

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 20 – NO. 29

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 2, 2022

MassDOT Indefinitely Closes Center Street Bridge

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE CENTER – “I was ready for this,” said selectboard member Matt Lord this week. “The state has been increasing the number of inspections of that bridge, and I anticipated that this was inevitable.” Lord was referring to the May 25 closure of the Center Street bridge, which spans the Sawmill River just east of Montague Center.

Other residents may be feeling the same way. Lord told this newspaper that he has not heard many complaints about the closure, but he

urged those with concerns to come to the June 6 selectboard meeting where the issue will be on the agenda. Lord says he can still walk across the bridge to the village center – public works superintendent Tom Bergeron told us that the bridge is still open to foot traffic and bicyclists.

Sheree Bloomberg, who lives west of the bridge and closer to the Montague Center common, said the bridge’s poor condition has been well-known in the neighborhood. She also noted that residents can still use the bridge on South Street,

see **BRIDGE** page A7

Agency Receives Funding to Support Survivors of Violence



Salasin Project director Becky Lockwood (left) and administrative manager Amanda Gamache (right) are part of a team that helped 250 people last year alone.

By CHRISTINA TRINCHERO

FRANKLIN COUNTY – The Salasin Project, a program of the Western Massachusetts Training Consortium, recently received a \$127,000 grant from the Massachusetts COVID-19 Survivor Trust Fund to expand its work with Franklin and Hampshire County residents who have experienced the multiple and complex issues related to domestic violence.

Through partnerships with area

social service agencies, the grant funding will be used to implement a support group in Spanish and to hire an advocate to increase access to housing and economic empowerment for individuals experiencing domestic violence.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men have experienced domestic violence, also known as intimate partner violence. The Salasin Project, one of

see **AGENCY** page A8

Protest at Mountain Intake

By MIKE JACKSON

NORTHFIELD – At 5:30 a.m. on Wednesday, a half dozen cars – most electric, most adorned with bumper stickers – were parked at the Riverview Picnic Area, and the mosquitoes were feeding delightedly. A chainlink fence warning “Positively No Trespassing” had been breached. Seven activists stood on the concrete platform over the in-

take to the Northfield Mountain project, dangling colorful banners over its railing.

“Shut it down!” they chanted, briefly, across the still water of the Connecticut River. Another five supporters hung outside the gate. Three members of the local press joined them, lured by a press release – “Extinction Rebellion takes a stand for the water at the FirstLight

see **PROTEST** page A7



After posing with banners on the platform above the intake to the Northfield Mountain project, the seven protestors agreed to leave when asked by police chief Jon Hall.

MORE BAD BUGS

What’s Green and Shiny and Eats Nothing But Ashes?

By DAVID DETMOLD

MONTAGUE – An unwelcome pest has finally come to crawl: the emerald ash borer (EAB) has shown up in town. And the Montague tree advisory committee is springing into action to address the threat to the ash trees all along the Avenue, from Second Street to Fourth Street, and anywhere else public ash trees are threatened in the five villages.

But for the eight mature ash trees that stand in a shaggy line beside the sidewalk just behind the fountain in Peskeomskut Park, it is probably already too late. At least six of them will have to come out, Rafael “Andy” Vega of Lake Pleasant told members of the tree committee who accompanied him on a brief field trip to the park last Thursday evening. (Full disclosure: I am the chair of the tree advisory committee.)

The ash borer larvae, living in chambers beneath the bark, have eaten away at the vital nutrient-carrying cambium to such an extent that the tree nearest Seventh Street is already dead. In a steadily progressing *danse macabre*, the next four trees in line have lost more than half of their leaf canopies, and their bark has begun falling off in long, hanging shreds. Yellow



The ashes along the Avenue A side of Peske Park have been beset by the dreaded emerald ash borer.

stains indicate areas beneath the remaining bark where the larvae are most active.

Peskeomskut Park, situated on a former gulch between Sixth and Seventh Streets, was designed and created by the Turners Falls Young Women’s Club in

see **ASHES** page A6

Decarceration Group Keeps Bailout Project Momentum

By NATHAN FRONTIERO

FRANKLIN COUNTY – In the spring of 2020, the murder of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer during the escalating COVID-19 pandemic resurfaced an urgent anger across the country. Protests – most peaceful, some confrontational – and an influx of donations to bail funds suggested a shift in political attitudes.

It was amid this confluence of public unrest and public health crisis that the abolitionist group Decarcerate Western Massachusetts emerged. Volunteer-run and non-hierarchical, this coalition of community organizers focuses on the Bailout Project, a fund used to post bail for the release of people held awaiting trial in Franklin and Hampshire counties.

“If people can’t afford to pay bail, then they are held in jail until their trial date, which could be months,” said Jake Kuhn, a member of Decarcerate. “There are a number of reasons why it could keep getting delayed, especially during the pandemic.”

By definition, individuals held in pretrial detention have not been convicted of a crime, and their cases have not yet been heard. Those who cannot afford to pay their cash bail themselves and cannot source the funds elsewhere can be stuck in jail for weeks or months – or longer, depending on court delays and other factors.

“It wrecks havoc on a person’s life, their psyche, and their soul,” said Kuhn. “They are locked up – they can’t go to work – so then

see **BAILOUT** page A5

Rude Sign Elicits Varied Reactions

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – A downtown business owner attracted strong reactions last week, both positive and negative, for a political window display. Swanson’s Fabrics proprietor Kathryn Swanson said she hung two large signs, one reading “Fuck This Shit” and the other “Ban Semi-Automatic Weapons Now,” in her Avenue A storefront on Thursday night in response to the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas that killed 19 third- and fourth graders and two teachers.

“I was listening to the news report and had a breakdown in my car,” Swanson, a former elementary

see **SIGN** page A4

High School Sports Week: Tourney Time!

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – This week, softball teams from Franklin Tech and Turners Falls played in the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference (PVIAC) tournament, with both teams making the Western Mass finals. Turners, who shot themselves in the foot with costly errors, lost by a single run in the championship game.

The Eagles, for their part, sailed through the playoffs using great fielding and collective hitting. In the midst of the PVIAC tournament, the Birds were forced to shift gears and compete in the statewide Small Vocational tournament; when they returned to the PVIAC, they were shut out by Greenfield in the Class C championship game.

Going forward, Turners is ranked second in the MIAA Division 5 bracket, and Franklin Tech is seeded fourth.

Also this week, the Boston Celtics are back in the NBA finals after beating the Miami Heat 4-3.

FCTS 6 – Mt. Greylock 0
FCTS 14 – Nashoba Valley 4
Greenfield 7 – FCTS 0

The Franklin Tech Softball Eagles traveled to Williamstown last Thursday, May 26, and blanked the

see **SPORTS** page A6

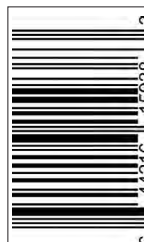


A loose ball helps Turners Falls’ Morgan Dobias get safely past the Hopkins Hawks’ Cassidi Mushenski, covering third base.

More Questions Than Answers, Sadly

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The Montague Reporter

“The Voice of the Villages”

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Technical Administration

About Face Computing

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August 2002

Readings

At the last meeting of Turners Falls Council American Legion of Honor, Lorenzo Griswold was installed Commander District Deputy Grand Commander. Dr. C.C. Hoskell of Greenfield was present, together with twenty-five members of Commonwealth Council.

After the business meeting, the question “Resolved, That Spiritualism is a Humbug” was thoroughly discussed in the affirmative by John Starbuck, N. Andrus, Rev. T.A. Batson and F.H. Brown and in the negative by H.W. Hitchcock, Nathaniel Holmes, Mr. Lee of Greenfield, and R.M. Starbuck.

The board of decision consisted of Geo. E. Chapman, R.B. Newton and Lorenzo Griswold, who decided the question according to the weight of argument produced, two voting in the affirmative and one in the negative. A vote upon the merits of the question was called for and although the hall was nearly full only 12 voted and it stood 6 to 6.

At the next meeting, Oct. 9th, the question “Resolved, That Women ought to have the Right of Suffrage” will be debated.

– *The Turners Falls Reporter*, September 30, 1885

The change we are speaking of is the resettlement of urban intellectual workers (wage-depending professional, teachers, artists, journalists, social-workers, students, government workers, etc.) in rural zones, a move largely stimulated by the various sixties movements.

As a “back-to-the-land” movement, it chose rural areas which were not too isolated and too far from the cities, for it needed continuous contacts with the educational and cultural industries.... these areas are the major national or regional centres of the education industry in which workers receive “skills” and qualifications which result in a higher valuation of their labour power. They provide a variety of full-time, part-time, seasonal and temporary jobs themselves and in related businesses, such as bureaucracy, social assistance, book-stores, printing-shops, building-maintenance, drug-dealing, culture, art, sports, psychiatry, restaurants and small shops, etc....

[R]ural New England has a good network of highways leading to nearby major cities like New York and Boston, the educational and cultural center of the US. Thus, rural New England has attracted a lot of intellectual workers in search of a quiet country life. To a lesser degree, this is also true of California around San Francisco, and other areas.

Rural New England and California offered not only possibilities of external jobs, but also conditions for *cheap reproduction* of this type of worker. By the term *reproduction* we mean all the work that has to be done in order to keep us in shape so that we are able to work: eating, clothing, relaxation, medical care, emotional “services,” discipline, education, entertainment, cleaning, procreation, etc. Sometimes what we call “life” is, in reality, only reproduction for capitalist exploitation. Cheap reproduction is particularly urgent for the intellectual workers as they hold only temporary jobs or part-time jobs or live on welfare and food-stamps.

In New England, subsistence farming, collective reproduction (communal living) and mutual use of the skills of the highly qualified intellectual labor-force via the substitution of capital-intensive reproduction (hospitals, microwave ovens) by labor-intensive reproduction techniques (macro-biotics, yoga, bio-genetics, meditation, massage, walks and fresh air) were favoured by the agricultural structure, the climate (which imposes a certain discipline), the vicinity of metropolitan areas and low real estate prices....

One of the requirements for the cheap reproduction of the “back-to-the-land” intellectual labor-force is a relatively intact natural surrounding. Nature, if intact, is cheap or even free. Nature as a means of reproduction is important for these intellectual workers because the specialization and one-sidedness of their work generates psychological instability and requires periods of complete relaxation without jarring sensorial stimuli (noise, media, social contacts).

Nature is the most efficient compensation for intellectual stress since it represents the unity of body and mind against the capitalist division of labor. Extensive consumption of nature has traditionally been an element of the reproduction of intellectual workers. (It started with Rousseau, then came the Romantics, Thoreau, the early tourists, Tolstoi, artists’ colonies in the Alps, etc.) The ecological movement....

– *Midnight Notes #1*, “Strange Victories” (1979)

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

People make stuff out in the woods around here. Susan Hanna of Bluemetal Design in Shutesbury bends and welds these steel peace signs and sells them through Etsy. Since she started in 2003, she has sold 1,300 of them online and locally. The best part about it, Hanna says, is the stories from people about how they are using the signs in peace gardens and memorials.

Letters to



the Editors

For the Teachers

During this period of sadness I want to thank and acknowledge all our teachers. These last two years and counting have been such a challenge, as we have put so much pressure on them to be constantly changing and adapting. They have time over time tried to find the best way to care for and teach our kids in such a stressful time in our history.

Now, with this latest tragedy, they are reminded that teaching appears to also put them and the children they teach at increased risk of dying. It is not surprising so many are leaving the profession they love.

Let us hope we can change that by honoring, rewarding, and appreciating their work.

**Judi Fonsh
Leverett**

Wendell Camp Contest: High Value Per Word!

Once again, Mass Audubon and the Town of Wendell are collaborating to provide an opportunity for two Wendell students to attend Camp Wildwood in Rindge, New Hampshire at a greatly reduced price.

Wildwood combines traditional camping activities, such as kayaking, hiking, and swimming, with the chance to explore the environment and learn about the natural world. The regular fee for this one-week overnight program is over \$1,500 but through the Whetstone Wood Scholarship, families will be asked to contribute only \$100 of this cost. The available session starts August 7. To learn more about the camp, check out tinyurl.com/WildwoodWendell.

Camperships are available to Wendell residents who will be between the ages of 13 and 14 during the week of camp. The selectboard is asking interested students to write a 100- to 200-word essay on the importance of nature. The selectboard will then choose the two essays that best capture the spirit of this theme.

Essays must be received by June 24. Please mail them to: The Wendell Selectboard, P.O. Box 41, Wendell, MA 01379 or email them to selectboard@wendellmass.us.

**Glenn Johnson-Mussad
Town Coordinator,
Wendell**

Scholarships Announced

The Turners Falls Athletic Club scholarship committee is pleased to announce the following three students that have been selected to receive our scholarships for their academics and contribution to sports at Turners Falls High School and Franklin County Technical School.

The awards are in the amount of \$1,000 each, payable to the individual student for their second semester to the college of their choice.

1. Emily Young, *Turners Falls* (Turners Falls High School)
2. Paige Sulda, *Montague* (Turners Falls High School)
3. Lauren Ross, *Greenfield* (Franklin County Technical School)

We would like to congratulate the scholarship winners and thank all the student athletes who applied; we wish you all the best of luck in the future.

We especially want to thank all of the active TFAC members whose donations make these scholarships possible. With this group we have awarded over \$116,000 to more than 189 students since 1954.

For Our Youth,

**Christian S. Couture
President,
Turners Falls Athletic Club**

CORRECTIONS

Two errors in the May 26 edition have been brought to our attention. First, the headline of our Gill-Montague school committee highlights piece on Page A7, “Anderson Appointed,” was incorrect: Haley Anderson received two write-in votes in the town elections and accepted, meaning she was *elected*, not appointed, to the open Montague seat. We avoided the error in the article itself, but it was a late night... On the same page, we listed the location of a makers’ market planned for June 11 in Montague Center as “17 Center Street.” This was a simple typo, and the correct address is 27 Center Street. Apologies!

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No paper fourth week of November,
or the Thursday closest to 12/25.*

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Free **PCR COVID-19 testing has returned** to the area. It is run by a company called Curative, so the signup process is a little different than before. No one will be turned away for lack of insurance. Testing is available at Greenfield Community College Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 1 to 4 p.m.; the South Deerfield senior center, the same days from 9:30 a.m. to noon; and at Greenfield Co-operative Bank in Shelburne Falls, Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursdays noon to 4 p.m. Sign up at curative.com.

Greenfield Community College is launching its 60th anniversary celebrations with **GCC Day, an all-community celebration** on campus today, Thursday, June 2, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. The event is open to everyone in the community and will feature food, brews, music, and fun for the whole family. Local food trucks will offer burgers, macaroni and cheese, Thai food, vegetarian food, and ice cream; Hitchcock Brewing will be on hand providing beers and hard seltzers for purchase for those 21 years old and over. Water and soft drinks will also be available. Entertainment includes a live radio broadcast and music from WHAI Bear Country, 95.3 FM, as well as games and activities for children from Franklin County’s YMCA. Any Class of 2022 students from the region are invited to bring their graduation caps and decorate them at the Resilient Community Arts booth.

The public is invited to a **free screening of *Stitching Palestine*** this Thursday, June 2 at 7 p.m. at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church in Greenfield. Produced by Palestinian-Lebanese filmmaker Carol Mansour, the film is described as “the story of twelve Palestinian women from various walks of life are connected

by the enduring thread of the ancient art of embroidery. These determined and articulate women stitch together the story of their homeland, their dispossession, and their unwavering determination that justice will prevail.” There will be embroidery examples on display at the church.

The Art Garden in Shelburne Falls needs help **preparing materials for the free kids’ art projects** they offer at the Green River Festival. Join a work bee this Friday, June 3 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. or Saturday, June 4 from 1 to 4 p.m. An RSVP is helpful; call (413) 625-2782.

The festival this year is June 24 through 26; thousands of people come to use the free craft tent during that time!

Master Gardeners will answer questions and **test your soil samples** at the Greenfield Public Library this Saturday, June 4 from 10 a.m. to noon. Members of Western Mass Master Gardeners Association will be on the front lawn of the library. For soil testing, bring about a cup of soil to test. You may bring up to three samples from different parts of your garden. This service is free of charge, but a \$2 donation is suggested. For more information, visit greenfieldpubliclibrary.org or call (413) 772-1544. It will be canceled if heavy rains occur.

Música Franklin’s Fun Fest will be at Unity Park in Turners Falls this Saturday, June 4 from noon to 5 p.m. There will be musical performances from the Akwaaba Ensemble, Carrie Ferguson’s Grumpytime Club Band, Surcari, and students in Música Franklin. The event includes craft activities such as paper marbling or veggie printmaking, and entertainment for all ages including an instrument petting zoo and giant bubble play. It’s all free! View the schedule at musicafranklin.org.

A **Death Café**, a casual group discussion of death with no agenda or themes, will be held at the Gill-Montague Senior Center on Fifth Street in Turners Falls next Monday, June 6, 5 to 7 p.m. Organizers write that the objective is to “increase awareness of death with a view to helping ourselves to make the most of our (finite) lives. Get together, have tea and cake, and talk.” The Café is cosponsored by the Council on Aging. Registration is required; contact Suzette Snow-Cobb at suzettesnowcobb@gmail.com or (413) 824-0232.

Next Tuesday, June 7 local poet and biographer **Paul Mariani will read from his latest volume, *All That Will Be New***, at the Montague Common Hall at 7:15 p.m. Martin Espada will introduce Mariani, the author of over 250 essays and 21 books including six biographies and nine volumes of poetry. He has earned many awards and fellowships for his work, and continues to mentor poets and former students.

Looky Here, a community art space on Chapman Street in Greenfield, has announced a slew of **art workshops for the summer**. Offerings include Collage, Indigo Dying, Risograph Stationary, Risograph Envelopes, Friday Sewing Nights, Figure Drawing Thursdays, Watercolor, Drawing What You See, Introspective Dance Experiment, and Mold Making and Resin Casting. Some workshops are by donation, and others have fees to cover instruction and materials. Check out the schedule online at lookyhergreenfield.com or contact Hannah Brookman at (720) 253-6750. Most of these events start in June.

The latest Coalitions Connections newsletter went out May 26, and has a whole section on **Summer Options for Older Kids, Youth, and Young Adults**. They have rounded up some free or low-cost activities and programs, as well as opportunities that come with stipends or wages. For those who aren’t quite ready for work, they have a list of supportive environments with summer activities. There is also a listing of summer camps available in our area. To sign up for this valuable newsletter, email ilana@frcog.org.

The Slate Roof Press is closing their **chapbook contest** on June 15. Get those 28-page manuscripts in to earn a \$500 prize and participate in the work of the small press under a three-year commitment. Poets get to design their own books and do other aspects of publishing. Find out the contest guidelines and how to submit your work at slateroofpress.org. There is a \$10 reading fee for submissions.

In case you missed the **Montague Summer Event Calendar** insert in last week’s paper, you can always download it at www.riverculture.org. The full listing of cultural events includes live music, outdoor movies, theater, family activities, and festivals. Summer highlights include the Antenna Cloud Farm Music Walk featuring world renowned Taiko drummer Kaoru Wantanabe, the 8th annual Pocumtuck Homelands Festival, and the Shea Away Series, curated by fever pop duo Home Body.

On Sunday, June 12 the **Stone Soup Café will celebrate ten years** as a pay-what-you-can nonprofit café with a birthday party on the Greenfield town common from 4 to 7 p.m. Stone Soup has been serving up delicious, cooked from scratch, gluten-free meals every Saturday since 2012 at the All Souls Unitarian Church in Greenfield. Stone Soup was started in 2010 as a weekly community meal in Montague by Bernie Glassman of the Zen Peacemakers. Glassman soon realized that in order to serve a larger community, the café would need to be located in a more central location. He and current executive director Kirsten Levitt, negotiated the move to the All Souls Church which began serving a Saturday meal in Greenfield in April 2011. At the end of 2011, the Peacemakers handed the project over to Ariel Pliskin, whose vision brought the café to where it is today. More information on the party can be found on the Facebook event page at fb.me/e/1OyiIrNjD. Everyone is invited. Bobby C will be DJing and there will be pizza, mural-making, juggling, hula hooping, face painting, and games.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Montague: Five-Day Trash Schedule

MONTAGUE – Republic Services will shift to a five-day trash and recycling collection schedule effective this coming Monday, June 6. This replaces the current four-day (Tuesday through Friday) route plan. As part of this change, some streets that have previously been serviced on either Tuesdays or Wednesdays will now be serviced on Mondays. This change is being made to improve the reliability and efficiency of collection services. Affected property owners will receive letters in the mail, as well as notifications on their collection containers. You can also check this list, which adapted from one on the town website, to see whether your street is among those that are being moved to Monday. The following Montague Center streets are transitioning from Tuesday to Monday service: All of Center Street, Newton Lane, North Street, Orchard Street, School Street, Station Street, Union Street, Welch Lane, and West Street; 404 to 453 Federal Street; 4 to 85

Main Street; 4 to 34 Old Stage Road; up to 45 Old Sunderland Road; and up to 35 Old Stage Road. These streets on the Hill in Turners Falls are transitioning from Wednesday to Monday service: All of Carlisle, Coolidge, Edward, George, Goddard, Henry, James, Madison, Morris, Vladish, Wentworth, Worcester, and Wrightson avenues; all of Alice, Chester, Chestnut, Grove, North Park, Pleasant, and South Park streets; all of Broadview Heights, Chatham Circle, Franklin Commons, Hillside Road, and Riverside Drive; “24 Maple Street,” 1 Nadeau Avenue; 11 to 184 Millers Falls Road; 23 to 181 Turners Falls Road; 181 to 258 Turnpike Road; and 19 to 37 Unity Street. These changes in days for a portion of the town will enable Republic Services to adequately plan to supplement the existing routes and equipment servicing the town, in order to avoid issues with the trucks becoming fully loaded and “packing out” and to comply with MassDOT operating hour restrictions.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Wendell: Misfit Prom

WENDELL – The Wendell Misfit Prom will be hosting “Follow the Yellow Dirt Road,” a Wizard of Oz-themed costume gala, at Deja Brew Pub, 57 Lockes Village Road, in Wendell, on June 18 at 6:30 p.m. There will be a community parade at 6 p.m. leaving from the town commons and arriving at the event. All are welcome to join in the parade! Costumes are encouraged, but not a requirement. Following the parade will be an all-ages fundraiser dance party featuring music provided by DJ Studebaker Hawk. Food will be available for purchase from Area 51 Food Cart, and there will be a beer and wine tent as well as a full bar available inside Deja Brew. Each year, The Wendell Misfit Prom partners with a different local charity to raise funds and awareness. This year, proceeds from the event will benefit North Quabbin Citizen Advocacy, a not-for-profit association to develop and support relationships for people who benefit from guidance, companionship, and/or advocacy. Tickets are \$17 in advance, available at the Wendell Country Store and at eventbrite.com/e/297227404167. Admission is \$20 at the gate, free for children under 12. This event is wheelchair accessible and will be held outdoors in an open-air setting. For more information, please visit facebook.com/misfitprom.

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RECYCLE

PAPER
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in Montague



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AT LARGE

Motorcycle Crash Mars Holiday Weekend

By CHIP AINSWORTH

NORTHFIELD – The weather was perfect for an afternoon walk around East Northfield and listen to the Red Sox play the O's at Fenway Park.

Down the street an emergency vehicle zoomed past Dr. Mike's Auto and Thomas Aquinas College, quickly followed by another and another.

One siren is a rarity but a lot of them was bad news. I grabbed my reporter's notebook, went out the door and saw traffic being diverted onto Moody Street. I crossed the campus and down to the main road near the college entrance.

About 400 vehicles an hour use this route to go to and from New Hampshire, and the 45 mph speed limit is enhanced by a downhill grade. The road bends left past the campus and goes from sun to shade under a canopy of trees. In the morning nine motorcyclists on Harley Davidsons left Connecticut to go the Granite State. This is what they saw as they drove past the campus.

While the group was going through Northfield, 32-year-old Ryan O'Farrell of Westerly, Rhode Island was driving down Manning Hill Road from Winchester, New Hampshire in a Lincoln SUV and towing a Suzuki dirt bike.

The bike still had the registration tag on the handlebars that let him race in the Open "C" Division at Winchester Speedpark. However the results page showed a "DNS" against his name, meaning he did not start. The track's owner was mowing a field when I parked on the gravel driveway next to the dusty, undulating racecourse.

She wanted no part of an interview. Asked why O'Farrell would drive from Rhode Island but not start in the race, she replied, "How am I supposed to know?"

In 2016, O'Farrell was arrested for robbing a bank in Milford, Connecticut, and now he was driving in an unregistered vehicle and without a license with his girlfriend's two children, ages 11 and 12, in the car.

O'Farrell drove over the state line, and a few yards past the Connecticut River boat ramp he crossed lanes and steered directly into the path of the nine motorcyclists. The absence of skid marks indicated no one had time to react. Thomas Frazier, the associate dean at Aquinas College, told friends he heard the crash from his nearby house but that it wasn't a loud noise.

Indeed, there are no skid marks at the crash site, meaning there was no time to react. O'Farrell's SUV struck five of the motorcycles, including at least one of them head-on. Northfield officer John Cowan heard the 911 call and sped toward the crash.

"He was the first officer on the scene," said police chief Jon Hall, who implied that Cowan may have saved a life: "A lot of people pass away from blood loss. John was carrying a tourniquet tie. Everyone should have a 'stop the bleed kit' in their car."

By the time I got there the road was filled with rescue ambulances, fire trucks, and state and local police SUVs. Despite the response it was relatively quiet. Everyone was trained to do a specific job and they were doing it. Bystanders were too shocked to say much.

"It's the worst I've seen in 41 years of law enforcement," said a retired police chief whose house is near the accident.

The SUV's front end had been caved in by the lead motorcycle's impact. Its wreckage lay under the hood close to two other crumpled heaps. An injured motorcyclist was lying on the ground next to the SUV, his blue jeans torn and black boots dangling over the curb. He was tended to by two EMTs and a friend who stood over him, hands on knees, lending support by sheer presence.

Another victim lay a few feet away and two people held a tarp over him to block the sunlight. The others were out of sight, probably in an ambulance waiting for transport.

Northfield fire chief Lloyd "Skip" Dunnell had commandeered the boat ramp's gridiron-sized park-



AINSWORTH PHOTO

The SUV crossed the median and collided directly with a number of motorcyclists.

ing lot for a staging area.

One helicopter had landed and two more were hovering over the Connecticut River. I leaned in and asked him over the din of the rotor blades and through the rush of dry hot air, "Have you ever been at an accident like this before?"

"Not three birds at the same time, with that many people lying in the road," he said.

The advance response teams had been flown in from Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire, UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester, and Boston MedFlight from Hanscom Field in Bedford.

By now the crash scene was sealed off so that the EMTs could prepare to evacuate the injured onto the helicopters. I needed to get back on the other side, and a state trooper asked me to loop around the crash site. I climbed a steep ravine on the west side of the road and held onto small saplings for balance. I emerged from the overgrowth close to where Chief Hall was talking with three officers.

"Officer Cowan and all my off-duty officers responded and

did a great job," said Hall, who thanked emergency personnel from Turners Falls and Gill for literally coming to the rescue.

According to the press release from Northwestern District Attorney David Sullivan's office, O'Farrell's SUV had struck five motorcycles and injured eight people, including two critically. He was arrested for operating under the influence of drugs, two counts of child endangerment, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and operating an unregistered vehicle. He was held on \$250,000 bail, and arraigned Tuesday morning at Greenfield District Court.

When I got back to my house I felt something on my leg and pulled off a tick that had already engorged itself. I was wearing shorts and it had happened in the woods. At this writing it's itchy and swollen, but somewhere there's eight motorcyclists lying in beds at home or in hospitals who'd gladly swap places with me.

Chip Ainsworth writes sports for the Recorder, and opinion and news for the Reporter. He lives in Northfield.

SIGN from page A1

school teacher and a parent of a school-aged child, told the *Reporter*. "I was so overwhelmed. And I woke up in the middle of the night and I said, I'm going to put 'Fuck This Shit' in my window."

Swanson said the reaction to the first sign started nearly immediately, with a call from the secondhand textile shop's landlord, Oliver Miller. Both parties say Swanson agreed to take down the offending sign before the Memorial Day holiday.

"I wasn't about to call my attorney," Miller said, adding that he was unsure whether it counted as "signage" or a "window display." "She said she was going to take it down, and I just kind of left it at that with her," he said.

The next morning, a neighboring business, The Gun Rack, posted a photograph of the signs on its Facebook page, provoking a wide-ranging and generally hostile comment thread. Posters encouraged each other to leave one-star reviews of Swanson's business on Google and Facebook ("This fabric store is the last place you want to shop," read one. "They don't understand the FABRIC that holds our country together...")

Swanson said she received online threats of vandalism and theft, and decided to take down her Facebook page herself after it was bombarded with user reports that it contained indecent materials – "one of the strategies of people who are trying to dox someone," she said.

"In town, feedback was [mostly], 'I respect

your right to say something about gun violence, but isn't there a nicer way you could say it?" Swanson said this week. "Their argument seems to be something about saving the children, which I thought was ironic in this situation."

Swanson's online base of support was already large, particularly on TikTok; as of press time, the store has over 97,000 followers on the platform. "My shop is about being a conduit so these really valuable supplies from older generations can flow down to the younger people," she explains. "TikTok and Instagram have been a really helpful way for me to reach them."

The second video she posted about the signs – "I've had more Baby Boomer men in my shop today than ever before," she tells the camera; "if you can find a fourth grader who's offended by this



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

The new sign went up on Sunday.

message, I'll take it down and I'll write whatever they want" – has been viewed 3.6 million times. Four separate follow-ups videos on the topic have view counts ranging in the six figures.

In one, which had garnered just shy of 400,000 views as of Wednesday night, Swanson reads aloud an email she received from a survivor of the 1992 mass shooting at Simon's Rock college in Great Barrington, thanking her for the signs. She told the *Reporter* she has been contacted this week by two other survivors, among a flood of supportive messages.

On Sunday Swanson took the first sign down and replaced it with one reading "Students and Teachers Shop Free / Or Pay What You Want." "Teenage boys who want to come clear me out, I dare you, I could use the help," she told her TikTok audience of the offer. "I'm backed by the stashes of other sewers."

The business has also been collecting orange fabric to donate to a lunchtime vigil in Greenfield this Friday organized by Moms Demand Action, who encourage attendees to wear the color.

"Children are being slaughtered in school, which is really intense and hard to think about," Swanson said. "That people could be so outraged by swear words just shows that our priorities are really mixed up.... We need something to change, and if people think banning semi-automatic weapons is not the right idea, they need to come up with a better one."



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BAILOUT from page A1

maybe they are unable to pay rent on their housing, and then they could lose their housing. They're separated from their support systems, from family, friends, communities."

Decarcerate began posting bail in 2021, and has since done so for around 50 people, totaling over \$38,000, according to Kuhn. Now, under a Democratic administration and an ongoing pandemic, the group is aiming to keep up momentum while some of the mainstream political fervor of the past two years has quelled.

"The political terrain we're in now is very different from what happened after the uprisings," said Danielle Squillante, another member of Decarcerate. "There has been a kind of organized response against demands to defund the police, or do any kind of substantive reforms – we're seeing that from the presidential level all the way down. I think the levels of public support have gone down, even if the language itself has become more popular."

"In summer 2020, which was right around when Decarcerate was formed, there was so much energy across the country for racial justice, and for criminal justice reform and abolition work in general," said Kuhn. "Along with the energy came a lot of money – a lot of people were donating to bail funds. And a lot of energy has subsided, but there's still a really high need for this kind of work."

Community Partners

Decarcerate receives requests for bail made through a referral form on the group's website. Most referrals come from defense attorneys, according to Kuhn, but some come from family members, other loved ones, or the detained individuals themselves.

The group doesn't ask about charges or discriminate based on them, but it generally aims to post bails under a cap of \$1,500. In certain cases, the group will split bails with other funds, such as the Massachusetts Bail Fund, which focuses on the eastern part of the state, or the Rhode Island-based FANG Community Bail Fund.

Once the group determines they can post a given bail, they coordinate via a secure messaging app to transfer the funds to an available volunteer, who brings the money to the jail in exchange for a surety document detailing the arrestee's court date. Volunteers then provide them a ride or bus fare, or meet with their family members to coordinate pick-up after their release.

After the case closes, the member who posted bail returns to the courthouse, collects the bail minus a clerk fee, and deposits the check into the Bailout Project's bank account for future use.

The Bailout Project is fiscally sponsored by the Peace Development Fund (PDF), a nonprofit foundation with offices in Amherst and San Francisco that supports a variety of organizations with a social justice bent. Because of this sponsorship, donations to Decarcerate's Bailout Project are tax-deductible. Squillante said the foundation provides administrative and bookkeeping help, makes securing grants easier, and "makes it more likely for people to make larger donations."

Massive Bookshop, an "anti-profit" online bookstore based in Greenfield, has donated \$3,500 so

far to the Bailout Project. For Massive co-founder Andrew Ritchey, proximity to Franklin County Jail sparked an awareness that drew him to support Decarcerate.

"The jail is two blocks from my house," Ritchey said. "There are people locked up in cages, and they're not locked up because they're violent criminals or they present a danger to society. They're locked up because they don't have 150 bucks, or 500 bucks or whatever it is, because they're poor. That's the brutal truth about this."

Rejecting Assumptions

Aya Mares, a Decarcerate member, runs a letter-writing program connecting people on the outside with those on the inside. Many of the incarcerated people put in touch through Mares's efforts have been young.

"A lot of these people I was writing to were in their early 20s," said Mares. "I would hear their stories, and it hurts so much that their incredible imaginations and humor are kept from all of us. The letters felt like this portal that resists that."

Mares and other Decarcerate members have created zines with exercises to help incarcerated people soothe their bodies' responses to trauma, and find comfort when they need care and feel unheard by counselors.

"It doesn't make sense to me that jails are where this society puts people who are clearly in harm cycles," Mares said.

For Squillante, working with Decarcerate has emphasized the need to challenge how the humanity of incarcerated people is dismissed by the carceral system and by the broader culture.

"I've met a range of people who have been incarcerated, either held pretrial detention for assault or larceny, I know people who have been in prison for decades for killing someone," Squillante said. "They're not that different from you – they're not these moral monsters they're made out to be."

"The reality is a lot of people end

up in situations where they're making riskier choices than they would make otherwise because of unmet needs. There are assumptions we make about people who end up in jails based on fear and misinformation. Part of the work of our group is to push back against them."

Beyond Reform

In a statement provided to the Reporter, Northwestern district attorney David E. Sullivan wrote, "Our prosecutors work with defense counsel to arrive at appropriate conditions of release and attainable cash bail... As for pretrial detention, our goal is to never hold any defendant on bail without reasonable cause."

"Although there is always work to be done, bail issues occurring in other states, where people can languish in jail without appearing before a judge for weeks or even months on relatively minor charges, don't happen in Massachusetts," Sullivan's statement continued.

"The Commonwealth has laws that require a person arrested and held awaiting arraignment be brought before a judge at the next open session... and that anyone incarcerated prior to trial must be brought before a judge every 30 days unless their attorney waives their presence."

According to Rachel Weber, a western Massachusetts defense attorney who worked with Decarcerate during the early months of the pandemic, the full picture is not so simple.

"The public statements that David Sullivan makes are not always reflected in the day-to-day workings of what happens on the ground in court," Weber said. "It is absolutely true that people in Massachusetts can languish in jail."

"The statute is one thing, but then the reality in the courtroom is that the defense and the DA [district attorney] are going to disagree about what 'reasonable cause' means. This word, 'reasonable,' is so loaded – there's no such thing as neutral, objective 'reason'."

Squillante addressed the role of ostensibly progressive individuals in

positions such as sheriff or DA.

"There's a deep commitment, across the aisle, to incarceration," she said. "You can say whatever you want in terms of your personal views, but the reality is nothing you're doing in your position is changing anything – you can't make jails nicer. You're still detaining people who are not found guilty of anything. You're still severing that family, breaking up those relationships."

Expressing overall skepticism of reform, Weber pointed to the origins of the carceral system.

"There's this unbroken historical line from slave patrols in this country to the formation of the current criminal justice system," she said. "I don't think that there is a way to reform the system – I think the system was created to oppress and kill Black people. That's clear once you dig into the history."

"Police budgets are only getting bigger," said Kuhn, "and prisons are just getting more money, and more prisons are being built. The system continues to operate as it has been, and it keeps getting bigger."

Decarcerate aims "in the long-term to reimagine our communities beyond police, prosecutors, and prisons," according to their website. Squillante explained the connection between the group posting bail and its larger goals.

"We've spent the time figuring out the mechanics of a bailout project," she said. "And we're not satisfied with just doing that. Our focus is always going to be posting bail, but what could different interventions look like? We're trying to figure out what that piece looks like, especially after there's been successful campaigns in other states like Illinois to end cash bail."

"I think most people's knowledge of the role of jails is low," she continued. "The system doesn't target communities equally. How do we have that conversation in meaningful ways that deepen people's understanding, maybe help shift their politics, and hopefully encourage them to get involved?"

Turners Falls resident Allen Fowler is hoping to start a local playwriting group.

If you're interested in helping to get a local, collaborative playwriting group up and running, please contact him at greatfallsplaywrights@gmail.com.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Brick House 5K Returns!

TURNERS FALLS – The Brick House Community Resource Center is holding a 5K fundraising event on Saturday, June 18 at the Canalside Rail Trail bike path in Unity Park. The race starts at 10 a.m., and bib pick-up and registration begins at 9 a.m.

Proceeds from the race will allow the Brick House to continue providing programming to support individual, family, and community well-being through collaboration on economic development, youth development, leadership development, and education.

It is best to pre-register online if possible, at www.runreg.com/the-brick-house-5k. Pre-registration is \$20, and on the day of the race it will be \$25. No one will be turned away for lack of funds, and local youth under 18 years of age can register for free.

Walkers, rollers of various sorts, and skaters are welcome to join for a shorter, one-mile course. There are many, many prizes from local businesses to be awarded to participants.

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ASHES from page A1

1965, and the ash trees planted there are probably as old as the park.

“Maybe the ash tree closest to the post office can still be saved, but the damage is significant,” said Vega, who in his professional life works as the chief science officer for J.J. Mauget, a company that has been a leader for decades in the field of tree injection technology, using encapsulated chemicals injected for a short period of time directly into the trunks of trees.

Spreading through the vascular tissue to the crown canopy of an infected tree, the injected treatments are considered to remain in a closed system, meaning they don’t drift outside of the tree they are injected into. The most effective insecticides for EAB are either emamectin benzoate, dinotefuran, or imidacloprid, which kill the ash borers in their most active and destructive larval phase.

The empty capsules are removed within 24 hours and disposed of. “There is zero migration of the chemical into the outside environment,” said Vega, who holds a doctorate in Plant Medicine from the University of Florida.

Vega – who recently resigned as a member of the tree advisory committee, on which he served for the past three and a half years – told his former colleagues on Thursday that he is “biased,” as an employee of the manufacturer and a believer in the efficacy and safety of its products. He referenced studies to support his assertion that as long as at least 70% of a tree’s canopy remains intact, trunk injection of capsulized pesticides can successfully treat ash trees suffering the impact of the emerald ash borer without adverse environmental impact.

Following the first treatment, impacted trees can usually recover completely. A monitoring program, using distinctive traps that look like colorful origami lanterns left behind by giant children in the upper boughs of ash trees, would then alert the impacted community to any future infestation. Follow-up trunk injections can be scheduled, if needed, in subsequent years, but the treated ash trees have every prospect of living the remainder of their long lives in good health.

Montague is one of the last communities in



The ash nearest Seventh is the most badly affected, but it is likely that most of the row will have to go.

Massachusetts to report the presence of emerald ash borer, said town planner Walter Ramsey, who informed Nicole Keleher at the state Department of Conservation and Recreation’s forestry health program on May 11 about the infestation at Peskeomskut Park.

The emerald ash borer, a beetle native to Northwestern Asia, was first identified in this country in 2002, probably introduced accidentally through infested wooden ship-

ping containers. Since then the beetles have spread from Maine to Texas, throughout Quebec and the Maritimes, killing untold millions of ash trees. The larvae are usually present in trees for six to seven years before the infestation is noticed in the telltale signs of D-shaped entry holes in the ash tree bark, followed by yellow staining of the bark and the accelerating loss of canopy foliage.

Vega said that now that the presence

of emerald ash borer has been confirmed in Montague with the rapid loss of ash in Peskeomskut Park, it is probable that many – or even most – ash trees in town are already harboring the beetle’s larvae.

Several of the 20 ash trees that form a solid row from Fourth Street to Second Street on the northwest side of the Avenue are already showing early signs of infestation. Those trees were planted in the early 1980s as part of the Avenue A streetscape improvement project, according to Ramsey.

After a brief inspection tour, Vega said, “These trees are totally treatable.”

The tree committee is also staying in close touch with Heath Cummings, the Gill-Montague Regional School District’s supervisor of grounds, about the threat presented to the ash trees that form a solid row at the front entrance of the high school. Many show obvious signs of EAB infestation.

Natural pathogens in ash trees such as *Beauveria bassiana* and other entomopathogenic fungi can help keep the larvae in check in the earliest phase of infestation, with the help of several different wasp parasitoids, as well as woodpeckers, who consider the larvae a delicacy. Natural biological control may have a limited impact in slowing a community outbreak. But ultimately, once the emerald ash borer comes to town, unless individual ash trees receive trunk treatment with pesticides, the evidence of survival of ash trees in impacted communities is negligible.

“Since most EAB infestations are noticed only after several years of infestation, as in the case of the ash trees in Peskeomskut Park, relying solely on natural biological control is rarely an effective option,” Vega explained. “An integrated pest management program (IPM) should be established. A strong IPM program includes preventative measures, biological control, monitoring, and chemical control.”

The Montague tree advisory committee will host an informational meeting soon to gather more information and seek public input before making a recommendation to the selectboard regarding a possible treatment program for EAB, and the threat posed to public ash trees on Avenue A and elsewhere in town. Notice of that meeting will appear in this paper and on the town website.



SPORTS from page A1

Mount Greylock Red Mounties in the Western Mass Class C semifinals. It was their second straight shutout in the tournament, setting the stage for a final showdown with the Green Wave of Greenfield.

The Lady Birds set the tone early, scoring one run in the top of the first and three more in the second to go up four-nil. They scored two insurance runs in the fifth to win the game going away, 6-0.

Grey held the powerful Tech line up to just eight hits, with only Lillian Ross and Hannah Gilbert hitting for extra bases, with a triple and a double. But Tech benefited from Mountie mistakes, as only two of their runs were earned.

Defensively, Tech played exceptionally well. In the circle, Lauren Ross scattered four hits and struck out six. The other 16 batters she faced hit the ball into play, but the Eagle fielders made the catches and the throws to keep Red off the base paths.

On Tuesday the Nashoba Valley Blue Vikings came to Franklin Tech from Westford, and lost 14-4 to the Eagles in the first round of the state Small Vocational tournament.

“Tech is playing all their JVs,” someone mentioned at the recent Turners-Hoosac game. “They were so far ahead that they put in all their junior varsity players.”

Tech scored five runs in the bottom of the first and never looked back. The Vikes finally put runs on the board in the fifth, but by then,

Tech had already scored 11; in the sixth, they matched Nash with three more of their own. The Vikings would score one more run in the last inning for the 14-4 final.

Pitchers Ross and Hannah Gilbert combined for a one-hitter, with Ross striking out nine batters and Gilbert five. The duo did not let up a single earned run.

At the plate, Tech battered Nashoba’s pitcher, with 11 different Eagles cranking out 15 hits in six innings, and eight knocking in runs. The long-ball hitters included Kaitlin Trudeau with a homer, Kylee Gamache with a triple, Ross with one double, and Gilbert with two.

A day after that game, Tech had to travel down to Westfield State to take on the Class C favorites, the Greenfield Green Wave. Green chipped away at Tech, scoring a run or two in every inning while keeping the Eagles off the scoreboard.

“Our girls did a great job of battling until the very end,” coach Joe Gamache said after the game, “just struggled to string some hits together.” Tech did get runners on base, but couldn’t convert them into runs. Cordelia Guerin and Kyra Goodell reached on walks and Kendra Campbell, Ross, and Kylee Gamache all had base hits.

Franklin Tech will host Bristol County Agricultural Technical High School in the state Small Vocational championship game at a date and time TBD.

Tech is also ranked fourth in the MIAA Division 5, and will play the

winner of the Norfolk Aggie/Salem Academy game.

TFHS 12 – Hopkins 10
Hoosac Valley 5 – TFHS 4

Last Thursday the Turners Falls Softball Thunder defeated the visiting Hopkins Academy Golden Hawks 12-10 in the semifinals of the PVIAC Class D tourney. It was a painful win to watch. I won’t report on all 22 runs, but I’ll give a thumbnail recap.

The very first Hawk who came to bat gave an indication that it was going to be a long night for the Thunder Ladies. With the count at 3-2, she fouled off nine straight pitches before finally grounding out to third base. Pitcher Madison Liimatainen walked two batters and struck out two to end the inning.

The long night continued as Blue made costly errors and mistakes, allowing the Academy to score multiple runs. Gold capitalized on those mistakes to take a 2-0 lead in the third inning.

Although Turners struggled in the field, their entire lineup, from top to the bottom of the order, was hitting the ball at the plate. They answered in the home third as #9 batter Jenna Petrowicz got a base hit and was doubled in by Emily Young. The rest of the team followed suit, and by the end of the inning Turners was up 5-2.

The score seesawed back and forth, as Gold scored a run in the fourth and the Thunder scored two in the bottom half, including another Young double and a home-plate

steal. The Hawks took back the lead 8-7 in the next inning after a miscommunication turned an easy out into multiple runs. Turners took it back, 10-8, but Hopkins tied it again in the sixth.

Blue dug deep, scoring twice more in the bottom of the sixth. Hopkins went down 1-2-3 in the seventh, and Turners had earned their way back into the Western Mass championship game.

Although Blue made multiple errors in this game, they still managed 13 hits and 12 runs against a playoff team. Young, for her part, clocked three doubles and stole home. Paige Sulda hit two doubles, and Cady Wozniak and Skylei Laplan had two hits apiece.

On Tuesday, under the blazing sun, the Thunder Ladies traveled to Westfield State to take on the second-seeded Hoosac Valley Red Hurricanes in the Class D finals.

Patterns repeated in this game, as miscues led to two unearned Hurricane runs in the very first inning. Their next came in the third off a walk, a wild pitch, and a fielder’s choice. Hoosac was on top 3-0 going into the bottom of the third, without registering a single hit.

Young hit a long fly into center right, but it was caught at the warning track, and the Canes came back to the plate still up 3-0.

Blue tightened up in the fourth, and Red went down in order, and the Thunder finally scored one in the bottom of the inning as Morgan Dobias walked and Wozniak dou-

bled her in.

Red matched it in the fifth off a base hit, a bunt, and a bad hop; Powertown was unable to answer, and going into the sixth, they were down 4-1. Paige Sulda crossed the plate in that inning to make it 4-2.

Hoosac scored again in the top of the seventh off a throwing error, and Turners found themselves down 5-2.

“This team is extremely weak in softball experience,” coach Gary Mullins said after the game, “and they pass the error virus around faster than COVID.”

But even though they were down to their last three outs and trailing by 3, the Softball Thunder did their very best to win the game. Young walked, Liimatainen hit a RBI double, Dobias got a base hit, and suddenly Turners was only trailing by a run.

But it wasn’t meant to be. A shot to center field and a strikeout ended Thunder’s quest to win another Western Mass title.

After the game, Mullins sent me Emily Young’s stats in the three PVIAC playoff games. Against Gateway, she hit three doubles and a grand slam; against Hopkins, a single and three doubles; and in the championship game, she hit a “bomb” to center field, her only out of the entire series.

The postseason is not over – Blue laces up their cleats in the upcoming state tournament. They are currently ranked second in D-5, and will face the winner of the matchup between South Shore Voc Tech and Upper Cape Cod Regional.



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BRIDGE from page A1
just south of the village center, to get to and from Route 63.

“We don’t have many cars, and no trucks, driving down Center Street, which is good,” Bloomberg said. “The neighborhood is a lot quieter now.”

Lord and Bloomberg both expressed concern that notice of the closing came abruptly and that signage on Route 63, a key throughway which connects with Center Street to the east, was initially non-existent.

“There were a lot of complaints, before the signage went up, that motorists were turning around in their drives,” said Roy Rosenblatt, who lives several blocks west of the bridge. “But we have not complained about the closing, since the road is really quiet now.”

The inspection report that led to the bridge’s closure is dated April 25 but the state Department

of Transportation’s subsequent “Critical Deficiency Activity Log” states that Daniel Sund, a MassDOT bridge engineer at District 2 in Northampton, informed Bergeron on May 24 that the bridge should be closed to all traffic. Sund was unwilling to discuss the timing of the closure with this newspaper without an official public records request.

The specific reason for the closure, according to the log, was “advanced section loss and holes in beam 9.” The April 25 inspection report states that the bridge, which was constructed in 1937, was originally reduced to one lane in 2018 with a capacity limit of three tons because three of its nine steel beams had “failed.” The report includes a graphic photograph of rust holes in that beam.

As of now, the Center Street bridge is not scheduled for reconstruction on the state’s “bridge list.”

The South Street bridge, which was also reduced to one lane in 2018, appears on a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) issued last year by the Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization in consultation with MassDOT. That bridge is slated for reconstruction in 2024 at a total cost of just over \$2.82 million, 80% of which will be financed by the federal government.

The South Street project joins a formidable list of projects in Montague being funded primarily by federal and state money. These include the General Pierce Bridge at Montague City, currently closed and scheduled to be completed next year; the Fifth Street footbridge over the power canal in Turners Falls; another bridge over the canal, to replace two bridges which have provided access to Patch at Sixth Street; and a small bridge on North Leverett Road which has recently been limited to one lane.

Despite concerns about the level of communication with local officials, Ellis was extremely positive this week about MassDOT’s “unexpected investment in Montague’s bridges.”

Similarly, Lord said he was “thankful” for the amount of state investment in local infrastructure. “We’re only looking for more thoughtful signage, and better communication,” he told the *Reporter*.

Meanwhile the Center Street bridge will be closed indefinitely – not to reopen for perhaps ten years, according to Bergeron, or as Bloomberg speculated, “not in my lifetime.”



MassDOT’s April 25 inspection report included this photo showing Beam 9’s rot.

PROTEST from page A1
Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Station” – and, after some minimal interviewing of the protagonists, settled into waiting for the cops.

“One of the challenges about doing it right here is there’s not going to be traffic going by,” said Cate Woolner of Northfield, appointed to speak to reporters. “It’s our understanding that there’s cameras.”

Just before 6:30 a.m., two more vehicles rolled into the picnic area: FirstLight Power operations manager Neal Slocombe and Northfield police chief Jon Hall.

“What do you do if your river is under attack?” one of the people down on the platform yelled, amid the excitement.

“Stand up, fight back,” the others chorused, and one added: “Stop killing fish!”

Hall conferred quietly with Slocombe, and then Woolner, then Slocombe again. “Everyone’s being audio and video recorded,” he announced loudly, pointing at his body camera.

“I don’t mind leaving,” Slocombe offered.

“I’ll call you if I need you,” Hall told him. He then told the protestors they would be arrested if they remained where they were.

Singing “We Will Return,” a newer version of “We Will Not Be Moved,” they rejoined their companions in the parking lot. They declined a request to share their names with Hall.

“Okay, not a problem,” he said. “I would normally detain you further, but I really appreciate you coming out, so I’m just going to give that courtesy back.”

“We’re coming back,” one woman warned.

Hall introduced himself as Northfield’s new police chief, and said he had worked protests at the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant in Brattleboro. “There was one person that wanted to get arrested, she was like 106 years old?” he asked.

“Frances!” the activists replied. “She’s our buddy.”

Hall told the *Reporter* he had been called to the scene by FirstLight Power. “I bet it’s a liability thing,” he said. “You put up a fence just to make sure no one gets hurt, and so when you breach that fence, they have an obligation to make sure no one gets hurt.”

Priscilla Lynch of Conway said the idea for Wednesday’s action came from a meeting of the Shut It Down affinity group. “We did actions at Vermont Yankee monthly,

until it was shut down,” she said. “We were kind of having a reunion, and we kind of thought hey, wouldn’t this be a good idea – why shouldn’t we look at this and shut this down, too, because it’s as deadly.”

FirstLight is nearly a decade into the process of renewing its federal license to operate the station using water from the Connecticut River. The company touts the project, the largest energy-storage facility on the New England grid, as essential to the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

The activists who stood atop the intake on Wednesday, who took up the mantle of the leaderless climate movement Extinction Rebellion, dispute that assertion.

“130% of the energy that it produces is required to get the water up, so it’s really uneconomical,” said Terisa Turner of Lake Pleasant, adding that it used power from “a natural gas plant.”

Woolner also said she believed the facility used entirely natural gas to move water to the mountaintop reservoir, “so that’s the fossil fuel connection.” (The facility uses electricity from the regional power grid; gas currently accounts for 53% of the power on the grid, with 27% coming from nuclear, 12% from re-

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

MONTAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

In accordance with the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act, MGL Ch. 131, §40, the Montague Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at **6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 9, 2022** to consider Notice of Intent #2022-03 filed by Montague Department of Public Works to replace a 24” culvert under South Ferry Road with an 8’ x 5’ box culvert. The work will impact resource areas associated with an unnamed tributary to the Sawmill River. Work will occur in proximity to 29 South Ferry Road. The hearing will be held in the upstairs meeting room at Montague Town Hall, One Avenue A. Alternatively, the public may participate remotely. Meeting login information and filing is available for review at www.montague-ma.gov/calendar.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on May 31, 2012: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Reflecting Artwork Brightens the Strathmore

People walking or riding along the bike path next to the power canal in Turners Falls pause to gaze at what appear to be gently fluttering window panes on the façade of the Strathmore Mill building.

“But what is the intent?” they ask. Northfield artist Terry Marashlian took time from photographing the panels to answer that question.

“This display is designed to reflect the canal as a river of mirrors that incorporates wind, water, and sky,” he said. “When a strong wind is blowing, the panels flip over, showing the black momentarily. People find them very dramatic.”

He explained that there are 460 small panels set in 26 frames. The five-foot-square frames contain 16 reflecting panels, while the five-by-six-foot frames hold 20 panels.

The panels are constructed of half-inch pine board. The reflecting side is covered with aluminum lithographic plates, 20 thousandths of an inch thick. The back is painted black. Marashlian attaches plastic bushing to the panels and strings them on stainless steel rods so the panels can freely swing in the wind, sometimes flipping up to show the black side in a strong breeze.

So what is the purpose of it all?

“It is art, for people to enjoy,” says Marashlian. “As art, it also draws the attention of artists who then may consider using the old mill for studios. It opens up the possibility of artists or developers buying the property and putting it to good use. It also reflects the lives of men and women who worked in the mills at very repetitive jobs.”

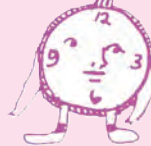
2nd Street Bakery Buys A Permanent Home on 4th

Last week a SOLD sign appeared on the realtors sign on the corner of the brick three-story at Fourth and L Streets, once the home of Patty-Cakes, then the home of La Bodega. It had said FOR SALE for about two years.

Wonder who bought it? The answer is 2nd Street Bakery, in the persons of Laura and Joshua Puchalski. Laura is one of the founders of the 2nd Street Bakery, which is now four and a half years old.

Asked why the bakery was moving, Laura and Joshua’s answers were several. Chief among them was the desire for a permanent space. At 69 Second Street they are renters, and the building is not handicap-accessible, whereas the new building is accessible to all, including its bathroom.

Laura said the ovens the bakery now uses were purchased from the previous owner of their new building. They will soon be moved back into the 4th Street kitchen.



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AGENCY from page A1

34 community-based domestic violence programs funded by the state Department of Public Health, served approximately 250 people last year alone.

Salasin director Becky Lockwood says the impact of domestic violence is significant. Domestic violence is “associated with mental health struggles,” she says, “like depression, substance misuse, anxiety and suicide, as well as unemployment, poverty and homelessness.”

Healing from Trauma

When Lockwood began looking at the needs of the community and how the Salasin Project could better support the Latina community in Franklin County, she says the Community Action Pioneer Valley’s Family Center in Greenfield came immediately to mind.

“I approached the Family Center based on their positive reputation [in the community] and the knowledge that the staff work with a lot of Spanish-speaking families,” says Lockwood.

From that initial outreach, the partnership was born. Last month, the Healing from Trauma support group met for the first time. The 12-week group – the first of its kind to be offered exclusively in Spanish – is co-facilitated by bilingual staff from both the Salasin Project and the Family Center.

“We have an active community of Latino families here at the Center,” says Family Center program manager Eric Cora. “By joining with Salasin we can expand our offerings.”

The value of healing using one’s primary language is critical. “It’s important that survivors are able to talk about traumatic experiences and learn about healing in their first language,” says Lockwood, “as well as in a group where they don’t have to explain the nuances

of their culture, or how racism impacts their lives.”

Pressing Needs, Limited Resources

Every week, Salasin’s staff of four receives “multiple phone calls” from people who are experiencing domestic violence.

Lockwood cites various scenarios as to why callers contact her program: “They could be staying in a hotel because they fled the situation they were in, or they were experiencing domestic violence and to cope they used substances and ended up in a treatment program. Now they are ready to be discharged from treatment, and they don’t have a place to go.”

Though the state has a system of emergency domestic violence shelters, there are often not enough beds. “The majority of the time, when a survivor finally makes the courageous decision to leave, there is not an emergency shelter bed available,” Lockwood notes, adding that there is also a statewide housing shortage: “For one apartment there may be 50 or 60 applicants, so finding and securing an apartment is difficult, not to mention saving up the first and last month’s rent, security and broker’s fees.”

The Salasin Project will collaborate with Alianza DV Services, a domestic violence program in Holyoke, to support Hampden County participants interested in moving to Hampshire or Franklin counties.

“Searching for housing can be overwhelming,” says Alianza executive director Carmen Nieves, “especially when someone has experienced violence.” The programs will join forces to help survivors relocate.

“With this funding, we will be able to hire a full-time housing advocate who can work with participants to find safe housing and move,” Lockwood says, noting the lack of affordable housing can be a “significant barrier” to someone

leaving an abusive relationship.

Other barriers, she adds, are often complex, spanning emotional, familial, economic, and societal factors. For example, according to Lockwood, many people trying to leave a dangerous relationship struggle with the severe financial implications, especially if there are children involved and the dangerous partner is the main breadwinner in the family. Even if that partner is ordered to pay child support by the courts, the process can take months.

And, she continues, violence often escalates when a partner leaves; increasing the risk of homicide or severe physical harm.

Often, the person being harmed has been intentionally isolated from friends and family by the partner perpetrating the abuse. This means the survivor may have lost vital social and emotional connections and resources who otherwise might have provided a patient, compassionate sounding board, a temporary safe place to stay, or financial help.

Outreach and Education

The funding from the Massachusetts COVID-19 Survivor Trust Fund will also support a community outreach and education effort. “We found that people aren’t aware of the Salasin Project,” Lockwood says. She and her team will “get creative” to develop a bilingual public outreach campaign. “We’ll use radio, cable TV, print, and advertising on the FRTA buses to get the word out,” she adds.

Prior to advertising their services though, Lockwood says they will hire for the new housing advocate position. “In case we get a big community response, we want to make sure we have the capacity to support people.”

More than two years into the pandemic, Lockwood is confident services for those facing violence and abuse are needed now more than ever.

“Before, there was a moratorium on people being evicted that has stopped. I also think that maybe people were hunkering down. Now it feels like there is a crisis in housing for people.”

For those doing the work at the Salasin Project – just four full-time employees, including Lockwood – the program has been funded by a combination of one-time COVID-related funding, which Lockwood describes as “pass-through funding” to help people with most immediate needs such as getting a new apart-

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- Alianza offers 24-hour crisis intervention, community-based services and a confidential shelter program for individuals and families fleeing domestic violence. (877) 536-1628 or www.alianzadv.org.
- The Community Action Pioneer Valley Family Center uses a strength-based and family-centered approach to supporting families. (413) 475-1555 or www.communityaction.us/family-center.
- NELCWIT offers support to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. They operate a 24-hour hotline: (413) 772-0806.
- SafeLink is Massachusetts’ statewide 24/7 toll-free hotline for anyone affected by domestic or dating violence: (877) 785-2020.

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FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER JUNE 2, 2022

Above: Unity Park, from Prospect Street in Turners Falls.

Sending Good Wishes – With a Spin

By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE CENTER – Jeanne Weintraub and Chris Mason live in a house right across from the Montague Center common. If you’re on your way to church, the post office, the Bookmill or the swimming hole at the end of North Street, or just walking your dog, it’s likely you will pass their house, which makes it an excellent location for the Wishing Wheels Project, an idea born from a long-ago trip to Tibet and the desire to bring people together in a spirit of benevolence, according to Jeanne.

Wishing wheels, also called Mani wheels, are a longstanding tradition that originated in Tibet. When a visitor arrives in a village in the Himalayas, they encounter a bank of Mani wheels, which they turn by hand as they walk to cultivate wisdom and compassion and release positive energy into the universe.

In Montague, people who interact with the Wishing Wheels exhibit will be invited to spin drums that express wishes for others to be happy, well, at peace, and free.

Jeanne received a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council to cover some of the cost of materials for this project. “During these strange and challenging times,” she wrote in her proposal, “we hang onto hope that things will change for the better and crave a sense of agency in helping events move in a positive



WICKS PHOTOS

This frame will be mounted on posts and covered with a roof.

direction. We wish for ways to heal the divisions among us, and cultivate compassion, unity, tolerance, generosity, and good will for others.”

When complete, Jeanne and Chris’s installation will consist of five metal drums, each fastened to a spindle and ball bearings to enable it to freely spin. The wheels will be mounted together in a row, with spindles attached to a beam supported by a post at each end. The installation will be covered by a small roof for weather protection.

Jeanne and Chris are collaborating; Jeanne is providing the artwork and Chris is offering his carpentry skills. The target date to finish the

project is October.

“I’m always on the lookout for design ideas that resonate with people who live here in the valley,” Jeanne added. “I like to highlight plants, animals, foods and farming practices that are unique and popular, or have been historically important to people who first lived and settled here.”

On her porch was an array of tools and examples of the work in progress. I examined the drum that says *Be Well*. In addition to the stamped words, there are images of healing medicinal plants.

Be Happy is adorned with see **WISHES** page B5

Spring Soundings: Two Recent Performances at Epsilon Spires

By W. KAIZEN

BRATTLEBORO – After nearly two years with hardly a live show to be found in the greater Pioneer Val-



KAIZEN PHOTO

Laraaji (left) and Arji Oce.Ananda (right) performed at the former church, and returned the next day to lead a workshop.

ley, Epsilon Spires is quietly becoming one of the best arts venues in our area. Two recent shows at the deconsecrated church in downtown Brattleboro are evidence that spring is bringing life back to the local music scene.

In mid-April, acoustic guitar wizard Glenn Jones played with local artists Vic Rawlings and the duo Wednesday Knudsen and Willie Lane. In mid-May, new age pioneer Laraaji performed with his partner Arji Oce.Ananda. (“Call me ‘Archie,’ she said when I met her after the show.)

The next day, Laraaji and Arji held a laughter yoga workshop, which I skeptically attended. According to Epsilon’s director Jamie Mohr, the Laraaji show, which had been postponed twice due to COVID, was one of the most eagerly awaited of their recent bookings.

Jones’s show was billed as a night of “American primitive” guitar music. A disciple of John Fahey and of the same cohort as Sonic Youth, he uses a partial capo to get a range of alternate tunings that makes his songs sound simultaneously jaunty and otherworldly.

While Jones was good, opener Rawlings stole the show. In the second of the two long pieces that made up his set, Rawlings repeated a slow, simple refrain on a bass guitar. He started by plucking the E string, whose resonance dramatically filled the space. After resting for a few beats, he ran through a series of melodic chords before returning to the bass note.

see **EPSILON** page B3



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

WEST ALONG THE RIVER

IN PRAISE OF OUR FIRST TEACHERS

By DAVID BRULE

*When we stride or stroll cross
the frozen lake,
We place our feet where they
have never been...
But we are uneasy.
Who is down there to hold us
up but our old teachers?*

– Adapted from “Gratitude to Old Teachers” by Robert Bly.

MONTAGUE – So now the month of June opens before us. It brings the roses, and the summer time. June is also the time of Pomp and Circumstance. The young are graduating from kindergarten, elementary school, high school.

If you grew up in one of our five villages that make up Our Town, you’ll remember some familiar names that follow here, those of our old teachers.

There are so many that I can only name a few, but indeed their names should be spoken again. As long as their names are heard they will be remembered. The ranks of the generations of the ‘60s are thinning, so I want to be sure to mention those I can while I have the chance.

Strangely enough, if I try to start at the beginning, I go back and fetch the name of Molly Stratton, kindergarten teacher. When we Baby Boomers reached the age of four or five years, it was time to start our schooling. There were so many of us born right after the War that the villages had to figure out where to put us – into what school building bursting at its seams would we go?

A bunch of us wound up starting our formal education down the Patch. We were launched into the school system at what was called the South End School, still standing there at the end of G Street.

Molly was in charge of getting us started. She put us to work coloring within the lines, cutting paper trees and paper Christmas ornaments, pasting things together with Elmer’s Glue and a white sticky stuff, decorating the school classroom windows.

Many of those kindergarten classmates remained together all through our school careers, right through 12th grade.

We reached Central Street School next. I can clearly recall a lovely young woman, Miss Aubrey, with whom I briefly fell in love. There was Mrs. Kabanian, Miss Studer, and air raid drills when we hid under our desks to protect us from a nuclear bomb. On the wall, pictures of George Washington and the Marines raising the flag over Iwo Jima.

By third grade, we reached the New Eighth School, opposite St. Mary’s on the same dead-end street as the Old Eighth School. This was the realm of the no-nonsense Miss Mary Margaret Shea. Generations of kids had given her the nickname of “Powder Puff Shea,” referring to her penchant for piling on the makeup. She had been my father’s teacher too, and one time when I got in trouble with Powder Puff, she didn’t hesitate to call him from work at Williams Garage to her office where she could give us both hell.

At least I didn’t get in trouble with Dad back home: he knew what she was like from first-hand experience, so he gave me the benefit of the doubt.

By fifth grade up on Crocker Avenue, along came Mrs. Keough, and a life-changing experience. She lined up a very rare field trip with Mrs. Care, the two ladies took us to the Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary.

see **WEST ALONG** page B5



MISS LOUISE MAY CLARK
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The author’s high school Latin teacher, Miss Clark, from a mid-1960s yearbook.

Pet of the Week



“MAGGIE”

Maggie is a special dog who is looking for her super hero. Maggie has cancer. While it is impossible to say how much time she has, at this time she is a bright and happy dog that we feel deserves all the comforts of home for the time that she has left.

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learned a lot about her! Maggie’s foster mom says she is sweet, calm and likes to be right by your side. Easy walks are all that’s needed for this senior girl.

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Senior Center Activities JUNE 6 THROUGH 10

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.	1 p.m. Cards & Games 5 p.m. Meditation for Seniors (pre-register)
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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.	ERVING Erving Senior Center is open 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Open for cards, coffee, and snacks daily. Brown Bag lunch is the first Thursday of each month. Veterans Services the first Wednesday of each month. Erving van services available: Must call 24 hours in advance for a ride to any scheduled appointment. For more information, please call (413) 423-3649.
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Tuesday 6/7 9 a.m. Walk With Ease 10 a.m. Tuesday Morning Knitters 1 p.m. Chair Yoga 3 p.m. Tai Chi	Tuesday 6/7 9 a.m. Good for U 10 a.m. Ask the Nurse 10 a.m. Line Dancing
Wednesday 6/8 Foot Clinic by Appointment 4 p.m. Mat Yoga	Wednesday 6/8 9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact 10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics 12 p.m. BYO Lunch to Bingo
Thursday 6/9 9 a.m. Walk With Ease	Thursday 6/9 9 a.m. Core & Balance 10 a.m. Barre Fusion
	Friday 6/10 Quilting & Open Sewing

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MONTAGUE Every Wednesday: Story Time Outside. Meet Meghan Doyle for stories, songs, and a Take-and-Make craft under the tent on the Carnegie lawn. 10 a.m. 1st Saturday: Used book sale. Paperbacks, kids’ books, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks. Carnegie Library, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays starting June 6: Creative Writing Zoom workshop with award-winning author Susan Blauner. Six sessions thru July 18. Contact (413) 863-3214 or librarydirector@montague-ma.gov to register. 1st Tuesday, 3rd Thursday, 4th Monday: Paws to Read. Read to trained therapy dogs to improve literacy. Call (413) 863-3214 to reserve a 15-minute spot for your child or teen. Carnegie Library, 4 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, June 8: A Conversation about Racism, with Racial Justice Rising. Carnegie Library tent, 6 p.m. Saturday, June 11: Bee Talk for Families with Dan Conlan from Warm Colors Apiary. Carnegie Library tent, 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 15: Amphibian Migration. Learn about frogs, salamanders, and how you can help with conversation. Call (413) 863-3214 or email librarydirector@montague-ma.gov to register. Zoom, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, June 18: Summer Kickoff Party. Family fun, live music, local orgs, free kids’ books, used book sale. Peskeompskut Park, 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 21: Camp iREAD Crafts. Children and teens are invited to make a summer-camp-themed craft. Carnegie Library tent, 3 p.m. 4th Friday: Summer STEAM. Science/art activities for grades K to 4. Dress for possible mess. Carnegie tent, 1 p.m. Tuesday, June 28: Rainforest Reptiles. Learn about alligators and crocodiles from around the world. Bring a blanket to sit on. Carnegie tent, 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 29: Beneficial Bats. History, biology, truth and myth, conservation. Call (413) 863-3214 or email librarydirector@montague-ma.gov to register. On Zoom, 6:30 p.m.	Sunday, June 5: Meet the Director. Join us for refreshments and games as we get to know the new library director, Abby Baines. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, June 5: Soil Health & Soil Testing Workshop with master gardener Dave Marinelli. (413) 423-3348 to register. Thursday, June 9: Planter Design Workshop with Teresa Foster of Dry Brook Gardens. Fill a planter with annuals. Materials provided. 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 16: Planting for Food & Pollinators. Garden Club with the Western MA Master Gardener Ass’n. 5 to 7 p.m. Sunday, June 26: Summer Reading Program Launch. All ages. Receive a free ticket to the Friends’ raffle; small prizes for kids all summer. Sunday, June 26: Composting Workshop with master gardener Dave Marinelli. Call (413) 423-3348 to register. Thursday, June 30: Concert: Sarah Clay and the StarCats. Free, fun for all ages. 6 p.m.
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LEVERETT All June: Story Walks. Find a new Story on the trail behind the library every Thursday. Every Monday and Wednesday: Online Qigong. Free class, all welcome. Info on the leverettlibrary.org calendar, or email Dvora: CommunityQigong@gmail.com . 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Every Saturday: Tai Chi. Free classes, all welcome. Space limited, masks required. Call Dennis: (413) 367-9760. Intermediate 10 to 11 a.m., beginners 11 a.m. to noon. 2nd Monday: Ukulele Strum-Along Online. For more details: julie@musicjulie.com . 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 22: Libby Basics on Zoom. Learn how to use your library card to check out ebooks and download audiobooks. Reg. required. 1 p.m. Thursday, June 23: Libby Deep Dive on Zoom. Take a guided tour of Libby’s advanced features. Reg. required. 1 p.m. Saturday, June 25: Traditions of Chinese Acrobatics. Meet Li Liu as she performs world-renowned acrobatic feats and shares her experiences growing up in China and performing around the world. 11:30 a.m.
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ERVING 1st Monday: Paws to Read. A great opportunity for reluctant readers to read with a therapy dog. Call (413) 423-3348 to reserve a spot. 4 to 6 p.m. Thursdays, June 2, 16, and 30: Green River Players Ukulele Group shares songs of peace and joy. All are welcome to play, sing, or listen. 1 to 2:30 p.m.

NORTHFIELD 1st Saturday: Puzzle Swap. Dozens of new-to-you puzzles for kids and adults. For more info, friendsofdm101360@gmail.com . 10 to 11:30 a.m. Every Tuesday: Drop-in Knitting. Join fellow knitters and crocheters. 6 to 8 p.m.

WENDELL Every Tuesday: Watercolor Art Group. 5 to 6 p.m. Every Wednesday: Pollinator Group. Drop in as you can to help care for pollinator-friendly perennial beds. 9 a.m. Wednesdays and Fridays: Healthy Bones & Balance with Marianne. Contact mariannevinal@gmail.com or (978) 544-6122. Zoom, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Thursdays, June 2, 9, and 16: Playground Playgroup, facilitated by Sylvia. 9:30 a.m. Sunday, June 5: Free Yoga with Robyn Lily. 8-week series. Slow flow, meditative, all inclusive. Herrick Room, 10 a.m. Wednesday, June 8: Living with a Bipolar Brain. Local author Sara Schley shares from her new memoir. 7 to 8 p.m. Saturday, June 11: Grow with Us! Help plant a pollinator garden for the community. 10 a.m. Sunday, June 12: Basement Clean-Out and Tag Sale. Looking for strong volunteers to help clean out the basement prior to repairs. Townwide tag sale on the common. 9 a.m.

WENDELL Friday, June 24: Swing Set Singers. Free outdoor music. Small jazz ensemble singing multi-part harmonies. 6:30 p.m. Saturday, June 25: Reception, Faces of Wendell. Outside, weather permitting. 1 to 2 p.m. Sunday, June 26: Summer Reading Kickoff for young readers. 10:30 a.m.

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EPSILON from page B1

By repeating this pattern for twenty minutes, each lugubrious pluck of the E string sounded increasingly portentous. The chords that followed changed with each repetition due to slight alterations in his attack and rhythm, then back to bass note, which resounded like a gong. Through minimalism, his playing reached a hallucinatory grandeur. I was puzzled, even angry, about how flatfooted the song seemed at first. When I eventually surrendered to it, my mood lifted, my spirit soaring around the space on the reverberating sounds.

I had expected as much from Laraaji, whose music is precisely designed for spiritual uplift, but I was much less moved by his performance. Mohr said that her vision for Epsilon Spires is to subvert the spiritual by hosting events that explore ideas related to spirituality beyond the confines of traditional religion. I had had something akin to a spiritual experience listening to Rawlings’s song. It was only during Laraaji’s laughter workshop that I had a similar experience.

Murky Depths

Laraaji is best known for his 1980 record *Day of Radiance*, released as part of Brian Eno’s Ambient series. Trained at Howard University as a pianist, one night in the mid-1970s he had an auditory revelation, hearing a sound that he described as “the music of the spheres.” He’s spent the rest of his life trying to bring back the feeling of wellbeing it brought him. His primary instrument is an autoharp, which he plays like a hammered dulcimer with sticks or drum brushes.

Laraaji was mostly a cult figure during the 1980s and ’90s, but his work began to be name-checked by much younger performers after the turn of the millennium as hipsters began to appreciate both yoga and new age music. At 79 years old, he’s more in demand as a performer today than ever before.

For his musical performance at Epsilon Spires, Laraaji began playing his autoharp with an elbow, a walnut-sized electronic device that vibrates an instrument’s strings to generate haunting drones. Arji began shaking a string of *cachos*, Peruvian seed pods that, when rattled, make a sound remarkably like a waterfall. She also played canned rainforest sounds from an iPad, which lent the song an unfortunately ersatz air.

Laraaji switched to drum brushes, chanting “hari-rama” and “bring forth your healing laughter,” but the hard pew seats were killing my back, and I didn’t feel like laughing. For half an hour, Laraaji and Arji continued to chant as his autoharp, filtered through digital delay, looped back on itself, the rainforest sounds whooping in the background. Chanting, I all too quickly realized, was something best participated in, not watched.

He finally moved on to two large gongs hanging from a rack at the back of the stage. The large one on the bottom howled like an elephant. After striking it, he waved a mic in front of it to produce a more natural form of delay, causing washes of low-toned sounds to pile on top of each other, contrasting nicely with the continued higher pitch of the *cachos*. Switching to the smaller gong, he rubbed the mic across its surface to generate spooky, whale-song sounds.

As the gongs died down, Arji

stepped back and Laraaji began playing a jazz-inflected take on “Shenandoah” on a piano. After the murky depths of the gongs, the melody that suddenly filled the space was like coming up for air. Unfortunately, they concluded by returning to their first song for another long round of chanting and hammered zither, electronic rainforest and all. They ended with a surprisingly charming coda, playing a sprightly sea shanty on matching harmonicas.

Reciprocal Grins

Because it was fully participatory, the laughter yoga workshop, held in a large back room at Epsilon Spires, was entirely different from the concert. Although I’ve done tons of yoga, I was unconvinced about laughter yoga’s purported healing properties, and worried about participating. The small group of people present the next day all had to be involved as Laraaji and Arji led us through a variety of group exercises. While they played some music, the interaction between members of the group was far more important.

Rather than have us chant, one of the first things that Laraaji and Arji established was that we were going to recover a sense of child-like behavior by engaging in play, which they defined as “the spontaneous exploration of sensation.” Fair enough, and, fun enough, we all began dancing and wiggling around to access our “water bodies.”

They led us through some solo exercises where we forced ourselves to laugh into our head, heart, and stomach. Some people broke into actual laughter. I didn’t, although it did help me relax.

Then we went through several exercises with other people in the room where we walked up to someone, looked them in the eye, and repeated a silly phrase to them, which they echoed back. Peering deeply into a stranger’s eyes, with my hands on my heart, saying, “My little Bill feels happy,” or, “My little Bill feels loved,” and having them repeat back to me, “Your little Bill feels happy, loved, preposterous...” and then hearing them do the same brought forth genuine laughter. We did another, similar exercise whose prompt was, “I have come to see your smile,” which generated huge, reciprocal grins that burst into spontaneous laughter.

Having been cooped up at home, with so little contact with strangers, these interactions were magical. Their warmth was something I didn’t know I had been missing. More than laughter, creating a space where strangers could connect in such simple, innocent ways was the biggest accomplishment of Laraaji and Arji’s two-day engagement.

In the wake of COVID-induced social distancing, I left Laraaji and Arji’s workshop as a believer not in laughter yoga, but in the simple power of human contact. They had allowed me to be vulnerable by acting silly with others present and not being self-conscious about it.

To embrace being ridiculous with strangers is very different from sitting quietly as an audience member, and just as spiritually uplifting as a great concert performance. That Epsilon Spires is creating a platform where such opportunities can take place is a real credit to Mohr. We’re lucky to have such a special venue nearby.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Unfounded Odor; Laundry Havoc; Goose Chase; Extralegal Eviction Attempt; Very Vulgar Sign

Monday, 5/23

10:45 a.m. Odor investigation on Fourth Street. Unfounded.

5:46 p.m. Caller states that a mother and daughter are fighting in a driveway on Montague City Road; she can hear them yelling, and saw them punching each other. Parties both denied anything physical; verbal dispute over some property. Situation mediated.

9:43 p.m. Caller states that a group of kids are in the Third Street laundromat vandalizing the place and causing a loud disturbance. Males found in building charging phones; no damage noted to business. Males did say they were trying to catch a possum that got inside.

Tuesday, 5/24

3:30 a.m. Caller from Randall Road requests officer check the area around her house. Officer advises all quiet upon arrival.

9:19 a.m. Caller states that a loose dog from a Meadow Road residence came running after her and her dog while they were walking by. She was knocked to the ground and received some cuts and scrapes. The dog was called back into the house by a female at the residence; however, no one came out to speak to her or acknowledge the incident. Officers out at residence. Report taken.

10:29 a.m. Employee at Great Falls Discovery Center advising that two twelve-foot copper gutters were taken off the back side of the building in the last day or two. Report taken.

10:50 a.m. Caller states that two kids smashed the front window to the Third Street laundromat. Report taken.

10:54 a.m. Food City manager reporting a female is on camera stealing items from the store. Report taken.

1:05 p.m. 253 Pharmacy store owner reporting that they have a counterfeit \$50 bill. Report taken.

4:01 p.m. Caller states that there is a group of kids fighting in the street near Avenue A and Fourth Street. Lots of yelling and screaming. Second caller states she can see a large fight in the area. Group of kids moved out of and away from laundromat.

Wednesday, 5/25

12:53 a.m. Caller reports that a female caused a verbal argument between people and pulled down curtains in the hallway of an Avenue A apartment building. Officer spoke with caller, who stated he did not need any assistance. Officer stated landlord can contact PD if he has an issue with the curtains.

7:49 a.m. Caller states that a car struck a sign at Ma-

ple and Unity Streets and knocked it down. Vehicle gone on arrival. DPW notified about damaged sign.

9:32 a.m. Caller states that along the bike path across from the playground, an older male had his dog off leash and was letting it chase geese. Referred to an officer.

12:04 p.m. Caller states that someone struck a mail truck on Old Sunderland Road and then fled the scene. Mail person is not injured. Report taken.

Thursday, 5/26

9:03 a.m. Caller from Randall Road states that her neighbor slashed the screen and cracked the glass on the window to her kitchen overnight. The neighbor has recently been making threats towards her. Another neighbor just called and advised that she saw the involved party outside around 5:30 this morning hitting the window. Witness came to station and filled out a statement. Report taken.

9:14 p.m. Two reports of someone banging on doors at Keith Apartments. Unable to locate.

10:25 p.m. Loud music complaint on Old Stage Road. Officer advised homeowner of the complaint; they will shut the party down for the night.

Friday, 5/27

7:22 a.m. Report of threatening/harassment on Fifth Street. Referred to an officer.

7:30 a.m. No power at PD. Eversource contacted. Generator running.

7:50 a.m. Complaint of a sign containing profanity in the window of Swanson’s Fabrics on Avenue A. Officer advised.

9:23 a.m. Caller would like to speak with an officer regarding the sign containing profanity in the window of Swanson’s Fabrics. Advised of options.

1:59 p.m. Swanson’s Fabrics business owner reports receiving threats via Facebook that people

are going to come loot her shop tonight. She will call back so an officer can come speak to her. Advised of options.

3:49 p.m. Caller from L Street reporting that the neighbor’s dogs are aggressors; following an incident that just occurred between her dogs and her neighbor’s dogs; caller said the neighbor started yelling at her, swung at her, and threw her shoe at her. Referred to an officer.

4:34 p.m. Caller from Avenue A reporting that her landlord boarded up her windows, changed the locks, and let her cat out. Caller stated that they have not been to court about this yet. Officer advises that caller was able to make entry into the apartment. Landlord did not stay to speak with officers. Advised of options.

7:07 p.m. Caller reporting two loose pitbulls near Avenue A and Fifth Street; no collars. Second caller reporting that they are in front of her house on Fifth Street. Officer advises that he was approached by an involved party who stated that they were his dogs. Officer is giving the dogs a ride to the residence since they are already in his car.

Saturday, 5/28

1:32 a.m. Caller from Randall Road states he is being harassed again; requesting officer drive through area. No sign of anyone in the area.

2:34 a.m. Caller reporting single-vehicle accident on Old Leverett Road; two parties out of vehicle; one party is bleeding from a laceration; no poles or wires involved; no visible fluids. Control contacted to dispatch fire and EMS. Tow requested.

7:05 a.m. Caller reports a cat in a house in Lake Pleasant with no food or water. Information forwarded to animal control officer.

8:23 a.m. Caller from Randall Road reports her cat wandered into the neighbor’s open door and when she went to get the cat, her neighbor had a knife. She claimed to be fixing her door. No threats were made. Officer reports fe-

male was fixing her door.

9:22 a.m. Caller from Randall Road reports her neighbor is outside screaming and yelling profanity. [Redacted.]

11:43 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports that a female in a white “fancy” vehicle was outside dealing drugs.

2:55 p.m. 911 caller reporting a cat in an apartment in Lake Pleasant with no food or water. Caller called back again and was advised again that this has been forwarded to the ACO.

3:09 p.m. Summons issued for assault and battery at Turners Falls High School.

7:11 p.m. Caller complaining of the signs hanging in the window of Swanson’s Fabrics on Avenue A. Caller states that it is very vulgar and there are too many little kids who shouldn’t have to see that. Spoke with officer, who advised that callers should be referred to town hall to make their complaints; it is free speech.

Sunday, 5/29

8:19 a.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road states that someone broke into the garage and stole some fishing rods. Report taken.

9:28 a.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant called the Pepperell PD and made a complaint about a possible dead cat either in or near his home. Spoke to residents; no one from there called. No deceased cats located nearby.

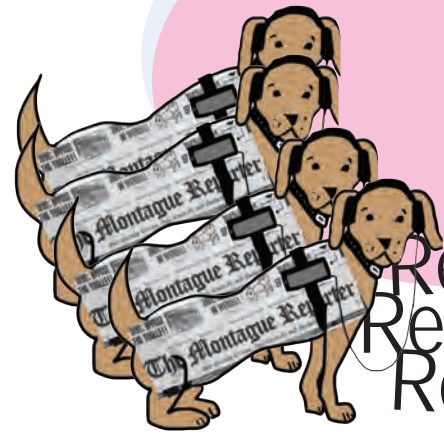
6:53 p.m. Caller from Grove Street states there is a pool party next door and they have been playing loud music for approximately three hours. Officer advised it’s a party at 6 p.m.

7:53 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street states that a group of kids is outside threatening to jump her. Advised of options.

9:31 p.m. Caller from Central Street states that a group of youths is in the road yelling, throwing stuff, and lying in the middle of the road. Gathering dispersed.

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Our photo correspondent
Joe R. Parzych had a busy week!

At left, Reggie and Nancy Roy of North Adams show off their 1949 Chevy 3100 pickup at the 17th Annual Western Mass Antique Truck Show at Yankee Candle in South Deerfield on May 22.

At right, Sandra DeGrare of New Hampshire and a friend proudly display DeGrare's original 1929 Allis Chalmers tractor at the Gas Engine Show in Bernardston last Saturday, May 28. "In addition to the engine show, there was a flea market," Joe reports. "You never know what you can find at a flea market, such as rare and hard-to-find treasures, arts and crafts from local and non-local artists, as well as great food of all kinds including hot baked potatoes and local Snow's Ice Cream. Booths including raffle prizes from local businesses that go to good causes. Everyone had a great experience and a fun time. There was a tractor parade as well."

PLACES



JOE R. PARZYCH PHOTOS

LIBRETTOS

A Capstone to a Long and Illustrious Career

Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno, *Lorca: An Operatic Cycle in Five Parts* (Alyscamps Press, Paris)

By RICHARD ANDERSEN

MONTAGUE – What do Luis Buñuel, Salvador Dalí, and Federico García Lorca have in common? Their respective standings in the worlds of film, art, and literature are now extended, expanded, and enriched forever by our very own Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno.

It all started in 2011, over a meal of oysters on the half shell and a few shots of vodka. Christopher was at the Old Dominion University Literary Festival in Norfolk, Virginia, giving a talk on the incidental music of Paul Bowles when he and one of his hosts, the relatively young but already accomplished composer Andrey Kasparov, began talking about something they had in common: a love for opera.

Fueled by refreshments and memories, they decided to collaborate on an opera of their own. Andrey would compose the music, and Christopher would write the libretto.

"What interests you?" Andrey asked.

Christopher didn't miss a beat: "Lorca." He'd been a fan of the Spaniard's poems since his mom read them to him as a child.

Completed in 2013, *Lorca: An Operatic Cycle in Five Parts* has not yet enjoyed a full-scale theater production, but parts have been performed, and now Christopher's superbly stunning original libretto has been published by Alyscamps Press in Paris.

Readers of a certain advanced age may have seen in a real theater, with actual seats and perhaps some popcorn in hand, some of Luis Buñuel's groundbreaking, award-winning, Surrealist films: *That Obscure Object of Desire* or *The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie*.

How about Salvador Dalí's sculpture of the telephone with the lobster receiver? Or the couch fashioned in the shape of a pair of ruby red lips? His iconic "The Persistence of Memory," with its melting clocks all stopped at different times, is as much a part of our cultural consciousness as Edvard Munch's "The Scream" or any of Andy Warhol's Campbell soup cans.

Federico García Lorca's popularity may not be as widespread as Buñuel's or Dalí's, but that may have less to do with the quality of his work than the shortness of his career. Murdered by Falangists during the Spanish Civil War in 1936, he was only thirty-two years old. What the fascists did with his body has yet to be discovered.

Lorca opens with Buñuel, Dalí, and our hero at the Residencia de Estudiantes in Madrid in 1923. Right away, we can see that these three young intellectuals are not your typical undergraduates. They're playing a game they've invented called "Anaglyphs."

Photography buffs tell us that an anaglyph can be achieved by imposing one upon the other two images of the same subject represented from two different angles. Anyone who has ever put on a pair of glasses made of cardboard in order to watch a movie is familiar with the anaglyph effect. It's more commonly known as 3D.

The difference in Christopher's libretto, of course, is that the young geniuses' images are created with single words rather than individual pictures. Can you think of a more brilliant way to represent the precociousness of these kids? Christopher can. Though he may be among the world's last living Modernists, he resists the temptation to experiment with his triad of Surrealist characters and, following a longer operatic tradition, has them communicate in rhyme:

*Federico, Federico, dearest friend
don't take umbrage at our games.
You know despite our jests we love you true
and even if the world goes up in flames
we're here to burn with you.*

Can you imagine how much fun Christopher must have had composing these over-the-top lyrics while still maintaining his characters' youthful tongue-in-cheek innocence? Nevertheless, he soon gets down to the Lorca business at hand:

*The gypsies shout and weep
as the darkened moon hurtles by.
The Civil Guards are coming.
Fly, child, fly.*

And he does. Arriving in New York City just months before the catastrophic stock market crash of 1929, Lorca witnesses everything from investors jumping out of skyscrapers to workers celebrating the beginning of the end of capitalism. There's also a party among African Americans in Harlem – the only people in the city where Lorca and Christopher use the untranslatable Spanish words "simpatico" and "duende" to describe them. Both words have to do with treasured essences and soul.

Enter Walt Whitman and his reincarna-

tion, Allen Ginsberg. Christopher couldn't help himself. You can take him out of the Surreal, but you can't take the Surreal out of Christopher. There's even a reverential allusion to the quintessential Modernist T.S. Eliot when Christopher's Whitman echoes the invitation of Eliot's narrator in "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" to join him in a walk through the city's streets of "restless nights in one-night cheap hotels":

*Come join me in my walk.
Come, come, let's have a talk.*

In his informative, helpful, and thought-provoking "Forward" to the libretto, Christopher cites Lorca's time in New York as "the most complex, and probably the most demanding act, both musically and theatrically... The stock market crash scene is discordant... The uptown party requires a blues/jazz number. The scene with Whitman is ethereal."

It all comes together in a series of graphically written stanzas in which Lorca tells us:

*Oh shameless, savage North America
even your rivers sweat money and blood.
Oh New York, land of demonic dreams
where ticker-tape dollars form putrid mud.*

*I'll go to the river and make my amends.
I'll sit on the bank where the brave
water boils.*

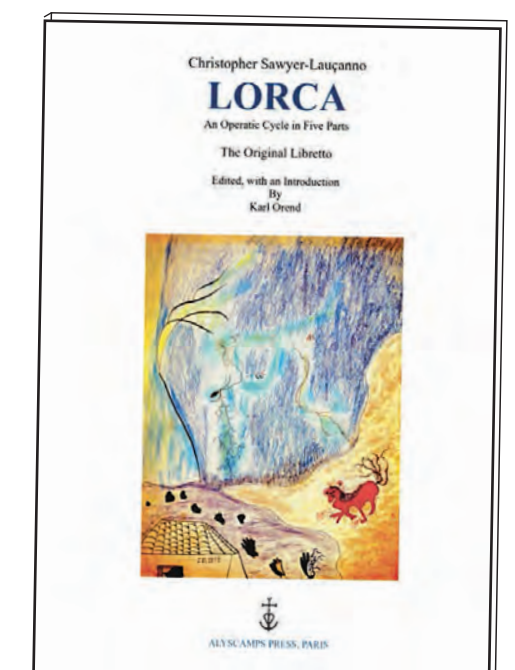
*I'll make songs of love to sing without end.
For even the Hudson is drunk with oil.
Is drunk with oil. Is drunk with oil*

I cite these lines not just because of the context in which they appear in the libretto, but also as a measurement of how closely Christopher adheres to Spanish language conventions. Take a second look at the final line quoted above:

Is drunk with oil. Is drunk with oil

Did you notice how neither sentence has a subject? This is because Spanish speakers are allowed by their linguistic conventions to eliminate the subjects of their sentences when the subjects are already understood. English speakers have the same liberty, but only when they are speaking directly to someone. They can say, for example, "Hand me my umbrella," but they cannot say, "Is raining."

Christopher's choices of language usage increase our appreciation of his libretto in other



ways as well. He knew right from the beginning that he couldn't be too experimental or too subtle. In other words, too Modernist.

His job was to further the emotional content of composer Andrey's music by translating Lorca's Spanish words into readily accessible English. Fortunately, Lorca was there to help. Because Lorca wrote in regular meters, Christopher also wrote all he could in rhyme. It sounds easy – like a task in which all the heavy lifting has already been done for you – but it's not. That Christopher can create in his own accurate translation such highly constructed lines that always maintain their natural sound is a telling tribute to his talent as a translator and poet.

He also knows how to put together a good read, and there's a distinctly different format in both technique and type of action for each of the five cycles he has written. Nothing he or Lorca write, however, has greater impact than the opera's powerful conclusion:

*From star to star
across the night sky
my words will elude
the bullets that fly.
Poems will burst from my lungs
as the bullets descend.
My words will be sung
again and again.
You can drag the poet
from his home.
You can kill the poet
but not his poems.*

In addition, readers should know that Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno is an internationally renowned, revered, and beloved scholar, poet, translator, artist, musician, architect, eloquent raconteur, superb teacher, and first-rate human being.

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MEMBER FDIC MEMBER DIF

WEST ALONG from page B1

I guess I saw, I mean really *saw*, wild birds for the first time. And when I got home and saw the same birds in my back yard, that hooked me for life. They had been there all along, I just hadn’t noticed. My father handed me a hefty pair of 7x50 Bausch & Lomb binoculars he had “liberated” from his Navy days in the South Pacific. Those binocs brought the birds right up close, and I was set for life.

By the 7th and 8th grades, we met the women teachers who would rule the roost in the Grammar School on Crocker Avenue: Miss McLaughlin, Mrs. Libby, Mrs. Kersavage, Mrs. Trembl, among many others.

There was also a Miss Argy who taught English, prim and perfect, never far from her thermos of coffee. She was one of a trio of Argy sisters: Florence, our music teacher; Blondina, of the English class and thermos; and Pearl, who taught us our catechism of Christian Doctrine over at St. Mary’s.

By 9th grade we met Bill Connelly, who introduced us to some serious English literature. A wonderful and caring teacher with an Irish twinkle in his eye – and a fiery Irish temper if you crossed him. He doubled in summer as our field boss during those years when we worked on tobacco. We marveled at his ability to converse in Spanish with the migrant workers.

Mr. Connelly introduced us to Washington Irving, among other authors, whose Christmas Sketchbook I read every December to this day. I actually had the chance to thank him many years later for the gift of the Irving writings. I think he appreciated that. One should never miss the chance to acknowledge what the old teachers have provided.

By the time we reached high school, the accumulating teachers began crowding our lives with their numbers and personalities, even though I can only name a few here.

Jack Bassett was both Biology teacher and football coach. He was a big man with a warm smile even when he tried to act stern with us. From time to time when a few of us got carried away with teenage goofiness on the team bus, high spirits and all, Jack tried reprimanding us but couldn’t keep from laughing at our innocent antics.

Miss Louise Clark taught us Latin for four years. Oftentimes pursing her lips, she calmly showed her distress at our collective inabilities to decline *amo, amas, amat*.

Eddie Bordeaux taught us math and also coached. He was endowed with a foghorn voice that could cut through a crowd at a football game or share a wise crack at the expense of Charlie Galvin, who taught chemistry the next classroom door away.

Harold Fugere was everybody’s uncle as gym teacher and driving instructor. We remained connected well after he retired and I graduated. He performed a great service to the village in documenting as many Turners Falls nicknames as he could find. His collection can still be found in the Carnegie Library. I wrote an article about his collection entitled “What’s Your Moniker?” (*The Montague Reporter*, March 9, 2006)

Maurice Donovan blazed through our student lives like an intense comet. Enigmatic, an introverted intellectual, somehow misunderstood in our small town culture, he was an otherworldly and demanding teacher. He challenged many of the gifted, and tolerated our budding egos, while trying to introduce us to drama and poetry.



Mr. Donovan, the English teacher.

The day JFK was assassinated, November 22, 1963, I arrived that afternoon in his empty classroom – school always ended for the day at 1 p.m. – and both of us, of strong Irish Catholic upbringing, actually knelt and said a prayer there among the desks.

Then there was Fred Oakes of the dry and sly sense of humor, the hint of a bemused smile as he peered over his horn-rimmed glasses.

He epitomized the New England classroom teacher, tweed jacket, trimmed mustache and all. One day when a typically unruly pupil brazenly munched on a cracker in the back of the room, Fred strolled over to the culprit and, never breaking facial expression nor stride, stabbed the snack with his pencil and carried it through the air to the trash can, all the while listening to a student voice droning on reading a required poem in a flat voice.

Miss Mery O’Brien tried to coax us into feeling what she felt about art. She was the first to introduce us to the Impressionists. I still think of her when, on a quiet afternoon in the Musée d’Orsay in Paris, I visit those paintings by Van Gogh or Monet that she presented to our class of country bumpkins.

Albert Routhier was our first French teacher. He had us chanting “*j’entre dans la salle de classe, je regarde autour de moi, je dis bonjour au professeur...*” Many who read this can still recite that dialogue, even 60 years later. I went on to be a high school French teacher myself.

Then, of course, there’s the venerable and durable Mr. Bush. He was highlighted on the front page of last week’s *Reporter* in an article by Jeff Singleton. Honored as teacher and coach, he still attends our Class of 1964 reunions, chides us and sometimes calls us out, teases and greets us with his keen sense of humor and history.

We were in Mr. Bush’s class the day the Cuban Missile Crisis reached its most dangerous point. We didn’t know if we would survive to go home that afternoon, the situation was so tense, the likelihood of nuclear annihilation never so inevitable. We followed the news on a transistor radio in his class. Current events provided vivid experiential learning. At the last minute, the Russian ships turned around, heading away from Cuba. We survived that day.

Now and then I take down my mother’s yearbook. She graduated from TFHS with the Class of 1945. This time I looked to see whom of my teachers had continued their service in education from then to my own generation of the ‘60s.

From those war years there are some familiar faces of those who taught us after they taught our parents: Mr. Galvin, Miss Crean,



Another English teacher who made an impression: Mr. Fred Oakes.

Miss Clark, Miss McGillicuddy, Miss Little, and of course, Principal George Wrightson and Superintendent Arthur Burke. So many of them shepherded us, generation after generation, through our formative years.

Now I myself have joined the ranks of Old Teachers, having taught the children of some of my former students before it was time for me to put away the lesson plans and stick my teacher’s school bag into the closet for the last time.

Glancing over my shoulder at the past, I realize the number of students I have taught is enough to populate a small town...

The population ages but never graduates... I forgot all their last names first and their first names last in alphabetical order...

Once in a while a student knocks on the door with a term paper 15 years late...

And sometimes one will appear in a window pane to watch me lecturing the wallpaper, quizzing the chandelier, reprimanding the air.

– Excerpted from “Schoolsville,” by Billy Collins



TV ANALYSIS

Social Commentary in *Star Trek*

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – There is a history of episodes set in the *Star Trek* universe that are social commentaries. The *Star Trek: Voyager* episode called “Remember” is one of those episodes. It featured a society that had covered up a horrible piece of its history involving people who were somewhat different from them.

This episode is basically what *Star Trek* does with its episodes. “Remember” also backs the thought, rightfully so, that if you don’t remember history then it’s doomed to repeat itself. This is probably why the episode is named what it is.

The Next Generation also did this, beginning with its very first episode, “Encounter at Farpoint.” Humanity was put on trial by a being called Q to see if it could overcome its barbaric past. Captain Picard and his crew were the ones given a chance to prove it. They end up figuring out what was going on there, and providing what Q wanted.

A later episode called “Darmok” also did a commentary on understanding, through a story about Captain Picard and his attempts to communicate with a Tamarian captain to fight off a beast. Tamarians speak in metaphors rather than direct language, so at first Picard can’t understand him and believes he wants to fight.

This backs up the need for understanding between cultures, and the ways that not happening can lead to trouble. Picard accomplishes that with the Tamarian captain, and builds a bridge.

Star Trek: Enterprise’s turn at this was an episode called “Stigma,” which was an allegory on AIDS written by Brannon Braga. “Stigma”’s storyline was meant to show the stigma and prejudice around the disease. They did it

well in this episode about a person with a fictional condition who was treated very badly by their society if they had it. People with the real-life condition at one point weren’t treated fairly, or like human beings, and that is what happens in *Enterprise*’s episode.

I know for a fact the original *Star Trek* handed racism in one episode called “Let That Be Your Last Battlefield.” It had two aliens fighting who looked the same except the color of their faces were different on each side. It was a pretty clear way to focus on racism to me.

My favorite episode of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* is called “Far Beyond The Stars.” It involves Captain Sisko in the shoes of a Black man who has dealt with the racism of the 1950s. The whole thing is a vision of a life that Sisko is experiencing. I believe this story deals with racism well.

The latest TV series, called *Star Trek: Discovery* – which now has four seasons to its name – covers the concept of faith for most of its second season, as a character called the Red Angel is being sighted by people. It then turns into a sci-fi angle when it is discovered that this individual is a time traveler.

The season featured Christopher Pike as the *Discovery*’s captain. He was so popular they decided to do another series with him called *Star Trek: Strange New Worlds*. They also featured the concept of faith, in an episode called “Children of the Comet.” He and his crew must save a planet from being destroyed by a comet whose guardians are taking a leap of faith on the comet’s path. It has the appearance of being right to do, because it didn’t harm anyone, and ended up helping the planet.

Of all of these, my favorites are the *Deep Space Nine* and *Voyager* episodes.

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Montague Community Television News

Easter, Halloween, & Beyond

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – Holiday update: footage from the 2021 Rag Shag Parade and the 2022 Eggstravaganza are now up on the MCTV Vimeo page! Both are short and sweet glimpses into the celebrations of our town.

Next, you can watch the conversation from the Massachusetts Indigenous Agenda, and their presentation on the “Vote to Change the State Flag and Seal” Bill in the Massachusetts legislature. This bill would ban the use of Native mascots in public schools in the Commonwealth, as well as remove the image of a fighting Native American from the flag.

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. MCTV is still looking for board members; email info-montaguetv@gmail.com for a link to the Zoom!

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

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MEDICINE

Funky Feet

By CATHERINE DODDS, M.D.

TURNERS FALLS – As beach season approaches, it’s time to talk about feet. In my work as a primary care doctor, I see a lot of feet, and feet tell a lot about a person.

Every step of our lives is measured and reflected in our feet. There’s also a lot of embarrassment about feet. I always reassure patients – I’ve seen worse. If you recognize your feet in the descriptions below, know that you are not alone.

Here are several common foot conditions that I see all the time:

Bunions are bony knobs that stick out from the side of the big toes. A similar bump sticking out on the other side of the foot near the pinkie toe is called a bunionette. Bunions affect 25 to 35% of people – yes, in a group of four people, one of you probably has a bunion.

Bunions develop because of how you’re built (genetics, anatomy) and how you move, including what shoes you wear and how much of your life you’ve spent on your feet. Bunions are usually best treated with larger shoes to give them room and avoid pressing on them. Severe bunions can be surgically corrected if they’re causing a lot of pain or difficulty walking.

Flat feet (*pes planus*) are exactly what they sound like – the soles of the feet are flat, or nearly so, instead of having the usual arch in the middle. Flat feet can lead to pain with walking, knee and hip arthritis, and increased risk for falls over the years. Flat feet are managed with orthotic inserts in the shoes to help create an arch and better align the joints of the legs when walking.

Plantar warts are raised, circular, flat-topped, sometimes painful skin lesions that can form anywhere on the sole of the foot. Sometimes there’s only one, sometimes there’s many. Warts can be treated with topical salicylic acid (as in Compound W) or by freezing them in a doctor’s office (cryotherapy), which often requires multiple

treatments and can be pretty sore for a few days as you continue to walk on the treated wart.

Regardless of what treatment is used, the goal of treatment is actually not to destroy the wart, but rather to damage the skin around the wart so that the body’s immune system is activated to go after the HPV (human papillomavirus) that lies deep inside the wart, using the visible wart top as a protective shell.

Toenail fungus (*onychomycosis*) is reported to affect 3% to 5% of people, but this is likely an underestimate, as it’s often not medically evaluated or treated. Onychomycosis can range from a slight yellowing of one toenail to severe yellow discoloration and thickening of all ten. Treatment is challenging – it’s hard to get rid of that fungus once it’s settled into the nail. But mild astringents like tea tree oil, apple cider vinegar, or Vicks VapoRub are often used. Prescriptions like ciclopirox gel or terbinafine pills can also be tried, though they aren’t much more successful. Whatever treatment is chosen, patience is the most important part. It can take up to a year for a toenail to grow out fully, even if the treatment does work.

Foot fungus, also known as *tinea pedis* or athlete’s foot, shows up in several ways. It can cause a raised, red, itchy rash anywhere on the foot. It can also be a thick white rash between the toes that can lead to pain and bleeding. It can also cause heel cracking or foot skin fissuring. The fungus finds its way to infect us when we walk barefoot, particularly in locker rooms or public swimming pools. It then stays in shoes and thrives when our feet are warm, moist, or infrequently cleaned.

Effective treatment is available in the form of antifungal powders, creams, or pills. However, prevention is key – keeping feet clean, dry, and cool and changing shoes regularly will prevent foot fungus from infecting us again.

It All Starts With One Cell

By OLIVIA MACRORIE

AMHERST – Flies, humans, and whales all share the amazing ability to transform from a single cell, hardly visible by eye, into much larger, multicellular structures, ranging from a few thousand cells in a fruit fly to tens of trillions in humans, or even up to a hundred quadrillion cells in the blue whale, the biggest animal known to have lived.

The detailed underlying mechanics of how single cells transform into a myriad of different cell types, eventually creating highly organized forms such as us, are not totally worked out. Researchers are still investigating chemical signals which lead to different cell types forming in the developing liver, for example. Embryology is a fascinating field that seeks to answer these types of questions, shedding light on the vastly complex processes that coordinate to produce a healthy organism.

Humans have been intrigued by embryo development for centuries, initially studying chick development as far back as 350 BC. From early observational studies, we gained insight into the changes in shapes and structures that occur throughout gestation.

As time has progressed and technology advanced, researchers have investigated chemical and bio-chemical signals that drive these changes in shape and structure. While it may not seem apparent, there are ties between the processes that occur in embryo development and cancer, making their study interesting from both basic understanding and disease perspectives.

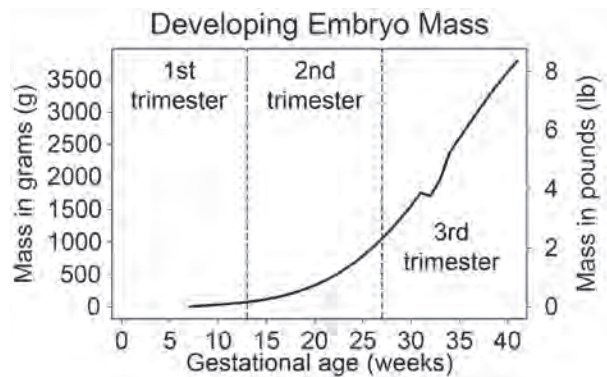
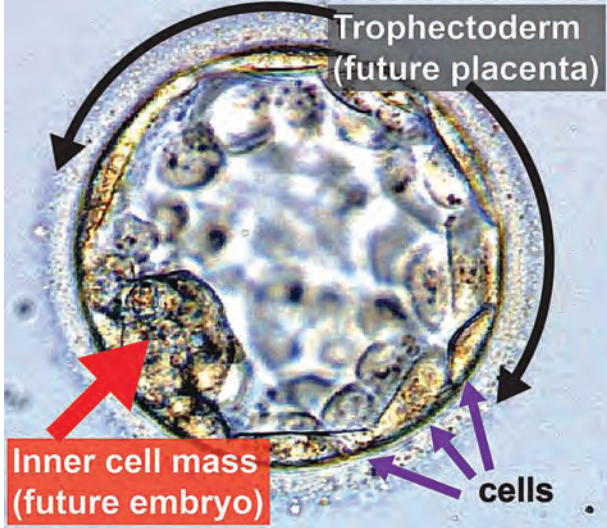
Development in humans follows a series of steps, lasting about nine months in total. Initially, an *oocyte*, or egg cell, is released from the mother’s ovaries into the fallopian tubes. Then a sperm cell fuses with and enters the egg cell, a process called fertilization. At this point, day one post-fertilization, the first cell is formed from a combination of genetic material from the sperm and the egg, and is known as the *zygote* cell.

By the end of day two, that *zygote* cell copies its genetic material and divides into two “daughter” cells. These cells each continue to duplicate themselves, and after four or five division cycles have formed a tightly bound clump of around 20 to 30 cells by day three.

These “compacted” day three cells form what is known as the *morula*, which is followed by the formation of the *blastocyst* at day five, a mostly hollow spherical structure composed of about 60 cells and roughly 0.2 mm in size.

At this point the *blastocyst* has two different cell types, cells that will form the embryo and cells that will later form the placenta and other extra-embryonic structures, as shown in the accompanying graphic.

By day seven, the embryo implants into the mother’s uterine wall, changing the structure of the surrounding uterine tissue in a process called *decidualization*. Subsequently, the embryo goes through a reorganization process called *gastrulation*, which forms the three major layers of the embryo – the ectoderm, the mesoderm, and the endoderm. These layers will



Top: A microscope image of a human “blastocyst” taken five days post-fertilization, in the pre-implantation stage.

Bottom: The mass of a developing human embryo over the gestational period. The boundaries between trimesters are indicated with dashed lines at 13 and 27 weeks.

go on to form specific organs. For example, the liver and pancreas are derived from the endoderm.

After gastrulation is the development of the major organs, or *organogenesis*, and placenta development. The placenta is functional at 12 weeks, providing nutrients to the embryo, and weighs approximately two ounces. During this period of time, the fetus undergoes a great amount of growth, as seen in the figure.

Looking into the changes that happen within a developing embryo is no easy task, given technical challenges and ethical problems. Despite this, it is my belief that it is a worthwhile endeavor for scientists, and maybe an interesting topic for non-scientists who weren’t quite satisfied with the answer they got to the “Where did I come from?” question.

For those interested in how development relates to cancer, one example is that there are a number of similarities between the extra-embryonic trophoblast cells and cancer cells. Placenta-forming trophoblast cells must divide rapidly and become more mobile in order to “invade” the mother’s uterine lining, a behavior that cancerous cells often also share. Understanding how the trophoblast cells change in order to promote their migratory/invasive state may provide insight into changes that occur in cancer cells before and during metastasis.

EDITORIAL

The Court’s Big ‘Choice’

By SPENCER SHORKEY

MILLERS FALLS – Last month, a leaked Supreme Court opinion suggested that abortion rights are not protected by the Constitution and not rooted in US history. If this judgment by the Court comes to pass, it would overturn the precedent set nearly half a century ago by *Roe v. Wade*, which held that

the right to an abortion is protected by the Constitution. In light of this probable change in course by the Court, the May 20 edition of *Science* magazine featured an editorial titled “The Court is ignoring science” by Diana Greene Foster, a professor of reproductive science at University of California San Francisco.

Prof. Foster worked on the Turnaway Study, a study designed to

“rigorously examine the effects of receiving versus being denied a wanted abortion on women and their children.” This study covered 30 abortion facilities, and included participants who received abortions and those who were denied abortions due to facility gestational age limits, tracking their outcomes.

The study revealed statistically significant trends. Women who were denied abortions had “four times higher odds of being below the fed-

eral poverty level” as well as physical and mental health risks. It was also found that “existing children of women denied abortions were more than three times more likely to live in households below the federal poverty level and they were less likely to achieve developmental milestones.”

In this regard, Prof. Foster wrote that since “the majority of abortion patients are already parents, this means that being able to obtain an abortion has powerful, multigenera-

tional impacts.” In short, if the right to choose an abortion is overturned by the Court, there will surely be more children and mothers living in poverty as a result.

Prof. Foster concluded the editorial by writing: “Science is clearly relevant to the controversial issues of our time, including abortion access in the United States – in fact, science is especially critical in these moments. The highest court in the United States should not ignore it.”

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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 2

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Nadine, Holy Basil, Pressure Care*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

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

The Perch at Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Tiny Blue Ghost, The Burning Sun*. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

Unity Park, Turners Falls: *Fun Fest* feat. *Lorena Garay and Surcari, Carrie Ferguson's Grumpytime Club Band, Akwaaba Ensemble*. Free. 12 p.m.

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

Mystery Train Records, Amherst: *Allysen Callery, id m theft able, Jeff Unfortunately, J. Burkett, Owen Manure*. Free. 5 p.m.

Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Ragged Blue*. Free. 6:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Tracy & The Valley Revival*. \$. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Birthday Ass, EIEIEIO, The Leafies You*

Gave Me. \$. 7:30 p.m.

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

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

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Led Sabbath*, feat. mems. *Outer Sty-lie, Medicinal Purpose*. \$. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Dancing from the Inside Out*, dance performance made by kids ages 6 to 12 from Great Falls Creative Movement. 3 p.m.

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

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

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Screening, Son of the White Mare* (Hungary, 1981). Free. 6 p.m. Then *Cole Blouin, Jake Klaar Band, Ciarra Fragale, Webb Crawford*. \$. 8 p.m.

MONDAY, JUNE 6

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Mic with Just Jim*. Free. 8:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

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

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

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Central Heat Exchange, The Musical Chairs, Lost Film*. \$. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9

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

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

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 10

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

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

The Drake, Amherst: *Andy McKee*. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Vi-mana*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

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

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Sugar Biscuit*, queer dance party. \$. 9:30 p.m.

Progression Brewing Company, Northampton: *Appalachian Still*. 7 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 12

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 14

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wes Brown with Matan Rubinstein*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

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.

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

SATURDAY, JUNE 18

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

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

Belltower Recs, North Adams: *Baldwin/Silbert Duo, Matt Weston, Lucia Stavros, Daniel O'Connor*. \$. 7 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 Quintet*. \$. 8 p.m.

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 21

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Fuji!!!!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.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23

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

FRI-SUN, JUNE 24-26

Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield: *Green River Festival* feat. *Lake Street Dive, Father John Misty, Galactic, Guster, Waxahatchee, Hiss Golden Messenger, Allison Russell* and many more. \$. See greenriverfestival.com for lineup and info.

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.

MONDAY, JUNE 27

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



Lucifer's Lexicon Kevin Smith

IGNORANT, adj.

Lacking the requisite mental faculties to understand and agree with me.

OVER THE HILL Carolyn Clark

<p>I get so angry, Harry, when I read about this Supreme Court fiasco.</p>	<p>When will idiot men stop telling women what they can and cannot do with their own bodies?</p>
<p>How would you men like to have your penises regulated?</p>	<p>The damn things have caused the whole problem anyway. I say, "off with their heads!"</p> <p>Ouch.</p>

JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION

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EXHIBITS

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Pollinators and Predators of Massachusetts and Costa Rica*. Bart Bouricius's photographs feature insects and arachnids. June 8 through July 5. Reception and slide show Saturday, June 25, 1 to 3 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Smoky Puddle*, works by Cathy Wusocki and Wayne Hopkins. June 4 through August 27. Reception Friday, June 24.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Word on Words*, community art show combining word and images. Reception this Saturday, June 4, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. *But Not Without Purpose*, photography by Blake Soule. Reception Thursday, June 9, 5 to 7 p.m. Through June.

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

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

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

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

Shelburne Arts Coop Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *June: Bust-*

ing 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 31.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Syncope: Homage to Jazz*. Donald Boudreaux, Andres Chaparro, Bobby Davis, Terry Jenoure, and Rodney Madison present paintings, drawings, photographs, prints, and sculptures inspired by Jazz. Organized by guest curator Terry Jenoure. Through July 2. Reception this Thursday, June 2, 5 to 8 p.m.

Anchor House of Artists, Northampton: *In Other Words*. B.Z. Reilly, 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 Cunha, Sam Wood) during the pandemic. Opening reception for all shows next Friday, June 10, 6 to 8 p.m.

A.P.E. Gallery, Northampton: *Sunny Allis, Kinetic Book Structures*. While in residence June 6 to June 12, Allis will make an interactive, kinetic book using mixed media materials. Workshop Sunday, June 12, 2 to 5 p.m.. First in a series of summer residencies at A.P.E. Contact the gallery to reserve a workshop spot.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center: Work by M. Carmen Lane, Roberto Visani, Yvette Molina, Mildred Beltré Martinez, Sachiko Akiyama, Louisa Chase, and Anne Spalter. Through June 12. Info at www.brattleboromuseum.org.

WISHES from page B1

joyful images of flowers and musical instruments. An amazing (to me) amount of detail has been achieved through the process of hammering sheets of thick aluminum foil. It's easy to imagine the installation twirling in the sun.

The design, conceived on a flat piece of paper, must work when it is wrapped around a cylinder. The process is painstaking, beginning with Jeanne's sketch that is then turned into a stencil that can be applied to the foil, where the intricate design is hammered with an assortment of tools. This is a process she learned from Robin Davis, a Brattleboro craftsman who shared examples of foil embossing and demonstrated the techniques.

In this community-inspired project, Jeanne is also grateful to Paul Lipke of Montague Center, a materials expert who offered advice on materials to use as drums on which to mount the foil artwork. Mary Tyner, a Greenfield neighbor, completed much of the artwork for the *Be Well* wishing wheel. Sally Shaw from Manchester, Vermont, is an herbalist and naturalist who provided suggestions for plants to include in the *Be Well* design, and Tahn Pamutto, Montague's wandering monk, strongly advocated for the design theme of giving food for the *Be In Kindness* wheel.

It was not hard for Jeanne to bring people together. She has had more than 30 years of experience as a community organizer, having helped establish the Montague May Day Celebration, and organized events that include annual community cider making, election watch parties, and art exhibits.

Until the end of December 2021, Jeanne was an associate director of the grants office at Amherst College. Although she took advantage of a voluntary retirement offer from Amherst, she said she doesn't think of herself as retired. The offer gave her the ability to pivot to a new career as an artist and entrepreneur.



Top: Jeanne Weintraub holding a stencil used for the wishing wheels.
Bottom: Detail of one of the wishing wheels.

She is also a graphic designer with four years of experience developing designs for fabric, websites, and print media. Very soon, she plans to launch a website at msgreenjeanne.com featuring her textile creations; "MsGreenJeanne," as her business is called, develops products related to sustainable living, local ecology, and flowers and pollinators. Products will be for sale at the Easthampton Farmers Market this summer and fall, and the web-

site will allow direct orders.

"Passersby who decide to turn the Wishing Wheels will have a tactile and meditative experience that fosters a desire for compassion and hope," said Jeanne, of her newest community project. "Their thoughts turn to optimism, wisdom, healing, peace, wholeness, love, compassion, and harmony as they turn the wishing wheels and imagine these wishes radiating outwards."



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