

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 19 – NO. 28

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 20, 2021

Critics of Police Advisory Group Reports Call for Expert Study of Residents' Needs

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE – A forum held Monday on the findings and recommendations of two committees appointed to study the Montague po-

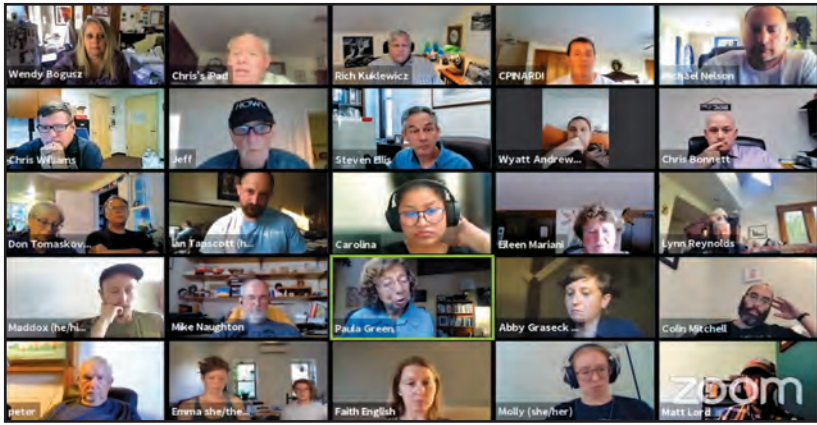
lice department and its relationship to the community brimmed over with frustration as the town selectboard, residents who volunteered to lead the groups, and even the event's facilitator took turns defending the

process from criticism that it did not effectively reach residents believed to be most impacted by policing.

"Our goal as a board was to gain a pulse, and an understanding, of the police department," said selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz, who last September helped appoint the committees tasked respectively with studying the department's "community engagement" and issues of "equity and use of force."

According to 2019 data from the American Community Survey, a program of the federal Census Bureau, 90.4% of Montague's residents identify as White alone. Though the 14 volunteers appointed included four Black and one

see CRITICS page A8



Monday's forum was held via Zoom.

Area Police Officer Arrested On Child Pornography Charges

By MIKE JACKSON

GREENFIELD – A man recently employed as a part-time reserve officer with the Buckland and Bernardston police departments was arraigned Tuesday on four counts of child pornography, according to the Northwest District Attorney's (NWDA) office.

Jacob Wrisley, 40, formerly a Shelburne resident, was arrested by state police at his Millers Falls home on Monday and arraigned in Greenfield district court on Tuesday. According to an NWDA spokesperson, investigators issued a warrant for Wrisley after receiving a tip from

the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. State police searched his home and car and interviewed him before his arrest.

Wrisley was appointed as a part-time reserve officer in the Buckland Police Department in June 2018 after attending the local police academy and was still serving in that role as recently as last summer, according to public documents reviewed by the *Montague Reporter*. He was appointed as a part-time reserve officer in the Bernardston Police Department in May 2019.

Buckland police chief James Hicks confirmed on Wednesday see CHARGES page A6

ANALYSIS

Congressional Redistricting Kicks Off With Hearing

By JEFF SINGLETON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – State senator Joanne Comerford recently sent around an announcement urging local residents to attend a hearing on redistricting, which will take place before the legislature's Special Joint Committee on Redistricting, next Monday, May 24. As Comerford noted, redrawing the district lines for Congress, as well as for the state house and senate, takes place after each US Census, every ten years.

The central goal is to adjust districts, which may have gained or lost population in the previous decade, so they will be of equal size in order to achieve "one person, one vote."

Monday's hearing will focus on Congressional district number 2, currently held by Representative Jim McGovern, which includes the towns where most of this newspaper's readership resides. Comerford's announcement, which is also on her website, lists links to numerous documents that describe and regulate the redistricting process. There will also be hearings on state legislative districts, which must be adjusted in response to the 2020 Census.

The technical process by which the Massachusetts legislature will decide which towns move into which districts is complex. First, it must be determined from the 2020 see KICKS OFF page A7

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Charlemont Man Hired To Inspect Montague's Buildings

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard has appointed William Ketchen as the town's new inspector of buildings. The appointment came during a brief "business meeting" Monday night, prior to a lengthy public discussion of the reports by two citizen committees appointed last year to evaluate the police department's policies and relationship to the public.

Ketchen will replace current inspector Chris Rice, who announced his retirement in March. Rice's decision set off a scramble to create a selection committee, advertise the

position, and interview the finalists by the end of May. Town administrator Steve Ellis originally called meeting that deadline "something of a challenge," but Rice made it clear he would be flexible about his actual retirement date.

Ketchen's letter of application says he has "been involved in the construction industry all my life where I grew up in a family excavating company." He worked for 19 years as a carpenter, and later as a general contractor. In 2019 he became the Local Building Inspector for the City of Greenfield, a position see MONTAGUE page A7

Hand-Painted Signs for Hire

By LEE WICKS

TURNERS FALLS – My visit to Jess Marsh's studio in Turners Falls made me wish I had a business so that I could hire her to paint one of her beautiful signs. Sign painting done by hand on wood, metal, or glass the way Jess does it is rare these days. It is easier and cheaper to print a sign on plastic and glue it to a surface. It's also environmentally unsound to add to all the discarded plastic on our planet.

But even without those considerations, I would choose a hand-painted sign by Marsh. Each of her Hired Hand signs is a functional piece of art. They are beautiful, lively, and expressive, and they reflect Marsh's enthusiasm for businesses and for creating the signage and graphic elements that help connect them with customers.

Her studio on Third Street is a simple, uncluttered place. Reference books are displayed in an inviting way, and flipping through books on lettering provided a glimpse of history reflected in design. Muscular, blocky fonts are reminiscent of factories, trains, and war posters. Dancing, bubble-like letters say, "flower power," and see SIGNS page A6



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jess Marsh poses in the doorway of her Hired Hand Signs shop at 34 Third Street in Turners Falls.

Erving Speeds Through Annual Town Meeting

By KATIE NOLAN

Erving moderator Richard Peabody started the May 12 annual town meeting with a story about a town that completed its 20-article annual town meeting in 22 minutes. He then opened Erving's 20-article meeting, where the voters approved \$5.1 million for the general operating budget, \$5.3 million for primary, secondary and technical school education, and \$415,000 for capital projects, with almost all motions passing unanimously. The meeting was completed in 40 minutes.

As the meeting dissolved, Peabody remarked that Erving's townspeople had taken some extra time to honor former police chief Christo-

pher Blair in the dedication of the town report and to introduce newly-elected officials.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith read aloud the report's dedication, which stated, in part, "Chris was appointed as Erving Police Chief on May 17, 2004. He believes in following the law, being honest, showing respect, and has instilled the importance of this in his officers."

The dedication concluded, "Chris, we appreciate and value your respect, dedication, and professionalism throughout your tenure with our Town. Thank you for your calm and reassuring presence on medical calls, accident scenes, residents and drivers in distress,

see ERVING page A5

Wendell Selectboard Wendell Could Bonk Dreaded \$25 Tax Ceiling

By JOSH HEINEMANN

At their May 12 meeting the Wendell selectboard agreed to hold their next meeting, May 26, masked and in person. They rejected the idea of meeting outside at dusk, to avoid mosquitoes, and plan to meet in the office building meeting room, which will allow more distance between members than the selectboard office.

The first order of business after town election, which was held May 3, was to re-organize the selectboard and elect a new chair.

see WENDELL page A5

Exactly One Dollar's Worth Of Printed Content

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A NEW PATTERN



A recent Montague Reporter investigation confirmed that it is totally possible to blow right through the new stop signs at Canal and Fifth streets in Turners Falls if you don't know they're there. MassDOT installed the signs to deal with increased traffic at the intersection while the General Pierce Bridge is closed for repairs.



The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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August 2002

Arts and Crafts

Whatever strange combination of factors causes degree-holders to head for the hills, where there are usually fewer job openings tailored to their educational skillsets and specialties, it seems to happen in waves. Being able to perform professional work remotely, amid ready access to streams and fields, is now added to the equation, whereas before the appeal may have been more often geared toward the avoidance of that sort of work.

The irregular rate of this migration has a funny effect. While the dominant social and political mores of the academic world are always in flux, their evolution follows along the path of its own internal logic. But in a county with no four-year colleges of its own, a new batch of degree-holders wandering in can mean the sudden and disorienting arrival of new correct ideas all at once; the region's administrative class stalls and whirs while it downloads a new operating system.

The gentle folks who showed up in this corner of the world in the aftermath of the New Left tended to uphold the ideal of participatory democracy at all levels society, from the household to the power grid. There were exceptions, of course – the city and suburban kids who moved to Turners Falls because they had seen the Brotherhood of the Spirit advertised in *Life* magazine were signing up to be told what to do by a single charismatic leader. But generally, their principles led them to cooperate and seek consensus.

There was a certain amount of culture clash at first, naturally. But as the insular commune houses wobbled and dissipated, this generation proved adept at integrating. Their small-is-beautiful, anti-development ethos made possible otherwise unlikely alliances with a conservative rural business class; it was no accident that by the 1980s, their political energies had become focused on opposition to nuclear power.

The stern idealists of that era who preached participatory democracy at all levels of society – from the household to the power grid – are befuddled by the new guard, because they look similar in so many ways and even seem to value the same freedoms. White people holding endless meetings to debate the course of collective progress is a tradition that goes all the way back to 1620 in Massachusetts, after all. But in this iteration, the attentiveness to the pernicious workings of

domination and oppression has become so complete and preoccupying that they cannot form groups to accomplish their goals.

This isn't just a problem for back-to-the-land professional-managers – it's a feature of our era; so many people are individually suspended in vast undifferentiated social networks, anxiously documenting their separate lifestyles in the hope of a social redemption that will never come. That's just the 2020s. Smartphones and cancel culture and debt and whatnot. But it's a particularly bitter problem for people who know they *want* to form or join campaigns and movements to bring about a better world.

Politics in America does seem to have become an endless series of eruptions and mass scandals over cultural identity, but this is because we are all experiencing an uncontrolled and cataclysmic cultural shift brought about by mass social media on the one hand and, on the other hand, the increasingly hard to ignore ecological cliff we are driving toward. It has become popular on both the Left and the Right to blame the situation on a decadent cultural fixation on behalf of the Left, but this is not really the case.

But given the heightened atmosphere of culture war, well-educated administrative idealist types should be on guard, because in their earnestness, their willingness to loudly announce their beliefs, and their recognizability, they are an increasingly convenient target for people who want to bring about a very different world.

A chyron on a *Fox News* show this week: "Critical Race Theory Replaces Economy As Top Issue." It's a provocation, of course – *Fox* and friends are making it *their* top issue, while outraging their viewers at the thought that the Left is responsible. Maddeningly circular, and effective. Critical race theory, of course, is a particular academic sub-branch of study, but it is a tantalizing political object because it makes *anti-racism*, which is deservedly gaining ground throughout our society, appear as a conspiracy of professional-managerial elites.

This trap can be avoided, but it must be recognized. White people meeting with white people, doing government, doing budgets, doing studies, doing surveys, doing newspaper editorials, are not going to bring about the change they fervently desire. There is no administrative path out of power. One must actually make new friends.



Richie Richardson spent the large part of last year in Trinidad but is now back in Turners Falls and open for business at his FAB Fashion Design store on Second Street. Richardson has sent out a call for designers and makers to feature at a Memorial Day weekend event at Art Nouveau in Brooklyn. Interested parties can contact him at info@richierichardsonfab.com.

Letter to the Editors

Montague Police Process Flawed

Last year, our community made a courageous decision to level fund the police budget. We were not alone in this decision; we took this step at a time when towns and cities across the country re-examined the role that institutions of law enforcement should play in our daily lives.

We made this decision to try to better understand the needs of Montague's most underrepresented members, to reallocate resources to better meet those needs, and to allow the creation of new ways of addressing them – outside the realm of law enforcement. We remain firmly convinced that police departments are unable to adequately address the real issues we face.

That vote did not come from specific concerns about police misconduct in our town, but because of a general recognition that many needs in our community cannot and should not be met by police. The lack of services like mental health crisis response, conflict resolution, affordable housing, and affordable health-care forces members of our community to turn to police in situations that do not require, and are often exacerbated by, the presence of an armed law enforcement officer.

By focusing on whether or not our police department has concerning use of force statistics, the town continues to sidestep the actual questions: what are the needs of our community, what are better ways than turning to police for addressing those needs, and who should be at the table for these decisions?

These questions remain unanswered, and voting to increase the police budget at this time continues to leave our most vulnerable neighbors at risk.

This year, the town of Montague established two advisory committees: the Police Community Engagement Advisory Committee, and the Police Equity & Use of Force Advisory Group. Both recently published reports on their findings, along with recommendations.

These reports not only avoid the main questions, but are also deeply flawed. The reports blatantly cherry-pick from survey responses, excluding any language describing negative police interactions and behaviors. This is deeply concerning, and calls into question the conclusions of the reports. Moreover, they do not live up to the committees' own initial goals for community participation.

Commenters at Monday's public forum pointed out a lack of representation from communities of color and youth at every stage of the creation of the reports. All but one of the committee members of color left the process early on and ultimately these committees were composed almost entirely of white participants. The survey also failed to reach underrepresented groups: the vast majority of respondents were older white community members.

At the meeting on Monday evening, it was disheartening and insulting to hear committee leadership blame the community it-

self for this lack of participation, arguing that meetings were public and on Zoom. This fails to account for the technological, logistical, or language barriers that prevent many people from participating.

In addition to these barriers, there was clearly a lack of trust in the process: many participants reported concerns with local law enforcement, but none felt comfortable following up about their experiences.

It is the responsibility of our town to listen to and act on input from people who are most affected by this topic. It is not enough to say we have done what we could and throw up our hands when it becomes difficult to seek out input from marginalized community members.

Montague must invest the necessary time and resources into this process to do this right, not just quickly and easily. Until we do that, increasing the police budget would be irresponsible and dangerous.

Maddox Sprengle
Deborah Frenkel
members of the Police Equity & Use of Force Advisory Group

Carolina Peña
Abby Graseck
Emma McCumber
community members

Montague Annual Town Meeting

Saturday, May 22 • 9 a.m.

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By NINA ROSSI

The **Leverett Library** is now taking browsing appointments! Up to four members of a household may browse at one time. Call (413) 548-9220 or email leverett@cw-mars.org for an appointment.

Come to Greenfield this Saturday, May 22 for the **11th Annual Bee Fest**. See the unveiling of six large Bee sculptures, watch the free *Bee Movie* at the Garden Cin-

ema, view the newly repainted Bee Crosswalk by the town common, and tour the interactive hive installation "Hope is the Honey" at the Pushkin. Learn more on the Greenfield Bee Fest Facebook page.

(Full disclosure: "Hope is the Honey" is put on by Exploded View, an arts performance group I am part of – and I hope to see you there!)

Racial Justice Rising presents **"Upsetting Expectations: Looking at Black Contemporary Art"** with

Whitney Robbins on Saturday, May 22 at 5:30 p.m. on Zoom. The program is free; look under "Events" at racialjusticerising.org to register.

The Wendell Community Garden is sponsoring a **plant swap** on Sunday, May 23 at 10 a.m. on the town common, near the gazebo. Bring annuals and perennials to swap or give away, but organizers say that "if you don't have plants to swap, come anyway. There are always extra plants people are willing to share."

Contact Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for more information.

Also this Sunday, May 23, the arts venue **10 Forward** is again taking over the patio in front of Mesa Verde for its second "Sunday Sessions" event.

From 2 to 5 p.m., Temperature DJs (Tambo, Trendera, and Snack Attack) will spin soca, dancehall, reggaeton, afrobeat, and hip hop, and from 5 to 8 p.m. Bad Behavior (Kashmere Champagne, Odiosa, and Tall Girl) will take over with cumbia, house, and techno. Cocktails, beer, and sliders will be served, and vendors will sell art and fashion.

The party takes place outdoors at 10 Fiske Street in Greenfield. Attendees are requested to bring a mask, and eat and drink within their own pod. The event is a fundraiser to re-open 10 Forward this summer.

Join the Leverett Historical Commission for a **virtual visit to the Federal Mill** this Sunday, May 23 at 7 p.m. Historian Pleun Bouricius and members of the Leverett Historical Commission will virtually visit the mill site to interpret what's still there and what was once there, and discuss what conditions have preserved sites like these.

Built before 1805, and publicly accessible today as part of the Paul C. Jones Working forest, this mill was active for more than 75 years, and today its foundations are still impressive. The "visit" will be followed by discussion. Free and open to the public. To register, go to bit.ly/FederalMill.

The Northeast Wilderness Trust presents **Writing the Land** with poets David Crews, Rachele Parker, Sylvia Karman, and Kathy Kremins on May 26 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Each poet will share their lyric offering to nature, accompanied by images of the Trust's protected lands that have inspired their work. Free. For more information and to

register, go to newildernesstrust.org/events.

Poetry Page editor Chris Sawyer-Luacanno sent notice about the **Pioneer Valley Poetry Productions Festival** coming up on May 26 and June 2 at 7 p.m. The festival features innovative American poetry and is usually held at Amherst College.

Due to COVID, the 2020 reading was postponed, and this year it will be on Zoom with poets T.J. Anderson, Lee Ann Brown, Martha Collins, and Lori Lubeski on May 26 and Anselm Berrigan, Maureen McLane, Karen Weiser, and Eileen Myles on June 2. Find the link at pioneervalleypoetry.org.

The Great Falls Discovery Center is offering another free, self-guided **StoryWalk** through their grounds featuring the children's book *Spring is Here!* by Heidi Pross Gray. Just follow the path of laminated book pages posted along the lawn. Plan to wear a mask, and socially distance.

A **Spring Migration Trip Tip** self-guided tour is available to download at www.mass.gov/doc/spring-migration/download. The guide may be used along Amherst's Norwottuck Rail Trail, the Mount Sugarloaf State Reservation in South Deerfield, and the Canalside Rail Trail in Turners Falls.

Got a yen for singing and acting? Silverthorne Theater is holding **auditions for "A Broadway Cabaret"** in June. This will be the first post-COVID live production of the company, scheduled for August 6 through 8 at The Perch at Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center in Greenfield.

They are auditioning for eight singer/actors of all vocal ranges, to perform tunes from Broadway's Golden Age shows, on Sunday, June 6 and Monday, June 7 from 7 to 9 p.m. each evening. Call (413) 768-7514 or email silverthornetheater@gmail.com for appointments.

During the month of June the LAVA Center is hosting an online **Open Screen Film Festival**. This festival will function like an open mic – all appropriate films that are submitted will be screened. The films must be made by current Massachusetts residents and be family-friendly, but otherwise, they may be on any subject. To find out more about the festival, visit localaccess.org.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

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Another Letter to the Editors

Nature Field Guides

Are you still looking for a place to spend your stimulus check? I suggest sending nature field guides to children in the poorest elementary school districts in America, but make sure the school understands that the nature guides are to be the property of the children.

An elementary school teacher suggests: 3rd grade, Birds; 4th grade, Flowers; 5th grade, Trees, and 6th grade, Pond Life. Places: Wheeler County, Georgia and McCreary County, Kentucky are on a list of the poorest counties in America, but check for places in Alabama and Mississippi.

McCreary County, Kentucky: I think Yamacraw and Co-operative, Kentucky must have interesting stories about how these towns are named. Is your name Smith? Smith Town is in McCreary County too, and all three towns are within the Daniel Boone National Forest.

Wheeler County, Georgia: Are there elementary schools in Alamo, Scotland, Towns, or Uvalda? Look for a town that interests you. Most of the Indian reser-

tions in North and South Dakota are listed. Is your name Dupree, McIntosh, McLaughlin, La Plant, or Walker? Those are the names of towns on Standing Rock and Cheyenne River Reservations, but working on the nature theme, you could sponsor children from Green Grass, Little Eagle, Red Elm, or Timber Lake. Please check information about the seven Native American reservations in Montana, too.

I don't have the internet, so a friend looked for the poorest counties of America. If you decide to spend some of your stimulus check to send nature guides to elementary students, please do your own research. Then, tell other people about the field guides project.

Actually, I think this project needs a computer savvy coordinator, so children years from now will receive field guides and spend time outside investigating their neighborhood. Will you volunteer?

Muriel Russell Colrain

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Can We Trust Our Government? East Kentucky Meets Western MA

LEVERETT – On Tuesday evening, May 25, the cross-partisan dialogue group Hands Across the Hills will present a live virtual encounter between Mike Gover and Gwen Johnson of Letcher County, Kentucky and Pat Fiero and Kip Fonsh of Leverett.

Over 90 minutes on Zoom, these four members of Hands Across the Hills will discuss "Can We Trust Our Government?" as they share their own stories and those of their neighbors in the Northeast and the southern Appalachian mountains.

The event will tackle some of our country's most difficult questions. How does corporate money compromise those who represent us? Can we trust the government for healthcare? for early childhood education?

for infrastructure improvement? for internet security? for foreign policy?

The event will include a chance for viewers to submit questions of their own, which the participants will respond to in real time. This is the second event in this Hands Across the Hills series. The first, which was on "Guns, Coal, Vaccine & Abortion" in April of this year, is now posted on the Hands Across the Hills website homepage.

The May 25 event is a production of Hands Across the Hills, an ongoing cross-partisan dialogue project started in 2017 by the Leverett Alliance in western Massachusetts and the Letcher County Culture Hub in east Kentucky. For more information and to register for the Zoom link, go to www.handsacrossthehills.org.

DOING THE DISHES

Everyone has a story about doing the dishes – tell me yours!

Seeking couples, households, roommates to interview for a documentary produced with Montague Community TV.

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OP ED

Montague Police Reports Worth Deep Dive

This commentary expresses the personal views of the author, and does not speak for the Police Equity & Use of Force Advisory Group of the Town of Montague, which she facilitated.

By **ARIEL ELAN**

MONTAGUE – Montague’s two police-advisory groups were formed by the selectboard in the wake of a 38-to-36 vote by last year’s Annual Town Meeting to level-fund the police operating budget, instead of approving an increase of \$45,583 that was earmarked for previously contracted steps in salaries and benefits.

During vigorous debate on this question, all of the speakers seemed to share:

1. Shock and anguish about the brutal torture-murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers, and other senseless killings of people of color in the context of routine police activities such as traffic stops; and

2. A strong need to know if police work in Montague is racially inequitable, and whether Montague officers were using unreasonable and injurious force.

When the selectboard appointed two advisory groups to review police conduct and relationships in the community, I believe they were responding to #2, tasking these committees accordingly.

During its public forum on May 17, the board received criticism for the “narrowness” of this framework. Some attendees accused the selectboard of ducking a national conversation that is focused on dissolving and replacing police work with unarmed social services.

I don’t agree that the majority of Town Meeting members were pushing the Town to research and evaluate such a drastic change last June. Below are a few key findings I view as most significant. I hope those of you who did not attend the forum on May 17, or did not get a chance to speak, will read both reports (which can be read online or downloaded at tinyurl.com/MPDengagement and tinyurl.com/MPDequity), and find at the least some of your questions answered.

As detailed in the final report of the Equity and Use of Force group:

- The Montague Police Department (MPD) has been recording 100% of its uses of force, with detailed demographic and incident breakdowns, since 2017;

- The department initiated this documentation with no outside prompting;

- The department records an average of 19,000 police calls a year, with 1.5% to 2% of calls resulting in an arrest;

- A total of 72,878 police calls across the years 2017 through 2020 included 72 incidents of use of force – that is, one-tenth of 1%;

- In those four years, there were three injuries total – all reported by officers, all classified as minor injuries, and none resulting in a complaint;

- The MPD focuses its efforts on de-escalation in all situations. Officers also work intentionally and intensively to resolve problems without making arrests. These two approaches are among the priority recommendations of civilian-review boards and racial-justice organizations around the country.

As a person who entered the advisory group with an open mind and heart, and only traffic-stop acquaintance with local police, I have been surprised and relieved to learn how much this police department embodies best practices. Given the range and volatility of police calls – which can include the need to interrupt a violent assault in progress – I find the use-of-force and injury data meaningful.

On the negative side, one black, two mixed-race, and five white respondents reported on the Police Community Engagement Advisory Group’s community survey that they and/or their friends of color received undue attention from Montague police, especially too many traffic stops.

A traffic stop or other police encounter can feel negative whether or not race is a factor; and far more white respondents noted complaints than respondents of color. Yet these reports deserve follow-up. During the May 17 meeting, Lt. Chris Bonnett agreed, and acknowledged people’s hesitancy to come forward with complaints, while also noting the difficulty of doing an internal investigation if no one provides details that would identify the incidents.

As our Annual Town Meeting approaches this Saturday, I urge all members and residents

to understand that the public-safety services that the MPD currently provides cannot sustain a budget cut or “leveling” of any amount. Patrol officers are down to one per car, and only two cars on each shift, to cover the entire town. The most common complaint on the Community Engagement survey was that police take too long to respond to a call. One of the most frequent suggestions was “more police,” especially for residents to approach downtown.

The Finance Committee recommends this year’s budget, and states in its *Town of Montague FY2022 Annual Budget*:

“The Police Department request increased by \$109,408 or 6.6%. The bulk of this, about \$87,000, is due to contractual wage increases, including

the corresponding increases in overtime and educational incentive costs. The only other notable increase was \$11,200 in training costs which were part of last year’s cuts to comply with Town Meeting’s reduction of the police budget.”

As a responsible Town Meeting member, I have learned to read line-item budgets. If this increase is not passed, I don’t see enough money for the department to

continue without discontinuing training – one of the keys to maintaining safe and respectful policing – and/or cutting patrol shifts.

Personally, I am committed to non-violence. Yet even if innovation toward *some* unarmed response becomes viable, I don’t see the possibility to do without police who have capacity to use force until the time comes in human evolution when no one would *ever* willingly use violence against anyone else – for any motivation or reason.

Sadly, we are not there as humanity, as a country, nor even fully as a Town – yet. And since we are not there yet, even if I would deny myself the ability to call upon police for help, would I deny that to my neighbor? Would you?

Thank you for listening.

Ariel S. Elan (she, her) is a Precinct 1 Town Meeting representative and member of the Montague Energy Committee. She can be reached (respectfully) at planet.hugger@gmail.com.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Hopes for July 7 Senior Center Reopening

By **KATIE NOLAN**

At Monday night’s Erving selectboard meeting, chair Jacob Smith and member William Bembury considered plans for opening town buildings to the public. They approved spending up to \$21,000 from CARES Act funds for the purchase and installation of UV filters and ionization strips for air handling units at town buildings, but did not set a date to open town hall or other buildings to the public.

Senior center director Paula Betters outlined the plan for opening the senior and community center. Betters said attendees would need to comply with any public health guidance current on July 7, when she hopes the center will reopen. After measuring the space in the center’s large meeting room, she has determined that it could hold 15 socially-distanced people.

Betters recommended buying the MySeniorCenter app, which would allow people to register to visit the center and track registrations. The board agreed to the \$7,500 expense.

Age Friendliness

The board also approved send-

ing a letter of support for LifePath’s Age-Friendly Communities program, after town planning assistant Mariah Kurtz documented that joining would require only limited staff time.

Kurtz said LifePath program director Nour Elkhataby Strauch and a volunteer steering committee would oversee the program, and that citizen working groups would work on the residential survey, which seeks to collect data about the needs of seniors in Erving and other Franklin County towns.

Bembury said town administrator Bryan Smith and Kurtz should “watch it carefully” to be sure the program was not taking too much staff time.

State Funding

Bryan Smith and Kurtz presented the town’s options for the “Community One-Stop for Growth” state grant application program. The program allows towns to be able to submit a single application for a number of state grants, including MassWorks, Community Planning Grants, Rural Development Fund, Brownfields, and Site Readiness.

Kurtz reported that four po-

tential town projects had been screened and approved to apply via the one-stop program: replacement of the Church Street Bridge, surveying the IP Mill, selective demolition of the IP Mill, and updating the zoning bylaws.

Jacob Smith and Bembury wondered whether, in the event all four projects were funded, overseeing them would overload Bryan Smith and Kurtz. “Are they up for it, can they pull it through?” Bembury asked. Kurtz said getting a grant to help update the zoning bylaws would reduce her workload. The board asked her to check with the planning board to see if they were ready to work on that project.

The selectboard voted to apply for all four projects, leaving open the option of declining one or more grants if all four are funded.

Other Business

In 2020, the Massachusetts legislature created Juneteenth Independence Day (June 19) as a state holiday, joining a national effort to recognize the 1865 legal abolition of slavery. On Monday, the Erving selectboard considered whether to make it a paid holiday for town

employees.

Bembury asked how much the holiday would cost the town in wages, and Smith said he would consult town treasurer Jennifer Eichorn and report back at the next selectboard meeting.

In their role as water commissioners, the board members decided to maintain the rate customers pay at \$5.20 per thousand gallons.

The board appointed Morningstar Chenven to the conservation commission.

The board approved spending approximately \$2,300 for body work and inspection of the former wastewater department truck, to be used by police officers commuting to the state police academy in New Braintree.

The board approved disposing of an irreparable emergency generator at POTW#1, the town’s wastewater plant in Erving, as scrap.

The board closed the public meeting and went into executive session, to “conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel and to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel regarding the Fire Chief.”

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WENDELL from page A1

Selectboard member Laurie DiDonato nominated Dan Keller, and he was approved unanimously, himself abstaining.

Keller opened the subject of the town's FY'22 budget, the evening's longest-lasting discussion, by asking finance committee chair Doug Tanner, "What's the good news?"

"Not much," Tanner said.

For several years Wendell has avoided going over its Proposition 2½ cap by using debt exclusion votes for some capital expenses, and by cautious use of the stabilization fund for some routine expenses. FY'22 promises no relief. Between the annual and special town meetings of 2021, expenses were subsidized with close to \$120,000. This year the fin com expects to subsidize the tax rate by drawing \$160,000 from stabilization.

Tanner said that once upon a time, the fin com's job was simpler. They got budget requests from town departments, added them to other expenditures, and matched the total to the town's total value as determined by the assessors. They set the tax rate.

In recent years, he said, the job has been made more difficult by increasing expenses, unfunded state mandates, lower payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) on state-owned land in town, and a smaller corresponding increase in the town's overall valuation. The tax rate, therefore, has come closer and closer to the statewide cap of \$25 per \$1,000 in property value.

Without cuts and with departments level funded, Tanner said, the estimated tax rate for FY'22 would be \$25.15.

Payments on the loan for Swift River School window and door replacement have not yet been assessed to the town; Tanner said he thought those assessments would be \$20,000 to \$30,000. Increased student populations at both Swift River School and Mahar called for increased spending by Wendell.

Tanner said he saw only expenses

that can be postponed: \$30,000 in highway paving, and another \$30,000 toward the Swift River capital improvement fund. He acknowledged that both cuts could soon have unwanted consequences.

The Big Picture

Phil Delorey spoke as chair for the road commission, and Anna Seeger for the board of assessors. Seeger projected that Wendell would get a new higher equalized valuation (EQV) with house assessments provided by newly hired firm (Regional Resource Group (RRG) of Leominster. She cautioned that reassessments would not lower tax bills, only the tax rate.

Delorey said the highway department has not had an increase in funding for 13 years. They have proposed \$35,000 in paving this year.

Tanner said the accountant provided to the town by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) has not given the fin com a year-end report in three years. Selectboard member Gillian Budine asked if FRCOG could be invited to a Wendell meeting. Tanner suggested a joint meeting with the selectboard, the fin com, and highway department.

"All we talk about is state money going to schools," said fin com member Al MacIntyre. State aid, he said, benefits richer and more populated school systems over small, rural, and not-so-wealthy school districts.

"The biggest thing we face here, and in every small town in this state, is the way the state funds or doesn't fund special education," Tanner said. "It is a good investment and saves money in the long run. Statewide, the special ed population is 13%. In Wendell it is 25%. It's just outrageous that the burden of special education is carried by small towns, and not by the state as a whole."

Budine suggested inviting state senator Jo Comerford and representative Susannah Whipps to a selectboard meeting.

ence program. He also said that he is 92 years old and has represented Erving at FCTS for 31 years, and implied that it might be time for the town to look for another representative.

One resident questioned the \$13,000 cost for a leaf blower in the capital improvement budget. Highway superintendent Glenn McCrory replied that it was a stand-on, ride-on blower that can complete work formerly done in weeks within two days. "It does an outstanding job," he said.

The meeting appropriated \$150,000 for the capital stabilization account and \$273,000 for the general stabilization account.

The meeting voted to authorize the selectboard to "rent, convey, or dispose of" the property at 18 Pleasant Street, the former Pleasant Street School.

There were few questions or comments on the warrant articles. A comprehensive budget book, containing explanations of all expenditures and finance committee recommendations, had been sent to all town residents.

At the close of the meeting, principal assessor Jacqueline Boyden thanked the selectboard, administrator, fin com, and capital improvement committee for "an excellent job with the warrant and budget book."

McAvoy Pond

Ray and Laurie DiDonato own the property and house at 318 Locke Village Road, which borders the south side of the stream that drains McAvoy's Pond, and the dam that contains the pond. Because the spillway on the road's west side is part of that property, they are part owner of the dam, a liability.

Ray DiDonato explained the situation and offered to grant the town ownership of a narrow right-of-way on the west side of Lockes Village Road as a way to eliminate the association of the dam with the #318 parcel, and to give the town access for maintaining the spillway, the box culvert wings, and the riprap below the road.

The lot is already non-conforming, smaller than Wendell's three-acre minimum, but the new property line as DiDonato drew it would give the property more frontage. His next step is to meet with the zoning board of appeals (ZBA) and to hire a lawyer to write the transfer agreement.

The selectboard, with Laurie DiDonato recusing herself, voted to accept ownership of a right-of-way that gives Wendell access to the downstream side of the box culvert.

The DiDonatos would still own half of the dam's upstream side, and plan to continue to pay for a share of the dam's maintenance.

Other Business

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich reported that the town hall kitchen failed health inspection, because of freezers kept there by Good Neighbors, and weeds that grew up and are blocking the exit door.

Board of health chair Barbara Craddock will talk with Good Neighbors chair Nancy Graton, and Delorey said he would look at the exit and see about removing the weeds. The weeds will return.

Aldrich also offered a letter from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) about PFAS in Swift River School water. She said Larry Ramsdell, the school's water operator, would take care of the issue.

Aldrich also said the state extended its deadline for towns to provide a mosquito control plan, in order to opt out of a new statewide aerial spraying program, until May 28.

Tom Chaisson left a drawing of the windows he would use as replacements in the town hall. As a member of the energy committee,

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Town of Wendell, Massachusetts

Notice is hereby given that the Wendell Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 7th, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. on Zoom regarding two moratorium proposals to halt large-scale solar and large-scale battery developments (if approved at town meeting). The proposed moratorium would not apply to residential solar installations now allowed by right. The moratorium would allow the planning board time to investigate and craft possible bylaw changes to address the impact of these types of projects on the Wendell community and environment.

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Laurie DiDonato said it is unlikely that Green Communities money would be able to pay for the windows, but that other sources, like rehab money that was not spent on the office building's proposed solar panels, can be used.

Keller suggested sending Chaisson's drawing to town engineer Jim Slavas. They wait on the selectboard table for board members to see when they come in one at a time to sign the warrant.

Robert Heller Zoomed in to offer articles for the annual town meeting warrant to replace the municipal light plant (MLP)'s appointed board of directors with an elected one. He said he could get the ten signatures necessary for a citizen offered article.

A special town meeting last September voted 40 to 14 in favor of an appointed MLP.

The selectboard approved a request from the highway commis-

sion to hire a potential employee who does not have the required commercial driver's license (CDL). He can drive the town pickup truck and the smaller dump truck, and get his CDL license while working for the town, and get a corresponding pay raise.

The Union 28 elementary school superintendency district sent the selectboard an email asking about attending the 2021 annual town meeting. In 2020, with the pandemic strong and guidelines becoming more restrictive, Union 28 representatives were asked not to attend to limit numbers and exposure.

The selectboard agreed that 2021 was different, with the pandemic seeming to wane and restrictions relaxing. Board members decided that at least one Union 28 representative should be invited to attend, pending approval by the board of health.

**EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Wendell Meetinghouse Spirit Circles Presents: Four Thursdays in June

WENDELL – The Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse 2021 programming begins with four *Spirit Circles* presentations, all free, open to the public, and accessible via Zoom during four evenings in June. *Spirit Circles* offers presentations and gatherings that support the diverse spiritual lives of its participants through shared exploration, celebration, and practice.

Spirit Circles will feature presentations on spirituality via Zoom each Thursday evening in June from 7 to 8 p.m., including: *Spirituality Out of the Box* with Kai Carol Jud on June 3, *Finding a Place in the Circle* with Christopher Queen on June 10, *Come Sit in the Rebbe Chair* with Joe Laur on June 17, and *The Twelve Mysteries* with Court Dorsey on June 24. All four presenters are Wendell residents, and *Spirit Circles* aims to highlight their varied spiritual backgrounds and experiences.

Register for any and all at tinyurl.com/spiritcircles.

The Wendell Meetinghouse renovations have begun for its Fall 2021 reopening with plans to host diverse celebrations and cultural events that reflect the open and welcoming spirit that has long characterized Wendell. The Friends aim to host four domains of pro-



gramming including a Performance Place, Community Living Room, Maker/Learner Center and Spirit Circles.

Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse (FWM) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization registered in Massachusetts, whose mission is to preserve, maintain and operate the Wendell Meetinghouse for spiritual, cultural, and community events. For questions or more information, visit wendell-meetinghouse.org.

ERVING from page A1

and every call and event in between! Chris, it is with great honor that the Town dedicates the 2020 Annual Town Report to you. Your dedication and service to our community has meant so much to us! We wish you and your family the best as you begin your next chapter!"

Smith said Blair was unable to attend the meeting. Blair is still employed by the town, but has been on leave since August, when he stepped down as police chief.

The \$5.1 million general operating budget for FY'22 covers general government functions, police and fire departments, health and human services, culture and recreation, and employee benefits.

Under the article fixing the compensation for elected officials, Robert Bitzer proposed an amendment to increase the moderator's stipend from \$150 to \$250 annually. The amendment passed by majority vote, with one "Nay" vote, the only non-unanimous vote of the meeting.

During discussion of the Franklin County Technical School budget, Bitzer, the town's representative to the FCTS school committee, told the meeting that 27 Erving students attend the school and that a new building will be constructed for its veterinary sci-

ence program. He also said that he is 92 years old and has represented Erving at FCTS for 31 years, and implied that it might be time for the town to look for another representative.

One resident questioned the \$13,000 cost for a leaf blower in the capital improvement budget. Highway superintendent Glenn McCrory replied that it was a stand-on, ride-on blower that can complete work formerly done in weeks within two days. "It does an outstanding job," he said.

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SIGNS from page A1

circus posters proclaim fun for all with bold, ornate lettering.

"I'm on a mission to slowly beautify our towns, one storefront at a time, restoring artistry to our streetscapes," Marsh said. "Even if I can't paint every sign, I hope that I can raise the bar for what a sign can be, and make sure the tradition of hand painted signage lives on for another generation."

Marsh has taught herself the art of sign making. "I began researching the traditions and techniques that have been honed over generations and dedicated myself to learning them," she explained. "Anyone can paint a sign, but a sign painter is someone who invests their time to learn the traditional techniques and practices them."

She adds, "There is quite a lot to learn – everything from the proper way to draw letters, to the technicalities of the materials and brushes. And a sign painter is never done learning... Each job is a learning experience. I've learned by doing and I've learned by reading old books, and I've learned from the international community of sign painters that I've found through social media."

Amazing Designs

And it all started on a farm. Marsh moved to the valley in 2010, and she lives with her husband on the Warner Farm in Sunderland. In the beginning she painted signs for the farmstand, and in 2015 she took over designing the Mike's Maze corn maze from Will Sillin, a landscape painter and a family friend. She describes the maze as an eight-acre sign!

It didn't take Marsh very long to realize she loved this work, and she managed to create some signs while working full time in the communications office at Deerfield Academy. It was the pandemic that liberated

her to take a chance and commit to creating a full-time business in sign painting.

"There was a feeling of *if not now, then when?*" she said. "The pandemic made me realize how quickly everything can change."

Marsh credits her background in photography and art history for preparing her well for this work. "I like to think that between studying the history of art and practicing photography for so many years, I developed a very strong foundation of skills and observational instincts that I now use daily as a sign painter," she said. "I've been honing my artistic sensibilities for composition and color long before I began applying them to signs."

"Sign painting is an artform that is so deeply rooted in tradition and technique.... I love to research and reference historical styles and find new ways of incorporating them into my work."

The Process

Some clients come to Marsh with a logo and a graphic identity for their business. Some are starting from scratch. Some have a logo that won't work as a sign; imagine a round logo stretched to fill a long, horizontal space.

Marsh starts meeting these needs through long consultations. What message does a business want to convey? Is it exclusive or inclusive, retro or modern? Before beginning to draft designs, these questions and others must be considered and resolved. Then the process moves to drafts and samples until the client and Marsh arrive at a visual representation of the business that pleases them.

"My job is to creatively solve problems," Marsh said. "I love the challenge and the puzzle that each project brings. It's so satisfying



LAUREN ROSENFELD PHOTO
Jess Marsh's mother Susan Marsh (left) helps her pass the new sign up to the roof of Millstone Farm Market in Sunderland. Her father James Marsh and Millstone owner David Wissermann help on the roof. ("My family isn't usually that involved in my work," Marsh told the Reporter.)

when I'm able to present my clients with signage that is both highly functional and beautiful."

Once you've seen an original hand-crafted sign, it's hard to go back. Like Marsh, I now look at all storefronts and see the potential for something more, something better: a sign painted by an artist.

It's no surprise that Marsh's favorite project turns out to be the one she is working on at the moment. That's a good thing, because her work requires patience, and there's

no way to rush through one project to get to another. On the day I visited the studio, she was working on signage for the Millstone Farm Market in Sunderland. Everything about the design said *Fresh, Clean, Local, Come In*.

I watched her paint shadows under crisp and perfect black letters on a white background. She has a tool that helps her maintain clean lines. She makes steady, painstaking progress and often works ten hours a day. "I do not make 'short order

signs.' There are plenty of places that do. I'm an artist that paints signs," she said.

When she leaves her studio, the streets around her hold a history of her work so far.

"I'm lucky to be right in the heart of things, surrounded by some very creative people running some of the most interesting shops and eateries in the entire Valley. The folks at The Upper Bend gave me my first professional sign job when they hired me to paint their fascia – that was about two years ago," said Marsh.

"Since then, I've painted signs for Swanson's Fabrics, and Thorn-tail Tattoo, and I have two projects coming up at the Five Eyed Fox and Loot, and conversations with a few other shop owners in town that may turn into projects. I do this work because I want to beautify my community, and I want to do my part to support and sustain a vibrant local economy. I love being able to manifest that here in Turners Falls."

Marsh took a big chance when she left a steady job to fulfill her dream. So far, it is working out well. What does the future hold?

"I'm so in love with my work that I'm tempted to say that I just want to be right here doing the same thing in five years," Marsh said. "I am hoping to carve out more time between client work and commissions to create work of my own. I'd love to have a solo show of my work sometime within the next five years, and I'd also love to create more connections with sign painters around the world, and perhaps host a group show of sign art here at my studio. My benchmark for success: to be happy in my work, and to be able to support myself doing it."

See the range of Jess Marsh's visual imagination at hiredhandsigns.com.



FACES & PLACES



JOE R. PARZYCH PHOTO

Joe R. Parzych took this photo of Greenfield, featuring Baystate Franklin Medical Center, a couple weeks ago and shared it with us. "A beautiful close up scene of the town of Greenfield from the top of the Poet's Seat Tower during great weather on the weekend," Joe writes. "I want to say very special thanks to our local law enforcement, medical professionals, EMTs, fire departments, nurses, doctors, etc., who are doing a wonderful job going above and beyond the call of duty serving and protecting during the COVID-19 pandemic so we can all stay healthy." Thanks, Joe! Readers are always encouraged to share their photographs with the community; send them to editor@montaguereporter.org.

CHARGES from page A1

that Wrisley worked for his department since 2018, and was suspended on Monday. Hicks said Wrisley worked one to two shifts for the town per month.

"Upon learning of the arrest and charges brought against Jacob Wrisley, I was shocked and saddened," Bernardston police chief James Palmeri wrote in a public statement Wednesday afternoon. "I have a zero tolerance approach when it involves charges of this nature and some circumstances need immediate action. I have suspended Mr. Wrisley from the Bernardston Police Department and will be seeking his immediate termination from the Town."

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children operates a "CyberTipline" for reports of child sexual exploitation online.

According to the NWDA, Wrisley's bail was set at \$2,500 cash by Judge Mark Pasquariello, on the condition that he "have no unsupervised contact with any child under 18 including by electronic platforms; have no overnight stays where children under 18 are present; not work or volunteer for any organization that serves children under 18; [and] report according to a schedule to the probation department and notify probation if he moves." A pretrial conference was scheduled for June 17.

Defense attorney Jack Godleski confirmed to the Reporter that he was appointed to represent Mr. Wrisley, but declined to comment about or on behalf of his client on Wednesday.



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MONTAGUE from page A1

he currently holds. Ketchen lives in Charlemont.

Ketchen will need to pass several state tests to be qualified for Montague's chief inspector job. "He is obviously very committed to the required training," said Ellis. "He has been tearing through the required training."

Ellis said that what differentiated Ketchen from the other candidates for the job was his "understanding of the local context," and a "palpable enthusiasm that the [hiring committee] found contagious."

At the selectboard meeting last Monday, the date for Ketchen starting the position was set at June 7. There will be some overlap between the two inspectors. "Once appointed, Bill and Chris will be in touch to work out what that will most productively look like," said Ellis, adding that Rice would "hang in for a couple of extra weeks."

"Whatever it takes to make it work," said Rice.

Attempts to reach Ketchen for comment were unsuccessful as of press time.

At the same meeting, the board also approved the hiring of Melissa Brown to serve full time as a 911 dispatcher. Brown appears to be extremely qualified for a

variety of jobs, having served as an on-call firefighter and emergency medical technician in Hatfield, a "Kettle Coordinator" for the Salvation Army, a parent involvement liaison for Community Action in Northampton, a board secretary for the town of Mashpee, and an on-call dispatcher trainee in Easthampton, among other roles.

Police chief Chris Williams said Brown has a bachelor's degree and is "working on her masters." "Just looking forward to getting her trained and moving forward," he said.

The board approved an application from the Pioneer Valley Workers Center for food distribution on the sidewalk in front of 111 Avenue A, every other Thursday from 2 to 4:30 p.m., beginning May 20. An application from the People's Medicine Project to give massages at the same location was also approved.

Finally, an application from the Montague Center fire department for a Memorial Day event from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Monday, May 31 was approved by the board.

Then it was on to the police report hearings for the next hour and a half (see article, Page A1).

The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 24.



KICKS OFF from page A1

Census data which districts will need a larger population and which must be reduced to create statewide equity, but the final Census numbers used to make this calculation are not yet in.

Preliminary estimates are that each Congressional district in the state will need to include 781,497 people to create equity. This is up from the 728,849 target based on the 2010 Census, and since then various districts have gained and lost population.

Current estimates suggest Richard Neal's District 1, to the west and south of number 2, has seen a slight population decline since 2010, and may need to add as many as 58,000 people. These will all need to come from District 2, the only district it abuts, though District 2 may also need to add up to 12,000 people on its own.

All this means that the subject of next week's hearing would need to incorporate as many as 70,000 residents from Districts 3, 4 and 5 to the east. These would be bordering towns to the west and south of Fitchburg and Framingham.

But are the political entities in question, which are transferred from district to district, technically "towns," as is often reported?

Actually, according a 2012 legislative report on redistricting, the political units that make up districts are generally "precincts" within towns. In reality many small towns contain only one precinct, so the distinction may not be important in practice, but redistricting could, in theory, divide towns. Belchertown, for example, has one precinct in a different state representative than the rest, and Winchendon and Palmer are both split in Congress.

The 2012 report also stated that census blocks are occasionally used in the redistricting process. According to Pam Wilmot of the advocacy group Common Cause, precincts themselves can occasionally be divided. "There are lots of different ways to do this," Wilmot told the Reporter.

We asked Wilmot, who is vice president of state operations for Common Cause and until recently served as the organi-

zation's executive director in Massachusetts, what criteria are used to decide which political units would move into which new legislative districts. She said creating population equity was the number-one concern of the process, particularly for Congressional districts; the courts have tolerated small variations in state legislative districts, but not at the Congressional level, which is the subject of Monday's hearing.

Wilmot also emphasized "contiguity, compactness, and "communities of interest." The latter she defined as creating neighboring communities having "a lot in common," such as being part of the same regional school district.

Redistricting also needs to conform to the federal Voting Rights Act in not deliberately reducing the representation of racial minorities. Wilmot said that in 2001, Massachusetts was found in violation of the Act when it extended a Boston district out to the primarily white suburbs. However, states are allowed to use racial demographics to create so-called minority-majority districts which, as the name implies, have a majority of minority residents.

The issue of gerrymandering – the process by which political parties dominating legislatures can create oddly-shaped districts to enhance their political clout – has not been widely raised in Massachusetts in recent decades. Some of this may well be a product of the lack of two-party competition at the state and federal level: there is little incentive for the Democratic legislature to manipulate district boundaries to achieve or enhance majorities.

However, there could certainly be "political" considerations in the redistricting process. For example, there may be incentive for legislative allies of Congressman Richard

Neal to avoid adding towns from the northwestern portion of McGovern's district, given that Neal lost 10 of the 12 Franklin County towns in his district during last fall's Democratic primary.

And a similar dynamic could apply to towns bordering the eastern portion of McGovern's district, which by the way already includes a number of Republican "red" towns.

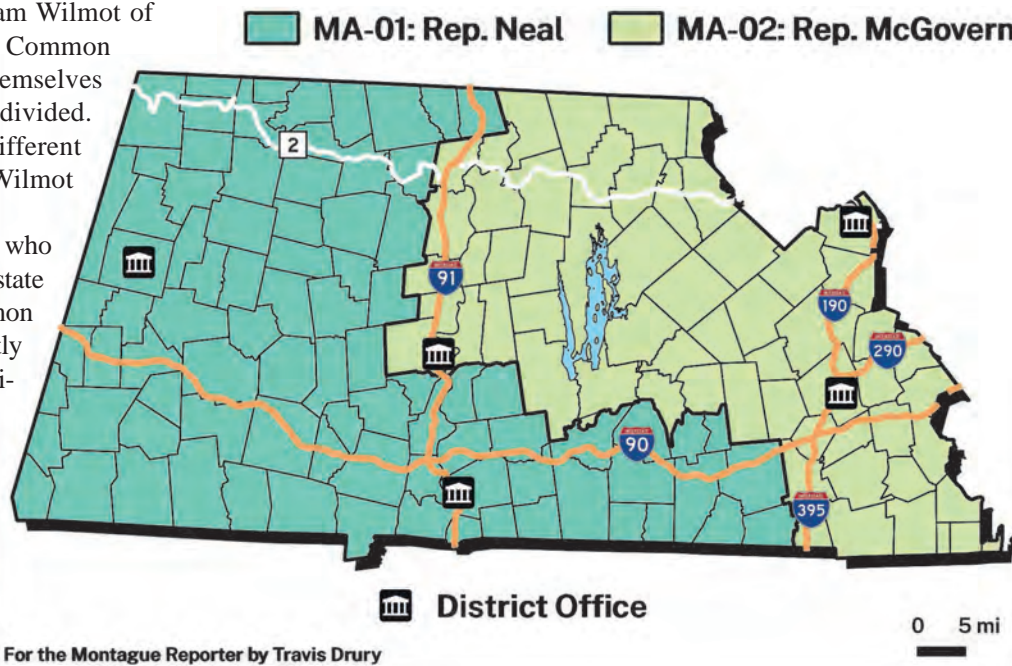
A popular remedy for gerrymandering, generally raised by liberal Democrats, has been to have non-partisan independent commissions rather than state legislatures oversee the redistricting process. On April 29 the *Boston Globe* blasted the state's Democratic legislative leadership for rejecting proposals over the years to create such commissions.

The article noted that Massachusetts was "the home of the gerrymander," a reference to Governor Elbridge Gerry, who signed a bill in 1812 giving his party in the legislature the ability to draw state senate districts in its favor. According to the *Globe*, a Boston newspaper at the time published an illustration of one North Shore district that the paper believed resembled a salamander.

We asked state senator William Brownsberger, who chairs the current legislature's Joint Committee on Redistricting, for his response to the *Globe* editorial.

"The time to raise a conversation about how to restructure the redistricting process is about 7 or 8 years before it begins," he replied, "not when you are in the middle of it."

The state Special Joint Committee on Redistricting's hearing on MA-2 takes place virtually on Monday, May 24, from 5:30 p.m. until midnight. For links to view or testify, see tinyurl.com/May24Hearing.



For the Montague Reporter by Travis Drury

An estimated 58,000 people will shift from District 2 to District 1, and as many as 70,000 will shift into District 2 from further east.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on May 12, 2011: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Draft Precinct Map Approved

While Montague town meeting members rejected the idea of reducing the number of precincts in Montague from six to three at the May 7 annual town meeting, there is still a need for an updated precinct map, now that the 2010 Census numbers are in.

Town clerk Deb Bourbeau said Tuesday that each precinct has to contain roughly the same number of people, so the current draft of the map shows just a little bit of shifting of voters from Precinct 6 into Precinct 4, with some also shifting from Precinct 3 into Precinct 2.

The selectboard approved the draft in principle, and a new official map from the state will be available in a couple of weeks for their final approval. The updated map will not need a town meeting vote.

Gill Voters Share Concerns About School District

"I'd like to see change," said Jake Giknis, stopping on his way to the parking lot after voting at the booths set up inside the fire station, on a drizzly Monday afternoon in Gill.

The only contest on the ballot was a race for an open three-year seat on the Gill-Montague school committee, and both candidates – Patricia Crosby and Sandy Brown – had served on the school committee in the past. By the end of the day 69% of the voters in Gill had tapped Brown to represent them in a district where change is now

solidly on the agenda, as superintendent Carl Ladd and a number of top school administrators prepare hastily planned departures.

Sue Kramer alluded to the departure of so many students to other nearby districts on school choice when she said, "I appreciate all the time and hard work anyone does for the school committee. It's a pretty thankless job. I think they are trying to figure out what's going on with the loss of students."

Last year Gill-Montague lost 222 students to other districts through the school choice program, and gained just 109 from neighboring districts, for a net loss of \$565,000 in state aid, according to figures Ladd presented at the Montague town meeting on May 7.

Leverett Seeks Best Utilization of Greenhouse

An issue currently being considered as the new greenhouse is about to rise at the Leverett Elementary School is whether and how to share the facility with local gardeners. Work on the 18-by-36 foot greenhouse started last weekend when 15 volunteers showed up, plus a couple of excavators, to dig a trench and lay footings.

The structure, its \$7,800 price paid in full by a grant from People's Bank, is being built for teaching as well as for growing fresh, local lettuce for the lunch line. But during school vacation, said Susie Chang, who spearheaded the project, "it seems to me it might work to have it be a community garden facility."

A request was placed in the town newsletter for a volunteer to take on the garden coordination role, but no one has responded.

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CHARGES from page A1

Latinx resident, most of those members left during the process – many reportedly due to professional commitments – and all six present at Monday's forum were White, a factor that became a topic of discussion.

So, too, did the scope of the review committees' mandates, the methodology of a survey designed by the "community engagement" group that collected 412 responses, and the conclusions and recommendations they gleaned from the data.

Examination of Bias

"I think we all generally agreed that we probably weren't the best at writing the surveys, but we worked very hard to make the surveys very equitable for everybody," chair Christopher Pinardi said at the beginning of the forum.

Colin Mitchell, who also served in the community engagement group, described a long and difficult process of designing the survey, which members hoped would lead to the anonymous collection of personal stories from those respondents who related negative experiences with police.

"In the end, we actually never heard from any of those people," Mitchell said. "And that's very unfortunate, because that was an important second part of our reporting process that is not here."

Nearly 30 members of the public attended the forum, and most who spoke were critical of the review process.

"Reading [the community engagement] report, I have a lot of concern about the fact that there are individual surveys that have very bad experiences with the police, and those were not reflected in the report," said Angela Roell. "I'm concerned about the depth of bias in this.... It doesn't seem like it was weighted properly, or with the help of a professional."

Ariel Elan, who chaired the "equity and use of force" group, objected to the discussion of bias. "If it was not possible to understand the perspectives of people who have lived a very different life, due to race or any other identifiable factor, nobody would be here who was white," she argued.

"There's no such thing as an unbiased person," said Paula Green, a professional facilitator retained by the town to lead the discussion. "I'm hearing people saying they did the best they could."

"It is actually a problem that our committee was all white folks," said Deborah Frenkel, who served on Elan's committee. "I don't think that anyone on this committee, that I know of, has personally experienced racist targeting by entities that are in power... While we can empathize, it's not something we've been through, and I don't know that it's enough to say that we've tried to empathize."

Data shared in the reports appear to indicate that traffic stops and arrests since 2017 have not disproportionately affected minority racial groups, that roughly one in 50 calls led to an arrest, and that one in 1,000 calls culminated in the use of force by police – once every 20 days, on average. Montague police, who are instructed as a matter of policy to deescalate conflict, have been voluntarily compiling records on use-of-force incidents.

Out of the 72 calls resulting in the use of force in the four-year period, the report said, six involved Black residents – a percentage "slightly higher than the percentage of Black residents estimated to be in the population."

Though calls can be marked by dispatchers with one of 134 different labels, one label marked 24 of the calls resulting in the use of force: "Mental Health Emergency."

Alternative Approaches?

"The framing of the [committees'] charge speaks to the biased way of thinking about policing," said Maddox Sprenkel, who also served on the use of force group. "At the gate, we were set up to explore this process from a biased lens."

"We're in this national conversation right now around policing, and not 'how well is it going,' but if it *should* be going, or if we want alternatives," said Abby Graseck. "The survey is [asking], 'how is it going' – it's framed in a very tight and limited way."

"What we had was a pretty narrow scope of work," Green replied. "The committees were asked to stay within the scope of work, and I was asked to facilitate this evening within the scope of the work."

Green's admonishment that Graseck's points were "not part of the conversation" on Monday sparked a sharp exchange.

"What were the questions that were outside of the scope?" asked Matt Lord.

"Abby was asking very large questions about what's going on in this country," Green said. "We couldn't do that here."

"Yeah, I didn't hear that. That's too bad," Lord responded.

"I wanted to make sure, in my town, that police were not running amok," town administrator Steve Ellis explained of the mandate given to the study committees last summer. "One of the questions we weren't exploring, at that time, was: how would we envision or re-imagine a Montague police force?"

Nevertheless, both committees' final reports discussed essential modifications to police response. The community engagement group recommended the department seek an "on call mental health professional" through a cooperative arrangement either with neighboring towns or the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.

The use of force group made a different recommendation – "that the town develop a means by which wellness checks, despondent persons, and other predictably nonviolent calls be fielded by unarmed and non-uniformed support staff."

As it turns out, the former model will soon be put into limited practice. Chief Chris Williams shared with the forum details of two pilot programs the department is entering this spring and summer.

The first, he said, "started last week" – an arrangement under which an employee of Clinical and Support Options stationed in Greenfield would be available to help respond to "crisis situations and mental health issues" in Greenfield, Montague, and Deerfield between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Starting in July, Montague will also participate in a program led by the Opioid Task Force in which a "plainclothes police officer" will follow up with all overdose patients, according to Williams, to "get them the help they need."

Don Tomaskovic-Devey asked Williams and Lieutenant Chris Bonnett for their thoughts on the negative feedback included in some of the survey responses.

"Everybody here is trained to treat everyone with respect," Williams told him. "Victims can be upset with the police, as well as the person who is getting arrested or charged... We're not getting called because something pleasurable is going on."

"We're as unhappy about them as anybody," added Bonnett. "Maybe we've started building a bridge so those answers don't have to be anonymous... but it's very difficult for us to intervene, when we don't know the source of a complaint."

Absence of Evidence

"I think that we are not actually focusing on the people we want to focus on – people of color, and youth," said Carolina Peña. "There is a need to be more understanding of the digital divide that affects a lot of people of color. We have been in a period of pandemic. People have lost their job, they have lost internet, they don't have computers – they sometimes do not have technological literacy. There is a need for this to be done in a more equitable way if we want to have a plan of action."

"I took the time to read both committee reports, to follow the statistics, and I'm sorry that we're a white community," said Eileen Mariani. "I don't know what else to say about that – that's who we are. And we have a police department that shouldn't have to feel defensive, and they should be funded."

Graseck asked whether the Spanish-language survey responses would be translated into English; Pinardi responded that his committee had read them using an automated translation program, but that translations would soon be made available on the town website.

"The amount of people in the subgroups of POC is very small, considering the number of responses," said Graseck. "I also see there are many people within that [Spanish-speaking] subgroup who chose not to respond. There's a lot of 'Do you have anything you want to say?' 'No.' I don't think conclusions can necessarily be drawn that that's a neutral response, or that there's nothing to share."

"When we don't receive adequate information to draw really complete and thorough conclusions about what is happening in our community, it's our responsibility to figure out better ways to get that information."

"It doesn't seem like the question was ever asked," said Emma McCumber. "What are the needs of this community, and are the police actually the right ones to meet the needs?"

"We did not get enough input from the community about what people's needs are, and why are people calling the police in the first place," Sprenkel answered. "We need to spend more time understanding the needs of folks who live in this town."

"It's very reasonable to... have wanted us to have asked other questions," said Mitchell, of the community survey. "I don't necessarily count this one as a success... Many people have said we really would like to see the town find somebody who knows what they're doing to do this work."



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MAY 20, 2021

Above: Sciaba Construction of Waltham are deep into their rehabilitation of Spinner Park in downtown Turners Falls, building and placing concrete forms according to the plan designed by the Berkshire Design Group. Thanks to Ed Gregory for this photo!

TFHS Sports: Crosstown Exchange

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – Last Friday, May 14, Turners Falls High School hosted the Franklin Tech Eagles in a baseball-softball double header. During both games, the hat was passed to benefit the Western Mass Food Bank. (Softball uniforms include visors, not caps, so the ladies were forced to pass the heavier batting helmet.)

As in most contests between Turners and Tech, everybody seemed to know everybody.

“I have trouble rooting against my alma mater.” This was said by a 1962 graduate of TFHS as she watched her grandson play against Turners. I feel the same way, especially because I know parents and players from both schools.



Turners Falls' David Klemper stretches for first base as the throw comes in to Franklin Tech's Cayden Lehtomaki.

Baseball

FACTS 7 – TFHS 2

And for the most part, cheering was limited to supportive calls, be-

cause these two baseball teams are headed in different directions. The Tech squad is fortified with mul-

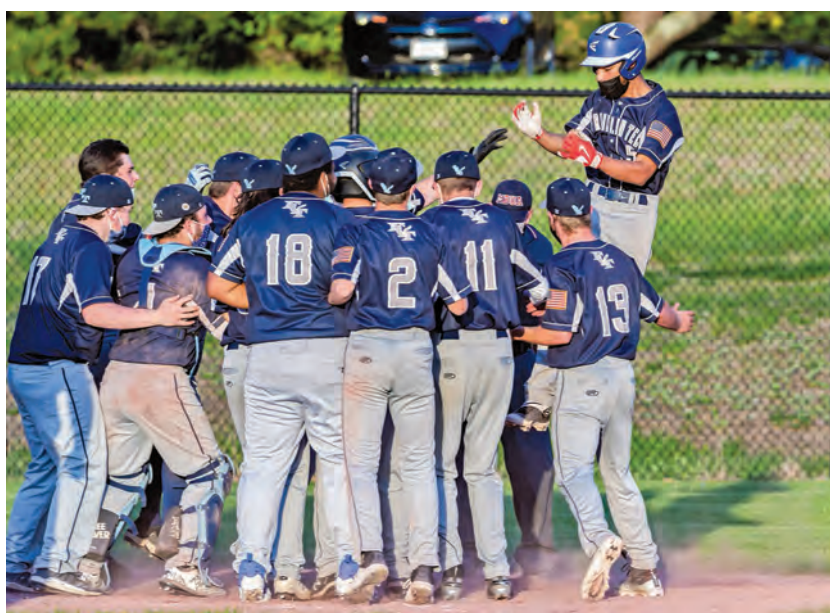
tiiple weapons, while the Turners team is made up mostly of younger boys, having only one junior and one sophomore on their roster.

Right out of the gates, the Tech Boys shot out on top, scoring two runs in the first. The Thunder Men managed to half the score to make it 2-1 after one. But Tech built on their lead, scoring single runs in the third and fourth innings, packing on two in the fifth, and adding another run in the sixth.

Turners put one across in the fifth, but it was too little, too late as Tech took the contest 7-2.

Tech put together eight hits in this effort with Ty Sodoski, Gavin Rubio, and Jake Whitney each hitting two, and Dylan Demers and Whitney both cracking 2-baggers. Rubio, Cayden Lehtomaki, Whitney, Alex Sulda, and Chris Miner helped the effort with RBIs.

see **SPORTS** page B4



The Eagle is landing: Franklin Tech's Gavin Rubio (top right) is greeted as he leaps onto the plate following his home run smash. The Thunder hosted the Eagles in last Friday's cross-town contest.

DIY CULTURE

The Evolution of The Magic Garden/ El Jardin Magico

By GERALD COLLINS

Jerry “Jinx” Collins, who grew up in Turners Falls during the Depression, recently sent us the following description of his latest project creating a Spanish-English children's book in collaboration with his great-grandson, JoJo.



CASA GRANDE, ARIZONA – When I retired at age 70 not knowing what I really wanted to do for the rest of my life, several of my grandchildren told me that I should write the stories of my life because they enjoyed them. Shortly after I began putting pen to paper came the first of my endeavors, two short pieces (“Re-living One’s Youth” and “Saints of Salome”) that were printed in the *Montague Reporter*.

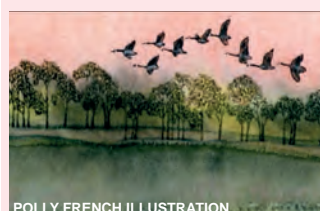
About six months before the beginning of my late

wife Mary’s long battle with cancer I had started writing *Jinx: A New England Mill Town Urchin’s Life, the Depression through 1952*, which was completed just prior to her demise.

After my grieving process in 2013, I proceeded to make plans for travels to Central and South America, which were places Mary never wanted to go to but I had. A major part of those plans included improving my Spanish. I had taken two years of high school Spanish back in 1951 and ‘52, but that was long forgotten, so I entered into a Spanish 101 class here in Casa Grande and followed that with an extensive Pimsleur CD course.

It was in the 101 class that this book was born. For one of the assignments Professor Marrinan-Mencha had us write a simple two- or three-page story in

see **JARDIN** page B4



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

WEST ALONG THE RIVER

1676: THIS MUCH WE HAVE LEARNED

By DAVID BRULE

PESKEOMPSKUT – On May 19, some of us will rise at dawn and follow old footpaths now become paved highways where semis and pick-ups speed down the black-top singing under the whining and wailing tires.

Some will pass the stone monument memorializing that May 19th of 345 years ago, when more than three hundred human beings were trapped and destroyed at the falls. They died at the hands of those who held swords and knives to kill more efficiently, ordered to spare their precious powder and munitions.

Some will resist the need to dump red paint on that monument; we will have a better way to shame the destroyers. We will move past that stone to reach the site where those Native people died that one day in May.

I heard my mother scream and then heard the thunder again and saw another flash of light inside the wetu. My little brother, who was sleeping beside me, screamed and I felt his body jerk then felt hot blood squirting all over me... I grabbed my little sisters' hands and began running through the dark, screaming and ducking whenever a gun went off. All was confusion and noise...

I remember being at the edge of the cliff beside the river. I don't remember jumping, but suddenly I was in the river's fast current, struggling to rescue my little sisters, and get them into a canoe... I saw a bullet slam through one sister, more bullets made the canoe twist and turn over and we all swam furiously, fighting the current taking us towards the falls. I managed to claw my way onto a rock, dragging my half-drowned sister with me.

We saw the English soldiers coming down the cliff, shooting at everything, their steel swords glinting... we hid inside a small

cave... then I saw a sword come down and heard my little sister scream... I saw her head fall into the river, her eyes wide with terror and her mouth cut off in a scream that would never end. I jumped into the river again and dodged bullets and rocks as I joined a large number of people swimming towards the falls.

I was swept over, flung into the air, then expecting to die as the others had on the rocks at the bottom. I don't know how, but I landed in deep water and after falling down and down, I began to rise... one second more and I would have drowned... I could see smoke and the glow of fire and knew that the whole village had been torched...

(Oral history recounted by Corn Woman, Nipmuc)

Some of us are old enough to remember My Lai. None of us are old enough to have read the news of Wounded Knee in 1890 – well, maybe some would have noted in 1973 the second Wounded Knee.

We don't have to look so far, however. We have right here our own place of infamy, stained with the unspeakable loss of so many human beings in a place we pass by daily without thinking. At the very least we should pause to remember what happened that day in 1676 before we hurry on with our modern-day pursuits.

Some carry guilt, some feel the need to do penance, while still others choose to say that to kill was justified and right.

Some of us have studied the event long and hard, and have learned.

We know that Falls Fight of 1676, in the context of King Philip's War, was one of great tragedy for the Indigenous peoples of the Northeast. We could say too that it was a tragedy for young colonials, not blameless yet pawns in the

see **WEST ALONG** page B4



Last Saturday's Day of Remembrance at Peskeomskut Park, hosted by the Nolumbeka Project, recognized the 345th anniversary of the massacre.

SUZANNE LOMANTO PHOTO

Pet of the Week



COURTESY DAKIN HUMANE SOCIETY

“TANK TOP”

Tank Top came to Dakin from a hoarding situation. Hoarder cats are House Spirits – very shy with people. Over time, they will most likely get used to one or two people who will be allowed to touch them. They will not magically turn into normal acting cats, and will not be a good choice for homes with children.

Animals in Dakin's P.A.W.S. (Program for Animal Wellness) program have a wide variety of special needs and are in search of their hero

adopter. Each animal has a unique story and their needs range from complex medical care to finding a home that can simply offer extra patience and understanding.

Interested in adopting? Animals at Dakin are available only in Springfield currently. Contact adoption staff at springfield@dakinhumane.org and include your name and phone number. For more information, call (413) 781-4000 or visit www.dakinhumane.org.

Senior Center Activities

MAY 24 THROUGH 28

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center is closed and will reopen when advised by state and local authorities that it is safe to do so. This measure is taken not lightly but with the utmost concern for the most vulnerable in our community.

The Council on Aging staff will be available for referrals and information from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, at (413) 863-9357 by telephone, and coa@montague-ma.gov by email.

ERVING

Senior Center director Paula Betters writes:

“Erving Senior Center is still closed to the public. We are here daily taking calls and doing outreach work for seniors and their families. Call with any questions or concerns, need help with SHINE, SNAP. We are also taking calls to help seniors sign up

for their COVID vaccine. We are here to help make a difference.” Paula can be reached at (413) 423-3649 or paula-bettters@erving-ma.gov.

LEVERETT

Leverett senior activities are currently canceled. Further updates are being distributed via TTY telephone and email. For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is open for a foot care clinic the first-Wednesday of each month. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments. Otherwise, there are no activities. The Senior Health Rides is also suspended until advisories change. For more information, call Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

Local Supermarket Senior Accommodations

Supermarkets in Massachusetts are now required to provide special hours for seniors and immunocompromised shoppers. Call ahead – this information is accurate as of November 30, 2020; hours and accommodations are still changing.

Big Y: Senior hours from 7 to 8 a.m. (413) 772-0435

Foster's: Senior hours from 7 to 8 a.m. (413) 773-1100

Green Fields Market: Senior hours from 8 to 9 a.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 to 11 a.m. on Sunday. Curbside pickup available. Order by 8 p.m.; order ready for pickup between 1 and 5 the following day. Delivery also available. (413) 773-9567

McCusker's Market: Curbside pickup only 10 to 11 a.m. Order between 12 and 1 p.m. for pickup the following day. Email pickup@franklincommunity.coop (413) 625-2548

Stop and Shop: Senior hours from 6 to 8 a.m. (413) 774-6096

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Second Great River Survival Walk

TURNERS FALLS – Join Karl Meyer on a walk to the Rock Dam this Saturday, May 22 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Rock Dam is a critically endangered habitat, and the only documented natural spawning site for the federally-endangered Connecticut River shortnose sturgeon.

Meyer has written about sturgeon for years, and intervened with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to stop the grim, eroding conditions created by the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project and Turners Falls Dam. Rock Dam is a 200-million-year-old natural gem that has helped keep this 10-million-year-old sturgeon species alive on the Connecticut for centuries.

Learn about the shortnose's life cycle and the industrial and natural history of this abused and undeveloped site going back to pre-dam times. Please note that the access road for this walk is mostly flat, but the path to Rock Dam is on short, steep terrain.

Meet at the parking lot at the south end of G Street in Turners Falls for this 3/4-mile walk (1.5 miles round trip). Take Avenue A in Turners Falls to Eleventh Street, cross the Eleventh Street bridge over the canal, and make the first left onto G Street. Follow G to the parking lot just before the “USGS Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center sign.” The program runs rain or shine. Details also at traprock.org/calendar/.



Sex Matters

a sex-positive health column

by STEPHANIE BAIRD

May kicks off Gay Pride month here in the Pioneer Valley. Nationally, Gay Pride is celebrated in June. Alas, this will be another year without the lively and exciting Gay Pride Parade in Northampton.

However, to celebrate Gay Pride month, here is an interview I conducted with local author and sexpert elder Dr. Jane Fleishman. Her educational and rousing book *The Stonewall Generation: LGBTQ Elders on Sex, Activism and Aging* came out last year, but perhaps was missed by many who were unable to browse Broadside Bookshop and other local bookstores where it is sold.

Before we sink into the interview, here is my brief book review:

Hearing our elders describe the pivotal Stonewall Rebellion, in their own words, is inspiring and essential reading. These rebels helped ignite modern LGBTQ social justice activism, a source of sexual liberation for us all. This book is especially valuable and relevant for those of us who need more injections of hope. Dr. Fleishman also provides ample context to the highlighted voices, making this a page-turning history book.

SB: What is your own activism background?

JF: I've been involved in some type of political action since I was a teenager in the 1960s. If I trace my activist roots, I'd have to say it was based on my cultural heritage as a Jew, and watching my parents and grandparents involved in some form of community building. I remember going door-to-door for the farmworkers, to rallies against the Vietnam war, and being part of the underground newspaper in my high school.

I grew up in a pretty exciting period where so many movements were all happening around the same time. People were involved all around me and talking about anti-war, women's liberation, the sexual revolution, the Panthers, the Young Lords, Earth Day, and “gay” liberation. I couldn't get enough of it then, and that passion has fueled me ever since, almost 60 years later.

SB: What inspired you to research and write this book?

JF: I had just completed my doctoral research and earned my PhD in human sexuality at the age of 62. The research was a quantitative analysis about the sexual satisfaction of older adults in same-sex (or

same-gender) relationships. I got some great results, but I was longing for the stories behind the numbers. So I embarked on this wild journey of searching for and finding LGBTQ elders for a book. I had never written a book before, but I was a good organizer.

With help from many LGBTQ community centers, I crisscrossed the country for two years intent on finding the voices of people whose lives were incontrovertibly changed by the events at the Stonewall Rebellion on June 28,

1969. I wanted the book to reflect my values about hearing more from the marginalized voices and about overturning the notion that Stonewall was a white gay male event.

The people I included in the book were lesbian, bisexual, trans, Black, Puerto Rican, into leather, polyamory, and kink. Traveling and conducting these interviews, I asked each person about their struggles, strengths, politics, sexual liberation as LGBTQ people, and what sex means to them now. I chose each person intentionally because each one spent a lifetime fighting for liberation: for the right to live, to love, to be free.

SB: What were the one or two most surprising things you learned from these elders?

JF: In 1959, at Cooper Donuts in Los Angeles, a group of gay men and drag queen patrons threw coffee, donuts, trash, and utensils when the police started rounding them up.

Sometime in August 1966 (the exact date is unknown since there are no press reports), trans women fought back at Gene Compton's Cafeteria in the Tenderloin district in San Francisco. Trans people weren't allowed into many of the bars that catered primarily to gay men, and Compton's was their chosen spot. Police were continually harassing them. In protest, one trans woman reportedly threw a cup of coffee in an officer's face, which ignited a riot and gave rise to an unprecedented moment of resistance to police violence. It was the first trans-led march for freedom ever recorded.

We may never know the full truth

of what happened the first night of the Stonewall Rebellion. But according to a *Village Voice* reporter who was there, the real turning point was when the police dragged a butch, mixed-race lesbian, Stormé

DeLarverie, outside. Because the paddy wagon was already full, they pushed her into one of the squad cars, but she got out. Three times. And tried to run back into the bar. Finally, one of the police pushed her back into the car and she yelled out, “Why don't you guys do something?” It was as if her question ignited the crowd.

SB: What do you feel are the most important messages/insights overall from your book?

JF: In 1969, no one could have imagined drag queens, drag kings, lesbians, gay men, bisexuals from all races standing up for themselves with heterosexual political allies behind them. It was unimaginable.

Just as the Stonewall Generation inspired our Pride marches, I'd like to see Pride go back to the origins of the movement, to sexual liberation.

SB: As an elder, what messages of sexual liberation specifically do you have for our current non-elders – from Gen X, to Millennials, to Gen Z and beyond?

JF: I love being an elder. Sure, my body isn't the same as it was in my 20s, but I'm so much more at ease with my own being, particularly my sexual being, now that I am older. It's not so much about performance or release, it's about being honest in who I am, what I want, and how I want to be in relationship with my partner, as lovers with commitment, compassion, and passion for one another.

As my colleague and friend, Joan Price, has said many times, “There is no expiration date on sex.”

Stephanie Baird, LMHC is an OWL Facilitator, EMDR Consultant and Psychotherapist, certified in *Advancing Clinical Excellence in Sexuality (ACES)*, and encourages her clients towards thriving sexual health. She welcomes feedback and suggestions at sexmatters@montaguereporter.org.

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Learning to Fly Fish: Part VI



Clint Wilkinson brings in a Rainbow on Arkansas' Northfork River.

ARIEL JONES PHOTO

Ariel Jones, who recently passed away, penned a series of 14 articles in the Montague Reporter in 2005 on her experiences learning to fly fish. This is the sixth in the series.

Jones was a pioneer of the local art scene when she moved to Turners Falls from NYC and opened a photography studio on Avenue A in 2000.

By ARIEL JONES

THE OZARKS – I am writing from Lakeview, a small community located in the Ozark Mountains in north central Arkansas. Frustrated with the continued highwater levels and cold weather this spring in Massachusetts, I decided to fish a while in Arkansas.

The countryside here in the Ozarks is lovely, set in rolling hills with a great variety of lush vegetation and clean rivers and lakes. The White River, the Northfork River, and Bull Shoals Lake in particular are famous for their beauty and great fishing.

Trophy rainbow and cutthroat and large brookies are found here. In the lake, created by Bull Shoals dam, amazing small and large-mouth bass abound.

There are abundant resorts, guide services, and boat rentals available to make fishing a great experience year round.

Finding a Guide

Before leaving home, I called my cousin Jack to see if he might like to rent a guide and boat for a day. He was game, so I looked up the White River online and printed out guide service information.

The day after I arrived, I gathered my maps of the area and went in search of a service to book for the following week. I visited a few places, all lovely, some with beautiful accommodations overlooking the river. Cruising down Highway 62 in Gassville (population a little over 1,000), I spotted a fly fishing retail shop which announced guide services, and I pulled in.

To the right of the entrance to White River Fly Fishing two men were busy at a table, tying flies. At the main desk a friendly young woman named Danielle greeted me and we began to chat.

She had moved to Gassville from Bloomington, Indiana four years ago, met Clint, the owner, tried fly fishing, and stayed. At

last I met another woman who had become entranced – obsessed is perhaps more accurate – with fly fishing!

She could hardly wait to show me a photo of herself with the ten pound rainbow she'd caught last year. It was probably eight pounds, given that all fishermen are liars, but who cares? That's a terrific fish to catch and even harder to land.

Of course, I booked a date with Clint as guide for the following week.

The Big Day

My cousins arrived on Sunday, and Jack and I were up at six on Monday morning to a cloudless, sunny sky. Snatching some coffee and my mother's ever-present (and delicious) donuts, we took off to meet our guide, Clint Wilkinson, owner of White River Fly Fishing. He said we were going to the Northfork River, which joins with the White.

I knew of the four-and-a-half mile long Northfork, but I was at first disappointed. The White River is very famous and attracts fly fishers from all over the world. Both rivers provide tailwater fishing below their dams. However, the larger dam at the White was releasing a lot of water and was too high, and dangerous, for good fishing.

The water at the Northfork dam had been turned off for 24 hours, and the river level had lowered to perfection for both fishing from the drift boat and for wading.

Clint hitched up the trailer with the 20-foot-long drift boat on it, and we headed for the Northfork River. On the way he talked to us about these rivers and about the trout that live in them.

Why are these particular rivers so ideal? The cold water released from the dams year round is a perfect temperature for trout habitat. The mild climate of Arkansas provides good conditions for year round fishing. Both rivers are nutrient rich, supporting freshwater shrimp, sow bugs, and forage fish. Trout grow very large in such an ideal environment, up to one inch per month.

The Arkansas State Department of Game and Fish stock hundreds of thousands of trout a year. These healthy, fast-growing fish grow big, and fight hard.

To be continued...

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Wipeout; Shed Door; Callers Think Drugs Happening; Boat Vs. Car; Sabotage Threat; Bad New Stop Signs

Monday, 5/10

8:57 a.m. Chief Williams had message from Greenfield Savings Bank requesting an officer to retrieve a syringe on the property. Item disposed of. 3:20 p.m. Caller from Keith Apartments reporting she left a pot on the stove by accident and when she returned, her apartment was filled with smoke, no flames. Transferred call to Shelburne Control.

4:10 p.m. Caller reporting male party in his 20s skateboarding on Fairway Avenue on the curvy part of the road. Caller states the male party did wipe out and the caller checked on him; party was OK but warned about skateboarding. Referred to an officer.

6:41 p.m. Caller from L Street reporting a loose cat in the area; states the cat has been wandering around all the neighbors' houses trying to get in somewhere. Advised cat is black with white on its face and paws and is wearing a red collar with a bell on it. Advised caller that dispatch will call animal control officer in the morning.

9:14 p.m. Caller states that his neighbor, against whom he has an active harassment protection order, is banging on his apartment walls, slamming her front door very hard, and yelling outside of his apartment door. [Redaction.] Summons issued.

Tuesday, 5/11

4:12 a.m. First of several annoying/harassing phone calls received by dispatch. 9:52 a.m. Officer on detail at L and Spring streets requesting another officer to assist in locating owners to get some vehicles moved.

5:27 p.m. Caller from Third Street states that her downstairs neighbor is harassing her in various ways. Advised of options. 11:59 p.m. Officer out with vehicle in Railroad Salvage parking lot. Male party waiting for his fiancé to get out of work; no issues.

Wednesday, 5/12

2:15 a.m. Caller from School Street states that something large is in her backyard making a lot of noises. States that it is dark and she is unable to see anything; unsure if someone is trying to take things from her shed, which is open at this time. States it could possibly be an animal; just requesting officer check area. Officer advises shed door may have been swinging; no signs of foul play or anyone around.

4:59 a.m. Annoying/harassing phone call received by dispatch. 9:06 a.m. Caller states that there appears to be a goose with a broken leg near the "dog park" area of Unity Park. ACO checked; unable to locate any injured birds.

1:12 p.m. Caller from Eagle Creek Renewable Energy states that someone

has thrown bricks through several windows and broken them. Report taken. 1:26 p.m. Officers checking on some people skateboarding on a homemade skatepark on town property on Canal Road. Three people were moved along and told not to come back.

6:19 p.m. A 57-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a default warrant and also charged with possession of a Class A drug; subsequent offense; possession of a Class B substance, subsequent; and conspiracy to violate drug law. [Text redacted.]

11:02 p.m. Report of two suspicious teenagers in the Third Street alleyway. Caller states they were smoking crack and talking about selling it. Officer advised. Nobody in the area.

Thursday, 5/13

4:16 a.m. First of three annoying/harassing phone calls received by dispatch. 10:09 a.m. 911 caller from Second Street reporting suspicious people on a neighboring porch. Caller believes these guys were there last night and a loud argument happened. Area checked; nothing found.

12:16 p.m. Caller states that about a half hour ago she saw a small gray car parked in front of the liquor store on Avenue A. Two younger boys on bikes came up to the side of the car, and she believes that the guy in the car sold them some dope. Vehicle gone on arrival.

1:27 p.m. Caller states that three people are drinking alcohol in Peskeomskut Park. Nobody was witnessed consuming alcohol or appearing intoxicated.

9:51 p.m. Shelburne Control received 911 text message that just said "help." Upon callback, they spoke to a kid who said he was with a friend when someone came up behind them in a vehicle and told them to "run." They were scared and texted 911. They ran to a Turners Falls address and told the involved female, a mother to one of them, about the incident. Kids safe at home; they had no description of the vehicle to offer. Investigated.

Friday, 5/14

10:56 a.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road reporting that she can hear a disturbance taking place at her son's property. Party that pulled in was buying a kayak from a neighbor and pulled in the wrong driveway. Situation mediated.

2:39 p.m. Report of heavy smoke observed from South Ferry/Old Greenfield roads, appears to be possibly south of Poet's Seat in Greenfield or area of the railyard in Deerfield. Shelburne Control and Greenfield dispatch advised and investigating.

4:05 p.m. Caller reported that a boat hit her vehicle in the parking lot at

Greenfield Savings Bank. Report taken.

5:40 p.m. Caller stated that a male outside Food City was bothering people and asking for money. Officer spoke with party, who stated he would try to do better.

8:07 p.m. Caller reported a male riding on a bike with a dog stopped to watch her kids playing on the trampoline in the yard. Caller stated she asked the male if she could help him, and he stated that the kids looked like they were having a good time. Officer spoke with both parties and advised the male not to be peeping into people's yards.

Saturday, 5/15

1:23 a.m. A 37-year-old man was arrested on a straight warrant and charged with possession of a Class A drug and possession of a Class B drug, subsequent offense.

3:02 a.m. 911 caller states he just hit a deer and his car is now dead in the middle of Millers Falls Road. No injuries. Shelburne Control contacted to dispatch TFFD; Rau's requested for tow. Officer requests DPW be notified that the deer is on the side of the road in that area.

7:22 a.m. Several annoying/harassing phone calls received by dispatch. 8:47 a.m. Caller complaining of loud noise coming from an orange machine on the General Pierce Bridge. Caller was highly agitated and at one point talked about damaging the machine to make the noise stop, and inconvenience them the way they are inconveniencing him. Caller referred to MassDOT; also advised against tampering with or damaging the machinery in any way.

8:55 a.m. A 29-year-old Montague man was arrested on a probation warrant.

8:59 a.m. Caller complaining about new stop signs at Canal Road and Canal Street; believes drivers may not know that the intersection has changed. Officer advises signs were put up by MassDOT. Caller called back advising she contacted MassDOT and also videotaped multiple vehicles failing to stop at the stop signs and would like to forward the video to an officer. Officer returned call and left voicemail.

3:57 p.m. Caller from Sherman Drive reporting several trucks a neighbor has parked on the roadway are blocking traffic from getting through safely. Officer advises two one-ton dump trucks were parked and blocking the road for two-way traffic; spoke with truck owner, who moved one so it is passable. Officer advises he was not too happy with the situation.

3:57 p.m. Caller reporting that a man carrying a large assault rifle just got into a

blue Ford truck parked on Fourth Street at Avenue A. Plate comes back to owner of the Gun Rack; all set.

8:17 p.m. Caller from G Street reporting that her upstairs neighbor's 15-16 year old daughter and a friend were outside smashing recycling bins and a laundry basket, believed to belong to someone else. Caller told them to stop and wants them spoken to; advised girl's mother is working right now. Officer left message for caller.

8:50 p.m. 911 caller from Ferry Road reporting that he got a call from his niece that someone is out driving on his land again. Caller had to disconnect before explaining more but stated he would call back. Received call from accused male party advising he is neighbors with the caller and only drove his truck out to the land so his girlfriend could go to the bathroom; stated he was not doing anything wrong. Party was very upset, stating he is being harassed by caller's relatives. Original caller later called to confirm damage to his hay fields along the tracks off Ferry Road. Officer spoke with caller and followed up with accused. Investigated.

9:52 p.m. Caller reports that his wife just hit a deer on Route 47; deer ran off into woods; damage to wife's car. Investigated.

10:56 p.m. Caller reporting that the arms to the Lake Pleasant railroad crossing are down and have been for a while, but there are no trains in sight. Dispatch called Pan Am and advised. Officer later requested to have logged that arms are still down and light still flashing, no train in sight.

Sunday, 5/16

5:22 a.m. Multiple annoying/harassing phone calls received by dispatch.

12:30 p.m. Caller from Sherman Drive requesting a neighbor's gray car be towed; advised she called the police about his dump trucks yesterday, so he is calling about her car today. Upon arrival, officer advised the only vehicle parked on the street does not belong to that female party and is not a hazard. Only other vehicle on street is a dump truck which is not a hazard. Officer spoke with caller, who advised vehicle already left. Officer advised caller that the woman's vehicle can be parked there as long as it is not a hazard.

12:43 p.m. Officer received citizen complaint about vehicles running the new stop signs at Canal Street. Officer will monitor traffic at that location.

1:55 p.m. Two parties calling with different accounts of a disturbance on Bridge Street. MPD and Erving PD officers spoke with parties, who will try to stay away from each other.

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Montague Community Television News

Board Appeal

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – The MCTV board is looking for new board members, specifically someone interested in filling the role of treasurer. The station is also looking to hire a producer to make Spanish-language content. Please email infomontaguetv@gmail.com with a resume to schedule an interview!

The Montague finance committee met on Wednesday the 12th, and the Gill Montague Regional School District met on the 11th. Both recordings of their Zoom meetings are available to watch on the MCTV Vimeo page and on Channel 17.

All our videos are available on

the MCTV Vimeo page, which can be found linked to the MCTV website, montaguetv.org, under the tab "Videos." All community members are welcome to submit their videos to be aired on Channel 17, as well as featured on Vimeo.

MCTV is always available to assist in local video production as well. Cameras, tripods, and lighting equipment are available for checkout, and filming and editing assistance can be provided. Something going on you think others would like to see? If you get in touch, we can show you how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment.

Contact us at (413) 863-9200 or infomontaguetv@gmail.com.

WEST ALONG from page B1

game played out by the earliest colonial schemers who pulled the strings in plots to seize Indigenous slaves and land. They needed to provoke a "Just War," indeed, to justify their greed. We could name John Hull, John Winthrop, Humphrey Atherton, among others of their ilk.

We know that 150 men, a mix of professional soldiers and hot-headed young settlers infuriated by their losses of kin, farmsteads, and livestock, were bent on revenge when they left Hatfield on the evening of May 18. Many of them, like Custer's men two hundred years later, rode to their doom. More than 40 met that fate, but not before they murdered more than three hundred Pocumtuck, Nipmuck, Wampanoag, Narragansett, Abenaki.

We have learned that they succeeded in making their way to the falls, avoiding the camps of Native soldiers at the mouth of the Deerfield, those on the islands in the Connecticut, the one on the top of Canada Hill at Wissatinnewag, and the one across the river from Peskeompskut camp, in what is now known as Unity Park. Instead of facing a worthy adversary, they fell on the relatively poorly defended camp of non-combatants.

We have learned that they lingered too long killing and looting, so that all those Native camps were aroused and began to counterattack. The raiding force was chased seven miles back the way they came, all the way to the North Meadows of Deerfield. The Colonials lost more than forty men in that panicked retreat.

Our research has yielded more than 600 battle artifacts, mostly musket balls from that day along the trail of retreat. Most of those lead balls were fired from east to west at the retreating militia, indicating that the Natives were heavily armed, and in fact out-gunned the Colonials.

We have learned of a primary source eyewitness account of the death of Turner, provided by a Narragansett warrior, John Wecopeak, who was with Turner when he was shot. At his trial in August 1676, Wecopeak related the incident written down by the clerk of the Newport, Rhode Island court before he was taken from the court room and executed:

John Wecopeak alfo faith that he was at the Fight with Captain

Turner and run away by Reafon the Shott came as thick as Raine, but said alfoe, that he was at a great Diftance.

Butt John Godfree faith that he said Wecopeak told them that he saw Capt. Turner, and that he was shott in the Thigh, and that he knew it was him, for the said Turner said that was his Name.

Voted guilty of the charge, and to dye as the others.

("Record of Court Martial held at Newport, RI in Auguft, 1676, For the Trial of Indians charged with being engaged in Philip's Defigns.")

We have re-learned the names of many of the Native leaders and will repeat them at each telling of the fight at the Peskeompskut Falls:

Matoonas, Monoco, Canonchet, One-eyed John, Weetamoe, Wennequabin, Wecopeak, Awashonks. We will remember the hundreds of others Whose Names Cannot Be Known.

Yet we have also learned that through the telling and remembering, there can be healing.

Representatives of the five towns where the events unfolded in those days before those very towns existed, and representatives of four tribes that have been here for millennia, have been meeting monthly for more than six years, reaching deep into records and memory to find out what may have really happened and more. To bring forth, to give voice to the multi-generational trauma that has had enduring impact on the Indigenous people of our region.

We are not looking back in anger, but moving slowly toward healing through study, music, sharing, and learning on the banks of this great, tragic, and eternal river.

For myself, I'd like to think that the memory of the place by the Great Falls is being re-examined through this joint town-tribal project for a reason.... working to preserve the site has brought Northeastern tribal descendants and townspeople together... So long as we allow space for differences, and above all treat the people who perished here with the dignity and respect they did not receive in life, we will be making some advances towards healing and draw more meaningful lessons from this war.

(Elizabeth James-Perry, Aquinnah Wampanoag artist and historian)



SPORTS from page B1

Lehtomaki pitched three innings for Tech, and Sulda hurled the other four.

For the Thunder, Levin Prondecki had two hits, David Klempner got one, and Alex Quezad had two hits including a double.

Quezad and Joey Mosca shared pitching duties for the Thunder.

Softball

TFHS 12 – FCTS 0

On the other diamond, Turners used the long ball and precise pitching to mercy the Blue Eagles 12-0. Thunder scored two runs in each of the first, third, and fourth innings, and then exploded for six runs in the sixth to stop the game via the MIAA mercy rule.

In the circle, Jade Tyler held the Techies to just two hits while striking out eight batters. Offensively, Olivia Whittier had four hits, with two doubles, Jade Tyler slammed two home runs, Hannah Marchefka got three hits, and Madison Liimatainen hit a home run and placed a sac fly.

Faith Smith and Kaitlin Trudeau accounted for Tech's two hits, and Lilly Ross pitched for them all six innings.

Although the schools went 1 and 1 on the night, the real win came between innings. The combined fan base ponied up more than \$700 to help their neighbors in need. According to Turners Falls athletic

director Adam Graves, this money will be able to feed hundreds of less fortunate people.

The Turners High baseball team hosted Greenfield on May 19 as we went to press, and on May 20, the Frontier Red Hawks come to town

to try to knock the girls off their unbeaten perch.

Also on Thursday, the Tech boys travel to Huntington to take on the Gateway Gators, while their softball team hosts Amherst.



Wow! Franklin Tech's Kendra Campbell makes a spectacular tumbling catch to retire the side at the bottom of the third inning as the Thunder hosted the Eagles for an independent contest last Friday.

DAVE HOITT PHOTO

JARDIN from page B1

Spanish. That evening, as I was exploring what I would write about, my great-grandchildren came to mind. Why not write a simple little children's story for them?

That minimal assignment would grow into a 20-page little booklet in both English and Spanish that could be used in the early stages of teaching my grandchildren another foreign language. I've often thought how arrogant we Americans can be sometimes, thinking that everyone elsewhere in the world should learn English while we Americans don't have to learn their languages.

In most of the [bilingual] works I viewed, the English was on one page with the Spanish or other foreign language on the opposite one. Well, I thought, young children would not have an attention span long enough to remember a whole page of text, let alone understand the contents.

So I decided that my little book would have, immediately following each English sentence, the Spanish translation. After presenting this idea to a nephew's third-grade-teaching wife, who agreed that it

was a good idea, I finalized the text.

During a rethink of this whole project, I decided that it was necessary to polish everything up and publish and print this book.

Obtaining illustrations created a great obstacle. The cost of professional illustrators was well beyond my budget, particularly since I was originally only writing this for my great-grandchildren. I had a great deal of procrastination about continuing with this book. Then, another of what I consider to be a spiritual intervention provided me with an alternative.

In December of 2019 I went to Texas for Christmas with my son Jim and his family. They had just had a new baby girl who I was really anxious to see. Also, I hadn't seen my now six-year-old great-grandson JoJo in some time.

After dinner and the opening of presents, I noticed JoJo at a table drawing – not just coloring – and I commented to his mother, Whitney, how unusual it was. She said, "He loves to draw. Would you like to see some of the things he's done?"

"I sure would," was my exu-

berant reply, to which she pulled out her cell phone and showed me a picture of an owl – the one in the finished book – that he had done when he was 5½ years old. It was outstanding. Such talent this youngster has. At this point I need to mention that this 6½-year-old homeschooled and very talented young artist, JoJo Sanchez, is one half Chiricahua Apache Indian.

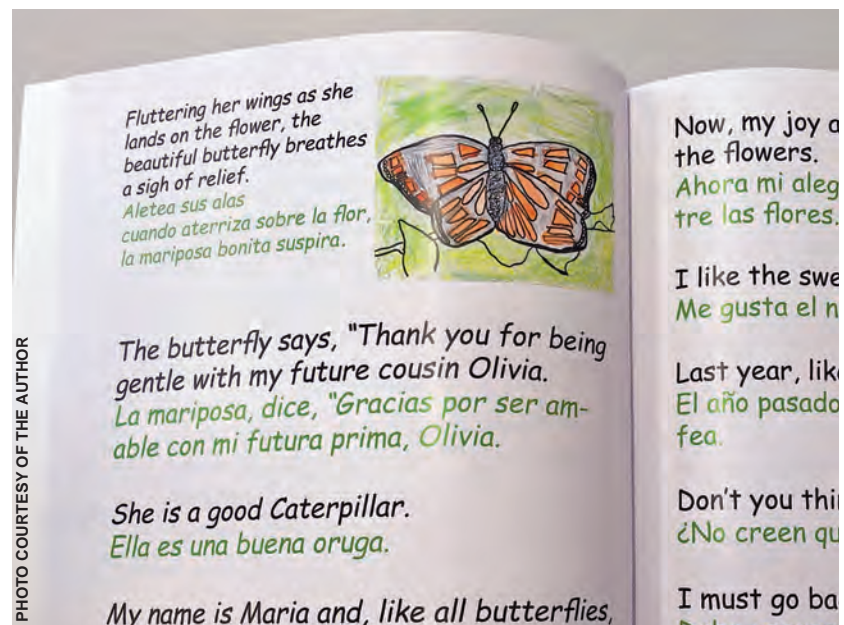
Now as I've said many times, I'm a slow learner. It wasn't until I had been back home several months when that intervention entered my mind. Wouldn't it be unusual, and special, to have my six-year-old great grandson doing all the illustrations for *The Magic Garden/El Jardin Magico*?

A quick call to Whitney, asking her if I could hire JoJo as my illustrator, resulted in her equally fast response of, "Oh how wonderful! It sure would be nice and give him something to keep him occupied during his long confined stay at home during this COVID pandemic."

It was now off to the races. I went out and hired – really expensive at \$50, how about that for being frugal? Ha-ha! – a neighbor of mine as my technical assistant, who would aid in the formatting and illustration insertions as required.

Still remaining is the establishment of a marketing plan to ensure presentation to the public. As of this writing, the Carnegie library in Turners Falls has three copies which can be loaned out. Should anyone wish to order a copy for their own, prior to my setting up the marketing program, I can be contacted directly by email to gcollins222.gc10@gmail.com. The cost of the book is \$7.99 plus shipping from Arizona.

Profits from the sale of the book will be donated to an Amazon jungle school that Collins formed ties to during one of his visits to Ecuador.



One of JoJo's illustrations, and the accompanying English-Spanish text, in the *Magic Garden* book written by Gerald Collins.

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BBQ PREVIEW

The Marine Corps League Memorial Day Barbecue

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I enjoy doing articles on veterans' organizations, and have done quite a few of them involving ones connected to the Pioneer Valley. Two of them have been DAV, which stands for Disabled American Veterans, and Building Bridges. The Bridges one was about a program where people serve lunches for vets. There are a couple of places in Massachusetts where it is done. I found out about both of these by spotting something.

There will be a Memorial Day barbecue for vets by the Marine Corps on Sunday, May 31 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Church Street in Bernardston, at a place called Cushman Park. I found this out when I saw a flyer about the event in the window of the Upper Valley Pioneer Veterans Service in Greenfield. It sounded like something I would like to do.

The Marine Corps League will be at the event to provide info for vets and their families. The person I talked to about this from the League is named Brian Brooks. He told me he has officially been with the Marine Corps League since 2009, and has been the commandant of the league off and on for several years.

Mr. Brooks told me some interesting things about the event. It's not the first time it's been done, "but it's the first time it's at Cushman Park." Also, the Upper Valley



Pioneer Service will be there for the first time, too.

However, he told me, "they conduct these events regularly at the Pioneer Valley. They want to make sure veterans get the benefit they deserve." The barbecue has always been at 16 Hartwell Street in Bernardston until this time. "It has more space for more people at Cushman Park," Brian said.

What has not changed is that the Marine Corps League has always held this event. Brian said he believes "maybe 100 people have shown up one year" to it.

Brian himself has shown up to it, because he runs it. He said he does find the barbecue to be enjoyable. He thinks the Marine Corps League itself is a great organization, and that it does a lot of good for the community. If you want more info on the event, or just some info from Upper Valley Pioneer Valley Veterans Service, call (413) 772-1571.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Media Critic Considers Future Of Embattled Community News

BOSTON – It's a common lament: In a world that's never been more connected, with boundless information at hand for any subject, our citizenry has never been less informed.

Dan Kennedy, Northeastern University journalism professor, WGBH-TV "Beat the Press" fixture, and highly respected media commentator, will discuss "Breaking Point: Local News Is in Crisis. What Can We Do to Fix It?" Tuesday, June 1 at a virtual meeting of The Communicators Club. The Zoom-based event will run from noon to 1:15 p.m., with a \$10 fee. Kennedy will field questions after his presentation. To register, go online to conta.cc/3hhz7qG.

"More than 2,100 newspapers have shut down over the past 15 years, and many of those that re-

main are failing to meet the information needs of their communities," Kennedy said. "At the same time, a new generation of hyperlocal news organizations, mostly digital, is rising to fill the gap. What will the future of local news look like?"

Are ad-based local news sources still a viable model? Can emerging entities such as Substack lead a renaissance in profitable community news gathering? Will benevolent stewards step forward to replace the private-equity overlords who have eviscerated so many publications?

Kennedy is a 2019 recipient of the prestigious Yankee Quill Award. His influential blog, Media Nation, offers a paid-membership tier that delivers exclusive content. For more about The Communicators Club, visit communicatorsclub.org.

Residents Encouraged to Participate In Emergency Broadband Program

BOSTON – AARP Massachusetts encourages residents who are without access to high-speed internet, or struggling to afford it, to look into the recently launched Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program. The EBB is a \$3.2 billion Federal Communications Commission (FCC) program to help Americans access the affordable, high-speed internet they need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The pandemic has shown our reliance on high-speed internet," said AARP Massachusetts state director Mike Festa. "Patients navigating telehealth, students learning remotely, and loved ones staying connected with family members by video chat are only a few of the critical tasks that require a high-speed connection."

Under this short-term program, Massachusetts residents may be eligible for a discount on their high-speed internet service of up to \$50 per month, as well as a one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet pur-

chased through a participating provider. Residents may be eligible for the EBB if they:

- Qualify for the Lifeline program, or participate in certain federal assistance programs, such as Medicaid, SNAP, and SSI benefits;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income since February 29, 2020, and their household had a total income in 2020 below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers; and
- Meet the criteria for a participating internet provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program. Eligible households will enroll through participating broadband providers.

"Helping older adults get and stay connected to high-speed internet is a key area of focus for AARP," said Festa. "That is why AARP fought hard for the EBB Program at the federal level, and here in Massachusetts." For more information about EBB, visit aarp.org/EBB, text "internet" to 22777, or call 1(833) 511-0311.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Four Large Pigs; Fallen Trees; Bad Drivers

Thursday, 4/1
8:17 a.m. Medical emergency, Boyle Road.

3:08 p.m. Caller reported a female at his property being belligerent and taking pictures of the inside of his garage.

3:41 p.m. Complaint from the French King Highway and Hill Drive of lack of traffic control to help motorists.

4:54 p.m. 911 call from Munn's Ferry Road. Male caller said something about the hospital. Connection lost.

6:31 p.m. Caller from Pine Street complained of noise from neighbor's generator.

Friday, 4/2
10:01 a.m. Assisted MassDOT with a cruiser at French King Highway and Main Road while they took down a sign.

2:13 p.m. Assisted citizen on Main Road.

9:28 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle on French King Highway. Off the road and waiting on tow.

Saturday, 4/3
3:42 p.m. Burglar alarm went off on Conference Road. Alarm company advises proper passcode.

3:52 p.m. Complaint of boxer mix running around on Main and West Gill roads. Dog looked to be running toward home.

5:15 p.m. Caller from French King Highway re-

porting that when he arrived in the parking lot, there was a male subject exiting the woods carrying a tree.

6:26 p.m. Montague dispatch reported they received a report of a female party tearing up vegetation on the riverbank along the Connecticut River.

10:10 p.m. Burglar alarm on Conference Road.

Sunday, 4/4
6:40 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with motor vehicle crash on State Road.

7:53 p.m. Responded to suicide attempt on the French King Bridge. Subject transported to Franklin Medical Center for evaluation.

Monday, 4/5
9:26 a.m. Multiple first floor smoke detectors went off on Cottage Row. Resident attempted cooking.

7:09 p.m. Accidental 911 call from Cove View Lane.

Tuesday, 4/6
11:32 a.m. Caller from Riverview Drive reports it appears as though a piece of his mail was opened and returned to his mailbox.

4:55 p.m. Assisted West Gill Road citizen with civil matter.

Wednesday, 4/7
7:54 a.m. Animal complaint, West Gill Road.

5:13 p.m. CDole Road caller reported that every night three vehicles do laps around the neighborhood at a high speed.

Thursday, 4/8
11:33 a.m. Complaint of loose dog on West Gill Road. Taken to animal shelter.

1:33 p.m. Assisted another agency on French King Highway with building security.

2:53 p.m. Responded to suicide attempt on the French King Highway. Subject transported to hospital for evaluation.

Friday, 4/9
10:45 a.m. Safety hazard reported, French King Highway and Hill Drive.

9:43 p.m. Caller from Main Road reported a disabled motor vehicle south of the PD on Main Road. Driver *en route* to get a spare and remove the vehicle.

Saturday, 4/10
12:29 p.m. Assisted citizen on Main Road with property return.

3:29 p.m. Welfare check on a male party walking on the opposite side of the French King Bridge.

7:11 p.m. Welfare check on Mountain Road. Caller advises she can hear a male party screaming.

Monday, 4/12
9:46 a.m. 911 call from Lamplighter Way. No answer on callback. All set.

2:21 p.m. Complaint from Camp Road of ATV observed getting ready to ride in posted area.

Tuesday, 4/13
1:35 p.m. 911 misdial, Memorial Grove Road. Caller states her phone is broken.

2:29 p.m. Caller from Main Road reported recent threats.

8:34 p.m. Assisted Erving PD on French King Highway.

Wednesday, 4/14
4:24 p.m. Caller from French King Highway reported erratic operation of a light green Subaru.

Thursday, 4/15
8:54 a.m. Caller reported a possible out-of-control brush fire on Main Road.

7:51 p.m. Medical emergency on River Road.

Friday, 4/16
8:50 a.m. Assisted motorist at the junction of Mountain and Main roads.

3:37 p.m. Medical emergency on Boyle Road.

5:18 p.m. Report of a tree blocking Pisgah Mountain Road.

8:06 p.m. Vandalism reported on Center Road.

Saturday, 4/17
7:43 p.m. Tree reported across Barney Hale Road.

Sunday, 4/18
1:29 p.m. Caller reporting debris on the French King Highway and Main Road from what appears to be a motor vehicle crash.

1:53 p.m. Served a warrant on North Cross Road.

3:25 p.m. Caller from Main Road reported a motor vehicle crossing the line several times.

6:29 p.m. Assisted state police with a search warrant on North Cross Road.

Monday, 4/19
4:22 p.m. Four large pigs reported near Center and Ben Hale roads.

6:32 p.m. Unoccupied vehicle reported near the hiking trail on Pisgah Mountain Road. No signs of distress.

Tuesday, 4/20
6:17 p.m. Caller from Main Road advised he was out cleaning his yard and wrapped a downed wire around his tree. He believes it's a power line, but isn't sure.

Wednesday, 4/21
3:12 a.m. Alarm went off from Conference Road. Spoke with security who advises it can be canceled.

11:29 a.m. Caller requested someone to clean up debris in roadway at the French King Highway and Main Road.

1:50 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD on River Street.

4:05 p.m. Received report of tree on power lines on River Road. Road blocked and lines smoking.

Thursday, 4/22
12:19 p.m. Caller reported a disabled motor vehicle on Main Road. Apparent tire change on side of roadway. Not a hazard.

1:15 p.m. Medical emergency on Boyle Road.

2:44 p.m. Caller from Main Road reported a tree that looks like it could come down soon.

4:34 p.m. Caller from Highland Road reports tree down blocking the

road. No power lines involved.

Friday, 4/23
1:01 p.m. Caller reported possible drug activity in vehicle on Pisgah Mountain and Barney Hale roads. Checked and was disabled motor vehicle. All OK.

1:35 p.m. Fire alarm received from Purple Road.

Saturday, 4/24
10:09 a.m. Caller reported a death on North Cross Road.

8:12 p.m. Assisted Montague PD by conducting a welfare check on Fifth Street or Canal bridges.

8:25 p.m. Caller from the French King Highway calling with concern for his neighbor.

Sunday, 4/25
3:52 p.m. Caller from the French King Highway requested help unlocking a vehicle.

4:52 p.m. Assisted with custody exchange.

5:43 p.m. Responded to caller from Main Road on past assault and battery investigation.

Monday, 4/26
10:40 a.m. Assisted caller from Walnut Street with motor vehicle lockout. Entry gained.

3:30 p.m. Caller from the French King Highway advises he has been at the lights for about 20 minutes. They have gone through three or four cycles, but aren't allowing traffic to proceed.

7:33 p.m. Report from Main Road about dog in and out of traffic in the area of the Gill Mill.

Tuesday, 4/27
1:04 p.m. Assisted state police with a traffic stop on the French King Highway.

5:29 p.m. *En route* to Main Road for a report of a loose dog.

6:38 p.m. *En route* to Main Road for another loose dog.

9:09 p.m. Received a report of a vehicle driving in the woods in a posted area off the French King Highway.

Wednesday, 4/28
9:26 a.m. Notified that state boat ramp on the French King Highway is now open for the season. Buoys put in place by FirstLight.

Thursday, 4/29
2:50 p.m. Caller from the French King Highway reports a silver Toyota operating erratically, tailgating, etc.

3:13 p.m. Caller from Boyle Road reports a disabled motor vehicle in the school pickup loop. Needs a jump start.

3:45 p.m. Fraud/scam reported from Mount Hermon Station Road.

4:21 p.m. Conducted welfare check on Mount Hermon Station Road.

Friday, 4/30
3:41 a.m. 911 call from Purple Road. Line silent.

5:40 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with disturbance on the French King Highway.

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Aquí se habla español

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



Voces Inmigrantes: Una celebración de las artes

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO
DE AGUILERA

TURNERS FALLS – El domingo 2 de mayo a las 7 en punto de la noche se celebró un año más *Immigration Voices: A celebration of Arts* para celebrar la inmigración y la diversidad cultural. Este año por segunda vez de forma virtual. Puntualmente a las 7 de la tarde dio comienzo el evento presentado por **Biani Salas** de Venezuela y **Tabitha Murithy** de Kenya que hicieron de maestras de ceremonia.

El primer artista fue **Harrison Garcés** de Colombia que actuó como D.J. del evento y nos presentó la canción "Esclavitud perpetua" que habla de la población negra forzada a salir de África y llevada como esclava a Cartagena de Indias en Colombia. Las notas de esta balada que habla de amor y venganza nos acompañaron mientras los espectadores entrábamos en la sala virtual.

La siguiente actuación corrió a cargo de **Yordanos Gebryohanes** y su familia proveniente de Eritrea. El vídeo de la actuación nos muestra a la familia en la mesa celebrando, todos vestidos de blanco con detalles de color rojo. La madre y los tres niños nos muestran esta danza tradicional con un ritmo impresionante.

Petr Chopik es un violinista original de Rusia que vestido con frac y una corbata de pajarita blanca nos interpreta magistralmente "Star Spangled Banner" con la bandera estadounidense detrás de él. Se nota que Chopik es un profesional, un virtuoso del violín, está muy tranquilo mientras saca notas emocionantes de su instrumento de cuerda.

A continuación, el grupo **Las Guadalupanas**, que repiten un año más. El grupo está compuesto por los siguientes artistas mexicanos y mexicoamericanos: Eva Martínez, Melissa Cabrera, Citlali Cabrera, María Hernández, Gabriela Aguilera y los niños Iván y Santiago.

Nos bailan la canción más popular de la película *Coco* titulada "Un poco loco." Uno de los niños va vestido como el personaje principal de la película y otro de Mariachi. Las integrantes femeninas llevan trajes de colores y flores en el cabello. Una actuación creativa que da una vuelta de tuerca a las que hemos visto en años anteriores interpretadas por el mismo grupo.

Rose Coquillon, otra vieja conocida de este evento interpreta con su amigo **Esdras Dinastil** de Haití la canción "Ayiti Cherie." La canción es un canto de amor a su país y podemos leer la traducción mediante los subtítulos en inglés que aparecen en el vídeo y nos habla de la belleza de su país. El vídeo está elaborado con una de las participantes en Massachusetts, combinando imágenes de playas y lugares naturales de Haití, lugar en el que se encuentra el otro integrante, Esdras.

El siguiente participante es nue-



Las Guadalupanas, "Un poco loco."

vo en este evento y se llama **Javier Luengo-Garrido**, chileno, que nos interpreta la canción "El ángel de la bicicleta" que narra la historia de Claudio Pocho Lapetti, un líder comunitario que fue asesinado por la policía argentina durante las protestas sociales ocurridas en el año 2001. Su voz me recuerda mucho a la del chileno Víctor Jara. La canción es un himno contra la violencia policial y uno de sus versos dice: "Bajen las armas, aquí solamente hay pibes comiendo."

Una canción que nos habla de un tema que, por desgracia, está de actualidad en todo el mundo.

Le siguen **Children's Troupe**, un grupo formado por niños de Ecuador que interpretan una danza tradicional vestidos con huipiles y llevan en sus manos cintas que mueven al compás de la música.

La salvadoreña, **Raquel Artiga**, nos canta con una voz muy transparente y clara la canción "Mi país." Lleva un traje azul y blanco que son los colores de la bandera de El Salvador. Las notas de la canción nos dicen que El Salvador es el corazón del mundo y el ritmo me hace mover los pies debajo de mi mesa de oficina.

A continuación, vemos el video de la venezolana **Eleydis Guerra** que nos hace una demostración de dos bailes típicos de su tierra: El joropo y Drum. Utiliza también imágenes de su país para mostrarnos la belleza del mismo y cambió de traje para mostrarnos el segundo baile.

La maestra de ceremonias, **Biani Salas**, quiso también participar en el evento y nos presentó en inglés bellos lugares de su país, Venezuela, así como enseñó a la audiencia la

palabra "teleférico," mostrando imágenes del más alto de su país que se encuentra en Mérida, el único lugar con nieve en este país latinoamericano.

Otra interprete nueva este año es **Lan Nguyen** de Vietnam que canta en vietnamita "Canh Hong Phai" ("Pétalos de rosa marchitos"), una canción de amor. No entiendo las palabras, pero puedo sentir la emoción a través de su bonita voz.

De nuevo **Petr Chopik**, esta vez acompañado por su familia, que está en diferentes partes del mundo y nos interpretan el tango "Por una cabeza" de Carlos Gardel. Si Garden resucitase, le encantaría esta versión interpretada por el violinista ruso y su familia.

Cerrando el espectáculo virtual de este año tenemos la clase 5-6 de Greenfield cuyo profesor de inglés es **Bill Gertzog**. Los rapsodas son: **Ashley Yang Liu, Wilmarie Santiago, Osiris Rubio, Rodica Mikhaylichenko, Aidin Martínez, Nutthawut (Roy) Roypiya y Keylin Pérez**. Los estudiantes nos recitan en sus diferentes lenguas nativas el poema "The Hill We Climb" de Amanda Gorman. Los estudiantes son de Moldavia, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, China y Honduras.

Y como sorpresa final, **Marilyn Sylla con Sekou Sylla** nos invitaron a bailar desde nuestras propias casas en un espléndido final de fiesta.

Una vez más **Center for New Americans** ha sido capaz de organizar un fabuloso evento para recaudar fondos pese a las circunstancias adversas. La ilusión y las ganas hacen posible cualquier objetivo.

La violencia estalla en Colombia

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO
DE AGUILERA

BOGOTÁ – Todo empezó el 28 de abril pasado cuando miles de personas decidieron salir a la calle en protesta por la reforma tributaria propuesta por el gobierno del presidente Iván Duque. Esta fecha coincidía con uno de los picos más altos de cifras de muertes y enfermos por COVID-19 y en plena tercera ola de la enfermedad.

Los manifestantes se manifestaron pese a la normativa de salud y fueron contrarrestados con el uso de una gran violencia por parte de la Policía Nacional de Colombia. Después de estos acontecimientos, el presidente Duque decidió retirar la propuesta de reforma de impuestos.

Pero, ¿en qué consistía la reforma fiscal? La nueva ley representaba una carga importante para las familias de clase media ya que eran impuestos regresivos, que son los que recaudan un menor porcentaje de los ingresos en relación con unas mayores rentas. Un ejemplo de este tipo de impuestos es el IVA que grava las ventas, es decir, el consumo cualquiera que sea tu nivel adquisitivo.

El gobierno viendo la que se venía encima decidió usar las restricciones debido a la pandemia para frenar el paro nacional usando una decisión judicial para revocar los permisos de manifestación, aunque en realidad no existe un permiso de manifestación, sino que es un derecho de los ciudadanos.

Las protestas llevadas a cabo en diferentes partes del país por grupos muy diferentes fueron reprimidas por la fuerza policial conocida como ESMAD (Escuadrón Móvil Antidisturbios) y avivadas por declaraciones de políticos y altos cargos del gobierno que desacreditaban y vilipendaban a los manifestantes. Esta situación hizo que aún más personas decidieran salir a la calle para no solamente protestar por la reforma, sino también por la violencia de la policía, la forma de gestionar la pandemia por el gobierno y por el descontento social en general.

Según datos no respaldados por

el gobierno, sino por miembros de la Campaña para Defender la Vida, la policía es responsable de 41 homicidios, 510 heridos, 12 agresiones sexuales contra mujeres y 600 detenciones ilegales. Solamente en la ciudad de Calí, 10 personas fueron asesinadas por la policía la primera semana de enfrentamientos.

Uno de los casos de abusos sexuales durante el paro nacional fue el denunciado por Alison Liseth S. de solamente 17 años que fue detenida por la policía en la noche del 12 de mayo y al ser liberada escribió en su Facebook que había sufrido abusos sexuales por parte de cuatro policías. A la mañana siguiente se suicidó.

La situación se complicó aún más tras las declaraciones en su Twitter del ministro de Defensa colombiano, Diego Molano, que acusaba a los representantes indígenas de terroristas, comparando la protesta pacífica conocida como la *minga* con una demostración mafiosa y apoyaba el uso de armas de fuego contra los manifestantes por la policía.

Como está ocurriendo actualmente en los Estados Unidos, la violencia policial ha sido recogida por las cámaras de los celulares de los propios ciudadanos retransmitiendo al mundo. El descontento sobre la labor de la policía ha aumentado y se hace necesaria una reforma sobre este cuerpo gubernamental ya que sus intervenciones se ven como arbitrarias, desproporcionadas, y violando los derechos humanos.

Antes las protestas, el presidente Duque pensó en un primer momento en enviar tropas nacionales a varias ciudades como Bogotá, Medellín y Cali, proyecto que fue inmediatamente abortado por los alcaldes de dichas ciudades.

El domingo 9 de mayo, civiles armados dispararon a los miembros de la *minga* indígena que marchaban de forma pacífica y desarmados en Cali. La ciudad se encuentra bloqueada y con graves problemas de abastecimiento de productos de primer uso y medicamentos. Ante estos hechos, líderes sociales están tratando de impulsar un dialogo antes de que la situación sea imposible de controlar.

Colombia es un país en que las desigualdades sociales son evidentes y que, como en muchos otros países, han aumentado debido a la pandemia de Covid-19. Por ello, estas marchas no representan la lucha contra la reforma fiscal sino contra el desgobierno y la corrupción que campa a sus anchas en este país de Latinoamérica. En Colombia ahora mismo más de tres millones de positivos por COVID, 21 millones de personas en estado de pobreza, y unas cifras de desempleo del 16%, sin olvidarnos de los 900 líderes sociales e indígenas asesinados y cuyos crímenes están sin resolver.

- **Montague Catholic Social Ministries** en Turners Falls organiza un paseo comunitario el 23 de mayo de 1 a 2 de la tarde. Caminar te hace estar de mejor humor, sirve para estirar los músculos, hace que tus huesos se pongan fuertes, te ayuda a dormir mejor, hace que tu cerebro funcione mejor y es gratis. Todas estas razones y además una rifa para todos los que completen el paseo. ¡No se lo pierdan! 23 de mayo a la 1pm en su sede en 78 Avenue A en Turners Falls.

- **Despensa del pueblo**. Reparto de comida y ropa gratis cada jueves de 2:30 a 4 p.m. en La Mariposa en 11 Avenue A.



- **Food Bank of Western Massachusetts** sigue ofreciendo alimentos gratis cada tercer miércoles de mes en el parking del Senior Center en Turners Falls cuya dirección es 62 5th Street. Por favor, asegúrense de traer sus propias bolsas, así como mascarillas.

Este programa se realiza en alianza con FCCMP y Montague COA. Si tienen preguntas, contacten con **The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts** en el teléfono (413) 247-9738.

- **Great Falls Apple Corps** ofrece cada sábado comida y ropa de abrigo gratis delante de la casita de Unity Park en Turners Falls de 12 a 3 p.m.

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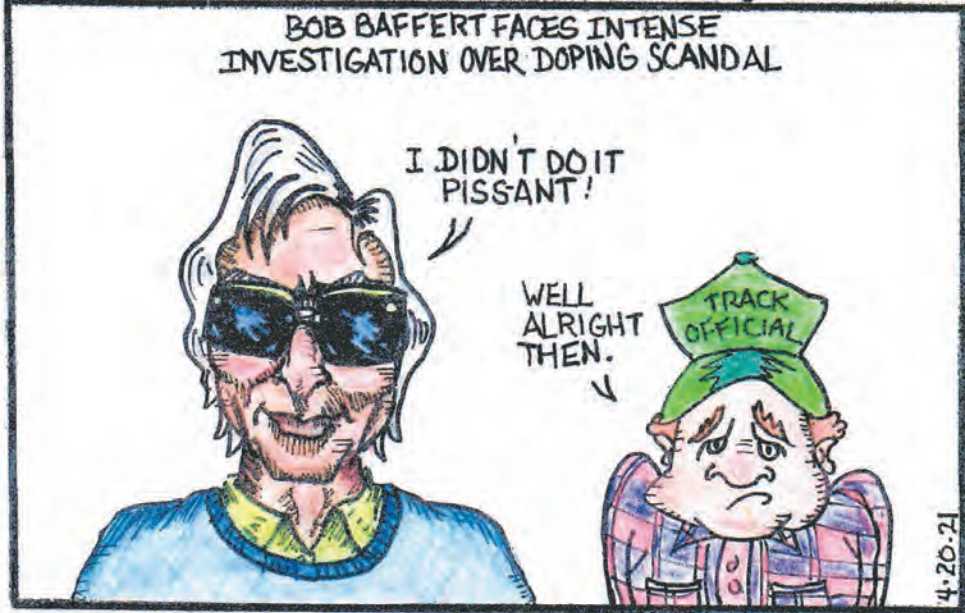
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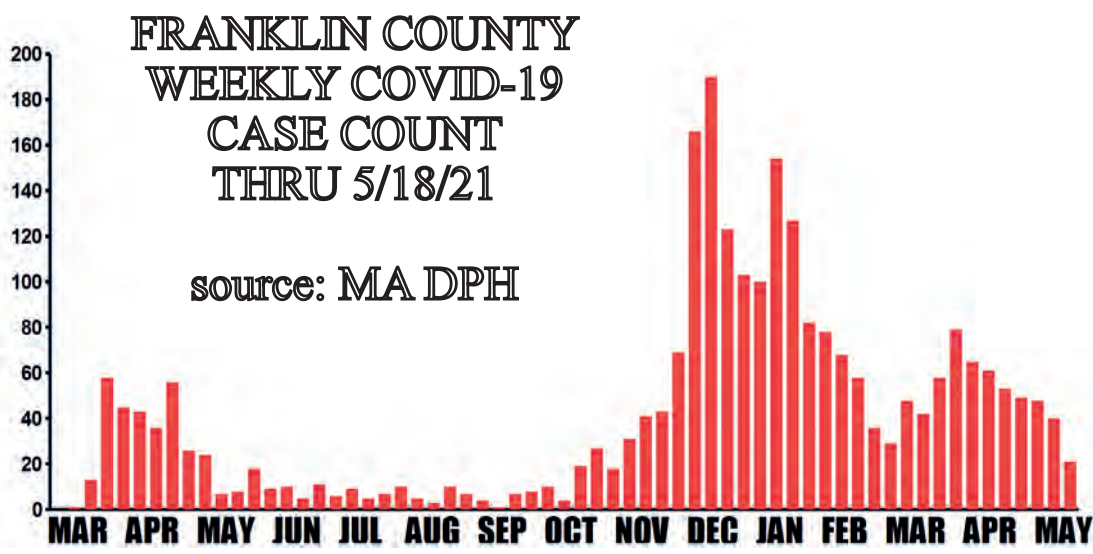
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NATIVE TONGUE

By JUDY HALL

WENDELL – *peent peent peent
beep beep beep beep beep
whump whump whump-whump-whumpwhumpwhump-
whumpppppp*

The land where we live “sounds” in languages I am learning to hear.

When I drop my acculturated ears and listen wide-side-ways, I am stirred.

On this very early April morning with a three-quarter moon on the wax, the singing of coyotes sails toward me. What I catch is the way we both feel about the coming of spring. Yips, barks, and full-throated howls, the adults bay along with this year’s pups, teaching them by example to point their snouts up to the sky, open up the backs of their throat and let it rip. I might hear a “This is how you do it.” and a “This is how to say: ‘I am here, where are you?’”

What I also imagine I hear upon Hemlock Hill is the difference between the round, rolling ululations of the adults and the pups’ shorter, stuttering squeaks.

Back to the house with inside eyes, I read that research done by the University of California Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources proposes a commonly held belief that “coyote populations are naturally regulated by available food and habitat.”

I agree that this regulating ability is evolutionarily advantageous because too many coyotes for their bioregion’s carrying capacity would court disaster.

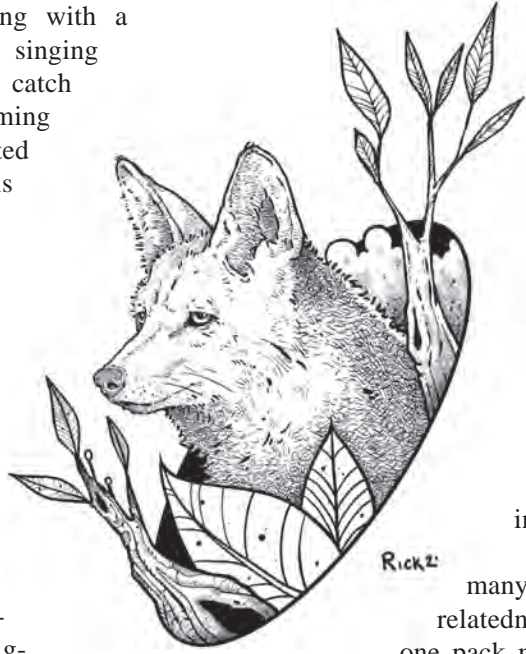
But what does “naturally regulated” mean? How do they

do this? How do they sense – before copulation (?), fertilization (?), the number of pups to grow? Do they survey the local mouse, skunk, and vole populations? Do they somehow gauge the year’s seed crop that feeds their prey? Is this survival skill a physiological consequence of poor nutrition? What signal does a reduction in prey numbers (lowered calories) become inside a coyote’s body?

For me, it is too small an answer to stop with “It’s endocrinological.”

Reading from the corners of my eyes, I see it differently: coyotes listen to their environment, and their behavior responds accordingly. It is an impressive ecological sensitivity. I take it one step further. Local lore says that coyotes also adjust their litter sizes according to neighboring packs’ population density. And coyotes find out the local groups’ sizes by who and how many sing back to their chorus. I imagine a pack so in tune with their neighbors that their ears and bodies zing and thrum when strummed by the volume and diversity of the nightly singing around them.

I hear these coyote talents (which so many species share) as examples of inter-relatedness – wild love. Too many coyotes in one pack might mean unnecessary competition, not only against the other coyotes with whom they share the land but also against the mesocarnivores they hunt. It’s as if they know ahead of time that having more offspring to feed would instinctively drive them toward overkill from the perspective of the environmental carrying capacity and/or leave them with too many starved pups, and they stop themselves.



Rickz

RICK BEAUPRE ILLUSTRATION

There are so many sounds out-of-doors this time of year. When we first moved to this land, we could not really hear the native tongues, perhaps preoccupied with our own wavelength of nesting concerns. But after nine years of cohabitation, our listening skills have improved.

- The American Woodcock’s whir and kiss and *peent, peent, peent*.
- Middlebrook’s *chortle* after a welcome spring shower.
- The whispering wash of the northwest wind across the open meadow, combed by the white pines’ needles.
- The accelerating, deep bass *whump whump whump* of the Ruffed Grouse’s wings beating the air.
- The barking of David’s dog, a mile or more away on Farley Road.
- The *beep beep beep* backing-up-call of the Saw-whet, and the Who Who Cooks For You All of the Barred owls.
- The high pitched, one-note squeak of the chipmunk’s alarm from under the woodshed.

This morning I listen to who else is awake, and my body responds to their songs. I sing back, “I hear you” and “I am here.”

With all that I consume and discard, all the space I take, I try to be sensitive and not crowd my neighbors.

For more reading on population dynamics:

“Population dynamics are often shaped by density-dependent processes, whereby demographic rates do exhibit functional relationships with density; such as a reduction in birth rates as resources become increasingly limited.”

– Nathan Holland, “Population Dynamics of Mutualism” (*Nature Education Knowledge*, 2012). See www.nature.com/scitable/knowledge/library/population-dynamics-of-mutualism-61656069/

For more about coyotes:

“As with other carnivore species, coyote populations are naturally regulated by available food and habitat.”

– www.projectcoyote.org/carnivores/coyote/

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