

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 19 – NO. 32

also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 17, 2021

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Town to See \$2.45 Million In Federal Rescue Package

By JEFF SINGLETON

Montague town administrator Steve Ellis told the town selectboard at its Monday night meeting that the town is slated to receive \$2.45 million in federal funds from the federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. The total includes a “town allocation” of \$859,538 and Montague’s share of the Franklin County allocation, \$1,595,085, which will go directly to the town because county government here was abolished some years ago.

The American Rescue Plan Act was approved by Congress and signed by President Biden in March. The plan, which included direct stimulus payment to individuals, an extension of unemployment benefits, a “restaurant revitalization fund,” and extension of the Paycheck Protection Program, allocated \$350 billion in aid to cities, towns, territories, and tribal governments.

Although the funds will pass through the state Division of Local Services, “each municipality is the see MONTAGUE page A7

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Old Landfill Needs Closure

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Highway commission chair Phil Delorey came to the Wendell selectboard’s June 9 meeting, which was held in the town office meeting room. Participants maintained a six-foot separation and wore masks. Delorey was not sure whether a mask was needed, but when he saw that everyone else in the room wore one he put his own on as well.

Delorey discussed the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)’s newfound interest in Wendell and its former landfill,

which was closed and replaced with a transfer station and free store in 1990. The closing was not complete, and the area is now covered with weeds, and the volume of trash underneath the dirt is unknown. A test hole showed two feet of fill over the undocumented contents.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said that the DEP will be satisfied as long as the town can show that it is moving forward toward completing the process of closing the landfill properly, after 30 years of inaction. The town will have to clear trees see WENDELL page A5

High School Sports Week: A New Home Run Record

By MATT ROBINSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – The 2021 high school spring sports season concluded this week, and three local teams are now gearing up for the postseason. Because of COVID, the MIAA changed their rules for postseason play. This year, any team can compete in the playoffs, regardless of record.

The Turners Falls girls’ tennis team has opted to play on, even though they have only one win. Now they wait for their ranking. Because they’ll probably occupy the lowest rung on the rankings ladder, they will have an away match, and may have to travel quite a distance for their first match.

Another change in girls’ tennis is that boys can now compete. In past years, teams with boys on their roster couldn’t play in the postseason. Frontier is one of those teams, and has traditionally voted to play in the boys’ tournament instead of packing up their rackets.

The other two local teams didn’t have to vote to compete. The Turners Falls and Franklin Tech softball teams won their respective league titles, and were invited to the after-season party.

Boys’ Track
Frontier 98 – FCTS 24

One team that won’t compete in the tournament is the Franklin Tech/ see SPORTS page A4

St. Kaz Building Changes Hands

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – “A lot of people have a lot of history in that building,” Oliver Miller said of the Avenue A building he purchased last month from St. Kazimierz Society. “I think it was hard. So I’m really happy that they’re going to stay, and hopefully continue on for a long time.”

The building is the fifth in downtown Turners Falls purchased by Miller and a real estate partner, operating as 108 Properties LLC, in five years. Miller plans to use the building’s banquet hall, an addition built in 1950, to store the vintage furniture he trades under his business Oliver Modern, and to eventually restore the second and third floors as large apartments.

The bar, kitchen, and basement will be leased to the Society, and Miller said he will build out the club’s entrance on Seventh Street.

“We’re still the same place,” said



108 Properties, LLC purchased the building on May 13 for \$280,000.

St. Kaz vice president Barry Savinski. “We just don’t have the whole building.... Basically we just wanted to downsize: ‘let’s just run our little club and our Society, and let somebody else own the building.’”

According to Savinski and trustee Sheryl Jablonski, the decision to

downsize was ultimately driven by the prohibitive cost of a fire suppression system for the hall, in addition to taxes and insurance.

“Our big moneymaker was, we used to have bands down in the big hall,” said Savinski. “But the see ST. KAZ page A6

THE BIG PICTURE

McGraw Honorees Reflect on the Year

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – Each semester, Turners Falls High School staff and students nominate peers who exemplify the ideals of former vice principal Earl



Heidi Schmidt (left) and Izzy Vachula-Curtis (right).

McGraw, who died of cancer in 2016.

This semester’s Earl McGraw Uplift Award winners were ninth-grader Izzy Vachula Curtis, described as “a natural teacher and facilitator, taking charge yet making sure to include everyone,” and art teacher Heidi Schmidt, who “models imperfect perseverance, [which] helps people who are struggling feel accepted and lets them know it’s all part of the process.”

The last day of school was last Friday, but Izzy and Ms. Schmidt agreed to meet me at the school on Monday for a joint interview. Appropriate to the theme of technological challenges, my recorder missed a great section of the conversation. The remaining transcript has been abridged, reordered, and edited for clarity.

MR: Congratulations to both of you. Izzy has been working for years for the Reporter, so she will be known to our readers, I think. How long have you been at the school? And have you two had each other as teacher and student?

HS: Since January of 2007.

IVC: Yeah, I was in her Ceramics, and Advisory, and Foundations of Art classes.

MR: Were you surprised to hear you were selected as the McGraw Award winners?

IVC: I didn’t think that I would get it, just because I feel like it’s like a big thing. I don’t know how many see MCGRAW page A8

Hopes For a “Reuse Plan” At the Farren

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE CITY – The Farren Care Center, a former Catholic hospital which became a unique longterm care facility for clients with multiple health issues rejected by other nursing homes, closed its doors last April. Many of its residents have transferred to a traditional nursing home in Holyoke, once called Mount St. Vincent’s and named MissionCare. That facility has recently been purchased by a for-profit health corporation called iCare, which owns 12 other facilities in New England.

The Farren complex, which is still owned by the large Catholic see FARREN page A5

Architect to Tackle Puddle

By SARAH ROBERTSON

TURNERS FALLS – A perpetually flooded section of parking lot behind Montague town hall will be replaced with a rain garden this summer.

“I lived in Turners for six years, and my last place, about a year ago, was on L Street right by the bike path, so I would always go by and

notice the puddle,” said landscape architect Peter Wackernagel, who brought the idea to town hall this year, designed the project, and applied for a grant to cover its costs.

The 8,000-square-foot rain garden will collect and filter rainwater through natural processes. Instead of pooling on pavement, water will seep into the soil and the roots of the trees, shrubs, and other greenery.

see PUDDLE page A6



The excess impervious surface has caused perpetual drainage issues.



Brayden McCord lands his triple jump with a distance of 33’11”, placing second in Monday’s meet against the Frontier Redhawks at Turners Falls High School.

One More, Then We Go Biweekly

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The Montague Reporter

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Nice Work, Everyone

We're very happy to share the latest news from the Department of Public Health. Last week's official count of COVID-19 cases in Franklin County was *two*. That's down from six.

In Hampshire County it was *four*, and down in Hampden it has dropped from 152 to 98 to 35. The count out in Berkshire County was *six*.

The virus is not extinct. There are breakthrough cases even among the vaccinated, and vaccinations have plateaued.

Montague's public health department has indicated it will not join a statewide vaccination push. More transmissible variants are in circulation, and we may see another wave of infection when the fall weather comes.

But for now? *This is pretty good.*



Write Mike In

An appeal to voters in Montague's Precinct 2: I have been a Town Meeting member for over twenty years, and I am up for re-election this year. I thought I had done what was necessary for my name to appear on the ballot, but I guess there was a slip-up somewhere because my name is not there.

You can vote for seven people, and there are six names on the list. Please consider writing me in: Mi-

chael Naughton, 11 S. Lyman St., Millers Falls.

I would be grateful for the opportunity to continue to have a voice in the affairs of the town, and to represent the interests of Precinct 2 and the entire town to the best of my ability.

Thank you very much for your support,

Mike Naughton
 Millers Falls

More Solar Panels At GFMS/TFHS!

8th grade students at Great Falls Middle School have created a petition to increase the number of solar panels on our school. The petition supports our proposal that our school district triple the number of solar panels on our school building to save energy, save money, and reduce our impact on climate change. This first started with an Action Project in our civics class, but we decided that we want to share it with our entire community.

This project is important to us because it can help reduce our school's contribution to climate change. When you burn coal and gas to make electricity it creates carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, which can be harmful to the environment. However, if we install more solar panels for GFMS and TFHS, it would not only help the school pay less for the electric bills, but also help our planet by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing our collective dependence on fossil fuel.

Doing all these things in the end will be beneficial to our school. For example, it will help get new materials for the students, which

will help our education. The savings could help us get new supplies for sports teams, or for the nurse's office, for when a student gets injured.

Our proposal is to increase our solar capacity from powering 12 classrooms to powering 36 classrooms - that is, approximately half of the classrooms in the entire school. Our school currently has 1,950 square feet of solar panels, which were installed in April 2004. We want to triple the amount to 5,850 square feet of panels.

Please support us by signing our petition! We want to make our educational environment greener, and have less of an impact on climate change so that future generations can have a safe and healthy planet. You can find our petition and more information at www.change.org/solarschool.

Thank you for your support.

Zaydrien Alamed,
Reneishaly Benvenutty,
Rayne Bonfiglio, Vera Cooper,
Julia Dickinson, Aiden Dodge,
Rylee Fisher, Sheni Ovalle Roblero,
and Gary Smith



Ever resourceful worker-owner Kate Hunter of Real Pickles takes advantage of local spring blooms in Greenfield for a marketing campaign.

Letters to the Editors

Mischaracterized About Costs

I facilitated the Police Equity & Use of Force Advisory Group for the Town of Montague. This committee's *Final Report*, issued April 29, 2021, may be downloaded here: tinyurl.com/MPDequity.

In an Op-Ed in the June 10 issue of the *Montague Reporter*, Jon Magee misquoted thoughts I shared with him in a personal email dated May 2, 2021. He then used his mischaracterization of my words to support an opinion of his ("police departments are notoriously expensive") that was the opposite of my point regarding what police funding is able to provide in Montague (specifically).

Mr. Magee also did not ask my permission to share our email conversation publicly, although I am happy to publish here what I actually wrote to him.

First, please note: "CAHOOTS" is a program that diverts 20% of Eugene and Springfield, Oregon's 120,000 police calls annually to two-person response teams consisting of a medic and a trained crisis intervisor. This information is from whitebirdclinic.org/what-is-cahoots/ and www.dailynews.com/2020/06/29/social-workers-not-cops-respond-to-many-911-calls-in-eugene-oregon-and-la-is-watching/.

Writing to Jon Magee on May 2, I said in part:

"Our committee discussed CA-

HOOTS and similar programs, and have a related recommendation in our report. But there are some limiting factors in applying that here - #1 being that our local communities currently can afford only a minimum number of officers on duty at any one time to cover situations like a dangerous assault, break-in, fight, stalking, or violent threats. Like our fire departments, that minimum staffing and equipment needs to be there for the scenarios that only they can handle safely and effectively.

"In Montague, in fact, we are below best-practice minimums, because we are one Sgt. short of having a supervisor available on every shift. And we have so few officers that they patrol singly, not in pairs. In my opinion, these are the only potential safety risks to the public that we found in our department, and these are not by the current MPD's choice.

"We learned that our police use a de-escalation approach in every situation, and that this has been the department's culture, training, and practice for several years. By the numbers, this approach is working: In the 4 full years since MPD began recording uses of force in detail, force was used a total of 72 times in 72,000 police calls (1/10th of 1 percent). A total of 3 uses of force resulted in physical injury, none of

which were serious or long-lasting. But it is common sense that if an officer is called to intervene in a violent or highly volatile situation, the opportunity to contain and de-escalate that situation without using force is much greater with two officers present than with one.

"So there are no police expenses to cut in order to hire health or social-services professionals working parallel to police. [Even CAHOOTS covers only 17% to 20% of 911 calls.] This is why the 'ride-along' unarmed professional to be shared by 3 towns struck me (and I think our whole group) as a thoughtful & appropriate first step in learning more about what situations, where, and how many in *our* communities could be addressed without a police presence in the future."

An additional note is that the "ride-along" professional referenced above is a mental-health clinician from Clinical & Support Options, who has just completed her training to respond to select calls for police assistance alongside officers from Montague, Greenfield, and Deerfield. We have learned since May that she will not be riding in police vehicles. This pilot program is grant-funded.

Respectfully,

Ariel Elan
 Montague Center

Published weekly on Thursdays.
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 or the Thursday closest to 12/25.

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by
TROUBLE MANDESON

Montague Parks and Recreation Department begins its **Summer Camp** on June 28 for kids five to twelve. The camp runs Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through August 13. Activities include trips to Laurel Lake and other field trips. All campers will receive a free lunch. There are only a few spots remaining, so visit www.montagueparksrec.com to register.

The Turners Falls Water Department will be **flushing hydrants** June 21 through 25, and asked us to help warn that “residents may experience discolored, roily water.”

The town of Orange will host a **Third Thursday Summer Street Fair** this Thursday, June 17 from 5 to 8 p.m. Sponsored by the Orange Merchants group, there will be food, music, and vendors.

Come to a **breakfast at the Montague Congregational Church** on Saturday, June 19 from 8 to 10:30 a.m. The cost is only \$8. Weather permitting, there will also be a tag sale on the lawn featuring a large Barbie doll collection, furniture, and gently used clothing.

The LAVA Center is a new community arts space, arts incubator, and black box theater in downtown Greenfield. Every Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. there is a **pop-up art salon and marketplace** featuring art, poetry, music, video, local vendors, and more. If you

are interested in vending, contact vanessa@localaccess.org.

The Skeleton Crew Theater and RiverCulture invite you to a **Free Variety Show** this Saturday, June 19 at 2 p.m. at Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls.

Franklin County Pride is having a **Pride Benefit Fundraiser Party** on Monday, June 21 from 6 to 9 p.m. at Hope & Olive restaurant in Greenfield. The free event features DJ Just Joan.

CISA’s storytelling event **Field Notes** returns Tuesday, June 22 at the Northfield Drive-In. The gates open at 6:30 p.m., with a film screening at dusk. Join us for an evening of stories about local food and farming in western Mass, told by your neighbors. Admission is \$10 each, or \$20 per car. For tickets, see www.buylocalfood.org/events.

Visit the **Vermont College of Fine Arts** remotely this summer for free lectures and readings by faculty and visiting writers, information sessions, and chat with alums. The event runs from June 22 until June 29. Learn about their low-residency MFA in Writing program and more by visiting their website at www.vcfa.edu.

The Recover Project is hosting a **free COVID Vaccine Day** next Thursday, June 24, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 74 Federal Street, Greenfield. Please indicate the Recover Project in your registration at www.chfc.org/vaccine-registration.

The next **Movies in the Park** in Turners Falls will feature *Mary Poppins Returns*, on Friday, June 25 at Peskeomskut Park. Also watch for upcoming details on **Night Skates**, with an illuminated Unity Skate Park!

The **Fusion Nomads** are streaming two live sessions throughout the month of June at the Shea Theater. Performances feature percussionist Tony Vacca, bassist Avery Sharpe, electric violinist and multi-instrumentalist Derrik Jordan, and saxophonist Charles Langford. Guitarist John Sheldon performs in Session Two. See sheatheater.org for more information.

Trolls World Tour will be screened at **Greenfield’s Movie in the Park**, on Friday, June 25, at 9 p.m. at Beacon Field. Free to all. For information visit www.greenfieldrecreation.com.

Create a book about nature in a free workshop for ages 6 to 13, based on the Words From The Rookery photography exhibit by Lindy Whiton on Saturday, June 26, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Lava Center. Find out more at www.localaccess.org.

Pet Mini Photo Sessions will be held in Unity Park, Turners Falls, on June 26 at 6:30 p.m. and June 27 at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit One More Dog Rescue, www.ondrescue.org. Email melissa@m3gphotography.com for information. A \$10 donation is required to book your session, with a \$40 balance due the day before your session.

The Nurturing Program for Families in Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery is a **support group for caregivers** who experience domestic violence, substance use, and/or recovery. This 16-week, evidence-based group helps edu-

cate adult caregivers about human growth and development. Contact Lynn Norwood for more information (413) 774-4307 x3.

Valuing our Children is a **children’s dads’ group** now meeting in person at the North Quabbin Patch & Family Resource Center in Athol. Meetings are held monthly on the first and third Monday, 1 to 2 p.m., and second and fourth Thursday, 5 to 6 p.m. Registration is required. See www.valuingourchildren.org for more information.

The **Montague Soap Box Race** is back this September in partnership with Nova Motorcycles and Montague WebWorks. Now is the time to start thinking about building a racer for this fun family event. Information can be found at montaguesoapboxraces.com.

The Great Falls Discovery Center is **hiring qualified applicants** for the short term, seasonal position of Seasonal Laborer II. Applications are accepted now through September 6. Become a part of a team in support of a vibrant state park visitor center in downtown Turners Falls. Call the Center to learn more at (413) 863-3221.

The Greenfield DPW is **hiring five young adults** ages 18 to 24 for mowing, trimming, painting, etc. This is a great summer job to gain work experience. Visit masshirefirecareers.org to apply.

Help to fully restore the Lake Pleasant **Bridge of Names!** An anonymous donor will match the next \$1,000 in donations dollar for dollar. Visit facebook.com/LakePleasantVillageAssociation/ or send a check to LPVA, PO Box 235, Lake Pleasant, MA 01347.

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OP/ED

Baker Appoints Fox to Guard Chicken Coop

By **BART BOURICIUS**

MONTAGUE – It was recently announced that Tom Brulé was appointed to head the Department of Conservation and Recreation’s (DCR) Management Forestry Division, the agency responsible for conducting commercial logging in our State Parks and Forests. What does his appointment mean for the publicly-owned forests in the Commonwealth?

Let’s examine this particular case. Mr. Brulé moved from his position with Pantermehl Land Clearing Inc. to head DCR’s Division of Management Forestry. The Pantermehl web page shows a huge pile of logs and an array of logging equipment. According to the *Athol Daily News* (January 26, 2021), Mr. Brulé’s consulting helped a Shelburne landowner access a \$41,335 State government grant for a logging project to create “young forest.” Somehow cutting down a mature forest is more and more often being portrayed as “creating young forest habitat.” This “young forest” label sounds as if it was created by a PR firm.

Mr. Brulé’s former employer is a member of the Massachusetts Forest Alliance (MFA), a trade association that lobbies the state legislature. In MFA’s announcement lauding Mr. Brulé’s appointment, Pantermehl Land Clearing Inc. is described only as “Pantermehl Environmental Services.”

Brulé’s appointment is a classic example of the revolving door practice, in which industry personnel and lobbyists move into government positions that are supposed to be concerned with protecting the public welfare. Later, when those same governmental officials retire, they move

back into the industries that they had been regulating or creating policy for.

The MFA functions as both a public relations and a lobbying organization. It is described in the *Biomass Magazine* Industry Directory as “a trade association representing forest landowners, foresters, timber harvesters, and forest products companies in Massachusetts to legislators, regulators, and the public at large.” In the MFA’s “Forest Update” announcing Mr. Brulé’s government position, the MFA reiterated their opposition to newly-proposed bills to preserve more state-owned forest as wild lands.

During the last legislative session, the MFA lobbied against bills eliminating subsidies for forest biomass burning, as well as a bill which would protect more state forest lands from industrial logging, in much the same way that National Parks are protected. The MFA also paid a lobbyist to fight a bill essentially banning glyphosate, the main ingredient in Monsanto’s herbicide Roundup, which is often sprayed by the timber industry, on both private and public lands, after logging forests.

The financial and political influence of the logging and wood products industry is immense. Like the fossil fuel industry, which is now investing in biomass incineration, it will go to extremes to deny that the extractive logging industry has any negative impacts on the climate. A common ploy is substituting the euphemism “forest management” for logging. The truth is that 99% of “forest management” involves logging, or preparation for future commercial logging projects.

When considering politics and climate change, not only is it important to follow the money, it is equally important to follow the carbon. This is

understood by climate scientists. When Maine senator Susan Collins filed a bill declaring biomass incineration “non carbon emitting,” the question was asked, and not just by scientists: how does making a lie a law make it true?

Pretending that forest biomass incineration is renewable is a bad joke, especially on a time scale relevant to stopping climate change. Why not keep trees standing, preserving the greatest biodiversity of any ecosystem, while storing more carbon every year for hundreds of years? As scientists have observed in peer-reviewed journal articles, the rate of carbon capture and storage continues to increase far beyond 200 years – as long as the forest is not disturbed by logging, which is overwhelmingly the largest cause of tree death. Claims by loggers and foresters that every problem imaginable in forests can be solved by more commercial logging must be challenged.

During this climate crisis, please support bills to preserve more of our state-owned forests from logging. Also, support a separate bill allowing citizens to challenge illegal behavior by state agencies involving logging on our public lands. It would guarantee accountability to existing laws by DCR for any projects they approve, including accountability for environmental impacts, carbon accounting, and public participation.

The forest preservation bills are H.912 and H.1002. For details, see www.savemassforests.com. For details on the accountability bill, H.1003, see www.wendellforest.org/post/new-bill-filed-by-rep-sabadosa.

Bart Bouricius is a retired canopy researcher, arborist, and member of Wendell State Forest Alliance. He lives in Montague Center.

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SPORTS from page A1

Turners Falls boys' track team. They ran their final meet on Monday at Turners Falls High School in the pouring rain.

It rained so hard that the tennis match was rescheduled, but you can still run, throw, and jump in the rain, so the track meet went on. Only two events, the pole vault and high jump, were scrubbed.

Tech scored a total of 24 points. Brayden McCord won the long jump with a leap of 16'5", finished second in the triple jump (33'11"), and dashed the 100m in 12.1 seconds for second place. Ryan Duclos put the shot-iron 38'1.5" for first place, and finished second in the discus with a distance of 83'7".

Tech won single points from five different athletes' third-place finishes: Brody Williams in shot put (29'6"), Patrick Connell, Jr. in the 400m hurdles (79.3 seconds), Greyson Rollins in the javelin (86'8"), Alexander McKay in the mile (6:06.5), and Cooper Bourbeau in the 200m (31.8 seconds).

Noel Kenny suffered a hip injury and was DQ'd, so his second-place finish in the 100m hurdles didn't count.

On Tuesday, the students and coaches broke down the track equipment. They looked like worker ants as they carried all the standards, pits, and mats to the shed. But I'm not sure if Mr. Bourbeau would be very happy seeing vehicles driving on his rubberized track.

Girls' Tennis

Frontier 4 - TFHS 1

The Turners Falls/Franklin Tech girls' tennis team played on Tuesday, postponed from Monday. The venue was also switched to South Deerfield.

The rain had cleared by then, and it got pretty hot. Frontier has several trees lining their courts, and most of the fans sat under them in the shade. The Frontier team also provided cold water to the visiting fans.

Because Haley Greene was at her new job, Izzy Farrick played first singles. Tennis is one of those friendly sports, and when the girls discovered they are both heading to polytechnic schools (Rensselaer and Worcester), they gabbed about engineering and their future goals as they played.

The sets were very close, with long rallies, but in the end, Frontier won first singles 6-4, 6-4.

Steph Peterson abandoned her duo partner and moved up to second singles. The boy she was playing became overheated, and with the score 3-3, he walked off the court and forfeited the match.

Holy Hicks played third singles. "It's much closer than the score indicates," Coach Gonzales said as we watched the match. But even with a few dropped points, Hicks managed to win four games in the first set before dropping the second 6-1.

Abby Holloway and Emily Denison paired up for first doubles and lost 6-1, 6-0. Because Frontier only has four courts, second doubles was played after the other contests ended, which allowed the other girls to sit in the shade and cheer on the last match. Mercedes Bailey and Laken Chessie, who haven't seen a lot of playing time this year, dropped the match 6-0, 6-1.

And now they wait for their number to be called. They might have to travel to the Berkshires, to Springfield, or to anywhere else in Western Mass to play in the 2021 Tennis Tourney. But tennis is a friendly sport, and the girls decided that they will continue to play on and have fun, regardless of the outcome.

Softball

TFHS 14 - Mohawk 0 TFHS 9 - Frontier 2 TFHS 31 - Mahar 0

On Wednesday, June 9 the Turners Falls Softball Thunder played their last regular season home game against the Warriors of Mohawk Trail. It was senior night, and Powertown mercied Mohawk 14-0.

In the first inning, Jade Tyler hit a sky rocket above everything for Turners' first run. In the third, she hit a sharp line drive over the left field fence for her second homer of the game. This opened up the floodgates as the other players began hitting the long ball.

By the fourth inning, Turners was leading 12-0, and eighth grader Madison Liimatainen took over pitching duties. Blue scored two more runs in the fourth, and Liimatainen shut the door to preserve the 14-0 mercy win.

Last Friday, Turners Varsity played at Frontier High School while the JV teams played at Herlihy Field in Whately.

Turners varsity scored four runs in the first inning off errors and wild pitches; in the fourth, Holly Myers hit a solo shot over the fence to make it 5-0. The Red Birds answered in the bottom fourth, as a two-out double followed by a homer narrowed the score to 5-2.

Then in the fifth, Tyler hit a sky-scraper well over the fence to put the Thunder ahead 6-2. I didn't know it at the time, but with that dinger, Tyler tied Jenna Putala's single-season home run record with 11. (By the way, Jenna was at the game, and gave us a little color commentary throughout.)

Olivia Whittier led off the seventh with a stand-up double, and Taylor Murphy RBI'd her in. Then Tyler came back to the plate and did it again. This home run was a little lower, but traveled much quicker. Blue took a 9-2 lead - and Tyler's name was etched in the record books.

This is an amazing achievement, especially in a shortened season. But Tyler may not hold the title forever. To quote Red Auerbach, Mark Spitz, and others, "records are



Cameron Candalaria crosses the finish line in the 100m dash on Monday.

meant to be broken."

(Except, that is, the Turners Falls 1978 track records. Those will stay forever, because they switched to some new system, so whoever held the school records in the 100-yard dash, the 440, 880, or any other race using the Old English system of measurement will remain forever in the TFHS record books!)

On Tuesday, the Blue Ladies beat the Mahar Senators out in Orange 31-0 to complete their season with a perfect 13-0 record, earning the number-1 seed in the MIAA D3 West bracket. Mr. Bush, who was at the Mahar game, tells me Tyler hit her 13th home run.

On Monday, June 21, the Thunder Ladies will host the winner of the Ware-Westfield Voc contest.

FCTS 24 - Amherst 2 FCTS 8 - Smith Academy 6 FCTS 4 - Pioneer 3

Meanwhile, the Franklin Tech Softball Eagles extended their own winning streak, beating three schools to end the regular season with a record of 14-2, earning the number-2 ranking in the MIAA tourney.

The Lady Birds dismantled the Amherst Hurricanes 24-2 last Friday evening, then played their final regular-season home game on Saturday against the Smith Academy Purple Falcons. This was senior day at Nancy Gifford Field, and lone senior Mackenzie Martel received her just desserts before the game.

The Franks took a 1-0 lead in the first inning. Kaitlin Trudeau led off with a base hit, stole second, advanced on a Lilly Ross outfield fly, and scored on a Martel sacrifice.

Three Falcons reached base in the second inning, but Tech got the lead runner for the first out, and Lauren Ross struck the last two batters out.

In the home second, Keira Stevens reached on an error and Kendra Campbell got a base hit. Trudeau batted them in, and eventually scored on a wild pitch to give Franklin a 4-0 edge.

Smith took the lead right back, however, scoring five runs in the third, and after three and a half, Tech was on the losing end of a 5-4 score.

Tech wrestled back the lead for good in the fourth, scoring four runs to make it an 8-5 contest.

The Blue Bats made some noise in the fifth, but a double play kept the margin at 3.

Then came the top of the sixth. I don't recall ever witnessing a triple play before, but that's just what happened. The first two Falcons reached base, and Tech orchestrated a crisp double play to get the batter and one of the base runners. All the girls then left the field - including the runner on third.

"Tag her!," one of the fathers called. The coaches from both sides chimed in: "It's only two outs." The players hurried back to the diamond, the runner was tagged out, and the inning ended via a rare triple play.

Smith made one last gasp in the seventh when a lead-off triple and RBI single made it 8-6 with no outs. Lauren Ross struck out the next batter, and a 6-3 combo gave Tech their second out. Then Smith's next batter popped it up. Martel didn't have time to take off her mask. She raced ahead, stuck out her mitt and, fittingly, caught the final out in the last home game of the regular season.

I first noticed Martel when she was in eighth grade. The Turners JV was playing against Newton South. Fellow eighth-grader Jade Tyler was pitching, but their catcher Mercedes Morales was away on a school trip, so Martel had to sit in at catcher. And she did so without hesitation. Even at that age, Tyler was throwing heat, and between innings Martel gleefully showed off her bruised palm to the fans in attendance.

A half decade later, the two ladies and their fellow seniors will lead their respective teams into the playoffs, in a bid to keep the championship title in Turners Falls.

Tech concluded their regular season in Northfield with a come-from-behind 4-3 victory against the Pioneer Panthers. They finished with a 14-2 record, their only losses coming against Turners Falls and Athol.

They play their first playoff game this Friday, June 18 at home against the Granby Rams.

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FARREN from page A1

non-profit Trinity Health of New England Senior Communities, has become another infrastructure question mark for Montague, which has its share of crumbling factory buildings, bridges, and old town halls.

During the public process that led to the state approving the Farren's closure, the town believed it had received approval for a "reuse study" and an effort to market the complex to a potential developer.

Near the end of the June 7 selectboard meeting, town administrator Steve Ellis said the process for considering the building's future "doesn't look precisely like the process we discussed last fall, but it bears some resemblance, and we're given a voice and connection to it." Ellis said Trinity had shared with him its real estate division's "work plan," and given assurance that the building would not be "dumped" on an "undercapitalized" buyer.

Ellis said Trinity plans to hire a local real estate development firm to evaluate the potential market, and potential cost of renovation. "It is possible," he told the board, "that if the buildings are too challenging for redevelopment... one option they would look to exercise would be potentially demolition, and preparation of the site for its next iteration." Ellis also mention the need for an "abatement assessment of the facility," and a Phase I environmental assessment.

While the time frame to complete this process was "unspecified," Ellis said, "I think what we have from Trinity Health is a very

clear promise that they will not leave the town with a building that will become an albatross." At the same time, he added, "they are unlikely to be shopping and marketing the building for a period of years."

Ellis reported that he had scheduled a telephone meeting with the state agency MassDevelopment, which has experience redeveloping hospitals. "It would be good if the historic section of the building could be preserved," selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz commented. "But time will tell."

The plan to move patients from the Farren to a more traditional nursing home in Holyoke in the midst of a pandemic came in for criticism during several hearings before the state Department of Public Health (DPH) last fall. The most vocal critic was Greenfield lawyer David Roulston, who served as a guardian for six Farren residents at the time of its closing. Roulston also wrote two editorials in local newspapers, saying that Trinity had "lost its moral compass" by closing the facility.

However, reached by the *Reporter*, Roulston said that five of his six clients had moved to Holyoke, and that the transition, in the end, "went very well." He said each client was able to have meetings with staff members of the facilities and representatives of "advocacy groups."

Roulston also said he was coming to the end of his own career as an advocate for patients. "I take some solace at the work we did at the Farren," he said.

Doris Bardwell, whose mother has been a resident of the Holyoke

facility for over five years and who expressed concern during the hearings about combining the facilities' very different populations, said that communication with iCare had improved in recent months with the assistance of Paul Lanzikos, cofounder of Dignity Alliance of Massachusetts, and regular Zoom meetings between iCare and families.

Bardwell also said that an "independent family council" has been formed at MissionCare to advocate for the residents, and is working with the administration to share concerns and recommendations.

"Even though the Farren Care Center is now closed and the merger is complete, we are still just at a beginning point in the actual transition at MissionCare," Bardwell said. "Staffing remains a challenge. Families are finally free to enter the facility without a scheduled appointment, now that COVID restrictions are being lifted. Residents are slowly emerging from their rooms. There remains much work to be done, such as opening up the dining room so the residents can enjoy socialization, instead of having all their meals in their rooms."

The transition for the Farren staff, who knew their clients well and many of whom were initially rehired in Holyoke, seems to have not gone smoothly. Several former Farren staff members, who asked not to be identified by name, said that nearly all have left MissionCare over the past two months.

David Skoczulek of iCare told the *Reporter* that "Farren employees gave it their best shot, but did

REMINDER
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is Tuesday, June 22,
and to vote for Melanie Zamojski
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not like the commute, or otherwise found it to be something they were not interested in over the long term." Skoczulek also pointed to the challenge of hiring nursing home staff in the current labor market. He said Mission Care is "compliant" with

state staffing regulations, but has hired a "special recruiter" dedicated to the facility.

Trinity Senior Communities of New England was unable to respond to requests for comment.



WENDELL from page A1

and build a road around the landfill area, and drill monitoring wells.

Those wells will need regular checking. Aldrich said that New Salem pays \$5,200 a year to monitor the wells down-gradient from their former landfill. The cover needs a 3-to-1 slope, mowed regularly to keep trees from growing.

Delorey suggested proposing to DEP that the monitoring wells be installed in FY'23.

Delorey also said that the DEP's interest in Wendell's landfill was sparked by discussion of a new shed for the free store at the WRATS. He gave a positive report about the newly re-opened free store, saying that Sally Alley Muffin Stiffin had compiled a list of volunteers to oversee the store, and organized them into two-hour shifts. He said he saw no need to form an oversight committee.

The free store is using the shed it occupied before the shutdown, but that space is being crowded by the increased volume of deposit containers. The store has moved into the small office space that is part of the shed, but there is room for a separate building on the cement pad

to the shed's north. A \$17,000 fund from recycling can be used for a new shed. A prefabricated shed Delorey thought was appropriate cost \$12,000, and he priced materials for building a similar shed at \$6,500. He said volunteer carpenters in town could build one quickly.

New Holiday

Massachusetts has accepted the June-teenth holiday. The Wendell selectboard voted to adopt the holiday as well. State and municipal offices are closed, but business closings are optional.

Since June 19 is a Saturday this year, closures would include the one of the two days a week the WRATS is open. The two employees there each work less than 20 hours a week, and are not benefited, so if they take a holiday they would lose the pay. They might prefer working. Closing the WRATS on a Saturday will create a difficulty, or at least an unwelcome surprise for many townspeople.

At the June 9 meeting, board members decided to talk with both employees before making a decision to keep the WRATS open

or close it that day. The decision was ultimately made to keep it open.

Highway and Police Departments

Highway commissioner Wayne Leonard had to resign, and Delorey said that Patrick Taylor of Plain Road seemed interested in taking an interim position.

He reported that the Kentfield Road bridge construction is going well, and that while the road bridge is down for being replaced, there will be a walking bridge across Whetstone Brook for residents south of the bridge to reach their homes. He said he would try to reach Kentfield Road from the south end, Bullard Road, to see if that approach is possible.

Leverett, acting as a "lead town," has received a police planning grant of \$130,000, which includes \$80,000 for upgrading the Wendell police station as a satellite station. The plan calls for installing plumbing, which the building has never had, and other upgrades. Delorey will oversee the work.

Consulting and administration and continuing work on the contract between Wendell

and Leverett about the shared police department will use the remainder of the grant.

Camp Contest

In lieu of paying property tax on the land it owns in Wendell, Massachusetts Audubon is again offering two scholarships to their Wildwood camp for children 8 to 12 years old. Sessions start June 20, July 1, July 15, and August 7. Families will only have to pay \$100 of the normal \$2,000 fee.

In years past, notice of that offer came earlier, and the selectboard held an essay contest and chose the best essay on the importance of nature. Because of her connection with Swift River School, selectboard member Gillian Budine said she would contact the school and solicit essays. They will be due at the selectboard office for their next meeting, June 23.

Other Business

Good Neighbors is donating the refrigerator in the town hall kitchen to the town. They have removed their COVID distancing measures, a one-way "S" defined by tables and chairs, leaving the floor open for other uses during the week.

Board members discussed questions they plan to ask the three candidates for town coordinator, who had interviews scheduled for Wednesday, June 16.

The Massachusetts state of emergency ends June 15, and with it the need for boards to meet remotely. The Zoom meetings have been a convenient way for citizens to keep track of town business and operation without leaving their homes, and some have hoped the Zoom connection can continue.

The law allows remote participation by a board member. The Wendell selectboard said they welcome citizen interest, but a Zoom connection will not work well with the three selectboard members spaced around the meeting room table. The town owns a speaker phone, which might work if one person calls in, but its sound quality is not good.

Board members went home with that to think about, along with the annual town meeting, scheduled three days after this meeting.



Wendell Town Meeting Keeps Appointed MLP

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Rain that fell through the night stopped in time for volunteers to finish setting up the common for Wendell's second consecutive outside annual town meeting last Saturday, June 12. A thin cloud cover kept the day pleasantly cool through the meeting. It lasted just over three hours, and 50 mostly unmasked citizens, spaced six feet apart, passed all but two articles of the 35-article warrant.

Those two articles were **Article 32**, which would have replaced Wendell's appointed municipal light plant board with an elected board, but failed by a majority, and **Article 33**, which would have eliminated the appointed board, and was passed over.

With a little modification, voters approved the \$3.1 million general operating budget for the town, and through a consent agenda, bundled all debt payments and approved them.

In **Article 5** the town created a revolving fund donation account for improvements to the veterans' memorial. The town put \$500 into the account, as it has in past years, but the estimate for the work needed is \$6,000; this action will allow people to contribute as they wish, and get the project underway earlier than the town can afford.

Most department budgets were either level-funded or cut. The

highway department will have to defer some paving, and Swift River School will have to defer a new grease trap for the kitchen and "much-needed" new carpeting.

But voters reinstated a fin com-recommended cut to the library budget. If that cut had passed, and then not been corrected in both of the following years' budgets, the library would lose its accreditation.

Morgan Mead, a longtime critic of the internet, said he was "convinced that [the internet] will bring our doom," but he congratulated the town and Westfield Gas & Electric for building the town's fiber-optic network under budget. Voters approved the operating budget for Wired Wendell, to be paid by user fees.

Citizen Sally Alley Muffin Stiffin objected to a \$12,000 contingency fund for the police department, when other budgets are so tight. She suggested adding that amount to the reserve fund and making it available to other departments. Fin com chair Doug Tanner argued that money should be allocated where it is expected to be spent, and the article passed with a majority.

Nancy Aldrich, a New Salem resident and Wendell's town coordinator, sat quietly to the side on the "non-voter" bench. She plans to retire this summer, and this was the last Wendell annual town meeting she will attend in her official capacity.

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PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 138, General Laws, as amended, the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague are hereby notified that St. Kazimierz Society, Deborah Banash as manager, has applied for an alteration of premises to their All-Alcoholic Beverage Liquor License (Club) at 197 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA. St. Kazimierz Society will now lease 36,000 sq. ft. from building owner 108 Properties, LLC. The licensed premises will consist of the First floor – main bar, kitchen, porch on the front of the building, restrooms and cellar for storage with three entrances/exits.

Date and place of hearing: Monday, June 28, 2021, at 6:35 P.M. at the Town Hall, Upstairs Meeting Room, One Avenue A, Turners Falls.

Montague License Commissioners

ST. KAZ from page A1

government, and powers that be in this town, said we had to put a sprinkler system in if we had bands.... When the Station nightclub [fire] went down, they really started coming down on that."

"You have to be safe," Jablonski added. "But you know, it's the little people that get hit the hardest. If we were a chain, it would be different."

In an interview with the *Reporter*, the pair discussed the challenges facing social clubs. "Young people don't want to be members of clubs anymore," said Savinski, whose father was the Society's longest-running president and whose great-grandfather one of its original founders.

Jablonski's father Tedo, whose own parents immigrated from Poland to Turners Falls, served as a secretary, treasurer, and longtime volunteer bartender.

"Back when the mills were all here, and it was more of a walking town, there were three shifts working at the mills, and after the end of every shift the men would all go to the clubs," she said. "Now everything is so spread out, and everybody has cars... The young people like their fancy craft beers, and they have house parties, but they're not around as much."

"Every Saturday, there was weddings in there," Savinski remembered of the banquet hall in its full usage. "People now want a wedding reception in a barn."

"Oliver seems like he's really interested in preserving the town," Savinski said of the new owner. "He's not an absentee landlord. He had the best bid for the deal, because he wanted to preserve the whole building, and the history – and keep us there."

Saint Kazimierz Society was first organized in 1904 by a group of Polish-American residents as a mutual aid society, and with the intention of raising money for a Polish church. The Society purchased the building on the corner of Avenue A and Seventh Street in 1913 from Cornelia, Harriet, and Mary Clapp.

The October 22, 1913 *Turners Falls Reporter* noted that the "Clapp Block" was "the third block to be built on the Avenue," and had housed previous clubs, a private school, the Turners Falls library, and the *Reporter* itself. It was built in 1873 by Deacon Richard Clapp, "who never faltered in his faith that Turners Falls would be the scene of a big boom

some day, and he never cared to sell the property during his lifetime."

Polish masses were held at St. Mary's (now Our Lady of Peace) beginning in 1909, and in 1929, the Society's vision came to fruition with the construction of Our Lady of Czechochowa Church on K Street.

The club used the third floor as a meeting hall, an active site of music and dance, education, sport, theater, and charity. Every Saturday night for 45 years it was the scene of a polka night with live bands, eventually broadcast live on WHAI.

St. Kaz sponsored softball and little league teams, and for over 50 years has hosted a shuffleboard league in the barroom. "There was one time we had twenty teams," Savinski said. "Now we're down to ten."

Though the club counts about 350 members, Savinski said it has been hard to interest the younger generation in the work of the organization.

"They took such great care of the building," said Miller, reached by phone. "It feels like it's how it always was – even the walls. It's been preserved in such an amazing way."

Miller said he is already in the "first phase" of installing a sprinkler system, and hopes to move his furniture into the hall this fall. After the building is re-plumbed, he plans to build a wheelchair ramp to the Seventh Street door. Converting the second and third floor into apartments – "they'd be big, they'd probably be like a live/work situation" – is likely "a project for next year."

"It's just incredible," Miller said of the former dance hall. "There's a big open space, it's got windows and all three sides. So you see the park, and then you see the library, and then you see all up Avenue A."

"From the first floor to the second floor it's 18 steps – steep steps," Jablonski recounted. "Second floor to the third floor, I think it's 17 steps. Those poor women in their high shoes!"

"And the guys would carry kegs, on their shoulder, up to the third floor," said Savinski, with a grin. "Then you had to walk down. And those were the shot-and-beer days."

"I really appreciate working with St. Kaz, and really grateful that they gave me the opportunity – they were pretty-even keeled, and stuck with me and worked with me on it," said Miller. "I think it's an amazing building, and I'm really fortunate to be able to own it at this point."



PUDDLE from page A1

"It treats all of the toxic products that come off parking lots and roads," Wackernagel said. "The soil and the plants act as a filter." A deep "dry well" exists beneath the standing water that is supposed to collect and drain excess rainwater, but according to Wackernagel, it has failed. He plans to either fix or reinstall that channel, then use it as an emergency overflow drain.

"We're reducing the amount of excess impervious surface and properly managing the stormwater behind the town hall," town planner Walter Ramsey told the *Reporter*. "And it'll be a nice improvement to the greenway that's along the bike path."

The project, which will begin this summer, is financed by \$10,000 from the Long Island Sound Futures Fund, with a \$5,000 match of "in-kind" labor and support promised by Montague. The town will begin removing pavement at the end of the month, and planting will begin in August. "The town is not paying any cash whatsoever," Wackernagel said. "It's a pretty good situation."

The application, planning, and design were approved and overseen by the planning department, according to Ramsey, but spearheaded by Wackernagel.

"He's driving the train on this, with minimal support from the town," Ramsey said. "He approached the town about doing an infrastructure project, and alerted the town to this grant opportunity."

"The goal of the project is to improve water quality in the Long Island Sound," Wackernagel said. "We want to

make visible the connection via the river between Long Island Sound... and Turners Falls, and other people that live along the Connecticut River."

Wackernagel is also the architect behind the painted pedestrian ways outside Pioneer Valley Brewery and at the entrance to Unity Park on Second Street, and has other plans in the works for downtown public space.

His next project is a "pocket park" in the alley between Loot and the Crocker Building on Avenue A. Wackernagel plans to design and build a miniature public space with the help of teens from the Brick House Community Resource Center, and a \$10,000 grant from MassDevelopment's "Resurgent Places" recovery fund.

While the town of Montague is not one of the grantees in the alleyway project, it is supportive. "We helped him identify that as a possible site, so it definitely aligns with town objectives and there's support for activating that particular space," Ramsey said. "He's done his due diligence to engage the right people, and it'll be a nice little addition to downtown."

Wackernagel will be tabling in the alley, which is owned by the Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, the first weekend in July to solicit ideas from the public about what could occupy the space.

He is also seeking volunteers to assist with tree planting and building both parks; anyone interested can reach him at proteangarden@gmail.com.

Mike Jackson contributed additional reporting.



NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Boundary Pins and Trash Stickers

By KATIE NOLAN

At Monday night's Erving selectboard meeting, Brian Pollard of 9 Highland Avenue asked the board to accept 247 square feet of his property where a sewer structure is located. "The town should have control of it," Pollard said. "The town should own it." He told the board he had discovered that the structure at the edge of Highland Road was on his land when he tried to determine his property boundaries. A survey done for the town confirmed his discovery.

Selectboard member William Bembury thanked Pollard for coming forward, and asked if there was any value to the 247 square feet.

Pollard said he was not interested in financial compensation, but would appreciate the town restoring missing boundary pins so his property line would be accurate.

The board asked town administrator Bryan Smith to find out the value of the land and the cost of surveying it, and report back in the next few weeks.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith noted that acquiring the land would require the official approval of town meeting.

COVID-19 Reopening

The board formally lifted the town's state of emergency as of June 15, mirroring Governor Charlie Baker's lifting of the Commonwealth's state of emergency.

In a memo, Brian Smith outlined several questions for the town: Should all board and committee meetings be held in person? How should meetings be set up, and where could they be held? Should town hall be opened to the public? Could town employees travel to in-person conferences and meetings out of town?

Bryan Smith told the board that the state legislature was considering extending the authorization to conduct open meetings remotely, but the legislation had not yet been passed. Under non-emergency conditions, open meetings are held in person. He told the board that all remote board and committee meetings after June 15 had been canceled.

He also reported that UV air filtration units designed to inactivate microorganisms such as bacteria,

molds, and viruses had been installed at the library and senior/community center, preparing them for use by the general public, but had not been installed at town hall, the fire stations, or public works buildings.

Highway superintendent Glenn McCrory said the UV filters for other town buildings were on order, but were "in high demand."

Bembury said the board had two options for meetings: the senior/community center, or the tent at Erving Elementary School.

Jacob Smith asked about the possibility of continued online broadcast of the in-person selectboard meetings. "It's challenging," Bryan Smith replied, "but it can be done."

The June 21 selectboard meeting will be held at the senior/community center. The board agreed that employees who are vaccinated and comfortable with the idea could attend in-person meetings and conferences. Town hall will remain closed to the public.

Trash Stickers

Franklin County Solid Waste District executive director Jan Ameen drafted a design for Erving trash bag stickers, and a fact sheet for the "modified pay-as-you-throw" (PAYT) trash program that will begin August 1.

Residents would be required to attach a sticker to each 33-gallon trash bag (or two 16-gallon trash bags). Households would receive 104 stickers per year, with up to 52 more free stickers available at town hall. Beyond that, additional stickers would be available for 50 cents apiece.

Jacob Smith asked Ameen to check with the Franklin County Sheriff's office about printing the stickers, and said the board would review the results of the "modified PAYT" system.

The board voted to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Solid Waste Management District for hauling of recyclables, building waste, scrap metal, mattresses, and appliances.

Sewer Infrastructure

Town consultant Tighe & Bond provided an estimate of \$590,000 for the cost of installing a sewer pump

station and force main at the former International Paper Mill complex, and design documents necessary to solicit bids from contractors.

The town owns the former mill property, and has been working to prepare it for future development. The majority of the funding for the project would come from a state MassWorks grant.

The board approved the bid documents for publication. Bids will be due August 5.

Other Business

Bryan Smith told the board that the disposal of real property worth more than \$35,000 has special advertising and bidding requirements. The board hopes to eventually sell the town-owned properties at 18 Pleasant Street and the former IP Mill.

Board members agreed to review the options for selling the properties, and discuss them at their next meeting.

The board decided to request the finance committee to approve two transfers from the reserve fund: \$7,148 for the electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, and \$42,000 for the control access program and the police department.

Because of a reduction in the National Grid incentive payment, the acquisition and installation of the EV charging stations cost the town more than anticipated. Because there have been service issues with the control access system at the police department building, \$42,000 is needed to replace it. The control access software is incompatible with other town systems, and relies on an obsolete computer to operate.

The board awarded the FY'22 landscaping services contract for parks, town buildings, parking lots and cemeteries to Beulah Land Nurseries, at a cost of \$62,648. "He does a great job for the town," McCrory said of Beulah Land's owner.

The board officially accepted Juneteenth Independence Day as an official town holiday. Because June 19 is a Saturday, the holiday will be celebrated on Friday, June 18.

The meeting began with an hour-long executive session to discuss contract negotiations with the town administrator.



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MONTAGUE from page A1

'prime recipient' of federal funds responsible to the US Treasury for all aspects of administration and subject to federal clawbacks associated with compliance failures," according to a memo from the state that Ellis shared with the board.

The funds can be used in "four broad categories," in Ellis's words: the public health impacts of COVID-19; covering "premium pay" to emergency employees; reinstating service cuts; and infrastructure development, including wastewater treatment, water, and broadband.

Montague will be entitled to receive half of its allocation now, and half "not less than twelve months after the municipality receives the first tranche," according to the state memo. The selectboard directed Ellis to apply for the first tranche. The funding must be spent by the end of 2026.

Remote Participation

Public health director Daniel Wasiuk gave the selectboard his weekly update on the town's latest COVID-19 metrics. He said there had been two new positive cases in Montague between May 30 and June 12, and that the percentage of Franklin County residents with at least one vaccination shot was 65% as of June 3.

The board then discussed the future of Zoom meetings, since Massachusetts' state of emergency was scheduled to expire on Tuesday without legislative action that would allow local boards to meet without a quorum "physically present," otherwise a violation of open meeting law.

"Hybrid meetings," with the board in one room and others participating online, would still be allowed. Monday's meeting, during which Ellis, Wasiuk, and executive assistant Wendy Bogusz sat in the upstairs meeting room at town hall while the selectboard and members of the public participated virtually, served as a "pilot" for this approach.

Ellis then introduced the problem of insuring that hybrid meetings in town hall are consistent with current protocols. He pointed out that when visitors come in to the building they must wear masks, as must staff meeting with visitors. Would this apply to selectboard members and visitors attending the in-person segments of hybrid meetings?

Selectboard member Michael Nelson stated emphatically that he believed those who have been vaccinated should not be required to wear masks, and those not vaccinated encouraged to do so. The health board eventually passed a motion containing this idea, and the selectboard informally agreed.

The status of virtual meetings changed dramatically over the next two days. On Tuesday, both houses of the legislature passed different versions of COVID emergency extensions, including allowing virtual meetings. The differences were resolved in a brief conference committee that night, and Wednesday morning Governor Charlie Baker signed the bill.

According to the *State House News Service*, the law "extend[s] the eviction protections and permission for virtual public meetings through April 1, 2022, and keep[s] special permits for expanded outdoor dining in place through that same date. It also allows restaurants to sell

beer, wine and cocktails to-go until May 1, and temporarily extends the authorization for representative town meetings, notary services and reverse-mortgage loan counseling to occur remotely."

Ellis said he hoped the town would be able to move forward with foreclosing on the privately owned Railroad Salvage property once it knows "what additional hazards or liability it will be taking on."

Contacted by the *Reporter* several hours later, Ellis said two meetings on Wednesday were planned as hybrid meetings with quorums "physically present," and that other town committees will probably use the same format until the selectboard revisits the issue at its next meeting on June 28.

Emergency Food

Anne Levine, representing a local organization called the Great Falls Apple Corps, came before the selectboard to request permission to place a "community fridge... stocked with produce and locally prepared meals" on Avenue A.

Levine said the refrigerator would be placed on the sidewalk in front of the Great Falls Harvest Market, which has agreed to "host" the fridge, and would be maintained by a non-profit organization called Common Good. Levine shared a picture of a Common Good refrigerator in Shelburne Falls.

Nelson asked whether the refrigerator would remain in place during the winter months. Levine replied that she believed it would be a year-round installation.

In response to a question from Ellis about food risk and liability, Levine said the prepared food would come from health department-certified kitchens, and the distribution was covered by the federal Good Samaritan Act of 1996.

Chris Boutwell asked if the refrigerator was going to be open "24/7." "It's definitely seven," said Levine. "Whether it is 24, that is something we are going to have to figure out."

Selectboard chair Rich Kulewicz said the idea was "a great concept," but said he felt that at night, there are "people who might have a tendency, just as a prank, to do something."

Wasiuk said that approval by the health board would probably "necessitate an operational plan by you and your team." Wasiuk said that he understood the project's goal, but that "when you have a fridge just out in the common way, that raises a flurry of concerns for me."

Levine said that both the Apple Corps and Common Good would monitor the refrigerator, but "will provide whatever you need from us." The selectboard referred the issue to the board of health "for further consideration."

Railroad Salvage

Ellis gave the board an update on the demolition of the Railroad Salvage building at 11 Power Street by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He said the project has "gone from the demolition and separating [of hazardous materials] activity, to actu-

ally trucking materials off site."

The EPA, he said, plans to finish the project by the end of July or early August, and will issue a report on the property's status. Ellis said he hoped the town would be able to move forward with foreclosing on the property, which is privately owned, once it knows "what additional hazards or liability it will be taking on."

Ellis also noted that there appeared to be a "40- or 50-foot chasm" when the remains of the building were taken down, which the EPA has promised to fill. "It will not be covered with topsoil," he said of the property. "It will still be a pretty rough site."

Other Business

Ellis said the town had received a request from state representative Natalie Blais to list its "three top municipal budget priorities," to inform the Biden Administration's developing infrastructure plan. He listed the development of the canal district, including the former Strathmore Mill complex, investment in wastewater plant improvements, and bridge projects.

The board approved a new memorandum of understanding with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management district for the cost of trash and recycled materials hauling from the transfer station, beginning July 1.

Ellis announced an open house being held by the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Services district on Monday, June 21 to introduce a new initiative to expand healthcare services for veterans.

At the request of town planner Walter Ramsey, the board approved an agricultural preservation restriction on land on the corner of Greenfield and Ferry roads in Montague Center. The restriction limits future non-agricultural use of the property in exchange for a state and local payment to the current owner.

The board also executed a contract with the engineering firm Weston & Sampson for a Phase II environmental assessment of 500 Avenue A, the former public works building.

A request by police chief Chris Williams to work ten more "details" this year was approved by the board. Williams noted that the number of details had increased significantly due to electrical projects by Eversource in town.

The resignation of dispatcher Melissa Brown was accepted by the board, and Robin Wells was appointed to the position.

The board approved an amended job description for the library director, with the impending retirement of Linda Hickman at the end of the summer.

William Codrington was appointed to the tree advisory committee, and Luke Timberlake appointed to the position of airport operations manager by the board. Timberlake and the new building inspector, Bill Ketchen, were granted cell phone stipends.

At the end of the meeting, Ellis announced the town would close to vehicular traffic a "path" that runs between the new Pioneer Valley Brewery on Third Street and the Unity Park softball field. He said the closing was a temporary experiment for a few weeks, "to see if it improves safety in that area."

The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be on Monday, June 28.



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

Here's the way it was on June 16, 2011: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Turners Falls Fire Chief Selected

The Turners Falls Prudential Committee announced yesterday that it has selected Robert Escott, Jr. of Greenfield as the Turners Falls Fire District's next fire chief. Chief Escott will take on the position beginning July 1, replacing Chief Raymond Godin who has served as chief for eleven years and retires on July 30.

Escott is a 26-year veteran with the Turners Falls Fire District and has served as a captain for the past 22 years. He will be sworn in on July 1 in a ceremony to be held at the Turners Falls Fire Department. His badge will be pinned by his father, Robert "Skip" Escott, Sr., who is also a veteran of the Turners Falls Fire District's call force.

Get Ready for the Renaissance Faire

The time is nigh to feast on Mutton and Mead at Montague's first annual Medieval Festival, on Saturday, June 18, at the Millers Falls Longbow and Quarterstaff Club, 210 Turners Falls Road. The festival will go from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with an admission of \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids and seniors.

Traditionally known as a Renaissance Faire, this is the first of its kind for Montague and will bring together fun, food, and entertainment with a medieval flair. You don't have to dress up in period costume, but you will certainly be most welcome to do so.

The theme for the inaugural year is Robin Hood of Sherwood Forest - Thieves of Honor. Many

characters from the legend, including Robin and his band of Merry Men, will make appearances in the woods around the fair, along with a varied assortment of entertainers, craftspeople, and vendors.

Travel back to the early 13th Century as the Mutton and Mead Tavern holds their annual summer festival, collecting food for the poor. Mutton and Mead is a fundraiser for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. Donations of non-perishable food will get you a dollar off the ticket price for each two items, up to three dollars total.

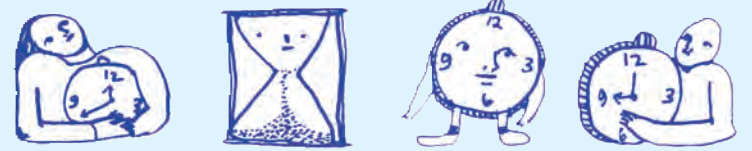
Governor Back in Turners to Tout Economic Progress

Governor Deval Patrick, who appears to have visited Turners Falls more times than all previous Massachusetts governors combined, was back last Thursday, having a snack at his favorite 2nd Street Bakery before inspecting progress on the \$40 million renovation of the Turners Falls-Gill bridge.

"We're ahead of schedule," said MassDOT resident engineer Bob Demers as they walked across the quarter-mile span in the steaming heat.

Patrick said he wanted to highlight the boost public works projects were providing for the state's economy. "We're spending a billion dollars building infrastructure, and we will keep on going forward," he said. "This is an historic bridge, and a key connector between the towns of Montague and Gill. It was well past time for repair, and the work is going exceptionally well."

Patrick added, "We've got a strategy to get out of the recession and create jobs. We're growing faster than 42 other states, and twice as fast as the national economy."



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MCGRAW from page A1

people are in the high school, but it's all four of the grades, so I didn't really think I would get it because there's so many people to choose from... I was really surprised.

HS: I don't really know what else to say other than that it really means a lot to me. These are ideals that I strive for, so it was really meaningful to me that I was selected.

I was surprised that I had gotten it, because I feel like the award is kind of about being outgoing, and I'm not outgoing at all. I'm not someone who enjoys standing up in front of the school... I'm much more quiet, more about one-on-one connections with students.

The part of the award that I really connect with is not judging people, which is a quality that I don't have to work at; it's just kind of who I am. So that's one of the things that I connect with: not judging people, accepting people from wherever they're at, and valuing them no matter what, you know, their academics are like.

MR: Did you work with Mr. McGraw?

IVC: My mom did, and she loved him. I didn't know him, though.

HS: I did. He was just a force of positivity. Just to be in his presence, it felt good. I really respected him as a colleague, and I loved any chance I got to interact with him.

MR: What are some of the things that students and teachers had a hard time with this year?

IVC: I was online for the entire year; I had to come and take a final in person for my Latin class. But there were just a couple classes where it was so hard to be online. One of my math classes was so hard, because we had so much homework... Me and one of my friends were just so overwhelmed, because we'd have so much homework, every single night.

And then this semester I had a class where, again, the workload was ridiculous, especially for being remote. We had a group chat in my class, and we were all just agreeing the workload was crazy.

The work being really hard, and your teachers not being able to explain it to you in person, is kind of hard.

HS: During remote, we had to learn how to use all the platforms, and then convert curriculum into those platforms, and really had to recreate everything from scratch. And just from the pure teaching perspective, not being able to get

a sense of how it's going with the students, because they have cameras off; not getting a back-and-forth. Like, you're doing a lesson, and you just kind of feel like this blubbery fool who's talking to nobody, because there isn't a response. You don't know if people are understanding. So much of that back-and-forth is nonverbal, it's just body language.

On a personal level, just feeling really unsure, like I didn't know what I was doing, and how I was going to do what I was going to do. I'm used to problem solving; I'm not used to problem solving and having no idea if it's going well.

And then, of course, the connection with the students. In my first semester, because it's art that I teach and I know kids are on the computer all the time, I would try to make it so that we would do just one thing at a time—one new skill, like contour line drawing—and then give them time off the computer to go do that. And some kids would stick around on it, and we would kind work together and chat in a casual way, which was really nice. But not getting that one-on-one with the kids...

MR: Were you able to follow up with students outside of class time?

IVC: Well, email's great. Also, the chat function in Google Assignments was really useful.

And there were a lot of great things about all of the work being on Google Classroom, so everybody knew where it was, if they owed anything, immediately... So in some ways, the organization was good.

MR: Izzy, how did being remote change the ways students interacted with each other?

IVC: I feel like there was basically no interaction with students. In the beginning, most teachers didn't really know how to use Google Classroom, so we didn't really talk with our peers or our classmates at all.

We ended up getting more comfortable with it, and our teachers did, too. We started going into breakout rooms, where we got to talk to our classmates more, which was nice. I already know most of my classmates, so it wasn't that big of a deal, because if I was confused, I could just text them....

But there was a couple of new students we had towards the end of the year that I don't know at all, either because I didn't have classes with them or just that we weren't in breakout rooms together. And so that's been a little weird, because I'm used to know-



This semester's awardees, with the portrait of Earl McGraw in the TFHS lobby.

ing who everyone is in my class and like, being like, friendly with them all. So that's been a little weird.

But I think the breakout rooms are good. And in one of my classes we had the same breakout rooms over and over, so we got really close with those people, and we came up with a good routine to do work and stuff, which was good.

MR: How many students were in a typical breakout room?

IVC: Um, like three or four, usually? I think that's the most... Like I said, I already knew most of my classmates, but you get to know them even more so, and if you're both confused on something, you can help each other problem solve, which has been good.

MR: How did the transition back into the building go for you?

HS: Oof, it was rough. It was really scary, being around people before I was vaccinated. It was extremely stressful, very frustrating....

It felt so different after I got vaccinated. Even though I knew that it wasn't going to be effective yet, even the next day, it felt different, psychologically.

Hybrid is really hard to teach—it's much harder than remote. It feels like you're not giving either group attention; at least for my subject, it just doesn't work to try to do something at the same time with both groups.

But at the same time, it was really nice to be working where I used to work, having that boundary again. I always do all my work before I leave for the day, I stay late, so I'm not used to having to do work for school at home. It was really nice to be able to do that again.

MR: By the end, how many students were back in, versus staying remote?

IVC: Mostly everyone was back in person. I think in most of my classes, it was like four or six was probably the max amount of people in the Google Meets. For most of my electives it was like two people.

MR: When students came back in, what did you see this spring in terms of the school spirit—the presence and experience the students were having?

HS: Well, people definitely got more comfortable as the year went on. In the beginning there weren't nearly as many students in person. And it was very stiff, like kids didn't talk with each other... just, like, following the procedures. And it didn't really start to feel more comfortable and casual, like in my classes, during studio time, kids would usually be talking with each other as they're working....

It was really nice when they kind came out of their shells, maybe a month in, in terms of socializing. It was so nice to hear people laughing, and like, goofing around. And also when the three-foot rule came into effect, people could sit closer to each other... By the end of the year, it felt like almost like a normal year, just with masks.

But in the beginning, it almost felt like because people had masks on, they felt like they couldn't talk. I think it was almost like this psychological thing, if you have a mask on.

MR: When you come back in the fall, what are you anticipating students, or even your fellow staff, needing in terms of extra attention, energy and positivity, or support?

IVC: I think remote works best for me. But I think [for] the social aspect, it's better to be in person because then you're not feeling like you're not hanging out with anybody.... I feel like once everyone's back in school, even if people complain like "Oh, I don't like school," everyone will just be better because at least for part of it they'll have a connection with people—like, I love my family, but they're not just staying with their family for months on end without going anywhere.

I feel like it's just important to be nice to everybody. That's kind of obvious, especially now because some people are feeling lonely. I feel like being remote, if you don't have the best home life, is really hard. It might be hard to be with your family, or whoever your guardian is, all the time, especially if you don't have the best relationship with them.

HS: I think that this school has a reputation that doesn't really match the reality inside of the school, and that our students are hardworking and kind. I love that they speak up, and that they'll give opinions, and that there's a real sense of self-awareness with them. And they're thinking about the larger picture, as well.

We also have a lot of amazing staff that have been here for as long as I have, through all of the ups and downs. We've seen a lot of changes over the years, including this year, but a lot has stayed the same: the dedication of the teachers, the thoughtfulness of the students, and that even if you know some students are not academically inclined, making them feel valued and important is something that's important not just to me, but a lot of staff as well.

So it's not like "Oh, you failed that class." I've had times with kids when what they needed was to have a class where they didn't do the work, so they could relax. As long as we all know what's going on, it's okay. Just really valuing people for wherever they're at—I think a lot of teachers do that.

MR: Is there anything else that either of you wants to make sure you talk about?

IVC: Just like, be kind to people, obviously, because you don't really know what they're dealing with—especially with the pandemic, people have been dealing with like a lot of bad things.

You should just work on being kind to everyone, because it doesn't really take much effort. And then you can, like, make someone's day.



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FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORER.ORG OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER JUNE 17, 2021

Above: A Scottish Highlander living on a Wendell farm seems to be aware it is being surveilled.

ArtBeat by Trish Crapo

New Beginnings

GREENFIELD – If one of the ways to think about art is as the creation of something extraordinary out of ordinary materials – which, clearly, I think is one of the ways – then the transformation of a rotting garage on Hope Street in Greenfield into the sparkingly lit, jam-packed full You+Me Gallery is a work of art in itself.

When I went to the gallery's opening day last Saturday, June 5, the walls were hung with works by roughly 50 artists working in a variety of media. The exhibit, "Urgent Unity, Unprecedented Healing: Reflections from COVID," will be up through July 24, and is open on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The sheer diversity of work generated a sense of excitement. There were paintings, collage, drawings, ceramics, and works made with fabric, bronze, and glass. It was like walking into a room full of people again after a year of isolation.

I was struck by the vibrant colors of Phoebe Harris's large canvas, "Painting for No One," and, in an entirely different palette, the complex hues of "Great Goddess," by Jules Jones. "Memento Detrimentum," a trio of assemblages by Bronwen Hodgkinson, working under the artist name "three posies," featured porcelain doll parts within small shadow boxes. The



The brightly painted rainbow on the outside of You+Me Gallery highlights the garage door, as if pointing out a pot of gold.

work struck a quiet, but dark tone, invoking "the teasing and whispering of secrets and lost stories," as Hodgkinson wrote in her artist statement.

Joe Shepard's unusually constructed and decorated ceramics sent me unexpectedly trotting back down to my car for my wallet.

There's so much work here, there's no way for me to do every artist justice, so go check it out for yourself.

The gallery is tucked back from the street and not immediately obvious. From downtown Greenfield, drive past the Wells Tool building

and park on the right just past their second driveway. The driveway up to You+Me is across the street at 115 Hope Street. Once you're near, you can't miss the striking rainbow painted on the front of the building, highlighting the garage door as if pointing out a pot of gold.

The gallery was the brainchild of artist Scout Cuomo, who said that when she bought the property, the house and garage were both fixer-uppers.

"A tree had fallen on the garage," she recalled. "There was rot that had taken over the interior. If I

see ARTBEAT page B5

THEATER PREVIEW

Matilda Returns to Turners Falls High School

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

TURNERS FALLS – In the spring of 2020, a joint cast of stu-

dents at Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School were reaching the end of preparing for a production of *Matilda*, when

the show was canceled due to the COVID-19 shutdown. After months of rehearsals, students and staff were deeply disappointed. Following a long year of uncertainty, the staff decided this spring to bring back as much of the cast as they could, and go back into rehearsal for a performance this July.

"In a year in which we all hope to gain back something that we have lost, seeing this production through is so meaningful to our students, families – and honestly, our staff, too," said pupil services director Diane Ellis of the decision to bring the show back.

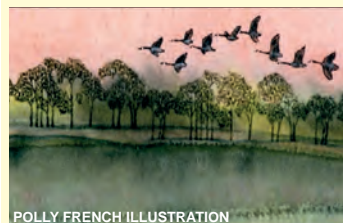
Kimberly Rose continues as the show's director, and Alyssa Co-meau takes over for Mandy Oliver as music director.

In a conversation with cast members at a rehearsal last Saturday at the Turners Falls High School auditorium, it was clear they are all

see MATILDA page B4



Eleventh grader Kiley Palmquist, the choreographer, rehearses a dance routine with the cast of *Matilda*.



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

THE MERRY LOVE TO FIDDLE

By DAVID BRULE

MONTAGUE CENTER –

"The merry love to fiddle, And the merry love to dance..."

It was 1984 in late winter when I opened the door at 49 South Pleasant Street in Amherst, and climbed the creaky wooden stairs up to the Fretted Instrument Workshop.

I knew I'd find David Kaynor there.

Opening the door, on the mission I'd given myself, little did I know that a cosmic shift in my existence was about to happen.

David was perched on a high stool behind the counter full of stringed instrument paraphernalia, a small frown of concentration knitted on his brow, as he carefully trimmed and adjusted a violin bridge, if I remember correctly.

Once the usual niceties were exchanged, I told him why I had sought him out.

"I'd like to learn to fiddle," is what I said, or something to that effect. David likely said, "That's great! When do you want to start?"

He seemed to share some kind of enthusiasm like I'd just had the greatest idea in the world.

That was when the cosmic click I mentioned earlier took place. I was on the precipice of the beginnings of a 40-year adventure to seek some sort of proficiency on the violin. For if you want to learn the fiddle, you're in for a lot of challenges, frustration, and embarrassment – coupled with unbelievable heights of the joy of playing music. Imagine spending hundreds of hours learning to scratch some unforgiving strings of wound met-

al with a wand of horsehair, and expecting to get something out of it that will not cause the family dog to howl and beg you to stop. You begin to get the picture.

A friend, who was also just starting out at the same time as me, said something like: maybe we should just jump off a bridge right now, and put ourselves out of the misery of trying to get a good sound out of the fretless fiddle. It'd be easier and not as painful.

Yet we both kept at it for a lifetime.

That day in the shop, first things first. David asks, so what do you have for a fiddle?

Of course I had none. I had a couple of guitars, but no fiddle.

I had been contra-dancing for a few years, starting at the Northfield Town Hall on Friday nights when Cammy Kaynor did the calling. I'm sure David, Vandy, and Ed Kaynor were in there somewhere in that dance band. They formed the core of the Fourgone Conclusions. (David used to call them "four guys with beards and bad eyes.")

Back then, I enjoyed the dancing well enough, but I knew that what I wanted someday was to sit up there and saw away watching the dancers whoop and swirl, balance and swing.

So David fixed me up with a fiddle, a bow, and an ancient green velvet-lined case. That fiddle was a one hundred-plus year-old Eastern European make of some undefined lineage, with the carved head of a lion-like griffon as a scroll. Wherever I took that fiddle in the coming years, it was a

see WEST ALONG page B4



We found this never-published file photo of David Kaynor, taken by Philippe Deguise at Montague Center's May Day festivities in 2005, in our archive.

Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

“PARROT”

Meet Parrot. This cute and petite little lady is looking for a home that will be patient with her. She's ridiculously adorable and loves to play. She is not an overly needy cat and will come to you when she wants attention. Otherwise, she can be found taking cat naps around the house, or watching out the window at the birds.

She has no experience with dogs and would love to go home with her sister, Curious, if possible. If not,

she would love to have a cat friend in her new home. She would prefer older kids, and really enjoyed the 13-year-old in the home! She (the cat) is litterbox trained.

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

JUNE 21 THROUGH 25

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center is open for drop in visitors from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Unvaccinated guests are required to wear masks. The program schedule is gradually expanding. Please consult our website, gillmontaguecouncilonaging.org, or call the Senior Center at (413) 863-9357 for more information.

Monday 6/21

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 6/22

Closed for Montague election.

Wednesday 6/23

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise

Thursday 6/23

10 a.m. Chair Yoga at the Discovery Center
1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 6/24

10 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Mahjong

ERVING

Senior Center director Paula Betters writes: “Erving Senior Center

is still closed to the public. We are here daily taking calls and doing out-reach 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-betters@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.

Senior Grocery Hours

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. Curbside pickup & delivery is available on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. (413) 773-9567

McCusker's Market: Curbside pickup available from 10 to 11 a.m. Order by 1 p.m. for pickup the following day. Delivery available Monday to Friday. Email pickup@franklincommunity.coop (413) 625-2548

Stop and Shop: Senior hours from 6 to 7:30 a.m. (413) 774-6096

Montague Community Television News

Live Music is Back!

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – Summer activities have begun! Tune in to Channel 17 to catch Alex McGuigan singing at her downtown shop, Buckingham Rabbits, “Do It Now” performing at Peskeomskut Park with storytellers from The Mole, and the Mohawk Trail Concert that took place in Montague Center this past weekend.

These videos will also be available on the MCTV Vimeo Page which can be found linked to the 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.

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. Email infomontaguetv@gmail.com with a resume to schedule an interview!

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.



Sex Matters

a sex-positive health column

by STEPHANIE BAIRD

Tapestry is an amazing local non-profit organization that provides sexual and reproductive health services, as well as opioid harm reduction, throughout the Valley. They have a location in Greenfield and are currently expanding outreach to Montague.

Every year they host an auction fundraiser for their programs – now online since the pandemic. I had the lovely privilege of bidding on and winning a 1973 framed and signed Betty Dodson art print of two nude individuals locked in a passionate embrace. When I picked it up from my friend, a director at Tapestry, I burst out laughing at the size of it. From the online picture I guessed it to be a bit larger than a sheet of paper. However, the print is bona fide poster size and will eventually take its place in my psychotherapy office.

Along with the print, I also won a signed copy of Dodson's pamphlet “Liberating Masturbation: A Meditation on Self-Love” (1974). This is presumably an earlier version of the masturbation maven's later famous book, *Sex for One: The Joy of Self-Loving* (1987, 1996). The book features many Dodson hand-drawn images of genitalia with vulvas and labias, or “split beavers,” as she called them. Her beautiful and detailed drawings show fingers holding open labia so that labia minora and clitorises can be easily seen.

The images in this book were revolutionary at the time, still feel revolutionary today, and are a bit like an antidote to current airbrushed pornographic representations. Nearly fifty years have passed since Dodson showed her famous slideshow of dozens of “split beavers” to over 1,000 women attending the National Organization of Women's first Women's Sexuality Conference in 1973.

Dodson writes in this pamphlet that if she had been given the chance to see such a variety of authentic genitalia in her childhood and youth, she would have reached adulthood with a much more empowered and positive view of herself. She notes that one woman, after seeing her slideshow, went right up to her boss the next day, asked for a raise, and got it.

Although we just passed National Masturbation Month in May, winning this amazing antique relic from the seventies is a gentle reminder to us all to take some solo time for self-pleasure, self-care, and exploration.

In Dodson's books, she talks about inviting her peers to examine themselves using a mirror. For nearly all the folks that attended her consciousness raising or “bodysex” groups, including group masturbation instruction and workshops, hardly anyone with vulvas had ever taken a close personal look.

Who reading this article right now has closely examined their genitals with a mirror at all, let alone recently? Let this month's article be a call to arms for us all to admire our thunder down under, whatever form our parts take, and remind us to check in with our parts often, as well. Dodson's life work also highlighted the essential role of the clitoris in orgasm, bringing the clitoris to celebrity status.

Winning this print and book from Tapestry is also a grand excuse to make sure everyone knows about the essential and wonderful sexual and reproductive services Tapestry provides in Greenfield, as pandemic survivors enter the (nearly) post-pandemic “wild summer of love.” These services include birth control options, pregnancy testing, STI testing and treatment, HIV testing, PrEP HIV prevention medication, Hepatitis C testing, emergency contraception, family planning counseling, breast cancer screening, pap smears, pelvic exams, HPV vaccine (Gardasil), and gender-affirming hormone therapy.



Betty Dodson's publication “Liberating Masturbation: A Meditation on Self Love.”

Now that lockdown is over for COVID-vaccinated folks, many will be roaming the streets looking for consenting sexual partners. If you are sexually active with new or multiple partners, please have detailed conversations with potential lovers about their STI status and contraception choices, and get tested regularly. I have had a couple of clients report contracting recent STIs fresh out of the gate, mostly due to lack of in-depth communication with partners about sexual exposure and risk, probably because folks are out of practice.

It is certainly normal that some humans may want to immediately jump into deep water, but a little bit of talking and planning – as well as sharing how one likes to have orgasms – can go a long way to ensure sexual health and prevent itches, stinging, and tears. As Dodson wrote in 1974, “honest-to-goodness sharing is the basis of intimacy. To become responsible for our own orgasms is a basic statement about independence and establishes us as people with something worth sharing.”

Betty Dodson passed away in a nursing home in November 2020 at the age of 91. She wrote in *Sex for One* that “masturbation will get you through childhood, puberty, romance, marriage, and divorce, and it will see you through old age.” I sure hope masturbation saw her through to the very end, or close to it.

The roaring “wild summer of love,” Dodson's revolutionary relic of a book, and May's Masturbation Month all converge nicely as a reminder to take steps to keep our sexual health healthy and sexy. No one wants to sit around with an itch in their drawers when they could instead enjoy pleasure and honesty, whether they are solo or partnered.

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@montagureporter.org.

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Learning to Fly Fish: Part X

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 tenth 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

MONTAGUE – My warranted rod was returned to me in time for me to participate in the One Fly Fishing Event on the Deerfield River the weekend of June 4 and 5. It was a beautiful weekend (at last) and I'm afraid I was so thrilled to have my rod back and to be fishing again that I neglected to write up the event for last week's paper. It has become clear to me that when I want to photograph rivers or observe events with the object of writing about what I see, I cannot bring my rod along, as I am more anxious to fish than to report.

The road back to this season's fishing has not been exactly smooth. I had only fished briefly once since the trip south.

The previous week Tom and I went to a bridge over the Ware River where he had recently caught a 14-and-a-half-inch rainbow. Using one of Tom's rods, I was eager to try out and show off some of the things I had learned on the North Fork in Arkansas. My line kept tangling and I kept catching it up in weeds and twiggy debris on the bank. My casting was awful; frustration was mounting.

Tom tried to help me by temporarily exchanging rods to show me how to cast the fly to the right spot. Upon doing so he immediately

caught a very nice large trout in the very spot, with my cleverly selected nymph. I started to pout until he slipped off the bank and into a deep sink hole, with water nearly up to his shoulders.

Once he was safely out, my better self reemerged, and we continued to fish. I didn't fish well, but at least I stopped pouting and did the best I could.

I Didn't Win Any Prizes

The following weekend, the weather for the One Fly Event on the Deerfield was gorgeous. At 9 a.m. my assigned fishing partner Jonas arrived. Jonas has fly fished since boyhood. Easy going and cheerful, he was the perfect partner to fish with.

In his company, I managed a fair showing on Saturday, though not great. But I was more patient with my errors and Jonas showed me why my line was tangling up and I fixed it. We fished until about 1:30 in the afternoon without catching anything and decided to go home and meet again at 5 p.m. when there might be more fish out and about.

We met in Shelburne Falls, and he took me to two spots a little past Shelburne. Both places are easily accessible and easier to wade in than many parts of the Deerfield. This was great, as it gave me another place where I can fish alone in safety.

We caught nothing again, but had a fine time and I had stopped screwing up everything I touched.

I went back again on Sunday morning early and fished a more difficult spot. Caught nothing, but thoroughly enjoyed myself, and met some great people back at the picnic area used as headquarters.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Request To Bar Houseless People From Public Park; Drunken Rollover; Juvenile Breaking & Entering

Monday, 6/7

12:10 p.m. Caller from K Street reporting a raccoon lying on the eave of his shed; inquiring whether it should be left alone or moved. Referred to animal control officer.

12:20 p.m. Multiple calls reporting two-vehicle accident at Seventh Street and Avenue A; parties arguing in middle of intersection. One vehicle has airbag deployment. No smoke/fluids reported. One party has scratch on arm, but declined medical attention. Officer requesting AMR to evaluate one juvenile. Shelburne Control advised AMR not available; TF ambulance responding along with an engine. Involved party later called to report that she was going to the hospital as a result of the accident.

3:03 p.m. Report of elderly woman urinating in Peskeomskut Park approximately one hour ago. Area search negative.

5:42 p.m. Caller requesting removal of homeless people from Peske Park; expressed concern that their presence would deter families from wanting to go to the park. Officer advises that a group of women with paperwork is there working on a project, and two homeless people are charging electronics but then plan to leave. No disturbance at this time. There are some empty

beer cans in the park, but they were not put there by anyone who is in the park now. Officer will pick up and dispose of beer cans.

10:08 p.m. Caller reporting accident on L Street; vehicle hit parked cars; no injuries reported. Caller advises the operator walked to his house and was shaken up. Investigated.

Tuesday, 6/8

3:23 p.m. Caller reporting four vehicles drag racing on Old Northfield Road; they have made several passes on the street. Officers off with involved vehicles. No infractions observed; one vehicle towed due to plates coming back for a different vehicle.

5:30 p.m. Caller requesting traffic radar on West Mineral Road; there is a black vehicle that drives past at 5:30 every morning at a very high rate of speed.

Wednesday, 6/9

7:02 a.m. Male came into station asking to take a preliminary breath test; states his test malfunctioned. PBT results .019. Party, a 46-year-old Turners Falls man, arrested on probation warrant.

7:57 a.m. Report from Avenue A that a woman was just yelling at the top of the stairs, shooting up, and then tried to break into one of the apartments. Officer spoke with female, who declined any assistance. She was advised.

9:07 a.m. Caller from Sunrise Terrace reporting bear sightings in the middle of the night several times since this past Sunday. Provided number for Environmental Police; also advised to have tenants take in bird feeders as a precaution.

10:52 a.m. Report of female who stole a soda from Food City. Officer off with subject at Peske Park. Female paid for some items, but stole others. Female went back and paid for stolen items. Report taken.

3:44 p.m. Caller reporting unattended electric wheelchair on Seventh Street. No police service necessary.

4:17 p.m. Report of suspicious vehicle parked across from TFHS for approximately five minutes with no one around. During call, an older male and an elderly female just came back to the vehicle and drove away. 5 p.m. Caller would like it on record that her neighbor is accusing her of theft of flowers and of smoking in her apartment.

7:39 p.m. Caller states that there is a motorized scooter sitting at the bottom of the boardwalks on Seventh Street. Scooter has been there since around 8 a.m. No owner information with it. Message left for DPW to try and pick it up in the morning.

8:46 p.m. Motorist locked

inside parking gate at Silvio O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center. Services rendered.

9:52 p.m. Caller from Montague City Road complaining of loud noise from children running around in the apartment upstairs. Referred to an officer.

10:20 p.m. Anonymous 911 caller reporting that a female was talking on a cell phone after leaving a bar then got into a vehicle and started driving. Vehicle then pulled over and is sitting parked. Officer spoke with operator; no impairment; just on the phone dealing with a personal issue.

Thursday, 6/10

12:14 a.m. Caller from East Main Street reporting suspicious person sitting at picnic table behind building; party has a flashlight that is shining into the caller's window. Found to be a resident of the building having a cigarette outside. No issues.

1:47 a.m. Caller from TFHS reports that someone in a blue Honda Accord just showed a handgun and took off from the caller. [Call details redacted.] A 20-year old Turners Falls woman was arrested on two default warrants, and a 25-year-old Lawrence man was arrested and charged with armed assault to rob and operating a vehicle with a suspended license.

3:58 a.m. Caller reports that the back door to Montague Community Television is open. Checking to see if Greenfield PD can assist; MPD officers tied up with call at station. Spoke to keyholder, who advised that she mistakenly left the door open. GPD advised.

1:44 p.m. Report of woman who was urinating next to a tree at Peske Park and fell over; appeared to be intoxicated. Officer requesting contact Detox to see if they have a bed available. Detox reports no female beds available at either of their facilities. CSO contacted; they have a worker at Greenfield PD who is available; will work on arranging transportation to Turners.

4:47 p.m. 911 open line call received. Male party could be heard cheering for his son at a baseball game.

5:24 p.m. Report of hit-and-run at Carroll's Market. Unfounded.

8:58 p.m. Three motorists locked inside gate on Migratory Way. Services rendered.

Friday, 6/11

1:17 a.m. Report of assault near Vladish and Nadeau avenues. Officer requesting area agencies be on lookout for vehicle and stop and hold registered owner if found. Caller refused medi-

cal attention.

4:06 p.m. Caller states he received a call about a loose horse on Turners Falls Road. Off-duty officer put horse in secured pasture.

5:50 p.m. Report of suspicious person in apartment building parking lot on East Main Street.

9:16 p.m. Caller states he stayed at the canal too long and is stuck behind the gate on Migratory Way. Services rendered.

Saturday, 6/12

6:13 a.m. Burglar alarm at Family Dollar. Building is secured; there is a bird flying around inside that might have set it off.

9:29 a.m. Multiple calls reporting accident at East Main and Bridge streets. TFFD toned out; Rau's responding. Report taken.

3:36 p.m. Caller reporting that he locked his bike to a sign at the Discovery Center this morning at 8 a.m. and when he returned just now to get it, the bike was gone. Investigated.

10:57 p.m. Multiple callers reporting rollover accident on Millers Falls Road. Party reported trapped; reports of smoke. Ever-source and Rau's requested. Patient transported to hospital. One party was arrested and charged with a marked lanes violation; speeding at a rate of speed greater than was reasonable and proper; and operating under the influence of liquor or .08%.

11:34 p.m. Caller from Fosters Road reported neighbor running a bulldozer or bucket loader. Neighbor stated he was using a tractor. He has parked it for the night.

Sunday, 6/13

2:04 a.m. State police out on Fifth Street with a foot pursuit; one person in custody. Officer requesting owner of Tangible Bliss building be contacted re: a broken window that will need to be boarded up. Two juveniles arrested and charged with breaking and entering into a building during the nighttime for a felony; larceny under \$1,200; and malicious destruction of property under \$1,200.

8:48 a.m. Owner of Tangible Bliss reporting breaking and entering into his business. Dropped off statement form.

9:57 p.m. Caller from Montague City Road states that there is a lot of activity in the driveway. Caller has talked to tenant about it, and he told her that he only deals weed. Caller states some of the plates are from out of state, so she doesn't think they are just here for weed. Copy of call left for narcotics detective.

11:32 p.m. Caller from High Street reporting larceny from her business. Referred to an officer.

Movie Review: *Infinite* (2021)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – On June 11 a movie that features reincarnation as part of its plot premiered on a streaming service called Paramount+. One of the characters is played by Mark Wahlberg and it has the actor from the *Maze Runner* movies present as well.

I once wrote a short story featuring reincarnation as part of it, and feel this was one of the most original stories I have ever written. I would call this movie, *Infinite*, very original as well.

I'd also like to point out that despite what another review I read of the movie said, there is a nice amount of action in it, including a couple of nice car chases.

One other thing that the movie started with, which I like very much, is how this one character is shown to remember a certain skill from a past life very well. Then some light is shined as to why that is. It's like the audience is suddenly pulled into the world of an "infinite."

But the villain in this movie, played by Chiwetel Ejiofor, is also an "infinite." At the start of the movie, the main characters are trying to stop him from ending the world. That storyline continues through these people being reincarnated again, and through Mark Wahlberg's character needing to remember where he hid the object that the villain needs to end the world from the villain. There is a hint from him with the words "look inside," which the movie does get to answer.

The villain doesn't want to be reincarnated anymore, which is why he wants the world to end. Both Wahlberg and Dylan O'Brien do a great job with those action scenes. In one, they are trying to stop the infinite who wants to end the world. I believe they do end up doing that this time around. Also, they end up putting something back on track that he had gotten off track – this is clearly shown by something at the end of the film.

One more thing is... let's just say Mark Wahlberg's character doesn't have any memory problems, next time around. His memory is back to what is normal for an infinite, which he confirms through something he says to someone.

Reincarnation is a cool concept to use in a story and/or a movie. There is room left in this movie for a sequel to happen.

I've said a couple of times before that a movie has held my attention. This is another one that does so. Despite the review I read that said this movie is bad, I believe this was a good film. I liked it!



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MATILDA from page B1

excited to have the chance to return to *Matilda*. Some said they were concerned they wouldn't remember anything, having spent a year away from it, but that a lot came back to them as they began to study the script and listen again to the music.

The cast is a mix of middle school and high school students, as has been the case over the years, as it gives more students a wider opportunity for the theater experience. Watching the students in rehearsal, it was clear that there was great comradery, with the older students guiding the younger ones, and everyone working together to make the show a success. It was also clear how much fun they were having.

Ian Ferrick, who plays The Trunchbull, is in tenth grade. Tall, with a strong singing voice and powerful stage presence, Ferrick said it was disheartening when the show was canceled last year. He is excited to have the chance to return and finally take part in performing the show.

Stella Shipley, a sixth grader, said she was upset when the show was postponed because this was her first show, so she was excited when they brought it back. She has gone back over her lines and memorized them, and is having fun and glad to be back. Stella, who plays Lavender, and her twin sister Kaya, playing Amanda, were working hard, practicing their dance routine together during the rehearsal.

Marketa Vachula-Curtis, who plays Matilda Wormwood, said she's excited to be back doing the

show. Going back to memorizing her lines, she said it took a while to learn them again. She was disappointed when they considered doing a shorter version of the play, and glad when they decided to stick with the longer version. She said she liked doing all the songs. Marketa shares the part of Matilda with Adeline Mayo. They are both in sixth grade.

Mercedes Bailey just graduated from TFHS, but was happy to return and play Mrs. Wormwood. Other recent graduates returned as well. Isabelle Ferrick, salutatorian at the recent June 4 graduation ceremonies, plays Ms. Honey, which

was not her original part so she had some additional learning to do.

Kiley Palmquist, a student in eleventh grade, is working as the choreographer for the show. Collaboration is the key as sets are being built and costumes are being prepared and the show will soon come together for all to enjoy.

The full show will be performed for all who wish to attend on Thursday and Friday, July 1 and 2 at 7 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School auditorium. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$7 for students, and \$5 for children 5 and under.



Tenth grader Ian Ferrick as *The Trunchbull*, scolding his class as students rehearse for their upcoming performance.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE WENDELL POLICE LOG**Intoxication; Partying; Living & Dead Raccoons****Saturday, 5/1**

7:38 p.m. Caller from Montague Road said she was in a vehicle with her boyfriend, who had been drinking. She stopped at the side of the road, and he jumped out and ran into the woods. Caller is worried because he is wearing a green T-shirt and jeans, but does not have a jacket. Caller had to drive to the center of town to get service; she will head back to the area of the ranger station and will wait for an officer. Officer lost contact with caller, but found the vehicle. He is requesting another unit to assist as subject is being combative. Caller said boyfriend is extremely intoxicated, but not violent; he can be heard swearing and screaming in the woods. When approached he began to weep while lying on the ground. Caller helped take him to the vehicle, and will drive him straight home to go to sleep.

Sunday, 5/2

9:37 a.m. Caller from Montague Road reported a trespass issue. Officer gave verbal notice to interested party.

11:34 a.m. Officer advises possible illegal brush fire on Rush Road. Determined to be a pile smoldering from a permitted burn yesterday or the day before; will investigate with the homeowner.

8 p.m. Caller from Kentfield Road is trying to leave the residence; believes male party tossed her keys into the woods after a disturbance, and has taken off.

8:19 p.m.: Caller advised she found her keys, but does not feel comfortable staying at the residence. While online, another officer arrived. Assisted Leverett PD.

9:10 p.m. Caller from New Salem Road reported that his son called him saying he was in a single-car rollover on the Wendell/New Salem Road. 9:21 p.m.: Arsenal's *en route*.

Friday, 5/14

1:30 p.m. Caller from Old Farley Road states her partner was supposed to meet a friend at the Bookmill in Montague for noon, but did not show up. He has memory loss, but not severe. 3:23 p.m.: Caller received call from partner. Cancel BOLO.

Saturday, 5/15

8:29 a.m. Caller reports he was involved in a one-vehicle crash on New Salem Road. 8:37 a.m.: Officer advises the vehicle has been removed from the roadway. Pole was struck; no damage.

7:40 p.m. Caller from Mountain Laurel Road reported a neighbor issue. Neighbors have a fire going, and ashes are going everywhere. He asked

them to put it out, but they are refusing. Officer spoke with both parties, who are amicable. The fire is small and being maintained, and water is on hand.

Sunday, 5/16

12:34 a.m. Party reports her neighbors are revving loud motors. Second call reports neighbors are honking their horns, creating a disturbance.

Monday, 5/17

3:25 p.m. Received call from Davis Turn Road in regard to a raccoon that homeowner trapped in a Havahart trap. Not a danger or showing signs of rabies. Officer explained requirements for handling wildlife, and gave contact information for Forest Edge Wildlife Control in Leverett.

8:42 p.m. Caller from Lockes Village Road reported an ongoing noise complaint. 9 p.m.: Caller would like to speak with an officer.

Thursday, 5/20

11:28 a.m. Caller at Ruggles Pond advised he was attacked by a golden retriever while running. He said he does not need medical attention.

7:40 p.m. Caller from Lockes Village Road advises neighbors are revving their trucks, an ongoing issue. Spoke with caller about dispute that has been going on for over a decade. The noise has

stopped; she will call back if she needs further assistance.

10:24 p.m. Alarm on Lockes Village Road. Caretaker reported a system error.

Friday, 5/21

8:38 a.m. Officer on Lockes Village Road following up on investigation.

9:08 p.m. Assisted another agency by calling resident on Farley Road. No answer. New resident.

Saturday, 5/22

7:31 a.m. Caller from Mormon Hollow Road advises a hunter is shooting too close to a residence. Vehicle is tan NH Toyota pickup. Transferred as no Leverett officer available.

3:57 p.m. Three 911 cell calls from Wendell Depot Road. No sounds of distress; no response to silent call procedures. Can hear males laughing. On callback, got voicemail.

4:08 p.m.: Officer spoke with party who said they were hiking in the woods. No emergency.

Thursday, 5/27

3:59 p.m. Caller from Davis Turn Road advises she has a mangy dead raccoon in her yard and would like to speak with an officer. Caller will dispose of the animal, as the state only does testing for human exposures.

Friday, 5/28

8:31 p.m. Medical emergency on Farley Road.

WEST ALONG from page B1

conversation starter, although it was primitive looking and, in hindsight, ugly as hell.

Kaynor sold it to me for 200 dollars. He had been using it for dances but found that its voice was too soft and smoky to really ring out in accompanying his dance calling. So it wound up in my hands. He admonished me:

"Don't sell it to anyone else - I want it back if you don't want to keep it."

I've still got it.

We arranged for David to come to my house on the Flat in Millers Falls weekly to get me started.

That first lesson was magical for me.

When David took out his fiddle, rosined the bow and played a few tunes in the parlor of the homestead, it took me back a hundred years. I'd been told that my great-grandfather Judah used to sit and play in the same parlor and saw away at the fiddle too, playing the "Hull's Victory Hornpipe" and the "Devil's Dream."

Years later I learned that Judah, my mixed race great-grandfather (they called him a "mulatto" in those days) had learned to fiddle from none other than John Putnam, the celebrated Black contra-dance caller from the 1880s. Putnam and Judah had lived on the same street in Greenfield on the edge of the white neighborhood in the 1870s, and Judah had learned from him. Fiddle music made it back into the family after skipping two or three generations. Judah learned from John Putnam, and I was going to learn from David Kaynor. Both men came along at the right time. Although separated by more than a century, they had preserved and saved New England contra dancing from extinction.

For years, David came to the house for my weekly lesson, stayed for supper, and always left us laughing at his terrible jokes and puns, those ancient dance tunes ringing in our ears.

Later on, he began holding group lessons in the various places he lived in around the Common in Montague Center. Prepping for those first May Day celebrations, he had us walking and marching around the room while we learned to match the walking and playing in rhythm with his Montague Processional composition. We practiced "Coleman's March," the "Gånglåt Från Äppelbo," or other Swedish walking tunes he collected from his trips to Sweden, to be ready to walk down Main Street in an army of fiddlers on the way to the Maypole on the Common.

One of the most priceless lessons he shared was to get us to play by ear, to memorize all the tunes. He weaned us off the printed pages of sheet music and got us to fly on our own, playing and walking, even dancing at the same time.

I still have my modest 80 Kaynor tunes in my head, while other fiddlers, like David, may well have hundreds and hundreds.

He got after some of us to remember that in spite of increasingly busy schedules, "You need to keep your fiddle case open where you'll see it. Pick up your instrument when you pass by, and play it even for just five minutes. It's better than leaving it for later."

He modeled his style for us and we picked up on it, even unconsciously. We learned that one gets the most joy out of playing with a crowd of others, keeping up the banter and good humor. Certainly there are

some fiddlers who border on virtuosity, playing solo with blazing speed and incredible improvisation. I can admire, even gasp in awe at that level of accomplishment, but that's not what I learned from David. He modeled basic timeless tunes, danceable speed, remembering to include others, and thus being included. That's not to say that he couldn't pull off the flying staccatos of "The Banks" and never miss a note. But the playing he promoted is one of playing well with others, paying attention to other players and the dancers.

A favorite memory involves what we called the Russian-American Contra Dances of the early 1990s.

Jude Wobst of Leverett and I ran an exchange program between Amherst High School students and students of School #17 in the Russian Republic of Karelia. During those years, when it was our turn to host, we had engaged David to call a dance for our Russian visitors. Those dances were of course always a huge success. The Karelians have a long history of folk dances, and lost no time picking up the dance figures of our New England tradition.

So when it was our time to return the visit, we took the New England contras on the road, to Russia. David trained a student to call some basic figures, we formed a student band to play at our sister school in Petrozavodsk, and off we went, packing instruments into our luggage along with heavy winter clothes, boots, mittens, all that you might need for Russia in February.

It was a thrill playing and watching the Russian students and parents learning to balance and swing, promenade, and weave to the likes of the "Petronella," "Swallowtail Jig," and "Haste to the Wedding." One of our Karelian teacher friends kept a photo in her modest apartment of herself and David, all smiles, promenading side by side at one of the dances back in Amherst. He was big in Petrozavodsk, too.

I've since learned that David had developed a following and dance community all across this country and even the world, and he, in turn, through his patient and warm teaching style, kept me encouraged and continuing to grow. The fiddle opened doors for me across Ireland, Brittany, remote parts of Karelia, and this corner of Massachusetts.

After years and years of lessons, and gaining experience playing out, I moved on from David's circles, and he himself has now passed on.

Many of his friends have shared that David Kaynor inspired that sense of community that will be his legacy, and he will be remembered from Alaska to Arizona, from North Carolina to this corner of Massachusetts, Vermont and beyond.

He was the quintessential New Englander, dry, wiry, good-humored, irreverent, never losing that brightness, enthusiasm and smile.

When we come to the end of the line

To Peter sitting in state,

He will smile on the three old spirits

But call me and my fiddle first

through the gates...

And when the fold there spy me

They will come up to me and say

Here is the fiddler of Montague

Center!

And dance like a wave of the sea

(With apologies to W.B. Yeats.)

Check out David's website at riverstoriesdavidbrule.com.



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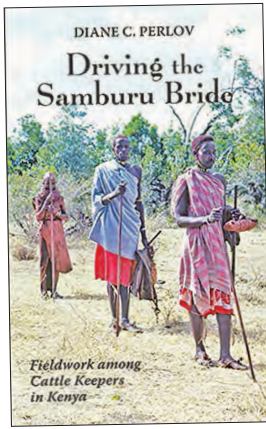
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BOOK REVIEW

Diane C. Perlov, *Driving the Samburu Bride* (Waveland Press, 2020)

By PAT HYNES



MONTAGUE – Diane Perlov’s memoir of the two years she lived among semi-nomadic people in northern Kenya as a doctoral student in anthropology is singularly engaging for a host of reasons.

For one, it has compelling freshness of detail, story, humor, observation, image, and sentiment, as if she had just returned from her rural fieldwork. She, in fact, conducted her research there forty years ago, in 1981 to 1982. To my surprised admiration, she had Kenyan associates from her field study read her manuscript for accuracy – how often do anthropologists afford that respect?

For another, she is a skillful storyteller, inherited from her mother “who never lived a day she could not improve upon” with story and anecdote, and a loving Russian grandmother (the Countess) who read Tarot cards and “told spooky stories of Baba Yaga.”

Perlov chose to focus her doctoral research on livestock marketing issues and the integration of traditional and commercial markets. She selected the semi-nomadic, cattle raising Samburu people in Kenya, near the district capital town Maralal.

This frontier town was growing and held more economic potential. More importantly, everything needed for cash-based trade was developing: a daily marketplace in town to buy and sell cattle, improved transportation infrastructure for cattle transport, and growing demand for beef in the emerging urban centers.

The Samburu did sell cattle intermittently at market, but given their rural, communal culture and traditions, cattle were more often of greater and lasting value in their non-monetary economy as gifts and loans; for breeding, trading, and rituals; and for sustenance and inheritance rights. “What use is money?” one elder asked rhetorically. “Money runs through the fingers like sand. My cattle serve me throughout their lives, and when they die, I can eat them.”

The author’s generous, warm, and quick-witted vignettes of daily life living among the Samburu are far more extant in *Driving the Samburu Bride* than her compressed academic findings. Her Land Rover staked her out as chauffeur to market and hospitals and as rescuer from wild animals. She shared meals, songs, and stories, and served both as an informal resident health consultant with her community and as a guest lecturer in the local elementary school.

There were many lessons the confident neophyte field anthropologist learned “through trial and error and a few blunders until I finally just got lucky.” A seminal lesson, finding a local assistant or two – or three in her case – would be vital for language and access to the community for interviews: “THEY NEVER TAUGHT US THAT IN SCHOOL,” she bursts onto the page. (Why ever not, I wondered. Isn’t it a fundamental of social intelligence in doing anthropology fieldwork?)

After a month completing the

census and conducting interviews with local Samburu, her first assistant, Joseph, handed her a three-page love letter; she had to lie herself out of the dilemma, saying she had a husband in Nairobi.

Losing “diligent” Joseph immediately to the Kenyan Air Force, she promoted “overly confident and charming” John to top assistant, only to find that “behind my back, he was extorting money from the households we were interviewing.” John lost face in the community and was “run out of town.” Her third assistant, Symon, an adult education teacher, was a gift from his father Lentoijoni, because, as Symon told her, “He feels sorry for you.”

In the early 1980s the Samburu were ambivalent about primary education of children. School took children away from herding and other family duties. It was best for “dull boys” and “girls who had poor marriage prospects.” Educating a daughter, in particular, was a complex decision for her father: she might bring in a higher bride price; however, she might also “get their own ideas about things, become headstrong, and difficult to control... a mixed blessing for the family patriarch.”

As for herself, Perlov learned that the Samburu supported her education and willingly answered her survey questions out of sympathy. “I think they saw education as my only path to success,” she writes, “since I was clearly useless for the herding life.”

Perlov balances perfectly the seeming Samburu illogic to her at times with hers to them: “I don’t understand anything you white people do,” Symon matter of factly said at one point. The song she tried to teach them, “The Farmer and the Cowman” from the musical *Oklahoma*, made no sense to them. After all, farmers encroach on the open range of cowboys; why would they be friends, and why would cowboys dance with farmers’ daughters? “No, no, no! We would not do that!”

Though not part of her formal research, we learn in detail the tradition of what Perlov calls “female circumcision” in the Samburu culture, about which little had been written at that point. She witnessed the 30-second operation by designated women of cutting off a non-sedated teenage girl’s clitoris, just prior to her being married to a man older than her by decades, and the subsequent traditional tea celebration among the women. As the husband-to-be and his best man, followed by the suffering, downcast child bride-to-be, proceeded slowly in the ritual walk from the girl’s father’s household to the new groom’s household, Perlov offered them a ride in her Land Rover, which they eagerly accepted, with no compunction about breaking a traditional marriage ritual.

Perlov observed “three circumcisions during my fieldwork, but this was the only time it went off without any complications. The girls accepted the highly ritualized event, as did all the girls I talked with.” While some girls expressed apprehension, none could refuse. “It was the only

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Mark the Summer Solstice at the Sunwheel

AMHERST – The public is invited to join University of Massachusetts Amherst astronomers at the UMass Sunwheel this Sunday, June 20, at 5:15 a.m. and 7:45 p.m. The Sunwheel’s standing stones will mark the sunrise and sunset of the longest day of the year, and UMass’s astronomers will be on hand to answer questions and explain the astronomical cause of the solstice.

The astronomical start of summer in the Northern Hemisphere is the moment the sun reaches its northernmost position relative to the stars as seen from Earth. This occurs at 11:32 p.m. EDT on June 20, marking the twentieth solstice-day in the United States. There are more hours of daylight on the summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere, than on any other day. Unless you live south of the Tropic of Cancer, you will cast your shortest shadow of the year at midday on June 20.

The Sunwheel’s standing stones mark the changing positions of the sun and moon throughout the year, much like ancient calendar-stone sites such as

England’s Stonehenge and Chankillo in Peru. On the date of the solstice, the sun rises and sets farthest north at spots along the horizon marked by the Wheel’s tall standing stones. Other stones mark the position of the sun at the equinoxes and the winter solstice.

During the few days on either side of the solstice, which means “stationary sun,” the sun’s northerly position changes so gradually that it rises and sets at almost the same position for more than a week. Sunwheel visitors who stop in on their own between June 15 and 25 will be able to see the sun rising and setting over the summer solstice stones.

The UMass Amherst Sunwheel is located south of McGuirk Alumni Stadium, just off Rocky Hill Road (Amity Street) about one-quarter mile south of University Drive. Visitors to the Sunwheel should be prepared for wet footing and mosquitoes. The events will be canceled in the event of heavy rain. For more information, visit umass.edu/sunwheel/pages/gatherings.html.

ARTBEAT from page B1

hadn’t gotten the roof changed out, it would have just fallen down.”

It took three dumpsters to get rid of all the debris. All along, as she was reclaiming the building, Cuomo kept thinking, “It would be cool to have a gallery here. But that feels impossible.”

Cuomo said that after Ruth Bader Ginsburg died, she began to develop “a lot of anxiety about women’s rights and women’s control over their own bodies.” Her way of coping with the anxiety was to begin feverishly drawing the interior plans for the garage’s new beginning as a gallery. Even before the renovations were completed, she put out a call for a pop-up show, “and in three months we put it together,” Cuomo said.

“The gallery show is really about what artists experienced during COVID,” Cuomo said. “So it’s really about a specific time that will pass us by. I feel like a lot of society is trying to normalize life now, but I want to hold a place to honor what we’ve just gone through culturally together.”

Cuomo said she feared that there was “a certain sense of gaslighting that could happen” as we come out of the pandemic. She hopes that seeing the work that artists produced during the anxious time we’ve all just lived through will “honor why the anxiety exists.”

“It’s not just in our heads,” she said.

Cuomo plans to keep the gallery in pop-up mode, show by show, at least for now, while she feels out how it’s working. She said she wanted to keep it “in the spirit of something that’s organic and loose, without adding pressure.”

She also plans to offer the gallery as a performance space, as she did on Friday, June 11, when she hosted two showings of a dance



A view of the interior of You+Me Gallery, with Jules Jones’ painting “Great Goddess” in the foreground.

and video performance, *Things I Can’t Say*. Choreographed by Olga Rabetskaya, in participation with Fern Katz, the performance was a moving response to the political upheavals in Belarus, Rabetskaya’s home country. The intimacy of the space contributed to the dance’s power. At times, close, direct eye contact with the dancers increased the intensity of their movements. It was impossible to look away.

One Last Thing

Oh, and one last thing. This is my last ArtBeat column!

I write that sentence with an intentional exclamation mark, normally forbidden to journalists, for multiple reasons. One, it’s been so much fun, and so rewarding, to write for this paper which I find to be so intelligent, quirky, earnest, community-minded, and truth-seeking, among the many other things that it is. And it’s been so much fun, and so rewarding, to talk with so many creative people over the years. I’ve learned so much from every one of you.

The exclamation mark represents all that fun, and all that knowledge gained, and all the many, many rewards of this work.

A while back, I spoke with Sarah Brown-Anson for her *Montague Reporter Podcast* and she asked what new direction or project I was opening up time for. I was taken aback. I laughed and said I didn’t know. Which struck me as wonderful. The exclamation mark is also for that wonderful not knowing, and my own new beginning.

Thanks to all of you for reading. See you around. Maybe at an art show.

You+Me Gallery is located at 115 Hope Street in Greenfield. Hours are on Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and there is a limit of eight to ten people at a time; masks are required. There are no public restrooms. Handicapped parking only with general parking on Hope Street. For more information, email you.me.gallery@gmail.com or visit Instagram @youandme_gallery.

avenue open to them within the culture for their social maturation from girlhood to adult women and wife.”

Over time, the community’s warmth and her resilience fed each other and humanized what might have been, but decidedly is not, a detached, dry anthropological participant-observer treatise. *Driving the Samburu Bride* is engaging and humanistic, with one exception – Perlov’s neutral rendition of the violence of cutting and removing a teenage girl’s clitoris to prepare her for her husband-to-be. Many academic endorsers recommend her book for students in undergraduate anthropology courses. I strongly

recommend that class discussion also include past and current African and Middle East feminists’ position on female genital mutilation (FGM) as an ongoing patriarchal, dangerous, and inhumane practice.

Driving the Samburu Bride finishes with the story of an unforeseen surprise for Perlov. When she returns to visit the Samburu many years after her field work there, she learns the lasting impact she had on girls and women who watched this independent, educated woman driving a Land Rover and handling herself as a peer with men. One young woman was receiving her college degree, and many girls were in school.

Kenya had also changed country-wide for women in the decades since she left. Perlov writes, “Female circumcision has been outlawed and attitudes are changing to help enforce it. Kenya’s 2010 Constitution requires more rural development and female representation. Women have significantly greater access to education, participation in government, and more independence in business. Electricity, cell phones, banking, and paved roads have contributed to opening the wider world for them.”

Pat Hynes, a resident of Montague, is on the board of the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice.

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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.

Perú: Elecciones en un país polarizado

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

LIMA, PERÚ – En las últimas elecciones presidenciales celebradas este mes de junio en Perú se medían dos candidatos finalistas: Keiko Fujimori y Pedro Castillo. Keiko es hija del expresidente Alberto Fujimori que estuvo en el poder desde 1990 hasta el año 2000. Actualmente, Alberto Fujimori está en prisión condenado por corrupción y violación de derechos humanos. Su hija Keiko ejerció como primera dama durante algunos años de su mandato y se ha presentado como candidata a las elecciones en dos ocasiones anteriormente en 2011 y 2016 que perdió por un pequeño margen de votos. Ha estudiado administración de empresas en la Universidad de Boston y de Columbia, NY.

Keiko Fujimori está en estos momentos siendo investigada por diversos delitos relacionados con el caso Odebrecht. Representa al partido político Fuerza Popular y ella misma se presenta como conservadora, de derechas, populista y en algunos casos cree que “se debe ser autoritaria para defender la democracia”.

Por su parte, **Pedro Castillo** es un maestro de primaria de Cajamarca que durante muchos años ha sido representante sindical y representante del partido político Perú Libre. Formó parte de las llamadas *rondas campesinas* formadas por asociaciones de campesinos que se protegían así de los guerrilleros de Sendero Luminoso. Castillo es socialista, populista, y muy conservador en asuntos sociales – por ejemplo, está en contra del aborto y del matrimonio del mismo género.

El jueves pasado, y después de contar el 100% de los votos, Castillo se proclamó como ganador de estas últimas elecciones en Perú. Debería proclamarse presidente del Perú este próximo 28 de julio que coincide con el bicentenario de la independencia de Perú, pero su oponente Fujimori ha presentado un recurso que va a obligar a abrir de nuevo las urnas y podría dar un cambio a la situación. Keiko Fujimori ha perdido por solamente 70.000 votos.

Estas elecciones de 2021 han sido las elecciones más divididas de

la historia del Perú. Para ser justos hay que decir el sistema electoral peruano es uno de los más transparentes del mundo. Los observadores internacionales felicitaron al gobierno peruano por la forma de llevar a cabo las elecciones y por ello no creen que el recurso presentado por Keiko Fujimori tenga bases muy sólidas.

Las áreas que han apoyado preferentemente al candidato Castillo son zonas rurales alejadas de Lima donde su discurso electoral contra las élites ha triunfado.

El Jurado Nacional de Elecciones deberá decidir sobre este contencioso y esto no será un proceso rápido. Algunos expresidentes iberoamericanos han emitido un comunicado pidiendo que no se declare un presidente hasta que este organismo presente sus conclusiones; entre los firmantes se encuentran el conservador José María Aznar, Felipe Calderón, y Álvaro Uribe. Por otro lado, algunos expresidentes como Lula Da Silva y Alberto Fernández han felicitado a Castillo por su victoria.

El triunfo de Castillo, un hombre de origen humilde, vestido con su característico poncho, resulta un revulsivo para la clase alta de Lima que siempre ha tenido línea directa con los miembros del gobierno para resolver sus problemas económicos o judiciales. Estas élites están sintiendo miedo por su desconexión con Castillo. Al contrario, cada día llegan a Lima campesinos de las partes más remotas del país para ver asomarse al balcón presidencial a uno de los suyos.

En medio de toda esta confusión, Sagasti, el presidente en funciones hizo una llamada al premio Nobel peruano, Mario Vargas Llosa, conocido anti fujimorista, para que este llamase a Keiko Fujimori para que reconociera su derrota.

Los más críticos con Castillo piensan que puede ser un nuevo Chávez ya que pretende derogar la constitución existente y escribir una nueva. Esto no es tarea fácil porque necesitaría una mayoría del congreso que en estos momentos no tiene. Así mismo Castillo quiere eliminar las prerrogativas concedidas a empresas extranjeras y revisar los contratos de las multinacionales mineras. Esto que provocó una caída de la bolsa peruana a declararlo públicamente.

Receta de verano: Salmorejo cordobés

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

TURNERS FALLS – El salmorejo proviene de la provincia de Córdoba, en Andalucía, pero se ha extendido por toda España como receta de verano al igual que el gazpacho. El gazpacho es una receta más conocida, especialmente después de que Pedro Almodóvar lo mostrase en su famosa película *Mujeres al borde de un ataque de nervios*, donde esta sopa fría era un personaje más de la película.



Salmorejo cordobés con guarnición.

Los cordobeses dicen que el salmorejo proviene de la Mazamorra que era uno de los platos básicos de las tropas romanas. Se hacía majando los diferentes componentes entre los que siempre se incluían el ajo y el pan. Más tarde tenemos datos de este plato ya que era el que comían en el almuerzo en mitad de la faena los trabajadores que iban a varear los olivos. A veces el no

tenían pan de trigo del día anterior para majar, así que usaban altramuces que eran más baratos.

El salmorejo como lo conocemos hoy no existió hasta el siglo XVII. Uno de los ingredientes principales es el tomate y este no llegó a Europa hasta después de la llegada de Colón que lo trajo a Europa, pero como planta decorativa. No se consumió en forma de alimento hasta finales del siglo XVI y principios del siglo XVII.

Para hacer un salmorejo tradicional usted necesita solamente estos cuatro ingredientes que estoy segura que tendrá en su cocina y una batidora de vaso o una manual:

- 250 gramos de pan del día anterior
- 1 kilo de tomates, mejor del tipo RAF, tomates redondos o de pera
- 2 dientes de ajo
- Un chorrito de aceite de oliva extra virgen

Lo primero que hago es poner el pan en remojo con un poquito de agua si está muy duro y un chorrito generoso de aceite de oliva. Pelo los dos dientes de ajo y los añado a pan que se está ablandando. Después lavo los tomates y a mí me gusta pelar los tomates, así que les hago una pequeña cruz en la parte superior y los sumerjo en agua hirviendo durante un minuto. Inmediatamente, los pasé por agua fría y la piel se desprende fácilmente. Quito la parte con las semillas y añado todo al vaso de la batidora hasta que queda una sopa un poco cremosa. Añado sal al gusto y lo meto en el frigorífico. El salmorejo se sirve acompañado de una guarnición de jamón serrano cortadito y huevo cocido. Me gusta también añadir otro chorrito de aceite de oliva por encima al final. ¡Que aproveche!

• **Food Bank of 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.

• **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.

• **RiverCulture.org** está organizando diversas actividades a lo largo de este verano. El sábado 19 de junio pueden disfrutar de un concierto a cargo de *The Rasa String Quartet* a las doce del mediodía en Station Road Field en Montague Center.



• **Skeleton Crew Theater** a las 6 de la tarde en Peskeomskut Park. Es un espectáculo de criaturas gigantes con música, baile y poesía e incluso un poco de Shakespeare.

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

• **Oferta de trabajo.** Se necesita niñera que sea amable, creativa y que le guste estar al aire libre para un niño de 18 meses, preferible si puede hablar español, para trabajar dos o tres días por semana. Se trata de un niño muy activo que disfruta jugando afuera. Se requiere experiencia con niños pequeños. El trabajo puede continuar después del verano. Interesad@s, pueden enviar un correo electrónico a SerahRose a serahrose@gmail.com o llamar al teléfono (978) 930-2760.

Castillo que es católico, aunque su mujer y su hija son evangelistas, se mostró al principio de su campaña totalmente en contra de los derechos del colectivo LGBTQ+, aunque poco ha ido matizando sus opiniones. Incluso dos días antes de

las elecciones se reunió con representantes de dicho colectivo y les dijo que estaba abierto al diálogo.

Otra de sus polémicas ideas es uso de las rondas de las que el formó parte en sus años mozos para servir como una fuerza parapolicial.

Estas declaraciones incomodaron al sindicato policial que no ve con buenos ojos esta interferencia.

En definitiva, son tiempos difíciles y llenos de especulaciones estos días en Perú. Les seguiremos informando.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EVENTS

FRIDAY, JUNE 18

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Corki & Ken*. 6 p.m.

Zeke's Bar and Grill, Bernardston: *Union Jack Heads North*, British invasion-era rock. 6 p.m.

Antenna Cloud Farm, Gill: *Andrew Yee*, cello. \$ 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 19

Element Brewing, Millers Falls: *11.5 Anniversary & Juneteenth Celebration* feat. *David Brule*, 3 p.m., *Lunar Carnival*, 7 p.m.

Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club, Turners Falls: *Tracy & the Valley Revival*. \$ 6 p.m.

The O's Music Bar, Sunderland: *Jack Sherman*. 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sedagive, The Colony Motel*. 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 20

Mesa Verde, Greenfield: *Sunday Sessions #3*. Record swap, DJ sets hosted by *Peace & Rhythm*.

Benefits 10 Forward. 2 to 8 p.m. Black Birch Vineyard, North Hatfield: *Amy Helm*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 22

Carnegie Public Library, Turners Falls: *Summer Reading Program Kick-off Magic Show*. 10:30 a.m.

TUES-SUN, JUNE 22-27

Garden Cinemas, Greenfield: *Cinema Week*. Special events and prizes daily. \$. See www.gardencinemas.net for the full schedule.

THURSDAY, JUNE 24

First Congregational Church, Montague Center: *Summer Music Series*. 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 25

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Rosie Porter & the Neon Moons*. 6 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Screening, *Jean-Michel Basquiat: Downtown '81*. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 27

Belltower Records, North Ad-

ams: *Don Bikoff, Wes Buckley, Frozen Corn, Bridge of Flowers, Blues Ambush*. \$ 3 p.m.

Black Birch Vineyard, North Hatfield: *The Suitcase Junket*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 1

Energy Park, Greenfield: *R&D, Joe Graveline and Nina Gross*. Franklin County Musicians Co-operative summer concert series. Free. Bring a chair. 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 2

Beacon Field, Greenfield: *Fireworks, vendors, music*. 9:35 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 3

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *NRBQ*. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 9

413 Pub, Easthampton: *Sedagive, Billy Eli*. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 10

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *The Shadow Twisters*. 6 p.m.

Florence Congregational Church,

Florence: *Mandingo Ambassadors*. Afro-jazz. \$ 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 11

Amherst Common, Amherst: *Freestone or Ooze* feat. *Glenn Jones, Chris Brokaw, Sunburned Hand of the Man, A.P.I.E., Allysen Callery, Willie Lane, Mazozma, Toppus Bottomus, 10 Gallon Hat, Frozen Corn*, and many more. Free. 10:30 a.m.

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Freedom Fest* feat. *Sonorus, Jimmy Just Quit, and No Lens*. \$ 12 p.m.

John Doe, Jr., Greenfield: *Craig Douglas, Liz Tonne & Vic Rawlings, Old Pam*. Free. 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 23

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Kevin Morby, Waxahatchee*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, 7/31

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Sam Amidon*, folk singer and banjo player. Free. 5 p.m.



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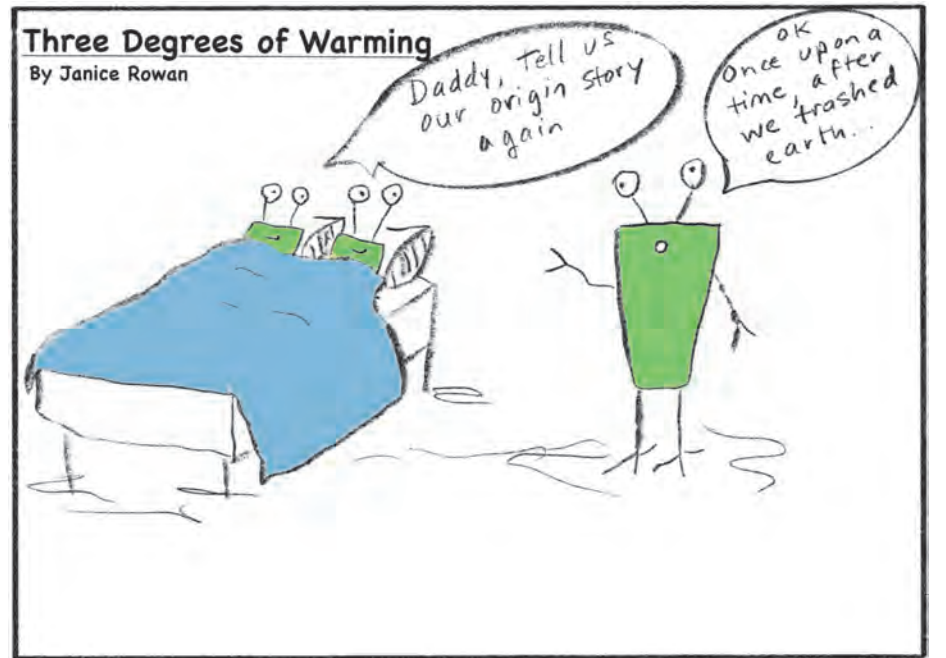
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Mural Festival Honors Street Art Pioneers

By WILLIAM KAIZEN

SPRINGFIELD – As a visitor to the Fresh Paint festival in Springfield this past weekend, I had the opportunity to help paint a public mural. It's been ages since I've picked up a paint brush with the intention of making art. The mural had been turned into a giant paint-by-numbers on large sheets of "parachute cloth," a kind of plastic infused paper that gets glued to a wall, like wallpaper.

Fresh Paint supports the idea that anyone can participate in making public art. All around me, a host of volunteers were happily daubing shades of lavender and Columbia blue into the angular shapes that comprised the abstract mural.

Artist Nelson Stevens, one of the guests of honor, was painting away alongside us. Stevens founded Springfield's first mural program back in the 1970s. Don Blanton, who along with his brother Paul painted Springfield's oldest existing mural, was also being honored.

At the first Fresh Paint festival in 2019, a national roster of street artists painted ten new murals around downtown Springfield with input and help from the public. COVID caused the 2020 iteration to be canceled. For the 2021 version, the organizers decided that along with ten more new murals, they would pay tribute to Stevens' and Blanton's pioneering work.

In 1969, Blanton and his brother wanted to create a positive image that would help address the riots that had been taking place in Springfield. They painted the mural "Heritage on the Walls," featuring an image of a black couple in profile looking over an array of forms inspired by African masks. Silhouettes of dancing figures appear alongside the masks,

as does an upraised arm with a clenched fist, whose wrist wears a broken metal shackle. In recent weeks, Blanton worked to restore the mural with the help of artist Kay Douglas.

While living outside of Chicago in the late 1960s, Stevens became a member of AfriCOBRA (African Commune of Bad Relevant Artists), a visual art collective closely associated with the Black Arts Movement. AfriCOBRA made art that featured positive images of black life whose "expressive awesomeness," as they described their work in a manifesto, was designed to resonate emotionally with people in the community.

AfriCOBRA used elements of both figuration and abstraction depicted in "cool-ade color," bright hues that referenced the African-inspired clothing worn by members of the Black community at the time. Stevens contributed the idea of "shine" to the group's collective imagery, which meant referencing both the spit-shined shoes and glossy hairstyles of the day, as well as always striving for artistic and personal excellence.

Stevens taught at UMass Amherst from 1972 until 2003. In 1974, he started an art program in Springfield that developed the ideas found in both AfriCOBRA art and the Blantons' mural. He and his students painted over 30 outdoor and indoor murals around the city designed to turn downtown Springfield into an art gallery that would bring visual art into communities whose members didn't typically visit museums. Unfortunately, none of these murals survive today.

Stevens and I, and the rest of the volunteers working on the new mural projects, were called away to an award ceremony a block over, in front of the Blanton brothers' newly restored mural. Blanton and Stevens



"Heritage on the Walls," Springfield's oldest existing mural, was recently restored by one of its original creators, Don Blanton, along with artist Kay Douglas. The man in the white hat is Blanton.

were given city proclamations in honor of their work and the day was officially proclaimed "Nelson Stevens Day."

In his acceptance speech, Stevens described how he and his students designed their murals to be as precious as stained-glass windows in a cathedral, and to function to similarly uplift the people who saw them. He recalled how officials from the city censored some of the text they had included, forcing them to repaint some of the murals as they were working on them. He noted how much had changed now that he was getting commended for the same work.

Springfield City Councilor-at-large Jesse Lederman promised that the city would own this history of censorship, and called for increased government support of arts educa-

tion and community-based art projects.

Fresh Paint has brought the spirit of these original muralists back to Springfield. Volunteers, mostly drawn from the local community, help out, gaining hands-on experience making public art by working at the very basic level that I participated in, to more advanced forms of assistance including full-fledged apprenticeships with the artists. Right now, new murals designed by artists, including NYC graffiti O.G.s Wane One and Stash, as well as Betsy Casanas and Kay Douglas, are being completed. Plans are also being discussed to restore some of Stevens' murals in coming years.

For more information on Fresh Paint, as well as the location of Springfield's murals, visit freshpaintspringfield.com.

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