively for the Montague Reporter. coffee. Price includes sales tax.



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Compiled by SYNA KATSOULIS

The coronavirus has altered everyone's life in some way. Many businesses have shut down, schools are closed, and we are isolated in our homes. It can be very hard to stay positive sometimes, especially with the media causing far more panic than necessary. What is not as often talked about are some of the more uplifting things that are currently happening in our community.

A lot of us are very bored right now, with nothing to do while social distancing. The Cincinnati Zoo in Ohio is doing their part to help out. They have done live streams where you can learn about pandas, black rhinos, giraffes, penguins, elephants, and cheetahs. I recommend tuning into a few of

OFFLINE from page A1

by both Ruth and Dottie that they watch local TV stations such as 22 News, and like to read other local papers that are currently being published. Lena told me that she is also getting news from some of her friends over phone calls.

I asked each of these women why they liked to read the local papers, and what they will miss about ours while they can't get a print copy. Ruth told me that she likes to read this paper because it's local, and she recognizes many of the names. She also told me that she likes and will miss how understandable our paper is. While neither Dottie nor Lena said they read this paper specifically, they both also enjoy reading their papers because they know the places and people that they read about.

I learned from each of the women I interviewed that they haven't seen many people except immediate family, or close friends who have been running many errands for them.

ages, if you want to learn something new about wildlife.

these home safaris to people of all

Since we're not supposed to leave our houses to go to events with lots of people, this has encouraged families to go outside more. I've seen lots of people going on walks with their dogs, with their families, or by themselves. It's very important to get fresh air when you're in your house all day, not being able to carry out your normal, everyday activities.

So open a window, or take a walk; it keeps you sane. This is important especially for teens who might just want to sit in their room plaving video games all day: go outside and get some exercise. We have nothing better to do, so we might as well enjoy the lovely spring weather.

However, this hasn't left any of

them with too little to do during the

quarantine. Ruth told me that she

has been spending her free time

cooking and cleaning, because it

has helped to keep her relieved.

Dottie said that she has been pass-

ing the time by reading, solving

puzzles, and playing card games.

Lena has been passing the time by

sewing some of the masks that will

cess has been a bit of an incon-

venience, I found that none of

the women I talked to found not

having it to be a real issue. Lena

told me that she previously had

a computer and could access the

internet, but no longer can. She

told me that she was okay without

having it, however, because she

hasn't faced any challenges her-

self without the internet - be-

And Dottie told me that she

didn't depend on it.

cause, as she says, "you

can't miss what you

never had."

While not having internet ac-

be donated to the local hospitals.

In the mood for some live entertainment, but you can't leave your house? The LAVA Center in Greenfield is doing an online open mic. They had their first one on Wednesday, March 25. Seventeen local artists were featured in this hour-long event.

The next open mic will be two Tuesdays in April, the 14th and 28th. If you would like to tune in, you can go to www.localaccess.org or go to the Silverthorne or LAVA Center Facebook pages for the link.

And if you want to submit a video for the April dates, you can contact LAVA at info@localaccess. org. Your video can be of you performing a song, reading, or whatever you'd like. It can also be a creative short film. But it must be five minutes or less, family friendly, and include your name and any other information you'd like to share with the public.

For theater people: You can keep the charm of singing with friends and live performances while social distancing. Silverthorne Theater Company has some recommendations on how to stay safe and enjoy musical theater with others. They recommend singing a parody of "I am the Very Model of a Modern Major General" with friends over the phone. You can find the lyrics on their Facebook page.

They also suggest watching a musical such as Mamma Mia, The Sound of Music, or West Side Story with your family and sing along with the songs.

Many musicians feel inspired reading about the history of their idols. zZounds Blog has a collection of articles covering lots of influential musicians, inventors, and genres. They encourage you to sit back, relax, and spend some time reading about the world's music icons.

Susan Von Ranson wrote to the Reporter and asked us to include the following:

"With virtually all of us expecting COVID-19 stimulus program checks soon from the U.S. government. Friends of Wendell is putting together a way that people fortunate enough to consider them, or part of them, excess funds can redirect them to Wendell households hardest hit economically by the quarantine. The group is currently setting up a special bank account. Details of the plan will be shared in a letter to all Wendell households."

The Leverett board of health has formed a task force called Leverett Together "that is seeking volunteers to assist with contacting senior and other Leverett residents with routine or special needs in the community." It is a response to those housebound both from the coronavirus or in their regular lives.

Barbara Tiner, Mary Ryan, and Mary Hankinson are the founding members of this new task force, and asked one of our reporters to get the word of their presence out. Folks can contact Leverett Together through the Leverett town site, boardofhealth@leverett.ma.us, or call (413) 548-1022 x. 1.

Common Good, a nonprofit organization located in Greenfield, has started a great way to benefit our community. A free and online **Offers and Needs Bulletin Board** is an innovative way to help out our neighbors during this challenging time.

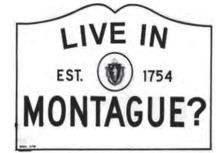
Whether it be a trip to the grocery or drug store, a home cooked meal, or childcare, they've got you covered. The Offers and Needs board can be used anywhere in the country, but it will connect you to people within a given mile radius.

If you want to try it out, go to www.commongood.earth/members/ mutual-aid-board.

Everyone's life has been affected in some way. It can be difficult to keep ourselves busy when so many things are shut down, but there are still many things to do. It could be watching pandas from the Cincinnati Zoo's home safari, or reading about your favorite artists.

Even though it can be difficult to look on the bright side, there are still many positive things happening in our community, even in these challenging times.

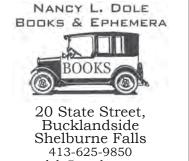
Syna Katsoulis is in eighth grade at Great Falls Middle School, and lives in Turners Falls. (Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.)



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ADDITION from page A1

the best of his ability.

Miner has been working at the high school and middle school for two years now. Last year he heard of a dog breeder in New Hampshire who was donating dogs to police departments. The superintendent and Miner quickly made an agreement with the breeder. The school committee and the principal, Joanne Menard, gave their full support.

This dog will make a huge impact on our school community since we have a lot of kids affected by trauma. Hopefully, once school opens up again, students will be able to feel more comfortable in their learning environment.

Mack lives with Officer Miner and is his responsibility, although he's owned by the Montague Police Department. He can't be left alone with students without supervision.

Even though Mack was donated, there are still other costs associated with owning a dog. This includes dog food and trips to the vet. Miner is hoping these will be covered by fundraisers and donations.

Lots of schools across the country take advantage of therapy dogs to benefit their students. It's been proven that dogs give off a calming effect on people in a variety of situations, which will help immensely if a student is struggling emotionally.

They can support kids who have gone through some kind of stressful situation such as the death of a loved one or even finals week. Therapy dogs were used at Sandy Hook Ele-



Officer Miner, the school resource officer for the district, will be working with Mack.

mentary after the shooting that occurred there to help the children and parents feel more at ease.

Dogs in general can reduce depression, anxiety, stress, and feelings of loneliness, and enforce playfulness and exercise. This is partly because of the basic human need for touch.

Cuddling with an animal can soothe you when you're anxious. Self-esteem can be boosted in students, and it has been shown that kids with autism have increased verbal interaction with a dog present than without one.

When Mack finally starts his job once school's back in session, he'll be the only full-time comfort dog in Franklin County. Greenfield has a part-time comfort dog, and in Hampshire County, Northampton has a comfort dog program also. Officer Miner says he also hopes this will allow him to make more visits to the district's elementary schools, which he doesn't get to visit as much as he'd like.

Overall, I think that GMRSD will benefit greatly from Mack, and he will help a lot of people when school opens up again. Dogs can do a lot of good in a school setting. They can reduce anxiety, and potentially help with depression. Mack will make a lot of people feel much better.

Syna Katsoulis lives in Turners Falls and is an eighth grader at Great Falls Middle School.

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PLAYGROUNDS from page A1 on a few occasions that people were

not adhering to that, which was a cause of great concern for many town officials. As a result, the Board of Selectmen and Board of Health decided to close all playgrounds in the town as well as the skate park temporarily, for which I agree."

Dobosz said he feels that it is incredibly unfortunate, but necessary, to close businesses and local attractions. "I think we all need to do what we can to eliminate the virus," he said. "The sooner that it is eradicated, the sooner the businesses and attractions can re-open." Dobosz recommended that families in the community "simply follow the CDC guidelines, as well as the recommendations set forth by local boards of health."

I wondered how this decision would be enforced. "We will simply remind them that the area is closed," Dobosz replied, "and ask them to return when it is re-opened." He said his main concern with public areas staying accessible is that it will help spread the virus, which will postpone the world resuming to "some semblance of normalcy."

I asked Gina McNeely, the town's acting director of health, about the conclusion made by the selectboard and the board of health, and about how long the virus survives on structures like playground equipment and in the air.

In response, McNeely cited a study about COVID-19 published in the New England Journal of Medicine by scientists at the National Institutes of Health, the CDC, UCLA, and Princeton University.

"The results provide key information about the stability of SARS-CoV-2, which causes COVID-19 disease, and suggests that people

may acquire the virus through the air and after touching contaminated objects," she wrote. "The NIH study attempted to mimic virus being deposited from an infected person onto everyday surfaces in a household or hospital setting, such as through coughing or touching objects. The scientists then investigated how long the virus remains infectious on these surfaces."

The virus, she said, "is stable for several hours to days in aerosols and on surfaces." The scientists found that it "was detectable in aerosols for up to three hours, up to four hours on copper, up to 24 hours on cardboard, and up to two to three days on plastic and stainless steel."

McNeely explained that there is no way to wash the playgrounds.

"The expectation that we could clean and disinfect playgrounds is not really feasible," she said. "Imagine me and you just walked on the beach for an hour with wet feet. Then imagine trying to get every single grain of sand off our feet before we get into our car....

"Now multiply that image by 10, and picture trying to wipe away an invisible virus from a large plastic and metal structure that 10 or 20 little pairs of hands have been all over while playing. It would be very hard to kill every virus on the structure."

I asked both Dobosz and Mc-Neely about some ways to still stay active during quarantine.

Dobosz suggested some alternatives for getting fresh air and exercise: "Take a walk in your neighborhood; seek some open space to breathe; and take full advantage of the quiet moment we are given in our crazy lives to ponder what's most important. We can either treat

More Official Advice...

Montague's acting public health director, Gina McNeely, shared additional advice with our correspondent about precautions people can take to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Here's what she said:

• Wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands. [S]ometimes people complicate things and look for "magic bullets" to protect themselves. The simple act of washing one's hands (a lot) with soap and water for at least 20 seconds has a profound impact on personal and community health.

It is also important, with all this handwashing, to keep moisturizer handy, because dry, cracked open hands could also let the virus in.

• The National Institute of Health has determined that SARS-CoV-2, the virus that caused COVID-19, can live up to three hours in the air and up to three days on plastic and stainless steel.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe. Professionals are saying a regular household clean-

this as a time of chaos, or take advantage of the brief pause. The right attitude will get vou through life's most difficult moments."

McNeely responded similarly.

"People can go out and walk in the park, hike in the woods," she said. "Kids can run and play but not in groups of more than 10, preferably fewer. People can spread out on the bike path or sidewalks throughout the five villages. We have lots of open space people er will kill the virus.

Wipe down groceries before bringing them into the house. Use a disinfectant to wipe down boxes, cans, milk cartons. Wash off produce and fruit.

• Do not touch your face. The virus can enter the body from one's hands when we touch our eyes, nose, or mouth. If you want to know more about this, ask me. It is extremely difficult for many of us not to touch our faces; that is why hand washing is so incredibly important.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

Again, as stated above, the aerosolized virus can live up to three hours in the air. Covering one's mouth with a tissue traps a lot of the virus and keeps it out of the air.

• Stay six feet away from other people.... This is critically important to everyone's health. Keep group gatherings at 10, or far less. Try to visit friends outside while keeping the group small and the distance between each other large.

can use to get fresh air and exercise. Let's focus more on all our resources, and less on the negatives, if we can."

She also added, "This is not forever! This pandemic will subside. We all have the power to slow the spread of the virus, and save lives!"

Izzy Vachula-Curtis is in eighth grade at Great Falls Middle School, and lives

in Turners Falls.



School Sports: Seasons Canceled!

By DAVID KLEMPNER

TURNERS FALLS - The COVID-19 outbreak has affected many things, including sports. Since the virus is going around there can't be a lot of people at stadiums, because then it will spread. In some parts of the world, there are sporting events being played with no fans, but they are still being televised.

The NCAA canceled all of their winter and spring sports. The famous March Madness tour-





A4



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Un-necessariums

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nament got canceled, so there will be no brackets this year or any games.

The NBA indefinitely suspended the regular basketball season on March 11. The MLB won't start the 2020 baseball season until at least mid-May. The NHL is pausing their hockey season right now. The 146th Kentucky Derby is being postponed until September. The Champion League, Premier League, and the Europa League all suspended games for soccer. Also, the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo are being postponed until 2021.

This virus has affected sports incredibly; there are barely any sports being played around the world. Some of the biggest sporting events have been canceled this year; the summer Olympics have been happening since 1896, and they are being postponed until next year.

Not only are professional sports being canceled, local school sports are also being canceled. I interviewed a number of people who play sports at Great Falls Middle School and Turners Falls High School about how COVID-19 has affected them.

"It's been really hard," said Holly Myers, an 8th grader who plays varsity softball.

"In our school, softball is such a big sport, and playing on the varsity team is such a huge deal that it's really disappointing. I, and all of our team, have been preparing all year, and now

The track and field at Turners Falls High School were empty this week.

it's just gone. Softball is also pretty much my main focus besides school all year around, so for the main season to get canceled is just really disappointing."

"I play track and field with a lot of my friends and have a lot of fun with it, so sports potentially being canceled makes me really sad," said Izzy Vachula-Curtis, another 8th grader.

"Well I'm very sad because my favorite sports season is being canceled," said eighth-grader Cameron Burnett, who plays middle school baseball.

"Sports being canceled due to coronavirus is affecting me by not being able to play with my teammates," said Haleigh Greene, an 11th-grader who plays varsity tennis. "I'm missing out on creating more fun memories with them - from hard but silly practices to singing to throwback songs on our bus rides to pump everyone up."

Taylor Greene, an 8th grader who plays AAU basketball, agreed. "It makes me sad because I have nothing to do, while also being away from my friends," she said.

In conclusion, COVID-19 has affected many sports, not only professional sports; local sports are being affected incredibly also. Lots of seniors won't be able to play their sport this year, and it's their last year they can play high school sports. This outbreak is very sad and disappointing.

David Klempner lives in Turners Falls, and is a seventh grader at Great Falls Middle School.



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DISTANCING from page A1

Hong Kong is now going through a relapse, because people who left are bringing the virus back from other places. The government is requiring people to follow social distancing and social gathering rules again, and has closed recreational places like gyms and yoga studios. Schools still have not reopened.

The Hong Kong government is also limiting the people who can come back into Hong Kong, so some families that were separated before can no longer get back together until after the virus is over. This is true for my uncle, as my 8-year-old cousin Emika, is with her mother and mother's family in Japan with an unknown return date to Hong Kong because of canceled flights.

Basic Precautions

In my second interview with Sarah (12), Kate (10), and David (7) Van Stolk of Colchester, England, one thing that really stood out to me was the different types of schooling techniques they were using in just one house. Sarah said that her family had to buy a new computer to accommodate what she has to do every day online for school. Her younger sister and brother, Kate and David, were given paper folders of the work they will be missing at school in the next few months. And every day they do a little of that work on their own.

The Van Stolks live in a house with a big garden and have been gardening, playing football (soccer), running, and playing games inside when the weather is bad to keep from getting bored.

I also had the chance to talk to Sarah, Kate, and David's mom Mary, 49. Mary is a doctor – they call it a "consultant" in England – at a hospital near where they live. Mary said they are about "two weeks behind London" in the pandemic, but they already have sick people in her hospital with COVID-19.

I was able to ask Mary many questions about what her hospital has been able to do to protect themselves. She said they "don't have the fancy protective suits that you see on the doctors in China or Italy."

Some of the basic precautions they are taking are seeing patients on the phone (telemedicine) instead of face-to-face. They are wearing gloves, plastic aprons, and masks when they do have to see patients,

taking walks outside every day, because even in the city center there are boardwalks that they can walk on.

In Madrid, Andrés Juez Muňoz (43), Belén Martín Peirò (43), and Alberto Juez Muňoz (43) have been in their apartments for the better part of the past two weeks while working from home. In fact, in Spain, people aren't even allowed to go outside and take a walk. They can only leave to get rid of the garbage, to go to the supermarket for essential items, or to walk pets.

One thing that stood out from my conversation with them is that they said that every day at 8 p.m., everyone in Spain opens their windows and starts clapping as loud as they can to thank the doctors for their hard work. It is very dangerous to be a doctor in Spain right now because of the increasing number of sick people in the hospitals.

Andrés, Belén, and Alberto say they have been reading, watching TV, exercising from home (Belén is doing online flamenco classes!), and talking to friends to keep from being bored.

All Those Common Things

As we know, elderly people can be more easily affected by COVID-19, so I called my Grandma, Mary Hankowski (75) in Naples, Florida, to ask her a few questions about any extra precautions they might be taking to stay safe and healthy.

Besides staying home and social distancing, she said that now they always leave their shoes outside the front door, and disinfect the packages with alcohol wipes. Or, if they don't have any wipes, they leave the packages to sit outside the door for a couple days to kill off any virus that might be on them.

With all of these stories, the one thing that every single person of every age, in every place, said was that the hardest thing or biggest change for them was not being able to see their friends. Because of social media we have become so connected that we don't know what to do now when we can't have that connection.

A few people even said that they had become more connected than before because they are checking in daily with other people to see how they were doing, even having morning video coffee sessions online, or for the kids texting or doing video

The Last Plane Back from Costa Rica

By JASON WESSINGER HORNICK

We arrived in Costa Rica two months ago. Costa Rica is a great place to watch birds, find monkeys, surf, boogie board, and play with friends. I also liked to play at the pool and the beach. I took a Spanish class twice a week.

Costa Rica is hot, quiet, and peaceful. The monkeys are loud. These are the monkeys I know of: spider monkey, howler monkey, white-faced capuchin monkey, squirrel monkey. I ate a lot of gallo pinto and fruit.

When the coronavirus struck, we could not go to the beach or school. I had to do school online. The police told people they could not go to the beach. The government said to stay at home. We could go to buy food or to the doctor.

I realized that local tico families live together, and if one gets sick, they all will get sick too. And they can also help each other. I have a friend who drives a Tuk-Tuk who might not be able to make enough money to support his family, because there are not enough tourists and everything is closed.

But I realized there are some good things about this virus. There is not as much pollution from cars and factories. Animals might be able to come back in great numbers. The other good thing about it is that it's more



There were definitely not as many people in the airport on the return flight.

going out to dinner, or just having a laugh with your colleagues, having a coffee with all of them. Now it is something that a few weeks ago you would think of as one of the things you do every day. But now that I can't do it, I miss it."

Writing this article, I was really amazed that even though I talked to people all over the world we all still have the same basic wants, needs, problems, and concerns. It has been really eye-opening and nice to get to talk to everyone.



Two white-throated magpies in Costa Rica.

relaxing, and we don't have to go to classes or rush.

Most flights were canceled. I was sad that maybe we could not get home. I wanted to get on the plane as soon as possible. Many people were trying to go home early. We waited to try for our regular flight. It was canceled, but we got on the last one two days later. I guess people will be stuck.

I felt sad to leave, but I wanted to see my dog because I missed her. I was looking forward to seeing my dog and playing with my costumes. It's hard not playing with my friends.

It was different to be around planes and airports on the way back. People wore masks and had hand sanitizer everywhere. There were definitely not as many people in the airport. They did not serve food on the plane. They made us give space in lines.

It feels good to be home and see my daddy and my Scruffy. Scruffy is my doggie. It feels good to be off the plane. But the weather is really bad. It's cloudy, rainy and cold.

I'm feeling scared about my neighbor. She is old and could get it and die because hospitals are too full. I would try to give love and help to people who are dying from the virus.

I hope that people will be able to fight off the virus. I want people to say "maybe there are good things about this," and stop eating so much meat and stop polluting, so maybe the animals will come back.

Jason Wessinger Hornick, aged 8.5, lives in Greenfield and is homeschooled.



and if they have to do surgery, like to insert a tube into a person to help them breathe, the doctors wear surgical gowns, long gloves, and special extra-tight face masks and goggles.

Nightly Applause

Tiiu (47), Emmeliina (15), and Juliana Coughlin (12) of Helsinki, Finland say that they are home a lot more than they usually are. Normally they are busy with school, hobbies, and seeing friends and family, and don't spend much time inside their apartment. Now they are all home and spending a lot more quality time as a family, but they have been

calls to stay connected.

The biggest thing for us as humans is not necessarily the fear of catching the virus. It is our concern that we won't be able to have life as it was before, when nothing was bad and we could go out and see friends. It is the wanting of a normal presence that we are most yearning for in this crazy and difficult time.

In Madrid, Alberto said: "I think that this situation will make me feel more grateful about all those common things that you can do that you normally don't pay attention to. Things like going outside, or getting a drink with a friend, or

I hope everyone stays healthy and connected to keep us all together, in a sense, in this time of social distancing.

Eva Hankowski, 12, is a sixth grader at The Common School. She enjoys gardening, and has started an indoor garden with her sister Anya these past couple of weeks. They are growing potatoes, garlic, and broccoli.

The reporter, on Zoom for her school work.

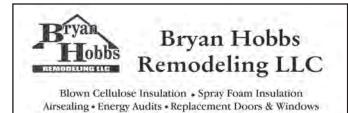
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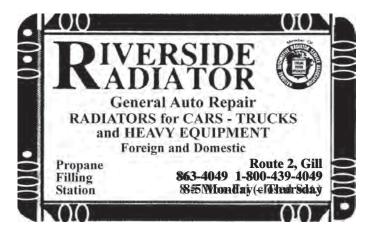
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JA'DUKE from pg A1

computers freezing, and an inability to hear the music that we are dancing to. This can cause students to not fully understand what the teacher is teaching.

To take the classes, we go to *zoom.us* and create an account. Then we go to *jadukecenter.com* and click the "Register and Login" button. Once we log in, we can click the video icon under our class.

We start each class by warming up and stretching. After that, we run our dances for the *James and the Giant Peach* performance, then we start learning our new dances for the Summer Showcase.

I interviewed a few people on their thoughts and opinions on the postponement of Ja'Duke shows.

"I'm disappointed that so many shows and events had to be postponed," said Kimberly Williams, the dance studio's head. "My disappointment, however, quickly diminishes when I take into account the reason for postponement and how it could save many lives. The inconvenience and interruption to our schedule, lifestyles, and routines is worth saving peoples lives. We will eventually do these shows and see our students in class but for now we must do what we need to as a business for the greater good of our community."

Williams said that the shows will still happen after this pandemic calms down and we are allowed to go about our regular days. Even though the students are upset, they understand why the shows are postponed, and are happy that they are still happening.

"I am really upset that the shows are postponed because it will be awhile before we can perform again but I fully understand why it needs to be done. I hope we will be able to perform sooner rather than lat-

er because performing for the community is one of my favorite things to do," said Maddie LeBorgne, a current student.

I was also wondering about how other people, including parents, were feeling about the online classes. "Online dance classes have been going GREAT!" said Williams. "I'm thankful to live in a time where we have this technology that gives us the ability to still teach, dance and chat with friends. I definitely wouldn't want to teach online classes forever but for now they are working!"

The Ja'Duke community is grateful to live in a time where online dance classes are an option to further our progress, and that we still get the opportunity to talk to our friends and learn from our amazing, hardworking teachers.

"So far the online classes have been great," said Jade Sumner, a dance mom. "The kids get to see their friends and teachers, which really helps combat the blues of social distancing."

The kids also enjoy the activities that the classes bring. "I like that Ja'Duke is hosting online dance classes because it gives me the opportunity to keep active and stay connected with my friends during this time," Dylan Vinton, a former student, told me.

In conclusion I and many others are very grateful, and understanding the reasonings behind why Ja'Duke is doing dance classes online. We hope that this pandemic gets better sooner rather than later, and that everyone is safe and practicing good social distancing.

Hannah Warnock lives in Turners Falls, and is in tenth grade at Turners Falls High School.

Education Companies Offer Free Access To At-Home Learning Tools

By EFFIE PAXTON

TURNERS FALLS – COVID-19 is ripping through the country, and the government (at least most of the government) is doing something about it. According to *edweek.org*, 48 states or commonwealths in the US have closed schools statewide. The other two are leaving it up to the school or district.

Closing schools is a strategy that the government uses to help "flatten the curve," or reduce the spread of the virus. Other strategies include inducing quarantine, closing local businesses, and letting people work from home. Unfortunately, not everybody is permitted to work at home. This can be a problem if they have elderly people in their lives, or are elderly themselves, because COVID-19 is deadlier to people who are older. Some teachers are old, so it's important to close schools to prevent them from getting sick. Also, kids can carry the virus without getting sick, so minimizing the amount of time they spend in large groups is also important. Because schools are closing, it's harder for teachers to educate their students. While some schools opt for video calls between students and a teacher, other schools are using online resources, such as BrainPOP or Newsela. Google Classroom is also used very often as an online resource to assign homework.

programs. This can take a toll on the number of schools that use them. However, because schools all around the country are closing, some online resources are letting schools use them for free. This increases the ease of teaching remotely for educators. Instead of creating custom lessons and figuring out how to post them and make sure everyone is able to understand or even have access to them, teachers could assign a lesson on BrainPOP, or an article on Newsela.

When asked about the topic, local teacher Becca Lipton replied, "I think it's great that they're offering their service for free. This is a time for community, togetherness, and resource sharing, and it's been great that so many places have made their services free or cheaper during this time."

Lipton teaches at Four Winds

panies charge money to use their programs. This can take a toll on the number of schools that use them. However, because schools all around the country are closing, the schools that use the country are closing, to Emily Dickinson. The fact that they're offering their services for free is really awesome for schools all over, not just in our little pocket of Franklin County.

> If you think about it, most of elementary school was based around computers. We have a weekly "special" subject dedicated to them! We take MCAS tests using computers! If teachers didn't think computers were important, we'd still be copying answers down onto a different sheet of paper!

Without the internet, we would probably be spending our technology period at school with an extra class of something boring. Remember kindergarten, when you would spend 45 minutes a week playing on Starfall or ABCYA? What would kindergarten have been like if you hadn't been spending that period of time playing some random game about the ABCs, or the colors of the rainbow? It probably wouldn't have been as much fun. However, to get the full version of a lot of websites like ABCYA or Starfall costs money. That means that using them for remote learning can be hard if that class, school, or district doesn't already have the full version or their budget is already stretched. That's why it's so great when websites offer up their services to schools for free!

Hands-Free Driving, Or Else: State Unfurls New Punishments, Fines For Violators

By CHARLOTTE LUDDY

AMHERST – The new handsfree driving law in Massachusetts went into effect on February 23, 2020. This law "prohibits operators of motor vehicles from using any electronic device, including mobile telephones, unless the device is used in hands-free mode." If drivers violate the law, police can issue a \$100 penalty.

According to *mass.gov*, a "junior operator," defined as someone under age 18, who violates the same law shall be punished by a fine of \$100 and "shall have [their] license or permit suspended for 60 days for a first offense and shall not be eligible for license reinstatement until [they] also complete a program selected by the registrar that encourages attitudinal changes in young drivers."

For a second offense, youth will be fined \$250 and will have their license or permit suspended for 180 days. For a third or subsequent offense, a fine of \$500 will be issued and the driver's license or permit will be suspended for one year.

Students at Amherst Regional High School (ARHS) had a lot to say about the new policy, but most argued they don't use their phones for more than changing the music or using Google Maps or directions.

Meiyi Weisbord, an eleventh grader at ARHS, said that she uses her phone "to change the music," but she uses the controls on the steering wheel. Indra Carpio-Pretel, Gabriel Aiken-Hafner, and Mason Alschuler also use their phones for music or directions. Tulsi Patel uses her phone for music and calls to her mom, and Sophia Jodka also makes and takes calls. Many of these are able to be accomplished "hands free," if the phone is connected to Bluetooth.

One senior, who wishes to remain anonymous, said that in addition to all the uses above, he also uses Snapchat while driving.

While that student said he saw

This enforcement may not keep drivers from using their devices, but just because they use them doesn't mean they think it is wise to do so. "Looking at your phone while driving *is* dangerous," said Weisbord, "but it's a risk you take."

There was a distinction made by many drivers between texting while driving and using their devices to change music, navigate, or talk on the phone. "Texting is dangerous because it takes your eyes off the road, whereas talking on the phone or listening to music doesn't," said Patel, an eleventh grader at ARHS.

Jodka agreed, saying "texting is absolutely dangerous, [but] I don't see why other things are dangerous."

Parents seem to be the number one influencers in how frequently people use their devices. When asked what, if anything, had ever changed her driving habits, Jodka responded that her "parents' guilt trips" did the trick.

Alschuler agreed, saying "my parents telling me as many terrible stories as possible" was the thing that influenced his use of a device while operating a vehicle.

Officer Felipe Feliciano has been with the Amherst Police Department as a patrolman for 15 years. He said he has seen accidents related to being distracted on a phone, and believes that this new enforcement is important. "I think it will help people focus on the roadway and driving safer versus taking their eyes off the road," he said.

Since the enforcement of the law, Feliciano said the people that have been pulled over are responding well to officer warnings. "We are just providing them [with] the information about the new law," Feliciano said. "Their response has been very good."

While many teens think they can manage using their phones while driving, Feliciano would disagree. He has seen all sorts of people, varying in age, who have ended up in car accidents due to distracted driving while using a phone. Most of the accidents have been "basic two-car collisions, some with injuries," he said, "but others have involved fatalities."

Of course, many of these com-

School, a local private school located in Gill. Four Winds uses websites such as BrainPOP to learn remotely, as many other schools around the country are.

BrainPOP is one of the websites offering free usage to schools. In their description for why they're doing this, they state, "As we all continue taking precautions during the spread of COVID-19, BrainPOP is here to help you and your curious learners stay informed and ontrack." BrainPOP is an educational website that has movies about hundreds of topics from Jamestown

Effie Paxton lives in Turners Falls, and is a sixth grader at Four Winds School in Gill. a sign posted by police, and Aiken-Hafner and Jodka knew of the law, it was news to the others. With the new awareness of this enforcement, these young drivers

enforcement, these young drivers have not had to rethink their driving habits very much. Instead, it has just increased their awareness of police surveillance.

"[The new law] probably won't change [my driving habits] too much, if we are being honest," said the senior who said he uses Snapchat. "But [I will] be more cautious around police officers when there is more traffic." Charlotte Luddy is a senior at Amherst Regional High School.

This article originally appeared in the March 20 edition of The Graphic, ARHS's student newspaper. Thanks to our colleagues for sharing their news!



BIKES from page A1

people less comfortable around bikes and bike shops, and a place where people can just start a good conversation about bikes - or about anything.

The story behind the shop's name is that he and his wife had a baby girl named Sadie. Unfortunately, Sadie passed away. Nik says that the shop is a memorial to Sadie, so he can still remember her and get to think of her every day.

Sadie's Bikes will carry bikes from a number of different high quality brands, but they will all be used bikes. They will have bikes available for all ages. Sadie's Bikes will also offer classes for the community, including kids' classes. These will be classes on how to maintain your bike and work on it like Nik did.

Nik said he is also hoping to do community group rides that are non-competitive and comfortable, like biking to the grocery store and showing people that you can use a bike for more than just fitness, that a bike can be a form of transportation. In the future, Nik hopes to sell bike accessories, like helmets, bells, used and new parts, and much more!

Nik is an artist, and he says that there will be lots of curiosities in his shop for people to check out! He makes lots of little electronic gizmos, and even collects gumball machines. (He currently manages the gumball machine at the Wagon Wheel restaurant in Gill.) Nik says that Sadie's Bikes will have a couple of gumball machines, too, but there won't be any gumballs in them... it will be all toys and little things!

The most important thing about Sadie's Bikes: it is not just a place where you go and spend money and leave. Nik wants it to be a comfortable place where you can have a fun conversation and just have fun with friends; a place for people's curiosity to go wild and



Nik Perry says he hopes the shop he is building will be a fun, comfortable place for people to just hang out.

have fun. So make a stop on down to Sadie's Bikes, coming soon to Turners Falls.

Anya Hankowski, 10, is a fourth grader at the Common School in Amherst. She has been riding her bike almost every day to stay healthy during the quarantine.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was April 1, 2010: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Crochier Runs for Gill Selectboard

Randy Crochier of Munns Ferry Road is running for the selectboard seat being defended by incumbent Nancy Griswold. The town election in Gill takes place on May 17.

Crochier, who has worked at the Farren Care Center in Montague City for the last 51/2 years, has served on the town of Gill's board of health for many years. He said he has been considering a run for selectboard for some time.

A Three-Way Race for **Montague Selectboard**

Chris Boutwell has entered the race for a seat on the Montague selectboard. Already in the running are Rachel Roy and Margaret Pyfrom. The annual town election takes place on Monday, May 17.

Boutwell, the chair of the Montague board of health and a longtime member of the Trustees of the Veterans Memorial, ran for a seat on the selectboard six years ago, but lost out to Patricia Pruitt.

Sold-Out Flea Market

Our Lady of Czestochowa held a bazaar on Saturday, March 27. "It was a huge success," Father DiMascola said. "Food went especially well." The bazaar was held in the undercroft and in an auxiliary building behind the church.

"We sold out of everything," Wanda Kozloski said. "That included 745 golumbki, 40 pints of kapusta" (shredded cabbage cooked with sauerkraut and spices), "and about 200 loaves of babka bread."

While the bazaar was a concerted effort, it was headed up by Louis Kozloski, with his wife Wanda and Irene Klepadlo as his seconds in command. Unfortunately, Louis was not feeling well, so he was unable to attend the function.

Local Performers Hit Hard by Shutdowns and Closures

amazing directors who put their

By ADELINE MAYO

TURNERS FALLS – As you may have read in the news, plays and performances all around the country are getting canceled due to COVID-19. Some of you may be mad, but the government is trying to stop COVID-19 from spreading by canceling everyone from coming in contact. After all, the government doesn't want hospitals to overflow. Without these measures people with COVID-19 or other serious problems would not be able to get help.

Great Falls Middle School and Turners Falls High School's Matilda the Musical was postponed due to the coronavirus. They don't know when they'll be able to perform – or if they even will get to perform.

Freshman Anna Baskowski, who plays Ms. Honey, explains her disappointment after the directors announced that they would not be performing any time soon. "This breaks my heart," she said. "Our whole cast has put so much work into this production, especially the upperclassmen. Not to mention two

The directors said they would try and reschedule for June, but

heart and soul into their work."

Baskowski's views have changed since governor Charlie Baker announced that school will be canceled until May 4. "Since online schooling has been extended, it's becoming less of an option. Or that's what it seems like. I'm just praying we will be able to perform late May or June," said Baskowski.

Frontier Regional School's Annie was canceled a day before opening night.

We interviewed Sasha Malo, playing Pepper, who says, "We have put so much hard work into this production, and the fact that it was canceled was very devastating to all of us!"

Malo, along with some castmates, created a GoFundMe page in hopes of saving the musical. "If we don't do a performance in May, then the money will go to the drama department," says Malo. Things aren't looking up for the small and private shows, either. Gill School's ACT program does an annual show, this year titled The Land of Oz. They are postponed, and could be canceled. "We spent every Tuesday and Thursday until 5 o'clock working so hard to memorize our lines and I am sad that we will probably not be able to perform the play," says Sophia Grimard, a fifth grader who was supposed to perform.



stranded during a national tour as venues shut down. They sent the Montague Reporter this photograph from their camper van.

people feeling disappointed about is "very hopeful that we'll be able to celled. Eric Hnatow and Haley Morgan of the Greenfield band Home Body were on tour when their stage lights turned off. Their touring suddenly came to a stop, causing them to lose income and forcing them to find another way to perform.

having their performances can- keep performing later in the year." The children in the school plays are also hopeful. The directors of Matilda are making Zoom meetings for their actors so they can keep up with their rehearsals. Fifth grader Shyann McComb from Gill Elementary School's Land of Oz says, "We could make a recording of our play."

Some cases are even worse. Greenfield-based musicians Home Body found themselves





Reporter Adeline Mayo (left) and Markie Vachula-Curtis (right) share the lead role in the GFMS/TFHS production of Matilda, a production that has now been suspended amid coronavirus-related closures of schools and theaters.

School children aren't the only

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"What is the performer without the audience?" asks Hnatow.

Still in New Mexico, they are finding new ways to keep going with their music career. They did a livestream on Instagram, and they are making new songs to keep their shows exciting for when they get back to the stage.

For now, they are trying to keep a positive attitude. Morgan says she

Canceling plays and concerts will stop people from spreading it, by having them not come in contact with other people, but it's not easy for the performers.

Adeline Mayo lives in Turners Falls, and is in the fifth grade at Gill Elementary School.



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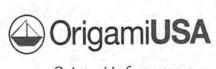
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SHOPS from page B1

business, the impact is much bigger than it would be if we had a lot of businesses. Most shop owners don't know what they will do next because they don't even know when they can open again.

"I'm not sure when we're going to be able to open again," said Alex McGuigan from Buckingham Rabbits Vintage. "We were hoping when we closed that we can list more things online, but being home all day with my two boys there's not really a lot of time to do anything work-related. The closures have completely frozen all of my business."

It is really hard for shop owners because they just all of a sudden had to close. If you're a business owner and you close, it's more than just losing your shop - you also lose your main income, and you



Turners Falls Pizza House originally stayed open for delivery only, but also closed its doors last week.

put a pause on something you've worked really hard on.

"I think that I'm, like, going through different stages of grief when it comes to the closure," said McGuigan. "It's like a cycle of shock, anger, and depression because it feels like the loss of something that's like one of the biggest parts of my life. I feel a little bit more hopeful now that I'm getting used to staying home, but it's a work in progress.

"I know it's going to be a long road, but I really believe in this village, and I believe we can figure it out day by day. I hope that we can all get some larger lessons from this experience."

McGuigan's Buckingham Rabbits Vintage is a vintage clothing store that recently moved from the canal district to Avenue A. Many other shops have also recently opened, including the Upper Bend, Fire and Embers Hot Yoga, and Great Falls Market. For them it is especially hard because they just put all this money into opening, and now they have to close for a period of time. It can feel extremely stressful to figure out what to do next.

Carleigh Dlugosz, the owner of Textür, a hair salon on Avenue A, said, "Our business is solely based on human interaction so we were forced to close our doors until April 7, probably longer. At first we were very concerned about the future of our business, but after a few days of thinking, we launched an online store for retail products."

She said, "We decided to adapt



Closed sign on the door of the Upper Bend Bruncheonette on Avenue A in Turners Falls.

to our surroundings, given the circumstances, and now we offer curbside pickup and delivery."

People's support is key to small businesses. Textür customers did a good job of doing this by buying gift certificates. Dlugosz said. "We actually had a lot of people canceling the week before the closings and then the week of, we were very busy."

Small businesses are struggling at this time so everyone should try to support them as best as we can. You can do this by buying gift certificates and purchasing products online. Even though this is a very hard time, it will pass, and we will be able to return to our wonderful shops.

Luella Miller is 10 years old. She is in the 5th grade at Greenfield Center School. She loves cats and Taylor Swift.

A Helpful Local Resource List

Right here in Franklin County and across Massachusetts, many of us have questions: What can I do to best protect myself, my family, and my community? What if I am running low on groceries or supplies? How do I help my kids to learn while they are home from school? How do I deal with the stress? How does this situation relate to substance use and other health issues? How can I pitch in and help others in need?

The Greenfield Safe Schools Safe Streets Coalition and the Gill-Montague Community-School Partnership have compiled some resources and information for all community members:

www.greenfield4sc.org/covid-19-resources

Categories on the page are:

- General COVID-19 Resources
- Talking with Children About COVID-19
- Stress and Anxiety Resources
- Educational Resources for Kids While Schools are Closed
- COVID-19 Resources Related to Substance Use
- Help with Food, Fuel Assistance, Unemployment Benefits, Legal Help, and Finances
- Volunteer Opportunities/Ways To Help

The list will be updated as the situation evolves...

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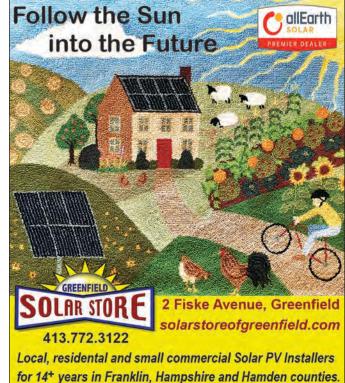
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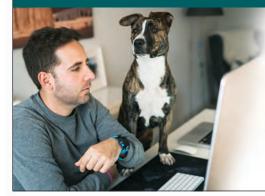
Effective immediately, Greenfield Savings Bank is offering to defer up to 90 days of mortgage and/or equity line or equity loan payments to all GSB Residential Loan Customers who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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For important information and full details about GSB Loan Relief Programs go to greenfieldsavings.com.



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Above: Sora Bullock took this photograph near the Green River Swimming & Recreation Area in Greenfield.

THE AUTHORS' CORNER RONNI DAVIS

By IZZY VACHULA-CURTIS

TURNERS FALLS – Happy April! I hope everyone is staying safe. Today I'm going to be reviewing When the Stars Lead to You by Ronni Davis, and interviewing the author! Enjoy.

When the Stars Lead to You is a love story about a girl named Devon. Devon loves astronomy. She wants to go to McCafferty University because of their astrophysics program. While visiting her cousin at the beach over the summer, Devon meets a boy named Ashton, who she falls instantly in love with.

Devon and Ashton spend the summer together, and when Ashton doesn't show up for their last day of summer together, Devon is both mad at him and heartbroken. Devon thinks she'll never see Ashton again, but then he shows up at her high school.

Are Ashton and Devon going to fall in love again? Or is Ashton being at Devon's school just going to



PHOTO COURTESY IZZY V-C

Our correspondent interviewed the author of a young adult romance novel.

cause more problems?

This book is super amazing! The beginning is super light-hearted and happy, but close to the end of the book, it does talk about mental illness, and gets a little sad. I would recommend it to anyone who read and enjoyed A Match Made in Mehendi, To All the Boys I've Loved Before, 10 Blind Dates,

see AUTHORS page B4

More Time for Goat Farming

By ASHER WILLIAMS

ORANGE – Hello, my name is Asher Williams and I live on a goat dairy farm in Orange, MA. The farm is called the Little White Goat Dairy. I usually spend a lot of my time at school and other kinds of activities away from my home and farm. Because of COVID-19, I get to spend more time on the farm. I've grown quite attached to some goats, and to being in the barn as part of my day.

It's early Spring, and that means that it's kidding season; the cute baby goats are coming, and coming quickly! The momma goats (does) that have given birth so far are Mavis, Pepper, Haley, Pip, Molly, and Currant. Many more are expected to kid in the next two weeks.

Everyday I wake up around 7 a.m. to wait for my Nonny Rachel to come tell me it's time to milk the goats. We set up the milking machine in the milking parlor, bring each goat in (the ones that are producing so far, which are those that have had babies) and give it grain, clean its udder, and then attach the machine and get the milk. Then we take the machine off and bring the milk to the tank room. When all the milking is done, we take the milking machine all apart and clean it really well.





APRIL 2, 2020

The tank room has lots of machines.We store the raw milk safely in the tank room, and we also use the vacuum tube to make sure the milk stays safe and clean. Nonny makes cheese, yogurt, and kefir. I had the opportunity to take some of the milk one morning, add kefir culture, set the pail in the right place for the right amount of heat, and then have that kefir for snacks and breakfast later in the week.

The milking parlor room is the magic behind the magic. The first magic is that the goats eat grain and eat from the pasture, and then make milk. The second magic is that humankind has figured out how to get it and make things with it.

We feed the goats again at 6:30 p.m., but I also go down during the day to see the mommas and babies and to help when babies are coming. One of the goats, Pepper, had three babies really cramped inside her womb. Not all of her babies survived. One of her babies has been having some problems with her front leg joints from being so cramped, and I spend time massaging that baby's front legs to help it heal.

My Life With CRMO

By MYRA GLABACH

GILL – My name is Myra, and I was diagnosed with CRMO last summer. CRMO is an abbreviation for: Chronic, meaning constant; Recurrent, meaning occurring often or repeatedly; Multifocal, meaning in many places; Osteomyelitis, meaning inflammation of the bone.

Essentially, my immune system attacks my bones as if they were viruses or a sickness, causing my bones to hurt for a couple seconds to hours. It also causes brittle lesions that can fracture easily.

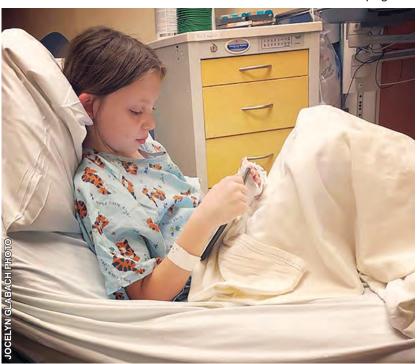
My immune system is weak-

ened; I also am tired a lot.

I came in from playing soccer last July of 2019, and I had a bad pain in my foot. My parents and I thought I had hurt it playing soccer. One or two weeks later I went for x-rays because it kept getting worse and my parents thought I had stress-fractured it. The x-rays were clean.

A week later I was admitted to Baystate Children's Hospital with high fevers that wouldn't go away and more widespread pain on my body. I was there for a week, and test after test came back negative,

see CRMO page B2



Myra, during her week-long hospital stay last August while doctors were trying to diagnose her.

Left: Molly on the milk stand. Top right: Asher and a new kid goat.

Being home instead of at school means that I can go to the barn, I can learn about kidding season and

see **GOATS** page B3

A Seed Starter's Report

By BEA DULLES

On Thursday, March 26, my family and I planted some seeds. We planted broccoli and kale for three rows, basil for two rows, dill for two rows, and cosmos for two rows. We also planted small pots with Mexican marigold, bachelor buttons, sungold tomatoes, Bibb lettuce, and beans.

On March 28 all of the seeds had sprouted except the basil and the marigolds. The broccoli and kale sprouted first, and then the cosmos. On one side of a basil pellet, I saw a little sprout coming out. Maybe a seed got pushed in too much.

We also had some old Morning Glory seeds from five years ago and we put them in a wet paper towel in a plastic bag. Believe it or

not, they sprouted!

As of today, March 31, everything has sprouted but the dill. I'm excited to plant these plants in the garden because I like to watch things grow. I also like to eat dill and basil.

Bea Dulles is a fourth-grader at the Center School in Greenfield. She lives in Leyden.



From left: Some small sprouts on Saturday; morning glory seeds sprouting by themselves; progress made by Tuesday.

CRMO from page B1

including the bone marrow aspiration for leukemia.

Finally, a consulting rheumatologist diagnosed me with CRMO. Apparently CRMO is a one-in-a-million disease that mainly shows up in ten-year-old athletic girls. I was 10 years old at the time.

A full-body MRI was needed for a definite diagnosis, and so I went to Boston Children's. The MRI revealed lesions on my feet, behind my knees, and on my spine. I also



Myra and her Nonni. Myra's CRMO Awareness shirt, which her Nonni bought her, says 'It's okay to be a little different."

had a compression fracture on my T6. A T6 is part of your vertebrae.

There is no cure for CRMO – yet. Treatments can sometimes help. Naproxen failed, and a medicine called prednisone also failed, so I began three courses of pamidronate.

My final treatment was in February. I am showing signs of not getting worse, but have not achieved remission, so I will be starting another course of pamidronate with the objective of being in remission by August.

For now I can't play sports, run, or have recess and gym. This is hard for me because I am a very active girl. With the threat of coronavirus I have to take extra precautions because of my weakened immune system.

Myra Glabach is 11 years old, lives in Gill, and attends Gill Elementary school.

Jocelyn Glabach, Myra's mom, would also like our readers to know that there is a nonprofit organization, KailasKomfort.org, that sends out personalized care packages to newly diagnosed CRMO "warriors." "It is found-

ed and run by a teenager with CRMO, and does so much good, " she writes.

INVESTIGATION A Pretty Unique Species

By LILYA GLABACH

GILL – The platypus, sometimes called the duck-billed platypus, also scientifically named Ornithorhynchus anatinus (awr-nuh-thuh-ringkuh sa-nat-i-nus), is a pretty unique species of semi-aquatic mammal that is found in rivers and streams of eastern Australia, also known as Queensland, plus New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania.

Platypuses are called mono*tremes*, which means mammals that lay eggs. Platypuses are one of three species of monotreme; the other two both being echidnas, or spiny anteaters. Platypus babies, also known as puggles, drink their mother's milk like most mammals. Platypuses were the earliest offshoot of the mammalian family tree.

Male platypuses are venomous; their spur venom can kill a small animal in minutes and cause excrucition (elec-tro-re-sept-shon) which is caused by its beak. Platypuses' sixth sense is similar to sharks' sixth sense, which is also called electroreception.

Platypuses can live 17 years when in captivity, and male platypuses can weigh 2.2 to 5.3 lbs; the female platypus can weigh 1.5 to 3.5 lbs. A male platypus can be 20 inches long as an adult and a female platypus can be 17 inches long as an adult.

Platypuses normally eat fish from the wetland they live in and sometimes grubs, shrimps, worms, yabbies, pea shell mussels, and aquatic insects. Platypuses don't have a stomach, so you're probably wondering, where does the food go? Well, today is your lucky day.

How they eat is that their food goes from their esophagus (e-sof-igis) straight to their small intestine. The stomach, a large sack of acids and enzymes, is missing. It doesn't seem to hurt the platypus any; in fact

Showcase: Original Typography

By NAOMI BOREZO

ORANGE – Nothing stimulates the mind more than sitting in one's house for weeks on end! My typographical piece, Isolation, is a product of the quarantine that has slowed our lives almost to a stop.

For some people, their occupations are considered absolutely essential and are risking their lives to provide their services to the people of the world. But also for many people, the spread of COVID-19 means that those who go out into the world to work for a living need to put down their work and go home. We have to slow down even though the rest of the world keeps spinning.

As a fifteen-year-old, I am missing school and the company of friends, something I didn't believe I

would be able to bear only a week or so ago. But, as time goes on I am discovering little things that bring me joy in this odd twilight zone we find ourselves in.

Isolation is not my first piece of typography, but it is the first one I created digitally, using Adobe In-Design and Photoshop. Although we have all been placed in a very difficult and trying situation, the process of creating Isolation and exploring other means of creating art has been an incredible one, and a process that I know will help me a great deal in the coming weeks and months with the world in its current state.

Naomi Borezo is a 10th grader at Quabbin Regional High School. She enjoys creating artwork using letterforms.

Sasha's Apple Pie

By SASHA MALO

GREENFIELD – My family always says that I am a master at apple pie. Apple pie is by far my favorite dessert. It's the best on a cold winter day, while you are cuddling up on the couch, and watching a movie. Apple pie is super easy and fun to make, even with kids alongside you.

My family has had a history of apple pie. I don't remember my great-grandma that much, but

Pie crust

Ingredients: 2 cups all purpose flour; 1 teaspoon of salt; 1 cup cold butter; 1 cup water.

- 1. Place flour, salt, and butter in a large bowl.
- 2. You may put that in a food processor if you have one, or you can also use a pastry cutter. What I do is I combine them with my hands, which gives it a more flaky texture.

ating pain to humans. Platypus have a sixth sense called electrorecep-



From "The naturalist's miscellany, or Coloured figures of natural objects." (London: Nodder & Co., 1789-1813.) they get along just fine without one.

Platypuses are pretty weak but also pretty good fighters so they have a large selection of enemies and predators. Here are some examples: large birds of prey, and saltwater crocodiles.

More fun facts:

• When platypuses are disturbed, they make a noise similar to puppy barks.

• Platypuses were discovered in 1884 by a group of European naturalists.

• Platypuses are blind and deaf.

• Platypuses can hold their breath for about 30 seconds.

• Platypuses can have a litter of one to three eggs.

I have written about platypuses today because I think platypuses are very interesting animals to learn about and they are my favorite animal. They hold a special place in my heart, and I want you to know this has been a great experience.

Lilya Glabach is 9 years old. She goes to school at Sheffield Elementary and lives in Gill.

from what my mom and my aunts and uncles have told me, she made an amazing apple pie. She then passed it on to one of my aunts. Then, as you may have guessed, my aunt passed it to me.

I have made slight variations to the recipe, so it can be the best pie possible. I have so much fun making it, and I hope you do as well. I have provided

you a recipe down below. I hope you enjoy making it and, more importantly, eating it.

- 3. Add water in, little by little. You may not need all of it.
- 4. Combine with your hands until it is doughy, and you are able to shape it to a ball.
- 5. Place in the fridge while you are making the filling.

Filling

Ingredients: 9 apples; 2 teaspoons of cinnamon, plus extra; 5 tablespoons of sugar, plus extra.

1. Peel and cut apples into $\frac{1}{2}$ inch cubes.

- 2. Place apples, sugar, and cinnamon into a bowl.
- 3. Mix well.

Assembly

- 1. Roll out pie dough into the size of your pie dish.
- 2. Grease your pie dish.
- 3. Put the pie dough in the dish.
- 4. Poke holes with a fork in the bottom of the pie dish.
- 5. Pour in the apple filling.
- 6. Put on the extra sugar and cinnamon, add small cubes of butter.
 - 7. Place top crust on.
 - 8. Poke holes with a fork.
 - 9. Bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit.

Enjoy!

Sasha Malo is a seventh grader at Frontier Regional School.

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GOATS from page B1

goats, and I can see more of what my Nonny and Saba (my grandparents) do to run the dairy. Because I am not at school, I can run down to the barn whenever a goat is giving birth.

Even though the virus is making the world really crazy right now, and some people are sick and some are dying, I can go to the goats for happiness. I am using less electronics. I used to be on electronics all

the time, and now I don't feel like doing that as much, because I feel needed at the barn.

There are some things that I hope go back to normal, but this change is one thing that I hope sticks.

Asher Williams is 9 years old. He lives in Orange with his mother, father, little brother, and Nonny and Saba. He attends fourth grade at Dexter Park School.



The girls soaking up the sun.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT A Call to Creatives from the UN

You have the power to change the world. The World Health Organization is leading and coordinating the global health response to coronavirus, helping to ensure all countries are ready to prevent, detect and respond to the pandemic.

The United Nations (UN) needs help from artists in translating critical public health messages into work that will engage and inform people across different cultures, languages, communities, and platforms.

Use any medium to produce work that captures one of the coronavirus key messages below, in a clear, impactful, and shareable way.Capture one key UN messages in your work: personal hygiene; physical distancing; symptoms; kindness contagion; myth busting; and do more, donate.

The UN asks you to bring your own magic to these key messages a creative twist, a cultural quirk, an interpretation which helps amplify them to audiences not yet reached. Try to capture one of the above key messages per submission. Only include messaging derived from UN-guidance and ones that are true to the spirit of the public health needs.

Please only submit original work! You can submit in a variety of formats: Illustrator, gifs, mp4, photoshop, PDF, etc. See www.talenthouse. com/i/united-nations-global-call-outto-creatives-help-stop-the-spreadof-covid-19 for more information.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Tractor Trailers Get In Trouble On Snowy Roads; Migratory Way Gates Trap 11th, 12th, 13th Victims

Sunday, 3/22

9:09 a.m. 911 caller reports past breaking and entering into their apartment on Avenue A. Officer spoke with the caller, report taken.

12:24 p.m. Caller from Sherman Drive complaining of neighbor's vehicles parked on the side of the road; advises vehicles can get through, but it is narrow. Referred to an officer. 2:23 p.m. Report of illegal dumping at Jarvis Pools, bag contents include trash, pizza boxes, pictures, etc. Caller was advised to call back if they can safely see a name/address/etc. If so, an officer will attempt to make contact. Caller was advised to use precautions if she handles or comes into contact with any of the items.

3:05 p.m. Report of shoplifting at Family Dollar. Suspect left on foot, on Avenue A. Stole a bottle of perfume and a wallet. Report taken.

4:42 p.m. Caller from Sunderland Road states that a raccoon that appeared to be rabid chased after her and was not scared of her. Message left for animal control officer.

8:23 p.m. Caller from Family Dollar states that some items, including medication, were stolen from a parked vehicle he was in. Investigated. Monday, 3/23

4:03 p.m. 911 caller requesting help for himself after being in a motor vehicle accident at Ste.

Anne's cemetery. States he is injured. PD and FD responding. Driver extricated from vehicle. Being transported by TF A1. Notification made to driver's home residence by officer. Message left for caretakers of Ste. Anne's about the accident.

4:28 p.m. DPW notified about slippery road conditions on Turnpike Road. They are responding.

8:22 p.m. Off-duty officer reporting a tractor trailer unit is stuck in the road on First Street at the bottom of the big hill. DPW supervisor is heading in to grab a truck and plow down in that area. Officer requesting RoseLedge to the scene because the Capital tractor trailer unit is jackknifing. Road will be closed from Scotty's down to Park Street. Awaiting sand from DPW. RoseLedge on scene. Capital tractor trailer unit winched up the hill safely. Road is now back open.

10:30 p.m. DPW is aware that the roads are getting bad. The latest weather report shows the snow stopping around 1:30 a.m. They will come back out at that time to clean things up. At 12:40 a.m. officer requested DPW be contacted and hit the roads sooner than previously planned. DPW advises he is calling guys in now so they will be heading out shortly. 11:35 p.m. Caller states

his car is stuck in the snow on South Prospect Street because the DPW

has not touched the roads. Caller states he tried to flag down an Erving tow truck and was told he can't touch this road. Officer states he was able to get the car down the hill and off the road and will wait for tow truck before going any further.

11:55 p.m. Caller states that her car is stuck on Broadway. Caller states the roads have not been touched and she isn't able to make it to her house. Caller states that her boyfriend should be home around 1:00 or 1:30, and he will try to get the car to the house.

Tuesday, 3/24

12:09 a.m. Caller states there is a line down on Park Street; states she can see it out her window; no sign of tree down or an accident in the area. Officer advises it is a cable line. FD cut the wire.

12:18 a.m. Caller from K Street states that because of the snow on the road, she is unable to make it into her driveway. Re-

ferred to an officer. 6:46 a.m. Caller states wires down there are across Turnpike Road near the high school. Greenfield PD advises they got a call stating a tractor trailer unit took down some wires. Third caller states his wife just called him and said a truck hit a pole and pulled down some wires on Turnpike Road near Dell Street.

Services rendered. 2:13 p.m. 911 caller believed she may have seen a bunch of cats jumping out of the back of a dark colored pick-up truck on Canal Street. The truck has left the area. Area checked. No random cats in the neighborhood.

5:47 p.m. Caller reporting a past hit and run in front of his residence on Federal Street. When he arrived home he noticed there was debris from a vehicle around a utility pole that had scratches but no significant damage. No wires down at this time. Officer reports that there is a piece of a grille with a Chevy emblem on the ground. Looks to belong to a pickup truck with four wheel drive. Investigated. 5:50 p.m. Caller calling on behalf of motorist who is stuck behind the gate on Migratory Way. Eleven responses for this in three weeks. Officer contacted Northfield Mountain project and they report that it will get passed up the chain.

9:54 p.m. Caller reporting fire alarms going off at Farren Care Center; reports there is smoke filling the first floor. Five bedridden patients are stuck inside. Caller reports there is an unknown liquid that has a foul odor coming from a broken pipe on the first floor. TFFD advised. TFFD requesting Greenfield FD for an engine. Wednesday, 3/25

1:45 a.m. Shelburne control requesting assistance for Erving PD for a disturbance on Pleasant Street; male party tearing apart the house. Services rendered.

Thursday, 3/26

11:39 a.m. Caller wants it on record that he has been doing some animal removal work at Thomas Memorial Country Club, and a body grip trap that he set out on March 24 has been taken. Caller states that he found footprints leading to the trap, no obvious signs of an animal getting caught in it.

5:07 p.m. Caller locked behind gate on Migratory Way that had closed at 5 p.m.

Friday, 3/27

12:42 p.m. Caller reporting a male party who they found almost passed out in the outdoor seating area at Element Brewing. Described his condition as possibly intoxicated or overdosing. Officers located male party and walked him home. End of call.

2:53 p.m. Caller reporting that a male party has been driving his motorcycle in circles for over three hours in the St. John's church parking lot, and he can't get any sleep because of the noise. Area search negative.

5:11 p.m. Attempted shoplifting at Family Dollar. Summons issued for shoplifting by asportation.

Bookstore Review: The Montague Bookmill

By FINNEGAN TORREY

MONTAGUE CENTER - The Bookmill is a great place to go if you're bored, need books, or just want to go somewhere - and a lot of us need all three of those right now. It's located in Montague Center. The inside has a rustic feel, with creaking floorboards, stuffed furniture to read in, and a maze of book-filled rooms to explore and get lost in while reading a great book fresh from the shelf. It's a great place to sit and read a great book. There's also a little cafe called the Lady Killigrew with great food and hot coffee. You can get a soda and sit outside to watch the river go by, or sit inside and read a new book. You never know what you'll find at the Bookmill. They've always got people donating books to them, so they could have any book. If you're looking for a new book to read, always go to the Bookmill, because they always will have a great selection of books for half price because they are used. They are also a great place to go if you have too many books, because they will buy books as well as sell them. A resident of Plainfield said that the only problem with going to the Bookmill is that no matter what you're doing there, you're sure to end up with way more books than you need.



Shelves at the Montague Bookmill.

So if you need a book, don't go straight any business at this time. to Barnes and Noble or Amazon, check out the Bookmill. If they don't have the book that you're looking for, they'll at least have some other cool books to get.

The Bookmill is officially closed right now – for two weeks at least – so if there is any way that you know of to help them, by all means do it, because it's going to be very hard to survive for Four Rivers Charter School.

So to summarize, the Bookmill is a great, friendly place to go and if you need books, want books, or are just passing by, you should stop at the Bookmill. It's a really great place, and you never know what you'll find there.

Finnegan Torrey is a seventh grader at

5:52 p.m. 911 open line; no answer on callback. Caller did call back and confirmed pocket dial. States he is fishing on the Connecticut River.

5:20 p.m. Caller states there are multiple people locked behind the gate on Migratory Way. Officer advises his remotes are not working, so they will need to wait for a keyholder.

Saturday, 3/28

11:40 a.m. Report of youth throwing rocks down onto cars in the parking lot at Third and Canal streets. Officer observed one vehicle with smashed windshield; spoke with several residents of Keith Apartments, who advised there is a group of four or five younger boys that go up on the hill sometimes. Investigated.

This installment of the Highlights from the Montague Police Log was compiled by Effie Paxton of Turners Falls, a sixth grader at Four Winds School in Gill.

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AUTHORS from page B1

Somewhere Only We Know, and other romance books I've reviewed.

Like I said above, this novel is super amazing, but it does talk a little about mental illness, which can be sad or hard to read about for some readers.

Now I'm going to interview Ronni Davis...

Izzy V-C: What inspired you to write this novel?

Ronni Davis: I really wanted to write about people being loved that you don't normally see being loved. Devon is a biracial black girl, and in the media, the black girl rarely gets the guy.

Ashton has depression, and mainstream media, up until recently, hasn't been great about portraying it. I wanted to show these people being deeply loved, and hopefully a realistic and sensitive portrayal of mental illness.

IVC: In When the Stars Lead to You, the main character knows someone who experiences mental illness. Why did you decide to write about that topic?

RD: I have a mental illness myself, and when I was younger, I had no idea what was "wrong" with me. My friends also didn't know, so they weren't very sympathetic when I'd be

dealing with the depression. I wanted to write about this topic so people know that nothing is wrong with them, that they're not alone, and that they are loved, and

that there is help. And also for people who have friends who are dealing with depression, how to respond to it in a way that's OK for everyone.

IVC: If When the Stars Lead to You was made into a movie, who would you *want to play the characters?*

RD: Ohhh, this is a good one! For Devon, there is an actress named Chloe Coleman who is 11 years old. I think it would take my book about 5 to 7 years to get made into a movie, so she'd be the perfect age if it lines up right. She's talented and funny, and looks almost exactly like how I'd picture young Devon.

As for Ashton? I am open to a newcomer. I'd be willing to audition actors forever to find the perfect Ashton.

I'd love Theo James to play Devon's father, and Sherri Saum to play Devon's mother.

IVC: What is your favorite romance book/series?

RD: No fair!! So hard to choose. Here are a few of my favorites: The Hunger Games; Red, White, and Royal

Blue; The Kiss Quotient; Anna and the French Kiss; and Dreamland.

IVC: The main character, Devon, loves the stars, and plans to go to college to study and learn more about them. Why did you decide to write about astronomy?

RD: I wanted Devon to study a science subject, and my first thought was actually Earth Science, because plate tectonics fascinates me. But then I thought about Devon, and how she's a bit romantic even though she's also logical, and I thought studying astrophysics was the perfect intersection of those two things.

In addition, the universe is so vast, and there is so much to learn. I really enjoyed doing research for that part of the book!

Thank you for reading my review of When the Stars Lead to You, and thank you so much to Ronni Davis for answering my questions! I hope you enjoy When the Stars Lead to You if you decide to read it. Stay safe, everyone!

Izzy Vachula-Curtis is in eighth grade at Great Falls Middle School. Her column The Authors' Corner has appeared regularly for over two years, and she is a guest editor of this special edition.

Basketball: Opinion

By JACKSON COGSWELL

TURNERS FALLS - Do you like professional basketball? If you do, you will be happy to know that I want to continue the NBA. There needs to be more kids like me who want to play NBA basketball so that there will be a new generation of the NBA.

First, playing and watching the NBA is fun for all basketball fans, because 20 million people watched the NBA in 2017. I think the 20 million people who watch the NBA will be very happy to know there will be another generation of the NBA.

For example, picture this: your team is down by one in Game Seven of the NBA finals, and they have the ball with 4.9 seconds left! Your favorite player, Jebron Lames, dribbles the ball up the court."Three! Two! One!!" you yell at your TV. "Shoot it!" With one second left he throws the ball high in the air. Everyone goes silent; it's falling. You yell, "please go in!" And after you yell that, it does! You have a huge party with everyone you know. See? So fun!

Second, a lot of kids like to play basketball, so it would be great for them. For instance, 20 million kids ages 6 to 17 play basketball. Also kids *love* to have fun, and I think basketball is *really* fun.

Lastly, it will give people more jobs, because when you play in the NBA you can make over a million dollars. If there was no NBA, the new generation would either not have a job and not be able to provide food for themselves or their family, or they would have to try to find another job, which I highly doubt would pay a million dollars a year.

Now are you convinced that we should continue the NBA? I'm positive that it would be a great idea.

Jackson Cogswell, a sixth grader at Great Falls Middle School, lives in Turners Falls.



By KODA

The humans all disappeared a long time ago. Their cities, once bustling with lights and sound and monsters of their own invention, were left completely barren. You can hear them whispering on the streets, in between the mint plants that took over the tallest buildings, about the thing that made them leave. They got sick. Really sick. I've been told that sometimes you see lone ones wandering the street with face masks and big bags filled with food. They drop them off at doors, and then the food is taken inside when they leave.

We're hungry, but we'd never attack a human. We learned our lesson a long time ago. Instead, we wander from our homes and roam the streets in the dead of night, where no one walks and no virus crawls. We are

they planted it in the ground?

Maybe they weren't as smart as they thought they were. I'm not so dumb as to plant mint in the ground, for sure.

Many animals still avoid the streets, and I don't blame them. If they come back, for real and not as lonely gatherers, we would be killed. We don't fear death the same way humans do, though. At least, I don't.

My mother told me, the day before she died, that she was going to go back to being the ground. That one day, the wolves would take her or she wouldn't be able to keep moving, that her body would give up. And then she'd join the earth again, and it would be better. She told me that death is scary because we don't want to die painfully, and that is one of the small mercies the wolves give us. The humans wouldn't give us that kindness. Instead, they shoot us, and they hang our heads on walls, and they take pictures. They preserve our bodies, and they do not let us go back to the earth. It's a slow death. It's a painful one.

Though I guess you're probably hunting."

"You guess correctly. Scavenging is more the crows' game. Not so much the caribou." The feline eyes me curiously, and I begin to keep moving.

"I like the mint that grows here. My herd left, and no one else is here to eat it. I like to hear what the animals that stay here have to say."

"And you don't get much from the crows up north, nor the caribou. You like hearing the rumors about the humans? About their sickness? Or do you want to see them for vourself?"

"I'll listen to anything you offer, but I don't have much to ask."

She stays quiet, running to catch up to me. I'm far taller than her, and my stride is longer. I could crush her. A simple kick from one of my legs could easily kill her.

Older than a lot of my kind." "Then you remember the city be-

fore they got sick at all?" "It was glorious. Lights, cameras, cars, pigeons and crows flocking

the streets. They called the pigeons rats, after they'd spent years domesticating them. Can you believe it?"

I can. I've heard a lot of nasty things about humans. But I wouldn't want to offend my latest traveling companion, so I hold my tongue. I don't even know what half of the things she mentions are.

"You and I must think about them differently. The animals that come from the forest like to ask me questions, but I want to ask you something. What were humans to you?"

"Cruel. Mocking. Violent. Hungry, but not like we are."

"Not so different after all, then. Though, you resent them for it. I do too but I think I take advantage of the bad situation, where you don't."

"Two, I think." I answer. "Are they still here?"

"Hiding in their homes, yes. They think the disease can't get them there, but they still look out their windows. They look longingly at the mint you chew, and they remember how hungry they are. They order their food from the few people that don't care about the disease, and they pay them remotely. It's a quiet terror they harbor. It's a quiet jealousy."

"And the second question?"

"Why did they plant the mint in the ground in the first place? Did they not know it would spread?"

She smiles, all her sharp little teeth glaring in the sunlight. "The first ones, maybe. But once they smelled it, once they realized how much they loved the taste, it followed them around. Like a parasite, it fed off their love for it. They kept the mint alive and in return it kept being delicious. They were hungry, and now you are hungry, and I am hungry. But for them, that hunger never went away. That hunger killed them."

immune to it, and we've learned to take advantage of that.

I used to go with my mother, but she passed away recently. The wolves are hungry too, and they can't wander into the cities like we can. I'm not too affected by it – my herd may have moved on without me, but I'm perfectly happy to live off what the humans have left behind.

Their lights flicker now. The mint that crawls up their buildings is a wonderful thing to eat. Some things still get power, like the moving stairs or the automatic doors that lead to them. The plants have taken over inside the buildings, too, but not as much as the mint.

The city is more beautiful in their absence. It smells better, now. You can taste alcohol in the air still, an artifact of their desperate attempts to disinfect everything, but the woods are making their claim once again. They always do.

I wonder about the humans a lot. Did they think their cities were immortal? Did they think they could be, too? What made them think that the mint would not take over when

But they don't do that anymore. So I walk along the roads of their cities, and mock them. I hope they see me from wherever they're hiding.

As much as I'd like to think they died of the thing they're so afraid of, there's plenty of proof they're still there. Their pets sometimes escape, even though they don't open the windows. The cats are more talkative than the dogs. They like to talk about the human's secrets. You never see the same one twice, though.

"Strange," I hear, walking along an empty path. This one they didn't let their monsters onto, so it doesn't smell as bad. When I turn, I see one of the cats, brown and white and fluffy, stripes rippling down her spine. "I didn't think Caribou came this close to the quarantine, but here we are. Scavenging, I suppose?"

"I could ask the same of you.

But she's smart enough to know when to walk away. That's why she was able to avoid getting killed by the humans. They won't shoot her like they will me.

"You probably are too young to remember when they were plentiful, aren't you?" she asks.

"Is it really that obvious?"

"Your horns are simple, and velvety. You're still plenty fluffy. As for me, I'm nine years running.



"I feed off the mint they let infest their cities once they got sick. Am I not doing the same?"

The cat is quiet for a moment. "You're more interesting than the other animals that come from the forest, you know. The birds fear me, and I fear the dogs, and the boars that once came were deranged and violent. You make my outside trips worth it."

"That sounds like a compliment," I say, not sure if it is one.

"It is."

She walks in silence with me while I try to smell the mint. It's hard to find any individual patch, because sometimes it's all you can smell. The city smells of mint and gasoline and alcohol all muddled together, a disastrous fight between the forest and the humans and the disease, a bridge between them.

"I should be going. I'd like to hunt today, and while you're good company, you're far too big to kill." She stretches her claws, sharp little needles, and begins to trot away. "No questions at all?"

She is not talking about the mint.

"Enjoy your mint. I'll rub it in the human's face for you."

Her tail swishes, and she is off, leaving the cold city streets barren once again.

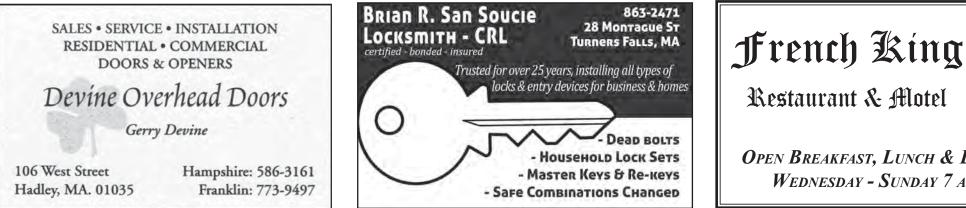
After I eat, I am full, and I turn around and go back to the forest that I came from. I am beginning to miss my herd, but they will travel here soon enough, and then I'll join them once more.

After speaking to the cat, I begin to notice them more. When I pass windows, I see their shadows, and they freeze in fear. Perhaps they see me as a leper, a walking disease coming to take them. Perhaps I smell like the mint.

I wonder if they miss their herds. I wonder if they miss the mint.

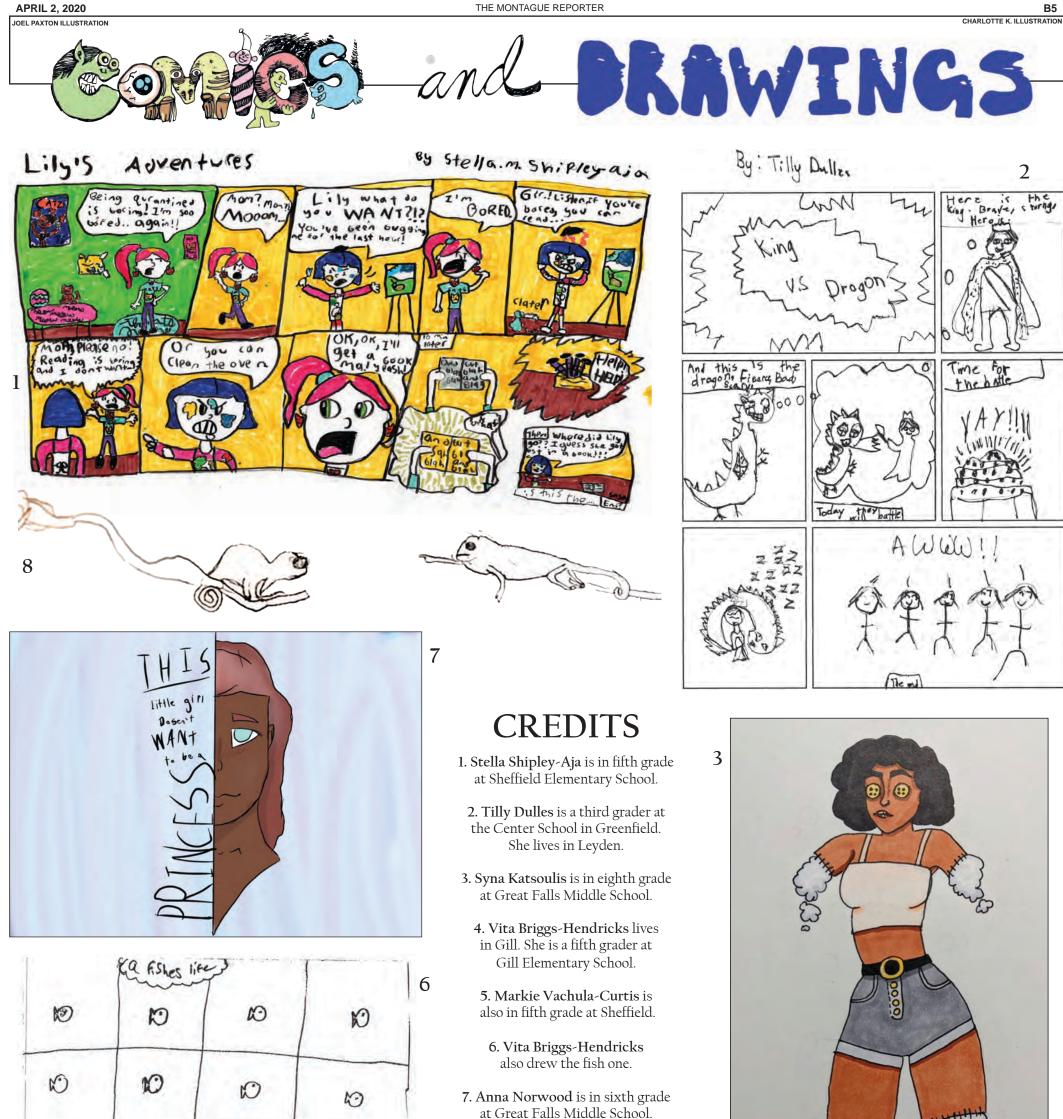
Koda, a.k.a. RaeAnn Loura, is a junior at Franklin County Technical School.

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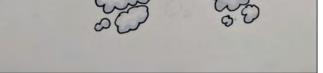


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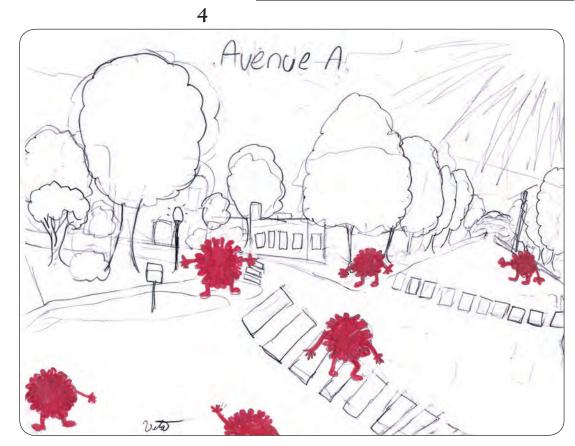




8. Millie Strom lives in Montague, and is in the first grade at the Center School in Greenfield.







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POETRY CORNER

The wind blows through the woods, it howls at the trees as I watch, and I love the wind.

– Kaya Shipley-Aja

I've always loved the forest
And I guess I always will
With the evergreen trees
And blown away leaves and ballads of dancing blues and greens
So I made a path in the woods

Only I know where And maybe I'll be buried there In wind and wood and snow and rain

		- Allia Noiwoou	
Black Hole			
	Dark hole in space		
	It has a whistle.		
	Hummmmm.		
	O00000000.		
	Is how it goes.		
	Hummmm.		
	O00000000.		
	I get sucked in.		
		– Adeline Mayo	
		– Adeline Mayo	

Kaya Shipley-Aja is a fifth grader at Sheffield Elementary School. Anna Norwood is in sixth grade at Great Falls Middle School. Adeline Mayo is in fifth at Gill Elementary.

Downtown Turners Falls

Stuck at Home During the Coronavirus

By BIRCH MILLER

TURNERS FALLS - My name is Birch. I am in second grade. I am 8 years old and I live in Turners Falls. My school closed on Thursday, March 12 because of the coronavirus. Since then I have been staying at home.

At home I have been doing lots of different things to keep me busy. With my school I have been doing online learning websites. The online learning website we use is called IXL. It includes language arts, math, science, Spanish, and social studies. It is a great way to learn.

We also do Zoom meetings. Zoom is a great way to talk to your friends. You can talk to as many people as you want at one time. You can just download the app, and create an account. It is so much fun to talk to all my classmates on Zoom.

On my own, I have been doing many different things. One of the things I have enjoyed is reading Time For Kids. Time for Kids is a website full of great articles for kids. Some of my favorite things I read were about trains, music, dance, and cool places all around the world. All you have to do is look up "Time Kids" online. It is soooo fun.

I have also been using YouTube. You probably aldy know what YouTube is, but if you don't, Yoube is a website for watching pretty much whatever u want. On YouTube I have been doing lots of differthings, including qigong, tai chi, yoga, and drawing. r qigong on YouTube I like to watch Master Mingng Gu, Yoqi, or Shaolin Temple Europe. For tai chi I e to watch the YouTube channel Taiflow.

When I am not looking at a screen, I enjoy bakg. I baked nut-free Earl Grey french macarons from ood52," and I made fudgy chocolate mug cakes om The Complete Cookbook for Young Chefs by nerica's Test Kitchen. I recommend baking at home if you have the ingredients. It is so fun.

We also go outside every day for at least an hour. It has been kind of hard not being at school for the past couple weeks. I miss my friends and teach-



Birch Miller holds a plate full of Earl Grey french macarons that he baked himself.

ers. I also miss going out to eat and shopping at really fun stores. I miss going to a store in Amherst and Northampton called Lime Red. They sell bubble tea. I really love bubble tea.

I hope this ends soon, so everybody can go back to their normal life.

Birch Miller is 8 years old and is in the second grade at the Greenfield Center School. He lives in Turners Falls.

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