MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY **TURNERS FALLS** LAKE PLEASANT



YEAR 20 - NO. 31

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

Bridge Drama Continues to Swirl: MassDOT to Replace General Pierce

By JEFF SINGLETON

piece of bridge news," selectboard

chair Rich Kuklewicz, not generally prone to sarcasm, said at Mon-"We have, believe or not, a day night's meeting as the agenda turned to "Topics Not Anticipated."



Northern Construction's repair work on the General Pierce Bridge, seen here on May 23, has proceeded rapidly, but Montague has now received word it will be replaced.

The board had just completed a discussion of how to reconfigure a project to build a pedestrian bridge over the Turners Falls power canal, already the subject of numerous delays and reconfigurations over the previous year, but had been made unnecessary by the state Department of Transportation (MassDOT)'s new proposal to spend \$56 million on building three new bridges over the canal and Connecticut River.

The two previous meetings had been dominated by discussions of that proposal and, before it, Mass-DOT's decision to completely close a bridge on Center Street in Montague Center.

So there was a sense of bridge fatigue by the time Kuklewicz read aloud the one-page letter, from MassDOT highway administrator Jonathan M. Gulliver to senator Joanne Comerford and representative Natalie Blais, about the status of the General Pierce Bridge connecting Montague City to Greenfield.

In 2019 the state reduced this bridge to one lane, and announced that it would soon close it for a much-needed renovation. At a

see MONTAGUE page A7

As Negotiations Near Six-Month Mark, **BFMC Nurses Court Community Support**

By SARAH ROBERTSON

GREENFIELD – During a bargaining session on Wednesday morning, members of the nurses' union at Baystate Franklin Medical Center emphasized to hospital administrators the importance of retaining a team of long-term staff who live locally, instead of relying on travel nurses.

ing to MNA representatives, during the May session the hospital offered the nurses salary increases of 2.5% annually for the next two years, and then 2% for the following two years.

On Wednesday morning, MNA countered management's offer by requesting a 5% increase for the first two years and a 4.5% increase in the third.

"That's a fair proposal after all these nurses have gone through, and it's not unheard of," MNA labor director Karen "Rudy" Renaud told the hospital's representatives.

THE BIG PICTURE Stepping Up Time: Part I

By MIKE JACKSON

LEVERETT – Tabling for the paper last weekend in Leverett, our features editor met Alice Feldman, who spent last month helping on the Polish-Ukrainian border. Since the Russian invasion in late February, nearly 15 million people have left their homes in Ukraine; nearly half have fled the country, with the lion's share – 4 million – arriving in officially welcoming Poland.

Feldman is the director of programs and strategy at the Global Disaster Relief Team, having helped build the nonprofit from scratch in the war's first weeks. It deployed 70 medics to the border, and is pivoting toward work inside Ukraine. She has also been deeply involved in post-Soviet diaspora communities her entire life, including a scene around a music festival in the Catskills that she has mobilized to help the relief effort.

I found our conversation fascinating, and decided to let her largely speak for herself – at length. What follows is Part I of two. The transcript has been edited for brevity and clarity.

MR: I'm interested to hear your story from the top – what you're doing now, and what you're doing in Leverett...

AF: I am a first-generation immigrant. Both of my parents are

from the former Soviet Union. We're Russian-speaking Jewish people: my father and his side of the family were from Ukraine, and my mom was from Uzbekistan. But my dad isn't Ukrainian ethnically, my mom's not Uzbeki ethnically; we're just Jewish people that happened to live in the Soviet Union, happened to speak Russian.

My whole life I've made that a point: I've never identified as Russian, even though that was my first language. There's a lot of people who are Russian-speaking that don't identify as Russian or Slavic, ethnically, or don't identify with the country. That's definitely my case.

I grew up in New Jersey, and I have been living in and around the Boston area for the past seven years or so.... I moved to Leverett with my boyfriend a little over a year ago. I'm really glad that I moved here - I wouldn't want to live anywhere else. I had been mostly nomadic, moving from place to place for about seven years before I moved here, and now I'm really kind of firmly rooted.

MR: And you are a worker in the cultural sphere, it looks like? How did you get involved in all of that – festivals and so forth?

AF: My parents are both project managers and computer programmers by trade, but my whole life

see STEPPING page A4



The nurses at Baystate Franklin, represented by the Massachusetts Nurses Association (MNA), last settled a contract with hospital owner Baystate Health in 2018, after 18 months of contentious negotiations and two strikes. That contract expired at the beginning of this year.

Wednesday's bargaining session, held at the Episcopal Church of Saints James and Andrew in Greenfield, follows a previous session on May 12. Accord-

Before the session began, members of the public joined union reps and hospital staff to picket outside the church. About two dozen gathered there, waving to cars and trucks that honked as they drove by.

see NURSES page A2

Softball Teams Eliminated from Tourney

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS - This week, both softball teams from Turners Falls competed in the MIAA Division 5 playoffs. Last Friday Franklin Tech, the Franklin East League champions, fell to Frontier and were eliminated. Turners Falls, the defending state champions, survived Friday's dust-up with Millis and advanced to the semifinals against



Family, friends, and teammates rushed the outfield following Marilyn Abarua's game-ending catch for the final out in last Friday's MLAA Division 5 quarterfinal game at Turners Falls High School. West Boylston. In that round, played on Tuesday, Turners was also eliminated from postseason play.

Frontier 7 – FCTS 1

On Friday afternoon, the 21st seeded Frontier Red Hawks upset the Franklin Tech Softball Eagles in the Division 5 quarterfinals.

Frontier socked four monster hits to open the game. The leadoff batter cracked the ball into center field, and the second batter boomed a long-ball triple giving Red a 1-0 lead. The third Hawk also hit the ball deep into the outfield. The ball was caught, but the sacrifice worked, and their early lead increased. Although Frontier hit another triple, Lauren Ross pitched her way out of the inning, and the Eagles went to the plate facing a 2-0 deficit.

Tech got one run back in the bottom of the inning. Kaitlin Trudeau see SPORTS page A8



Perfectly Normal Newspaper Behavior

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After Leverett resident Alice Feldman's community was torn open by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, throwing all her energy into helping build a relief NGO from scratch was, she says "the only thing that could keep [her] sane."

INVESTIGATION A Few Lessons We Learned **About Purchasing Abortion Pills**

By EMILY MONOSSON and LEIGH RAE

MONTAGUE - Here in Massachusetts abortion is legal, for now. When a woman chooses to end an unplanned or unwanted pregnancy, she has two options: either a procedural abortion or, in the first 10 weeks of a pregnancy, she can choose a medication abortion.

Medication abortion involves taking a combination of pills - mifepristone, to block hormones that maintain a pregnancy, followed by misoprostol, which causes the uterus to contract and empty, effectively resulting in a heavy period. These should not be confused with Plan B, the morning-after pill, which is an emergency contraceptive and is available without a prescription.

The trade name for mifepristone is Mifeprex. The drug was first developed in France under the trade name RU486, and was approved for use there in 1988, but didn't become available in the United States until 2000. Multiple studies have confirmed it to be safe and effective when used early in pregnancy.

According to a recent article in the Boston Globe, which uses figures from the state's registry of vital statistics, most women seeking abortion in the state in 2020 were single, many had one or more children, the vast majority were eight or fewer weeks along, and nearly half opted for medication abortion.

So, what happens when a woman

see LEARNED page A4

The Montague Reporter "The Voice of the Villages"

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Todd Muller and Deb McGlew of Wendell were at the Saturday market at the Leverett Village Co-Op last weekend selling their handmade wooden bowls, woven scarves, and linen and cotton dish towels. Their craft business is called Lantern Hill Homestead. Look for them at farmers markets and craft fairs throughout Western Mass.

Stamp Out Stop-Arm-Passers!

the

Editors

We live on Route 63, and we experience cars passing the school bus when the red stop arm is out. Typically this occurs with cars traveling in the opposite direction of the bus that fail to slow down and stop, despite the lights flashing and both the stop sign and stop arm out.

During this school year we have witnessed the bus being passed at our stop over seven times! The result of those seven events was two warnings issued (based on our video, photos, and report), and one pulled over by our police officer following the bus.

I first would like to give credit to our amazing bus driver, who has taught our children to stop and wait in front of the passenger side of the bus until he gives them the thumbs' up that it is safe to cross the street. I also want to thank our local police, who have often followed the bus along the Route 63 route to prevent cars from passing, and who follow up on our reports of stop-arm violations.

Neither of these are solutions to

the help of our community.

There are two bills in our state legislature, which are currently in the Ways and Means Committee, that would help to enforce the stop-arm laws. You can find out more about the bills, S.2640 and H.4478, at *malegislature.gov*.

Please email the members of this committee. Bills similar to these have been proposed before, but never got out of Ways and Means, so we are asking that our community make sure our legislature understands this is a priority for us. We are terrified that one day our children will be hit and killed by a car going 50 to 60 mph on Route 63 because the driver wasn't paying attention and didn't stop.

Increasing the fines, and allowing video evidence from a school bus monitoring system to be sufficient to issue a criminal offense that impacts drivers' records without requiring a police officer to witness the event, are both important steps in curbing violations.

Additional information that

NHSTA, which provides some information about how significant of a problem stop-arm violations are in our country and what some areas have done to curb them, is available at *tinyurl.com/ReducePassing*.

We are also sharing videos of some of the incidents this year of cars passing the bus in front of our driveway: *tinyurl.com/Route63Bus*.

We are asking you for four things: Please reinforce with your children that they should wait, look, and listen before crossing, even in front of the school bus. Please reinforce with your young drivers the importance, and lifesaving action, of slowing and stopping when the school bus lights are on. Please advocate for stronger laws and easier enforcement of stop-arm violations. And *please* report stop-arm violations to the police, so we have data to support the frequency of the violations.

Thank you,

Wes and Audra Goscenski

NURSES from page A1

The union then invited the public to observe the negotiations.

"We didn't think we'd have to be continually escalating in this way, but you all being here clearly helps us make the point that we have community support, and shows that you all care about this hospital," MNA associate director Rose Bookbinder told attendees.

Management and union representatives sat on opposite sides of a bargaining table under stainedglass windows, while union supporters filled rows of chairs set aside for onlookers. Renaud, also a former Greenfield city council president, opened the negotiations with a prepared statement.

"Our fight to keep care local – meaning, keep care in the hands of local nurses, and not travelers – is also the community's fight, because continuity of care is no small thing," she said. "That is why every time we're here, we talk about recruitment and retention of local nurses. That's why it's important we lift the wages here because, like we talked about, these wages are low."

Travis Taigen, a labor relations consultant working for Baystate, sat alongside lawyers from Foley & Lardner LLP, the firm representing the hospital in the negotiations. After hearing the MNA's offer, the hospital representatives thanked their union counterparts and left the room to confer in private, convening across the street at Shelburne Falls Coffee Roasters. If they rejoined negotiations, it was after the members of the public – and the press – left. The Reporter reached out to Foley & Lardner attorney Donald Schroeder for comment but did not receive a response by press time. "Our role in the health and quality of life of those in the Pioneer Valley is the fulfillment of our charitable mission to improve the health of the people in our communities every day, with quality and compassion," Baystate Health spokesperson Anita Fritz wrote in

an email to the Reporter.

"We are confident that our proposals reflect our commitment to safe staffing, competitive compensation and continued investment in local care.... Both sides have been respectful and focused on reaching agreement."

Eroding the Core

Suzanne Love, an emergency room nurse at Baystate Franklin and the senior co-chair of the union's bargaining committee, said a statewide study of unionized nurses' salaries shows that Franklin County nurses are among the lowest-paid in the state.

In addition to raises, Love said, MNA is concerned about staff-topatient ratios. "Giving fair compensation and having adequate staffing ensures that we maintain a good nursing core," she said. "Management has agreed to keep a safe staffing [ratio] in our contract. Now they have to hire enough nurses to be able to do that, and have them be permanent nurses."

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Baystate Franklin has come to rely on a significant number of travel nurses, who are well-compensated and not members of the union. A nurse can be considered a travel nurse if they work in a hospital at least 50 miles from their place of residence. "We have nurses leaving Greenfield to take more profitable and fair travel assignments in Worcester, and then we have Worcester nurses leaving... to come and do the same thing here," said Marissa Potter, a maternity nurse and new junior co-chair of the bargaining committee. "That's just inefficient - it's ridiculous. We should be investing in our local nurses so that we can continue to care for people in our own community." While pay scales vary, travel nurses in Franklin County can earn in one week what a local nurse makes in two months, according to Love.

Nice Work on Orange Piece

I've been following the media coverage of the recent warehouse fire in Orange very closely and Sarah Robertson's article (June 9, 2022, *Children Charged in Setting Huge Factory Fire in Erving*, Page A1) is by far the best reporting in any of the local and regional outlets I've seen.

Not only did she clearly track the complex legal questions about ownership and responsibility, she resisted the too-simple description of the building as "the cereal factory," which has gone unquestioned in other coverage.

As Robertson notes, it was owned by a cereal company for only a handful of years around the turn of the twenty-first century. Because quite a few area people remember working there during those years, the "cereal factory" name persists in local memory.

But that's only one thin slice of the building's history. It was a warehouse for Erving Paper Company for many decades. And, as Robertson also points out, it was built by New Home Sewing Machine Company, once Franklin County's largest employer.

One additional layer of this history is that this particular building wasn't one of New Home's older structures, but part of an expansion spree around the turn of the twentieth century, when the company was trying to stay competitive on a national and international scale.

Ultimately the gambit wasn't successful, and New Home's new corporate owners had moved the company out of Orange by the 1930s, leaving the whole huge complex empty. We can see the recently-burned building as evidence of our area's industrial heyday, but it's equally a reminder of how precarious the industrial economy always was, and what a burden is left on towns when capital investment moves elsewhere.

> Cathy Stanton Wendell

"We're not saying that people

see NURSES next page

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Leverett



Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Citing a surge in COVID cases, FirstLight Power has announced that it will not be offering any **portage services for paddlers** in the Gill-Montague area for the immediate future. The canoe and kayak rental in Gill will remain open. For updates, call (413) 863-9300.

Tonight, Thursday June 16, Peskeomskut Park is the site of **Skeleton Crew Theater's** Greenwood Variety Show. The ensemble of creatures will make appearances singing, dancing, and Shakespearing at the park at 7 p.m. All ages are welcome, and the show is free!

The free **movie at Peskeomskut Park** this Friday, June 17 is *Soul*, an animated film rated PG. The IMDB description is: "After landing the gig of a lifetime, a New York jazz pianist suddenly finds himself trapped in a strange land between Earth and the afterlife."

I have seen this movie, and found it unusual and very engaging! It starts at 7:30 p.m. Bring chairs and blankets for sitting.

The Mohawk Trail Concert series continues with a concert scheduled for this Saturday, June 18 at noon at the Montague Common Hall. The Adaskin String Trio, with clarinetist Pascal Archer, will perform Bernard Crusell's *Quartet in E Flat Major*; Beethoven's *Serenade Op. 8*; and Ingalf Dahl's *Concerto a Tre.* All concerts are free of charge, with donations gratefully accepted.

The Montague Public Libraries are holding a **Summer Kick-Off Party** at Peskeomskut Park this Saturday, June 18 from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. This day of family fun will include live music, face painting, and snack food from the Rendezvous. The Friends of the Library will be giving out free children's books, and a DJ will spin tunes in the afternoon.

At 3:30 p.m. there will be parachute play for little ones; at 4 p.m., Paint-a-Pot craft for all ages; and at 5 p.m., snacks and a dance performance by Ja'Duke's junior and senior dance troupes. And at 6:15 p.m., the Northampton band Lux-Deluxe will play. Bring your picnic and blanket!

This Sunday, June 19 is Father's Day, and also **Words and Tacos day** at the Santo Taco food court at Unity Park. Paul Richmond of Human Error Publishing is hosting the event between 1 and 3 p.m. There will be five-minute slots, and you may bring your books to sell.

Richmond is also hosting a Greenfield Third Tuesday open mic for writers at 7 p.m. on June 21 at the LAVA Center. Featured writers Bill O'Connell and Trish Crapo will read at 8:30 p.m. A sliding scale donation of \$1 to \$5 is requested.

Join the **Leverett Historical Commission** for a virtual visit to two hard-to-pin down mill foundations on Brushy Mountain, evidence of the grit it took to live and operate a business away from the beaten path in the 19th century. The event is on Thursday, June 23 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The event is part of the ongoing project, "A Sense of Where You Are, Finding and Interpreting Mill Foundations in the Landscape." Registration is required at *brushymills.eventbrite.com*. For more information, email Susan Mareneck at *leveretthistoryinfo@gmail.com*.

Learn about dragonflies with Dave Small, president of the Athol Bird and Nature Club, on Saturday, June 25 at 10 a.m. The field trip will go to a couple different types of local water bodies to see a variety of species flying in June. Bring footwear for wading in shallow water, a butterfly net (optional), binoculars, camera, water, a snack, and your sense of adventure.

The trip is free and open to all; children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information, email *Dave@atholbirdclub.org*

Also on Saturday, June 25 at 10 a.m., the New Salem Public Library will present "Investigating Insects!" The Hitchcock Center of Amherst will be there to help folks explore the fascinating world of insects and talk about what insects are, why they are so important, and what makes them "so cool." Participants will use different tools to look in different habitats around the outside of the library where they can find and collect insects and their relatives.

To register, call (978) 544-6334 or *n_salem@cwmars.org*.

Love your fate at the **Medium-Psychic Day Fair** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. next Saturday, June 25 at the Thompson Memorial Temple in Lake Pleasant. Certified spiritualist mediums include card readers and intuitive readings that cost \$30 for 25 minutes. Readings must be booked in advance at *spiritualallianceusa.org*.

Do you like designing with flowers? The Tilton Library in Sunderland invites creative folks to make **flower arrangements in unusual containers** for a group exhibit at the library.

The deadline is June 30, and you are encouraged to make a non-traditional arrangement with real or fake plant materials and handmade or repurposed containers. Find out more at *tiltonlibrary.org* or contact *tiltonlibrary@cwmars.org*.

Assets for Artists is hosting a workshop online called "**Instagram Basics:** Build a Following, Increase Engagement, and Understand Analytics." Presenter Francesca Olsen will teach artists how to use this platform to grow an audience with the use of hashtags, reels and stories.

Check it out on Thursday, July 7 from 2 to 4 p.m. It is open to artists across Massachusetts, and best used by artists who currently have 3,000 followers or fewer on Instagram. Register at *tinyurl.com/assetsinstagram*.

Here's a little advance notice for those who are wondering about the next **Montague Mug Race**. The 41st Montague Mug Race and Mini Mug Run/Walk will be held on Saturday, August 20 this year.

The Mug Race will start at 8:30 a.m. from the Montague Center Common. The race is 5.5 miles in length, and runners will travel over Taylor Hill and finish at the ballfield. Registration is now open on *runreg.com*, and race information is at *Montaguemugrace.com*.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.











NURSES from previous page

don't deserve that money," she said. "What we're saying is, we know [Baystate has] that money.... We'd really love to have a contract that reflects, in monetary terms, that the nurses within this Baystate Healthcare system need fair compensation."

"We do love the travelers, and we need the support, but there's a "They want nurses, more and more, to just pick up shifts on an app," said Renaud. "They don't want them classified as employees. It's the same thing that happened at universities with the adjuncts, it's this whole contingent workforce.... And we all know that just drives the standards lower and lower."

"It weakens the union," said Caroline Miklovich, another maternity ficially part of the contract negotiations, the nurses said the anticipated closure of East Spoke, the mental health wing at Baystate Franklin, will have a large impact on frequent patients at the hospital.

"People will come in who are having a mental health crisis and a physical health crisis," said medical-surgical nurse Asha Letendre-Cahillane. "Once they're medically cleared, they can go just down the hall to the mental health unit, and get the rest of the treatment that they need. I can't imagine already being in a mental health crisis, and then having to be uprooted from anything that's familiar." Baystate Health is one of the largest employers in Massachusetts, managing five hospitals and 12,000 employees. Though it is not-forprofit, Baystate also owns a for-profit insurance company, Health New England, and it has partnered with a division of the private conglomerate LifePoint Health to build a new psychiatric care facility in Holyoke.

Once the Holyoke facility is open, Baystate says it plans to close the mental health wards at its Greenfield, Palmer, and Westfield hospitals. Fritz, the company spokesperson, confirmed that these closures are still on track for August 2023. "While we plan for the future, the operation of the current inpatient behavioral health units will continue as usual," she wrote. "We are committed to ensuring, for our staff and for our patients and their families, that these units continue to operate smoothly and efficiently, and we will continue to deliver the same level of high quality care that our community deserves and expects from us." "Our mental health unit is really well loved," said Collins. "It's a lot of people's safe space, who go there whenever they feel the urge to hurt themselves or are otherwise in crisis.' "To not have that service nearby in your community, where your family can come see you, really is a detriment to people," said Utgoff Ely. "I worry that people are literally going to die because we're not going to have that service. Mental healthcare is, literally, life-saving care."

lot to be said about the people who are familiar with a place," Ariel Utgoff Ely, an emergency room nurse, told the *Reporter*. "There are situations that are extremely urgent, and everybody needs to move fast. To have the slowdown of someone not knowing where something is really makes a difference."

"When you don't have local care, you don't know your community," added medical-surgical nurse Mary Collins. She described situations in which her colleagues, upon hearing a resident's age, gender, and ailment from an ambulance call, can recognize a regular patient and begin preparing an individualized care regimen.

"Over the course of the last two years, we've gone on to lose a number of mid-career nurses who perform essential tasks," said Potter, who explained that longtime nurses also help train new staff. Although the orientation period for a nurse in the maternity ward is officially 12 weeks, Potter said, it can take two years for a nurse to be comfortable and independent on the job. ward nurse. "There's way fewer members when half of those are travelers. They're not invested to stand up for their rights."

Psych Out

At the picket line Wednesday morning, three nurses held a banner reading "Put Mental Healthcare OVER Profits!" Though it is not of-



The nurses' union flexed its community support at Wednesday's bargaining session. ally, life





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(plancpills.org), a non-profit project

which provides information about

abortion access. Because laws vary,

Plan C offers a state-by-state direc-

tory of providers with web pages,

information about cost, and a short

summary about each provider -

along with a list of international on-

tional pharmacy, since there isn't a

requirement for a prescription and

because it is how a woman might

buy these pills if she either doesn't

have access to telehealth and lives

far from a clinic, or lives in a state

that does not allow telehealth to

prescribe the pills. (Plan C warns

that depending on the state she

lives in, she can face legal issues

if she even uses the pills, and pro-

online pharmacy sites are not reg-

ulated or inspected by the US gov-

ernment, but lists a few sites which

they have tested. We chose a site

than we anticipated, and the op-

tions were confusing. Do we buy

RU486 by itself, an "MTP Kit"

(RU486 plus misoprostol), or the

"Abortion Pill Pack" with RU486,

misoprostol, and other medications

for treating nausea, cramps, and

bleeding? We chose the MTP kit,

which is used by many providers.

The kit cost \$199, but shipping

added an additional \$120. At that

price, the pills would arrive in two

to three weeks; if we wanted them

in one to two business days, ship-

The process was more involved

Plan C also states that these

vides links for legal help.)

called "Secure Abortion."

Initially, we tried an interna-

line pharmacies.

STEPPING from page A1

they were very involved in the Soviet diaspora cultural scene in New England and the northeast.

Basically, there was a tradition in the Soviet Union of this kind of bardic music, of going out into the woods – into places where you wouldn't be under the purview or surveillance of anybody and singing self-written songs, and passing around those songs on cassette tapes and learning each other's songs. That was huge in the Soviet Union, and my parents were big in that scene in their 20s.

When they moved here they continued it, and became founders and part of a network of folks out here in the '90s who continue that tradition, going out into the woods and having these small 100-, 200- 300-person festivals, bringing out musicians from Russia and the other Soviet states to share their songs that everybody grew up singing.

In 2009, my dad started his own festival, called JetLag. That first year it was 300 people, and now, 13 years later, it's two and a half thousand people annually. And it's people from all over the world,

LEARNED from page A1

abortion pills?

these medicines.

transportation.

wants to end an unplanned or un-

wanted pregnancy, if she is early

enough in her pregnancy to use the

productive health discussion hosted

by the Women's Fund of Western

Massachusetts, which gave us a

better understanding of the safety

and efficacy of abortion pills, and

piqued our curiosity about access to

only some medical practices of-

fer abortion pills. In fact, we both

contacted our doctors' offices, and

found that neither are currently li-

censed to offer these medicines to

their patients. We were referred to

clinics and hospitals in the area.

For many women, even in Mas-

sachusetts, these facilities can re-

quire significant travel, especially

if a woman needs to rely on public

Until just last year, the surest

way to get abortion pills would

have been to visit a clinic or pre-

scribing physician. But in July

2020, a lawsuit filed by the Ameri-

can Civil Liberties Union on behalf

of medical experts, including the

American College of Obstetricians

and Gynecologists, charged that

the requirement to visit a physician

or hospital put women at risk for

COVID-19. In December 2021, the

Food and Drug Administration per-

manently eliminated this require-

ment in order to "reduce burden on

patient access and the health care

delivery system."

Not surprisingly, we learned that

We recently participated in a re-

but mostly from the northeast, a lot of folks from Massachusetts and New York and New Jersey.

I grew up with that festival, and I grew up with concerts always happening in my house, and I never intended to go into events. But my after my first semester... I started doing events with my university, and I started getting more involved in the programation of my parents' festival. Since 2015 I've been working, sometimes freelance, sometimes full-time, in the music and events industry.

Immediately prior to the war, I was working at a booking agency based out of Reading, Massachusetts, where I'd been working for like three years. We were primarily a jazz booking agency we booked tours for Christian McBride and Joshua Redman and stuff like that, internationally. At the time the war started, I was director of development for Africa; my job was to create programs and opportunities to endorse and supplement Africa's music industry and promoters. That was a very big ask; it was a very difficult job and a hard time in the global economy to be doing that kind of

work, during COVID. But that's where I was right when the war started - working remotely for that company for a few years, since before COVID.

MR: Was organizing logistics around events a skill set you brought forward into relief work?

AF: Yeah! For JetLag, I've been one of the creative directors and program managers, and kind of logistics brains of the festivals since 2015. Our festival is largely volunteer-driven - we have one person on payroll, everybody else is a volunteer so it's lot of just working with people, and with the resources they bring to the table.

Throughout my career I was very involved in community-driven, grassroots events that rely on volunteer manpower, and not so much on money or funding, just some sort of common thread between people. And that's where my unique skill set is on working with volunteers: when nobody has an obligation to do anything and they're just doing it because they feel really connected to you see STEPPING next page

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Mifepristone, at left, and misoprostol, at right, in a "kit" that arrives in four days.

that most of these sites are reliable. We decided to try a different site, "AbortionRx." Within 10 minutes we had ordered and paid through PayPal – the total cost was \$249 – and according to the site, the pills would arrive in four days.

The pills were shipped in a plain yellow package surrounded by bubble wrap. The payment record refers to a discreet site, rather than listing AbortionRx, pills, or medication.

Curious about the telehealth option, we next contacted a provider listed on Plan C for those living in Massachusetts. When scheduling the appointment, we were surprised to find that the provider was on the West Coast.

Our telehealth consultation cost \$150. The provider then connected us with an online pharmacy where we had to register and create a

password. The pharmacy notified

us that they would be shipping the

MTP kit for delivery in three to five

business days, for a total of \$75.

Fortunately, the provider that we

selected offers financial assistance

What we now understand is this: • Most health care providers in Massachusetts will not prescribe

the abortion pill. • Though it does not require a prescription, ordering from an international online pharmacy can be more costly, the product is not FDA-approved, and on some sites

miliar. • Some online purchase options do not accept insurance, though many work with abortion rights funds to offer financial assistance.

the payment method can be unfa-

• In Massachusetts, using one of the telehealth sites works reasonably well.

· According to the telehealth doctor we spoke with, if the pills are stored in a cool, dry place like a refrigerator, they can last up to three years. Many telehealth providers will prescribe the pills for women who wish to have them on hand. We were not in the midst of making a time-sensitive reproductive health decision when we sought to purchase abortion pills, and we can only imagine what it might be like to navigate the purchase process for a woman urgently seeking to make this choice. We share our experience not to influence anyone's choice, but simply to provide information and amplify







PAPER

Week of June 20

A4

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Right now, this means that in 24 states including Massachusetts, a woman can use telehealth and have the pills shipped directly to her. Telehealth is a communication tool that allows the patient to confer with medical professionals by phone or zoom. But we also learned that some international online pharma-

To better understand the process for accessing a medication abortion, we decided to purchase a supply of the pills. We assumed that the online purchase would be simple, and began with the website of Plan C

cies do not require a prescription.

ping would cost \$151.

The next morning we received an email with instructions to issue payment to a person in Mumbai, India, using an unfamiliar payment platform. This made us uncomfortable, although Plan C says

FURTHER READING...

Safety and Efficacy: www.tinyurl.com/ANSIRHstudy Legislative efforts in MA: www.massbeyondroe.com Women's Fund of Western MA: www.mywomensfund.org Planned Parenthood League of MA: www.tinyurl.com/PPLeagueMA Plan C: www.plancpills.org

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the surprising barriers to access - even for those living in Massachusetts.



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STEPPING from previous page

and to the people, and to the cause. So I've done workshops, and little small festivals and home concerts, mostly around Boston, upstate New York, and Western Mass for several years now. But the big event that I do, and I'm kind of known for in my community, is JetLag.

MR: I was looking at the JetLag poster for this year and recognized a couple bands from the northeast DIY music scene, who do stuff that sounds to me like Balkan or Balkan-adjacent music.

AF: I went to Greenfield and I saw Bella's Bartok play, and I was like "I like this; I think that my friends and our community would like this." And then we booked them, so now they're coming to the festival. Musicians and artists love this festival because it's so weird – it's a bunch of family and friends that are putting together a really well-produced, nice-production festival, but that has this kind of family chaos you just kind of love.

It's very special, very unique.

MR: It leads me to so many questions about how you're creating and framing diaspora. I've seen so many changes recently in how people try to book and curate and discuss "global" music, and I see some of these bands in that scene. It makes me curious what it is specifically – like, if you're looking at the post-Soviet space, what an event like this is contributing and building within that.

AF: It's a good question, and it's something that we constantly reevaluate as a festival, and as a community. What's unique about what we do is that we're a multi-generational festival. I work with my mom and my sister, and with my mom's partner Psoy Korolenko – that's his stage name, but his real name is Pavel Lion, he's a very influential and well-respected kind of *avant-garde* dissident artist who was very active in Russia, and very active in the Jewish and Yiddish and klezmer space.

He's a Grammy-nominated artist, and he's very well-known and well-loved in Russia. When we're talking about world music and what we feel as a pulse in our community, he's very much engaged with artists in Russia and in other bordering countries that are doing kind of genre-bending, and language-bending, and culture-blending music that we feel is in some way, somehow, inevitably and intuitively, connected to us here on this side of the ocean. But here, it's immigrants from those countries, and their children. I already grew up here, you know? And I grew up listening to Soviet rock, but it's funny, there are certain things that are really juicy to my ear, that are juicy to the ears of people of my parents' generation and people in the generation above them. It's something about this klezmer, Balkan - I don't know what it is, but it taps into something essential, and deeper than the current mood of events ... But this year, it's very hard to try to be... We don't promote our festival really, and we don't go outside the bounds of who our audience already is. But if we did this would be a very hard year to be a predominantly Russian-speaking cultural event, you know? There's so many misconceptions about what that is, and what that means, nowadays.

cultural movements happening in the Russian-language/post-Soviet sphere that are on the opposite end – using traditional music, or building the idea of traditional music, as something toward nationalism?

AF: Yeah definitely. And we never go out of our way to identify "traditional" or "folk" music performers. We're interested in kind of like neofolk – specifically for Ukrainian music, you can think of DakhaBrakha and the really innovative work they do with traditional folk singing and choir singing and traditional instruments, but they put it in a contemporary and modern lens, you know? They use electronic elements and looping pedals, things like that....

I personally love, *love love love*, traditional and folk music from all countries, from all regions of the world. It really speaks to me. But we never book something because it sounds good or doesn't sound good; it has to have a real purpose.

MR: I imagine you know a lot of people in a lot of places.

AF: Yeah! *[Laughs.]* I was able to move around and live in so many places for so many years, because when you run something, when you create something for your community based on your own sweat and labor, everything just runs on hand-shakes and favors, and everyone's happy to pay back the favor in some way or keep the gift going. So I could just crash on couches around the world, for years, because of people that had been to the festival or were in some way related to the festival.

It's a really big change for me to live in one place, but now that I live in Leverett I can't imagine – I mean, it's also COVID, but I don't travel as much anymore. But we know a lot of people, all over the web of people.

MR: So, in February... what happened? How did this organization come together?

AF: My sister got married on February 26, and I did the wedding for her along with our closest friends. Right before that I was on a vacation for 10 days, and the violence started escalating, the war started happening. It was my sister's wedding: we turned off our phones, just for a night. But when the war started I, like so many people in our community - it was absolutely devastating. So many people I know, myself included, had really serious body trauma, like body symptoms from the shock and trauma of this war. It was impossible to focus on anything for a week. All of my efforts were just trying to understand what was going on, how things were escalating and evolving, and trying to spread and share as much information as possible. And I noticed in the first couple of weeks of the war, because I was living with my boyfriend who isn't from the same diaspora community I am, that literally the information that I was receiving was worlds away from the information he was receiving about this war, and about what's happening with people. My entire Facebook feed, for weeks, was just people sharing information, trying to help their families and friends evacuate "Does anyone know if there's any buses leaving today from Kharkiv?" "Does anybody know if this house, on the corner of this street and this street in Kiev, still exists? I haven't heard from my parents in 48 hours." "Does anyone know who's evacuating, like, what to do with cats and dogs?" My entire feed was that.

And then there's Telegram, which is a massive communication channel and source of information, and huge communities of mutual aid networks on Telegram. Millions of users, sharing information about certain evacuation routes, and dead zones and live zones, and a lot of networks posting live updates with photos and videos from different regions of what was happening on the ground.

And it was horrifying. It was very horrifying to see all of this emerging in real time, and I just couldn't pull myself for my screen for 14 hours a day because I was trying to dispatch and share information and do whatever I could. It was somewhat reminiscent of when COVID started - I had a similar moment, with obviously a very different emotional tinge, but I felt called to try to dispatch and share information. When COVID started I created a database of emergency grants for artists in all disciplines, collecting grants from around the US and putting them into a database for people to use, and it became one of the most-used resources for artists in the States at one point.

I had a very similar calling when this started happening; I just wanted to share as much as humanly possible. But the result was just like living in two completely different realities. Those first three weeks of the war I literally felt like I was living in a different world than my boyfriend, because he was reading the *New York Times* and the *Guardian* and listening to the news, and that's less than 1% of what was happening.

It was very, very hard. I went to the ER that first week because I was literally shitting blood, just from the trauma of everything that was happening. And I'm not the only person that was like that. It was incredibly devastating. In my own family we have people's parents that are in Russia that can't leave, and we weren't sure if we'd ever be able to talk to them again. It was very real.

MR: Were you reading in English and Russian?

AF: English and Russian, yeah. Sometimes there was something Ukrainian, which I don't speak but I can kind of understand a tiny bit, and at least written I can definitely grasp more of it. I would translate stuff through Google Translate if it was in Ukrainian that I couldn't understand, but most things are in Russian...



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yond a human connection with the insanity of what's happening, but like an identity. An identity with these people, and with a language that I started almost conceiving of as my birthright to know and to hear speak. And the kind of fluke of history that I grew up speaking Russian and not Ukrainian... Cultural hegemony! There's a reason why that is, but I definitely spent a lot more time thinking and being aware of Russia than I did of Ukraine. I spent a lot of time in Russia growing up, and I never stepped foot in Ukraine.

MR: Did you think that we would see war like this in our lives?

AF: I don't think anybody ever thought we would see a war like this, in Europe, in our lives. From what I'm seeing, it's really hard on folks in my parents' generation, in their 50s and 60s, who grew up in the Soviet Union, with so many relics of the war – growing up with war movies and hearing about the war constantly from their parents, who all lived through it. Who all lived through evacuations and deployments, and being drafted and going to war.

The trauma it left on them carried into my parents' lives as chil-

Maria Smirnova, has been my best friend since I was four. Our parents were friends, we've known each other for a very long time. And Alex Smirnov – Sasha is his nickname – I've known for a very long time, 25 years or something, and we've worked together: he used to be head of medical at my festival, JetLag.

Anyway, I saw him posting a comment: "Yeah, you can give those tourniquets to me, I'm flying to Poland this week, so I'll pass them down." And I'm like, *what?* This was the beginning of March – no one in their right mind was thinking of going to Poland from here.

And I called him and I'm like, "Are you going to Poland?"

He's like, "Yep." He's been an EMT for many years, he's done disaster relief work in Armenia and at 911 and all that. "Yep, I can't sit still anymore. I'm packing up as many medical supplies as I can possibly take. I'm packing up all of my EMT gear." He used to run an ambulance company, so he has a lot of stuff at home. "I'm going with two other people that I've also known for my whole life, pretty much." One of them was a career military guy, ex-Iraq War vet, the other one was an ER psych nurse. "We're just gonna go to the border, and we're gonna go wherever the help is needed."

MR: You're talking about "language-bending and culture-blending," but are there musical and *MR:* Before this year, how did you think of Ukraine?

AF: That's a very interesting thing that I've been kind of discovering and uncovering for myself. Like I said before, my dad was from Ukraine, my dad's from Kiev, and he passed away six years ago. His whole family was from Ukraine, and lived in Ukraine. I never, ever, considered myself Ukrainian. Never. I didn't grow up hearing it in the house, because my dad and his family were Jewish - they didn't really speak Ukrainian, they lived in parts of Ukraine where everyone just spoke Russian. My grandmother grew up speaking Yiddish. And there was a lot of anti-Semitism in Ukraine, too. So I never identified with the Ukrainian side of me, and I never thought much about Ukraine. I was young when Crimea happened, it was 2014, I was still in college. I just wasn't connected to that at all.

And then when this started happening, I never considered myself Ukrainian before, and I started becoming really intimately aware of the part of me that does – like bedren. All of my grandparents were evacuated from their homes, every single one of them. Every single one of them lost parents in wars. And they grew up with that trauma as children, hearing their parents' trauma of war. And no one ever thought that it could happen again.

I think that psychological trauma I'm noticing is very hard for people that live here from the Soviet Union, who are in that generation. They feel a lot of guilt, and a lot of shame. I'm lucky, I think part of the reason I was able to act was because I'm not burdened with that kind of shame or guilt that people from Russia or from the Soviet Union – or people that emigrated – are.

MR: Let's move into the formation of Global Disaster Relief...

AF: So I was on Facebook, never-ending scrolling through different groups in my feed, just reading what was happening in the war in the first week of March, and I stumbled across a comment in a Facebook group from my best friend's dad, Alex Smirnov. His daughter Masha,

And I told him, "Okay, anything that you need, anything at all, I'm here for it."

He was like, "Yeah, thank you. I'll let you know."

That was just one of literally hundreds of things happening that week, but I called up his daughter – I was like, "Did you know your dad was going to Poland?"

She's like, "Nope."

They posted on Facebook, and they picked up two other ER nurses that he'd never met before in his life, Ukrainian-speaking nurses; they joined him at the airport and the five of them flew to Poland. And he called me up. He was like, "Okay, I'm leaving. I just started this nonprofit – like, three days ago I signed the paperwork. I need you to run stuff while I'm away, and to be my main point of contact with this world."

Continued next week.

And I'm like, "Okay, you got it."





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: Alba Agudelo

Por VICTORIA MAILLO DE AGUILERA

GREENFIELD – Este mes he entrevistado a otra colombiana, a la que el amor por la costura le trajo a Franklin County. Alba (Albita) Agudelo es la siguiente persona en esta serie de gente normal, pero que por dentro tiene cualidades para ser una superheroína, una persona con la que nos cruzamos cada día en la calle en Franklin County y que pueden ustedes encontrar en su taller de arreglos de ropa, Albita's en Main Street en Greenfield.

Alba Agudelo llegó casi por casualidad a Massachusetts desde su ciudad natal de Medellín en Colombia. Medellín es la segunda ciudad más grande de Colombia, en el departamento de Antioquía, en la cordillera de los Andes.

Medellín experimentó un gran crecimiento económico e industrial hasta la década de los 70 en que la inseguridad y el desempleo dieron paso a un período crítico de su historia en el que el contrabando y el narcotráfico para parte de la población que no tenía forma de acceder a otros recursos.

La ciudad sufrió en sus carnes la creación del cartel de Medellín y la violencia política y social que trajo consigo el narcoterrorismo, secuestros, asesinatos de jueces y políticos y que tuvo el punto final con la muerte de Pablo Escobar en 1993. La guerrilla y el paramilitarismo continuaron en Medellín y en toda Colombia por algunos años lo que provocó miles de desplazados por la violencia.

Este es el entorno social y económico de la ciudad en la vivía nuestra protagonista en Colombia. Albita es madre soltera de dos hijos, de 21 y 19 años, que ha sacado adelante sin la ayuda de nadie, rodea-



Alba y Antonio en su taller Albita's en Greenfield..

ducida en Colombia al ser más cara ya no se vendía bien y por ellos los salarios de los trabajadores textiles no llegaban para sacar adelante a una familia.

Cuando murió su madre se mudó a vivir en Santander, muy cerca de la frontera con Venezuela. Empezó a trabajar en Venezuela y para ello cruzaba cada día la frontera ya que los sueldos en el país vecino eran más competitivos. Alba quería ahorrar dinero para darle una educación universitaria a su hija que siempre ha soñado con ser veterinaria y trabajaba todo lo que podía para ello.

Su Habilidad

Albita empezó a trabajar a los 16 años en un taller de costura, y allí llegó a ser supervisora y luego trabajó en el puesto más alto que es el control de calidad.

En una de sus visitas a su hermana, que vivía en Greenfield, conoció al que ahora es su marido y socio en

reglase ropa en Franklin County y había una necesidad para este tipo de taller. Su jefe en Boston no quería que se fuese debido a su buen hacer en el trabajo, pero le ayudó al saber que iba a montar su propio negocio.

Compraron las máquinas de coser en Nueva York, alquilaron el local en Main Street, y comenzaron su negocio justo antes de la pandemia.

Los clientes les llevan prendas muy viejas y usadas, pero con valor sentimental para ellos y que por lo tanto quieren conservar por más tiempo. Albita las deja como nuevas y listas para usar otros 25 años. Sin darse cuenta están ayudando a conservar el planeta y a luchar contra esta corriente del *fast fashion* que hace tanto daño al medioambiente.

Superación

Para Alba separarse de sus hijos y dejarlos en Colombia fue muy difícil. Era la primera vez que se separaba de su hija menor y quedarse sola en Colombia fue para la muchachita como arrancarle una parte de su cuerpo. Tuvo que superar también la falta de relación que había tenido con su hijo mayor cuando era pequeño debido a situaciones familiares graves y complicadas. Su hijo intentó venir a los Estados Unidos, pero no le fue posible cruzar la frontera.

Alba trabaja todos los días excepto los domingos en su taller en Greenfield y Antonio compatibiliza el taller con un trabajo en una pizzería por las noches.

La principal dificultad a superar además de la distancia de su familia, ha sido el inglés. Como muchos otros inmigrantes vino a este país sin hablar inglés y cuando llegó a la factoría de trajes militares en Boston, Alba no fue capaz de llenar la solicitud porque estaba en inglés.

El jefe le hizo la prueba con la máquina de coser y desde ese mismo día le empezó a dar más horas de trabajo ya que enseguida se dio cuenta de la habilidad que Alba tenía para la costura. Enseguida consiguió más horas de trabajo puesto que era la mejor costurera del taller.

Albita me cuenta que la gente fue maravillosa y que cuando entraban en el taller los primeros meses y ella no hablaba nada de inglés, la gente intentaba comunicarse con un poquito de español.

Alba considera que la gente de Franklin County le ha dado mucho amor y al mismo tiempo ellos a veces se han sentido como terapistas para las personas que estaban solas durante la pandemia y que necesitaban una persona al otro lado del teléfono para hablar.

Su sueño es poder reunirse con sus hijos y poder vivir juntos o muy cerca otra vez.

Massachusetts

Su hermana llevaba ya algún tiempo viviendo en la zona y ella vino para visitarla hace algunos años. Le gustó mucho Massachusetts, aunque en esos años era difícil encontrar un trabajo como costurera en Franklin County, así que Alba mudó a Boston donde una prima le recomendó un trabajo en una fábrica textil.

Pidió trabajo en un taller de costura en el que tuvo que hacer una prueba cosiendo a máquina y él encargado le ofreció trabajo inmediatamente al darse cuenta de su prodigiosa habilidad y allí se quedó haciendo uniformes para las fuerzas armadas estadounidenses.

Le encantaba Boston porque había muchos latinos, y muchos colombianos en East Boston, un lugar donde podía hablar español, comer sus platos típicos, disfrutar de su música, etc. También porque el transporte público funcionaba muy bien y aquí en Franklin County no es posible estar sin manejar.

A pesar de esto, ahora Alba está encantada de vivir en Franklin County y de la comunidad que le ha acogido maravillosamente y la ha ayudado en especialmente durante los momentos difíciles de la pandemia.

Voces inmigrantes:

da de unas circunstancias familiares y sociales duras y complicadas.

En su ciudad trabajaba en un taller de costura llegando a ser una de las oficialas del taller con más experiencia. Los sueldos en Colombia para este tipo de trabajo bajaron debido a la economía global, ya que no podía competir con los talleres en países asiáticos y sus precios más baratos. Así que la mercancía prosu negocio Albita's, el salvadoreño Antonio Saravia, que ya vivía desde hacía muchos años en esta zona. Empezaron una relación y Alba debido al consejo de un compañero de trabajo empezó a explorar la posibilidad de montar un negocio en el que ella pudiera usar sus habilidades para coser.

Se dio cuenta de que no había muchos lugares en los que se ar-

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Por VICTORIA MAILLO DE AGUILERA

BOSTON – El estado de Massachusetts permitirá a partir del 1 de julio de 2023 que cualquier persona que haya superado el examen práctico y teórico. Se necesitará a partir de ahora solamente un documento que acredite la identidad, por ejemplo, un pasaporte extranjero. El gobernador Baker vetó esta medida porque consideraba que propiciaba el fraude electoral. Por el contrario, otros políticos y miembros de organizaciones que llevan luchando tiempo por conseguir esta medida la consideran positiva para los trabajadores inmigrantes que necesitan manejar y al mismo tiempo hará que las carreteras sean más seguras.

Una celebración de las artes

Por VICTORIA MAILLO DE AGUILERA

TURNERS FALLS – El pasado 22 de mayo se celebró en el teatro Shea el evento organizado por *Center for New Americans* para celebrar la diversidad y la multiculturalidad que como inmigrantes aportamos a este país. El evento es uno de los que CNA celebra cada año para conseguir fondos y apoyo para continuar con sus clases de inglés y de ciudadanía, así como ofrecer servicios legales gratuitos.

Hubo números de baile con participantes de Colombia, El Salvador, Nepal, y Honduras, cantantes de Chile, Cabo Verde y El Salvador, tambores de Guinea, poetas de España y Venezuela e incluso una receta explicada por un chef de Tailandia.

El evento volvió a tener público en el teatro después del hiato de dos años de pandemia, aunque



Naru and Junu, bailarinas de Nepal.

las personas que quisieran podían seguirlo en directo online retransmitido por Northampton Open Media y que ahora ustedes pueden disfrutar si lo desean en YouTube. Les animo a hacerlo y si lo consideran contribuir con un donativo o asistir a la ceremonia de naturalización que se celebrará el próximo 4 de julio en Northampton.





MONTAGUE from page A1

packed public hearing at the Shea Theater in February 2020, Mass-DOT revealed that the proposed project would be a quick fix, lasting only 20 years, focusing on the lower portion of the bridge until a new bridge was constructed.

The short timeline for the life of the General Pierce, and the failure of a proposal to address the rust and "ugly green paint" on the bridge's upper trusses, were met locally with almost universal outrage.

A sustained lobbying campaign supported by Blais and Comerford to expand the project's scope was also endorsed by the company awarded the reconstruction, Northern Service LLC, which proposed a change order to paint the upper bridge. Just last week, however, the selectboard decided to abandon the "Paint the Bridge" protest movement as a lost cause, and one which would delay the structure's planned reopening in 2024.

The MassDOT letter to Blais and Comerford did not seem aware of the board's about-face, but stated that the department's "design and construction engineers" had recently evaluated painting the upper portion of the bridge and found that it requires "extensive structural work," which could add "two or more years" to the project but would not "appreciably extend the life span of the bridge."

The letter, therefore, proposed to "advance the full replacement of the bridge considerably ahead of our capital plan schedule."

While the highway administrator did not indicate a specific timeline for the General Pierce's replacement, he wrote that "our team is in the process of selecting a designer and establishing a scope and schedule," and that the agency expected to start the "public process for the bridge replacement in the coming months."

Bridge fatigue notwithstanding, Kuklewicz called the letter "good news. ""We don't have any further details," he said. "One could logically think that this might happen very soon after the canal district project."

Echoing him, selectboard member Matt Lord applauded "multiple rounds of unexpected good infrastructure news."

The MassDOT letter also did not indicate whether the new bridge would continue to bear the name of Pierce, an officer in a volunteer militia that fought in the Spanish American War of 1898 and who was elected to the position of general more than a decade later. Pierce became Greenfield's postmaster and resigned from the militia, but continued to wear his general's uniform at public events. According to one account, by the time the bridge was built in 1947, replacing two bridges destroyed in a 1936 flood, Pierce was in the state legislature, and the bridge was given his name by his Republican Party colleagues. This apparently did not sit well with veterans of the World War II era, and Pierce was subsequently voted out of office.

be on the same page," he said.

Ramsey said the work on the intersection of Canal Road was proceeding as planned, although the contractor Roach and Sons has "no interest" in continuing sidewalk improvements. He has urged Roach to subcontract that work but the town, which has been awarded money for that phase of the project, may have to initiate a new bidding process.

The main "sunk cost" of the project, Ramsey said, is the prefabricated bridge itself – already under construction, at a cost Ramsey estimated at "about \$190,000" and \$40,000 more to complete. He said MassDOT and the funding agencies have been asked if they have interest in the bridge.

Ramsey also floated the idea of asking the contractor to construct a smaller bridge, which the town could use for "crossing a stream."

"We have a school that teaches welding," said Kuklewicz, who sits on the Franklin County Technical School board. "We could give it to them, which would be ten years of stuff to weld."

Beyond Bridges

At Ramsey's request, the board approved a land development agreement and deed with Nova Real Estate, LLC, which has been awarded the right to develop the former highway garage at 500 Avenue A. Under the agreement, Nova agrees to an "itemized list" of improvements to the building and a work schedule. The agreement also contains a funding scenario for the work.

An agreement with the firm Thomas Douglas Architects for a reuse assessment of the "underutilized" portions of the town hall annex was also approved by the board. The study will be funded by a REDO grant from the Western Massachusetts EDC.

Later in the meeting the board approved an "unrelated" transfer of funds from the town's community development discretionary fund for work on the town hall basement, creating a space for the Montague retirement board.

The board approved a of \$3,900 to Berkshire Design for the administration of the Avenue A streetscape project. Brian McHugh, who oversees the community development block grant projects for the town, advocated putting \$106,909 in unused grant funding from a previous streetscape project into housing rehabilitation instead. The board decided to discuss it in two weeks when town administrator Steve Ellis is in attendance. approved by the board, as was an increase in Little's clothing allowance.

Little said board members of the public works department and the engineering firm Wright-Pierce would be performing "sewer night flow observations" this week at manholes in Turners Falls and Millers Falls. "We wanted to make sure that the public is aware of this," she said. "We want to see, and narrow down, where we have infiltration."

The board reviewed Little's recommendations on eight sewer abatement requests with the board, five of which were approved and three rejected.

Little also requested that the board change the WPCF's name to the "Clean Water Facility." The board decided to delay the decision until its next meeting to obtain more public input. "It's more modern," said selectboard member Chris Boutwell.

Corporate America

Tyler Finnegan of Republic Services came before the board to discuss trash and recycling pickups under the company's new five-day system. Kuklewicz said he was surprised, driving home from work that day, to see "most of what was missed on Friday had not been picked up."

"I'm actually still shocked there's still stuff out on the ground," responded Finnegan, who reviewed approaches to fix the problem, including an internet application that would allow residents to inform the Republic dispatcher when trash has not been picked up.

Michael Kane and Anna Raby of the electric company Eversource came before the board to discuss redundant utility poles caused by other utility companies, mainly Comcast and Verizon, failing to move their lines to new poles. Raby said "significant progress" has been made in 2022, with 122 redundant poles removed but another 63 still remaining.

Kuklewicz told the board that four towns involved in the First-Light relicensing process "felt the need" for legal advice and representation before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. He said the Franklin Regional Council of Governments has recommended counsel and agreed to pay \$10,000 of the cost if the towns – Northfield, Gill, Erving, and Montague – contribute \$2,500 each.

The board agreed to the request, with the money coming from the town's legal budget.



The Power of Personal Narrative with Sarah Wisby Tuesdays 6 to 8 p.m., July 5 to August 23 In person at Looky Here, Greenfield





The Strange Page: Experimental Writing Workshop with Vanessa Brewster Thursdays 6 to 8 p.m., July 7 to September 1 Remote via Zoom (no class August 4)

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on June 14, 2012: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

District Demonstrates Support for Mullins

Outgoing superintendent Nadine Ekstrom, on her last night sitting in a school committee meeting at Turners Falls High School told those gathered she would support keeping Gary Mullins as coach. "Of course we want to keep him, why wouldn't we? He's done a wonderful job."

Once again the television studio at Turners Falls High School was packed Tuesday night, June 12, as parents, students and members of the athletic department filled the room in support of coach Mullins.

Members of the girls' softball team, who just won the Division Championship last Saturday, joined the group after they returned from winning another game Tuesday night. They are in line to win the state championship. The girls stood quietly listening, but their presence was the strongest demonstration of how much Mullins is respected and valued in the school community.

Ekstrom told those gathered that if they have a coach they like, they should give their feedback to the principal of the school. She said they always like to know what parents are thinking.

Ekstrom added in a statement

Montague Cultural Council Allocates \$3,925 for Projects

The six members of the Montague Cultural Council reviewed the 33 applications that it received in October, and made grant awards to 16 individuals and organizations to provide cultural activities in Montague's villages for the benefit of residents. Grants ranged from \$50 to \$400.

The 16 projects funded by the Council, listed in order received, were diverse in content: Montague Public Libraries, "Nature in the Library," a series with Dawn Marvin Ward; the Dance Generators, "Dancing Across Generations" at the Farren Care Center; the Country Players' spring musical poduction of Godspell; Arena Civic Theater's Radium Girls: a Drama; the Shea Community Theater, Inc. for a series of summer movies in Peskeomskut Park; summer concerts by the Montague Community Band; Michael Nelson for the Franklin County Spring Parade; the United Arc, "Enjoying Nature" for families at Camp Keewanee; a program by Great Falls Creative Movement at Montague elementary schools; Erin Myers and Jared Libby, for a "Summer Workshop Series" for the community at large at the Brick House; Cate Woolner, "Antarctica: My Journey to the Bottom of the World", a slide show for elementary students; the Pocumtuck Memorial Association and Memorial Hall Museum, "Chinese Folk Dance Performance"; the Museum of Our Industrial History, an expansion of "Free Summer Sundays"; the Marble Collection, Inc.'s "Program for Schools"; and Montague Art Movement for a "fine art exhibit and sale" on May Day in Montague Center.

Recalculating

The conversation earlier about how to reconfigure the pedestrian bridge project, which is being funded by state grants, began with a presentation by town planner Walter Ramsey. Ramsey said he had made a "contract amendment request" from the state Department of Housing and Urban Development, and had met with the contractor and engineer about the change is the project's scope of work. "All parties appear to In Ellis's absence, the board also approved a hiring committee for the new assistant town administrator, but did not yet work on a job description.

The committee will consist of Ellis, administrative assistant Wendy Bogusz, highway superintendent Tom Bergeron, wastewater superintendent Chelsey Little, and building inspector Bill Ketchen from town staff, as well as Greg Garrison of the capital improvements committee and Kimberly Williams from the town's Economic Development and Industrial Corporation.

Clean Water

Water pollution control facility (WPCF) superintendent Chelsey Little Little presented a job description for a new lab manager position. After some input, the board approved the description. A \$150,000 grant from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust for an asset management project was

Other Business

The board approved nearly \$35,000 in transfers to the airport operating budget, mainly due to higher costs associated with the purchase of the Pioneer Aviation property, and approved an agreement with "public safety consulting firm" BadgeQuest to assess candidates for the new police sergeant position.

Requests by RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto for summer events at Spinner and Peskeomskut parks were approved, as was a request from Ann Fisk for the use of public property on August 20 for the annual Mug Race.

Bogusz reported on a meeting between the state Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission and Santo Taco, which operates a taco stand on Second Street and is seeking a seasonal beer and wine license. The state objects to the taco trailer being moved to other locations even though alcohol would only be served at the Second Street location, and is to the *Montague Reporter*, "If he were to apply for the position, I would support his application." Coaches in this district are not given more than a one-year contract, and so are rehired every year. Ekstrom confirmed she had hired a new PE Director.



suggesting that a separate storage facility be constructed.

Bogusz said Santo Taco will "think about it" and return to the selectboard.

Kuklewicz said town hall staff is exploring ways to continue hybrid meetings, "although we don't know for how long." "The one thing the pandemic has shown is that the ability to have hybrid meetings is beneficial," he said.

Kuklewicz also reviewed the latest COVID statistics submitted

by the new collaborative four-town reporting system. He said there were 15 "cases" – the sheet he projected did not reveal what the numbers stood for – with seven under the age of 18, and showing a decline from the previous week. No one from the health department or board was present.

The board retired to an executive session to discuss collective bargaining strategy. Its next

scheduled meeting will be on June 27.



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SPORTS from page A1

reached base and took second on a throwing error. She then stole third, and was sacrificed in by Hannah Gilbert. Ross got a base hit, but in a harbinger of things to come, Tech left a runner on base.

In the third, the Hawks increased their lead to 3-1 off an infield pop, a walk, a bunt-out which advanced the runners, and a two-out base hit RBI.

For the rest of the game, Franklin got runners on base, but were unable to send them home. In the fifth they got two players on, but Frontier managed to get the lead runner out and Tech went back to the field stranding two players. In the sixth, Franklin got runners on second and third, but a ground out ended the threat.

Frontier broke it wide open in the seventh inning. A base hit and an error put two Hawks on base, and then an errant throw to home plate, which bounced against the backstop, allowed both to score and sent the batter all the way to third. A throw over the second baseman's head scored Hawks' third run, and a home plate steal gave Frontier a 7-1 lead going into the bottom of the seventh.

Kyra Goodell led that final inning off with a base hit, but a double play gave Tech two outs, and a high pop to left field ended the game – and the 2022 season – for the Franklin Tech Softball Eagles.

In high school sports, unless you win the state title, your last game is always a loss. But that doesn't take away the success that the Franklin Tech Softball Eagles has had this season. They finished 22–4 overall, and were league champs, State Vocational champs, Western MA finalists, and made a run to the Elite Eight.

Pitcher Lauren Ross, who picked up 303 career strikeouts in just two seasons, will be playing for Castleton University next year.

TFHS 12 – Millis 2

Later Friday evening, the Turners Falls Softball Thunder faced the 23rd-seeded Millis Maroon Mohawks.

Millis got on the scoreboard in the top of the first. The first Maroon batter took a base on balls, and advanced on a bunt out. She then stole third, and scored on a wild pitch.

But Blue answered in the bottom of the first, and



"Put all my eggs in one basket," cartoonist Denis Bordeaux lamented this week, after working on portraying this fantasy matchup between Turners Falls and Greenfield in the MIAA finals. "Oh well!" As this issue went to press we learned that the Green Wave won their Wednesday semifinal never looked back. Emily Young walked and took second on a foul out; Morgan Dobias got a base hit, putting runners on the corners; Paige Sulda doubled in Young; and Cady Wozniak notched two RBIs, sending Dobias and Sulda home and giving Blue a 3-1 lead.

In the second, Jenna Petrowicz walked and Young hit an RBI double to increase the lead to 4-1.

Millis scored their second run in the third off a walk and a wild pitch, but Turners got it back in their half. Leading off with a double, Sulda advanced to third on a deep out by Wozniak, and Olivia Stafford sacrificed her home. Powertown's lead was now at 5-2. In the fourth, Young beat the throw to first and Madison Liimatainen hit an RBI double to put it to 6-2.

And Turners really put it away in the fifth, as Sulda, Wozniak, Stafford, Young, Skylei LaPan, and Marilyn Abarua all scored to give Turners the 12-2 victory.

West Boylston 2 – TFHS 0

And then, on Tuesday, Turners lost.

There was a little talk before the game about the venue, because Turners doesn't have good luck playing down at Westfield State University – they had just lost there last week, even, in the PVIAC tournament finals. The other possible field was UMass Worcester, where Turners has had much success over the last few decades.

But, superstitions aside, the game went on as scheduled. Blue's foe in the D5 semifinals was the West Boylston Lions.

The very first batter that Liimatainen faced, she struck out, giving her 300 career Ks, an incredible feat for a freshman to accomplish. Turners got runners on base throughout the innings, while the Cats had trouble with Liimatainen's pitching, but the Thunder were ultimately unable to convert those hits into runs.

In the first inning, Liimatainen hit a line drive. Courtesy runner Ariel Peters reached second base on a fielder's choice, but a shot to the shortstop retired the side.

The Lions scored in the third inning off a walk and a sacrifice. Powertown came back in the bottom of the third, loading the bases with one out, but two popups ended the inning and the Thunder came up empty. Turners got a runner to second base in the fourth, but again, they couldn't buy a run.

In the fifth, a triple and a wild pitch gave West a 2-0 edge. In the home fifth, Thunder got runners to second and third base, but a fly out retired the side.

In the sixth, LaPan hit a Texas Leaguer, but two strikeouts sent the game into the seventh with Powertown down 2-0.

And in the seventh, Young led off with a monster double, but three consecutive outs ended the threat and the season as well.

This has been a rebuilding year for the Turners Falls Softball Thunder. The defending state champions lost their pitcher and most of their infield to graduation, and their catcher to injury.

This forced coach Gary Mullins to shuffle his fielders around. For most of the season, three 8th-graders played in the outfield while Stafford and Young played new positions. At one point, another injury forced Mullins to start four junior high girls on varsity.

This is not an excuse, because Turners does not need to make excuses for a very successful season. They made it to the PVIAC final game and advanced to the MIAA semifinals, consistently beating higher-ranked foes along the way. We've seen a



Franklin Tech's Kendra Campbell looks on as Lauren Ross (left) and Kaitlin Trudeau (right) high five at the top of the inning during the MIAA Division 5 quarterfinal game at FCTS.



game against Frontier, 11-2, and face West Boylston in the championship game this Friday at UMass Amherst.

lot of young players grow, giving us a lot to look forward to in 2023.



Turners Falls' Skylei Lapan slams a single in the sixth inning as the Thunder faced the West Boylston Lions in Tuesday's semifinal game at Westfield State.

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"When day comes, we step out of the shade aflame and unafraid. The new dawn blooms as we free it. For there is always light. If only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it."

Amanda Gorman, The Hill We Climb

C; allEarth



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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

JUNE 16, 2022

Above: Roses are in bloom on Central Street in Turners Falls.

A Town's Heart Shows in *Faces*

By DONNA PETERSEN

WENDELL – A sense of place, history, the stories of long time residents; all of these ingredients come together in a new book that just came out, Faces of Wendell. People came together to produce an oral history told by older residents, like a few other towns have done. Local teens were matched up with those elders, who offered their stories of living in Wendell, and the recorded stories were transcribed and edited into a book format.

I met with the author/editors, Ruth Flohr and Mez Ziemba, at the Wendell Free Library recently where we chatted about the book.

Wendell, as we know, is a small and pretty unique town. While working at the library there for two years, I witnessed the close community and the celebration of its diverse characters. I got to know some of those who helped knit the community together.

Mez certainly has a great love for her town, and about five years ago at Old Home Days, she had an "aha" moment – "Why not capture in writing some of the stories of the wonderful people who came before us?" she thought.

Nothing came of the idea until she took a memoir writing course with local writer Ruth Flohr, who had returned to Wendell after residing out west for a number of years. Mez told Ruth about her idea for an oral history; Ruth said "when do we start?" and they were on their way.

They were able to initiate and complete the proj- from the New Salem Academy that then-librarian Rosthe Friends of the Wendell Free Library, and a grant



Ruth Flohr and Mez Ziemba, eds., Faces of Wendell: An Oral History Project, Part One (Human Error Publishing, 2022)

ect with support from the Wendell Cultural Council, ie Heidkamp encouraged them to apply for. Mez and



By DAVID BRULE

ERVINGSIDE – A Sunday morning sun slowly warms the June garden. Heritage roses with names like Othello, Marie-Rose, Tess d'Ubervilles, and Tottering By Gently flaunt their scarlet and yellow brilliance just beyond the edge of the back porch. Foxgloves await the first bumblebees to enter and explore their fragrant tunnels.

Birds of all sorts wing in from the woods and river. A few handfuls of seed snacks tossed into the feeders provide a free breakfast for the asking, luring them in first thing in the morning. They really don't need any handouts in this season of increasing plenty, but while the seed lasts the birds add animation and more color to the early hours.

Catbird and oriole scoff down beakfuls of morning oranges, redwings flare scarlet epaulettes at one another, chattering chimney swifts streak through the blue skies high above the tallest trees.

Then down comes an unusu-

in length, with pale creamy undersides and a tawny back. She is almost invisible if you are the one down on the woodland floor looking upwards. The cuckoo lives high up there in the treetops with the equally elusive scarlet tanager.

Yet, this morning, a stroke of luck: I spy what I've long been waiting for. From my Adirondack chair on the deck, a movement in the bank of lilacs catches my eye. A strange, long-tailed bird, somehow more exotic that the others that frequent the yard, skulks through the heart-shaped leaves. Then another of the same species joins the first.

Just as stealthy as the two birds in the bush, I slowly raise my binoculars to spy on the couple. One of them seems to just barely peek in my direction from behind a leaf. Down from the treetops to ground level, I can make out one eye and the bright yellow lower mandible. Brownish tan back, creamy tawny breast, a long tail with white spots - this is for sure the elusive yel-

low-billed cuckoo.

see FACES page B4



By TROUBLE MANDESON

GREENFIELD – This month we're talking tacos. specifically those that come from trucks. I managed to sample Cocina Lupita, Cielito Lindo, and Tito's Taqueria - which was formerly in a truck - and meant to get to Santo Taco and Posada, but never made it there. I did have some help from a visiting friend who gladly sampled tacos for my research.

My wife and I both grew up with Mexican food readily available and tacos were something my family



Sampler Sophia enjoyed these simple chicken tacos from Cielito Lindo. She needed three just to be sure.

ate often. I would never touch salsa, pico de gallo, hot sauce, or anything deemed spicy or hot. It wasn't until I tasted my wife's chiles rellenos that I finally relented and began to enjoy a more varied menu of foods that included chilis and peppers.

These days I've dedicated much of my raised garden beds to poblano chilis and jalapeno peppers, many of which we freeze to use in the fall at our annual Dia de los Muertos celebration - that's Day of the Dead, a Mexican holiday just after Halloween, but that's for another column...

Tacos, like rellenos, are also stuffed with hot seasoned meat and topped with shredded cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, and pico de gallo, a mix of finely chopped tomatoes, onions, jalapenos, and cilantro. Corn tortillas are fried into shells for hard tacos, or warmed and folded for soft tacos. If stuffed, rolled, and fried, they are called taquitos.

Since I now embrace hot and spicy as acceptable flavors in my palate, I thought it might be fun to compare and contrast local tacos. Although all of the vendors serve other dishes including burritos, tamales, quesadillas, and, in the case of the Salvadorian places, pupusas, tacos are my focus here.

As a volunteer at Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center in Greenfield, I eat at Cocina Lupita pretty often, so I'll start with them. They serve Salvadorian food from their colorful truck on the Greenfield common, and for a sawbuck - that's \$10 to you young'uns - you can get two soft tacos with a side of rice and beans.

Family friend Sophia Manodori, a Putney School graduate heading for Smith College this fall, is visiting

see **HEARTFELT** page B6

al call, from up there in the high green canyon cliffsides of the woodland oaks. Those oaks that speak in the treetop winds are silent in this still June morning, not a breath of air up there. But a faint voice filters down.

It's a cuckoo calling. She gives out a low ku-kuk-ku-kddowl song, not at all musical, only a hint of a muffled voice. This spring she, or one like her, has been calling from the treetops deep in our woods, and all over the county.

I've heard one calling in Deerfield; another calls in Montague. Her voice comes down from up there at 90 feet, and then she's gone, then she's calling from a quarter mile away, distant and elusive. It's maddening, so hard to see.

I know from photographs and paintings that the cuckoo is a long, slender bird, even up to 12 inches

The pair continues to weave through the branches and leaves at eye level, then furtively slip higher up as they pluck hairy caterpillars from the undersides of leaves.

I've been hearing their muffled calls for weeks. These birds seem part ventriloquist, throwing their voices, never really where their voice seems to be coming from.

Later in the day, walking along the sidewalk to the upper village, I notice something on the ground underfoot. Here are the clues and evidence to solve the mystery as to why the cuckoos have appeared. Tiny round pellets, scarcely discernible, litter the sidewalk. On the trail of the elusive cuckoo, something tells me to listen for a sound I hadn't heard in almost 40 years: those tiny round pellets are raining down from the oak trees.

see WEST ALONG page B2



The yellow-billed cuckoo, Coccyzus americanus, is shown here at right beside its black-billed cousin.

Pet of Week



B2

"TORI"

young girl. She was found as a stray, so we don't have information about her previous life. We have gotten her out into a foster home and she is settling in there beautifully. She is doing well crated overnight without a peep out of her and is enjoying walks in the woods.

If you're looking for a couch potato, she's not your girl. But if you're an active person looking for

Tori is a happy, enthusiastic an energetic young dog to go on hikes with, train, and play with she'll be a ton of fun!

> Interested in adopting Tori? Her adoption fee is \$550. Animals at Dakin are available only in Springfield currently. Contact adoption staff at springfield @dakinhumane.org and include your name and phone number. For more information, call (413) 781-4000 or visit www.dakinhumane.org.

Senior Center Activities JUNE 20 THROUGH 24

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.

Thursday 6/23 9 a.m. Walk With Ease 1 p.m. Cards & Games 3 p.m. Meditation for Seniors (pre-register) Friday 6/24 10:15 a.m. Aerobics

WEST ALONG from page B1

Gypsy moths are back!

Later, driving down Route 63 out of Millers Falls towards Montague Center, the manifestation of the infestation is evident. The leaves of oak trees are shredded like lace. Full of holes, the leaves stand out against the sky - no green left, just the spines and skeletons of what should have been their June finery. Relentlessly moving north, the gypsy moth caterpillars are eating their way across the state.

The cuckoos follow. They are one of the few birds to feed on the hairy, even toxic caterpillars.

Back at home, I go up to the north spare room where all old things and random books have wound up over the generations of my family living in this house. I take down from the shelf an ancient volume of Birds of America, edited by T. Gilbert Pearson, published back in 1917. It was a Christmas gift to me from my grandparents who lived in this house. This old tome is nothing like the high-tech bird guides and smartphone apps available to 21st century birdwatchers: it's a heavy five-pound treasury, full of turn-ofthe-last century anecdotes, stories, and essays on birds.

Pearson writes:

"Few birds are more widely known than the Cuckoo. He has his place in the Bible and was honored by the consideration of Aristotle and Pliny...Wordsworth's lines, though of course addressed to the European species, apply as well to ours.

"O Cuckoo! Shall I call you bird? / Or but a wandering voice...

"In point of fact, the American Cuckoo is a totally different bird from the English one, different in size, different in color, and very different in habits and disposition.

"As to the cuckoo-clock, the American Cuckoo's song which, in fact, is simply a series of guttural chucks and clucks, most unbirdlike and wholly unmusical. These Cuckoos are essentially birds of mystery. Not only in their unearthly call, but in their specter-like comings and goings... He slips in and out of trees like a ghost... proceeds to search for his preferred fare of 'tent' caterpillars of which he destroys great numbers..."

The old folk names collected in this depiction of the cuckoo include the following: rain crow; storm crow; chow-chow; kow-kow. Nothing like the "cuckoo" call, as the Bavarian clocks would have

you believe. Farmers gave them the name "Rain Crow" because of the belief that their guttural cry predicts rain.

Pearson continues:

"But why 'Crow,' a bird which is uniformly and famously black all over, while the cuckoo varies from white to brown, but is essentially a light-colored bird? This is one of the queerest freaks of popular terminology, and suggests that we have to thank for it somebody who couldn't tell black from white."

Now that's nature writing like you will no longer find in any contemporary and sophisticated monograms of our bird species!

The cuckoo is a pretty bird, She sings as she flies. *She brings us glad tidings* And tells us no lies...

(Traditional Appalachian song, likely English in origin.)

So now we add the cuckoo to our summer guest list. Let's hope that these summer visitors, famed in folk song and legend, will daily eat their weight of those dratted hairy gypsy moth caterpillars.



Surviving Breast Cancer By Julie Cunningham

Part 25: Surviving Disney

AMHERST – I survived the long lines and crushing heat of Disney World. It was worth it. Being at Disney with my son melted away the pain of the past year. It was a wonderful and magical three days.

But it was hot. Very hot. And the lines were long. Very, very long. Hours long. Especially the line for Rock 'n' Roller Coaster.

Let me start by saying that my son, although young, is just over four feet tall, the minimum requirement for the Rock 'n' Roller Coaster at Hollywood Studios. For anyone who isn't familiar, this is a roller coaster that features Aerosmith. It's about a minute and a half long, maybe two minutes. The kicker, though, is that it goes from zero to 60 miles an hour at the start.

You have to follow rules. The first is that you have to secure your belongings, or sit on them. That's right: sit on them. I somehow missed the area to secure my bag, so a cast member told me to put it behind me. Well, there wasn't a lot of room behind me, so I sat on it.

the indoor portion of the line, it wasn't so bad.

Being a mom, I made sure he watched the start of the roller coaster before we got on it, and saw that it was going to start fast and go into a dark tunnel. He was OK, so on we went.

We finally got to have our chance, and I'm not going to lie, I was nervous. I have memories of being on rides like the Tower of Terror, which is an elevator that drops about 13 stories or 130 feet, and hanging on for dear life because I was so skinny I was flying out of my seat. That was not great. So when we got onto the Rock 'n' Roller Coaster, I made sure my son was secure and was not going to fly out. Once we got to the starting point, I'm sure everyone could hear me yelling at him to lean back.

Then the ride began. I kept one hand on his leg the entire time to make sure he was there and he was was OK.

He screamed, and I screamed, and we did the loops and the upside down, and two minutes later we were done. He said it was his favorite ride. We got photos of us on the Rock 'n' Roller Coaster, which my mom loves and has kept. We didn't do it again - I couldn't stomach the line – but we did do Everest at the Animal Kingdom, and the three at the Magic Kingdom a few more times. Not all the rides are thrill rides; we also did Peter Pan and the Little Mermaid when we wanted to relax. One of my aunts made a comment that she had to be escorted out of the Rock 'n' Roller Coaster because she was too scared. I think that as adults, we know what can go wrong – I know roller coasters can break, and people can get hurt – but children don't think about that. Except that all last year, my son had to think about me being hurt. It was obvious, even though I tried to hide it, that I was tired and in pain. So it made sense to me that a two-minute roller coaster might not seem like a very big deal to him after all.

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. For more information please call 863-9357.

Monday 6/20

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

Tuesday 6/21

9 a.m. Walk With Ease 10 a.m. Tuesday Morning Knitters 1 p.m. Chair Yoga 3 p.m. Tai Chi Wednesday 6/22 10:15 a.m. Aerobics 11 a.m. Chair Exercise 12 p.m. BYO Lunch to Bingo

11 a.m. Chair Exercise 12 p.m. Pizza Party

4 p.m. Mat Yoga

ERVING

Erving Senior Center is open 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Open for cards, coffee, and snacks daily. For more information, please call (413) 423-3649.

Monday 6/20

Closed for Juneteenth Tuesday 6/21 9 a.m. Good for U 10 a.m. Line Dancing Fitness Room Open Wednesday 6/22 9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact 10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics 11:30 a.m. Bingo Fitness Room Open Thursday 6/23 9 a.m. Core & Balance 10 a.m. Barre Fusion 12 p.m. Light Lunch & LRC Game (pre-register by 6/21) Friday 6/24

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew Fitness Room Open

The second rule is you have to lean all the way back when you're waiting to start, or you risk getting hurt.

My son really loved the roller coasters at Disney. We started with Splash Mountain and Thunder Mountain. Around 2 p.m. the first day it got really hot and crowded at the Magic Kingdom, so we moved to Hollywood Studios. It was hot, but less crowded. I told him about the Rock 'n' Roller Coaster so we went over and I measured his height. Actually, I measured it about three times. He was just over four feet, so he was tall enough.

Then we waited over an hour and a half in the hot sun to get on the ride. The lightning lane passes were sold out, and I wasn't about to take him in the single-rider quick lane where we could be separated, so we waited. And waited. And waited. This was where I got my worst sunburn. We did have water, and once we got to



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EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Kimmerer to Speak on **Restoration, Reciprocity**

GREENFIELD – Author Robin Wall Kimmerer will present a talk, "Restoration and Reciprocity: Healing Relationships with the Natural World," next Thursday, June 23, at 7 p.m. at the Greenfield High School. Kimmerer, a mother, scientist, professor, and enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, has earned wide acclaim for her book Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants.

This event is sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project, First-Light, and Greening Greenfield. Admission is free, and donations are always welcome. There are no tickets, and pre-registration is not required. A livestream will also be made available through www.nolumbekaproject.org.

Kimmerer is a Distinguished Teaching Professor of Environmental Biology at SUNY, and the founder and director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment, whose mission is to create programs which draw on the wisdom of both indigenous and scientific knowledge for our shared goals of sustainability.

As a writer and a scientist, her interests in restoration include not only restoration of ecological communities, but restoration of our relationships to land. She holds a BS in Botany from SUNY ESF, an MS and PhD in Botany from the University of Wisconsin, and is the author of numerous scientific papers on plant ecology, bryophyte



Author Robin Wall Kimmerer comes to Greenfield next week.

ecology, traditional knowledge, and restoration ecology.

Kimmerer's first book, Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses, was awarded the John Burroughs Medal for outstanding nature writing, and her other work has appeared in Orion, Whole Terrain, and numerous scientific journals. She tours widely, and has been featured on NPR's "On Being" with Krista Tippett. In 2015 she addressed the general assembly of the United Nations on the topic of "Healing Our Relationship with Nature."

She lives on an old farm in upstate New York, tending gardens both cultivated and wild.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG Two Big Flags; Sinkhole; Communicating One's Needs; Barton Cove Camper Complains About Park Concert

Monday, 6/6

ing landscaping trucks a phone issue. parked in the southbound 8:44 p.m. 911 caller re- an officer. lane of Federal Street on porting unwanted person 2:15 p.m. Caller from some wires and partially a blind curve, creating a on East Main Street. Both Fourth Street believes that hazard. Unable to locate. 3:52 p.m. Caller from K Street reporting a glass picture frame shattered in front of his driveway and a mirror shattered near his front door.

caller reports that an the gate on Migratory older green GMC pickup Way. There is also a sectruck with two big flags ond vehicle waiting. All was following her, yelling officers tied up on another out the window, and honking the horn at her.

6:10 p.m. 911 caller re- 3:51 porting a disturbance involving a female party that just occurred outside negative. of an Avenue A apartment building. Caller will hand after she attempted to run away from him.

ing that her dog, a black Area search negative. and white Boston terrier/ French bulldog mix with a sinkhole near the storm one eye, got loose.

Pleasant reporting something about a cat. Unable male with blond hair, black Thursday, 6/9

mation; difficult to under- er walking up and down 5:02 p.m. 911 caller re-9:53 a.m. Motorist report- stand caller; there may be Fourth Street saying "I porting that a trac-

this time.

5:50 p.m. Anonymous to be let out from behind call. Services rendered. Tuesday, 6/7

8:47 p.m. Caller locked behind gate on Migratory fill out paperwork to get a Way requesting assisrestraining order. Order tance. Services rendered. granted by on-call judge. 9:59 p.m. Suspicious per-Officer advises that the fe- son report on Randall male party was served in Road. Referred to an officer.

Wednesday, 6/8

7:55 p.m. Caller from 1:21 a.m. Suspicious person one. Officer spoke to the ming her back door for Greenfield Road report- report on Randall Road. 8:12 a.m. Walk-in reports

drain across from 21 Cen-8:36 p.m. Caller from Lake tral Street. DPW notified. 11:24 a.m. Report of a fe-

need drugs." Referred to tor-trailer unit on Turn-

parties appear intoxicat- a male with white hair in the road, then kept going. ed. Officer advises verbal a white Chrysler is dealing argument only; both par- drugs to a female with red ties unhurt and declined hair. Referred to an officer. advising traffic will have any prevention orders at 2:47 p.m. Caller reports that a Republic truck 8:49 p.m. Caller requesting struck the railroad bridge on North Leverett Road. Dumpster in road. No injuries. Railroad contacted and advised of damage to bridge. New England Central en route to assess damage. Officer advises

a.m. Suspicious that DPW hooked up to person report on Ran- the container and dragged dall Road. Area search it off the roadway; road open now.

4:23 p.m. 911 caller reporting approximately 10 kids fighting in the Fourth Street alleyway. Officer spoke with a couple of juveniles behind the Pizza House, and they said that

an issue. 6:44 p.m. Threatening/harassment by a neighbor on Masonic Avenue. Situation mediated.

with lights on in the Fifth Street parking lot. Truck is unlocked. Officer unable to shut lights off. Officer able to shut lights off.

Turners Falls Road stated that he has a bear problem and would like the game warden to call him. Caller provided with number to Environmental Police.

6:36 p.m. Caller report- 3:38 p.m. Anonymous caller friends and they were Referred to an officer.

pike Road pulled down pulled a pole down toward TFFD toned out by Shelburne Control. Officer to be diverted. Message left for DPW foreman to bring barricades. Eversource and two detail officers on scene. Shelburne Control advised to be on lookout for involved vehicle. Road reopened.

Saturday, 6/11

10:55 a.m. Caller states that she received a counterfeit \$20 bill from a store in town. Advised of options. 12:56 p.m. Walk-in would like it on record that

somebody smashed her mailbox last night on Taylor Hill Road and totally destroyed it.

2:50 p.m. 911 caller from Canal Street complaining there wasn't a fight, but about the tenant downthere was supposed to be stairs; she has been slamother juveniles and they the past hour. Officer adare not going to cause vises no noise heard and no answer at apartment in question.

7:50 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street states he was just informed by a downstairs tenant that a 2:30 a.m. Dump truck BB was shot through their bathroom window last night. Investigated.

9:54 p.m. Caller states he is camping at Barton Cove and there is a lot of music 4:07 p.m. 911 caller from coming from the Turners side of the river; unknown where. Officer advises there is a concert at Unity Park, and they have a permit for it.

Sunday, 6/12

ing that her daughter is reporting loud music someat Unity Park with her where on Bridge Street.

approached by a couple 3:45 p.m. Caller thinks he of other juveniles, one might have just purchased of whom threatened her a stolen motorcycle. Calldaughter's friend with a er stated that he asked

TV REVIEW Star Trek: Strange New Worlds (Paramount+, 2022)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – It seems they have decided to do a Star Trek series called Star Trek: Strange New Worlds featuring a character they had as a captain in the original series, Christopher Pike. Pike, played by Anson Mount, was first re-introduced for a season on Star Trek: Discovery. This show premiered on May 6 on Paramount+. It's not going to be like what people have seen before with William Shatner. We are going to see some several of the characters who were part of the Enterprise's crew before Captain Kirk became involved. We are going to see who Spock was with this captain - the actor who plays the version of Spock on the show is ing to see on screen, because we get the named Ethan Peck – and there will be a couple of other familiar faces from the original Star Trek, one of them being Nurse Chapel and the other being Uhura. At the end of the episode, we get to hear Pike say "we boldly go where no one has gone before," a well-known line from this universe. In continuation of the storyline that this character was involved with in Star *Trek: Discovery*, we see Pike struggling with the vision of his future. His confidence is kind of shaken. There is also a result of what happened in that storyline that no one could have seen coming, which is a mission that gets him pulled back into duty, and it also happens because his first officer, played by Rebecca Romijn, is involved.





characters try to blend in by looking like the alien species that are involved on the planet. It's one way that they don't break the Prime Directive, but it doesn't really work for long, because Spock's disguise falls apart. That is one interesting turn to happen right there.

But the state of this planet, and a perspective of a new crew member, help Pike regain his confidence. He becomes appreciative of what he has, and tries to make that point with the people of the planet. I think it goes down the way he wanted. In the episode, an admiral from Starfleet seems to agree with him on that. But the vision Pike had of his future doesn't really disappear from this show – it will continue to be around.

One more thing I should probably The mission itself is rather interest- mention from the original series with William Shatner is that we learned Vulcans have arranged marriages. We see that basically going on with Spock there, but really nothing more to that story. With Star Trek: Strange New Worlds, we see him and a woman get engaged. I think because of that we will see more of the Vulcans' homeworld.

These are things I learned from the upcoming preview for the rest of the season of this show. One other situation that will apparently happen is that the crew has to stop a rogue comet from destroying a planet, so that will be very cool to watch.

The new take of this show is that we see who these characters are at the moment this show is supposed to be taking place, and then we see what happens to them on their way to becoming who we know some of them are "today."

gun and showed him the the seller for a title and gun. Officer located in- he did not give him one. volved parties; juveniles VIN does not come back detained briefly; they did stolen. Previous owner inhave a broken BB gun on formation collected; same them. Officer standing by while parents of involved juveniles are located.

Friday, 6/10

three active warrants.

lot on Third Street. Male were there.

3:36 p.m. Caller from Char- Monday, 6/13 ron Street states that there 2:44 a.m. Suspicious person around the neighborhood.

is being contacted.

10:02 p.m. Officer advises that he observed parties dumping garbage and 8 a.m. Male party who household items at the had probable cause for clothing bins on Unity arrest for a recent domes- Street; he had them load tic disturbance located on it all back into the vehicle. Avenue A. Party also had 10:13 p.m. 911 caller from Davis Street advises that 12:15 p.m. Chief Wil- her neighbors are outside liams advising of a per- hooting and hollering, son camping in the woods waking up her baby. Callabove the public parking er stated they are near a green Chevy pickup truck. party advised to leave Officer advises he is familas soon as possible. Offi- iar with the party; he was cer checked back and the leaving, stopped for the male was gone, along with officer, and was advised of most of the items that the complaint. All parties are gone or inside now.

is a small bear walking report on Randall Road. Area search negative.

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OUT OF THE PARK GUNE 2022

By JON DOBOSZ

UNITY PARK - Happy June, everyone! It's the start of summer, which means a busy time for Montague Parks & Recreation - and pretty much all of Montague, actually.

Panicking parents, please note that our Summer Camp is almost full and starts soon: the 27th, to be exact. We have a lot in store for our campers this summer, including a bunch of great field trips, special events, and fun daily activities. We take weekly trips to Laurel Lake, so your kids will certainly keep busy. Our camp operates Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with early and late care available. The program runs through August 12, and what better way for your kids to stay active this summer!

For more information we recommend visiting www.montagueparksrec.com, and click on the "Summer Camp" page. The camp is licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, so we take our jobs quite seriously. Call us now before all spots are filled and your kids miss out.

We also have our films planned out for the Movies in the Park series. Our first showing will be Soul by Disney's Pixar Studios, scheduled for Friday, June 17. On July 8 we will present Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory (Retro Night), and on August 12, Marvel's Shang-Chi and The Legend of the Ten Rings.

This series is in partnership with RiverCulture and the Turners Falls High School Music Boosters, who will be serving snacks and food



during each film. The movies are held at Peskeomskut Park in downtown Turners, and they start at about 7:30 p.m. Bring a blanket, lawn chairs, an appetite, and the family.

If your kids are more into sports, we'll be sponsoring Youth Soccer Clinics from June 30 through late August. The clinics will be held at Highland Park in Millers Falls and are open for kids going into grades 4 through 7. Sessions will be from 6 to 7:30 p.m. and are the ideal opportunity for your player to work on their skills before soccer season starts in the fall. Fees for Montague residents are \$15 per player, while non-residents are \$20.

Please note that these are not drop-in sessions, so plan on playing throughout the summer.

That's about it for now. Be sure to visit our webpage and Facebook page for updates, and if you have immediate questions, feel free to call us at (413) 863-3216. We will talk to you in July!

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

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT Horror Film Class

GREENFIELD - The LAVA because no film viewing experience Center and Greenfield Community College are partnering this summer to offer a mini-course taught by GCC English Professor Lillian Ruiz. The uncredited mini-course, "The Horror Film in Media amd Popular Culture," is available to the public. Six weeks, six films, six scares! Are you a fan of horror films or want to learn more about them? Join Greenfield Community College English professor Lillian Ruiz this summer to view and discuss six influential horror films that provide more than just cinematic scares, but social commentary on their time and place as well. LAVA's six-week session is a condensed version of CMN 201, The Horror Film in Media and Popular Culture at GCC, without any academic expectations except that you have fun. Refreshments, of course, will be provided,

is complete without snacks.

The following films will be discussed: The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari; Dracula; Invasion of the Body Snatchers; Night of the Living Dead; and Halloween. Classes will be held on Wednesdays, July 7 through August 10, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Registration is required. Register for all six classes for \$75, or pick and choose for \$15 each. For more information or to register, visit www. gcc.mass.edu/community/#horror. Lillian Ruiz, professor of English at Greenfield Community College, teaches classes in media and popular culture, Gothic Literature, Shakespeare, and Women in Literature, among others. An avid pug lover, she usually can be found bragging about her pug or collecting pug memorabilia.

FACES from page B1

Ruth stressed the strong support the community offered as well.

A group of elders were chosen who offered what Mez called "a good overview of the town," including long-term residents, town officials, and back-to-theland homesteaders – also known back then as hippies. The storytellers filled out questionnaires, and the teens that Mez had approached to participate enthusiastically chose someone they felt best matched with. (One teen, I was told, was basically bribed by his mom to participate.)

At an initial meet-and-greet held at the senior center, the pair remembered, some of the stories the seniors told had the kids' jaws dropping. Then they set up appointments for interviews lasting about an hour each.

The final result of the project is an 80-page book with photos and the stories of 10 residents, starting with Ted Lewis (1929-2021), a beloved and missed resident who came to Wendell as a three-year-old. Lewis reminisced about picking blueberries and tobacco as a kid, and how he became active in town government and witnessed the arrival of the new homesteaders and the headbutting between the new and the old. But in the end, he claimed, "Jim Slavas was my favorite hippy," and the last sentence of his interview is "We all worked together."

Other stories tell of clearing the land, building homes or trucking small ones in, and the outhouse adventures. Making music, swimming at Fiske Pond, raising families, and women supporting each other while caring for children and building a caring and sharing community.

The photos included are great – I was touched to see pictures of people I recognized from my time at the library when they were young creating their lives and dreaming of a hopeful future.

In Annie Diemand Bucci's story is a picture of 11 of the 12 Diemands, of Diemand Egg Farm fame, all lined up to get their polio vaccines. And there is Jonathan von Ranson, camping out on Bear Mountain to overcome his fear of the woods at night.

As I spoke with Ruth and Mez, I heard some sentiments expressed repeatedly: "Wendell is a town of storytellers"; Wendell is "magical," "unique," " be-

EXHIBITS

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Pollinators and Predators of Massachusetts and Costa Rica. Bart Bouricius's photographs feature insects and arachnids. Through July 5. Reception and slide show Saturday, June 25, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Everything Can Be Fixed. Abstract multimedia works by Turners Falls resident Susan Blauner. Paintings, sculpture, fabric, colored pencil compositions. A portion of sales will benefit Ukrainian relief organizations, with 100% of sales of Blauner's greeting cards going to benefit animals of Ukraine.

ett: Roving Eyes & Fertile Minds, work by mother and daughter artists Beverly Phelps and Sandra Haynes. Through June.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield: Staying Connected, a multimedia exhibit of art as an expression of cultural heritage. June 17 through July 31. Reception Sunday, June 26 from 1 to 4 p.m.

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.



Mez Ziemba, M who has has bee since 1983. She with and near h I have been loo

Ruth Flohr, MA Wendell. She h for over 30 yea the work of em

The editors, as shown on the book's back cover.

loved," and "grateful." It almost sounded like they were describing a Brigadoon, or an Avalon/Camelot kind of place. It seems all those efforts and dreams the elder residents put into action have created the community they hoped to build, and which most people would like to reside in.

More is yet to come! Mez and Ruth are already working on the next book, which will focus on a kind of "raised and stayed" theme: tales of those who grew up in Wendell, and either stayed or returned. This book should be available within a year. Mez laughed and told me "people have actually knocked on my door wanting to tell their stories!"

Mez and Ruth feel that this will be a rest-of-theirlives project, with a whole series of books. One of their favorite quotes from the book is from Rick Drohen: "If a town could have a soul, Wendell has one."

A "Meet the Authors" event will be held at the Wendell Free Library next Saturday, June 25 from 1 to 2 p.m. The book will be available after that event at Diemand Egg Farm, the Wendell Country Store, the New Salem Country Store, and online at Amazon and other book purveyors. A DVD of the interviews will be made available as well.

Wendell residents can tell their own stories via a website, FacesofWendell.com, which is up and run-

ning. If you are interested in a Wendell Stories Writing workshop, connect with Mez and Ruth at FacesofWendell@gmail.com.



prints, and sculptures inspired by Jazz. Organized by guest curator Jenoure. Through July 2.

Anchor House of Artists, Northampton: In Other Wor(I) ds. B.Z. Reily and Micha Archer juxtapose image and text in 3D and graphic art, with Max Strong's tight, congested assemblages tracing world travels. Bitter Sweet Feast, photographs, installation, poetry, and a short film, based on performance by the Exploded View collective (Trish Crapo, Edite Cunhã, Sam Wood) during the pandemic.

A.P.E. Gallery, Northampton: Working Title: The Play's the Thing. Kathy Couch, Mary Beth Brooker, and Peter Schmitz write a scene each day of their weeklong residency at the gallery. Open to the public every day, June 20 through June 26, as part of the Activate, Research, Create summer residencies.

Looky **Greenfield:** Here, Smoky Puddle, works by Cathy Wusocki and Wayne Hopkins. Through August 27. Reception Friday, June 24.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: Word on Words, community art show combining word and images. But Not Without Purpose, photography by Blake Soule. Through June.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Lever-

Shelburne Arts Coop Gallery, Shelburne Falls: June: Busting Out All Over, group show by coop members. Through June.

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. Through August.

Gallery A3, Amherst: Syncopate: Homage to Jazz. Donald Boudreaux, Andres Chaparro, Bobby Davis, Terry Jenoure, and Rodney Madison present paintings, drawings, photographs,

Brattleboro Museum & Art Cen-

ter: Felt Experience. Group show of felt artists. Also exhibiting: Beth Galston, Frank Jackson, Mie Yim, Nebizun, Roberley Bell, and Oasa Duverney. June 18 through October 10. Opening reception this Saturday, June 18 at 5 p.m. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

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HEY! DO YOU READ THIS?

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

The Drake, Amherst: The Slip. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Zach Nugent Band, Grateful Dead tribute. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Cinemastorm movie double feature. Free. 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: Donny from the Poster, Bobb Hatt x Lucifer Duo, Father Hotep, PussyVision. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Kristen Ford, Sarah Donner, Carrissa Johnson. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

10 Forward, Greenfield: Silica gel, Post Moves, Willie Lane, AM Radio. \$. 3 to 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Misfit Prom. Benefit for North Quabbin Citizen Advocacy. Parade starts at 6 p.m.

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Lazy Bird, Soukeys, Cars Go West. \$. 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. Belltower Records, North Adams: Baldwin/Silbert Duo, Matt Weston, Lucia Stavros, Daniel O'Connor. \$. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: Phantom Erratic #20, the final one, feat. Drill (ex-Palberta), Chrome Jackson (ex-Arab on Radar), Bromp Treb (ex-Fat Worm of Error). Sad. \$. 7 to 10 p.m.

Mount Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: Mara Levine, Gathering *Time.* \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: James Montgomery Blues Band, Muddy Ruckus. \$. 8 p.m. 1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: Beth Logan Raffeld Quin*tet*. \$. 8 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Movie with live soundtrack. Fantastic Planet feat. The Empyreans. \$. 8:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Just Fine Thank You. Free. 9:30 p.m. 10 Forward, Greenfield: Temperature, with DJ 45 hz, DJ

Snack Attack, and DJ Trends. Dancehall, Afrobeat, reggaeton, soca, etc. \$. 10 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

10 Forward, Greenfield: Stoner Will & the Narks, Ohmygosh Nevermind, Market, Lampland. \$. 4:30 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: Editrix. Spirits Having Fun, Floatie, Fred Cracklin. \$. 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 21

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Fu*ji//////ta, id m theft able.* \$. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22

Academy of Music, Northampton: John Hiatt & the Goners feat. Sonny Landreth, The Suitcase Junket. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Half Shaved Jazz. Free. 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Sis*ter Nancy.* \$. 8:30 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 24

Stone Church, Brattleboro: Pyrexia, Malignancy. \$. 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: Rainbow Rave feat. DJs Scotia, Angelfish, Hedone, Necrowizard, Pinky Promise. \$. 8 p.m.

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

County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: Green River Festival feat. Galactic, Guster, more. See greenriverfestival.com. \$. 4 p.m.

Northlands, Swanzey NH: Northlands Music & Arts Festival feat. Joe Russo's Almost Dead, Lotus, Twiddle, Lettuce, Melvin Seals, Yonder Mountain String Band and many more. \$. See northlandslive.com for lineup and information.

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

County Fairgrounds. Greenfield: Green River Festival feat. Lake Street Dive, Ripe, Parsonsfield, more. See greenriverfestival.com. \$. 11 a.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Shokazoba. Laura's B-Day Bash. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Sarah Manning's Underworld Alche*my.* \$. 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: Faun Fables, Miners, Kieran Lally. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Power Trousers, Scare City, Slob Drop. Free. 9:30 p.m.

County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: Green River Festival feat. Father John Misty, Waxahatchee, Gaslight Tinkers, Allison Russell, more. See greenriverfestival.com. \$. 11 a.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 27

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Quiz Nite. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 1

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Apollo Suns, Lush Honey, Lemon Street. \$. 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 2

Downtown Turners Falls: Music Walk featuring taiko drummer Kaoru Watanabe, XY Duo, Lily-Rakia Chandler, and Jo Sallins & The Rhythm Queens. 1 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: Carinae, Boyfriend Machine, DJ Quills. \$. 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 3

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: A.P.E., Film & Gender. \$. 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 7

Forbes Library lawn, Northampton: Flung, Blue Toed, Father Hotep. Free. 5:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Bridge of Flowers, Luxor Rentals, Human Pontiac. 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 8

Pushkin Gallery, Greenfield: Gravity Hill feat. Georgia Beatty, Webb Crawford, Koni Michi, more. 7 p.m.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: The *Roots.* \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 9

Pushkin Gallery, Greenfield: Gravity Hill feat. Koni Michi, Forbes Graham, more. 7 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: Rani Arbo & daisy may*hem*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 15

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: The Slambovian Circus of Dreams. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 16

Deja Brew, Wendell: Wendell Reggae Fest. 1 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 17

Stone Church, Brattleboro: Thus Love, Scout Gillett. \$. 7 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 15

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Bonnie Prince Billy, Footings, A.P.I.E. \$. 8 p.m.

















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





Fully loaded tacos with sides from Salvadoran restaurant Cocina Lupita are tasty and filling.



Tito's Taqueria's steak taco, with beans and rice the author feels don't belong there.

HEARTFELT from page B1

us before her summer back home in California. She tried the chicken tacos and said the meat was "incredibly well seasoned, and the tortillas had a great flavor. The pickled vegetables on top add such an amazing texture and flavor," she exclaimed. "These were superb!"

Next stop was Cielito Lindo, at the corner of Route 2 and the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. They are authentically Mexican, making food from scratch the way their parents and grandparents did. I'm a huge fan because they serve tongue, or "lingua," tacos, my absolute favorite meat for tacos.

Tacos here are less than \$5 each, and they offer outdoor picnic tables.

Sophia once again ordered the chicken tacos and felt that "the seasoning could have been stronger... although the meat was moist, and the onions and salsa excellent. Overall, still pretty great, definitely up to the San Francisco standard." (In the Mission District of San Francisco where young Sophia hails from, one can find authentic Mexican food for several blocks, so the bar is set pretty high for tacos.)

My final stop was at Tito's Taqueria, which first began as a truck and then moved into a brick-and-mortar on Federal Street, as well as one in Brattleboro. They are a bit less traditional, in that they offer a line similar to a sandwich shop where you pick and choose your fillings.

The customer service is excellent, and on a busy night, they move the line quickly. One can eat inside, or outside if you want that authentic taco truck experience of devouring hot, salty, juicy food al fresco.

I chose a steak taco with various toppings, but I regret that I added the rice and beans which were the first ingredients offered in the line; they are better suited to burritos and bowls. The beans overwhelmed the other ingredients, and the amount of steak was already negligible. Tacos à la carte cost about \$5 or \$6 each, depending on the meat.

I hope you get a chance to try these tacos and the other great foods available from our local purveyors, whether in a truck like Cocina Lupita, Cielito Lindo, or Santo Taco, or brick-and-mortar shops like Tito's and the Posada Grill out west on Route 2, another Salvadoran restaurant with great food.

I leave you with wifey's family recipe for crispy tacos, a.k.a. tacos dorados.

Trouble lives in Greenfield with Wifey and Mama Catt Elliott and manages the office parttime for a nearby farm. She loves to talk, read, write, garden/farm, cook, and make art.



Lр.

First, fry up onions and hamburger meat in a skillet. Season with salt and pepper, and a dash of cumin and chili powder for flavor and a bit of heat.

Heat 1/2" of oil in your skillet. Once hot, drop a corn tortilla into the oil and, as soon it domes over, flip it over, folding it into a half shell and not allowing it to close. Use tongs to flip the shell and keep it from closing. Drain it on a paper towel while you prepare toppings.

Put the cooked meat into the taco shell and add shredded lettuce, chopped tomato, salsa, and sour cream.

With the leftover oil and tortillas, make chips by cutting the tortillas into triangles and frying them on both sides until just browned. Sprinkle them with salt. Enjoy with salsa, sour cream, or guacamole. They will stay crispy in a closed brown paper bag.

Salud!

Highly **Anticipated**

Montague Community

Television News

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS - The most recent selectboard meetings from both Gill and Montague have been uploaded to the Montague TV Vimeo page, along with the highly anticipated and long overdue coverage of the Skeleton Crew Theater production at the Shea Theater in October!

All community members are welcome to submit their videos to be aired on TV and featured on Vimeo, which is linked to montaguetv. 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.

We have some fresh faces at the Zoom table. However, MCTV is still looking for even more board members, so if you would like to stop in for a meeting, email infomontaguetv@gmail.com for a link! The next meeting is Thursday, July 21.

Something going on you think others would like to see? If you get in touch, we can show you how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment. Contact us at (413) 863-9200 infomontaguetv@gmail.com.









