

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 20 – NO. 27

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 19, 2022

CHECKING IN

Our Neighborhood Gems: Montague Public Libraries

By K. CAMARA

TURNERS FALLS – I was so lucky as a child – my parents actually took me to the library! It was similar in style to our Carnegie in Turners Falls, and seemed enormous to me, a small child. It was awe-inspiring, with many steps leading up to the door.

Being from an immigrant family and living in a New England mill city, I knew that not everyone could read – not everyone could even speak English. I also knew that books were not valued by some of the adults around me, even if they could read. For them, work was most important.

As a child born on the cusp of an abundant America to a family deeply traumatized by the Great Depression, the library was also to me a bridge in my understanding of economics. It was free, and that fact served as a saving grace in debates with my father as he, after a long day of work repairing washers and dryers, refrigerators and ranges, dutifully drove me to

the library to feed my biography addiction and enable my research for elementary school reports.

To this day, libraries for me still equal *love*, plain and simple. Even as a child, libraries seemed to make sense as a way to lift the heavy atmosphere of too much work and too little money that permeated our household and caused such war and suffering right at home. *It's free! People share! There's enough! Everybody can use it!* I wanted to shout.

Throughout my life, they have always offered hope and they make sense, maybe even especially in our communities today, or... no, wait... do they? Let's take a look.

When the idea for this article first came up in early spring, there wasn't yet a flower to be seen in any of the gardens that grace the side entrance of the Carnegie Library. Yet when I ventured inside I found seasonal life upon a table with a new seed saving and sharing project just getting underway.

What a display, and what a sight

see **GEMS** page A5



Library director Caitlin Kelley gets ready to address picnickers on the Montague Center Common at a recent event organized in support of the branch libraries.

G-M REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Opportunity to Serve District Continues Still to Abound

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – For the second year in a row, Montague and Gill annual town elections failed to fill all six of Montague's seats on the regional school committee, this time with only two candidates on the ballot for four openings. Heather Katsoulis was re-elected to a third three-year term and John Irminger, who volunteered in January to serve until the election, ran reluctantly but unchallenged for a one-year seat.

Nick Licata, who had similarly volunteered in September, had chosen not to run, but this week voters in both Montague and Gill wrote him

in, and he accepted a two-year position. At Wednesday's reorganization meeting, after he was sworn back in, Licata compared the experience to a stay at the "Hotel California."

"I think it's a tough time for committees," replied chair Jane Oakes of Gill, who garnered 99.26% of the vote for her seat in Montague and 100% in her own town. "I really appreciate everybody being willing to serve and do the work."

One three-year Montague seat still remains open, and the committee will solicit letters of interest and appoint a member in the coming weeks.

see **GMRSD** page A3

Erving Cruises Unanimously Through Annual Town Meeting

By KEITH WATERS

Erving's annual town meeting was held on Wednesday, May 11 this year. After an acknowledgment of the ongoing pandemic, town moderator Richard Peabody dedicated the 2021 town report to Daniel Hammock. Mr. Hammock is a resident of Erving and has served the town in many capacities for 48 years, and is currently a member of the finance committee. He was present and very appreciative of the dedication.

Peabody then introduced Abigail Baines, the town's new library director. Baines expressed her pleasure at her appointment, and reminded everyone that the library has an exciting summer reading program in addition to a master gardeners series and a film noir series planned for the summer.

There were 25 articles in the meeting warrant, and they all passed unanimously. Most of the articles had to do with funding town projects and town employee compensation.

Article 5, approval of the \$5.4 million general operating budget, and raised a couple questions. One resident asked if the town employee salaries were being raised enough to compensate for the inflation we all are feeling now.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith explained that across the board, in addition to the normal steps in their salaries all employees would be given, there would be an additional 2%

see **ERVING** page A8

Gill Hopes for A Single-Night Annual Town Meeting, Also

By REPORTER STAFF

Gill town officials have scrapped a plan to split annual town meeting between two nights this year, now hoping it will only take a single session next Monday, May 23 to get through the agenda, according to town administrator Ray Purington.

Purington said the town selectboard and finance committee met jointly Tuesday and finalized the warrant, which was posted Wednesday on the town website.

The 24-article warrant does not include specific figures for the annual budget, but does include an overhaul of Gill's dog laws, a fire truck and a dump truck with a plow, lower taxes for certain Gill seniors and higher ones for Massachusetts millionaires, and a new roof for the Riverside municipal building.

The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. at the town hall.

According to town clerk Doreen Stevens, this past Monday's election saw Randy Crochier retain his selectboard seat with 56 votes, while one voter wrote in Fred Chase.

Stoler Wins Health Seat With 47% of Votes Cast



Town clerk Deb Bourbeau swore Stoler in before Wednesday's board of health meeting.

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE – Voters turned out in moderate numbers Tuesday for a town election in which the sole contested race was for an open seat on the board of health. Nearly half cast ballots for Turners Falls resident and community health advo-

cate Rachel Stoler, who by Wednesday night was already sworn in and hearing detailed reports from a department facing an ambitious and varied workload this year.

In a written statement following the announcement of her win, Stoler said she was "looking forward to

see **HEALTH** page A4

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Assistant-Hiring Begins

By JEFF SINGLETON

"Next steps" was the motto of the May 16 Montague selectboard meeting as the town began the hiring process for the assistant town administrator approved by the recent annual town meeting, continued the process for evaluating a sludge-composting facility, and considered whether to start a process for taxing short-term rentals.

Early in the meeting, following

report on the latest COVID statistics, the town health board projected uncertainty over the process for recommending a policy for mask use to the Gill-Montague Regional School District.

Melanie Zamojski and Michael Nelson, officially posted as a quorum of the health board, handed the pandemic data analysis off to town administrator Steve Ellis. The data showed that the number of positive

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

High School Sports Week

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – Franklin Tech and Turners Falls concluded their regular spring seasons this week, though several teams and individuals will go on to the postseason, including four athletes competing at an individual track meet on Saturday.

Regional baseball and softball tournaments begin next week, with the state tournament to follow around June 2. In softball, Franklin Tech will compete in Class C

while Turners will compete in Class D. Tech also has a state vocational tournament to look forward to.

Girls' Track

Mahar 90 – TFHS 43

The Turners Falls-Franklin Tech girls' track team traveled to Orange last Thursday and lost to the Mahar Senators, 90-43. Although this was the final team meet of the season, two girls will compete in the Western Mass individual meet at Mohawk

see **SPORTS** page A4



Franklin Tech's Rachel Hayes watches her return shot during the co-op team's No. 3 singles match at the Davis Street Courts in Greenfield on Tuesday.



Our Humble Contribution to the Overwhelming Fog of Information

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The Montague Reporter

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Losses

This week saw another terrible terror attack by a young fascist, this time in nearby upstate New York. He knew why he carried out the attack, and we do, too.

Racial terror is both historic and ongoing in our country. It's incumbent upon those who oppose its goal to not simply reduce these events, but to figure out what it means to do the very opposite.

But first, let's take a minute and

sit with the names of those killed in Saturday's attack.

- Celestine Chaney, 65.*
- Roberta A. Drury, 32.*
- Andre Mackneil, 53.*
- Katherine Massey, 72.*
- Margus D. Morrison, 52.*
- Heyward Patterson, 67*
- Aaron Salter, 55.*
- Geraldine Talley, 62.*
- Ruth Whitfield, 86.*
- Pearl Young, 77.*

CORRECTIONS

In the Montague selectboard coverage in our May 12 issue (Page A1, *No Action on Virus Wave*), we reported erroneously that Ariel Elan, who facilitated the Police Equity and Use of Force Advisory Group in 2020-21, "suggested the recommendations" of the two police advisory groups "may never have been finalized."

Ms. Elan in fact characterized the committee's recommendations as being completed, and awaiting detailed review by the selectboard, and decision-making as to which ones to adopt. We regret the error, and we thank Ms. Elan for bringing this important distinction to our attention.

In the same article, we wrote that "COVID-19 did appear on the agenda of the most recent Montague health board meeting on April 21". This was a typo, and should have read "COVID-19 did not appear on the agenda..."

And, once again, in the same article, we misspelled the name of Peskeomskut Park as "Peskomp-skut Park." We feel this error in particular made it to print as a consequence of our under-the-weather proofreading staff heading home early... As this pandemic drags on, everything inevitably frays. We thank our readers for their patience and good humor, and we always welcome a friendly correction!



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Amy Neil and her four-year-old son Gordon, at their home flower and vegetable plot in Northfield. Neil runs a farmstand with flowers and vegetables on her Winchester Road property, and is planning an event there with dozens of vendors, "Northfield Shopping Days," on June 18. Learn more at nostalgiabyamynail.com.

Letter to the Editors

Input Encouraged: Canal District Renewal

Montague is conducting a master planning process for the 16-acre Canal District in downtown Turners Falls. This area, comprised of five former industrial properties along the river, is slated to receive upwards of \$15 million of investment from the state and federal government over the next five years.

A long-needed investment into new bridges, utilities, and river access points will provide the opportunity for renewal, and the Planning Department wants to make sure new improvements align with community goals.

To that effect, all are invited to a community work-

shop next Tuesday, May 24 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Montague Town Hall Annex Room. Come hear what planning has been done, and help shape where we go from here as community.

This will be an interactive session. Pizza and light refreshments will be provided. In-person attendance is encouraged, but a remote participation option is available at montague-ma.gov.

Walter Ramsey, AICP
Montague Town Planner

OP ED

Montague Town Meeting Supports Fair Share Amendment

By **FERD WULKAN**

MONTAGUE – The Massachusetts Fair Share Amendment, also called the millionaires' tax, would raise approximately \$2 billion each year in order to increase funding for K-12 schools, public colleges and universities, repair of roads and bridges, and other transportation needs.

It would do so by imposing an additional 4% tax on the portion of annual income that is over \$1,000,000. The first million dollars of income would continue to be taxed at the same 5% rate as currently.

Many local towns, including Northampton, Ashfield, and Leverett, have recently voted support for the amendment. On Saturday, May 7 it was Montague's turn.

Town meeting members Judith Lorei and Peter Hudyma, joined by me and supported by Francia Wisniewski, presented the warrant article, and after some discussion, it was passed overwhelmingly. See below for the text of the article as passed.

This is a proposed amendment to the state constitution, which currently does not allow different tax rates for different groups. Having received a favorable vote by the state legislature, it will be on the ballot this No-

vember. If a majority of Massachusetts voters vote "yes," the constitution will be amended and the new tax rate will be in effect starting in 2023. Jo Comerford and Natalie Blais, our State Senator and State Representative are both strong supporters of the amendment.

It had been a very long and grueling day, and this was Article 36 of 36 articles on the town meeting warrant. But town meeting members stuck it out and passed the resolution with a resounding voice vote.

If the amendment is approved by voters in November, it will be up to our town and its residents to lobby our legislators on exactly how and where the funds should be spent. How much for education, and how much for transportation? How should transportation funds be allocated in a way that decreases greenhouse gas emissions? Which road and bridge repairs should be prioritized? How can these funds be used to make GCC and UMass more affordable?

But first, let's all come to the polls in November and pass the Fair Share Amendment. If you want to help publicize the amendment and work for its passage, please contact me at ferdwulkan@gmail.com.

Ferd Wulkan lives in Montague Center.

ARTICLE 36: FAIR SHARE AMENDMENT – MONTAGUE RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT

WHEREAS, Massachusetts needed new investments in our transportation and public education systems even before the COVID-19 pandemic, and those investments are needed more than ever to lift our economy into an equitable and long-lasting recovery; *and*

WHEREAS, the best way to help working families and rebuild a strong economy for us all is to make sure that we have quality public schools for our children, affordable public higher education, and a reliable transportation system; *and*

WHEREAS, Montague has numerous structurally deficient bridges and overdue road repair and replacement projects; *and*

WHEREAS, students need a well-rounded education and major investments in public education are needed to help students recover academically, socially, and emotionally from the COVID-19 pandemic; *and*

WHEREAS, tuitions and fees at our public colleges are among the highest in the country, forcing students to take on enormous debt just to receive a degree; *and*

WHEREAS, new state revenue is necessary to rebuild crumbling roads and bridges, improve our public schools from Pre-K through college, expand access to vocational and technical training invest in reliable and decarbonized public transportation, make public higher education affordable again, and expand opportunities for healthy walking and bicycling; *and*

WHEREAS, wealthy Massachusetts residents saw their investments grow during the pandemic while working families struggled, and Massachusetts' wealthiest residents should pay their fair share to support our communities and grow our economy; *and*

WHEREAS, the Legislature's Constitutional Convention voted 159-41 to place the Fair Share Amendment on the November 2022 statewide ballot;

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the Montague Town Meeting Supports the proposed Fair Share Amendment that would create an additional tax of four percentage points on annual income above one million dollars and dedicate the funds raised by this tax to quality public education, affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges, and public transportation.

Published weekly on Thursdays.
 Every other week in July and August.
 No paper fourth week of November,
 or the Thursday closest to 12/25.

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Last week's brief about the Leverett Historical Commission visit to the **fulling mill and tannery site contained an error.** The live, in-person visit at the mill site this Saturday, May 21 is at 2 p.m. *not* at 7 p.m. as we wrote. The virtual visit this Friday evening happens at 7 p.m. Sorry for the confusion!

The Mill District in North Amherst is offering **free outdoor movie nights** on Third Thursdays from May through October. All are welcome. Pack a picnic and bring chairs or blankets to the green; pre-show activities begin at 6 p.m., with movies at sundown. *The Birdcage*, rated R, is being screened tonight, May 19, and on June 16 the movie is *Dreamgirls*, PG-13. Rain dates are the following Thursday.

Nice. Snack Parlor, located at Nova Motorcycles on Second Street in Turners Falls, opens for the season this Friday, May 20. They are open from 4 to 8 p.m. that night, hosting a Kid's Costume Dance Party at 6:30 p.m., and then 1 to 8 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday. Enjoy live music from Nash Atkins from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, and an open mic called Words and Tacos at 1 on Sunday.

These folks have lots of fun events planned for the summer, so check out their Facebook page to stay updated.

Ed the Wizard's Alchemy Laboratory is coming to the New Sa-

lem public library this Saturday, May 21 at 2 p.m. This is a hands-on performance and workshop where participants will learn the science behind the magic using everyday items from the home. Recommended for ages 7 and up, but younger ones are welcome. To register, call (978) 544-6334 or email n_salem@cwmar.org.

All are invited to celebrate **Nipmuc history, culture, land use, and living presence** this Saturday in Petersham with music, crafts, storytelling, and more by Nipmuc citizens. Presentations include traditional flutes, hide tanning, wood-working, and more. On the North Common in Petersham from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Shutesbury faces potential clearcutting of hundreds of acres for what would be the largest solar installation in the state. A march and rally this Sunday, May 22 aims to "raise awareness of and demonstrate opposition to the prospect of massive clearcutting for the installation of industrial-scale solar installations."

"**We Speak for the Trees**" starts off at 9:15 a.m. with a walk-bike-drive from Shutesbury to the Amherst town common, for a rally at 1 p.m. Presenters include Doug Harris of the Narragansett Tribe, hydrologist Dr. Steve Garabedian, Bettina Washington from the Wampanoag Tribe, Dr. William Moomaw, and dance ensemble Aqua Y Bosque. For more information, see smartosolarshutesbury.org.

The **Leverett Village Co-op** is celebrating Spring on Sunday, May 22 from noon until 4 p.m. with the return of Spring Fling, the beloved outdoor community festival that combines live music, food, games and a live auction.

The festivities begin at noon with music by Boys of the Landfill, and samples from local vendors including Maple Mama Beverages, Artisan Beverage Cooperative and Cabot Cheese. There will also be a cookout, lawn games for all ages, and of course groceries, pizza slices, and other goodies for sale inside the store.

The **live auction** will begin at 3 p.m. with professional auctioneer and Co-op general manager John Calhoun, and includes a tantalizing list of items such as framed artwork, Tanglewood tickets, gift certificates for catering by Black Sheep Deli, a pottery class with Joy Friedman, a fishing trip, acupuncture, and Real Pickles; a worm bin starter kit, and much more. All proceeds from the auction and cookout benefit the Co-op.

A **BagShare Project Party**, planned in conjunction with the Spring Fling, will help attendees transform feed bags into reusable shopping bags. Bring your clean plastic-woven feed bags!

The Spring Fling was an annual event at the LVC for many years and the Co-op is now reviving the tradition. There is no rain date. Call (413) 367-9794 for more information.

Did you know that you may get **museum passes** from many public libraries if you have a library card?

The Greenfield libraries offer passes to the Basketball Hall of Fame, Children's Museum at Holyoke, Eric Carle Museum, MASS MoCA, Norman Rockwell Museum, and USS Constitution Museum. They have e-voucher and print-from-home options so you don't need to pick up and return the passes at the library.

No printer? No problem! You can still borrow the physical pass from the library the day of your visit and return it before 8:30 a.m. the next day so it will be ready for the next person who needs it. Contact the library at (413) 772-1544 with any questions.

Montague public libraries offer passes to the Clark Art Institute and Massachusetts state parks; call 863-3214 for more info.

Next Tuesday, May 24 there will be an **ice cream social** with local

author Richie Davis at the Leverett Library. Davis will read from his book, *Good Will & Ice Cream*. The event is outdoors at 6:30 p.m., with a rain date May 31.

A "**Celebration of the Life of George Floyd & The Movement for Racial Justice**" will be held next Wednesday, May 25, from 4 to 7 p.m. on the Greenfield Common hosted by the Coalition for Racial Justice. There will be drumming, music, kids activities, Bomba lessons, and speakers. All are welcome.

The Springfield Public Forum and the Pioneer Valley Symphony join forces to host "**An Evening for Ukraine**" on Wednesday, May 25, from 6 to 9 p.m., at Springfield Symphony Hall. The event features a talk from former Ambassador to Ukraine Bill Taylor and a benefit concert of Ukrainian music performed by the Symphony, featuring violinist Solomiya Ivakhiv. 100% of the proceeds will benefit humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

Local artist Edite Cunhã will hold a free **Pique Assiette Mosaic Workshop** on Saturday, May 28 at the Brick House in Turners Falls from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you have bits of broken china and other treasures laying around, you may transform them into unique mosaic art tile at this workshop. (All materials will be provided if you don't.) You will learn about techniques, materials, and history of this art form while working on your piece. To reserve a spot, contact Edite at (413) 775-3905 or editecunha@comcast.net.

The town of Gill sent notice that **Memorial Day Services** will be held Sunday, May 29, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Gill Church. Following the church service, folks will gather across the street at the Veterans' monuments. A rose ceremony, flag raising, gun salute, and Taps will take place. All are welcome. Gill veterans will receive a free "Gill Veteran" baseball cap.

Montague Center Memorial Day Service will be held on the Common on Sunday, May 29, at 11:15 a.m. The service will honor fallen veterans from all wars. The Montague veterans' committee, members of the First Congregational Church, and the village fire department will take part.

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CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT

Hearing Aid Contest

GREENFIELD - Alber Hearing Services is offering a free pair of top-of-the-line hearing aids to the winner of an essay contest.

If you are interested, simply write a one-page, handwritten essay explaining why you or a loved one will benefit from hearing aids. Include your name, phone number, email if you have one, and the name of who you are nominating

if it's not yourself. All nominees must be available to visit their Greenfield office in early June for a hearing loss evaluation.

Entries are due by next Friday, May 27, and can be dropped off at their office, mailed, or emailed to lacey@alberhearing.com; put "2022 Essay Contest" in the subject line. More details are available at alberhearing.com.

GMRSD from page A1

A new record may have been set this spring by a member appointed at the end of the committee's March 8 meeting, who attended none of the four meetings between then and the election.

The committee has been meeting via Zoom, and did not move to change that this week amid rising COVID-19 case counts, though Oakes said the idea would be revisited in the summer. "I'm afraid we wouldn't have enough people that could actually come in," she said, "if somebody has COVID in their house, or COVID themselves."

During April and early May the committee approved a new contract with unionized cafeteria workers, updated official policies on harassment and discrimination, approved a new high school social studies textbook, and heard from director of teaching and learning Jeanne Powers about a staff survey on equity and diversity issues.

Business manager Joanne Blier reported that the district did not submit an application for state reimbursement of a potential elementary school building project in Montague; she recommended a special committee study the situation and apply next year.

Meanwhile, research into the feasibility of a new six-town region with Bernardston, Leyden, Northfield, and Warwick to allow for combined middle and high schools is still underway; the Gill-Montague and Pioneer Valley central office staffs met to discuss the idea.

The Gill-Montague committee also heard from superintendent Brian Beck about the search for a new principal at Sheffield Elementary, and set the schedule for Beck's annual evaluation in the coming weeks.

By statute, Wednesday's reorganization meeting began with Gill member Bill Tomb acting as chair, as he has the most cumulative years on the board. "It just seems like forever, right?" Oakes asked him as the two tallied up their terms.

"No, it doesn't seem like forever," Tomb replied. "It seems like *Groundhog Day*."

Timmie Smith nominated Katsoulis to serve as chair for the coming year, but Katsoulis declined. "I just can't do it with work right now,"

she explained. Oakes was nominated, seconded, and approved by unanimous vote to maintain the role.

Cassie Damkoehler, absent from the meeting, was then nominated as vice chair, which led to some wonderment about parliamentary procedure - members may decline nominations, but no one was sure if they had to accept them. "She can always decline later, and we'll do this over," Oakes pointed out.

Damkoehler was elected vice chair by a 7 to 0 vote.

After a discussion about exactly what the committee secretary must do - take minutes when executive assistant Sabrina Blanchard is absent; coordinate certain logistics among members to avoid open meeting law violations - Irminger offered to give it a shot, and was elected unanimously.

Finally, Katsoulis assented to being elected as assistant treasurer, and the members agreed to table subcommittee appointments and adjourned. The committee's next regular meeting is Tuesday, May 24.

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HEALTH from page A1

working with the current Board of Health members, Health Department staff, fellow candidates, other town departments, and the community to ensure that healthy choices are easy choices for all Montague residents and guests."

According to town clerk Deb Bourbeau, 576 voters, or 9.1% of those eligible, voted on Tuesday. This was a higher turnout than 2013, 2014, 2016, 2019, or 2021, but lower than the years with contested races for selectboard (2015 and 2020) or school committee (2017 and 2018).

Stoler won with 273 votes, making the strongest showing in Montague Center, the precinct with the highest turnout by far, and leading in five precincts. In second place, Kathy Burek garnered 195 votes and led in Millers Falls.

"Where were the 8,000 citizens of Montague doing their patriotic duty?" said Burek, when asked to comment on the results.

"I'm glad there was such a lively competition for such an important role," wrote Dr. Catherine Dodds, whose strongest showing was in Precincts 3 and 4, the Hill in Turners Falls. "I think Rachel will do a great job for Montague."

Maureen McNamara, who found her highest support in downtown Turners Falls, congratulated Stoler. "It was my first time ever running for a seat, and what a ride!" she said. "I enjoyed meeting and talking to many in the community of what you wanted had I been elected."

Stoler, also an elected town meeting member, encouraged this newspaper's readers to pursue some of the many vacant seats on town boards and committees. "Now is a fantastic time to take an active role in town operations," she said.

Stoler's own activity increased immediately. Less than 24 hours after polls closed, she found herself at a board of health meeting, sitting beside members Mike Nelson and Melanie Zamojski.

Outgoing member Al Cummings presented Stoler with his car pass and building keys, and Nelson thanked him for his two decades of service on the board. Zamojski was elected chair.

SPORTS from page A1

high school on Saturday. Jaade Duncan finished second in the 100m, qualifying her for the tourney; Jazzlyn Gonzalez, who won the 200m and finished third in the 100m, had already qualified.

Long-distance runner Anna Morrissey took home first-place victories in the mile and two mile. Elise Wolfe finished first in the 400m, and Ella Guidaboni broke the tape in the 400m low hurdles. Rounding out the track events, Linley Rollins finished second in the 100m high hurdles.

In field events, Madeline Brandl finished second in the high jump, Charlotte Canterbury placed third in long jump, and Autumn Dimare took third in the pole vault.

Softball

FCTS 21 - HCSS 3
FCTS 10 - Mohawk 0
Athol 4 - FCTS 2

The Franklin Tech Softball Eagles had won 13 straight games, blowing out most of their opponents, when they lost to the Athol Red Bears on Wednesday in the last game of the regular season. The loss leaves Tech with a 16-2 regular season record.

Tech went down to Bowie Park in Chicopee last Thursday and defeated the Maroon Scientists of Hampden Charter, 21-3. The Birds jumped all over Hampden early, scoring nine runs in the top of the first, and scored in each subsequent inning until the game was mercifully called.

Ten Tech players registered hits in this one, with Lillian Ross and Kendra Campbell hitting doubles, Ashley Bobala smacking a triple, and Kaitlin Trudeau and Shelby O'Leary clocking homers. Lillian Ross and Hannah Gilbert shared pitching duties.

On Monday they traveled up to

Public health director Daniel Wasiuk presented a report on inspections, and highlighted mattresses being dumped in downtown streets and alleys, which he attributed to tenants and said could lead to fines for landlords. Stoler and Zamojski suggested that the town work with landlords to withhold tenants' security deposits if they are dumping such items, but Wasiuk attributed the issue to high disposal fees and the difficulty some residents face in transportation. He said he is discussing a proposal with town administrator Steve Ellis to periodically offer the scheduled pickup of such items for a low fee by the public works department.

"Other inspection needs in town include three new restaurant operations: El Nopalito, in the building formerly occupied by Roberto's; a hard-scoop ice cream operation at Ja'Duke Center, and the food truck Santo Taco.

Wasiuk also delivered the town nurse's report. Montague's medical director, Dr. Patricia Iverson, has retired, and the town must have a doctor to authorize nurses to administer a range of services, as required by the Department of Public Health.

Montague has the services of an epidemiologist, who is working remotely from Boston, under a six-town intermunicipal grant, and Wasiuk discussed plans to have the staff funded by the grant create the town's weekly COVID-19 reports. Wasiuk promised a "more comprehensive report" with a "different style and format," and said he hoped the reports would be available on Mondays in time for selectboard meetings.

Wasiuk said the new staffing arrangement allows public health nurse Cheryl Volpe to move from COVID toward other duties, and that she is helping the town develop its proposal to the state for an alternative mosquito management plan.

With cases rising, COVID was a topic for discussion. Zamojski said she had been contacted by Gill-Montague school administrators seeking the board's recommendations, especially given upcoming field trips, about a return to a mask policy.

"Our dilemma is this," Zamojski said. "We already have strong recommendations that people

should be wearing masks. However, the school does not have any rules in place currently, and they are not wearing them."

Zamojski added that she wished the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) would provide guidance. Wasiuk said that one of the challenges with regulating schools was that DESE might threaten districts abiding by different local regulations with "consequences."

Stoler said she was interested to hear from the schools what the estimated economic impact is on families having to take off work when their children are quarantined after testing positive, and how this weighed against the negative effects of maskings.

Nelson said that the Frontier and Mohawk districts have re-implemented mandatory masking, but no one present was sure whether these policies extend off school grounds.

Zamojski suggested that the department ask school superintendent Brian Beck what his preference would be. Nelson made a motion that Zamojski, Wasiuk, and Volpe meet with Beck and the schools' nurse leader and that Zamojski be authorized to make a decision on behalf of the department. This was approved 3 to 0.

Looking toward future meetings, Zamojski asked for a report on the tickborne diseases present in Montague, and also said she would like to look at job descriptions for department personnel.

Wasiuk mentioned that when Cummings was the chair of the board, he was "instrumental" in helping staff with some day-to-day tasks. Stoler asked whether the department had ever considered subsidizing tick testing, and Wasiuk said that the "limitations" in the department's budget created a challenge, and that proposals like that should be brought into the beginning of the budget cycle. He added that the year's remaining budget had been depleted by the "costly venture" of installing pooper scooper stations and preparing a mass mailer to advertise them.

The board's next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 22 at 5 p.m.



Buckland, and blanked Mohawk 10-0. The Eagles, as usual, jumped on their opponent in the first inning to go up 3-0, added an insurance run in the third, then piled on six more in the fifth.

This was another team effort for the Birds, as seven different Tech players batted in runs; although no one knocked it out of the park, Trudeau, Lauren Ross, and Keira Stevens all hit doubles. Lauren Ross pitched the complete game, scattering two hits, walking one batter and striking out 13.

The second-place Athol Red Bears came to Tech Wednesday hoping to avenge an earlier loss and retain their second footing in Franklin East. They scored in the first inning, and Tech matched the run. The score remained knotted at 1 until the fourth when the Birds took a 2-1 lead.

But Athol took back the lead in the fifth and was able to score an insurance run in the sixth, and Franklin just couldn't respond, allowing Athol the 4-2 victory.

Tech was limited to just five hits in this game. Two were long balls, with Gilbert skying a home run and Campbell hitting a triple. Lauren Ross struck out six batters, allowing three earned runs off eight hits.

The loss does not detract from an amazing season; the Eagles won the Franklin East title and finished with a great record. And losing a game before the one-and-done playoffs isn't the worst thing in the world: "This type of game against a solid team helps us to realize a few areas we will need to improve," coach Joe Gamache said afterward.

TFHS 13 - Mohawk 2
Greenfield 16 - TFHS 4
Frontier 14 - TFHS 2

Meanwhile, the Turners Falls Softball Thunder scored one lop-

sided victory and suffered two one-sided losses.

They routed the Mohawk Warriors 13-2 up in Buckland last Wednesday. Cady Wozniak and Morgan Dobias hit doubles, while Emily Young had three hits.

But on Thursday, Greenfield came to town. It didn't look good for Powertown early as three unearned runs crossed the plate in the first. A walk, an RBI single and an error built Green's lead to 5-0 in the second, and the Wave tacked on two more runs in the fourth.

Down 7-0, Turners got one back in the fourth off a Madison Liimatainen double and an RBI from Morgan Dobias, and then Young, Liimatainen, and Dobias scored in the fifth to make it 7-4.

That's as close as they came. Miscommunication and errors plagued the Thunder and Greenfield took full advantage, scoring nine runs in the final two innings.

In the circle, Liimatainen gave up eight hits, struck out 11 and gave up six walks. She also hit two doubles, while Dobias had two base hits. In the field, Powertown committed seven errors.

On Tuesday Turners traveled to South Deerfield and lost to the Red Hawks 14-2. Although they held the Hawks to just six hits, multiple errors and ten walks allowed Red to score 14 runs; offensively, the Thunder was limited to just four hits.

Paige Sulda had two hits, including a home run, Jenna Petrowicz and Liimatainen registered the other hits, and Dobias the other run. Liimatainen struck out 11 batters.

Boys Tennis

St. Mary's 5 - TFHS 0
W. Springfield 4 - TFHS 1

A nice spring storm on Monday cleared the mugginess out of the air. It also forced the Turners Falls boys

to play eight-game pro sets.

Right off the bat - or racket - the visiting Golden Saints went up 2-0, as Blue was forced to forfeit third singles and second doubles. Mike Boyle won four games on the first singles court. In second singles, Alex Sabin won two, and in first doubles, the duo of Jake Reich and John Carmichael notched one win.

The Boys in Blue traveled down to Clark Field in West Springfield on Wednesday to play the Terriers. With only three players making the trip, Turners was forced to forfeit both doubles matches.

Sabin scored Powertown's lone point on the second court, winning an extended first set 7-5 and sweeping his opponent with a 6-3 win in the second set. Boyle lost 6-3, 6-1 in first singles, and in third singles Reich was bested 6-3, 6-3.

Girls Tennis

On Tuesday another Greenfield team defeated Turners Falls, this time in girls' tennis. With senior Haley Randall out of the lineup, coach Victor Gonzalez had to do some shuffling.

Steph Peterson lost on the first singles court 6-0, 6-1 while Maria Labelle dropped the second singles match 6-1, 6-1 and Rachel Hayes lost third singles 6-0, 6-0. Abby Holloway and Jill Reynolds lost in first doubles 6-3, 6-2 and Maddie Lilly and Tatiana Carr Williams were defeated 6-1, 6-4 in second doubles.

Baseball

TFHS 11 - Mohawk 5

Monday's inclement weather didn't stop the Baseball Thunder from traveling up to Mohawk and upending the Warriors 11-5. I didn't make the game, but according to assistant coach Sean Crowell, they qualified for the post-season with the win.



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GEMS from page A1

for sore winter eyes! Colorful packets of seeds, donated by High Mowing Seeds of Vermont, including seeds and varieties appropriately chosen for our location, called out from the table. An attractive and well-organized display included an activity set up to accommodate multi-generational participation. There was a record-keeping notebook for participants, and even tiny manila envelopes to carry those eager little seeds home in.

It certainly generated hope in me for the long life potential of libraries. As I flipped through a few pages of names and records in the notebook to get to the next blank page, I felt a simple delight and warmth and found myself thinking, *These are my neighbors. We're doing this together.*

I moved from the table with some seeds in hand, and saw what had been the old "New Fiction" bookshelf standing empty, stripped and sanded and ready for a new coat of paint. A sign promising something new to come in that spot left me curious.

Turning around to the circulation desk I found an announcement for the "Libraries in the Woods 2022 Community Read" and a book on prominent display with a cover photo featuring a woman in muck boots embracing a chicken. It was titled *The Dirty Life – on farming, food, and love*, by Kristin Kimball, an up-state New York farmer. Here again were more of my neighbors, this time joined through the shared reading and discussion of this book, and from surrounding towns as well.

Upon the desk was also the new *BookPage*, a monthly publication highlighting new books in many genres and available if not here at home, then through the WMARS regional library system where books move quickly from library to library from anywhere within the state through the Commonwealth catalog.

Behind the desk? Helpful library staff, books on hold, museum and state park passes, movies, audios, books... abundance! To the left reside magazines, newspapers, computers, a copier and printer, CDs and more books; to the right, a children's library including a moose on the wall!

Our library on the Avenue is itself an avenue to so much more – including additional library branches in Montague Center and Millers Falls – and it is changing to accommodate

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the changing needs of our community. It's really quite an operation.

Caitlin Kelley, who began serving as library director last fall, is at the helm now, steering with the input and review of the Trustees of the Library, a town-elected group of nine. She is supported by a staff that includes a children's librarian and a branch librarian, as well as the Friends of the Library group who volunteer their time, and of course, there are the many loyal patrons.

Vicki Valley, a long-serving "Friend," spoke with me about the vital role of this group, and the need for more friends to step up and volunteer. By now the flowers are up and compost spread in the library gardens and there is need for help in maintaining them, which includes watering.

The Friends' role also includes the monthly book sale at the Carnegie. Volunteers are always welcome to help with this – it involves an ongoing sorting of books and other items. They accept donations for the sale, which can be left at the library during open hours. Arrangements should be made in advance for the

donation of larger collections. The group also accepts financial donations that support their work. Meetings are held once a month with a short agenda and updates from the library director. Now is a good time to join in and help support summer events and the new director.

Since coming on board, and in response to feedback from a patron survey, one of many things Kelley has been focused on is the expansion of adult programming. Virtual programs were held in the winter, and new in-person and virtual events are scheduled now, including "Burnout and Self Care" (including meditation); an event featuring Alan Davis from Racial Justice Rising; and a creative writing group in June with a local author.

Children's programming is always popular, and this Saturday, May 21 at 11 a.m. there is a craft activity for families, making seed paper under the tent on the Carnegie Library lawn. In June, children and teens can read to a dog under the tent at "Paws to Read" events.

Kelley spoke with excitement about the skill, effort, and planning

by staff that is going into a Summer Kick-Off Party on June 18 at Peskemoyskut Park. Presented in collaboration with other local groups such as RiverCulture, the Brick House, and Ja'Duke, this event is a celebration for the entire community. There will be activities, performances including live music by LuxDeluxe, food, and fun for all.

Along with programming, Kelley's focus has also been on infrastructure – both the systems of operation as well as the literal structure of the buildings. Following a schedule of maintenance organized by the Trustees for the care and stewardship of the treasured and very old buildings that house the libraries, there have been heating and cooling system updates at the Montague Center Library. Strategic planning for the future of our libraries, in conjunction with the Trustees and the town administrator, is also a part of her job description.

Last Monday in Montague Center, residents including Friends, Trustees, and patrons sponsored a "Pro-Branch" picnic and sing-along on the Common. Kelley was there, providing a speech, sharing an outline of events, and announcing new additional open hours to begin at the Montague Center branch in the summer.

In response to need within the Millers Falls community and with the assistance of Montague Catholic Ministries, a food pantry has been set up at that village's branch, and is being well received.

Kelley also described other new library programs, such as the seed exchange, and remember that empty shelf? Newly repainted, it now houses a "Library of Things" available for circulation! That's right: shiny new tools and games, a projector, science kits, binoculars, and a telescope are all available for check out by you, my neighbors.

Find out all about these exciting new programs and offerings by visiting www.montaguepubliclibraries.org. The libraries actively publish about events on their "Montague Public Libraries" Facebook page, too.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Música Franklin At the LAVA Center

GREENFIELD – As part of its Social Justice in the Arts and Media series, the LAVA Center will host a presentation and performance by Música Franklin students, led by executive director Orice Jenkins. The concert starts at 1 p.m. next Saturday, May 28.

Música Franklin's after-school program is based on the belief that the pursuit of musical excellence teaches students to strive for excellence in all areas of their lives. They incorporate relevant social justice topics as themes for their performances. This year's theme is a reflection on the complexity of immigration, and how to be more welcoming towards people seeking refuge, based on the fact that many of us are migrants in some way. They explore this topic by singing and playing the music of various artists from all over the world.

Jenkins, the executive director, was previously a full-time performing artist, and a manager and teaching artist at several arts education programs in New England. He has been conducting and arranging for string ensembles since he was 13 years old, and his music has been featured in publications in England, Italy, Germany, Japan, Puerto Rico, and the mainland US. Jenkins is a genealogy researcher and published author with a passion for social justice and community unification.

Seating will be limited. You can reserve a seat for the presentation with a donation or your choice, \$1 minimum, or see it for free if there are still seats available. Reserve your space at tinyurl.com/musicalava.


The LAVA Center is at 324 Main Street in Greenfield and online at localaccess.org. Everyone who comes into the Center must show proof of COVID vaccination upon entry. Presentations in the Social Justice in the Arts and Media series will be viewable online, on demand as a bundle, by making a donation at tinyurl.com/sjsaccess.




Left: A Library of Things has also been added to the offerings at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls. Right: A Seed Library table is set up at the Carnegie.

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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.



Gente de Franklin County: Teresa Córdoba

Por VICTORIA MAILLO DE AGUILERA

GREENFIELD – He decidido empezar una sección nueva de entrevistas a gente que vive en nuestra comunidad, gente normal, pero con muchas historias que contar y compartir con nuestros lectores. Gente normal, pero en algunas formas son superhéroes o superheroinas con las que nos cruzamos cada día en la calle.

Voy a empezar la sección con Teresa Córdoba, una colombiana que lleva muchos años involucrada con la comunidad latina en Franklin County.

Teresa es oriunda de la preciosa ciudad de Cali en Colombia. Llegó casi por casualidad a este país ya que su hermana había conocido a un estadounidense que trabajaba para Peace Corps en Colombia, se casó con él y volvieron a vivir a los Estados Unidos. La hermana de Teresa tuvo un bebé y llamó a su hermana para que viniera desde Colombia para ayudarla con las tareas de la casa.

En aquellos años era mucho más fácil obtener un visado para entrar desde Colombia y Teresa consiguió lo que entonces se llamaba un visado múltiple. Al principio fue bastante difícil para ella ya que no hablaba inglés, pero pronto empezó a estudiar inglés en unas clases gratuitas que se ofrecían en la Harvard y así consiguió su primer trabajo en una factoría. Más tarde fue a trabajar a un hospital y al mismo tiempo seguía con sus clases de inglés durante los fines de semana en Harvard y por las noches con clases individuales en la escuela Berlitz en Boston.

Tiene dos hijos y dos nietos que viven en los Estados Unidos.

En Colombia

Según Teresa, las cosas han cambiado mucho en Colombia desde que salió. Procura volver cada dos o tres años para ver a su familia y amigos que quedaron allí. Si puede viajar, no quiere ir a otro lugar que no sea Colombia porque me dice que Colombia lo tiene todo. Cada vez que va, visita algún lugar que no ha tenido tiempo de visitar antes, como, por ejemplo, los termales de agua tibia.

A Teresa le gusta conservar sus tradiciones colombianas, no tiene secadora para la ropa, no tiene microondas, le gusta bañarse afuera y para cocinar fuera usa carbón natural. Le encantan las arepas tradicionales colombianas, que son las que se hacen con queso.

Hablamos también de la música y la danza, de las pachangas que se organizan los fines de semana improvisadamente en su ciudad de origen, los vecinos llevan la comida y la bebida. Y si hablamos de música, no podemos olvidarnos de Carlos Vives y su música del país, música



Teresa Córdoba sentada en su jardín.

folclórica de la tierra. Por supuesto también de Shakira y Juanes.

Siente un amor increíble por su país, adora su país, pero no cree que pueda regresar a vivir allí, y ama también Massachusetts donde tiene su casa y sus raíces. Pasar tiempo allí, sí, pero no volver definitivamente a Colombia.

Ayudar al Que lo Necesite

Teresa fue muy generosa al invitarme a su bonita casa para realizar la entrevista.

Me cuenta durante nuestra charla que es importantísimo en Franklin County, un área muy rural de Massachusetts, en la que la comunidad latina está creciendo, encontrar apoyo para las personas latinas que viven en el aérea y necesitan nuestra ayuda, por ejemplo: los que no tienen documentos, sufren violencia, maltrato en el trabajo, no hablan bien inglés, quieren obtener información, discriminación por el color de la piel o por el género.

Cree que existe un gran interés de personas de diversos países de realizar una coalición con gente que quiera colaborar en que la comunidad latina tenga una voz y hacer sentir a los latinos que tienen derechos, que son importantes para esta región y que tienen valor. Solamente se necesitan personas que quieran ayudar, no importa la educación que tengan, simplemente que sepan escuchar y que tengan un gran corazón.

La pasión de Teresa es ayudar a los demás, y se emociona contándome como hay personas que quieren ayudar, pero no saben cómo, gente que quiere intentarlo. Cualquier persona, de cualquier género

o nacionalidad, es bienvenida para este sueño de proyecto que Teresa quiere poner en práctica.

Teresa lleva mucho tiempo trabajando con asociaciones sin ánimo de lucro y relacionándose con abogados, consejeros, enfermeras, trabajadores sociales, profesores, especialistas en diversos campos en las que se reunían con el objetivo de conocer nuevas ideas y proyectos como discutir nuevas leyes, nuevas restricciones y compartir soluciones. Me señala que su trabajo fue especialmente difícil durante la época de la administración Trump.

En nuestra conversación reflexionamos en que se oye menos, y hay pocas noticias en los periódicos acerca del drama en la frontera sur de Estados Unidos. Las noticias más recientes han desplazado la necesidad de ayuda a los refugiados de Afganistán y Ucrania.

Hablamos también sobre la pandemia. El COVID-19 ha dado de pleno a las personas con menos recursos en América Latina, donde el acceso a las vacunas o medicinas no es nada fácil. La enfermedad y sus consecuencias ha afectado especialmente a la salud mental de las personas con bajos recursos que no tienen acceso a buenos planes de salud y que han perdido el trabajo, muchos de ellos precarios.

Teresa se emociona contándome las condiciones en que subsisten las personas más desfavorecidas en su país que trata de ganar un dinerito vendiendo flores, o pañuelos de papel para poder comprar algo para comer.

Teresa se emociona contándome las condiciones en que subsisten las personas más desfavorecidas en su país que trata de ganar un dinerito vendiendo flores, o pañuelos de papel para poder comprar algo para comer.

Teresa me dice también lo necesario de tener empatía con las personas que tienen problemas y estar para ahí para ellos, para ir al médico, a la corte de justicia. Son personas inteligentes que no han tenido una oportunidad y que tienen miedo, y el miedo no permite realizar muchas cosas. Teresa me dice que es nuestro deber acompañar a las personas que lo necesitan.

Hablamos también de la discriminación por género y el sufrimiento por esta razón en nuestros países debido a la cultura machista que es mayoritaria en el mundo latino. La conversación deriva hacia la cultura indígena en Colombia, y Teresa me cuenta la discriminación que sufren en su país – por ejemplo, en La Guajira, un lugar cercano

a la costa atlántica, donde viven los indígenas Wayúu y es una región muy pobre. Las mochilas que aparecen en la famosa película *Encanto* de Walt Disney están basadas en su artesanía textil. Hablan la lengua Wayuunaiki y son también muy famosas sus hamacas.

Massachusetts

Su hogar ahora es Massachusetts y su vida está en Franklin County. En el lugar en que Teresa vive desde hace unos veinte años no hay muchos latinos, pero le encanta su zona y la gente que vive aquí. Teresa cree que la gente en Massachusetts es muy generosa y tiene una gran implicación con la comunidad.

Teresa pertenece al Women's Club de Deerfield. Es una asociación de mujeres del aérea de diversas profesiones, nacionalidades y razas que se reúnen una vez al mes trabajan en proyectos benéficos para conseguir becas para estudiantes, arreglos del parque con flores y decoraciones, ayudas para familias durante la Navidad, en la biblioteca y en el centro de mayores u otras necesidades que existan en su pueblo.

Organizan ventas de garaje donde la gente dona prendas de ropa, objetos de casa, libros, etc. y luego los venden por un precio módico para conseguir dinero para sus proyectos. Dos veces al año hacen también comidas comunitarias para alrededor de unas 100 personas. Antes del COVID-19 la gente iba allí para comer, pero ahora se hacen comidas para llevar.

Ha sido un placer mantener esta charla con Teresa, la primera de otras personas relacionadas con la comunidad latina que van a formar parte de esta serie de entrevistas que espero les gusten.

Inmigrant Voices vuelve al Shea después de la pandemia

Por VICTORIA MAILLO DE AGUILERA

TURNERS FALLS – “Immigrant Voices: A Celebration of Arts” regresa al teatro Shea de Turners Falls el domingo 22 de mayo a las 7 de la noche. El evento quiere subrayar la diversidad de las artes y las tradiciones artísticas representadas por inmigrantes del oeste de Massachusetts. Este año las actuaciones incluyen bailarines de Nepal, México, Colombia y El Salvador; cantantes de El Salvador y Chile; una aprendiz de poetisa de España (la que escribe estas líneas); modelos de pasarela de Kenia y mucho más...

Después de dos años en que debido a la pandemia el festival tuvo que celebrarse online, los participantes, las presentadoras, los organizadores y el público están deseando regresar al evento en persona.

Teresa Córdoba, que lleva muchos años participando en el evento, nos dice que para ella es muy emocional tomar parte en el evento. Blanca Osorio-Castillo, bailarina del grupo folclórico Tradiciones, compuesto de

educadores de Amherst Public Schools, expresa el entusiasmo que siente en participar una vez más en este fabuloso evento.

El equipo que se encarga de la tecnología en el teatro Shea, encabezado por Connor Roberge, y que han apoyado la realización de este evento que hace ya siete que tiene lugar, y Northampton Open Media están colaborando para que los que quieran verlo online puedan hacerlo.

Monte Belmonte, presidente del Shea, nos asegura que el centro escénico debe servir como espacio para este tipo de actos comunitarios y Center for New Americans quiere agradecer al teatro la oportunidad de celebrarlo aquí cada año. La audiencia generalmente está compuesta de amigos y familia de los intérpretes, trabajadores y voluntarios de Center for New Americans y miembros de la comunidad. Los que compren las entradas tienen también oportunidad de realizar una donación de entradas para los estudiantes de CNA puedan asistir al evento gratis.

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MONTAGUE from page A1

PCR tests registered in Montague had increased from 26 the previous week to 30 during the week from May 8 through May 14. Ellis pointed out that these numbers probably represent a significant undercount of cases, since they did not include popular home “rapid tests.”

Ellis said the “best news,” from a recent report on COVID cases in the Baystate hospital system, was that the total number in “critical care” was only two. (As of Tuesday it had risen to three.)

The two boards then turned to the policy implications of the new COVID wave, particularly in the town schools. Zamojski said she had gotten “multiple phone calls” from the regional school district about students testing positive and staying out of school. She later said it was up to the Gill-Montague school superintendent to make rules about mask wearing, but that “they are looking to the board of health for guidance.”

Zamojski said she felt the board of health should recommend a mask requirement in the school district “until the end of school, and get them out of school safely.” But when this was proposed in the form of a motion, Nelson said he was “not comfortable making that a requirement.”

Ellis said if the health board discussed the issue at its meeting on Wednesday, they should “invite key stakeholders to that conversation.”

Fermentation

The board discussed the parameters for a grant application, through the state Community One Stop for Growth portal, for a second study of the feasibility of a sludge-composting facility. The deadline for the application is June 3.

According to Ellis, this would look more closely at the design and cost of a facility on Sandy Lane, a location recommended by an initial study presented several weeks ago to the board, look at other potential sites in town, and begin with a robust community engagement component.

Ellis said a study that evaluated the viability of a larger facility that could process sludge for a number of towns in the region would have a better chance of being funded, but would not commit the town to that option. Selectboard member Chris Boutwell said he was “thinking about it,” but believed that a regional option should be an important part of the study.

Member Matt Lord agreed, and suggested that researchers should be “knocking on the doors” of people potentially impacted by the odor of the facility. “I’m not sure how invested I am in finding other sites,” said Lord, “but it’s not my money, so it sounds good.”

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz said Sandy Lane may prove to be the best location, but “we should cast a net around town to see if there are other potential locations.”

The board unanimously approved a motion to direct staff to

submit an application.

Expansion

Ellis began the process of hiring a full-time assistant town administrator and a part-time assistant to administrative assistant Wendy Bogusz, major expansions of town hall staff approved at the May 7 annual town meeting. He told the board that the assistant-assistant position would be covered under a union contract, and thus need to be advertised internally for five days.

The full-time assistant town administrator, meanwhile, is a non-union position, and thus may be hired internally or through an “open process” by an appointed hiring committee.

All three selectboard members said they supported an “open” process. Bogusz and capital improvements committee chair Greg Garrison were suggested for the hiring committee, which will not include members of the selectboard.

Ellis said he could give the board a slate of candidates for the committee, as well as a draft job description, at an upcoming meeting.

“We won’t be able to bring the person on much before July,” said Kuklewicz,

Transportation

Department of public works superintendent Tom Bergeron reported to the board on projected Chapter 90 state road assistance for the next fiscal year, and reviewed a spending plan for Montague’s funds.

Bergeron said the house side of the legislature had voted to level-fund the program, so he assumed the town would be receiving approximately the same as the previous year, \$487,446. But, he also noted, the town will be receiving nearly \$344,000 in emergency funds from the Winter Relief Assistance program, which much be spent by the end of the next fiscal year.

Bergeron received approval to hire Jacob Dodge for summer help, and reviewed a “pre-apprenticeship and vocational school training program” recently initiated by the state Department of Transportation in conjunction with the Franklin County Technical School,

Law Enforcement

Police chief Chris Williams came before the board with a number of staffing requests, including the hiring of a new dispatcher and the elevation of a patrol officer to a new sergeant position. Both positions were approved at the recent annual town meeting, which also voted to take the department out of civil service.

Williams recommended beginning the dispatch hiring process now, elevating a patrol officer to the sergeant position in July, and hiring a patrol replacement after the legislature has removed the town from civil service. Board members approved this scenario, but did not take a formal vote.

Development

Ellis reported somberly that he had received notification from Dr. Sohail Waien of New England Wound Care that he was withdrawing a proposed project to construct a residential-commercial building at the site of the old “Cumby’s building” on the corner of Avenue A and Second Street.

Waien’s letter informed the Montague Economic and Industrial Corporation, which controls the property, that the “project’s cost to complete does not support the resources needed to do so.”

On a more upbeat note, the board approved a liquor license transfer from Riffs Inc., the former owner of the Riff’s North restaurant at 164 Avenue A, to Hole Pie Inc., doing business as Pie Hole.

Hole Pie owner Evelyn Wulfkuhle, who also owns the restaurant Maggie in Greenfield, is in the process of purchasing the building from Riff’s under a different corporate moniker. Her attorney, Kristi Bodin, told the *Reporter* that Wulfkuhle does not intend to close Maggie. “She’s going to be busy,” said Bodin.

Ellis reviewed a report by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments on the status of “short term rentals,” such as Airbnb rentals, in Franklin County towns. Montague has seen the number increase modestly – from 13 in 2019 to 18 in 2022 – but has not imposed a tax on these rentals, as towns such as Greenfield and Deerfield have.

Ellis said this presentation was “purely informational,” and board members neither commented nor took a vote.

Other Business

RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto requested the board execute a state grant for \$1,500 to reimburse a recent banjo festival in Turners Falls. The board approved the request, and also the use of sidewalks downtown for “periodic retail sales” during summer months.

A request for the use of the bandshell at Peskeompskut Park for a series of events was also approved by the board. The events, which will also take place at Unity Park and the Montague Center Common, are funded by a state grant and a donation from the Greenfield Cooperative Bank. They include a number of music festivals, a craft fair, and movies in the park.

The board approved a request from Jason Cohen of the Heartbeat Collective for a one-day liquor license for an event at 177 Ripley Road. They also voted to observe the Juneteenth holiday on Monday, June 20 as a paid staff holiday this year, but reserve the right to bargain the off day in future negotiations with staff unions.

A modified schedule for summer selectboard meetings was also approved. The next selectboard meeting will be on Monday, May 23.

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

Here’s the way it was on May 17, 2012: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Crane Removal Adds Another Hurdle at Usher Mill

The town of Erving recently acquired the Usher Mill property on Arch Street for back taxes, and now the town is preparing to move forward with the demolition of most of the remaining buildings and the cleanup of the site. A giant crane left behind by former owner, Patriots Environmental, has raised another hurdle to the town’s cleanup of the property.

Why did the former owner leave the crane on site? The town has already entertained bids from two scrap dealers for dismantling the crane, or hauling it away.

A call to the offices of Patriots Environmental, a salvage firm in Worcester, led to this comment from owner Ron Bussier: “We’d be happy to finish taking down the building, remediate the site and give the lot to the town, but with the asbestos, and the town being too difficult to deal with, and the taxes and all...” Bussier left that thought hanging, and said, “We’re taking the crane out sometime this week; that’s up to our guys when they can do it.”

He added, “Our attorneys are talking to their attorneys, so we’ll leave it at that.”

Equi’s Candy Store ‘On Hold’ for Now

Equi’s.

The very name on the sign on the candy shop on Avenue A in Turners Falls brings fond memoirs to mind. Begun by John Equi and later

run by Ed McCray and his wife Margie, who inherited it from her parents, the shop was a busy place. The McCrays made candy in big copper kettles in the back room at the rear of the ice cream parlor. Delicious peanut brittle, taffy, candy of hardened molasses foam, candy canes, and all manner of chocolates were just a few of the handmade delights they conjured in that workshop in the back room.

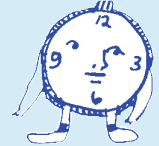
Up front, the shop also offered commercial penny candy and bulk candy by the pound. Tobacco, cigarettes and cigars, as well as newspapers were on sale. A steady stream of customers plied the store for Sunday papers after church services. Equi’s was a busy place.

Ed McCray worked for the state in the traffic division during the day, and at the store evenings. When he retired from his job with the state, the McCrays sold the shop to James and Kathleen Parent. The Parents resumed candy making, but Jimmy died and Kathy married Donald Brown. The Browns ran the shop while living in Gill, for a while, before selling the shop to Walter Williams and retiring to Cape Cod.

This week, the sign on the door says *Closed*, the candy counters are cleaned out, and rumors swirl like the patterns on the multi-colored candy canes school children used to peer at with their noses pressed against the cool display panes. Perhaps a restaurant may soon be established in the old store front.

But Williams insists the candy store is not closed for good.

“I don’t want to kill the dream,” he added. Generations of children who eagerly begged pennies from their parents for a piece of toffee or a square of fudge nod their heads in silent agreement.



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ERVING from page A1

this year. While that made clear Erving town employees will be getting an effective pay cut this year, it did satisfy the questioner.

Another resident, who had previously been very outspokenly wary of the prospect of affordable housing coming to town, asked why the town administrator Bryan Smith and fire chief Philip Wonkka were both getting more than 10% raises.

Jacob Smith replied that the selectboard had spent some time on that issue this year, and felt that both the town administrator and fire chief should be paid even more for the work they do, but the agreed-upon amounts in the budget are what the town can afford to pay them.

Article 13, to appropriate a total of \$637,000 for various capital improvements, and also elicited a question about inflation: would the agreed upon amounts be enough, given inflation?

Jacob Smith said that most of those line items had provisional contracts in place, but agreed that it is an issue, and said that everyone is hoping for the best.

One of those line items is \$50,000 to try to locate a suitable site for a new town cemetery, the current one is almost full. The largest, for \$250,000, was to cover the reconstruction on Bridge Street.

A separate article, Article 15, authorized borrowing \$1.6 million to rebuild the bridge on Church Street. Funding for Erving Elementary School (\$3.33 million), high school tuition (\$1.48 million), and the Franklin County Technical School assessment (\$530,875) all passed unanimously as well.

A set of updates to the zoning bylaws, as recommended by the planning board, passed. Three- and four-unit residences will now be allowed by special permit within the Village Residential and French King districts, and two-unit homes can be built by right in Village Residential and Central Village.

The meeting concluded with a question from a resident about the progress of the suicide prevention project at the French King Bridge.

Peabody made a joke about the matter, which he immediately regretted and apologized for. Jacob Smith noted that the remark was in very bad taste. Following the meeting, both published letters to the public expanding their positions, Peabody to further his apology, and Smith to apologize for not better calling out the remark in the moment, and express sympathy with those who have experienced trauma related to the bridge. "The Town stands in solidarity with those advocating for the barriers and is committed to seeing this project through to fruition," he wrote.

Bryan Smith, the town administrator, explained at the meeting that the work on the bridge is expected to start this summer, even though all bids for it came in above what the state had allotted for it. The state, he said, is trying to find the rest of the money.

The annual meeting was recorded by Bernardston-Northfield Community Television and is available for viewing via YouTube.



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MAY 19, 2022

Ed Gregory reports: "Preliminary work began last week for the new pedestrian bridge that will be erected parallel to the south side of the Fifth Street vehicular bridge in Turners Falls. The Turners Falls water department is installing a section of 12-inch-diameter pipe that includes a large valve system. This conduit will tie into the water pipe that will be attached to the footbridge."

Phyllis Kornfeld Curates 'Cellblock Visions'

The educator gathered work from incarcerated people over four decades.

By NATHAN FRONTIERO

NORTHAMPTON – The monstrosity of the carceral system is how it denies human beings the very community that could provide a path to betterment. Amidst that reality, Phyllis Kornfeld might be called an agent of healing.

A western Massachusetts-based artist and educator, Kornfeld has taught art to incarcerated people for 39 years. *Cellblock Visions*, the new exhibition she curated at A.P.E. Ltd. Gallery, comprises paintings, illustrations, and mixed media artwork Kornfeld collected from student artists she taught while working in jails and prisons around the United States.

"I knew each of these artists in the context of conducting art classes in jails and prisons around the country," Kornfeld writes in her curator



Braulio Diez, Condominium, acrylic on vinyl window shade. *Cellblock Visions* curator Phyllis Kornfeld met Diez in Oklahoma in 1983, when her work teaching art classes for incarcerated people began.

statement. "On my first day, Oklahoma, 1983, Braulio Diez brought in an armload of exquisite art made with pencil stubs and paper from the trash. I was told he made art 24/7.

The other men and women whose art is here had not encountered much art, if at all, in their adult lives."

These works represent not only see **VISIONS** page B3



MONTV / MUSIK / MOUNTAIN

The Lovelight Sisters, A Day For Fainting Fairies

(Sedimental Records DVD+CD, 2022)

MYSTRA REVIEWS #8

Review by TROY C. & JOSH B.

TURNERS FALLS – This week, Troy and JB talk about the exciting new release by the Lovelight Sisters. If you live around these parts and haven't heard about the Lovelights yet, you must really be under a rock or something! They have events pretty often, even taking over Peskeompsk Park with mermaids, mermen, music including tuba playing, and the brightest clothes you can imagine.

The Lovelights are a kind of collective, but Bev Ketch and Hannah Brookman from Looky Here seem to be the real masterminds behind them. Some great, well-known musicians are also involved, including Ruth Garbus, Wednesday Knudsen, and Jeremy Pisani.

It's hard to put this all into words, but check them out! There are some great YouTube's, and this brand new release on the Sedimental label goes way beyond. It really documents the LL movement in a great way,

see **LOVELIGHTS** page B4



By CASEY WAIT

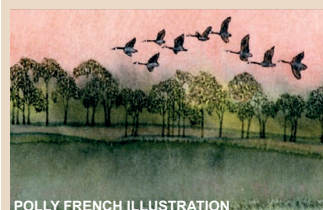
TURNERS FALLS – In the weeks since I last wrote, COVID-19 cases have continued to rise, locally and globally. Franklin County is currently experiencing "high community levels," a CDC metric which measures COVID-19

hospitalizations in a community rather than number of cases. What this means is there are likely many more cases than reported, because not everyone who gets COVID-19 requires hospitalization. Don't forget, mild cases – even asymptomatic cases – still carry with them the risk of Long Covid and further-

ing community spread.

I've lost track of what "wave" we are currently on, but it feels important to lay out the state of things and clear up some common public health misconceptions. Frankly, the CDC has failed in its mandate to educate the public on best practices over the course of the pandemic. So much so that I think it's fair to say they have blood on their hands. Unfortunately, the public has been left to sort through conflicting information on social media, sometimes with dire consequences.

Vaccines, while highly effective see **FRIEND** page B2



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

THIS TIME OF LILACS

By DAVID BRULE

THE FLAT, ERVINGSIDE – This month of May, and indeed this whole springtime of 2022, has been a tease. A few nights ago, we had our perhaps last frost, and within a day the afternoon temperatures reached the 80s. Before that, a chill stiff wind had been blowing for a week, even sending a few snowflakes past the windshield as we headed out across the Montague Plains to the shops downtown.

The *first of May* dawned bright and chill. Then, we were still at the first of the greening. Sparse grass across the backyard would eventually green up by itself, never having been treated with the chemicals that make for golf-course perfection. The bees, birds, and insects appreciate that. They thrive in a natural site in cybernetic harmony with us. We've got an organic backyard, and most feathered and furred visitors seem at home here.

Yet, so far, bird traffic seems to be the same as all winter. Redwings appeared on time in late February, and migrants are otherwise few and far between. Squabbling rag-picking English sparrows, no class at all, ruffians to the core, are pulling Siberian husky hair shed last summer from the picnic basket hung from one of the woodshed beams. That basket has been visited all along by chickadees and titmice too, carrying off strands of the hair of the dog to line their nests in some snug hole in a tree trunk yonder.

The goose couple from the marsh we call the Beaver Hole honk low over the yard twice a day on their wing-stretching flight to relieve the monotony of incubating and guarding over their nest on the beaver lodge. They trumpet in triumph as though the dawn of creation was breaking and they were the bearers of that Good News. It is said that they pull downy feathers over their eggs when they go off to take a break from their long vigilance.

The quince bush is just beginning to flower, and the first pioneering hummingbirds shouldn't be too far behind. They've got to time it just right. With ice still forming in the bird bath overnight, the hummers can't afford to get too chilled, given the amount of energy they consume daily. They've been known to sink into a state of torpor when the temperature drops too low.

The first black bear of May came through the neighborhood last night. He followed his usual route, crushing fences, tipping over bird feeders, taking his big bear calling-card dump on the back lawn before going off to hole up in the

woods to sleep it off until nighttime. The May Day fiddlers and dancers over in Montague Center welcomed in the springtime on this beautifully sunny May First. The Montague Fiddler, David Kaynor, was on everyone's mind, his lanky persona and constant smile sorely missed and fondly remembered by us all.

Our own family gathered on the back porch that Sunday to remember our own grandfather Abe, born on the first day of May here in this house in 1896. Abe always said he was born in a May basket. He would have been tickled to know that his great-great grand daughters Ada and Lucy were part of the birthday party at the Old House. We set the table with shot glasses of whisky for all the adults, including the long-gone Abe. Since he wasn't there to toss back his birthday shot, we did it for him!

By *May 4*, we've had three days of gentle rain like in the Irish blessing, and now bright sunshine. It has begun flowering the blossoms on all the flowering trees, all at once. Pink dogwood, crimson crabapple, the promise of July cherries on the white-blossoming cherry tree, the shadblow now fading after having announced the migration of shad approaching, the lilac buds swelling, not yet opening.

The avian migration floodgates have opened by now, and our migrants, as well as summer residents, have begun checking in. The rose-breasted grosbeak, the chattering, persistently sly and flirtatious catbird, flounce through the backyard.

The chimney swifts have returned to their age-old haunts above the Millers Falls village. There are still welcoming chimneys up there in the old town. The swifts know their old skyscape territories well and speed through the familiar air like little rockets, chattering and playing in their joy of speed and flight.

Once again, big Awashooks the black bear has shambled in during the night, pushing over fences, raiding the neighbors' birdfeeders and front porches, hungry as a bear after a long winter's sleep. He stole a bag of holly bush fertilizer from our front porch, he was so hungry. He ripped it open at the end of the sidewalk and left it there, disgusted. The contents were too dry and too bitter, not what he was expecting.

He trudged off into the lower pasture, leaving me to scrape up the contents and spread them under the holly.

see **WEST ALONG** page B6

Pet of the Week



CAMODY COLLAGE

“MICAHA”

As you would expect from a nice Saint Bernard, Micah's personality is very calm, loving, and lazy. He is housetrained, knows “sit” and “paw,” and gets A+ for his leash manners. Micah has lived with children, a cat, and a teacup chihuahua.

Pictures have trouble capturing his size. Micah is 30 inches at the shoulder, so not a giant Saint Bernard. Because the breed average lifespan is 8 to 10 years, his pre-

vious family wanted to ensure he lived a healthy life, so they kept him very lean and gave him plenty of exercise. He is 127 pounds.

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

Senior Center Activities MAY 23 THROUGH 27

WENDELL

Foot care clinic the first Wednesday of each month. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments. Senior Health Rides are now available. Contact Jonathan von Ranson at (978) 544-3758 to set up a ride.

LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held on Zoom on Wednesdays. Foot Care Clinic is held monthly. For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 2, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

Monday 5/23

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

Tuesday 5/24

10 a.m. Tuesday Morning Knitters
1 p.m. Chair Yoga
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 5/25

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 5/26

1 p.m. Cards & Games
5 p.m. Meditation for Seniors (pre-register)

Friday 5/27

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Pizza Party

ERVING

Erving Senior Center is open 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Open for cards, coffee, and snacks daily.

Brown Bag lunch is the first Thursday of each month. Veterans Services the first Wednesday of each month. Erving van services available: Must call 24 hours in advance for a ride to any scheduled appointment. For more information, please call (413) 423-3649.

Monday 5/23

9 a.m. Interval
10:15 a.m. Stretch & Infusion

Tuesday 5/24

9 a.m. Good for U
10 a.m. Line Dancing

Wednesday 5/25

9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact
10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics
12 p.m. BYO Lunch to Bingo

Thursday 5/26

9 a.m. Core & Balance

10 a.m. Barre Fusion

Friday 5/27

Quilting & Open Sewing

FACES & PLACES



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Left to right: Santo Taco owner Ivette Mateos, Musica Franklin board member Haley Anderson, Greenfield Cooperative Bank president Tony Warden, RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto, Paul Richardson of Human Error Publishing, and Nolumbeka Project president David Brule celebrate a contribution by the bank to the town of Montague's cultural “Summer Series.”

FRIEND from page B1

and something I implore you to get, are not and have never been a silver bullet in terms of defeating the pandemic. In order for vaccines to be truly effective, it is imperative to use as many layered non-pharmaceutical interventions as possible – paid shutdowns, mask mandates, social distancing, paid sick leave, etc. Without these measures community spread will continue unabated, and the virus will be given many chances to mutate into more lethal and/or more transmissible variants, as we have seen time and again over the last two-plus years. Each new mutation risks weakening vaccine efficacy.

Since vaccine rollout, there have been an estimated 100,000 breakthrough deaths in the United States. It has become almost taboo to mention breakthrough deaths, for fear of giving the anti-vaxx community more ammunition in their crusade.

But pinning these deaths solely on the unvaccinated misses a crucial lesson: This is not a “pandemic of the unvaccinated.” Abandoning public health measures like masking and work-from-home options gave this virus many chances to evade the vaccine's protections. Because of this, both vaccinated and unvaccinated people have died.

Being fully vaccinated, perhaps even boosted or double-boosted, does not mean you can go on about your business anxiety free. Given where we are in terms of communi-

ty levels, the CDC strongly recommends mask wearing in all indoor public settings.

Yet somehow many of the people who I've spoken with about this in Franklin County have been shocked to hear things are this bad. There has been little, if any, communication from local public health officials to make sure the public knows we should be taking precautions to halt community spread.

Another common misconception asserts you can count on “natural immunity” to COVID-19 if you've already been infected. This is just flat out not true. Having “natural immunity” and being vaccinated doesn't mean you can't contract the virus, either. I've heard relatives and friends express the belief that they were safe because of these fallacies – and who could blame them? Lifting the mask mandate nearly a year ago, before the majority of the United States (let alone the rest of the world) had received even their first jab, the CDC as good as told the public they were “in the clear.”

Perhaps the most tragic of all the “COVID myths” is that children either don't get the virus or, if they do, it's usually quite mild. According to the CDC's own data, more than 1,000 children have died of the virus in the United States since the start of the pandemic. This should be front-page news, and yet if it's mentioned at all it tends to be trivialized. Many more children have been contracting the virus – a study by the Children's Hospital Asso-

ciation reported that as of April 14, 19% of all COVID-19 cases in America were in children.

This is certainly an undercount, given that many public testing sites have been closed since the end of March. Children are still at risk of contracting and spreading the virus. Of the kids who survive an infection, a significant number may become disabled from the impact on their immune systems.

I beg you: Mask in public! COVID-19 is not the flu. Even if you assume you're safe, think about the vulnerable and those too young to get vaccinated. And bear in mind, if you get lucky with a mild case, this virus is still too new and unwieldy for us to know its impacts on the body a year or more after contracting it. Lives have been and will continue to be cut short by this illness until and unless we give COVID-19 fewer chances to spread and mutate. Many CVS stores are handing out free N95s – hit up your local store and get a couple!

This month, the United States officially hit one million people killed by COVID-19. Of those, 100,000 were people who may have thought they were safe because they were vaccinated. More than 1,000 were children. Every life lost is a tragedy and an outrage.

To borrow phrasing from ACT UP! activist David Wojnarowicz: If I die of COVID-19, forget burial – just drop my body on the steps of the CDC,

Your Sick Friend



EXHIBIT ANNOUNCEMENT

A ‘BeeLine’ for the Bee Fest

GREENFIELD – Exploded View welcomes visitors to their new installation, “BeeLines,” at the Pushkin on the corner of Federal and Main Streets in Greenfield this Saturday, May 21, in conjunction with Greenfield's annual Bee Festival. The Bee Festival is in its 12th year celebrating the work of Lorenzo Langstroth, father of modern beekeeping, and offering fun experiences that incorporate learning about the essential role of the honeybee in sustaining the environment.

BeeLines is an interactive installation within the Pushkin building where visitors are invited to immerse themselves in the sweet, short lives of bees. There will be an observation hive, an oracular hive experience called “Ask the Bees,” listening cells, button making, bee anatomy coloring pages, and some fun photo ops.

An hour-long preview of the installation will be held this Friday, May 20 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., and the main event runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 21. Christian McEwen and her Giant Listening Ear will be also available between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

In the evening on Saturday, BeeLines will be open again from 6 to 7:30 p.m. before “Trance,” a solo performance featuring guitarist John Sheldon, which starts at 8 p.m. Although admission to BeeLines is



Visitors to the Pushkin in 2019 listen to recordings inside one of Exploded View's “listening cells.”

free, with donations encouraged, Sheldon's performance requires tickets via the Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center ([visit hawksandreed.com](http://www.hawksandreed.com)).

Exploded View is a group of four local artists and writers: Edite Cunhã, Trish Crapo, Nina Rossi, and Samantha Wood. See the “Exploded View” Facebook page for information about BeeLines and other projects by the group.

To learn about other Bee Fest events, visit greenfieldbeefest.org.

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VISIONS from page B1

a variety of aesthetic sensibilities but also, by virtue of Kornfeld's teaching and curation, a cumulative rejection of the inhumane moral dismissal the carceral system asks people on the outside to make of those inside.

"I am not so much a teacher as an excavator, digging for gold," Kornfeld continues in her statement. "One after the other, the artists tapped into a part of themselves that hadn't had much opportunity up until then to express its goodness. This art proves that the unlimited, very human capacity to create beauty and goodness exists in all of us, no less in an incarcerated person, and can be elicited just as violence can."

Kornfeld approaches her students – who do not have any previous artistic experience – from a place of firm encouragement rather than direct instruction. She does not advise any of the artists she works with toward any particular techniques, and says she only provides feedback as to whether a work is or isn't finished, without directing students how to go about finishing a given piece.

In an artist talk she gave at the gallery last Saturday, Kornfeld referred to basic ground rules for her workshops. No student can make personal comments or critique or use their art to simply express their own feelings, and visual cliché is staunchly off limits. A standard of cooperative behavior is expected. Space is minimal, usually four or five people per workshop, and there's always a waiting list, so the students that join her courses are committed to the process – and to Kornfeld's expectations.

"I'm very strict and very firm, and they value that," Kornfeld says.

The visions that have resulted from these workshops range from evocative illustrations in ballpoint pen (one of the only materials available in many prisons; Kornfeld often provides her own supplies to students) to kaleidoscopic renderings of the prison environment, the artists' communities, and even religious visuals. The exhibit itself is grouped by artist, each offering additional insights into their process or perspective.

Michael Iovieno, whose work includes an intense, dreamlike

ballpoint pen rendering of a county fair, describes his work thus: "Most ask, what is it? Some others who have seen them look at me kind of funny. I played it off like I smoked a lot of pot before I drew them but I didn't. They've called it 'bugged-out' shit, which I like the label. Just to see someone struggle to make sense out of it is fun."

Iovieno, who has since "been a free citizen, successfully, for many years, still making art," according to his artist statement, also makes the following distinction for viewers looking at his work on the outside: "I don't want people to look at my work because I'm incarcerated, and I hope that people view me as a person of some value, not just as a prisoner."

As Kornfeld expresses in her talk, the inherent human well of creative inspiration runs deeper than the specificity of any individual story. "They have different education, opportunities, life experiences, but the source is the same," she says.

Crystal Stimpson, an artist who served 27 years and who was still on parole eight years after release when she died from Hepatitis C, which she contracted in prison, made a similar point on the connective power of art in her statement:

"I can have a conversation with anyone, a banker or professor, and if we talk about the rose design tooled on his saddle or the craft project his grandchild made, I don't feel like an outsider," Stimpson wrote. "My experience with art allows me to connect with different kinds of people, sometimes I can even teach them."

"The discovery that I can do something good has enormous impact not only on the discoverers – it spreads to their peers, families, children and especially their communities, and all of us," Kornfeld reflects in her own statement. "These artists did their work with care and passion. They trusted something, an unseen guide. Their artwork is beautiful in its sincerity even where the truth is painful to see. Art has always had the power to transform lives. It's never too late."

Cellblock Visions, *curated by Phyllis Kornfeld, is on view at the A.P.E. Ltd. Gallery, 126 Main Street, Northampton, until May 29. The gallery is open from 12 to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays, and from 12 to 8 p.m. on Fridays. Admission is free.*



Collaboration, Prison Art Class, mixed media. Kornfeld did not direct her students toward any particular techniques, instead only urging them away from visual clichés or from limiting themselves to expressions of their feelings.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Sad Bunnies; Intense Nights At Gas Station; Stolen Ashes; Landlord Suspected of Identity Theft; Two Stolen Bikes

Monday, 5/9

9:01 a.m. Assisting with getting vehicles moved for a detail on Avenue A.

9:17 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street has four baby bunnies in his yard. It appears the mother was killed by a hawk. Animal control officer will respond to pick up the bunnies.

10:15 a.m. 911 caller on the river in the area of Barton Cove reports smoke and fire in the area of West Camp Road. Transferred to Shelburne Control.

1:11 p.m. Caller reports seeing two males slip through the gate and go into the big brick tank at the old Indeck plant on Canal Road.

5:58 p.m. Caller reporting that a woman on a bicycle wearing a red pullover hit her parked car on Second Street and took out her side mirror. Caller stated she tried getting the woman's attention, but she took off to the bike path. Situation mediated.

6:25 p.m. Caller reporting a couple of kids on BMX bikes hopping on the benches and sculptures at Avenue A and Third Street. Officer advises he spoke with the individuals and moved them along.

7:37 p.m. 911 caller reporting unwanted person on L Street. Involved male found to have two active warrants. State police coming to assist; meeting at Food City. Unable to locate.

8:03 p.m. Greenfield PD requesting assistance on Turners Falls Road in their town. 14-year-old female called 911 stating her mom got out of the vehicle to find her phone and left her and her three-month-old sister in the car, and it's been 40 minutes.

All units tied up on another call. GPD advised that someone will be coming to the station to report a stolen cell phone.

8:33 p.m. Caller reporting that her cell phone was stolen earlier today at Walmart in Hadley; the Find My Phone feature states that the phone is mapping to Third Street. Officer advises he recovered the property and will be meeting the owner to give it back. The caller does not want to press charges.

Tuesday, 5/10

12:42 a.m. 911 caller from FL Roberts states that a female just came into the store and stated she had been assaulted and held prisoner. Caller states the female is refusing the need for medical assistance at this time; just wants to speak with an officer. Caller advises he has the store locked down as she stated she was in danger. Officer requesting two additional officers from Greenfield PD or MSP. GPD and MSP *en route*. Departments advised to be on lookout for involved male for arrest. Courtesy transport provided for female party. MSP does have a K9 officer on and will be *en route* to the area.

12:58 p.m. 911 caller from Eleventh Street reports that his ex threw his belongings on the lawn and is now smashing things in his room. Parties have been separated. Male left for work.

3:37 p.m. 911 caller reporting that a female party is hitting her; she can be heard in the background yelling. Officer advises female party gone on arrival; situation mediated.

6:24 p.m. Caller reporting that a baby blue Mustang hit the rock wall at the four-way intersection at Bridge Street, backed up, hit it again, and then continued up Bridge Street toward Wendell. Referred to an officer.

8:51 p.m. Caller requesting assistance; he is locked behind the gate on Migratory Way. Services rendered.

9:36 p.m. Caller is locked behind the gate on Migratory Way and is requesting assistance. Services rendered.

Wednesday, 5/11

12:13 a.m. Caller from N Street states that the neighbors left the dog out again and it has been whining for a number of hours. Caller called back stating the dog is still tied out and whining. Copy of call left for ACO.

10:45 a.m. Caller has serious concerns after learning that her landlord may have falsely used her identity. Advised of options; referred to an officer.

12:19 p.m. Party into station to report that a male just stole ashes that were in a glass vase from her home.

2:55 p.m. DCF employee in the lobby reporting a missing/runaway juvenile who ran off with some other kids. Party entered into NCIC; possibly going to be at a Fourth Street address for the night. Investigated.

Thursday, 5/12

9:59 a.m. Caller states they have been trying to reach a male who still has a key to one of the schools; he was supposed to return the key by noon on Monday, and he has not done so as of yet. Caller requesting an officer attempt to make contact and get the key. Officer attempted to make contact; no answer at the door.

10:21 a.m. Caller from Third Street states someone took her brand-new silver and black bicycle cover sometime between 6:30 and 8 a.m. Referred to an officer.

7:27 p.m. Caller requesting traffic enforcement on Third Street between the gas station and the red light during day and evening shifts. Caller states cars are "flying" up and down the street all day and night. Caller also states there is a loose manhole cover in the road and there is a loud thinking noise when cars drive over it. Officer states he already put in a work order to have the cover fixed; requests another call be placed to DPW.

11:18 p.m. Suspicious person reported on Randall Road. Area search negative.

3:19 a.m. Cashier from FL Roberts advises a male party in his 50s walked into the store covered in blood and attempted to make a purchase. The caller refused the money, which was soaked in blood; the male then became aggressive and made a threat before leaving. Caller states male left on a purple bike headed towards Fourth Street and had blood under his sweatshirt and on his hands and face; face described as "leathery." Area checked; red bike located on Fifth Street; did not appear to have been used recently; no blood in area.

4:19 a.m. Suspicious person reported on Randall Road. Area negative.

7:38 a.m. Caller states that his 26-inch electric bike was stolen from behind Between the Uprights last night. It was locked up; the lock was cut. Referred to an officer.

11:55 a.m. Caller states that a motorcyclist crashed at Millers Falls and West Mineral Roads. Operator is standing but looks like he may be injured. Ambulance request made by dispatch to Shelburne Control. Officer requesting tow for motorcycle. Report taken.

8:14 p.m. Suspicious activity reported on Randall Road. Unfounded.

Sunday, 5/15

1:31 a.m. Suspicious person reported on Randall Road. Area search negative.

8:06 a.m. Caller reporting vandalism to the message board at Unity Park; glass from the message board is in the playground. Report taken.

5:15 p.m. Caller reporting that his cousin came to his house with a baseball bat and was threatening him. When he got the phone to call the police, the cousin took off and stated that he was going to be back when their grandmother wasn't home. Officer advises they made contact with the involved party and advised him to stay away from the caller, and he agreed. He did not have a baseball bat in his possession. Officer spoke with caller and his mother; story is unclear, but they have all been advised of their options.

10:34 p.m. Caller reporting that someone threatened him on Facebook in a comment on one of his posts in regard to the earlier situation with the caller's cousin. Officer tried phone number provided by caller multiple times, but it is unreachable. Caller at station to speak to an officer; he ran out of minutes on his phone. Officer advised caller of his options and advised him again to stop contacting the other party.

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LOVELIGHTS from page B1

both sonically and visually. Find them online to order a copy... or to invite them to tea – who knows who will show up!

JB: Troy, have you checked out the Lovelights release yet?

TC: I'm going to watch the DVD tonight, and give the disc another listen now. I'm psyched.

JB: Oh, cool.

TC: They did such a lovely job on this recording. The lineup on here, and the beauty of each track, is really over the moon! I love "Tea Party," too. The whole, as one composition, all fits together.

The "Lovelights Theme" is glorious, absolutely stunning! I hope a lot of people get to hear how magically beautiful this recording is, Josh. It's a fave. This is a really incredible recording. And it's incredibly special.

I'm going through the whole album again from start to finish. It reminds me of a film score or composition, but to say that would give the wrong impression – this is its own thing. It's a really beautifully crafted album, full of gem after gem of songs that really capture that "Western Mass Magical Forest!" I

really hope people get to hear this.

JB: It's so great, right? I knew you would be into it. I listened to it today, too. There is so much talent involved...

TC: In the Lovelights? Yes. The first track is my fave, too.

JB: I think Bev should be the next president!

TC: It's an instant favorite.

JB: Have you watched the DVD?

TC: I'm going to a little later.

JB: I saw the original screening, in a old church downtown. It was a really fun event... "fun" is a big aspect of the Lovelights.

TC: Wow, you saw the film screened? Very cool. This is an epic project. They really knocked it outta the ballpark.

JB: Did you hear the Jeremy Pisani tracks? He did the great Red Favorite LP.

TC: I'm going to watch it now. The two Pisani tracks are lovely, Josh. I have that Red Favorite, it's lovely.

JB: I'm watching now... one of my paintings is in it! Also the MR newspaper building and Mike Jackson are in it. Did we ever talk about the band 'Feathers'?

TC: Oh wonderful. No, not a lot. Their track on here is great.

JB: They were a really good band from out

here, I was at a few of their earliest shows. They had one LP and two CD-Rs, but live was even better. Later they morphed into like five groups or solo artists, including Meara O'Reilly.

TC: Oh, wild. Meara was in the band? It says Kurt Weisman, too, maybe this is when you had mentioned Feathers. They put a lot of work into this. There are so many involved – Josh, I really hope more people get to hear how beautiful this is. I wish Kurt sang more.

JB: Yeah!

TC: It's really so lovely, this whole disc, from start to finish. I can't imagine how much work went into this. The thing is that it sounds so beautiful, it has a wild synchronicity. I'm going to start the film now.

JB: And a lot of work went into it, but it seems so playful and fun to watch.

I'm watching the part with the kid flying over this whole area, with a pollinator bug. It's cool people are more in harmony with bees, etc., lately. I wonder what the Lovelights will do next...

TC: Ok, booting this up now. This is very magical! And I mean like real magic. Bardo matrix action... Whatever you want to call it. And the animation art on this is phenomenal.

JB: Did you see Wednesday [Knudsen] is

in this?

TC: I saw Wednesday, too!

It seems like a movement or something maybe? Kind of beyond hippy...

It really reminds me of what Genesis P-Orridge talks about here: "The P-Orridgean philosophy is basically a holistic approach that could be shamanic, Buddhist, Santeria, Vodun, or stemming from western magicians like Aleister Crowley and Austin Osman Spare. Arguing that it was all essentially the same, Gen integrated ingredients of infinite intelligence, and cooked up a masterful and tasty dish for others as much as for he/rself."

A similar spirit here, but its own magical thing for sure, creating its own world. So it's truly magical, Josh.

I think it's beyond hippy or punk. It's a kind of focused magic, and more like Burroughs and Gysin. I don't associate it with what people call "hippy." Plus, as we spoke about, there is the dark hippy side, too, not the utopian. It's an identity.

This seems pretty amorphous, but I like the mystery of it. What do you think?

JB: Yeah, I think you nailed it, in a way. It's hard to put into words, for sure.



SCENE REPORT

Earth Day 2022

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I have been to the Energy Park in Greenfield a couple of times for events they were having there. One time was for a concert they were doing as part of their summer concert series.

When it was decided they would do something this year for Earth Day, I decided to check it out. It was a tree-planting event with a few other things involved. Various tables were there connected to environmental organizations. One was the Greenfield Garden Club, and another was the Wendell State Forest Alliance.

An interesting-looking musical act showed up. They were people in fancy shirts and pants, dancing to a tuba being played. They turned out to be the Morris Dancers, who I knew were going to be part of

this event. They continued to be interesting-looking by doing some things with wooden sticks in their hands, and also doing some dancing with handkerchiefs in their hands. A drum was played during that one, along with a flute. It all sounded unique, and the crowd of people seemed to enjoy them.

David Brule of the Nolumbeka Project did a land acknowledgment at the event, which was an acknowledgment that this is all Native American land, and some kind of thank you. The thank-yous were towards nature, I believe, which people nicely applaud to.

Another musical act there was an artist named Annie Hasset. She sang a song with the Greenfield Choir, and she played the guitar decently. The song sounded like something that would be heard at a

peace march or during the '60s. The choir sang nicely in sync with her.

Another speaker named Thomas S. Curran spoke about land conservation and some of the work he has done with it. I believe people found him interesting, and that also got a nice amount of applause.

Lynn Benander of People's Solar Fund spoke about the benefits of solar energy to communities and the poor. She mentioned how it improves lives for the better. She sounded really enthusiastic about it.

An Earth Day proclamation was then read, which sounded like a poem. A parade happened before the tree planting, where people got into a circle. Then they planted the trees.

People seem to enjoy everything about this event, including the groups they had tables for at the park.

I enjoyed the event. It wasn't boring – my attention was held by it. Other people there also looked like they had their attention held by it as well. They appeared to also enjoy the proclamation very much. It was a nice, sunny Earth Day.

EXHIBITS

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Cast of Swans.* Works on paper by printmaker and painter Karen Axtell. Through June 1. Reception Saturday, May 28 at 1 p.m.

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Fabric Art: Simplicity, Color, Motion,* floor-to-ceiling quilts and textiles by Dona "Holly" Hall. Through May.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *INteRtiNE,* drawings and paintings by Desi Lowit. Through May.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Tom Swetland.* Collage, assemblage, mixed media, and junk sculpture of assembled found objects by self-taught artist and former Federal Street Bookstore owner Swetland. Through May. *Struggle and Hope: Documenting Modern America,* photography by Alphonso Neal showing social justice movements in the US and Mexico. May 20, 5 to 8 p.m. and May 21, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Hawks & Reed Ballroom, Greenfield: *Submerged, an oceanic art odyssey* by mother and son artists Nina Rossi and Jon Bander. Mixed media, soft sculpture, paintings, welded metal sculpture, and ceramic works. Through June 15.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *SEWN,* improvisational quilts by Sheryl Stroud; *Visual Sampler,* paintings by Louise Minks. Through May.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield: *Photography,* by New England photographers. Through June 12.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *2022 Quilt Group Show,* quilts by Timna Tarr, Lee Sproull, Carson Converse, Wen Redmond, Sarah Stroud, Ann Brauer, Carol Anne Grotrian, and Audrey Hyvonen. Through June 27.

Shelburne Arts Coop Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Grace in Motion: From the Beat of the Hoof to the Beat of the Drum,* paintings by Fabio and Sara Deponte. Through May.

Local Art Gallery, Mill District, Amherst: *Valley Artist Portraits.* Isabella Dellolio photographed 20 local artists for a project putting their portraits on Valley Bike kiosks. Meet these artists at a reception this Friday, May 20, from 4 to 7 p.m. Portraits on view through August 31.

Greenfield Savings Bank, Amherst: *History in the Making,* hooked rugs and wall hangings. Chris Pellerin's rugs range in style from floral to landscape, abstract to realistic, Art Nouveau-inspired to original designs. Through May.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Cold Water and Millicent: Nancy Meagher.* Oil paintings of water and color pencil drawings from her historical fiction book for children, featuring a fish named Millicent. Through May 28.

A.P.E. Gallery, Northampton: *Phyllis Kornfeld's Cellblock Visions.* Kornfeld's collection of artwork created by incarcerated people she has worked with since 1983. Through May 29.

Anchor House of Artists, Northampton: *Drawing with Light,* photograms by Bill Arnold; *The Kurds,* paintings by Charles Miller; *Peace Song Art,* paintings by Robert Markey; *Like Lace,* new work by Beth Ann Bezio; *A Peaceful Place,* paintings by Emerald Glenn. All through May 31.

Battleboro Museum & Art Center: Work by M. Carmen Lane, Roberto Visani, Yvette Molina, Mildred Beltré Martnez, Sachiko Akiyama, Louisa Chase, and Anne Spalter. Information at www.battleboromuseum.org.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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The *Montague Reporter* is looking for volunteers to help us curate this ongoing listing. Interested parties may contact editor@montaguereporter.org.

THURSDAY, MAY 19

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Ditrani Brothers, Holy Locust, Morgan O'Kane*. \$. 8 p.m.

THURS-SUN, MAY 19-22

Nova Arts, Keene: *The Thing in the Spring* feat. *Sammus, Lee Ranaldo, Nat Baldwin & Stella Silbert, Jeff Parker, Myriam Gendron, Kimaya Diggs, Tashi Dorji, The Huntress and the Holder of Hands*, and many more. \$. See novaarts.org for lineup and information.

FRIDAY, MAY 20

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Laraji: Celestial Sound Immersion*. \$. 7 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Los Cupleanos, Habbina Habbina, DJ Bongohead*. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Vimana*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 21

Pushkin Gallery, Greenfield: *John Sheldon*. \$. 6 p.m.

Palladium, Worcester: *Turnstile, Citizen*, 3 more. \$. 7 p.m.

Mount Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Charlie King, Colleen Kattau*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Cinmastorm*, free movie dou-

ble feature. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Ali McGuirk, The Mary Jane Jones*. \$. 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Temperature*. Dancehall, Afrobeats, reggaeton, soca, etc. \$. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Barney Fife & The Deputies*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 22

Black Birch Vineyard, Hatfield: *Darlingside*. \$. 6:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Bob Mould*. \$. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Immigrant Voices*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Vieux Farka Toure*. \$. 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Ned Collette, Idea Fire Company*. \$. 8 p.m.

MONDAY, MAY 23

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quiz Night*. 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 26

Palladium, Worcester: *Carcass, Creeping Death*. \$. 7 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Maurice Louca*. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Masala Jazz*. 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 27

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Fred*

Cracklin, First Children, Bricklayer. \$. 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Gaslight Tinkers*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Men in Motion*, male revue. \$. 9 p.m.

FRI-SUN, MAY 27-29

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Solid Sound Festival* feat. *Wilco, Bonnie "Prince" Billy, Terry Allen, Sylvan Esso, Iceage, Eleventh Dream Day, Sun Ra Arkestra, Nels Cline*, many more. \$. See solidsoundfestival.com for info.

Camp Keewanee, Greenfield: *StrangeCreek Campout* feat. *Dumpstaphunk, Max Creek, Badfish, Consider the Source, Bella's Bartok, Adam Ezra Group, Pancreatic Wiggle* and many more. \$. See strange-creekcampout.com for info.

SATURDAY, MAY 28

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Opel, Whalom Park*. 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 29

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Sunday Sessions*: outdoor party to benefit Touch the Sky, with *DJs Heartballoon, Lena Meginsky, and DJ Mike*. Free. 3 p.m. Indoors, *Ditrani Brothers, Olivia Nied*. \$. 8 p.m.

Amherst Cinema, Amherst: Screening, *Freakscene: The Story of Dinosaur Jr.* \$. 7 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Freakscene Afterparty* feat. *DJs J. Mascis, Louisa and Phillip Reichenheim*. \$. 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *NRBQ, Jake Manzi*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Annie Brobst*. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

Young Men's Club of Hadley: *Country In the Country*, feat. *Rodney Atkins, Craig Campbell, Lindsey LaBelle*, and more. \$. 3 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Christine Ohlman, Rebel Montez*. \$. 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Yemen Blues*. \$. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Dearest Hearts, Hoonah, The Library Band, James Bird*. \$. 6:30 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Sam Moss, Eleanor Buckland*. \$. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *NRBQ, Jake Manzi*. \$. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Marlon Asher*. \$. 8 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Circuit Des Yeux, Dutch Experts, Humanbeast*. \$. 8 p.m.

Colonial Theater, Keene: *Jonathan Richman*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Superchunk, Torres*. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

Unity Park, Turners Falls: *Unity Park Festival & Maker's Market*, with *Jimmy Just Quit*. \$. 2 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *The Green Sisters*. \$. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

Belltower Recs, North Adams: *Major Stars, Headroom, Emily Robb, Blues Ambush*. \$. 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 14

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *The Zappa Band*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

Colonial Theater, Keene: *Bill Frisell & Thomas Morgan duo*. \$. 6 and 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

Nova Arts, Keene: *Kristin Hersh, Fred Abong*. \$. 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Brattleboro Youth Rock Festival* feat. *Pencil Biters, Golden Marilyn, Big Destiny, Granite Danes, Man Made Tragedies, Moxie*. \$. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *James Montgomery Blues Band, Muddy Ruckus*. \$. 8 p.m.

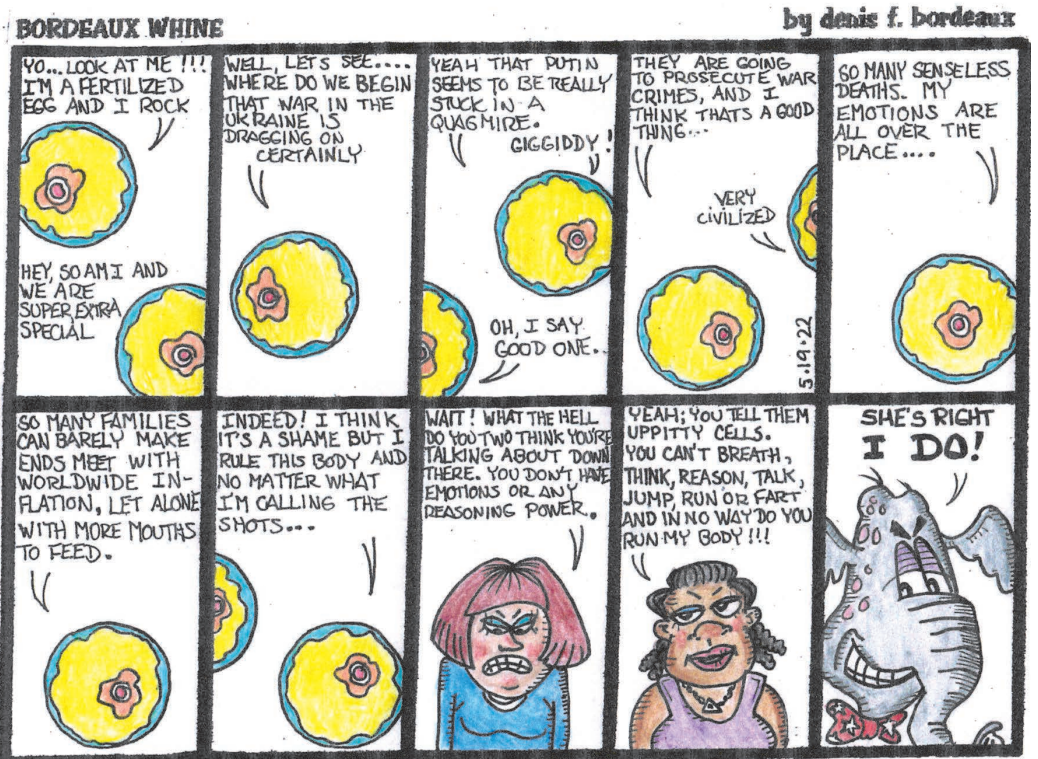
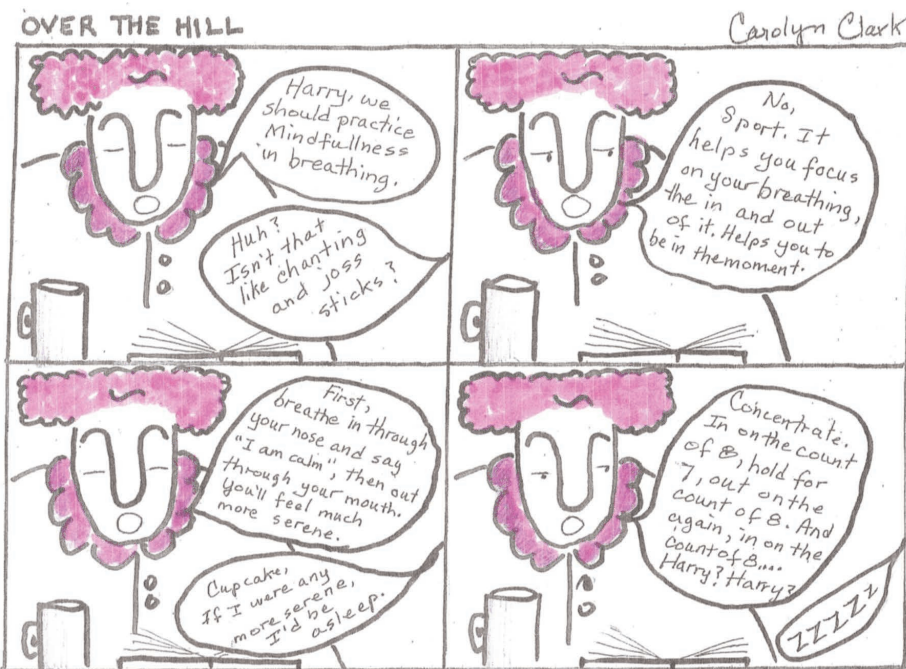
1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Beth Logan Raffeld Quintet*. \$. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

Palladium, Worcester: *George Clinton, Parliament-Funkadelic, Dopapod*, more. \$. 4:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 21

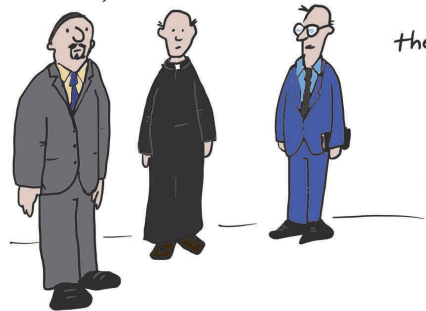
Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Fujilllita, id m theft able*. \$. 8 p.m.



Three Degrees of Warming

By Janice Rowan

A Rabbi, a Priest, & a Minister walk into a bar and, together, they make a difference



They change the light bulbs to LEDs!



Lucifer's Lexicon Kevin Smith
CONFIRMATION BIAS, n.
1) A perceptual distortion incorporating a time span between when an individual is born and when an individual dies.
2) In science or clinical application, what the other guy has.

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WEST ALONG from page B1

May 16: Yes, but what about the lilacs? This has been their week to bloom. Through some strange combination of late cool weather tinged with frost followed suddenly by warm, even hot and humid days, all the ancient lilacs burst forth enveloping the old yard and back garden with that unique lilac scent from around the turn of the 19th century.

The oldest bower was planted by great-grandfather only twenty years after the Civil War, when he first settled here as a young man recently married. Back when this homestead was still a raw-earthen building site, only a newly-surveyed lot on an ancient river shore, strewn about with sand and river stones from the freshly dug cellar hole.

Our rectangular-framed farm house with its high-peaked ridge pole still carries echoes of workmen and carpenters on scaffolding and ladders, whistling, some singing amidst the hammering, or so I like to imagine.

Generations later, the bower where Judah planted the first lilacs in 1880 was the favorite spot of our first dog who loved to spend hot summer days beneath the lilac branches where it was cool, green, and shady.

When it came time, we buried him there, on the edge of the floodplain terrace overlooking the rushing river. First dog was buried just below what we discovered was likely the grave of an ancient Native from the Early Archaic age. There, a 7,000-year-old projectile point and other talisman objects turned up in the gravedigger's spade. Violets and wild ferns now spread out beneath the aging lilacs in that spot.

That pale blue first bower extends these days for forty feet along the terrace line, forming the border between the back lawn and the tangle of the ravine, a favorite place for hiding rabbits, towhees, and cardinals.

Bumble bees nuzzle the blossoms, I cautiously push them aside with my nose in friendly competition and to see what their reaction will be, knowing full well the lazy and good-natured bumbles will just move over to the next cluster. There's enough here for everyone.

In our time here, over the past fifty years, we've only added two or three more clumps to the lilac company. Holding true to keeping family remembrance near, we moved a few bushes from the Smith house up on Pleasant Street when great-grandfather's son passed away in 1973. We still call those transplants our Doug Smith lilacs, in memory of the yard where we got them, first planted up there by our grand-uncle born in this house in 1892.

These are the deep purple variety some call French lilacs. We planted them at either end of the back yard. They frame and complete the borders of our refuge, enclosing us in a fragrant sanctuary, with lilacs on all sides and several freshly-planted viburnum in between. For a few short days of blooming, they envelop us all in



Lilacs in the author's yard.

the springtime ephemera coming back from ages ago.

The mornings this week in May have been filled with their presence. The purple glow of evenings brings even stronger wafting of lilac scent. The wood thrush sings for hours at dusk and twilight from just beyond the bower. Even the catbird, mocking the southern mockingbird, has been singing out there at 2 a.m. until just before dawn at 4 a.m.

The dark air, even at those catbird's hours, is filled with the lovely fragrance of lilac.

The summer is fully awakening.

*In the door-yard fronting an old farm-house, near
The white-washed palings
Stands the lilac bush, tall growing with
Heart-shaped leaves of a rich green
With many a pointed blossom, rising delicate
With the perfume strong I love
With every leaf a miracle, and from this bush
In the door-yard
With delicate colored blossoms and
Heart-shaped leaves of green,
A sprig, with its flower, I break*

— from "When Lilacs Last In the Door-yard Bloomed," written in 1865 by Walt Whitman



Montague Community Television News
Meetings, Trees, Tunes

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – MCTV has coverage of all of the board meetings from this week, including the Gill selectboard, the Montague selectboard, the GMRSD school committee, the Gill finance committee, and as a special bonus, a dangerous dog hearing with the Montague selectboard.

Other uploads this week include "Arbor Day," a tree planting ceremony, and "Professor Louie and The Crowmatix," from the band's recent performance at the Shea Theater.

All community members are welcome to submit their videos to

be aired on TV and featured on Vimeo, which is linked to montaguetelevision.org under the tab "Videos."

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. And remember, MCTV is still looking for board members!

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 infomontaguetelevision@gmail.com.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

City Returns COVID-19 PCR Testing to Greenfield Community College

GREENFIELD – The City of Greenfield is partnering with COVID-19 testing provider Curative to return PCR testing to Greenfield Community College. This follows the closure of the state's Stop the Spread testing site at GCC at the end of March.

Starting May 18, testing will be available in GCC's East Building at 1 College Drive on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 1 to 4 p.m. Appointments are strongly encouraged, but not required. Testing can be scheduled online at www.curative.com/sites/35435.

There will be no charge to patients, but those who have health insurance must bring their insurance card. All patients must bring identification.

Finding a PCR test has become

more challenging, particularly for patients without a primary care physician, as some pharmacies discontinue testing and others are booked for days in advance.

"We are working hard to bring additional resources to Greenfield so that we can get the most accurate picture of COVID-19 activity," said Greenfield health director Jennifer Hoffman. "By bringing back PCR testing, which continues to be the gold standard, and coupled with antigen testing as a backup, we should have a good sense of where we stand – as long as people continue to get tested."

The Greenfield health department will also continue to offer free antigen testing at 20 Sanderson Street on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7 to 10 a.m.

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