

The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 16, 2024

Café Opens Food Market; Gem Shop Bids Farewell



From left to right: Staff members Sam Mulligan and Rebekah Dutkiewicz and co-owner Tamara McKerchie opened the Avenue A Market's doors on Wednesday.

By BELLA LEVAVI

TURNERS FALLS – As Tangible Bliss, the gem and jewelry store located at 38 Third Street, closes its doors this week after a seven-year run, a new market is being inaugurated at 106 Avenue A by the owners of the Upper Bend, inviting customers to shop a variety of classic and specialty foods on their shelves.

When Swanson's Fabrics closed their retail store, relocating their entire collection to their Stash House down the road, Upper Bend café owners Tamara and Bill McKerchie seized the opportunity and opened a small food market.

The vision for the market, as explained by Tamara McKerchie, is "to offer options in Franklin County, and this side of the bridge, that may not be found elsewhere."

"We have a slightly different product mix," she added, "so there's no need to drive to Hampshire County to find what you're looking for."

McKerchie and co-owner Bill say that while they love Food City and Scotty's convenience store, this market will provide slightly different options, offering Turners Falls shoppers a new experience. Offerings include local produce, pantry goods, and refrigerated and frozen sections. In the coming weeks, a bulk section and beer and wine section are planned for stocking and sale.

Current products include Kitchen Garden Farm salsa, vegan fish, Warner Farm asparagus, and Crystal Hot Sauce, and an entire shelf dedicated to tinned fish options. Snacks such as a variety of crackers and a pack of Chester's Flamin' see **SHOP** page A4

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Olsen Latest In Cascade Of Town Staff Retirements

By JEFF SINGLETON

Montague town accountant Carolyn Olsen will be retiring in September after over 20 years of service to the town, assistant town administrator (ATA) Walter Ramsey told the selectboard on Monday. Ramsey said Olsen had originally planned to retire in 2025, but has decided to "fast-track that for her own reasons which is great for her."

"I think we're all sad to hear that, but happy for her," said selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz.

The board did not discuss a hiring process to replace Olsen, who was on vacation and did not attend Monday's meeting. Kuklewicz told Ramsey to keep the board informed of "next steps," and recommended that there should be some "overlap" with a new accountant.

The *Montague Reporter* contacted a number of finance committee chairs who have worked closely with Olsen to get their reactions to the news. Francia Wisnewski, the current chair, said that Olsen had informed members of her decision last week.

"The town of Montague has been incredibly lucky to have someone with Carolyn Olsen's work ethic and wisdom," Wisnewski said. "Since I joined the finance committee, we've been privileged to work under her mentorship and guidance. She has always been accessible to the community."

"This is news to me," said Jen Audley, who served on the committee for over five years and was chair from early 2020 until July 2022. "Her institutional and historical knowledge is so vast that it feels see **MONTAGUE** page A7

Ja'Duke Announces Plan To Grow Into Greenfield

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS and GREENFIELD – Ja'Duke Inc., a family enterprise that has grown from a small dance school to a thriving daycare center, theater, driving school, and after-school arts education program in the Turners Falls airport industrial park, has

announced plans to expand into a new facility in downtown Greenfield formerly owned by Greenfield Community College.

The company announced this week that it hopes to purchase 270 Main Street, a roughly 25,000-square-foot, currently vacant building, and renovate it into a second site see **GROW** page A5



JULIA HANDSCHUH PHOTO

The company hopes to close on the purchase next month, and open in early 2025.

Amid Controversies Over Siting of Battery Facilities, Fear of Runaway Fires

By SARAH ROBERTSON

BOSTON – "Technology is in hyperspeed ahead of us," Cambridge fire lieutenant Christopher Towski told attendees at a symposium on lithium-ion battery safety hosted last October by the state Department of Fire Services. "The elephant in the room, if you will, is the thermal runaway aspect."

Finding new ways to store energy from the wind and sun at a large scale may be crucial to a clean energy transition, but many lawmakers and first responders now

say they worry the development of electrochemical battery storage technology is outpacing our ability to regulate it safely.

Of particular concern to the firefighting community is the risk of unquenchable chemical fires at utility-scale battery energy storage systems (BESS). Power surges, excessive heat, overcharging, physical damage, and manufacturing defects can all lead to explosive chain reactions in batteries known as "thermal runaway," which release toxic gases and cannot be see **FIRES** page A8

AINSWORTH AT LARGE

Grateful Motorcyclists Return After Two Years

By CHIP AINSWORTH

NORTHFIELD – Several members of a Connecticut motorcycle club called the Raging Knights – a law-abiding group of firefighters and EMTs – returned to Northfield on Saturday and stopped at the fire station for hot dogs and hamburgers served by lieutenants Jeff Grover and Rob Hunter and others who were waiting for them.

"A little bit of a flashback," said club president Dan Chambers.

The Knights were hungry for food, but hungrier to say thanks for NFD's quick response to a horrible accident. "We're also firefighters and first responders, and we wanted to give thanks to our brothers," said the club's vice president Matt Kenzior.

Two years ago on May 29, Chambers and Kenzior and 13 others left see **AT LARGE** page A5

High School Sports Week: Wrapping Up

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – The 2024 season ended this week for several sports, while other teams and individuals play on. The Franklin Tech boys' track team competed in a state vocational meet in Canton, and they and the Turners girls will play in a Western Mass invitational meet this Friday.

The town's baseball and softball teams are also wrapping up their seasons, and struggling to secure the best post-season rankings as they can get.

Track and Field
Pioneer 89 – TFHS 46
FCTS 85 – Pioneer 51

Last Thursday, the Turners Falls girls' track team dropped a home meet against Pioneer. Jakhia Williams won the 100m dash, Charlotte Canterbury won the 800m, and Madyson Lynde put the shot furthest for Turners' three first places.

The Tech boys' team ended their



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS

Turners Falls' number-two doubles team, Alyssia Corbin (left) and Gia Marigliano, won 6-4, 6-2 against visiting Mohawk Trail Regional last Thursday, May 9.



regular season on a high note, besting the Pioneer Black Panthers at home. Cameren Candelaria won the 100m and the 200m, Logan Caron the 110m hurdles and 400m hurdles, Josiah Little the long jump and the triple jump, James Gibson the 800m,

William Thomas the two-mile, and Noah Gamache the shot put.

On Friday several of the boys competed in the state vocational meet at Blue Hills Regional. Although the team is made up of see **SPORTS** page A6

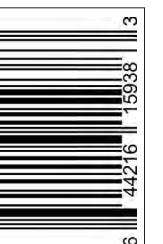


PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN CHAMBERS

Last Saturday, riders from the Raging Knights motorcycle club of Connecticut met with members of the Northfield fire department who responded to a crash caused by an inattentive SUV driver on May 29, 2022. Five motorcycles were wrecked and eight members were injured, including two who lost limbs.

Run, Walk, Or Roll - The Brick House 5K - This Saturday At 10 A.M.

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The Montague Reporter

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August 2002

125 Years Ago This Month

News and views excerpted from the *Turners Falls Reporter*, May 1899:

May 3: William Harvey was fined \$5 for drunkenness, Thursday morning, and went to the house of correction to board it out.

Spencer A. Jones and Mrs. Elizabeth Weeks, who were arrested for lewd and lascivious cohabitation, were bound over to the grand jury and placed under bonds of \$400 each. Mr. Jones retracted his plea of not guilty, which he made last week, and pleaded guilty.

The hotel at Lake Pleasant has been let to Samuel B. Harvey of Boston.... Arrangements have been made to have a telephone on the grounds the year round, which will fill a much needed want.

May 10: Complaints are being heard everywhere on account of the disgusting conduct of the hordes of bicyclists who invade the country every Sunday, and act as though the earth, and all the fullness thereof belonged to them. It seems as though people who are otherwise well-mannered and behaved, leave their breeding behind with their other coats when they don outing clothes and mount the wheel, for in no other way can one account for the scorching, braying, abusive and devil-may-care conglomeration of humans who invest every highway on Sunday. They tramp or ride over lawns, or even camp out on them, take possession of doorsteps and piazzas, jeer or yell at any lady they pass, and God's providence alone (so kind always to children and fools) prevents them from breaking their own and other people's necks. The men are not the only sinners in this respect. A mob of wild-eyed per-

spiring wheelmen, out on a Sunday century run, are not so much to be dreaded as is the party composed of three or four men each accompanied by his "best girl." These "ministering angels" (heaven save the mark!) are generally distinguished by their distinct ability for gum chewing, expansive grins, sentimental giggles and voices than which the sound of a fog horn is preferable. When a party of this kind looms in sight it is wise to take to the woods. It is a pity that this thing cannot be stopped and some bicyclists be made to realize that other people besides themselves have some rights.

May 17: Pearl LaFogg of Leverett was in court, Saturday, for larceny of belting from Lewis Williams of Leverett. LaFogg was only just out of the Hampshire county jail, where he had served a year for not being as pure as his name. He will have a hearing next Monday.

May 24: Frank Breslin and Charlie Wing, the latter a Chinese laundryman at Millers Falls, was fined \$10 a piece for stealing a turkey from Alonzo Payne of Montague. Both paid the fines.

May 31: The foreign peddler supposed to be Polish or Armenian is getting to be a serious nuisance pervading every town and village and every road and lane, insolent in demands for patronage, and generally a terror to woman-kind. The district court has "him" about every day for some misdemeanor. The she-peddler is about as great a nuisance although they will stop just short of crime and the watchdog.

Montague: Town Moderator Write-In

My name is Elizabeth Irving, and I am asking for your write-in vote for Town Moderator on our upcoming May 21 election – or sooner, if you are mailing your ballot.

I've enjoyed being a Town Meeting member for several years, and my experiences on the Planning Board and the Board of Registrars give me additional insight into municipal issues. As an elementary school teacher for nearly two decades, I am experienced in keeping my personal beliefs to the side, in facilitating large groups, and adhering to rules

set forth by the Commonwealth.

At our May 4 Town Meeting, there were 33 unique speakers: more than I remember in other recent years. Members of many ages and from many districts shared important points of view and asked insightful questions, and I believe I could serve the town well and continue that trend.

Please write in Elizabeth Irving for Town Moderator.

Elizabeth Irving
Montague Center



Evelyn Augusto stands beside an African canoe refurbished as a bar inside her "Musée on Avenue A" at the Nova Works building, the former Montague DPW garage at 500 Avenue A in Turners Falls. "I just like to teach people about good art and make it available," she says. The Musée is open by appointment – readers may call (845) 625-9190 – or by chance.

Letters to the Editors

The Simple Gift of One's Cadaver

After I am dead, where will you find my remains?

One place to look is the peaceful green burial site in Highland Woods, featured in the *Montague Reporter* this month (May 2, 2024, Page A1). Its ecological benefits fit my vision, it's close to my children's homes, and it is a bargain at \$700 for the right to be buried there.

But don't look for me there – I have chosen to donate my body to medical research.

Ten years ago we donated my husband's body to the Albany medical college, a dignified process from the moment the funeral home's team arrived at our doorstep a few hours after he died – in spite of 12 inches of new snow that day – right through to a moving ceremony, 18 months later, attended by 300 relatives of people whose bodies had recently been used to train future doctors.

One student described her emotions when she first saw the heart of "her guy." "All I could think of," she said, "was how fast that heart must have beaten when this man first fell in love with the woman he would be

married to for 70 years."

A few days ago I asked another health provider if her training had included working on a cadaver. She seemed startled, then quietly said, "Yes, it did. It's such a gift. Not many people do it."

Medical schools usually cremate their "anatomical gifts," something I grappled with since the process involves many polluting chemicals. But vital learning from corpses has a long history, including embalming in ancient Egypt and grave robbers in more recent times. When both my kids voted for science, I registered with the UMass program at www.umassmed.edu/agp. Most bodies are accepted; families pay nothing.

I'm told that the school is moving towards using non-polluting embalming fluids. So someday you might find my body right here in Highland Woods after all.

Maggie Sadoway
Turners Falls

Safety: Security in Material And Relational Needs

The most basic human needs to survive are food, shelter, and water. It doesn't take a stretch of the imagination to recognize that reliable access to such resources is becoming increasingly elusive for so many of us.

On May 4, our town delegates approved an operating budget for the following fiscal year, the second-largest section of which is a category referred to as *public safety*. One may think that such a substan-

tial investment into "safety" would leave most folks feeling optimistic about our collective well-being. Why, then, do so many of us feel skeptical about the trajectory of our community's general welfare?

When our most basic needs for survival become increasingly hard to come by, how do we continue to justify spending so much money on an entity that only shows up after injury or incident occurs? How much of this so-called crime would

occur if everyone had a safe place to sleep, and didn't have to worry about how to obtain sustenance? What are we saying about how we care for one another, by staying committed to the notion that safety only comes with the threat of force?

Perhaps one day we can channel our resources into supporting life.

Ian Tapscott
Maddox Sprengel
Turners Falls

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

The seventh annual Montague Soapbox Races are coming, and will again be held on the Unity Park hill in Turners Falls. This year, race day is Sunday, June 2 at noon.

Registration is ongoing, with a deadline of Wednesday, May 29. All carts must be hand-built. Organizers are looking for sponsors, volunteers, and vendors, in addition to racers. The races are organized by the Montague parks and recreation department as a fundraiser for programming scholarships. Find more information at montaguesoapboxraces.com.

Volunteer Meals on Wheels drivers are urgently needed in many communities in Franklin County and the North Quabbin.

You can make a big difference in someone's day by delivering a hot noontime meal and a wellness check. A stipend and mileage reimbursement are available.

The time commitment is one or two days per week or more. Call (413) 773-5555 ext. 2216 or visit lifepathma.org/volunteer to apply.

The 14th annual Greenfield Bee Fest will be held in downtown Greenfield this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Activities include a Pollinator Parade, led by the Expandable Brass Band, and a bee piñata and birthday cake for Lorenzo Langstroth, inventor of the modern beehive, who lived for a time in Greenfield.

Make a flower hat, decorate a bee poster and hive, pick up some free pollinator plants, and enjoy musical performances by the New England Woodwind Quartet and students

from Twice As Smart.

The event is on the lawn of the Second Congregational Church on Court Square, and is free to attend.

Our Lady of Czestochowa at 84 K Street in Turners Falls is having a pop-up pierogi sale this Saturday, May 18 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. They are offering crab rangoon pierogi, filled with a mixture of crab meat and cream cheese, at three for \$10.

Enjoy a Belly Dance Showcase at the LAVA Center this Saturday, May 18 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Dancers from all over New England – Eshta Amar, Nasira, Aralia Pearl, Hadama Seshat, the Crescent Dancers, Amity, Sekhmet and Hayam – will demonstrate the art of Middle Eastern folkloric dance and *raqs sharqi*, or belly dancing. There is a \$10 suggested donation.

The annual North Quabbin Food-A-Thon is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21 from six in the morning until six in the evening.

The Food-A-Thon has been going on since 2004 and used to collect food donations, but during COVID it became more of a fund drive for the Franklin County Community Meals Program, Athol Salvation Army, Our Lady Immaculate Church Food Pantry, Community Pantry at Athol High School, St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry at Saint Mary's Church, and the fiscal sponsor, Wendell Good Neighbors Food Pantry. The event will be livestreamed at aotv13.org.

Make a donation at nqfoodathon.com or send a check to Wendell Good Neighbors, PO Box 222, Wendell, MA 01379.

On Tuesday May 21, at 6:30 p.m. Gail Mason will convene the second event in the 2024 "Honoring Elders" series at the Wendell Meetinghouse in Wendell. The honoree will be Christine Heard, a member of the Wendell selectboard for 22 years, school committee member and staff at Swift River Elementary, and founder of Dollars for Wendell Scholars. Community members are invited to share stories, memories, and appreciations of Heard's contribution to local communities.

"[It was] a job I loved," Heard said of her decades on the town selectboard. "I enjoyed working with my colleagues Ted Lewis, Dan Keller and other town officials and employees who shared a focus on taking care of Wendell, and moving the town in the direction chosen by the people."

The Honoring Elders event is free and open to the public, with donations encouraged to support renovations and programming at the Meetinghouse. For more information, contact Mason at rushingwaters01@gmail.com.

Veteran yoga and meditation instructor Jean Erlbaum will be offering Mindfulness Meditation for seniors at the Gill-Montague senior center, starting Friday, May 24 and then running Thursdays through June 27, from 3 to 5 p.m. Erlbaum guides participants into gentle stretches and deep relaxation, and helps folks understand the physiology of stress and ways to live with less anxiety.

The six-week class is offered at \$75, thanks to funding from the senior center. Send payment by May 23 to assure registration to Jean Erlbaum, 56 Orchard Street, Greenfield, MA, 01301. For any questions, contact jean.erlbaum@verizon.net.

Cellist Stephen Katz will provide improvised cello music to accompany spontaneous art-making in the gallery at Leverett Crafts & Arts next Friday, May 24 from 7 to 9 p.m. The award-winning composer will be responding to mark-making and movements by participating artists. There is a sug-

gested donation of \$5 to \$15. Leverett Crafts & Arts is located at 13 Montague Road in Leverett.

Make some felted fish at the next Art Naturally event at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls next Saturday, May 25, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Learn how the shad's shape helps it swim upstream and make a wet-felted underwater scene. For adults, teens, and children ages 6 and up, accompanied by an adult. All art materials will be provided. Meet in the Great Hall.

World music is coming to Peskeompskut Park in Turners Falls next Saturday, May 25. Performers at the 4 p.m. concert are the Juan Carlos Marin Band, offering traditional folk music and dance from Veracruz, Mexico, and Myrtle Street Klezmer, performing Eastern European Jewish dance music.

Prior to the concert, Marin will offer a participatory workshop in Son Jarocho music for musicians of all skill levels at the Brick House Community Center on Third Street. Participants will learn the rhythms, chords, and melodies of Son Jarocho, and will have the opportunity to play together as an ensemble.

The concert is free, with a suggested donation of \$20 for the workshop; pre-registration for the workshop is encouraged by emailing weathervane.community.arts@gmail.com.

The El Sotano Taco truck will sell food at the concerts. The rain date for both events is Sunday, May 26.

The Brick House is also preparing to offer the Women's Money Matters program, a 12-week online course for anyone who identifies as a woman and wants to learn how to manage their finances. The program also provides a personal money coach for each participant! There are other perks, too.

For more information, contact Stacey Langknecht at slangknecht@brickhousecommunity.org or (413) 800-2496.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

LOOKY HERE EVENTS

5/18 Tie Dye Workshop 1-3pm
\$25 and \$15 for kids under 12

5/23 Collage Club 1-3pm \$10

5/28 & 6/11 Quilt Club 6-8pm \$10

5/29 Arley conversation 6pm \$10

5/30 & 6/13 Figure Drawing 6-8pm \$15

5/31 Greenfield Arts Walk 5-8pm
"Inside, Outside" by Emily Gaiwari

6/1 Clothing Swap 1-3pm \$10

6/5 & 6/12 Risograph Stationary Workshop 1-3pm \$60

6/6 & 6/20 Still Life Social Club 6-8pm \$10

6/7 Concert! More of Light, Annie Grizzle, Eileen Stillwell, Kristine Lescher & Page Page
Doors at 7pm \$15

6/14 Open Mic for Writers 7pm \$10
with 2 dramatic readings at 8pm
by Wren Hannah

6/15 Greenfield Pride Face painting at Looky Here 12-3pm walk-ins welcome \$10

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OP ED

Campus Arrestees Faced Officers' 'Power Complex'

By CHARLIE SULLIVAN

TURNERS FALLS – I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to the *Montague Reporter* for your prompt coverage of the UMass Amherst all-union statement this week. I am a graduate student at UMass, and on May 7 I was one of 132 students, staff, faculty, and community members arrested at the pro-Palestinian encampment.

I had no plans to join the protest that evening when I left my office hours around 7:30 p.m. To be perfectly honest, I'd been so wrapped up in finals week that I wasn't even aware it was happening until I stepped outside and followed the sounds of chanting and drum beats. But as I saw the tension around the armed riot police presence increase, so did my feeling of responsibility to stay and bear witness to the brutality being committed against the group of peaceful protesters.

Many of the police's crimes during the protest have been well documented at this point, so I would like to highlight some injustices the arrestees faced while in custody that may have been more difficult to capture.

I arrived at the Mullins Center around 1 a.m. with the last group of protesters to be arrested. We and those who arrived before us sat two seats apart in the same chairs that gradu-

ating UMass students will sit in for their commencement ceremony on May 18. Around 70 of us sat with our hands zip-tied behind our backs for the next five hours. Though we had not yet been convicted of any crimes, we were clearly being punished by power-complex-afflicted police officers playing judge and jury.

People with visibly red, purple, and bleeding wrists complained of too-tight restraints, but were largely ignored when asked for help. We were denied food, water, and use of the bathroom. My own need to use the restroom became dire within the first hour, and I was almost sure I would soon be sitting in my own urine.

For context, I am a transgender nonbinary person (pronouns they/them). Though I was assigned female at birth, I have been on testosterone since 2021, and am often mistaken for a cisgender man. Law enforcement's history of violence against trans people added an extra layer of fear for my safety at the time of my arrest, but I wasn't prepared for the ways gender would play into so many aspects of our collective experience.

The law stipulates that female officers can only take female arrestees to the restroom one at a time – the same is true for males. All male officers in the room laughed and pointedly ignored male arrestees as they yelled and begged

to be escorted. There was a single woman-identifying police officer slowly taking (arbitrarily designated) female arrestees to the restroom. When she returned at one point, those around me asked her to take me next. She refused, saying, "I'm only taking ladies."

Desperate, I screamed, "Well, I have a vagina – is that the information you need?"

Flustered, she responded, "You could have just said you were a lady."

Loudly again, I said "I'm *not* a lady, but I still have a vagina – can I go now?" She agreed to escort me. I came back feeling both relieved and humiliated.

After my outburst, students began to loudly shame officers for the gendering of restroom access. Designated male arrestees' pleas were still ignored. Some time later, the room was separated into male and female groups to prepare for our transport to UMPD headquarters. When the male officer separating us got to me, he paused, put his hand on his chin, laughed, and made a big show of deciding which group I should be in. He eventually assigned me to the male group.

Not long after this, the woman officer came back into the room. She saw where I was sitting and motioned for me to stand up. The room watched as she escorted me, humiliated again, to the female side of the

room. I would later ride in the sheriff's van with the female group to the UMPD station to be processed for bail.

Writing this only one day later, I am still reflecting on and processing the events of May 7 and my experience with UMass leadership, UMPD, and state police. I came into the protest prepared for the reality that law enforcement would not fulfill their obligation to protect and serve our community. While I am always critical of large institutions like UMass that, at the very least, prioritize maintaining neoliberal systems of power, I was admittedly caught off guard by their betrayal of the commitments they so ardently tout to student safety, well-being, and gender nondiscrimination.

Following his direct implication in the suppression of peaceful protest and the police brutality committed against the UMass community, I and many others have voted "no confidence" in Chancellor Javier Reyes' ability to lead, and call for his immediate resignation. I encourage the community to reach out to the UMass University Relations Office or Chancellor Reyes himself (chancellorreyes@umass.edu) with your own thoughts and/or concerns. Free Palestine.

Charlie Sullivan is a trans member of the UMass 132. They live in Turners Falls.

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RECYCLE

PAPER
Week of May 20
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054

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May to October

Peskeompskut Park
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MARGUERITE DURAS
MEREDITH MONK
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MUSIC
GRACIOUS CALAMITY &
NOAH BRITTON
SAT. MAY 25 • 7PM

POETRY BOOK LAUNCH
PLAT
by LINDSAY WEBB
w/ CAROLINE RAYNER,
NORA CLAIRE MILLER,
ELLE LONGPRE
FRI. MAY 31 • 7PM

66 AVENUE A • TURNERS FALLS

OP ED

It's Never Easy to Say Goodbye

By JOYCE PHILLIPS

GILL-MONTAGUE – This year marked the 20th anniversary of the Gill-Montague Education Fund, and its rebirth with an Annual Gala – an event with a variety of performers to span generations to enrich our communities, and raise money for student enrichment! As Executive Producer of the Galas and member of the GMEF Board of Directors, this 20-year commitment has been inspiring and rewarding!

It all began on Wednesday, April 14, 2004, with energy, excitement, and a new enthusiasm at the Thomas Memorial Golf & Country Club, when the Gill-Montague Education Fund opened its kick-off meeting with a welcome from Carol Jacobs, President of the Board of Directors.

The GMEF, established in 1996, had been somewhat inactive in the past few years. The non-profit organization was launched for the purpose of supporting excellence and innovation in the GMRSD schools.

The new Board of Directors brainstormed ideas on how to meet both of these GMEF goals. An Annual Gala, to raise money for student enrichment, was the decision.

On Saturday, April 9, 2005, Carol Jacobs welcomed a nearly sold-out audience to the Turners Falls High School Theater, and to the

first Gill-Montague Gala, with Nick Waynelovich and a family-oriented concert. The Gill-Montague Gala brought something for every generation and every style of music.

From 2006 through 2024 I served as the Executive Producer, and the GMEF hosted quality performances featuring a variety of entertainers: Elisabeth von Trapp, The Mummies, The Edwards Twins, and some of the most amazing tribute artists, performing Roy Orbison, Conway Twitty, Elvis, John Denver, Union Jack, ABBA, the Eagles and Journey, and the Piano Men Double Bill – Elton John and Billy Joel, featuring Anton Doran and the Tampa Bay All Stars.

At this year's Gala on Saturday, April 27 I told the audience that my *inspiration* came from having the privilege of meeting and working with some of the most remarkable people in our local communities.

"It began with local businesses, organizations, and individuals who were willing to take a chance with the GMEF vision, supported us, and fulfilled their commitment to us every year," I said. "It was extraordinary to experience underwriters, corporate sponsors, major advertisers, general advertising, tier-giving, and in-kind contributors continually extending their financial support."

In addition, I've had the plea-

sure of bringing some of the most amazing performers to the Turners Falls High School Theater. Appearing at these 17 Galas were artists from Alabama, California, Florida, Massachusetts, Maine, New Jersey, Nevada, New York, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Vermont. Their talent was only exceeded by their generosity – often waiving their transportation and accommodation fees, and/or donating a percentage of their souvenir earnings in support of the GMEF – their kindness, and collaboration for education.

The rewards have been \$127,000 in student enrichment grants, the awarding of 35 scholarships, and 11 years of roses for the graduating seniors.

As I said in closing:

"If as an educator, student, parent, grandparent, patron these have made you smile, brought you joy, or left you with a warm memory, the GMEF has met its goal. The grants, scholarship, and roses will continue until the GMEF funding is depleted. As for me, as the Executive Producer of the Annual Gala, it's never easy to say goodbye. However, this is my final Gala. Thank you."

Joyce Phillips is the Executive Producer of the Gill-Montague Education Fund. She lives in Turners Falls.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Workshops For the Future Of Montague

The Town of Montague is wrapping up a multi-year effort to create a comprehensive plan, *Five Villages: One Future*, and will hold two open houses to review the draft Plan and its recommendations, available at montagueplans.org/review-comment/. A comprehensive plan is an expression of the community's vision for the future and guides physical, land use, and economic development.

The first Open House will be held Tuesday, June 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A. Food, childcare, and translation will be provided, and transportation is available upon request.

The second workshop will be held Thursday, June 6 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on Zoom. Participants can find the link at montagueplans.org, and are encouraged to "stop in" to give feedback.

Public comment on the draft will be open June 6 to June 21, and can be sent to Maureen Pollack, Town Planner, at planner@montague-ma.gov or Megan Rhodes, FRCOG Planner, at mrhodes@frcog.org.

SHOP from page A1

Hot Fries were provided as samples on opening day on Wednesday.

Tamara McKerchie mentioned that the store may introduce "value-added" products such as Upper Bend granola and chili crisp in the future, though there are no immediate plans for this.

The Upper Bend, opened five years ago, has faced one major hurdle, according to McKerchie: it has very little storage space, and no walk-in refrigerator.

"How do we bolster the business?" she asked. "The restaurant has no room for growth; the space is so tight that we can't add dinner service. So the next logical step was retail."

Building owner Oliver Miller stated that the café owners had always expressed interest in starting a market, and were contacted when the space became available.

"Having them open the Upper Bend felt like such a huge thing," Miller said. "It was significant for the town... I am very excited they are opening the market."

It was a natural progression to open the store, because the restaurant already orders from distributors and has relationships with local farms. With the opening of the adjacent market, the restaurant also acquired more storage space.

"Now we have a walk-in, which is a game-changer," McKerchie said. "It's huge."

Many neighboring businesses contributed to the creation of this market, including Loot antique store providing the furniture and Great Falls Harvest Market providing their old shelving and a refrigerator.

"We received blessings from them," McKerchie continued. "It feels good to keep this stuff in the cycle. We have lots of community support."

Starting next week, the Avenue A Market will have regular operating hours from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays through Sundays. For the most up-to-date information on the business, visit avenueamarket.com and the Instagram @avenueamarket. The market accepts Common Good, and offers free condoms; it is currently waiting for its SNAP vendor application to be approved by the state.

"There are so many folks who live and work here and want to shop here," said McKerchie. "Having more options for those folks is important."



Jae Roberge says he moved Tangible Bliss into its brick-and-mortar location at 38 Third Street in 2016 as a way to continue the business while raising a family. A decline in foot traffic, he says, means the location is no longer viable.

Crystal Shop Closing

While food options are expanding for locals, crystals will no longer be within grasp, as this Friday marks Tangible Bliss's final day in operation.

"People aren't shopping as much as they once did," owner Jae Roberge said in an interview.

Roberge first opened the shop in 2016 after traveling for over a decade to festivals, selling crystals and jewelry as a vendor. After having a newborn, he found it difficult to travel as easily.

"My kid basically grew up here," he said.

Roberge attributes the decline in business to the pandemic. He noticed an increase in business immediately post-lockdown, but in subsequent years, fewer people were walking downtown and visiting the brightly-colored yellow building with the celestial-inspired purple sign.

"I hope everyone stops buying from Amazon and starts going downtown, because you never know what's going to disappear tomor-

row," Roberge said. "My wish is for people to appreciate what exists around them. It would be sad to see every storefront empty; that's where we're headed."

Building owner Christa Snyder wrote the *Reporter* in an email, "I'm sad to see him go, he's been a good tenant. He's been in there for a good long while."

While the future is largely uncertain for Roberge, he plans to work several festivals this summer, starting with Greenfield's Strange-Creek, taking place from May 24 to 27. "I've set it up so I will take the store down for Strange-Creek and not build it back up," he said.

Being a single parent, Roberge explained, with few visitors, made it increasingly difficult to keep the store open. He indicated he has considered closing the store for the past several years.

"It felt more like a burden than a blessing in the past couple of years," he added. "It is time."

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AT LARGE from page A1

for daycare, drivers' ed, and music, dance, theater, and fitness classes.

This Thursday owners Kim Williams and Nick Waynelovich, her father, are scheduled to go before Greenfield's zoning board of appeals (ZBA) to seek a special permit to use the building as a school. If that is successful, according to Williams, Ja'Duke hopes to close on the building next month and begin renovations.

"There's a major things needed there," Williams told the *Montague Reporter* this week. "Fire suppression, HVAC, basically a roof replacement." Williams said she plans to apply through the state's Community One Stop for Growth portal for an Underutilized Properties grant from MassDevelopment to help with the initial investment.

"There's baseline repairs that can be done that are an OK fix, but not good for the longevity of the building," Williams said. "I'd really like to do a full-blown repair, but the difference between the two options is huge.... It's a difference of a couple hundred thousand dollars."

"God help me!" Williams, who has overseen two major new construction projects in the Turners Falls industrial park, added with a laugh. "I never wanted to renovate, but here I am."

If all goes according to plan, Ja'Duke hopes to open in early 2025 with a driving school in the basement and 14 childcare and early education classrooms upstairs, creating 150 new childcare slots. Williams told the *Reporter* earlier this spring that the company had a preschool waitlist of over 90.

Though a press announcement released by the company this week in advance of the ZBA hearing referred to the potential Greenfield facility as a "satellite location," Williams said the planned expansion would "double, or "more than double," the company's workforce.

The existing Ja'Duke complex in Turners Falls, which includes a large theater, comprises roughly 35,000 square feet, she said.

Asked about recess options at the downtown building, Williams said part of the site plan the company is presenting to the ZBA involves converting part of the building's rear parking lot into three playgrounds. "It currently has 26 parking spots," she explained, "and we're going to move it down to 19, plus a couple of motorcycles."

Franklin County Chamber of Commerce executive director Jessye Deane said on Wednesday that the Chamber is prepared to support Ja'Duke's efforts "in any way they need."

"Any time we can add additional childcare slots, especially when it's from an experienced, high-quality early education and care provider, that's good news for everyone," Deane said. "That's good news for

employers, that's good news for parents, that's good news for residents. And given that this new location in downtown will be walkable for some of Greenfield's residents, that just enhances the accessibility."

Deane called the proposal to "take a vacant building, and inject an established business with decades of success" a "win/win."

Asked to comment on behalf of the office of Greenfield mayor Ginny DeSorgher, communications director Matthew Conway said that Ja'Duke was a "well-established and well-respected institution" and praised the company's arts education offerings.

"If they make the move to Greenfield, we will be delighted to have them here," Conway said.

The 270 Main Street location was sold by Greenfield Community College in late 2022 to 270 Main Street, LLC, a company owned by David Mell of Easthampton.

Williams said Ja'Duke had been seeking a second location for some time, to no avail. "We've had many options - we've put some offers on various places - but doors were closing," she said. "This was the opposite: I don't know that we were looking at Greenfield specifically, but doors were just opening, and it was moving."

After Mell decided to attempt a sale-by-owner, Williams said, she "stumbled upon it through a recommendation through another hockey mom."

If Ja'Duke's special permit and acquisition are successful, the community college's relationship with the building may not yet be over. Williams said her plan to rapidly expand her workforce involves partnering with the college, "specifically with those who have an interest in early childhood education."

"We are going to continue to fill the workforce [in Turners Falls]," she added, "in an effort to then move people who are trained over [to Greenfield]."

The next building on Main Street, the former Wilson's Department Store, is also the subject of a major redevelopment proposal. Backed by MassDevelopment, the city hopes to spearhead a project to build 65 mixed-income housing units, and a ground-level and basement expansion for Green Fields Market.

"I feel very supported - people are genuinely excited about the idea of this fitting into the scope of downtown Greenfield, and the hopes and visions they have for downtown Greenfield, which is lovely," Williams said of her own company's announcement.

"You're meeting several needs, and you're coming into a city that is working on revitalizing and regenerating and all those types of things, and you can be a part of that catalyst. That's pretty cool.... And I think it's better than what people would have imagined would want to go there, into that building specifically."

**AT LARGE** from page A1

Connecticut for a barbecue near Northfield, but never made it. "Every day we go out we wonder if we're coming home," said Kenzior, whose wife Nettie rode on the back of his bike that day. Kenzior was the road captain, followed by Chambers and seven other bikers.

They were driving in staggered formation through Northfield and past the college campus when a driver in a Lincoln SUV towing a Suzuki dirt bike crossed the road into their path. "He was in our lane," said Kenzior. "I was able to move over, and he just missed hitting Dan."

Chambers agreed it had been a close call. "He was right there," he said in a telephone interview. "I was yelling at him. I could've touched his windshield."

Chambers parked his Harley and headed for the driver. "A former police chief showed up before I got my hands around the guy's neck, so that was good," he said, referring to retired Turners Falls chief Ray Zukowski, whose home is on a bluff near the crash scene.

Soon the road was filled with rescue vehicles, fire trucks, and police vehicles. The SUV had demolished five motorcycles and injured eight people, including a woman who'd lose a leg and a man who'd lose an arm.

"Everything was well executed, a lot of us are firefighters

and EMTs and we had a few who were able to help out of the gate," Chambers told me. "There were spinal injuries, and one couple kinda got T-boned. He had his keys in his pants and suffered a puncture wound. He never replaced his bike, and stepped out of the club."

There was no shouting or yelling, only the whirring sound of approaching helicopters that landed feet apart in a parking area near the Connecticut River boat ramp. They'd flown from the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, the UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester, and Boston MedFlight from Hanscom Field in Bedford.

"For them to be able to land three helicopters in that tight space was incredible. They were absolutely phenomenal. We'd like to thank them someday too," said Kenzior.

The driver, 32-year-old Ryan O'Farrell of Westerly, Rhode Island, was coming from Winchester Speed Park and had two juveniles with him. He was arrested and taken to the Franklin County Jail where he was held on \$250,000 bail.

On Monday, O'Farrell appeared before Judge David Hodge in Franklin County Superior Court. His attorney, Jeanne Earley of the Committee for Public Counsel in Lowell, filed a motion to dismiss eight of 18 charges for lack of evidence that O'Farrell was driving

under the influence of alcohol or illegal narcotics.

"Appreciate the update, thank you," texted Chambers.

A Reorganization

The 2024-25 edition of the Northfield selectboard premiered on May 14 at Town Hall, with one new cast member, a new chair, and a new vice-chair.

Bernie Boudreau and Heath Cummings both wanted the gavel, and it was put to a closed vote. Town administrator Andrea Llamas gathered the paper scraps, looked at them, and quickly declared, "It's Bernie."

Dollars for donuts Boudreau was backed by Sarah Kerns and David McCarthy, and Bea Jacque sided with Cummings. Ditto for Kerns getting the vice chair over Cummings, who was nominated by Jacque.

McCarthy, the newcomer, got the grunt job as the board's new clerk.

Echoing Gracie Slick that wet morning in August, "Believe me, yeah. It's a new dawn."

Boudreau accepted Jacque's congratulations and said, "Let's get down to business."

As per tradition, the meeting ran longer than a Red Sox-Orioles game, but viewers can fast-forward through the slow parts.

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



Tip of the week ...

Before hiring a contractor, confirm they have proper insurance coverage by requiring they provide certificates of insurance that include both general liability and workers' compensation.



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TOWN OF MONTAGUE DPW Superintendent

The Town of Montague, MA Selectboard seeks qualified applicants for the position of **Department of Public Works Superintendent**. The position is responsible for professional management of staff and operations of the department. The Superintendent oversees a \$3.4M budget for a 20-employee department. DPW has 103 road miles, 9 municipal buildings, and a combined sewer overflow sewer collection system under its purview. Montague boasts a modern DPW facility built in 2019.

Minimum qualifications include a bachelor's degree in a related field, and 5 to 7 years of related experience; or any equivalent combination of related education, training, certification, and supervisory experience.

The Town seeks an exemplary candidate with a thorough knowledge of municipal public works operations, superior skills in communication, demonstrated ability to effectively manage personnel, budgets, and contracts. The town seeks a candidate that is highly collaborative in their approach to work.

Salary starts at \$85,514 and the scale goes to \$105,239. Work week is Mon. through Thurs., 40 hours/week, with frequent evening and Friday obligations. The Town of Montague is committed to a collaborative team environment and competitive benefits. A job description is available at www.montague-ma.gov. Target start date is July 2024.

For priority review, please submit resume and cover letter by June 4, 2024 to: Wendy Bogusz, Selectboard Executive Assistant, WendyB@montague-ma.gov.

EEO/AA Employer.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Pickleball Food Drive

TURNERS FALLS - Next Saturday, May 25 at 9 a.m., the second annual Pickleball Food Drive Festival kicks off at the Turners Falls High School tennis courts. The event is a benefit for the Food Bank of Western MA and Stone Soup Cafe, and 100% of all the money and food collected will be donated to those two organizations.

Last year, the event collected over \$2,000 and 200 pounds of food for the Food Bank.

The public is invited to drop by to bring non-perishable food donations and watch the competition.

Pickleball players will be competing in four divisions: Open, Mixed Doubles, 55 & Over, and Fun. One of the event's sponsors, The Springfield Thunderbird Hockey Club, plans to have their mascot, Boomer, at the event to help collect food and cheer on the players!

More information can be found online by searching "Greenfield MA Pickleball." Pickleball players interested in playing in the festival must sign up before Thursday, May 23.

The Turners Falls High School tennis courts are located at 222 Turnpike Road in Montague.

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PUBLIC SERVICE
ANNOUNCEMENTNorth Quabbin
Food-A-Thon
Approaches

ORANGE – The annual North Quabbin Food-A-Thon is set for Tuesday, May 21, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. It can be watched on AOTV, heard on WVAO-LP (105.9 FM), and streamed at www.aotv13.org.

The Food-A-Thon has been running since 2004, and is staffed by over 100 volunteers. It benefits the Franklin County Community Meals Program, the Athol Salvation Army, Our Lady Immaculate Church Food Pantry, the Community Pantry at Athol High School, the Saint Vincent De Paul Food Pantry at Saint Mary's Church, and Wendell Good Neighbors.

For many years the Food-A-Thon involved collecting food donations. When COVID-19 crossed paths with everyone, it became more of a fund drive, but people's generosity only increased.

A website, www.nqfoodathon.com, features history, photos, and portals where contributions can be made any time of year through PayPal and Venmo. Checks can be made out and sent to Wendell Good Neighbors, PO Box 222, Wendell, MA 01379. The memo should read "Food-A-Thon 2024."

Pleasant Sesquicentennial Planned at Lake

By JEFF SINGLETON

LAKE PLEASANT – Montague's smallest village will celebrate its 150th anniversary this August 24, and Montague RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto came before the town selectboard on Monday to request permits for the event.

Accompanied by Lake Pleasant residents Kara Kharmah and David James, members of the joint committee organizing the event, LoManto requested entertainment licenses and the use of public property for at least three musical events, as well as places for visitors to park without cluttering up the village center.

According to a memo sent to the *Montague Reporter* in February, the event may include multiple music stages, kids' activities, food trucks, a pie auction, a tour of historical houses, an art show, metaphysical vendors, and "roving mediums."

LoManto told the board that her role, similar to what she has done in Montague Center with the annual May Day celebration, will be to "help a group of people who want to have an event apply in a way that is really clear for the selectboard and police department and fire department."

LoManto did not comment on the neo-pagan influences evident in the May Day celebration, with Morris dancers and a beribboned maypole, nor on the metaphysical vendors and roving mediums hoped for in Lake Pleasant. These do not violate town bylaws or state safety regulations, but speak to the desire of residents to hold events reflecting the non-traditional elements of their local histories.

According to a chronology written by James, drawing on his own research and that of the late long-term resident Louise Shattuck, who pub-

lished the 2003 village history book *Spirit and Spa*, the land on the southern end of the glacial lake in Montague was purchased in 1870 by the Greenfield-based land speculator George Potter. He thinned out the scrub oak and built picnic tables on the property for the enjoyment of local residents. The area soon became a summer encampment where visitors sought to communicate with the spirits of deceased relatives.

In 1872, according to the chronology, the Fitchburg and Massachusetts/Vermont railroad companies, running east-west and north-south lines respectively, established a rail station near the camp, with the Fitchburg company purchasing its land from Potter and promoting it as a spiritualist summer destination.

Over the next two decades the spiritualists, incorporated in 1879 as the New England Camp Meeting Spiritualist Association, purchased the land from the railroad and began constructing more permanent cottages for year-round residency, effectively creating the village we now know as Lake Pleasant. The area also became a destination for tourists with diverse religious affiliations, according to James.

The "decline" of Lake Pleasant, in his words, may have been hastened by a 1907 fire that destroyed the eastern portion of the village, and the next year the Turners Falls water district, which had been using the lake as a water source for the industrial village of Turners Falls, banned recreational use of the lake. In 1914 the district took control of the lake by eminent domain.

Meanwhile, James argues, car ownership increased the popularity of competing tourist destinations in Vermont, New Hampshire, and the Berkshires. In the 1930s the local welfare depart-

ment moved recipients out of the "poor farm," which was on today's Route 63, into former summer cottages in the village.

Still, the Spiritualist Alliance remained a viable organization, a hotel served residents at the village center, and the "Scalpers Hall," a social club on the village's southwest side, remained a popular destination for residents of Franklin County.

The late 1960s saw an influx of new residents who, in 1974, helped form the Lake Pleasant Village Association (LPVA). The association helped rebuild the bridge that crosses the ravine separating the east and west sides of the village, funded by donors whose names were carved on pickets that line the structure.

The "joint committee" that came before the selectboard on Monday is itself an alliance between the LPVA and The National Spiritualist Alliance, the last organizational incarnation of spiritualism still remaining in the village. Kharmah and James are joint members of both organizations.

Kharmah told the *Reporter* that the committee is still raising money for the August event, and that the list of activities is a "work in progress," so there may not be sufficient funds to reimburse roving mediums.

At the meeting on Monday the board approved restrictions on parking within the village itself, but preserved access for residents and some handicapped accessible spaces. Parking will be allowed on the west side of Lake Pleasant Road, and possibly in the former baseball field, as LoManto displayed on a primitive, hand-drawn map of the village.

"There are no good maps of Lake Pleasant," Kharmah said apologetically, "and a lot of roads that don't exist."

SPORTS from page A1

athletes from both Turners Falls High School and Franklin Tech, only the Tech players were invited to attend.

Candelaria, Little, Thomas, Tristan Bliss, Anthony Gallo, Samuel Bodenstein, Preston Duval, Taylor Youmell, Izaya Romer, and Atlithonatiu Gonzales-Jayne represented Franklin Tech at the meet.

On Wednesday the teams held an awards ceremony cookout at the Turners high school. This marked the end of the 2024 season, but those athletes who qualified for the all-Western Mass meet will play on. This Friday at Mohawk, 20 athletes from the boys' and girls' teams will compete in individual events, and the best will advance to the States.

Softball

TFHS 17 – Taconic 3
Greenfield 1 – FCTS 0

The Turners softball team continued their uneven season this week. On Thursday, they outscored the Taconic Thunder 17-3 out in Pittsfield to stretch their win streak to three.

Closer to home, many of us went from the Tech baseball game to the Eagles softball game against Greenfield. It was Tech's second single-run loss of the season. Greenfield scored on an error in the fourth inning, and that was it; the rest of the game was a pitching duel. Even in the later innings, when the girls were making contact with the ball, the fielders made all the catches and throws.

Lilly Ross had Tech's only hit. Hannah Gilbert gave up two hits, walked one batter, struck out eight, and let up no earned runs.

FCTS 18 – Northampton 2

The Lady Birds got back to their winning ways on Friday with a proper stomping of Northampton. Gilbert, Lilianna Inman, and Shel-

by O'Leary each had two hits for Franklin, with Gilbert dinging a triple and O'Leary a homer. Ross, Kylee Gamache, Gianna DiSciullo, and Kyra Goodell also had hits, while Gilbert struck out 11 and scattered five hits.

FCTS 5 – Frontier 2
Hampshire 7 – TFHS 0

On Monday, the Frontier Red Hawks came to the Eagles' Nest, and were downed 5-2. With the Hawks came tons of fans. Dressed in red, they lined across the visiting section and stood on the hill behind the backstop.

Frontier has had some bad luck this year but they are a good team, and their infielders are excellent – they play back, relying on their arms to make the plays. This worked well against Tech. Most of the ground balls were scooped up by the defenders, and the runners had to try to beat the throws.

Tech managed to score one run in the first inning and three more in the second. In the fourth Frontier made it a game, halving the score to 4-2, but Franklin scored an insurance run in the fifth to coast to a 5-2 victory.

Gilbert hit two doubles and a single, while Gamache, Jenna Petrowicz (two each) and Kaitlin Trudeau also hit safely for Tech. Gilbert struck out 11, walked two, and let up two earned runs.

Down in Westhampton, meanwhile, the Blue Thunder were blanked by the Hampshire Red Raiders. The Thunder only had three hits, singles by Mia Marigliano and Anne Kolodziej and a double by Madison Liimatainen. In the circle Liimatainen gave up seven runs, walked four, and struck out seven.

FCTS 10 – Pioneer 1
TFHS 4 – South Hadley 2

On Wednesday, under a cloudy sky, the Franklin Tech Softball Ea-

gles defeated the Pioneer Black Panthers to improve their record to 16-2. Tech scored five runs in the bottom of the first inning, and by the sixth, most of the girls playing were JVs.

Gamache had two hits while Amelia Rider, Samantha Duncan, Goodell, and Petrowicz had one each; Petrowicz clocked a double. Gilbert and Brayleigh Burgh shared pitching duties.

An hour later, the Turners Falls Thunder bounced back from their loss, beating the visiting South Hadley Black Tigers 4-2. Power-town came into the game with a 12-4 record, while the Black Cats were 13-4. With the season winding down, this was a must-win for both teams.

Liimatainen reached base in the bottom of the first and scored on an error, giving the Thunder Ladies a brief lead. In the third, Hadley nosed ahead 2-1 because of some Turners miscues, but Blue changed their strategy in the fourth.

"There was a time when he wouldn't bunt to save his life," one of the regulars observed midway through the inning. I agreed. Until recently, Coach Mullins rarely bunted. There were entire seasons that I don't remember a single bunt. But in the fourth inning of this game, he gave the signal.

And the bunts led to errors, and the errors led to stolen bases and runs. By the third out, Turners was back on top for good.

For most of the evening, the game was played under dark threatening clouds, but the rain held off for the most part – a few sprinkles here and there, but no downpours. Until the sixth. In the sixth inning, the irrigation system kicked on, drenching the field and the South Hadley fans. They finally shut down the nozzles, and play resumed.

Marigliano, Liimatainen, Holly Myers, and Marilyn Abarua all had

hits for Blue, while in the circle Liimatainen allowed one hit, four walks, whiffed 14 batters, and did not give up an earned run.

This Friday the Thunder take on the best team in the state, the Wachusetts Regional Mountaineers.

Girls' Tennis

Last Thursday the Turners Falls girls' tennis team lost a home match against the co-ed Mohawk Trail Warriors.

Blue's two wins were in second singles, Olivia Wolbach (6-3, 6-4) and second doubles, Allysia Corbin and Gia Marigliano (6-4, 6-2).

Baseball

Mahar 2 – FCTS 1
FCTS 7 – Smith Vocational 3
FCTS 14 – Smith Academy 2
TFHS 7 – Mohawk 0
Greenfield 4 – TFHS 1
Mohawk 5 – FCTS 3

Last Thursday the Franklin Tech Eagles lost a heartbreaker to the visiting Mahar Baseball Senators.

It was a scoreless tie for most of the game. In the sixth, the Senators had two men on base, and the next batter hit a sky-high foul toward the visitor dugout. The ball was caught, but it had drifted out of play; the batter was called out, but the runners advanced on the call, giving Mahar the 1-0 lead.

Their second run of the inning came off a wild pitch. Not to be outdone, Benjamin Dodge stole home when the catcher bobbled the third strike and he threw the ball to first. In the final inning, an infielder made an excellent catch to rob Tech of a lead-off baserunner. Franklin did manage to get a runner to second base, but a tag at third ended the threat, and the game. Gavin Crossman, Jacob Martin, and Dodge had hits for Tech. Levi Clark pitched the first five innings, and Crossman came in in relief.

On Friday, the Tech Eagles outscored Smith Vocational 7-3. It was a close 3-2 battle going into the bottom of the sixth when Tech scored four insurance runs. The Voc Vikings scored once more in the seventh, but the Birds managed to hang on for the victory.

Tyler Yetter led Tech with three hits, Hunter Donahue had two including a double, Crossman also had two, and Kyle Begos and Dodge had one each. Begos also pitched the entire game, finishing with four Ks, five hits, zero walks, and no earned runs.

On Monday, Franklin Tech beat the Smith Academy Falcons in Hatfield. Tech scored early and often. Mason Lehtomaki was a monster at the plate, with five hits including two doubles. Donahue had two and Yetter, Crossman, Clark, Martin, Tucker Hicks, and William Ainsworth all had one, with Yetter slicing a double. Clark, Lehtomaki, and Brody Hicks shared pitching duties.

The Boys' Thunder traveled up the Trail that night and blanked Mohawk. Blue scored seven runs early, then held that lead through the final out. Kainen Stevens, Derek Wisman, Cam Burnett, Deven Sloan, Julian Kaiser, and Jackson Cogswell all had hits for Turners, with Burnett cracking a double; Stevens pitched the complete-game shutout.

On Tuesday, though, the Green Wave came to town and defeated the Thunder 4-1. Green scored all their runs in the fourth and fifth innings, and the Thunder couldn't catch up.

Stevens had two hits for Turners, and Alex Quezada had one. Joey Mosca pitched five innings while Quezada and Dylan Richardson pitched an inning each in relief.

Tech lost a close one against the Mohawk Warriors on Wednesday, but the stats were not available at press time.



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MONTAGUE from page A1 like a big loss," said Audley, "but she's been looking forward to retirement for as long as I've known her, so I'm happy for her."

John Hanold, who has served on the fin com for 20 years including several as chair, said that he had known Olsen would retire some day, "but never 'soon.' Well, 'soon' has come, and her retirement will be difficult to navigate, for town staff, the committee, and the residents."

Hanold gave the example of Olsen's "forward planning resulting in Montague regularly being among the first half-dozen municipalities [in the state] to have their free cash certified for future spending. She also developed a clear way to explain financial terms to the public, beginning with 'free cash,' which is not found under sofa cushions."

Mike Naughton, another long-time fin com member and former chair, commented on Olsen's "reputation for accuracy and completeness that served the town well. For me she was a trusted and invaluable resource, both during and after my time on the finance committee... I hope that she has a long and happy retirement."

At Monday's meeting Ramsey noted that "we've got a lot of department-level hiring to do" – including for his own replacement as ATA when he becomes town administrator this summer, and for a new public works superintendent – but "we'll get the accountant lined up when we can."

Reached at home by this reporter, Olsen said she was retiring a year earlier than expected because "it's time for fresh blood, and to give someone else a chance at a great job."

Qualified Ventures

Homeowners in Montague will now receive their sewer bills for the first half of each fiscal year – July through December – in August rather than October, in accordance with a request by Clean Water Facility (CWF) superintendent Chelsey Little unanimously approved by the selectboard.

Little explained her request by noting that the sewer rates, which are based on funding the annual department budget passed at each May's town meeting, can now be set by August. "It used to be we would wait until October," she said, "just in case there are any [fall] special town meeting articles or budget changes that needed to happen, especially with the paper mills."

The change still leaves the sewer bill calculation, which multiplies these rates by the previous winter's water usage, "confusing," Little told the *Reporter*, and a topic for further discussion. She confirmed that she will continue investigating the formula with the assistance of Qualified Ventures, a non-profit that "assists municipalities with things

like sewer rate structures."

"I'm not looking to make any crazy rate changes this year," she told the board on Monday. "I hope to have more information to present to the board, and publicly, over the summer and into the fall."

At Little's request the board approved a \$15,000 amendment with the engineering firm Wright-Pierce for additional work on the ongoing project to upgrade the CWF's aeration system.

She also gave the board a "heads up" that the \$113,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated to changing the fuel source for a reconditioned boiler at the plant to propane may be insufficient, and the project could cost as much as an additional \$87,000. Kuklewicz said the board would need to see a final cost for the project, which will be put out to bid in the coming weeks.

Qualified Ventures

Ramsey reviewed a long list of current and impending capital projects, and their funding sources in the coming fiscal year. Of the 26 projects on the list, 24 involve construction. The estimated total cost of these projects was over \$11.6 million, although some will be funded by federal and state aid, such as renovations to the South Street bridge and Montague Center Park.

Ramsey then presented a list of 25 ARPA-funded projects that either have been completed, are about to go out to bid, or have not yet been scheduled for bidding. All projects using ARPA funds must be "obligated" to a contractor by the end of this calendar year. The list indicated that just under \$95,000 of the town's \$2.45 million in total ARPA funding has still not been allocated, though some of the projects on the list could come in under or over budget.

The board voted to authorize the town to receive up to \$75,000 in state incentives for adopting two special zoning districts encouraging affordable housing. Town meeting last year approved the zoning for the land across First Street from town hall and the lot once occupied by the Griswold cotton mill on Power Street; to be received, the money must be earmarked for infrastructure development enhancing affordable housing.

A request by the library department for \$2,428.50 from the bid overrun account to fill a gap in funding for a project to repair doors and windows at the Millers Falls branch library was approved by the board, which then awarded the contract to the low bidder, Lively Builders, Inc.

Ramsey announced that state representatives Natalie Blais and Susannah Whipps have proposed a \$50,000 earmark for work at the senior center building on Fifth Street in Turners Falls. He said the money in the state's upcoming fiscal-year budget would not be available in time for a recently-approved siding

project at the building, but could be used for a new boiler.

CAC on the Track

The process to renew the cable television license with Montague's provider Comcast is underway, and on Monday the board scheduled a public hearing at 6 p.m. at its June 17 meeting. The one-hour hearing will be held in person and over Zoom, in collaboration with the cable advisory committee (CAC).

The current ten-year agreement between Comcast and the town will expire at the end of August 2025, but the "ascertainment process" to define the local municipality's needs must begin over a year in advance.

Ramsey said that Comcast's government and regulatory affairs manager will be in attendance.

Kuklewicz, who serves on the CAC, stressed that the hearing would only be about the television service that Comcast provides, and not about any other services, such as internet or phone. "One thing that folks talk to me about is 'How can I get my internet faster, and for less money?'" he said. "Unfortunately, that's not part of what we will be there for, although we can bring it up."

The renewal process could impact the local access television station MCTV, which is funded by 5% of Comcast's revenue and receives additional payments from the company for capital expenditures, both of which pass through the town's accounts. MCTV director Dean Garvin told the *Reporter* that the percentage for operating expenses would probably not change under the new license, but that he is preparing an updated projection of the station's capital needs for the hearing.

Other Business

Acting as the personnel board, the selectboard accepted a letter of resignation from 911 police dispatcher Robin Wells, and then rehired Wells as a "per diem" dispatcher starting May 19. They also accepted the resignation of CWF laborer-operator William Peredina.

Ramsey reported that the hiring committee for a new ATA has conducted interviews with candidates and is hoping to make a recommendation to the selectboard next week.

The board approved a three-year \$73,093 engineering contract with ADS Environmental Services, which monitors data on combined sewer overflows in Turners Falls and Montague City.

One-day beer and wine licenses for concerts on June 29, July 27, and August 24 in the Second Street lot, behind the Pioneer Brewing Company, were approved, as were entertainment licenses and permission for the use of public property for the 150th anniversary of Lake Pleasant on August 24. (See article, Page A6.)

The next selectboard meeting will be held Monday, May 20 at 6 p.m.



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on May 15, 2014: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Should Be Quick and Easy

Newly-elected Erving selectboard member William Bembury said that the town needs to find a use for the International Paper Mill property, currently in the process of becoming town property via tax taking.

Snedeker's Vision for Gill

At the Gill selectboard forum on Tuesday, candidate Gregory Snedeker laid out his plans for leading the town into the future. He said he believed the town was doing well, although improvements could be

made. "There are many things that bring people to Gill: our schools, Upinngil, my two favorite restaurants, and the boating club."

Snedeker, who has been an educator at all levels for almost 25 years and has a daughter at Gill Elementary, stated that while education was always going to be a big expense, it was also a big investment: "Good schools are imperative to the quality of life." As to whether Gill should share a police chief with another town, Snedeker said he'd need to learn more before deciding.

Snedeker added that he did not feel that governments should be run like businesses: "You don't operate government to make a profit. The role of government is to take care of its citizens."

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on May 13, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Is Your Home on an 1800s Map?

Publisher David Allen of Roberge Associates Land Surveying will reissue several historical maps of Montague dating from 1715 to 1914, available on a CD-ROM in an easy-to-read Adobe PDF format for personal computers, for \$10.

The collection includes detailed home ownership maps of the late 1800s and unusual maps such as

the beautiful birds-eye views of Turners Falls and Millers Falls. Allen does his own map research, combing through public and private records. More details are available at www.old-maps.com.

Saint Kaz Polka Fame

St. Kazimierz Society of Turners Falls, known in previous decades throughout New England for their Saturday night polka bands, celebrates its 100th anniversary this Sunday with a ceremonial march to the church, a special dinner, and a commemorative book.

150 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on May 13, 1874: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

Local Matters

"Ethereal mildness," has got here.

Hanson & Co's logs have begun to come.

The new Oakman schoolhouse will look better.

The river rose in a hurry on Sunday, but is falling again.

Dibble & Potters' warehouse is beginning to assume form. They continue their business at the old office, however, and are ready to fill all orders.

The Millers Falls Co. are prepared to fill all "bills for house timber," and promise that the bills will not be too large, no matter what the size of the order or building.

The members of our new Odd Fellows Lodge exhibited taste in selecting the title for their lodge. It is "Squamscott," the Indian name for our village, as lately announced in our paper.

The perfect satisfaction with our schools is a matter of congratulations on all sides.

Henry Ward Beecher cannot be at Mount Toby on the 4th of July as was hoped.

Mrs. E.A. Wyman, an artist of fine ability, is making some local sketches that are highly spoken of.

A large temperance demonstration at Lake Pleasant is talked of for the Fourth of July. Action will be taken at the County Convention which meets here sometime during this month.

Thursday afternoon, Ada Lewis, Cora Holmes, Nellie McCurand, Lucy Thornton, while after May flowers "treed" a woodchuck, in a stone wall, and after a stormy battle succeeded in killing the animal.

It is a pleasant sight to go into the Keith Mill and see its life and bustle. The Company are full of work and orders. If it were not for the agreement among the paper manufacturers, they could run their mill to its utmost capacity on orders.

John Coughlan has built him a very neat portable picture saloon, 14 x 25 feet, and proposes to give the people of Millers Falls and vicinity a chance to "secure the shadow e'er the substance fade" of their handsome faces and forms.

That Committee on Cemetery are not all dead. One of them assured us that he was alive, but expressed the opinion that it would take the death of one of their number to put life into the rest. Maybe so.



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Reminder: Montague Solar Forum

MONTAGUE – The Montague energy committee and solar planning committee invite all town residents, including members of committees, boards, and commissions who may be involved in future planning for solar, and owners of businesses in town, to a Solar Forum via Zoom on Wednesday, May 22, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

The meeting will offer an opportunity for residents and business owners to provide input on the draft *Community Solar Action Plan for the Town of Montague* and explore ways it could be used as a starting point for solar planning. The plan includes suggest-

ed locations that might be best for solar installations, based on what residents prefer and on potential sites for larger solar arrays. The energy committee looks forward to exploring solar planning opportunities with town residents and business owners, and identifying next steps for expanding solar in keeping with the town's preferences.

For the Solar Forum meeting agenda, Zoom login info, and draft *Community Solar Action Plan*, see www.montague-ma.gov/d/12414/Montague-Solar-Forum. Other solar planning documents are at the bottom of this page: www.montague-ma.gov/g/58/Energy-Committee.

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FIRES from page A1

extinguished with water.

“Lithium-ion battery fires are a problem we are only beginning to get our arms around,” state fire marshal Jon Davine said at last year’s symposium. “The regulations and legislation we see in the months and years ahead will depend on us documenting this problem today.”

Eight firefighters were hospitalized in 2019 when a defective battery inside a 2-megawatt (MW) lithium-ion BESS failed in Surprise, Arizona, triggering a thermal runaway reaction. In Beijing, two people died fighting a fire in 2021 at a 25 MW-hour vehicle charging station equipped with lithium iron phosphate batteries. And in 2023, the governor of New York appointed a special task force to look at BESS safety regulations after three fire-related incidents occurred in one year.

“Not all batteries go into thermal runaway – not even all lithium-ion battery technologies go into thermal runaway – but the predominant ones do,” Towski said. “And they’re causing us a lot of problems out there.”

Standard Bearers

Over the last decade research into BESS fires has led to significant developments in national and state safety standards. As a member of the National Fire Protection Association’s (NFPA) technical committee, Towski helped draft the non-profit group’s first BESS safety standards between 2016 and 2019. These standards have since been incorporated into the Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code.

“Code is like spaghetti on the wall to a lot of people,” Towski said. “[In] Massachusetts we’re doing a great job... we’re far ahead of other parts of the country, and other parts of the world, but we’re still lagging behind [the technology].”

Because thermal runaway fires cannot be extinguished with water, the only way to fight them is often to let them burn out and prevent them from spreading. It can take several hours, and tens of thousands of gallons of water, to contain a lithium-ion battery fire.

Under the NFPA standards, different types of BESS are subject to different spacing requirements, storage capacity limits, mandatory fire suppression systems, and other conditions, as the risks associated with batteries of different sizes and chemistries vary greatly.

Lithium-ion BESS stored outdoors must be separated by at least 10 feet from other units, and cannot exceed 600 kWh of storage capacity. There is no maximum storage capacity for lead-acid or nickel-based BESS. Zinc-ion batteries, meanwhile, are extremely unlikely to cause thermal runaway fires, and do not require heating or cooling in inclement weather as many lithium-ion batteries do, but come with other challenges.

The state Department of Fire

Services also recently implemented a new tool to track fires caused by smaller lithium-ion batteries – ranging from home charging systems for electric vehicles to consumer products such as ebikes and vape pens – and found these fires are much more common than an established national fire data reporting system suggests. In more than half of these incidents, the electronic item was not connected to a charger when it ignited.

Still, manufacturers – and at the utility scale, developers – are sometimes resistant to sharing information pertinent to public safety, Towski said.

“Some things they might not be able to tell you, especially certain chemistries,” he said. “They’re holding things close to their chest that they’re not going to release – the system storage manufacturer won’t have that info, because it’s been retained by the battery manufacturer.”

“You want to know how to shut down [a facility],” he added. “Especially on the utility side, they’re going to have a lot of proprietary info that they’re not going to be able to share, because if anybody got that info they’re going to know how to shut down a utility, and that’s one of the things we don’t want to happen.”

Many BESS installers have responded to adverse events by documenting potential risks up front and including hazard mitigation plans and other supplemental information in their project applications. However, these documents are not universally required by state or local governments, the online energy industry magazine *UtilityDive* reported last November.

“Community awareness of battery storage is increasing as media coverage of battery fires increases,” fire engineering professionals Noah Ryder and Mishaal Syed Naveed wrote, “which means the public is seeking more information about the technology during the planning stages of projects.”

Jurisdictional Struggles

Whose job it is to adopt into law and enforce the emerging safety standards, however, is still being decided in Massachusetts.

Locally, the towns of Wendell, Shutesbury, Sunderland, and Hadley all passed bylaws regulating BESS within the last month, and Northfield voters imposed a one-year moratorium on new facilities as they work to draft a bylaw.

The Wendell and Shutesbury bylaws both prohibit BESS over 10 MW, and require installers of smaller projects to provide an annual training plan for local first responders, as well as a description of all the battery components and their specific chemical and physical makeup.

The NFPA’s standards also recommend that each BESS owner be required to produce a plan detailing how the facility will be decommissioned and disposed of at the end of its life. Several of the recent bylaws

take this a step further by requiring the owner to set aside the funds in advance to dismantle the project.

Some of these local bylaws, however, are expected to be rejected by the state attorney general on the basis that they amount to “unreasonable” obstacles to solar development, which is protected under state zoning law.

Motivated by the state’s official goal of “net zero emissions” by 2050, there has been a push to speed up the deployment of renewable energy infrastructure. This includes proposals to consolidate the permitting process for utility-scale battery systems at the state level, superceding local zoning and municipal regulation.

H.4501, a bill titled “An Act to expedite permitting for electric decarbonization infrastructure projects” would take away municipalities’ powers to enact any bylaws, ordinances or regulations affecting qualifying energy projects, was reported favorably to the House Ways and Means Committee last month.

Also last month, the state Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting released an official recommendation that jurisdiction over all battery, solar, wind and other energy infrastructure permitting should be held by the Energy Facilities Siting Board.

Seats at the Table

Regardless of whether they will ultimately be enforced at the municipal or state level, safety standards for BESS are largely under development, and the risks of some emerging battery technologies are still being tested. If local communities fear regulators on the far end of the state will make them shoulder the risk of catastrophe, the form these standards take – and the tools provided to local first responders – will likely become a central focus of decisions over battery siting.

“Development got delayed 18 months because of utilities,” Towski told the *Montague Reporter* this week of the NFPA’s effort to draft its original standards. “They didn’t feel there was enough representation for the utilities.... They either didn’t get the word, or the word they were getting was ‘it doesn’t apply to us, because we march to a different drum, and we’re regulated in a different way.’”

Making sure that local firefighters are well-equipped and adequately trained to respond to BESS fires is critical, Towski said, and they should have a say in how these systems are regulated.

“It’s in their jurisdiction,” he said. “This is the first line of defense, once it’s up and running. They need to know and have input, and be a stakeholder, so if there is going to be [a malfunction] we don’t have a Surprise, Arizona event. They need to be in tune with how it’s being laid out, and what their needs are.”

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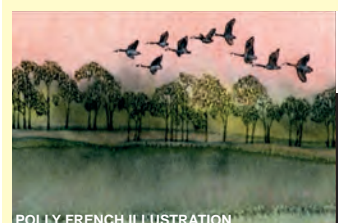


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MAY 16, 2024



WEST ALONG THE RIVER A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

By DAVID BRULE

PESKEOMPSKUT – On May 19, some of us will rise at the break of day and make our way to the thunder rocks place called Peskeompskut. Some others will journey only in their thoughts, calling to the spirits of those lost and locked there in their greatest moment of torment.

Individuals will go to the water's edge in person to conduct private, age-old ceremonies to honor those who lost their lives at the camp above the falls that day of May 19, 1676. That was now 348 years ago.

At the falls, the rushing waters of the mighty Connecticut still voice their now-muffled roar. In times past the thundering waterfall could be heard for seven miles around, its mist glistening on the basalt ridge of Wissatinawag, giving the village perched above its name of "shining hill."

Now restrained by the dam that has choked the natural flow of the long river, the living force of water still claims its prehistoric path in spite of that man-made obstruction.

Those irresistible waters still surge over in thundering falls as always, sending up those wreaths of mist in a smoke-like offering to the skies.

On this May morning traffic will be moving across the bridge going to and fro from the village at the place now known as Turners Falls. Stop lights on the Gill side will halt the mindless flow of trucks and cars on busy Route 2.

Many businesses, such as the Wagon Wheel Restaurant and the Gill Mill gas station, are now located on the site where for ten thousand years Indigenous people gathered to celebrate and share in the springtime bounty of Mother Earth and the river's life-giving waters.

All that ended in May 1676, in an English dawn raid that claimed the lives of nearly 300 Nipmuck, Abenaki, Narragansett, Wampanoag and many other refugees from the war that was devastating the region now known as New England.

Today we are far from that day, although the echoes of the sounds of deadly shot from flintlocks, the glint of sabers, the cries of the dying women, children, and elderly can still be heard by some of us. Few give a second thought about the hundreds who perished here those 348 years ago. But some of us will remember. And some of us are working towards healing this place.

This year many of us will gather at the Discovery Center this Saturday afternoon, May 18, to remember those fallen Indigenous patri-

ots who lost their lives in the King Philip's War. Indeed they fought, and they lost.

If you are a student of local history, American history, in this region where Manifest Destiny got its start, you will know of the famous Indian killers: William Turner, Miles Standish, Captain Holyoke, Benjamin Church, Captain Mosely.

Far too few of us know the names of those Indigenous people who were the victims of that war. Thousands of people of the Nipmuck, Abenaki, Narragansett, Pocumtuck, Wampanoag, Pennecook, Nashaway, and others lost their lives in that war, many whose names cannot be known. Yet there are those whose names have not been lost and should be honored, although few appear in the history books of our time.

Let us remember them here:

Canonchet was the son of Minatonomo, a hereditary chief of the Narragansett. He was one of the true leaders of the revolt known as King Philip's War. He is described as a tall and commanding presence, and represented those who wanted to continue the war against the English. It is recorded by George Sheldon, the self-appointed historian of Deerfield, that Canonchet was accompanied by 1,200 warriors in his winter camp at Northfield.

He envisioned a Native nation having the Peskeompskut falls as its center, free from White settler intrusion. There, as it had been for 12,000 years, Indians of all nations would be welcome there, finding all that they needed in these spiritual homelands, this place of peace and truce.

When seed corn was needed, Canonchet chose to go back to Narragansett country, where it was stored. He was captured there by the English and executed.

Metacom, also known as King Philip, was the second son of Massasoit. He was leader of the Wampanoag tribe, and although the war of 1675-76 bears his name, he played more of a role as strategist, planner, diplomat, and logistician. His job was locating supplies and arms for the fighters. Philip was rarely present on the battlefield, and played more of a support role than field warrior.

Present at Northfield in the winter of 1675-76 with several thousand Natives seeking respite and refuge from the war, he was accompanied by **Anawan**, his chief captain, **Sancumachu**, the Pocumtuck sachem, and many see **WEST ALONG** page B8

Above: Sunrise over the Cutlery Block in downtown Turners Falls. When it was built in 1870, the John Russell & Co. Cutlery factory was designed to accommodate 1,200 workers, though its workforce peaked around 700 in 1892. Many lived in this block. A famous author once wrote of them that "the main secret of making a rational consumer of the labourer is yet to be told."

– EXHIBIT –

Workers' Voices, Workers' Visibility

By HUGH FINNERTY

GREENFIELD – The LAVA Center in downtown Greenfield is hosting, among their many programs, an exhibit dubbed **indivISIBLE** in their Humanities Gallery. On display through July, this exhibit documents the agricultural communities in the Pioneer Valley.

The project seeks to provide understanding of the food-to-table ecosystem/landscape in our county, and of our country's food system in general, using the personal stories of those who tend the fields and the orchards, many of whom are recent immigrants to the country.

Funded by Greening Greenfield, the Markham-Nathan Fund for Social Justice, and Mass Humanities, as part of their "Expand Massachusetts" stories series, **indivISIBLE** places the viewer amongst the farms of Franklin County and beyond with black-and-white photography by Alphonso Herrera-Neal and color photography by Lindy Whiton.

The photographs are interspersed with powerful quotations from interviews conducted in the field by Herrera-Neal and Whiton, alongside Elias Neijens, who aided in translation, and Clara Witty, who provided technical support.

Speaking at an opening event earlier this month, Herrera-Neal said that when he approached this project, he wanted to find a way to "highlight the fact that no one is indivisible, however invisible folks may be feeling, because there's not always a lot of clarity on



Loxley Whitter and Friend, a photograph by Lindy Whiton in the **indivISIBLE** exhibit.

the food-to-table situation."

"We always sort of understand that these things are happening, but we hardly ever get an opportunity to see it," he added, "or at least have that sit with us, and find a better understanding of why folks chose to work in agriculture – why they chose to risk so much to come to this country to work in agriculture."

Broken down into four subsections, the interviews see **VISIBILITY** page B5



Hey, Standalone AI Gadgets: Don't Quit Your Day Job!

By RYNE HAGER

TURNERS FALLS – The AI hype train is *choo choo*-ing at full steam through Silicon Valley, fiscal reports, investor updates, stock prices, and your retirement account, promising everyone the world – or, at least, to change it.

Large-language models and generative AI systems like Chat GPT and Claude are upending workflows and whole businesses as companies try to cram them into their products for a perceived productivity boost. Like moths to a flame, investors are moving mountains and billions of dollars to get as close to the action as they can, and startups are obliging by throwing AI at every possible use case. That now includes standalone, consumer-facing, AI hard-



The Rabbit R1.

ware devices such as the **Rabbit R1** and the **Humane Ai Pin**.

So far, all of these AI gadgets operate on the same basic user experience concept: push a button, ask a question, and get an answer. Ostensibly, it's just about the most straightforward way you could use something, and the inherent advan-

tages are pretty obvious. You don't have to be trained or learn where the different features you want to use live, and there aren't any menus to hunt through or apps to launch to find what you need. Ask, and whatever you seek is provided.

On paper, this is a great way to do things, as it should be easy enough for anyone to use. But neither of these devices really makes good on that promise.

The Rabbit R1 still has a bunch of obtuse nested menus that you'll need to access to change its settings, and getting there requires shaking the unit from side to side – an action that the onboard voice assistant can't even guide you to do. In fact, asking the device itself how to use it in situations that require a specific

see **DEVICE** page B5

Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

'CHARLES'

This handsome, distinguished gentle-pooch is Charles. With his giant ears and cute as a button nose, you can't help but fall in love. He's social and loves his pets, but he's also an independent guy.

Things that Charles appreciates in life are his independence, the quiet and tranquil home, snacks, and pets. His curiosity in life allow him to explore every time he gets his out of kennel time through out the day.

Things that Charles does not ap-

preciate in his life are dogs.

If you're ready to adopt and want to learn more about, meet, or adopt this pet, you can start the process in one of two ways:

Come in during open adoption hours, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12:30 to 3 p.m. For in-shelter pets (not in foster care) coming in ASAP is the fastest way to adopt! For more information, call (413) 781-4000 or visit www.dakinhumane.org.

Senior Center Activities MAY 20 THROUGH 24

ERVING

Open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Daily snacks and coffee. Fitness room and pool table open.

Monday 5/20

9 a.m. Interval Workout
10 a.m. Seated Dance
12 p.m. Pitch Cards

Tuesday 5/21

9 a.m. Good for U
10 a.m. Line Dancing
11 a.m. Social String

Wednesday 5/22

9 a.m. Strength & Conditioning
10 a.m. Drumatix
11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursday 5/23

9 a.m. Barre Fusion
10 a.m. Pilates Flow

Friday 5/24

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information please call 863-9357.

Monday 5/20

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Kitchen Club
6 p.m. Cemetery Commission

Tuesday 5/21

No activities

Wednesday 5/22

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Outdoor Yoga
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
4:15 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 5/23

1 p.m. Pitch
3:30 p.m. Tech 4 Seniors Class
(pre-registration req'd)

Friday 5/24

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Pizza Party
2 p.m. Chair Dance
3 p.m. Meditation for Seniors
(pre-registration req'd)

WENDELL

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments.

For Senior Health Rides, please contact Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held on Wednesdays at 10 a.m., hybrid, at the town hall and on Zoom. Foot care clinic is held monthly.

For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 2, or coa@leverett.ma.us.



Elder Connect

By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE – Here's a worst-case scenario, borne from the imagination of a worrier:

You live alone. You've locked the door and you're ready for bed when you trip and fall. Something twists or cracks, and you can't get up. Luckily, you have your phone in your pocket and you can call 911, but then what?

If you can't get to the door, the police will need to break it down to get to you. That means extra time before you receive the help you need, and costly repairs to fix the door – unless you have a lock box. These are boxes mounted on the outside of one's house and accessed with a pin pad. They contain a house key that emergency-service workers can use to enter your house if you can't get to the door.

Here's some good news. A new program will be providing those lock boxes to elders in Montague, free of charge.

"We are going to be working with TRIAD, the Greenfield Savings Bank, and the Montague police department to provide lock boxes for older adults," said Roberta Potter, director of the Gill-Montague Council on Aging. "The police department will install them, and only the police department will have access to the codes."

There are a lot of reasons why an extra key should be made available, and the one that is badly "hidden" under that fake looking rock by your steps is not the most secure solution. To apply for a lock box and learn more, contact the Council on Aging at (413) 863-9356. The program is starting on May 20.

As the Board of Directors of Montague Villages continues to meet and discuss the kinds of services we hope to offer, depending upon volunteer interest and abilities, a number of *what ifs* arise: What if someone called for a ride or a short visit, and does not answer the door when the volunteer gets there? What if the volunteer hears

muffled noises from inside?

In such circumstances, volunteers will be directed to call 911. When they do, emergency services will be able to respond more easily if there's a lock box near the door.

I didn't set out to write about emergencies, but the news I gathered is a reminder that lots of individuals and organizations are concentrating time and energy on keeping elders and other vulnerable people safe in their homes. Potter writes, "The police department here (probably in other towns as well) keeps a list of what residences may house people with special needs or medical conditions that emergency service should know about in case of a call. That, too, is good to know."

She also wanted to remind readers that Gill and Montague residents have a CodeRed system in town. Once registered, an individual will get robo-calls to their landlines or cell phones in case of emergencies: floods; fires; parking bans. The police department will add your number to this list if you make the request.

Potter also keeps a supply of "File of Life" tags. These are little forms on which to record one's medical conditions and medications. A small one goes in your wallet or purse, and there's a magnetic one to put on your fridge in case emergency services come and find you unconscious or inarticulate. You can stop by the Gill-Montague Senior Center and pick these up.

If you need to relax and clear your mind after these doomsday scenarios, the Senior Center is starting a series of meditation classes next Friday, May 24 from 3 to 5 p.m. After the first meeting, the classes will revert to Thursdays. The six-week session will be offered at the reduced cost of \$75, thanks to funding from the Senior Center.

This class, to be taught by Jean Erlbaum, will focus on gentle stretches and deep relaxation that offer a path to living with less anxiety and a greater ability to meet the stresses of everyday life. Erlbaum

Montague Community Television News

You, Too, Can Produce!

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – Have you ever wanted to make a movie, a tutorial, a video podcast, or a TV show? Why don't you try? It's free and easy to get certified to check out MCTV's equipment. 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.

All community members are welcome and encouraged to submit their videos to be aired on Channel 9, as well as featured on the MCTV Vimeo page. Our page is home to many new videos every week. This

week we have a handful of local public meetings, including the Gill annual town meeting, both the Gill and Montague selectboard meetings, and the GMRSD school committee meeting.

If you're looking for more ways to get involved, consider joining the MCTV Board. If you would like to stop in for a meeting, even just to check the vibe, email infomontaguetv@gmail.com for a link to the Zoom.

Contact us at (413) 863-9200 or infomontaguetv@gmail.com, follow us on Facebook, or find us on Instagram [@montaguecommunitytv](https://www.instagram.com/montaguecommunitytv). Find videos and more on our website, montaguetv.org.

has studied Zen for 40 years and has been teaching yoga and meditation in the area since 1972. To register, call her at (413) 230-1518.

Two weeks ago I wrote about the dedication of Highland Woods, our new site for green burials. It was both moving and frightening to think about our mortality and limited time on this planet. Gathering information once a month for this column is reassuring. Here in a small community with finite resources, thoughtful people are working to make sure that elders have access to programs to keep us safe, the opportunity to try something new like meditation, educational opportunities like the Senior Symposiums at GCC, social events at the Senior Center, and Montague Villages, which will connect people needing just a bit of help with volunteers.

Many years ago, a wise older friend told me that to age in place, a person or couple needs a team. Now that I am one of those elders, I know just what she meant. Good medical care and responsive doctors, an auto mechanic you trust, someone to help with lawn care and snow removal, people to call when you need to hear another human voice, walking buddies, and more are essential to the team. So are the local agencies and non-profits that are considering the needs of the elderly in their decisions. I am grateful.

EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Wild Edibles Show & Tell

TURNERS FALLS – We literally walk over, and under, some potential edibles that are often right in our backyards. Join author and illustrator Blanche Derby as she brings samples of her wild and cultivated plant friends to an indoor presentation at the Discovery Center. Many are considered "flora non grata" – weedy trash – but you may be surprised to find some of these despised plants are just as tasty and perhaps more nutritious than cultivated ones.

Come with an open mind to find some new gourmet treasures to add to your culinary repertoire. "It's amazing how much food we literally walk over every day," Derby says. "Many hated plants – like garlic mustard and goutweed – can be tasty additions to our diet."

Learn and see these and other local plants in this show 'n' tell. Derby has incorporated wild foods into her diet for over 50 years, and has authored three books and made over 80 YouTube videos on the subject.

This free talk will be held in the Great Hall of the Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls, this Sunday, May 19 at 2 p.m. Find more on Derby's Facebook page at *Forage: Field & Forest*. For ages 12 and up.

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EXHIBITS

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rivers of Franklin County*, geology-inspired, map-based art by Joe Kopera, through June.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *What's On Your Plate?*, a community arts exhibit about the entanglement of food, time, commitment, and ecology. Through June 29; closing reception Saturday, June 29, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: *Caroline Wampole*, guest artist showing abstract paintings, through June, with a reception next Saturday, May 25, from 1 to 4 p.m. *Mushrooms and Skulls*, by Conor Cash, this Saturday, May 18 only.

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Distractions*, showcasing work by Greenfield Community College students Sam Kuusinen, Ava Machowski, Suzy Q Groden, Isabella Lonardo, Madeline Keating, Mars, and Erin Shabunin, participants in Joan O'Beirne's art seminar. Through May 31.

Greenfield Library, Greenfield: *ServiceNet Community Art Exhibit*. Paintings, photography, and other art works by more than 20 artists from the ServiceNet community. Through May.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Indi-Visible*, photos by Alfonso Herrera-Neal and Lindy Whiton documenting migrant and immigrant farm workers in Western Mass, including field interviews, through July. *Tom Swetland*, collage art, assemblage, mixed media, *papier-mâché* and junk sculpture

around the themes of surrealism, psychedelia, dreamscapes, and conspiracy, through June 29.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Inside, Outside*, paintings by Emily Giamari, through May.

Leverett Library: *Pastels from Ruggles Pond* by Rema Boscov, through June.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Susan Mulholland*, paintings, and *Michael Kudrikow*, metal sculpture. Through May, with a reception this Saturday, May 18, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Stories I Tell Myself*, mixed media by Diane Steingart, through May.

MD Local Gallery, Amherst: *Femme Locale*, group show by trans women, cis women, intersex, genderqueer, genderfluid, and non-binary artists, curated by Christine Texiera and Alexia Cota. Through June.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Splash of Color*, group show by member artists, through May.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne: *Jeremy Sinkus*, glass sculpture, and *Unpleasantly Beautiful*, sculptural pieces with etched glass panels by Annaleah Moon Gregoire. Through June.

Watermark Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Grand Opening*, innovative work by Andrew Sovjani, Jan Morier, Christine Kaiser, Cynthia Consentino, and Laurie Goddard.

APE Gallery, Northampton: *Platitude*, a look at contemporary queer life in America through the form of ceramic serveware created by nine artists. Through May 26, with a reception next Friday, May 24 from 6 to 7:30 p.m.



TV REVIEW

AppleTV's Franklin

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI



GREENFIELD – I like a fair amount of things when it comes to movies and TV shows. One has been historical dramas. AppleTV has decided to try their hand at doing a historical miniseries based on a time when Ben Franklin was in Paris trying to recruit France's help in winning the American Revolution.

Michael Douglas plays Franklin in this series, and is a good fit to play this character. I felt that he plays Benjamin Franklin quite well, and accurately – I know from a History Channel documentary that the man was kind of a character, and he is shown as such throughout the first two episodes.

Franklin also shows his fondness for the ladies, and strategic thinking. At this time he was a well-known celebrity who had discovered electricity, and when he arrived in France he was mobbed by people. I wonder if that really happened to him.

I know a couple of real-life facts that were included in this series. One is that his grandson went with him, and acted as his secretary. Another is that they hung around the Palace of Versailles, which was built by the ruler of France at that time, Louis XV.

A fair amount of the first episode consists of Franklin trying to get his foot in the door with Louis. A friend of his in France tries to help, and he

makes an attempt with a man who works as a secretary at the palace. In the episode it looks like this does get him reasonably close to Louis.

I should mention that, as in the real-life version of these events, Franklin is being spied on, and he knows there is a possibility of being hanged as spies here.

He meets with someone in private to try to get closer to getting the country's support. The Frenchman doesn't think America will win the revolution. History obviously knows that Franklin will succeed with this. I believe we will see in this show how long it will take, and what he will have to do to get it.

In one of the these two episodes, we get a good look at Franklin working as a printer, which was the very first job he ever had to his name. He does it with his grandson to pass the time while waiting to see what will go on with the whole deal with France. Franklin is shown to be still fairly talented at this at this point in his life.

I guess we see his whole journey in Paris, which should make the rest of the series very good, too!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Unstealable Tote; Mom's Boyfriend; Prints of Geronimo; Cars Spat On; Door Smashed In; Sarge Spots Bear

Monday, 5/6

10:38 a.m. 911 caller from Avenue A states that he was assaulted by a neighbor. Summons issued.

3:35 p.m. Caller states that he is on his way home and his wife called him to say that someone put a tote in front of her car in the First Street alleyway. Tote says "Do not steal" on it. He is concerned about who put it there and why. Referred to an officer.

5:22 p.m. Caller from Third Street states that someone etched something into the side of her vehicle between 2-4:30 p.m. today. Referred to an officer.

Tuesday, 5/7

7:51 a.m. Employee located a loose dog walking around the parking lot at the Montague Center Fire Station. Described as a medium-build black dog with white paws. Animal control officer notified and responding. ACO has taken dog to shelter.

10:05 a.m. Caller concerned about the well-being of a dog on X Street; caller states dog is left outside for hours with no food or water. Caller left a bowl of water for the dog. ACO notified. ACO advises the dog was inside when he arrived and there was no answer at the door.

1:06 p.m. Caller states his mother is threatening and harassing him inside his home. Advised of options.

4:08 p.m. Caller from Vladish Avenue states there is a fire next door producing heavy smoke; she is having trouble breathing in her house. TFFD notified via Shelburne Control.

5:32 p.m. Officer conducting motor vehicle stop on Main Street. Registration showing revoked for insurance. Tow requested. Citation issued.

6:26 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street states there is a vehicle parked in the road that is taking pictures of the caller for unknown reasons. Referred to an officer.

6:43 p.m. 911 caller states that her mom's boyfriend stole \$2,000 from her and she wants him removed from her mother's house. Referred to an officer.

6:52 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street states the vehicle is back and since no officers are helping, he will take things into his own hands and it will be considered self-defense. Caller not willing to give name, just yelling that we need to help him *now* or he will "smash" the person in the car. Officer advises that he spoke to a group of people at Element; nothing seen or heard.

Wednesday, 5/8

2:11 a.m. E-911 call from Avenue A; party was highly intoxicated and advising someone stole something from them, which sounded like two important prints

of Geronimo totaling roughly \$50,000. Caller advised this occurred sometime in the afternoon. Officer attempted callback; no answer. Caller called back, highly intoxicated, and wanted to know where officers were. Advised caller that a sergeant called their phone but there was no answer. Caller then became agitated and started to slander the department. Attempted to advise caller that someone would call them back again, and male became irate. Officer was able to make phone contact after several attempts and spoke with involved callers. Caller reported the same issue of someone taking items of theirs. Officer advised caller to call back in the morning when Housing is around so they can look at cameras. Intoxicated parties called again, reporting same issue; they were semi-incoherent due to alcohol. Advised callers that sergeant told them to call back in morning. Logged.

1:45 p.m. Walk-in would like to speak to an officer about a scary Snapchat she received.

2:10 p.m. GPD requesting an officer to assist with traffic due to an accident on Turners Falls Road in Greenfield. Services rendered.

4:23 p.m. Officer conducting a motor vehicle stop on Turners Falls Road. Registration showing revoked for insurance. Tow requested. Summons issued.

6:59 p.m. Officer conducting a motor vehicle stop on Green Pond Road; believes driver and passenger switched seats. A 29-year old Lake Pleasant man was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

8:14 p.m. Caller from G Street states that there is a dog tied in the front yard of a house and the door to the house is wide open. There is a car in the driveway, but no one is letting the dog inside. Dog has been barking for the last two hours. She has tried knocking, but no one comes to the front of the house. Officer advises door is closed and there is no dog outside.

8:46 p.m. Caller calling back stating she has been sitting with the dog for over two hours and is disgusted that no one has any concern regarding that house that has been left open. Explained to caller that officer checked address and found nothing. Caller stated she would bring the dog to the shelter but doesn't feel that fixes the issue of the house. Officer attempting to get dog into vehicle. There is another dog within the residence; unsure if they get along. Bringing dog to shelter. ACO notified of situation.

10:49 p.m. Caller from St. Stanislaus Society states that his car was hit and the other driver drove off; believes individual may reside on K Street. Officer advises that vehicle that was struck was located in the back of an alley. Will check with landlord for camera footage of K Street in the morning.

11:14 p.m. 911 caller reporting disturbance on Center Street. Peace restored.

Thursday, 5/9

5:37 a.m. Caller from G Street reports his Great Pyrenees dog has gotten out; he believes it to be somewhere near the Patch. Dog described as black and white and having a missing back leg, which was amputated a while back. Logged.

12:11 p.m. Nouria employee advising that a dog came into the store without an owner. ACO responding. While ACO was there, the owner showed up and picked up the dog.

4:43 p.m. Caller from Third Street reporting her car was vandalized again. Report taken.

6:38 p.m. Caller from Turnpike Road states there is a young child around two years old standing in a front yard unattended and throwing things at vehicles. Area checked; nothing found.

10:21 p.m. Caller from Second Street states someone just tried to break into his car; states he was inside and his truck alarm started sounding, and when he looked out someone took off running. Requesting increased patrols in area as it has been an ongoing issue.

Friday, 5/10

10:49 a.m. Caller reporting an unknown alarm sounding for the past ten minutes in the area of Canal and Third streets. Caller called back stating the alarm had stopped.

11:43 a.m. Report of an erratic operator at 253 Farmacy. Referred to an officer.

11:49 a.m. A 52-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on two default warrants.

4:44 p.m. Caller states that three kids are running around screaming at Avenue A and Fourth Street and it appears there are no adults with them. Officer checked area; no kids and no one screaming.

9:31 p.m. Caller from East Main Street states that her neighbor came home from work and spit on her car and her other neighbor's car. Caller states that she has the footage on her Ring camera and that her landlord told her to call the PD to have it on record.

10:22 p.m. 911 caller reports that he was woken up by a woman screaming; he looked outside, and there was a car parked in the middle of the road at L and Ninth streets with a

woman and two male parties. While on phone with dispatch, he asked if they needed assistance, and one of the male parties said they they were all set. Then they all got into the car and drove away. Officer checked area; unable to locate vehicle matching description.

Saturday, 5/11

1:28 a.m. Members of Anti-Crime Task Force serving a search warrant on Davis Street. One under; Greenfield PD booking.

10:53 a.m. Walk-in reporting that twice this week there has been a silver Prius speeding down Vladish Avenue in the afternoon. Would like area monitored around school release times. Referred to an officer.

12:15 p.m. 911 caller from Fourth Street reports suspicious male knocking on her door; states when she answered, the male said he was looking for her husband, which she does not have. Caller states her front door is completely smashed in. Area checked; negative findings. Caller believes suspect lives down the road. Report taken.

1:25 p.m. Caller states a male party was assaulted last night by a female and her boyfriend named "Foxy" and they would like to make a report. Medical attention declined at this time. Caller states he does not believe "Foxy" is allowed in the building and that he is staying in the female party's apartment. Spoke to all involved parties. Caller denies reporting anything or needing medical attention; just wants everyone to stay away from each other at this time.

2:51 p.m. Black bear seen in the area of the Housing Authority by MPD sergeant.

2:59 p.m. 911 caller reporting two male juveniles on the roof of the old factory building on Canal Road. Officers on scene; unable to locate; no sign of entry into building.

8:25 p.m. Caller from Third Street states that her downstairs neighbor closed his door loudly. Officer advised.

Sunday, 5/12

3:03 p.m. Anonymous caller would like an officer to speak to a male party on Randall Road who is doing yard construction with heavy equipment on a Sunday, which is a bylaw violation. All quiet; there was a backhoe in one yard, but it wasn't running.

5:17 p.m. Caller states he was assaulted by a female and would also like someone to check her welfare as she is in and out of consciousness. Officer requesting EMS. Northfield transporting party to FMC with member of TFFD; officer following to take party into protective custody.

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LXX: Georgia Rose Lucas

Interview by J. Burkett and TROY CURRY

TURNERS FALLS – We've put together a different column this week: an interview with Sandy Denny's daughter, Georgia Rose Lucas!

If you haven't heard Sandy's music, you should definitely check her out ASAP. She has one of the most unique and otherworldly voices ever, and though she passed away a while ago now, her music continues to resonate deeply on so many levels, and her impact on the music world and listeners everywhere can't be understated.

Sandy Denny has been described as the best UK folk rock singer ever. Born in 1947, she started singing at a young age, first with the Strawbs and then with Fairport Convention, where she met her husband Trevor Lucas. She started Fotheringay with him – check out their two albums, one posthumous – and then made great solo albums, too, and don't forget her famous duet with Robert Plant on *Led Zep IV!* And all this came before her tragic death at age 31.

Fairport Convention are similarly revered, and Trevor had a big part in that band, of course, with his unique baritone voice, and put out solo albums as well as the great *Election* album.

We recently tracked down Georgia in Australia, and she was kind enough to answer some questions for our column out here in Massachusetts! Thanks to her for her time...

MMM: Have you always lived in Australia? Have you traveled much?

GL: I was born in the UK, in Oxford, and arrived in Australia on my dad's passport when I was barely a year old – I've lived here ever since. I've traveled back and forth between Australia and the UK for most of my life, and I've seen some of Australia, but it's a vast country. I've lived in Melbourne and Sydney so far.

MMM: It seems like the nature there is really unique and diverse!

GL: Yes, we have all kinds of creatures, some of them quite deadly. But my heart belongs to the kookaburras – they are my favourite.

MMM: Did you attend college in Australia? What are your other interests?

GL: After high school I did various short courses in electronic music production and graphic design.

I was never very academic – more into art and sport. As a teenager I was really into competitive sport – swimming, downhill/mountain bike racing. I was asked to train for the Australian Triathlon Team in the '96 Olympics – but totally devoting several years of my life to one thing, just as all the teenage options were opening up...

These days I still keep fit, but the sport has given way to a focus on naturopathy and a holistic diet and lifestyle. My family also keep me pretty busy when I'm not working on my mum's legacy and my artwork.

MMM: What are your thoughts about Fairport? Do you have favorite songs by them?

GL: Of the albums I love *Unhalfbricking* and *Liege and Lief*. There are so many great songs to choose from! Some of my favourites are "Genesis Hall," "Mr. Lacey," "John Lee," "Book Song," "She Moves Through the Fair," "Reynardine," "Farewell, Farewell," "Meet on the Ledge"... I could go on and on.

MMM: What are your favorite Sandy songs or albums?

GL: My current top pick would have to be *Sandy & The Strawbs* – other favourites are *The North Star Grassman and the Ravens*, *Like an Old Fashioned Waltz*, and definitely the (first) *Fotheringay* album.

MMM: Sandy & The Strawbs is an eternal fave over here, too! Have you met Richard Thompson, and do you like his solo stuff?

GL: I've met Richard many times, and I love his music. He was a close friend of my mum's, and they worked together on some amazing songs. I'm really looking forward to hearing his new album, *Ship to Shore*.

MMM: Have you met any other UK folk artists from the '60s and '70s?

GL: I've met most of my mum's band members and friends. I'm close with the Fairport boys and Ralph McTell, which is pretty cool. Meeting Mark Knopfler at the BBC2 awards in 1997 was extra special to me. I'm a big fan of his music.

MMM: Do you play music yourself? I noticed you did illustrations for one of Sandy's albums. Do you still do that?

GL: I started DJ-ing when I was around 16 and played in the

Sydney club circuit for five or six years, focusing on the drum and bass and tech house genres.

After that I paused my DJ-ing career for my twin daughters: Ariel Rose and Jahmira Jade. It's hard to believe that they're already 27 years old now. I also have a 14-year-old son named Liam who has surpassed me in height, which isn't difficult since I'm short like my mum.

I've been a compulsive drawer since I was about 10, but it wasn't until midway through my battle with breast cancer in 2019, which included several operations over six years, that I truly delved into portraiture. I'm grateful to be doing well, and have been in remission for two years now.

MMM: Have you ever been to "Cropredy"?

GL: Yes – three times. The first time I was about 16 years old. I also went in 2019, which was a fantastic experience – being that much older, I got so much more out of it. Last year, 2023, I went primarily to present the Sandy Denny exhibition that I curated, and for the launch of the *Songbird* album – the culmination of Carla Fuchs' and my collaboration on my mum's lost lyrics.

MMM: Yeah, do you want to talk about this – the album of unrecorded songs by your mom? When did you start thinking of doing something like that, and how did you find the right singer for the songs?

GL: I wasn't particularly looking for someone to put the "lost lyrics" to music when I first saw, and heard, Carla Fuchs covering one of my mum's songs on You-

Tube. I loved her renditions of Sandy's music, and we got in touch. It was when I heard her music for "Sixpence" that the idea for a new project involving my mum's unfinished work came to me. That was how *Songbird* came into being.

It was nearly two years later that the album was finally launched at the Brasenose Arms during the Cropredy Fringe Festival. I'm proud of the work we've done.

MMM: Will the album be released on vinyl, and is there distribution in the US?

GL: We'd like to see a vinyl release, but so far haven't made any serious moves in that direction. The album is currently available on major platforms like iTunes, Spotify, and Bandcamp. There's no direct distributor in the US, but hard copies of the CD are available from Talking Elephant Records in the UK.

It's definitely one for the Sandy Denny collectors out there. The CD includes a 28-page booklet that I designed using with my mum's handwritten lyrics and doodles.

MMM: Do you have a favorite track from the album?

GL: It's a really tough choice, but "Halfway Home" and "Georgia" are there, and of course the first one I heard, "Sixpence." It was, after all, the demo that "sealed the deal" for the project.

MMM: Have you thought of doing any other releases like this?

GL: I'm definitely considering similar projects in the future. We're hoping to run the exhibition and Sandy Tribute again this year

at Trading Boundaries near Lewes in Sussex (www.tradingboundaries.com). This is the location for the official gallery of Roger Dean's artwork. (I'm a huge fan!) It's a fantastic place – a wedding and music venue that also has accommodation.

MMM: What other music do you like – any current favorites?

GL: I'm currently listening to a lot of the Strawbs – Dave Cousins is just amazing! – plus The Langan Band, and The Imagined Village – Chris Wood is another lyric genius. Of course, I love my mum and dad's music, and naturally Carla Fuchs' *Songbird* album of my mum's lyrics.

MMM: So, you like other kinds of music besides folk and folk-rock?

GL: I still DJ from time to time and play Goa and tech house. I enjoy listening to drum and bass, prog rock, folk rock, traditional folk, etc. I have a wide range of music tastes.

You can listen to a couple remixes of my mum's songs that I have done, and also my DJ mixes, on the Soundcloud platform: soundcloud.com/basskatt-productions.

MMM: Do you collect records?

GL: As a DJ, I've collected over 30 crates of dance music in the past.

MMM: You must have a lot of people ask you about your mom; is that weird?

GL: Not at all. I'm proud to have had such talented parents, and I'm happy to talk about their music. I appreciate the love people have for her music, and it's heartwarming to see her legacy live on.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Show and Tell: Cops Called on Kid's Dead Bat

Monday, 4/1

3:56 p.m. 911 call, Conference Road. Sounded like it was in a pocket or bag and the party was walking.

5:23 p.m. Accident with no injuries, French King Highway.

Tuesday, 4/2

6:09 a.m. 911 open line, Stonecutter Road. Student eventually came on line and stated that her phone accidentally dialed 911.

2:18 p.m. Complaint of an erratic driver, French King Highway. Gill and Erving advised.

Wednesday, 4/3

9:18 a.m. South Cross Road closed: should clear around 3 p.m.

7:03 p.m. Motor vehicle accident on Main Road.

Thursday, 4/4

7:59 a.m. Vehicle vs. guardrail, French King Highway. Operator requested an ambulance to evaluate possible injury.

9:11 a.m. Report of tree blocking lane, Dole Road.

Saturday, 4/6

12:15 p.m. Assisted citizen with ongoing property issues with a neighbor.

1:10 p.m. Lockout on Oak Street.

Sunday, 4/7

5:37 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with welfare check, Northfield Road.

Monday, 4/8

12:44 p.m. Line down across French King Highway; people driving over it.

6:10 p.m. Caller from Conference Road requested an officer in reference to threats he received online.

Tuesday, 4/9

3:22 p.m. Brush fire spreading toward a residence, West Gill Road.

Wednesday, 4/10

10:42 a.m. Power outage reported, Center Road.

5:05 p.m. Caller advising erratic operation: vehicle not staying within lanes, French King Highway.

Thursday, 4/11

1:25 p.m. Fraud/scam reported, Oak Street.

9:52 p.m. Disabled vehicle, French King Highway. Front passenger tire issue.

Friday, 4/12

10:50 a.m. Call from Gill Elementary School advising that a student brought a dead bat to school in a container.

11:29 a.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with disturbance, Huckle Hill Road.

12:13 p.m. Pine tree leaning on wires on West Gill Road. Not a road hazard.

12:38 p.m. Assisted another agency, West Gill Road. Asking for officer to stand by with lights while they remove the limb.

Sunday, 4/14

6:13 p.m. Caller found a small brown female pit bull wearing a leather collar in the road near the boat ramp.

Monday, 4/15

2:18 p.m. Property dam-

age reported on West Gill Road. Miscellaneous vehicle parts left behind.

Tuesday, 4/16

9:35 a.m. Caller from Peterson Way reports he has a stray dog with a leash at his residence.

Wednesday, 4/17

12:42 p.m. Caller reports a car in the ditch about halfway up Barney Hale Road. No personal injuries. Vehicle winched out by Byrne's Towing and driven away.

5:15 p.m. Vehicle with hazard lights on pulled over on Main Road. Driver was on their phone.

Friday, 4/19

11:37 a.m. Disabled tractor-trailer pulled over in front of Cielito Lindo. Triangles in place, and traffic can pass.

6:37 p.m. State police requested a preliminary breath test on I-91.

Saturday, 4/20

8:03 p.m. Fire alarm, Lamplighter Way.

Monday, 4/22

7:30 a.m. Low-hanging line from pole to house, French King Highway.

2:37 p.m. Illegal burn reported on South Cross Road. FD to advise of permit requirement.

Tuesday, 4/23

8:38 a.m. Disabled vehicle, French King Highway. Operator all set; AAA called 40 minutes ago.

11:05 a.m. Welfare check, Atherton Road.

2:52 p.m. Caller reported a syringe directly underneath a sign on Main Road. Located and removed.

Wednesday, 4/24

5:12 p.m. Fire alarm, Elm Street.

5:53 p.m. Two-car crash near the Gill Mill. No injuries or fluids leaking.

Thursday, 4/25

10:29 p.m. Complaint from Main Road of pounding on the floor.

Friday, 4/26

4:25 a.m. Fire alarm, Main Road.

10:24 a.m. Caller from Setback Lane reporting his dog missing.

3:20 p.m. Chief on a motor vehicle stop on the French King Highway requesting an ambulance for a subject with chest pain.

9:08 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with suspicious activity at the solar farm.

Saturday, 4/27

1:52 p.m. Minor accident, French King Highway.

6:39 p.m. Welfare check, Riverview Drive.

2:08 p.m. Assault reported, Riverview Drive.

3:53 p.m. Medical emergency, Conference Road.

5:04 p.m. Caller from Main Road reported receiving a scam call from parties claiming to be Publishers Clearing House.

11:26 p.m. Fire alarm, Elm Street.

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VISIBILITY from page B1

land in categories titled *Crossing the Desert*, *Half Our Heart is Left There*, and *The Soil's In Our Blood*. The invisibility of which Herrera speaks is highlighted in interview content from the fourth category, *When We Go Into Town*, which illustrates the incongruity of consumers of agricultural goods ignoring or looking down on those who work to provide them.

The work of the indIVISIBLE team seeks to recognize this hidden community and chip away at such ignorance and prejudice.

"This is about giving credence to the people who do the work that make this country go," said LAVA Center humanities coordi-

nator Matthew Barlow, who worked on transcription for the project as well as curriculum building. "I do see a lot of immigrants just kind of toiling away in the background, and we just don't ever think about it. I think that's what this project is important for me for, is to think about who is growing our food."

The interview process also included quotations from the management side of the agricultural business. The LAVA team spoke with Naomi Clark, who is a manager of the Clark Family Orchard in Ashfield and part of the fifth generation of the Clark family. Her interview expressed her own experience of misconceptions about farm work.

"Most Americans don't want to put in the manual labor that's required for farming." Clark's interview reads: "It's a romantic idea, oh, I'd love to work on that farm, and they last two weeks, and then they leave, and then you're screwed."

Though Clark was willing to be a part of the project, the indIVISIBLE team was not always welcomed with open arms by other owners. LAVA Center co-coordinator Jan Maher commented: "A lot of farms were not receptive to this project – [either] just from the getgo, or they were overwhelmed from all the crisis last year in agriculture."

Late frost and July flooding wreaked havoc on the region's industry in 2023, spurring a \$20 million allocation by the State House for affected farms. Clark Family Orchard lost 90% of its apple crop due to the late frost.

Although the project seeks to gain recog-

nition for farmworkers, team members said they sought to avoid falling into the trap of romanticizing farmwork. Herrera-Neal chose a black-and-white color palette and photos that avoid subjects' faces in order to avoid, as he put it, "fetishization of work."

"Everyone loves to use this 'rugged Americana' work ethos as a way to promote this rugged individualism," he explained, "which completely goes against the idea of building a community, and what community looks like for migrant agricultural workers. It's so easy for other interests to co-opt such imagery to present a narrative that might not be true, and/or is misleading [as] to the reality of what migrant farm workers are facing."

Herrera-Neal went on to point out the discrepancies between farm work and other private sector labor, citing farmworkers' lack of legal protections, specifically their notable absence from National Labor Relations Act coverage. Agricultural workers are also excluded from Massachusetts' \$15 minimum wage – instead their minimum wage sits at \$8 – and they are ineligible for overtime.

Only seven states in the United States include farmworkers in their minimum wage, according to the campaign group Fairness for Farmworkers Massachusetts. The rights of farmworkers to organize are also not protected under state and federal law, though the Fairness for Farm Workers Act – currently being pushed in the Massachusetts legislature by Springfield Democrats Sen. Adam Gomez and Rep. Carlos Gonzalez – seeks to change that.



Father and Son, photograph by Alfonso Herrera-Neal.

"Take a look," Herrera-Neal told visitors to the exhibit. "Sit with it. If you feel uncomfortable, perhaps sit with that discomfort and find out where it's coming from, why it exists, and what we can do to hopefully transform that discovery into some type of progress."

LAVA will be showing the indIVISIBLE exhibit through July in its gallery and café space, which is open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and on Thursdays and Fridays from 5 to 8 p.m. Admission is free, with donations welcome.

The LAVA Center is located at 324 Main Street in downtown Greenfield.



The indIVISIBLE exhibit combines photography with written interviews with the farmworkers.

DEVICE from page B1

operation – for example, enabling the built-in camera for object recognition – never provided useful results in my testing.

If you don't already know how to use it, it won't teach you, contradicting decades of user interface design. At least your phone can nudge you in the right direction with things like search features, the context of standardized layouts and interface elements, and consistent and universal iconography.

The Humane Ai Pin does a better job in a lot of ways here than the Rabbit R1, as it does have an easily accessed visual interface you can use – one that's incredibly and fantastically futuristic. Hold your hand out in the right spot in front of the pin, and a neon green laser projector spits words and images on it.

In a purely geeky sense, it's one of the coolest things I have ever seen. But, probably by virtue of being so new and unique, it's really difficult to navigate that visual interface.

Scrolling requires bringing your hand closer or further back from the pin, while selecting an item means pinching your thumb and index finger. This didn't work reliably in my testing.

As a relevant example, you have to enter a code to unlock the device after it rests for a while or charges, and trying to scrub through the list of numbers with any precision is a very, very frustrating time. Tapping out that four-digit PIN on the Humane Ai Pin can take upwards of a minute.



The Humane Ai Pin is reminiscent of a Star Trek combadge, and uses a projected laser display.



Underwhelming Results

All this further presupposes that, when you aren't adjusting settings, you are at least getting the answers you need. In my testing, that wasn't the case either.

The Rabbit R1 suffered intermittent latency in responding, sometimes taking a few minutes for answers to arrive. Other times, my queries generated no response at all, with no error message and no other indicators of what might be happening. At best it was intermittently reliable. And, worse, many of the features that were advertised prior to its commercial debut – such as the ability to train "rabbits" to automate tasks – still aren't available.

Battery life on both of these devices was also mediocre to poor. The Humane Ai Pin lasts a day on a charge, at best, and that's with very light use. If you've got it projecting its laser screen frequently or you ask it a lot of questions, it

won't make it far past lunch.

Finally, there's the basic question-and-answer functionality. Both devices have similar interfaces there. The Rabbit has a button on the side you hold while speaking in walkie-talkie fashion, while the Humane Ai Pin is like a *Star Trek* combadge; you hold a finger to the touch-sensitive pad magnetically mounted on your chest.

Responses provided when you ask most basic questions are within the limits of most AI large-language models: they do their best to dodge questions that may lead to hazardous, illegal, or dangerous answers. But questions that depend on externally changing variables, such as nearby businesses or the weather, aren't always answered consistently or even usefully.

My Rabbit R1 seems to think that, living in Turners Falls, I'm most interested in the weather in the Midwest when I ask it if it's going to

rain. The Humane Ai Pin does a better job with those sorts of questions.

New Business Novelty

This leads to the fundamental problem that all of these AI-powered gadgets have: They could just be apps on the phone you already have, with little to no loss in functionality. As standalone devices, they don't bring any useful benefits, and even introduce new and frustrating drawbacks together with their own logistical overhead.

The motivation behind why we're seeing an influx of these devices is pretty clear to me. The smartphone market has reached maturity and is grappling with the impact of commoditization, which has encouraged rapid consolidation in recent years. Long in decline, the total US smartphone market that exists outside Apple and Samsung is now effectively a rounding error, with companies like Google and Motorola

competing for ever-smaller scraps.

Investors desperately want a new smartphone moment, and they hope a disruptive new technology will be able to upset this hegemony and bring about new opportunities for competition and growth.

Sadly, wanting something does not make it so, and I doubt these gadgets have much of a future as standalone products. At its best, their functionality is easily duplicated, and will be integrated into the digital assistants provided in existing phones and wearables – expect Siri to get a lot smarter over the coming years.

If you're considering buying one or both of these devices, I'd urge you to reconsider. The Rabbit R1 is relatively cheap at "just" \$200, but its utility is highly limited, some advertised functionality isn't yet present, and it's yet another gadget to carry everywhere with you – do you need another?

The Humane Ai Pin is an even worse value, starting at \$699 and requiring an additional \$24-a-month subscription. While I dig the utterly futuristic nerdiness of a bright green laser projection screen flying out from my chest, its awful battery life and doubtful utility bring even me back to the sad reality: The phone you already have can do a better job.

For more questions about consumer technology, how gadgets work, or which doodad to buy if you need X, Y, and Z, shoot me an email at deviceadvice@montaguereporter.org.



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SUBMITTED PHOTOS

MONTAGUE



Above: Jerri Higgins brought our April 4 edition to see the solar eclipse in Colchester, Vermont. Mallet's Bay is visible in the background.

Left: Our March 14 ("Pi Day") edition traveled with Matt Atwood and Jackie Stein of Lake Pleasant to Joshua Tree National Park in California.

REPORTER

Below: Our March 28 edition returned to Turkey for the first time since 1985, when it was in the country studying on a Fulbright. Same for Wendell resident Edward Hines. "It was just as inspiring as the first time," Hines reported.



Above: "My son Sammy and I took a cruise to Bermuda during April school vacation," Charlie Choleva, seen here supervising our April 11 edition, told us. "The ship holds 3,000 to 4,000 passengers. it was massive. It even had a go-cart track on the top - level 17! Good food, great drinks, a lot of fun."

ON

Below: Christopher "Monte Belmonte" Belmonte and Profesora Melissa Belmonte, both of Turners Falls, recently smuggled two separate copies of our March 14 edition to Córdoba, Spain.



Right: Peg Bridges of Montague Center, her son David, and our April 18 edition encountered a 100-foot-long borrego dragon in Borrego Springs, California.



THE

ROAD

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



THURSDAY, MAY 16

Nova Arts, Keene: *Paper Castles, Stoner Will & The Narks, Jake McKelvie, Rick Rude*, more. \$ 4:30 p.m.

Mystery Train Records, Amherst: *Kath Bloom, Kate Lee, Wes Buckley*. \$ 5 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *girlpuppy, Mesa Verde*. \$ 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Gift, Carinae*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

City Space, Easthampton: *Nate Wooley's Columbia Icefield with Susan Alcorn, Ava Mendoza, and Ryan Sawyer*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 17

Nova Arts, Keene: *The Messthetics, Marc Ribot, Prefuse 73, Wadada Leo Smith, Jim White/Marisa Anderson duo*, more. \$ 2 p.m.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Erin McKeown, SPOUSE*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Satisfaction*, Rolling Stones tribute. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Vimana, The Fawns, DJ Andujar*. \$ 8 p.m.

Ashfield Lake House, Ashfield: *Stoner Will & the Narks, Cowperson*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 18

Nova Arts, Keene: *Earth, J. Pavone String Ensemble, The*

Huntress and Holder of Hands, Sunburned Hand of the Man, The Leafies You Gave Me, more. \$ 2:30 p.m.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Belly Dance Showcase*. \$ 5:30 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Jeopardy, SLOBDROP, Epicenter, Wargraves*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

Mt. Toby Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Antje Duvekot*. \$ 7 p.m.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Stephen Kellogg*. \$ 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *2 Car Garage*. No cover. 7:30 p.m.

Colonial Theater, Keene: *Bella's Bartok*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Institute for Musical Arts, Goshen: *June Millington, Toshi Reagon*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Big Yellow Taxi*, Joni Mitchell tribute. \$ 8 p.m.

Cold Spring Hollow, Belchertown: *SickFit, Rear Window, Brujo, Taxidermists, Swamp God*. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 19

Nova Arts, Keene: *Buck Meek, Nina Nastasia, Mal Devisa, Jolie Holland*, more. \$ 12 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Jessica Pavone String Ensemble, Milk of Mustard Seed, Nat Baldwin*. \$ 2 p.m.

Our Lady of Peace Church,

Turners Falls: *Cry Out for Peace*, feat. *Our Lady of Peace Singers, Eventide Singers*, readings on peace, justice. Free. 3 p.m.

Bondhu, New Ashford: *Sound For, Jen Gelineau, Creative Writing, MYTH'D*. Gaza mutual aid benefit. \$ 5 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Center for New Americans presents *Immigrant Voices*. \$ 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 21

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Alexander, Wes Buckley, Parashi*. \$ 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Coral Grief, The Upstairs District, Big Destiny*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 24

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jumpy, Jeff Coyne, Venetian, Choir Boys*. \$ 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Home Body, Roost World, bobbie*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRI-MON, MAY 24-27

Camp Keewanee, Greenfield: *Strangecreek Campout* feat. *Rubblebucket, Max Creek, Too Many Zooz, Pink Talking Fish, Badfish, Bella's Bartok, Moon Boot Lover, Dirtwire*, more. See www.strangecreekcampout.com.

SATURDAY, MAY 25

Allen Tree Farm, Westfield: *Mia Friedman, Mary Fraser, Catsy*. Disc golf course grand opening.

\$. Music at 12 p.m.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Juan Carlos Marin Band, Myrtle Street Klezmer*. No cover. 4 p.m.

Unnamed Books, Turners Falls: Open mic feat. *Noah Britton, Gracious Calamity*. No cover. 6 p.m.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Lupo Citta, Germ House, Creative Writing*. \$ 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Agonizers, The Mighty Suicide Squirrels, Scotty Saints and the True Believers, The Flem, Hardcar*. \$ 7 p.m.

Buoyant Heart, Brattleboro: *Beetsblog, Lily Konigsberg, Elie McAfee-Hahn*. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 26

Bookends, Florence: *Beetsblog, Lily Konigsberg, Cal Fish, Itchy Kisses*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

Cold Spring Hollow, Belchertown: *Diagram A, Noise Nomads Duo, SickFit, Useless Little, Tempestade, Loculus*. \$ 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 28

Feeding Tube Records, Florence: *Sailor Beware, Sound Of Pot, S.Glass*. \$ 7 p.m.

Tori Town, Holyoke: *Map of the Stars, Rotundos, Sgraffito Kill, All Maine Points, Rugrat Rehab*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

looking forward...

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

Pekeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *ICICI, Neonach, Marsca, Small Choice, Sagan and Sigourney, Dave Thomas and the Frosty Five*. No cover. 3 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Joe Graveline, Katie Clark & Larry LeBlanc, The Frost Heaves and HaLes*. No cover. 6 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

Lunder Center, Williamstown: *Chris Forsyth, Nick Millevoi, Mikel Patrick Avery, Erica Dawn Lyle*. Free. 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

Nova Arts, Keene: *Itasca, PG Six, Anthony Pasquarosa*. \$ 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

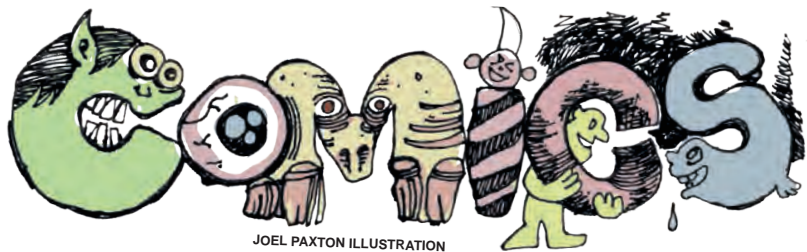
Rat Trap, Holyoke: *California X, Corrode, The Watcher*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Rick Maguire (of Pile), All Feels*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

Antenna Cloud Farm, Gill: *Anju*. \$ 3 p.m.
Daily Op, Easthampton: *Os Mutantes*. \$ 7 p.m.



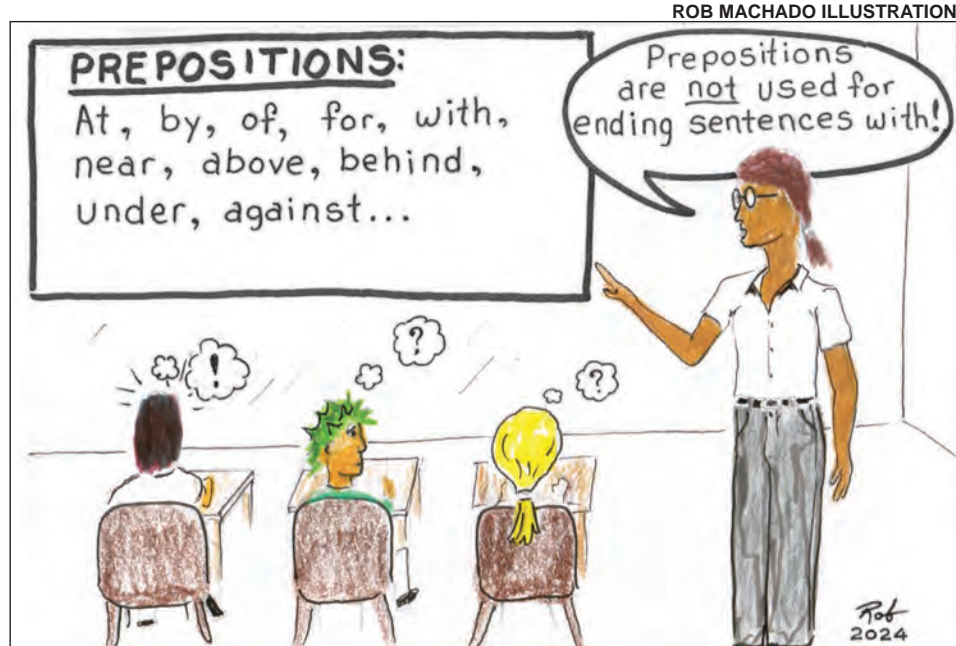
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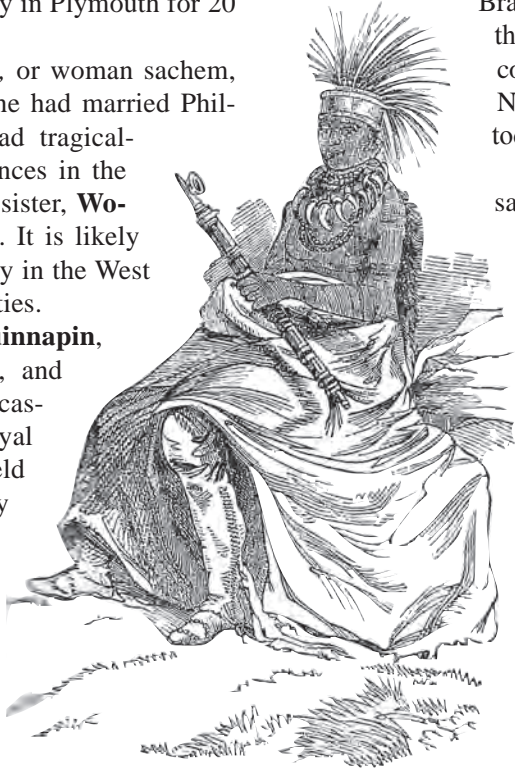
WEST ALONG from page B1

other sachems as will be noted below.

After the massacre at Peskeompskut, Metacom was tracked to his homelands at Montaup/Mount Hope, Rhode Island where he was captured and killed in August of 1676. His body was mutilated and quartered, and his head put on public display in Plymouth for 20 years after his death.

Weetamoo was the *sunksqua*, or woman sachem, of the Pocasset Wampanoag. She had married Philip's brother Wamsetta, who had tragically died in mysterious circumstances in the years before 1675. Her younger sister, Wotanekanuske, was Philip's wife. It is likely that she ended her days in slavery in the West Indies, exiled by English authorities.

Weetamoo later married Quinnapin, who was cousin to Canonchet, and thus their marriage allied the Pocasset queen to the Narragansett royal family. She and her husband held Mary Rowlandson in captivity during the winter of 1676 after the attack on Lancaster in 1675, and took her with them as a prisoner of war to Sowakik, now known as Northfield. Rowlandson wrote extensively of her contentious relationship with Weetamoo in her journal about her captivity. Like many others involved in Philip's Rebellion, Weetamoo died at the hands of the English in August 1676.



A 'portrait' of Canonchet, hereditary chief of the Narragansett, by W. Croom in the 1851 Pictorial History of King Philip's War.

fields. They were both present at the siege of Northfield/Sowakik, Lancaster, and Medfield.

Muttawmp (or Muttawaump), the Quabog Nipmuck leader, is considered the finest Indian military commander of the war. He led the natives' most smashing victories of the war at New Braintree – "Wheeler's Surprise" – the attack upon Brookfield, and commanded close to a thousand Native forces at Bloody Brook, in today's South Deerfield.

Wecopeak was a Narragansett sachem who was at the battle of Peskeompskut, and who was present when Turner was shot at the Pocomegon (now Green River) ford near the modern-day Green River Swimming Area. Wecopeak later testified at his trial in Newport, Rhode Island that he saw Turner receive his fatal wound, and knew it was him because Turner told Wecopeak that was his name.

Awashonks was a *sunksqua* of the Sakonnet Wampanoag. She held stewardship over lands that were adjacent to those claimed by Benjamin Church. She had had amiable relations with Church, who later had a role in hunting down Philip and also played a role in the death of his old friend Awashonks.

These are the names of but a few, recorded in the back pages and footnotes of some history books, but mainly overlooked. Many of us will continue to remember them as those who fought for their country, their freedom, their independence against a foreign intruder.

History was not on their side, and their cause was futile, but perhaps even more noble because of its futility. But there are indications that the tide of history may be changing once again. In this modern-day world so badly out of balance, many of us are turning to these Indigenous voices for their wisdom and guidance.

Let us remember those who have fallen so long ago, and listen to their descendants, who can help us get back to living in balance and harmony with the natural world before it's too late.

An annual Day of Remembrance will be held this Saturday, May 18 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center, in the place now known as Turners Falls.



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