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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 30, 2024

WATER WORLD



JAE SOUTHERLAND PHOTO

The view from our office as a torrential downpour flooded Avenue A on Monday. Speaking of water... check out Page A2 for local towns' public comments on FirstLight Power's relicensing application for its local hydro operations.

After Testing Fish for PFAS, State Boosts River Warnings

By SARAH ROBERTSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – The health advisory warning against eating fish caught in the Connecticut River has been expanded, as investigations into a new class of chemicals reveal potentially harmful levels of contamination in the animals' flesh.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has announced it will issue new fish consumption advisories for 45 locations where it says the public should limit or avoid eating fish due to high levels of polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination. The introduction of PFAS to the warning system has left existing advisories on

the Millers River unchanged.

"It's one more reason to practice catch-and-release," Eric Halloran, president of the Deerfield River chapter of Trout Unlimited, told the Reporter. "You don't want to accumulate those chemicals in your body, as much as you can avoid it."

Nobody should consume American eel, channel catfish, white catfish, or yellow perch from the Connecticut River, according to the DPH – advice that has remained constant for several decades – and the officials warn that "sensitive groups" should never eat any fish caught in New England's largest river. In a new development, the population at large is now advised

see **FISH** page A7

ANALYSIS

Are Boards Required to Post Agendas On Websites?

By JEFF SINGLETON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Buried amid the "March Madness" college basketball tournaments, Saint Patrick's Day, and the onset of Daylight Saving Time, this newspaper missed "Sunshine Week," an annual celebration of sorts being promoted by the state office of the comptroller.

The comptroller is an independent agency, run by a director appointed by the governor, that oversees state financial transactions; Sunshine Week, according to its website, "emphasizes the importance of open government and offers an opportunity to highlight the work of organizations that work in the transparency and accountability space." The celebration was launched in 2015 by the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

So, in a somewhat belated recognition of this worthy cause, the Reporter has decided to dust off a much-delayed project floating around in our files: a bit of research on how towns in our coverage area post meetings of public committees and boards.

There are two mechanisms, according to the Massachusetts attorney general (AG)'s official guide to the state open meeting law, for informing citizens about meetings of public bodies and their agendas – a

see **NOTICES** page A5

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Turners Falls, Greenfield Clinch Western Divisions



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Basking in the glow: Pitcher Madi Liimatainen (left) and catcher Holly Myers celebrate Turners' 5-0 victory over Hopkins Academy last Friday in the Western Mass Class D semifinal game at Gary Mullins Field.

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – The Western Mass PVIAC high school sports tournaments concluded this week, and the statewide MIAA tournaments commenced. In each contest played this week by teams from Turners Falls schools, it seemed that one play determined the outcome of the game.

In baseball, a tag out at home plate kept Turners Falls High School from tying Pioneer Valley in the semifinals. The Turners Falls hybrid boys' tennis team, meanwhile, lost a close semifinal match against the visiting Mashpee Falcons.

In softball, Franklin Tech's first batter in the Class C semifinal was hit by a pitch, used exceptional base-running to round the bases, and then hit a grand slam, giving Franklin an 11-point edge after just one inning. In the championship

game, however, Tech surrendered three runs after an inning-ending throw pulled the first basewoman off the bag.

And Turners Falls, playing in Class D, found that one inning in each game gave them all the runs they needed to coast to yet another Western Mass crown.

Baseball

Pioneer 5 – TFHS 0

Last Thursday, May 23, the Turners Falls Baseball Thunder was blanked by the Pioneer Black Panthers in the PVIAC Class D semifinal round. I listened to this game on Bear Country Radio after the Tech-Drury softball game.

A pretty significant momentum shift in the fourth inning seemed to deflate the Thunder's spirit. It was a tight 1-0 duel, and Blue had the chance to tie it up with a runner at third base. The ball was hit fair, but

see **SPORTS** page A6

Old Nook Becomes 'Great Halls'



JACKSON PHOTO

Elliot Hartmann Russell (left) and Jay Majerowski have signed a one-year lease on downtown's littlest storefront space and plan to open a vintage clothing shop in it next month.

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – "Honestly, I love the size," Jay Majerowski says, peering into the unfinished little nook between Connecticut River Liquors and the Black Cow Burger. "The amount of stuff that you can fit in there will be what's in a lot of vintage shops, just not as... spread out."

It's a hot spring Saturday, and Majerowski and his business partner Elliot Hartmann Russell are painting the interior of 125 Avenue A white. They signed paperwork for a 12-month lease last week, and hope to reopen the tiny storefront – recently vacant, known for years before that as Nina's Nook – in June.

"This is our ideal store location," adds Hartmann Russell. "We looked into a bunch of others, we poked around a bunch – nobody wanted to rent to us."

The new vintage store's name? "Great Halls." It works on a number of levels. Majerowski grins proudly. "My first job was in a thrift store, 20 years ago – Savers in Springfield," he says. "That's how I kind of got into all of this. I ran that shop, did everything in that building. That's where I started gaining my knowledge of all things vintage."

A Chicopee native, Majerowski first moved to Turners Falls in 2016, then moved back south to support a family member; he moved to Leverett at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and then bought a house on K Street in 2021.

"I love Turners," he beams. "A lot of local businesses have offered their support – Loot said that they would hook us up with fixtures and stuff."

The pair's plan for the former Nook, which artmonger (and Montague Reporter distribution chief)

see **HALLS** page A5

Greenfield Cinemas Hosts Money Game Local Debut

By MIKE JACKSON

GREENFIELD – When I last interviewed Julian Lowenthal he was in charge of a small army, making his dreams come true. The Amherst native, Turners Falls resident, and Montague Community Television veteran, with investors in his pocket and the loyal support of friends throughout the New England film industry, was enjoying a

degree of home-field advantage as he directed his first feature-length film right here in Franklin County.

Though an April 14, 2022 article in these pages said that the project, *Money Game*, was "slated for spring 2023," it only hit the festival circuit this spring. Lowenthal, who also co-wrote the script and has shepherded the movie through to completion, has arranged for a

see **DEBUT** page A8

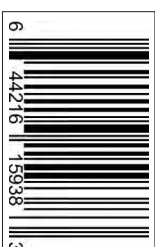


JACKSON PHOTO

Money Game director and co-writer Julian Lowenthal stopped by our office to discuss the upcoming local run of his feature-length film.

Terrible News

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Towns State Concerns

On Wednesday the state Department of Environmental Protection held two hearings to kick off its review of the Northfield Mountain and Turners Falls hydro projects on the Connecticut River. MassDEP must issue owner FirstLight Power

a "Water Quality Certification" before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will renew its licenses to use the river in this way.

Here are the comments given by representatives of the towns of Gill, Montague, and Northfield.

Comment by Ray Purington On Behalf of the Town of Gill

Good afternoon. My name is Ray Purington, and I am the town administrator for the Town of Gill. I am speaking today on behalf of the Gill board of selectmen, our historical commission, and our conservation commission.

Gill is a small town of approximately 1,550 residents and 14 square miles of land area. There are 10.3 miles of Connecticut River frontage in Gill, comprising the entire eastern and southern boundaries of our town. A healthy river is of vital importance to our community, and to the region as a whole.

With regards to the 401 Water Quality Certification, the primary concern that needs to be addressed is erosion and siltation. During the 50 years these two projects have operated under the current FERC licenses, landowners have watched in dismay as foot after foot of shoreline – up to 30 feet or more in some locations, including protected farmland – has eroded and washed away downriver.

Some of the eroded soils eventually settle out in the various inlets and coves, especially the 160-acre Barton Cove, located just above the Turners Falls Dam. The resulting siltation impairs the recreational use of the river for boating and fishing, and makes it easier for aquatic invasive species to take hold.

The erosion mitigation efforts required of FirstLight by the current FERC licenses have largely been unsuccessful. Furthermore, a 2009 riverbank stabilization project known as "Bank Stabilization Phase III" which is MassDEP file 62-68, still has not received a certificate of compliance from the Gill conservation commission. FirstLight has been made aware of this deficiency multiple times, over many years, and has yet to respond or take action.

The operations that are proposed for the new license will not resolve the erosion problems they cause. FirstLight has not proposed adequate protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures to address the impairments, improve water quality, and sustain healthy aquatic habitats.

The Town of Gill strongly urges MassDEP to include conditions in its Water Quality Certification that will reduce river level fluctuations due to project operations, require an annual full-river reconnaissance to monitor erosion and riverbank stability, require FirstLight to maintain and repair all riverbank restoration projects started and/or completed under the current licenses, and hold FirstLight responsible for minimizing and mitigating soil erosion and siltation resulting from project operations.

Thank you for your time today.



There are annuals on the Avenue, thanks to Linda Hickman (center) and Dawn Marvin Ward (right), who have been planting and maintaining two planters on Avenue A in Turners Falls since the early 2000s. Rist Insurance and Avenue A Dental fund the flowers, and Kyle Porter (left) also chips in to help with the planting and spring cleanup.

Comment by Steve Ellis On Behalf of the Town of Montague

Thank you very much for your time today. My name is Steve Ellis. I'm the town administrator and appointed official of the Town of Montague. I offer these comments on behalf of my office, as well as that of the selectboard of the Town of Montague, who serve as chief executive officers. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I would like to begin by offering a strong statement of support for the comments, and the requests, that were just expressed by town administrator Ray Purington...

Montague is a town of approximately 8,600 people. And in so many ways this community – its entire existence, economic traditional, cultural – has been defined by the Connecticut River, which flows right through our downtown.

We have previously signed certain agreements, recreational settlement agreements specifically, which although we were not party to the Flow and Fish Passage settlement agreement requires that we not oppose any of the terms of that settlement agreement, so I'm going to keep my comments focused prin-

cipally upon erosion and historic properties management today.

The Turners Falls impoundment, specifically, is of concern. It has, in some conversations that I have had in the past with state officials and others, been described in some sense as a "sacrifice zone" for the rest of the projects.

We understand and appreciate that there are more pristine riverine environments to the north and to the south of this area, but we view this as having equal standing – from the standpoint of being protected land, and protected water – for the purposes of the Water Quality Assessment, and we hope that you will view it in the same manner.

We have specific concerns related to the operational levels that have been described, in the [application] of FirstLight, with allowing an operating elevation range for the impoundment as low as 176 feet [and] up to 185 feet, which I understand to be pretty much the elevation that is approaching the height of the gates of the dam.

We also understand that 176 feet would be an extraordinarily low

water level to maintain in that area, and that it would cause significant, potentially irreparable, harm, particularly if it were maintained at that low level, for all aquatic life and for water quality in the impoundment area. This is a living, breathing, and important part of our ecological landscape in the community, and is of great, great concern to all of us.

We would recommend at minimum that the process determine that we should have a narrower acceptable operating range, perhaps with a minimum level of 179 feet. We understand that this is the level within which this project has operated under almost all normal circumstances over the course of the last license period, and we have understood from previous conversations that it would not be the utility's intention to operate in the vicinity of 176 feet – if that is an emergency requirement, let it stand as such, and please define an emergency requirement that would allow such low levels.

In addition to its direct impact on whatever life may exist and water quality may exist, we also see real concerns, quite frankly, relative to the erosion issue, not having any controls for how frequently we may see lower and higher levels...

The Town is also concerned that a robust traditional cultural property study has not been completed, and we believe the Historic Properties Management Plan should be allowed an extended period for consideration, with redacted copies made available to protect sensitive resource areas while also allowing public consideration. This is also amplified by statements that our historical commission is on record as stating.

With all of that, I want to thank you for your consideration. I do hope that you will choose to have your in-person public hearing occur in downtown Turners Falls, which will be very highly accessible.

And I thank you for your time.

Comment by Bee Jacques On Behalf of the Town of Northfield

My name is Bee Jacques. I'm on the selectboard for the town of Northfield, and I've been authorized by the town of Northfield to speak on behalf of the citizens.

For those who are unfamiliar with where Northfield is... we are right near the border with Vermont and New Hampshire, and I can't even think of another town that is literally split by the river. East and West Northfield exist on either side of the river.

What's unfortunate, despite our relationship with the river, is that we have little agency over the river. And so we wanted to raise concerns, and make sure that it's stated that we work very closely with our neighbors Gill and Montague, as well as the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, and we support their comments that will be offered during this period as well as those that

were offered during the FERC [comment] period.

In 2019 the townspeople voted unanimously at town meeting to express concerns to FERC... around erosion, and the loss of property and land along the river. Even though I live on Main Street, I'm maybe a few feet from the river – I can't see the river, I can't really commune with the river unless I go to the very south of Northfield or the very north of Northfield, which are controlled. The south access is via the FirstLight Riverview [Park], and the north is via the DCR and MassWildlife boat ramp.

But the river is really important to Northfield, as well as to the other towns, because of the recreational and tourism opportunities, and also historic and cultural properties... [L]ike many people in small towns, I wear two hats; the other hat is the chair of the historical commission. We are also

not only concerned about erosion, but the effects on historic and cultural properties, and making sure those are all taken into account...

In closing, I just want to say that we care very deeply about erosion and water quality, as well as invasive species, and we will be paying close attention to this process as we are the FERC process... One of my responsibilities as a selectboard member over the last four years – welcome to municipal government! – has been to participate in the FERC-FirstLight [settlement] process, and what I've learned deeply and care deeply about is the fact that we have a great region, and lots of people who care and work well together.

So we'll be following this process closely with our colleagues in Gill and Montague, and the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

Thank you so much. I really appreciate it.

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by NINA ROSSI

The Wendell Meetinghouse will host a group of renowned **reggae DJs** between 4 and 10 p.m. this Saturday. The event is presented by ZG Low Key Events and features DJs Green Lion Crew, Bud E. Green, I Ganic Sound System, and SattaSound. The alcohol-free event is open to all ages and free, with donations welcome. Minors must come with an adult.

For more information, contact zglowkeyevents@gmail.com.

David James will moderate a **roundtable discussion on "Living the Good Life"** this Sunday, June 2 from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Thompson Temple of The National Spiritual Alliance in Lake Pleasant.

James writes that the topic is "Sixteen Words and Phrases to keep body, mind, heart and soul productive and pleasant company as like-minded practitioners walk and 'mantra-cize' along a proverbial path to 'Living the Good Life.'" The Temple is at 2 Montague Avenue in Lake Pleasant.

Come to Unity Park this Sunday, June 2 to contemplate gravity as soapbox derby cars whizz down the First Street hill. The **Montague Soap Box Races**, a free event that the whole family can enjoy, starts at noon. Speeds can reach up to 38 mph during this short run near the river.

Food trucks will be on site, and there will be prizes for the winners of three age division categories. This event raises money for the Montague Parks and Recreation summer camp. For more information, visit montaguesoapboxraces.com.

After the derby another Turners Falls event may be of interest.

Extension Cords, a free **electronic music festival**, will run from 3 to 9 p.m. at Peskeompskut Park. The announcement says the music will be "psychedelic, ethereal, textural, ecstatic, experimental," and emanate from Neonach, Marasca, Dave Thomas and The Frosty Five, ICI-CI, Girshwin, Small Choice, and Sagan & Sigourney. Bring chairs or blankets to sit on.

Next Tuesday, June 4 at 4 p.m. under the big tent on the lawn of the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls, the public is invited to have **Fun with Creative Writing** with local author Susan Blauner. This free program is designed for adults, and no writing experience is necessary.

Book donations are being taken from now until June 4 for the Friends of the Greenfield Public Library's used book sale next Saturday, June 8. To make an appointment for your donations of gently used books, go to calendly.com/fgplbooksale/book-donations.

Donations will be limited to no more than two boxes per donor, and no more than one box per subject. For more information, call or text (413) 824-0468 or email fgplbooksalecommittee@gmail.com. The June 8 sale runs from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and purchases are by cash or check only.

Mary Clare Powell will give a poetry reading at the LAVA Center in Greenfield next Friday, June 7 at 6 p.m. She will read from her latest book, *Weeding*, a collection of poems about weeds illustrated by photographs, drawings, and voices of other poets and writers about the value of paying attention to weeds.

"Weeds have taught me to take root where I land," says Powell, "and to proliferate there, to welcome whatever comes, to receive what is given, to be exactly the weed I am."

Fellow poet Janet MacFadyen writes that the book is "Funny, delightful, and spiritual. I can't think of anything else out there remotely like it." And Easthampton poet laureate Carolyn Cushing says that Powell "has given us a beautiful book to guide our own noticing and increase the flow of love in this perfectly imperfect world."

The reading is free and open to the public, and will be followed by a reception and book signing.

The Leverett Village Co-Op has a **full lineup of music** for its Friday pizza nights, starting next Friday, June 7 with the band French Press. All performances start at 6 p.m. and folks are advised to order pizza ahead of time by calling (413) 367-9794.

A full summer schedule of Friday evening music is on the Co-Op's Facebook page – it continues with Little House Blues on June 14, Stephen Merriman on June 21, and an open mic on June 28.

Montague Villages is an organization that will link volunteers with people older than 60 who live in Montague and need help with small tasks or transportation. The type of services offered will depend upon the skills and interests of volunteers.

For those who want to learn more about the organization, information sessions will be held on the second Saturday of every month at the Gill-Montague senior center in Turners Falls. Members of Montague Villages's board of directors will be available to answer questions, and applications will be on hand for people interested in volunteering or membership. Light refreshments will be served.

The meetings will be on June 8, July 13, August 10, and September 14 at 10 a.m. Montague Villages, montaguevillages.org, is part of the national Neighbors Helping Neighbors network.

The Art Naturally Series at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls continues with **Solar Prints from the Garden** on Saturday, June 8, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Use the power of UV light from the sun or a lamp to create beautiful garden-inspired prints on paper and cloth. The workshop is geared for adults, teens, and children ages six and up, accompanied by an adult. All art materials are provided. Meet in the Great Hall, rain or shine.

Montague Center will host the seventh annual **Good Music Makes Good Neighbors Festival** on Saturday, June 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at venues and homes near the town common and Common Hall. There will be 16 performances with a mix of musical genres to choose from, and several opportunities to participate in contra, Irish, and swing dances.

The Mohawk Falafel and Sharma food truck will be there, and picnicking is encouraged. A suggested donation of \$15 to \$20 supports the performers. View the full schedule at montaguemusic.org.

The next **Montague Common Hall Open Mic**, also on Saturday, June 8, features On the Lam and an

evening of open mic performances.

On the Lam brings "sweet harmonies and harmony-heavy Americana, laced with nostalgic melancholy" in a set that features Lisa Pack Kirchenbaum on vocals and lead guitar, Mark Gamble on vocals, mandolin, and guitar, Asaph Murfin on pedal steel, dobro, and harmonica, and Dean Zimmerman on upright bass. Their covers range from Richard Thompson and Sarah Jarosz to the Allman Brothers and more.

The event is free, with donations encouraged, and runs from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Open mic musicians and other performers should sign in at 6:15 p.m.

Explore how people have co-evolved with plants during a **guided plant walk** in Turners Falls with herbalist Laura Torracco, owner of Sage Green Botanicals on Avenue A, next Sunday, June 9 from 2 to 4 p.m. Discover plant identification tips, medicinal and material uses of local plants, and learn the histories of plants that live in this area.

The walk is for ages 12 and up; bring some water and wear sturdy shoes and meet up with the group at the main entrance of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

A series of in-person workshops will be held in June and July at the Erving Senior Center titled "A Matter of Balance: **Managing Concerns About Falls**." Participants can learn practical strategies to reduce the fear of falling and explore the medical, behavioral, and environmental risk factors for falls, including the importance of developing an exercise plan.

The workshops will take place on Mondays, June 10 through July 29, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Did you love the play *Love Letters* by A.R. Gurney that was performed in February as a benefit for the Montague Libraries? *Love Letters: A Sequel* will be presented on Thursday, June 13 at 7 p.m. at the Montague Common Hall.

Turi MacCombie and David Neelon, local lovebirds and playwrights, have imagined an alternative ending to this much-loved play, and Marina Goldman and John Bechtold, who presented the original back in February, will give an introduction. Tickets are \$10 at the door, with proceeds to benefit the Friends of the Montague Libraries and the Common Hall.

Mike Reddig, fundraising chair of the Franklin County Pickleball Group, reports that the second annual **Pickleball Food Drive Festival** held last Saturday at the TFHS tennis courts raised \$2,455 for the Food Bank of Western Mass and Stone Soup Café. There were 82 participants, and the weather was gorgeous. Food collected for the Café's free store totalled 556 pounds, which is up from 350 pounds last year.

If you are bewildered by all the Medicare choices and would like someone to guide you through all these decisions, you can speak with a **Benefit Support Specialist** at LifePath. They can also help with applying for MassHealth, the Medicare Savings Program, SNAP, and fuel assistance. For more information, call (413) 773-5555 and ask to speak with a resource consultant.

Send your local briefs to editor@montagureporter.org.

Good Music Makes Good Neighbors

7th annual!

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Memorial Hall Theater

POTHOLE PICTURES

May 31 & June 1 at 7:30 p.m.

LATE SPRING

Japanese director Yasujiro Ozu's 1949 classic about contending with life transitions amid the clash of traditional values with modernity.

Music at 7 p.m.: Friday, Pony; polk-funk; Saturday, Ashley Kramer, acoustic Americana

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RECYCLE

PAPER
Week of June 3
in Montague



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AT LARGE **Barns, Business, and the 'Cha's Majal'**

By **CHIP AINSWORTH**

NORTHFIELD – The grand opening of the new Cha's, which is across the street from the old Cha's on Route 10 in Winchester, was delayed first because a gadget hadn't arrived for the backup septic system, and the transformer to turn on the juice wasn't delivered on schedule.

Once it's a go, vendors will stock the shelves and load the refrigerators, and while Wawa has the market cornered on boiled peanuts, everything else you'll be able to buy at Cha's, which various local pundits are calling "Cha's II," "Cha-Cha," "Super Cha's," and the "Cha's Majal."

Only two-tenths of a mile over the New Hampshire state line, Cha's has been the go-to place for cheap beer and cigarettes since the days when beer was banned on Sundays in Massachusetts. Granite State politicians have upped the tobacco tax to where the average cost is \$6.79 for a pack of smokes, dropping it to 25th-lowest in the US according to Data Panda.

Bay Staters still come because Massachusetts has the fifth-highest cost at \$9.75 per pack. The lowest prices are in Missouri (\$5.21), Georgia (\$5.35) and North Carolina (\$5.36). Costs vary by brand. A pack of Camel unfiltered costs \$13.50 at Cha's, but \$18.35 at the Pride station on Riverdale Road in West Springfield.

Meanwhile, according to *America Delivered*, the average cost for a case of beer in New Hampshire this year is \$18.54 (13th-lowest) and \$19.62 in Massachusetts, which is tied for 24th-lowest. In Illinois a case of suds averages \$16.43, less than half what it costs in Alaska (\$33.62). Vermont has the fourth-highest cost, at \$23.25 – Bernie must be a wine drinker.

New Hampshire Governor John Sununu will reportedly be at the grand opening, now set for sometime before the 4th of July.

It will mark the end of a two-year quest by Marshall Royce to expand his business. His site plan application was submitted to the Winchester planning board on April 4, 2022. According to the meeting minutes, the proposed gas station and convenience store "would be like Cumberland Farms except larger and nicer."

That was an understatement. The travel plaza is said to be the largest of its kind in the state, and possibly in New England. It will have five fuel islands with ten gas pumps, two diesel islands, and four charging stations. "Traffic is expected to increase by 271 vehicles coming from MA, and 51 coming from Winchester," according to the application.

According to MassDOT, 8,000 vehicles pass through Northfield every day, mostly between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., so this would mean a 3.4% bump over an already busy



The D.L. Moody Center thought these old barns on Winchester Road would be a nice place for a business park or shopping center, but nobody bothered asking Thomas Aquinas College what they thought about the idea.

thoroughfare.

The Winchester board gave it the okay to be open from 4 a.m. to 11 p.m., with gas pumps working 24 hours a day. Meals will be served in the store and to-go. Gas prices will be set by Royce, because he owns the pumps, not Mobil. Many stations lease their pumps.

Some think Cha's expansion will be bad for Mim's and the IGA, but others say it won't matter. "It's a concern," said Northfield's grant development director Leslie Roberts.

One thing's for certain, Royce's marketing guns will be aimed at bigger targets than Northfield. Indeed, Hinsdale Race Track lasted more than a half-century by drawing from the greater Springfield market. Owner Joe Sullivan's downfall was the advent of Connecticut casinos, something Royce won't have to worry about.

Business Is Blooming

Whenever the town needs a success story it points to the Northfield Creamie, which gets ink from every travel mag but *National Geographic*. Maybe the next issue will feature a sherpa licking a cone next to Mim's Market.

There are naysayers, however, who overlook the town's other assets, like its successful bed & breakfast, auto body shop, bank, repair shop, and winery. It has one of the most bucolic nine-hole golf courses in New England, a hardware store, and a funeral home, and it supports two local convenience stores that feature home-baked goods at the IGA and Mims Market.

Arguably the most successful

business is Rock Ridge Farm at the intersection of Routes 10 and 63. Dave and Diane Kalinowski bought the property 22 years ago and restored the house, built three greenhouses, and started planting.

Meanwhile Leslie Roberts has applied for grant money from MassDevelopment – via the Underused Properties Program – that would help Jody James re-open the Chatterbox Restaurant, which closed under different ownership during the COVID crisis.

Nearby, Unique Floral Design will celebrate its second anniversary on Saturday. The store sells floral arrangements that were featured on *marthastewartweddings.com* and has handcrafted items by local artisans on consignment. "I love being available to my community," owner Adria Paulson said in an email. "It's emotionally fulfilling work and I've met the best, loyal customers."

But, she added, it's not an easy market: "I'm a sole proprietor and Northfield's a tough sell for business starts. Once they know you they want to support you, but retail isn't what I'd hoped. I'm using the space more to complete weddings and other events that provide the bulk of my income."

Seeking ways to drum up business, the town informed Northfield's Economic Development Committee (EDC) that it had awarded a \$30,000 grant to Westmass Area Development Corporation of Springfield and tasked it with devising a solid business plan.

WADC planner Sean O'Donnell is in charge of the effort. He lives in Palmer and has made four trips to

Northfield. Someone used his unfamiliarity with the town's history to suggest "the barns" on Winchester Road next to Thomas Aquinas College (TAC) would be a nice location for a business park or shopping center. "We've been speaking with the Moody Center, and it came up as an underutilized property," he said.

When NMH owned the campus, the barns were used to store maintenance equipment. Now they're owned by the Moody Center, neglected and surrounded by crumbling pavement and sumac shrubs.

O'Donnell was buttonholed by Christian Arnold, who is quoted on the Moody Center's website in 2018 saying that he had a vision from God to form a Northfield Development Plan.

Arnold's still trying to break ground anywhere the Moody Center owns property, but his dalliance with O'Donnell likely ended when TAC administrators said they were "barking up the wrong tree" if they expected business from the college. "Better to focus on downtown and Main Street," O'Donnell was told.

That didn't bother O'Donnell, who said in a telephone interview, "We see more opportunity around agritourism and to build upon Northfield's bucolic, rural character. We're just trying to bring an outside perspective."

O'Donnell said the final report, together with a proposed "action path," would be released to the EDC in October.

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

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NOTICES from page A1

posting “in, on, or near the municipal building in which the [town] clerk’s office is located,” or a posting on the municipal website.

These meeting agendas must be “conspicuously visible to the public at all hours,” and be posted 48 hours in advance, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays. The means agendas for Monday meetings must be posted on Thursdays.

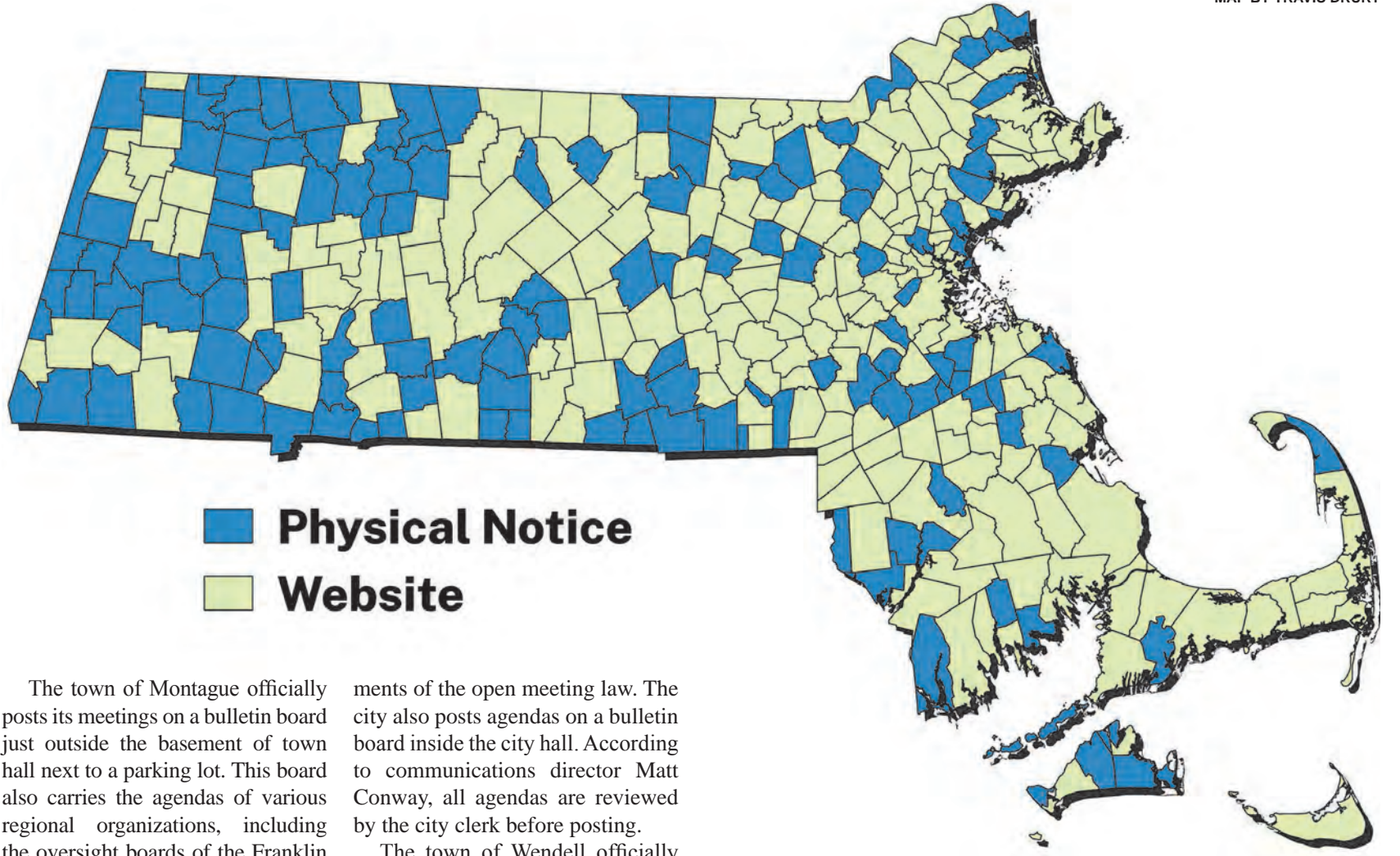
Use of the website as the main posting mechanism, according to the guide, must be approved by the town’s “chief executive officer,” which in most towns is its selectboard but in cities, such as Greenfield, would be the mayor. The AG’s Division of Open Government must be informed by the town or city clerk of the local posting choice.

If a town does choose to count a website as its official posting location, the law requires that “[a] description of the website, including directions on how to locate notices on the website, must also be posted on or adjacent to the main and handicapped accessible entrances to the building where the clerk’s office is located.”

A list of all municipalities in Massachusetts, their official posting locations, and in many cases the date on which their location was last updated appears on the AG’s website. The *Reporter’s* in-house cartographer, Travis Drury, has used the data to create a map of the state (above right) showing posting locations for all cities and towns.

Municipalities vary in their posting methods, with cities and larger towns generally having converted to online posting. Western Massachusetts shows clusters of small towns, including most of Franklin County, that retain the traditional “physical notice” method at the buildings that house the local clerk.

All five towns in our primary coverage area – Montague, Gill, Erving, Wendell, and Leverett – are listed by the AG as using the traditional bulletin-board approach, though each also attempts to post the same agendas to its website. The only municipalities in Franklin County that consider their websites the official posting locations are Orange, Whately, Hatfield, and Greenfield, the county’s only city.



Physical Notice
Website

The town of Montague officially posts its meetings on a bulletin board just outside the basement of town hall next to a parking lot. This board also carries the agendas of various regional organizations, including the oversight boards of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District and Franklin Regional Transit Authority. Town clerk Kathern “Beanie” Pierce told us she does not solicit agendas from these regional boards, but “if they send them to me, I definitely post them.”

Montague also makes agendas for board and committee meetings available on its town website, www.montague.net, most easily accessible through a monthly calendar. The selectboard’s generally weekly meetings are posted with a basic agenda, as well as a longer version with supporting “meeting materials” – which can total over 50 pages – and sometimes other documents, such as minutes from previous meetings.

Other online committee postings vary greatly in the amount of information and supporting documentation provided to the public.

Greenfield chose to officially post its meetings on its website, www.greenfield-ma.gov, in 2013, according to the AG’s list. We reviewed a sample of the postings, which include not only the city council but its various subcommittees, and they appeared to conform to the require-

ments of the open meeting law. The city also posts agendas on a bulletin board inside the city hall. According to communications director Matt Conway, all agendas are reviewed by the city clerk before posting.

The town of Wendell officially posts its public meetings on a bulletin board outside the town office building on Morse Road, but posts the agendas to its website, www.wendellmass.us, as a “courtesy,” in the words of town coordinator Glenn Johnson-Mussad.

The town attempts to make all postings conform to the open meeting law but sometimes this is a challenge in a small town with limited staff. Town clerk Anna Wetherby, who must review every document prior to posting, only keeps hours on Saturdays, which creates a challenge in meeting the 48-hour posting requirement for Monday and Tuesday meetings.

“In general people post on the same timeline, but I have no way of monitoring that,” Johnson-Mussad told the *Reporter*. “At some point we may move to [official] online postings. We’re in the process of evaluating that.”

Similarly, the official posting location in Erving is in front of the town hall on Route 2. In addition, the Erving website at www.erving-ma.gov shows agenda postings from town boards, including the

selectboard, and supporting documents for agenda items.

Some of Erving’s agendas appear to have been posted online fewer than 48 weekday hours before the meetings, but that deadline is not required, as the website is not the official posting site. “We try to post at both locations at the same time, but it does not always happen,” assistant town clerk Betsy Sicard told us.

Leverett makes its meeting agendas available in a binder stored in a box behind town hall. Town clerk Lisa Stratford told us this satisfied the AG’s open meeting law guidelines.

Stratford also said that Leverett’s practice of publishing meeting agendas on its website, www.leverett.ma.us, has caused some “confusion” for local boards with limited staff capacity, as well as among the general public, about the town’s official posting policy. She indicated that a discussion among town officials of posting locations would probably continue.

Small-town confusion about posting policy was also evident in

Gill, which appears on the AG’s list as requiring “physical notice” of meeting agendas, when in fact town officials told us that Gill’s primary posting location is the town website, www.gillmass.org. Signage at the town hall directs residents to that website for meeting agendas.

Town administrator Ray Purington told us the town has been posting meetings online for about a decade, but he had not been able to find documentation for that decision, or whether the AG was informed. Perhaps, he said, there had been poor communication with the state, or maybe state regulations had changed since Gill made its decisions.

“It wouldn’t be a full day at town hall if I didn’t have to climb down some rabbit hole,” he said, adding that the matter would require more investigation, and perhaps a call to the AG’s office.

Purington also wondered why the *Reporter* had not published this article in March during “Sunshine Week.”

Well, there was a lot going on.



Hartmann Russell (left) and Majerowski survey the storefront’s rear courtyard, which has grown weedy.

HALLS from page A1

Nina Rossi transformed from a recyclables shed into an art gallery and store, involves more compact than normal storage of garments. Rossi’s trademark plywood slug, a little worse for the wear, will stay.

“She said we could have the slug,” Majerowski explains. “We’re going to touch it up.”

Hartmann Russell, a Northampton native who moved to Turners Falls 2018 and owns a residential building on Fifth Street, is also not a newbie in the rag trade.

“I ran a vintage clothes store in Northampton for the last year,” he says. “It didn’t really have a name – sometimes it was called 90 King Street. It was mostly clothes, and Jay was a major consigner.”

“Number-one consigner,” Majerowski chimes in supportively.

“When that was not working out, we started thinking about what we could we do better,” Hartmann Russell continues. “And that’s how we started looking for spaces, and ended up here.”

“I do sell other things, but I’m going to start off with clothes,” Majerowski clarifies. “I want to have some antiques, rugs, that kind of thing maybe folded in somehow. But right now, I think we’re just gonna focus primarily on the clothing... I do estate sales, tag sales, thrift stores – I don’t do too many

auctions of cleanouts, I don’t mess with that level, I’m not into huge big buys. I find that finding it item by item is more my style – I look for more personal, individual items.”

Majerowski describes himself as “more knowledgeable in men’s clothing,” but adds that “there will be a large selection of women’s clothes, especially for the grand opening.” (As of press time, no date had been set.)

“Maybe we shouldn’t genderize clothes,” Hartmann Russell muses open-endedly. “Women can wear men’s clothes, and men can wear women’s clothes.”

“A lot of the vintage stuff is kind of unisex,” Majerowski offers.

The two point to where a bar will go, where racks will go, and how customers will be able to still fit through the space despite the presence of merchandise. The rear courtyard that comes with the storefront inspires the idea of vintage patio decor – “gnomes, whatever” – and the two marvel that there is no water damage visible in the interior space. They are looking forward to having the electricity turned back on.

A constant stream of passers-by stop to congratulate the entrepreneurs on their choice of location, making the painting work slow. On the street there is a general feeling of relief that Turners is still just a little weird.



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SPORTS from page A1

instead of allowing a sacrifice RBI, the throw came to home. The runner was tagged out, and Pioneer retained their slim lead.

The Black Cats went on to score four more runs in the ensuing innings, eliminating the Thunder from the Western Mass tournament.

The team plays on, however. They will challenge the Ware Indians, on a date yet to be set, in the first round of the MIAA playoffs.

Boys' Tennis

Mashpee 3 – TFHS 2

Not only did the Turners boys make the tennis playoffs this year, but they also hosted the first match in the Division IV MIAA tournament Wednesday night against the Mashpee Falcons.

Mike Boyle won in first singles 6-3, 6-3 and Noah Kolodziej won in second singles 6-3, 7-5. John Carmichael dropped his match in third singles, 6-3, 6-0 while Vaughn La-Valley and Mario Pareja (6-1, 6-1) and Lucas Black and Khalifa Seck (6-1, 6-1) lost in first and second doubles respectively.

Softball

FCTS 20 – Drury 2

The Drury Devils came to Tech last Thursday for the Class C semis and found themselves shellacked by the Softball Eagles.

This game was decided in the first inning. Leadoff batter Kaitlin Trudeau was hit by a pitch, taking her base after taking one for the team. Lillian Ross, Hannah Gilbert, and Kylee Gamache then all placed base hits. Each time the Devils went for the lead runner, and each time Trudeau barely beat the throw. She crossed home plate just ahead of the tag, and Tech took a 1-0 lead.

The hit parade continued, and when Trudeau came back to bat for



Turners Falls first baseman Cam Burnett gets the throw in time for an out in the bottom of the fourth during the Western Mass Class D semifinal last Thursday at Northfield. The Pioneer Panthers advanced to the final with a 5-0 win.

the second time in the first inning, she parked a grand slam to increase Tech's lead to 11-0. The Eagles never let up, cruising to a 20-2 mercy-shortened victory.

Cordelia Guerin led Franklin with four hits, followed by Gilbert (two, including a double), Lilianna Inman (two), and Ross, Trudeau, Gamache, Skylei Lapan, Gianna DiSciullo, Kyra Goodell, and Jenna Petrowicz (one each).

In the circle Gilbert allowed two earned runs on six hits, walked two, and struck out eight.

TFHS 5 – Hopkins 0

On Friday Blue blanked the Hopkins Golden Hawks in the Class D semifinals.

Turners scored all their runs in the second inning. Anne Kolodziej led off with a double, and was batted in by Ella Kolodziej. Then Marilyn

Abarua was hit by a pitch and Mia Marigliano, Madison Liimatainen, and Janelle Massey all hit safely, giving Powertown a 5-0 cushion.

Hopkins managed to load the bases in the third, but the Blue D held them at bay, and from there it was all defense. Coach Gary Mullins moved his fielders around like pieces on a chessboard, shifting left, right, forward and back depending on the play.

They held on to beat the Yellow Birds, and the victory earned them a spot in another Western Massachusetts championship battle.

TFHS 3 – Lee 0

The Thunder headed down to Westfield State University on Wednesday to defend their Western Massachusetts crown against the Orange Tigers of Lee. This was another defensive battle as Holly Myers reg-



Franklin Tech Eagles catcher Kylee Gamache makes the play at the plate, tagging out Greenfield's Anna Bucala during the Western Mass Class C final at Westfield State on Wednesday. The Green Wave captured the title with a 4-0 win over the Eagles, marking Greenfield's third consecutive championship victory.

istered Blue's only two hits until the sixth inning. Meanwhile, Liimatainen was unstoppable in the circle.

Marigliano led off the bottom of the sixth with a base hit. She then stole two bases, but Turners accrued two outs in the meantime, leaving her temporarily stranded at third. The Tigers walked Myers intentionally and Madisyn Dietz unintentionally, loading the bases, and a base hit from Anne Kolodziej sent two runners home. The ball was misplayed, and Dietz crossed the plate to pad the margin to 3-0.

In the seventh inning Liimatainen gave up a base on balls and struck out the other three batters. Amazingly, this was her average – she struck out 21 batters in seven innings, meaning that every out Turners made was a Liimatainen strikeout. She also allowed three walks, three hits, and no runs. Myers ended with a single and a double, while Marigliano and Anne Kolodziej both hit singles.

The victory gives Turners another championship title. They will face their first MIAA opponent – either the Academy of Notre Dame or Atlantis Charter – this Saturday, June 1 at Mullins Field.

Greenfield 4 – FCTS 0

In the second game of Wednesday's championship double-header at Westfield State, Franklin Tech lost the Class C championship game to the Green Wave of Greenfield. This was another pitcher's duel, as neither team could even threaten in the first four innings.

In the top of the fifth Gamache hit a long single, and was replaced at first by Samantha Duncan. Goodell then got a one-out base hit and stole second, giving Franklin two runners in scoring position, but the Eagles came up empty as two consecutive strikeouts ended the inning.

In the bottom of the fifth, Green-

field got a base hit with one out. The runner attempted to steal, the throw went high, and she made it to third. The next batter hit a fielder's choice grounder; the ball was thrown home and the lead runner was tagged out, leaving a runner at first with two outs.

Tech intentionally walked the next batter, giving Green two on and two out, and the batter may have fouled off her own foot, but she booked it to first. The throw pulled the first basewoman off the bag, the runner was called safe, and two runs crossed the plate.

After a conference, the umpires ruled that they did not witness the ball going off the batter's foot, and everyone was called safe. That runner eventually scored too, and Tech found themselves in a three-run hole.

Green got another unearned run across in the sixth, and the Eagles went into the final inning down 4-0. Two strikeouts and a 5-3 ground out ended the game and dashed Tech's hopes of bringing the second crown of the day to Turners Falls.

Ross, Gamache, and Goodell notched hits for Tech, while Gilbert finished with six walks and six strikeouts, allowing three hits and no earned runs.

Franklin Tech was slated to play in the state vocational tournament on Tuesday, but the game was scratched – according to coach Joe Gamache they won't be competing in that tourney at all this year, because the MIAA ruled that doing so would put them in violation of their scheduling limitation.

In polling the Tech fans, prohibiting the Eagles from defending their state vocational title is like a punch to the gut, but this is not the end for Tech. Though details of the first game have not been announced as of press time, they'll be playing in the MIAA state tournament soon enough.



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS

Turners Falls' Madisyn Dietz starts her slide to the plate in the bottom of the sixth inning during the Western Mass Class D final at Westfield State University on Wednesday. The Thunder earned their 24th Western Mass title with a 3-0 win over the Lee Wildcats. At right: Turners players Mia Marigliano and Ella Kolodziej.

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FISH from page A1

to eat other species of fish from the river no more than twice per month.

Similar restrictions already exist on the Millers River, where the DPH recommends never eating brown trout or eel due to lingering industrial contaminants, and not eating other fish more than twice per month.

A study released in December by the state Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), *PFAS Concentrations in Surface Water and Fish Tissue at Selected Rivers and Lakes in Massachusetts*, served as the basis for the DPH's newest advisories.

Researchers examined 242 composite samples of fish tissue and found that in 241, PFAS levels exceeded the state's proposed "fish action level" of 0.22 nanograms per gram. This included fish caught in rural areas "far from any known or suspected sources of PFAS contamination," according to the report.

"PFAS concentrations in surface water and fish tissue in many states and countries continue to be a major concern for human health and the environment," the report continued. "Although limited to freshwater, the results of this study add to the growing body of evidence that PFAS are ubiquitous in the environment."

"DPH does not know the source of contamination in fish from the Millers or Connecticut Rivers," a DPH spokesperson clarified to the *Reporter* this week. "MassDEP is the regulatory agency responsible for identifying PFAS and other contamination in the environment."

According to MassDEP spokesperson Edmund Coletta, potential sources of PFAS contamination include airports or military bases where firefighting foam has been used, factories producing products with PFAS, septic systems, "atmospheric deposition from upwind sources," wastewater treatment plants, and land spread with fertilizers derived from wastewater sludge.

"MassDEP is working to identify sources, clean up sites including locations where firefighting foam was used, and improve pollution prevention efforts," Coletta wrote to the *Reporter*.

Catch and Release

A number of state and federal

agencies are engaged in ongoing investigations to understand and address the scope of the PFAS pollution problem. In 2020, MassDEP collaborated with the US Geological Survey to study PFAS concentrations in 27 rivers and streams across the state, and reported that the chemicals were detected in every one studied.

Samples were taken both upstream and downstream from wastewater treatment plants, and the agencies wrote that chemical concentrations "typically increased" downstream of plants.

The DPH's May 2024 freshwater fish consumption advisory list includes 258 bodies of water in Massachusetts where it recommends the consumption of at least some species be limited or avoided due to pollution. The list includes different guidelines based on the contamination found, the species of fish, and whether the consumer is a member of a "sensitive group." Children under the age of 12 and pregnant people are urged to avoid eating fish from the majority of the locations listed.

Back in 1990, the discovery of another well-known class of industrial pollutants known as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the Connecticut and Millers rivers prompted consumption advisories that still exist today.

"The Millers River is *de facto* catch and release anyways, because of the PCBs that are in that water," said Halloran. "This just reinforces the idea that you don't want to eat those fish."

"We in the Millers River watershed are fortunate that the state's recent testing of PFAS levels in the Millers River does not warrant changing the existing fish consumption advisory," Ivan Ussach, director of the Millers River Watershed Council, told the *Reporter*. "We urge everyone interested in eating fish caught in the river to follow the current guidance – including no consumption for sensitive populations."

Persistent Molecules

Further west, the historic presence of PCBs in the Housatonic River, associated largely with the General Electric manufacturing plant in Pittsfield, prompted the DPH to recommend that no one consume fish, frogs, or turtles

caught there, and that even fish caught in tributary streams should be trimmed of fatty tissue prior to cooking as a precaution.

In northern Berkshire County, the agency says fish from the Hoosic River downstream of North Adams should never be eaten due to PFAS and PCB contamination.

The Chicopee Reservoir is among the locations most impacted by PFAS contamination in western Massachusetts. The DPH recommends nobody eat any fish caught there, citing PFAS as the sole hazard. The reservoir is located near the Westover Air Reserve Base, the site of known groundwater contamination from firefighting foam.

PFAS is also cited as a reason children and pregnant people should not eat any fish caught in Northampton's Oxbow Pond; the rest of the population is warned to stick to two per month.

By far the most frequently cited pollutant on the Massachusetts list is mercury, a hazardous heavy metal known to damage the brain. At Lake Rohunta and Laurel Lake in Orange, fisherfolk are warned to limit their intake to two meals per month due to the presence of mercury, and sensitive populations to eat none at all.

An earlier warning about mercury in the Millers River watershed was loosened in 2006, according to the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, but still applies to several North Quabbin ponds and lakes.

Mercury has also been detected in the Quabbin and Wachusett reservoirs, for which the DPH offers this particularly complicated guidance: "Children younger than 12 years, pregnant women, and nursing women should not consume fish except for lake trout less than 24 inches long and salmon. All other people should not eat smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, or lake trout greater than 24 inches long; may eat unlimited amounts of salmon and lake trout less than 24 inches long; and should limit consumption of all other Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoir fish species to one five-ounce meal per week."

The DPH is asking local boards of health to spread the word about the revised consumption warnings by posting signs at the affected bodies of water.

LEGAL NOTICE**TOWN OF MONTAGUE CABLE TELEVISION License Renewal Proceeding**

The Selectboard of the Town of Montague, as cable television license Issuing Authority under MGL 166A, S.1, and its Cable Advisory Committee, are jointly conducting a cable television license renewal public hearing regarding Comcast of Massachusetts/Virginia, Inc. on **June 17, 2024, at 6 p.m.** to allow the public an opportunity to comment on the Town's cable-related needs. The meeting will be held in-person at Montague Town Hall, Upstairs Meeting Room, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA.

Please note that while an option for remote attendance is provided as a courtesy to the public, the hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless otherwise required by law. Members of the public with particular interest in this hearing should make plans for in-person vs. remote attendance accordingly.

Remote access provided via Zoom at: us02web.zoom.us/j/89711128863 or dial-in: +1 (646) 558-8656 Meeting ID: 897 1112 8863.

The Montague Comcast license expires on August 31, 2025. Pursuant to the federal Cable Act, 47 USC 546, the Issuing Authority (Selectboard) conducts the public proceeding to ascertain the community's cable-related needs and interests. Public comment is invited. The hearing is for the purpose of accepting comments and no final license issuance decisions are before the Selectboard at this public hearing. For further information and copies of renewal records, if any, contact Walter Ramsey, Assistant Town Administrator, c/o Town Hall. By order of the Selectboard as License Issuing Authority.

Notice of Public Information Session MONTAGUE CLEAN WATER FACILITY Biosolids Reuse Action Plan

With support from a FY23 Rural Development Fund Grant awarded to the Town of Montague, the Montague Clean Water Facility has conducted a study to determine whether composting or drying their biosolids would be desirable for the Town to pursue and implement. The draft report is available for review at www.montague-ma.gov.

The Public is invited to a remote informational session on Wednesday June 5 held via ZOOM. Link can be found at www.montague-ma.gov.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**Saturday: Cleanup!**

MONTAGUE CENTER – Please join us at the Montague Common Hall this Saturday, June 1 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a Spring Deep Clean! It's a great way to meet neighbors you haven't met, and hang out with the ones you know and love.

Outside we will have gardening, tidying, and planting flowers, and inside we'll be vacuuming, mopping, organizing the broom closet, and getting into all the nooks and crannies that have been neglected since the fall. Bring any tools, supplies, and protective gear you might want to have, and feel free to bring plants you think would play well with others in our wildchild of a garden. We will provide snacks and hydration!

Sunday: Speed!

TURNERS FALLS – Montague Parks and Recreation invites you to the Montague Soap Box Races this Sunday, June 2 at Unity Park Hill on First Street.

The competition starts at noon. Spectators will have an excellent view of the gravity-fed cars, which can reach speeds of 38 mph. Prizes will be given in three age divisions and for style, and food trucks will be on site.

The Soap Box Races are a fundraiser for the Parks and Rec summer camp. The event is made possible with support from Waterworks of Nantucket, Nova Motorcycles, Turners Falls Airport, Rexel, Montague Webworks, Hale Custom Signs, and Greenfield Savings Bank. For more information visit montaguesoapboxraces.com.

Community Input Meeting for the Shea Mural

TURNERS FALLS – Montague residents and business owners are encouraged to participate in the Shea Mural community input session on Thursday, June 13 at the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A, from 5 to 8 p.m.

The goal of the meeting is to generate themes relevant to Turners Falls and its residents which will be used by the selected muralist, Dari-

on Fleming, to create draft designs for consideration and approval by the Shea Mural Steering Group.

Pizza and beverages will be served from 5 to 5:30 p.m., followed by a "welcome" from RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto and a presentation from project manager Britt Ruhe of Common Wealth Murals. Participants will meet Darion

Fleming via Zoom before engaging in some easy, interactive activities geared to generate information and context for the mural.

For more information about this project, visit www.montague-ma.gov/p/1539/. For questions or comments, contact Britt Ruhe of Common Wealth Murals at britt@commonwealthmurals.org.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!

DEBUT from page A1

week-long screening in Greenfield, beginning with a special red-carpet event on Friday, June 14.

The movie is set in Turners Falls, where, according to the Internet Movie Database, “A young widowed father of two girls struggles to navigate a broken system, until he discovers the ‘Money Game’ from an unorthodox professor.” The forthcoming run at Greenfield Garden Cinemas includes a question-and-answer session with Lowenthal after the 3:30 p.m. screening on Sunday, June 16, and a full schedule through June 20. I caught up with the auteur this week to find out more.

MR: So Money Game is now on big screens?

JL: I’ve been having a bunch of talks with several companies to distribute the film, and so this summer I’m going to be looking to begin worldwide distribution. But one thing I wanted to do before the distribution, at which point it will take time before it goes to these places, is a thank-you to the community that helped make *Money Game* possible.

A bunch of theaters have reached out, but I wanted to have a one-week screening solely at Greenfield Garden Cinemas. I highly encourage people to come up for the opening night, because the cast and crew will be there for the red carpet from 6 to 7 p.m., before the 7 p.m. showing.

MR: How long is the final cut?

JL: It’s 91 minutes. It’s not a three-hour movie, so I don’t have to worry about doing five shows a day.

MR: Have you been bringing it to festivals?

JL: We’ve gotten into six festivals so far, and gone to three, and in the first two we won seven awards. We’re really happy with the momentum we got from the initial launch.

At the Boston International Film Festival, we won Best Picture and Best Screenplay. Then there was a remote LA festival called Dreamachine International Film Festival. We won Best Picture, Best Screenplay, Best Lead Actor, Best Supporting Actor, and Best Director.

MR: I saw some stuff from the

Boston festival. There was a red-carpet kind of event?

JL: There was, for the different filmmakers, for all the different films coming in. That was really cool, it was fun to connect with all the other directors, producers, and casts. And I loved getting to reunite with my own cast and crew. It was a big spectacle!

But I still encourage people to go to Greenfield Gardens, which is what I’m really pushing to make a spectacle. I would love to sell out as many shows as possible. Because I can control that we’re going to be here for a week, but once I sign with whoever I distribute it with I won’t control where it’s going to go.

MR: How does that work – are there just a few big distributors?

JL: I would say there’s several big distributors, especially after the pandemic made remote work kind of boom. There’s a lot of different tiers, and different distributors – though they basically all seem to know the same people, it’s just the kind of deals they make with those people.

MR: I’m ignorant to this part of the industry – each movie exclusively signs with a distribution company?

JL: If that’s what you negotiate. I will tell you, at the end of game, it’s really what you sign, because there’s so many different options. Most distributors want you to sign exclusively with them for a certain period. But I’m very much about respecting everyone, exploring all my options for the best choices to get *Money Game* out there to the most people possible.

MR: Is it pretty typical now to start online streaming at the same time as a movie is in theaters?

JL: It’s different. Because streaming is so big, some projects do that – like, even Disney released big Marvel movies on Disney Plus while still being in theaters. It’s really dependent on whatever distribution deal you get get.

MR: I do like going into a real theater, and seeing a movie the way it’s supposed to be seen...

JL: That’s the other thing – we made the film to be on a big screen. It’s in 4K, surround sound.

Turners Falls looks amazing. And

I love that there’s been several films [made] here, but Turners Falls is a character in *Money Game*.

MR: It’s set in “Turners Falls!”

JL: Right! It’s not set in New York, where we’re in Turners Falls but like “Hey, this is this beautiful area in upstate New York” – we’re in Turners Falls, Mass, shot in Turners Falls, Mass.

I think it’s the perfect backdrop for the story. It’s just such a beautiful little village.... It’s like a mini-advertisement for how cool, and how much of a niche town we are.

Without spoiling anything, we shot everything entirely in four towns: primarily Turners Falls, followed by Greenfield, followed by South Deerfield and Amherst.

MR: You were filming in April 2022 – when did it all get finished?

JL: March and April, yeah. We finished shooting at the end of April. I’m very appreciative of my editor Lee Williams, who I went to high school and college with – for the first round he and I literally spent two weeks together, he would live with me and we’d just edit the film. A month later he came back for one more week to do the final touches.

That summer we did the color. In the fall of 2022 we started bringing in the composition team, started working with sound.

I do very respect timelines, deadlines – we have to get a project out – but I’m also very critical, and I’m definitely a perfectionist. Getting the product that I visualized, getting the vision to come to life and be right there. I got my whole post team together in the fall of 2022, did a bunch of sound, took six months. I love my sound team, I’m so appreciative.

Beginning of 2023: very close, finishing with all the initial Foley, sound design, getting close to getting my composition together before my composer gets the orchestra, to compose all the pieces and put it in the movie. At that point, though, I had another idea, so we had to re-edit, which took a little bit longer. A big part was that I wanted more Turners – I wanted a few more things. So we got that. It took another six months.

MR: You came back and filmed

Tip of the week ...

Summer is an ideal season for home maintenance and improvements. Before beginning any new project, consult with your insurance agent to understand how a planned project may affect your coverage.



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some more?

JL: I wanted to reshape it just a little bit, to make it a bigger film. I feel it added a lot more depth.

And then, at the very beginning of this year, finished it. Got it into the Boston Film Festival a day before the deadline. Two weeks later we heard we got it in, and have been keeping moving with that. Now we’re in more festivals.

MR: What has it been like to be in festival audiences, sitting in the theater watching with people?

JL: Each theater is different. The Boston International theater was the first time I’ve ever seen *Money Game* on an IMAX – I’ve seen it more times than anything else, and when I saw it on the IMAX screen for the first time it was as if it was a new experience. It was new, it was touching. And several other people, my producers and some of the lead actors, had the same reaction.

But then it’s also an experience watching it in a very intimate theater – recently I was in New Jersey and it was a small, quaint theater. It’s a very different kind of feeling; there were a couple dozen of us. There’s something kind of special, in a different way, with that – the screen’s smaller, the space is much smaller.

MR: One of the things I was really struck by two years ago about the production – even just that little experience of talking to people working on the movie – was seeing this place through their eyes a little bit.

I think that’s part of what’s motivating for people to go and watch when we’re on screen in movies, too – it’s our everyday life, it’s our everyday town, but you get to step outside of it, like “Oh, this is what it looks like when it’s on a screen!” There’s just something there that lends itself to reflection.

JL: That’s why part of my agenda is getting more projects here, we have so much diversity – all of Western Mass. You want to do a

time period piece? You want to do a sci-fi film, want to do horror? You want to do a post-apocalyptic film? We have all those landscapes! And no offense to the east side of Massachusetts, but the dollar goes further here, every day of the week.

And I’ve already started this, but I want to keep connecting with different kinds of investors, producers, and Hollywood people to bring more films here, to get more jobs, get more opportunity.

And, just like everything else that’s happening in this wonderful town, getting more people to realize that doing something in the entertainment or arts, crafts, writing world is a sustainable job, and is something you can go after. That’s just something I find very important.

MR: Have you been in touch with everyone on your team from this movie?

JL: Yes, I’m very happy about that. A lot of them got to see the premiere, and those who didn’t I’m really hoping get to come to the red carpet in Greenfield – especially because a lot of those who didn’t are locals. We should sense a very big turnout coming up next month.

MR: Anything else you want to make sure we hit on?

JL: We’re really pushing to get as many people as possible to see the showings from June 14 to June 20 at the Greenfield Garden Cinemas.

And also – I’m also a big proponent of wanting to let people know to just go after what they really desire... If there’s something you want, go for it. If there’s something you think you might want, try it – you don’t have to get married to it, try it.

I think it’s really important in this day and age, where life can be very intense and crazy. Find your grace by going after what you love, what you want to try. See if you like it or love it. Just kind of see where it goes from there.



James (Daniel Washington), Jasmine (Alexandra Faye Sadeghian), and the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge (Turners Falls-Gill Bridge), in a still from the 2024 film *Money Game*.

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Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*



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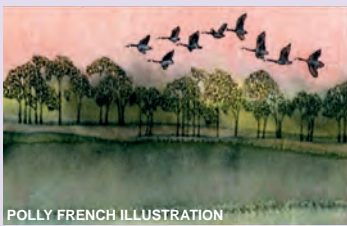
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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

MAY 30, 2024



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

BEAR STONE ENIGMA

By DAVID BRULE

THE FLAT, ERVINGSIDE – Now, if you’ve been following this chronicle over the years, you’ll know that bears turn up in these pages from time to time. They come and go as bears are wont to do.

Perhaps they turn up here in their travels because this house was built on the path of an ancient bear walk. That could explain why – this could be part of their ancient, prehistoric route. The house poses a minor inconvenience to them, so they come through here anyway.

Or maybe these individuals are just opportunists, looking for easy pickings. For whatever reason, the bear *Awasoos* comes through the yard on his way somewhere, leaning on the garden fence with his four hundred pounds until it flattens and he just lets himself in.

Depending on the season, bear may be after the Baltimore oriole’s oranges, or some leftover sunflower seeds. He often comes after dusk, but one time he permitted himself to show up in broad daylight. He stretched out on his stomach on the back deck, hind legs sprawled out like some bearskin rug, while he carefully held a coffee can of sunflower seeds in his paws, his long tongue pulling out the treats. That’s the last time we forgot the can on the porch.

Usually after shuffling through the yard, *Awasoos* then continues his walk, up and over the back gate, shambling off down the path to the frog pond where he takes a deep drink. Then he follows the trail that leads to the tall white pine grove to the river. That trail will play an important role in this bear enigma.

Awasoos, as the black bear is called by the Abenaki, has an interesting name. An Abenaki linguist friend and cousin Rich Holschuh of the Elnu Abenaki has told me the following about the black bear’s true name. It has two

root words in this indigenous language: “*awa-*” signifies a sense of “over and beyond,” while the second syllable “*-soos*” means “to go for a walk.”

Combined, the syllables describe one who travels far, over and beyond, referring to the bear’s wide range of territory. With this breadth of knowledge gained from much traveling, the bear holds great wisdom, a sage voice in the Council of animals.

Besides, there are similarities between bear and human. Bear has a tendency to stand up on two legs, is an omnivore, and cares for the young in extended parenting, among other traits. For indigenous people, bear is a medicine being, an animal version of ourselves.

So when I encounter *Awasoos* in my back yard, I always speak to him in a calm and respectful voice, keeping in mind his wisdom and knowledge. Plus the fact that he outweighs me by several hundred pounds.

I once found myself having to speak to bear one afternoon when he was testing my fence to decide where he was going to come in. I actually shouted at him “Go home!,” as if I were speaking to a loose neighborhood dog. The bear of course shrugged, and looked at me over his shoulder as he trundled off, as if to respond to me, “This *IS* my home.”

In time, I found myself willing to meet bear on his terms, at a safe distance of course. My natural instinct was to be sure to speak to this mystical being with a good amount of respect. Where that instinct came from began making sense after I dug deep into my genealogy.

The thought slowly began dawning on me that it was inevitable that *Awasoos* and I were bound to cross paths.

One of my long-ago great grandmothers is Kateri Anennonntak, born into the Huron Nation see **WEST ALONG** page B4



MONIQUE BRULE PHOTO

Last week the author found this “bear stone” half-buried in leaves along his neighboring bear’s path to the river.

Above: Cheryl Howland and Eva Gibavic held their annual plant giveaway last weekend in Leverett.

THEATER PREVIEW

Orlando Blurs Centuries, Identities

By BELLA LEVAVI



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Kyle Boatright as Sasha (left) and Linda Tardif as Orlando dress-rehearse at the Shea Theater Wednesday night.

TURNERS FALLS – Step into a realm where time unravels like silk and gender bends with the whims of fate.

As May ends and summer begins, Eggtooth Productions and the Shea Theater invite audiences into a transcendent world with their presentation of Sarah Ruhl’s adaptation of Virginia Woolf’s timeless classic, *Orlando*.

“The thing about the play is it is absolutely joyful, funny, and heartfelt,” director Linda McInerney said in an interview. “It is one of these laugh-and-cry-at-the-same-moment type of plays.”

The stage comes alive at 7:30 p.m. this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, May 30, 31, and June 1 with a symphony of light, color, and emotion, inviting spectators to lose themselves in a story that defies earthly conventions. The 90-minute play weaves together the past and present, man and woman, in a mesmerizing dance of transformation and liberation.

“If you are somebody who has found love, has been broken by

see **ORLANDO** page B8

RECIPES

Stalks That Pack a Dazzling Blast

By CLAIRE HOPLEY

LEVERETT – Rhubarb delivers a serious blast of acidity, and that’s a major source of its array of uses.

The acidity comes from naturally occurring oxalic acid. It’s powerful stuff: used commercially in dyeing, cleaning, and rust removal. You can see it in action on the pan you use to cook rhubarb, which emerges from the task dazzlingly clean.

These scouring actions apply to humans, too. Rhubarb roots were long used as a laxative in Chinese medicine, and this was why they were imported into Europe in the Middle Ages. They long remained popular. As late as the 19th century one of Jane Austen’s heroines has rhubarb’s medicinal use in mind when she reflects: “Neither poison nor sleeping potions were to be procured, like rhubarb, from every druggist.”

By this time cooks were realizing that during spring, when there were no summer berries or autumn fruit for pies, the previously-ignored rhubarb stalks could take their place. English cooks called



HOPLEY PHOTO

Rhubarb for sale at the Leverett Village Co-Op this month.

them “spring fruit” – though, botanically speaking, rhubarb is a vegetable not a fruit.

In America cooks called them “pie plant,” another way of noting their usefulness in spring. But as cookbook author Lydia Maria Child noted in her 1831 manual *The American Frugal Housewife*, its advantage as “the earliest ingredient for pies” came with the disadvantage of its tartness: “These are dear pies because they take an enormous quantity of sugar.” In her day sugar

was expensive, hence not a smart buy for anyone following her advice about frugality.

Sweetening is certainly vital to rhubarb pie fillings. Less obviously, so is fat, because it coats the taste buds and softens the acid tang. This explains why rhubarb shines in baked goods, which have butter or another fat as well as sugar among the ingredients.

It’s not just butter: other dairy products work well, too. In England see **RECIPES** page B5

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on May 29, 2014: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Legal Action to Prevent Gas Pipeline Surveys

A Montague couple working to build a farm on Hatchery Road may be the subject of the first legal salvo fired against Kinder Morgan's proposed Tennessee Gas Pipeline expansion.

Part of Lisa and Robert Adams's land is under an agricultural protection restriction held by the Athol-based Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. Last week Michael Pill of Green Miles Lipton, LLP, an attorney retained by the Trust,

issued a public memorandum outlining a legal strategy aimed at preventing the state Department of Public Utilities (DPU) from granting the pipeline company permission to survey on restricted land.

Who Misses Robin Hood's World?

The fourth Annual Mutton & Mead Festival to benefit the Food Bank of Western Mass and the Montague Common Hall will be held on Saturday and Sunday. The festival gathers over 65 artisans and offers 40 hours of entertainment: knights jousting on horseback, whimsical stage shows, music, and special treats for children.

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on May 27, 2004: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Ready, Set, Pedal!

Lightning, tornado warnings, and a drenching downpour provided a dramatic conclusion to Monday's ground-breaking ceremony for the Canalside Trail Bicycle Path at the Turners Falls Discovery Center. But the enthusiasm of the nearly 100 people who showed up to celebrate the beginning of construction after more than two decades of design and planning was not dampened.

US Congressman John Olver was credited by many for his part in bringing the project this far. The rest of the 40-mile bikeway plan, Olver said, "must be completed much more quickly."

1754 to 2004

On Sunday, May 23, the Avenue was lined with people from bridge to bridge to celebrate Montague's 250th anniversary. Businesses, artists, and entrepreneurs put their best face forward; a wonderful array of people, performers, and parade participants marched for miles and then ran back to watch the rest pass by.

150 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on May 27, 1874: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

Local Matters

Now "go for" Rob's summer suits.

Mrs. Hall's summer Millinery is attractive.

When is the Suspension Bridge to receive the coat of paint it so much needs?

Correspondents will do us a favor if they will send their letters Monday.

Clapp & Co. are making Turners Falls a "potato centre." They have shipped a large quantity recently.

Our citizens were regaled by the music of the Montague City Cornet Band on Saturday evening. The concert is well spoken of.

Mr. Griswold's force are enlarging the grounds for the brick yard to double their former capacity. It is now the intention to make 100,000 brick this summer.

The early morning and the late afternoon trains, from and to Greenfield, will be resumed June 1. Thanks, gentlemen; we know how to appreciate this favor. Nothing

that has been done will give more general satisfaction at this end of the line.

There will be a Pound Sociable at the Baptist Chapel this Wednesday evening. Every one bring a pound of something to be "octoned off" - and not opened till sold.

Adams & Son have made some fine brick this year. The brick for the new school house, Colle block, and Mr. Kelley's building, as well as the Campbell & Hazelton block on Fourth street, are all from their yard.

Mr. Frost's sermon on "the Flood," on Sunday morning was an able, tender and touching address. His description was of the finest order, his illustrations pathetically real, and his deductions the result of careful study and manly generosity. No phillipic against man, nor repining at God's wisdom and providence.

Mr. Joseph Griswold, who has spent the last fifty years in manufacturing interests, gives it as his unqualified opinion that a reservoir for the supply of water power cannot be built, to be entirely safe, without an expenditure that will destroy all profits. He has himself sunk a quarter million dollars in his experiments, and speaks from experience.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Nicotine Fit; Egging; K9 No-Show; Long Squirt Guns; Sick Fox; Bear Cub; Bear; Pub Assault; Bat Removal

Monday, 5/20

7:13 a.m. Manager for FirstLight Power requesting police to check their property along the river off Power Street for illegal camping before they have a company come in to clean the area. Services rendered. 9:19 a.m. Female with active warrant located off Fourth Street. A 36-year-old Westfield woman was arrested and charged with possession of a Class A drug with intent to distribute and resisting arrest. 5:31 p.m. 911 caller reporting minor two-car accident on Third Street. 6:51 p.m. Caller reporting a white husky loose in the Turners Falls Road-Turnpike Road area running through people's yards. Dog owner is aware and will go get dog.

9:13 p.m. 911 caller reporting there is a male at Avenue A and Third Street yelling at people and asking them for cigarettes, then threatening to punch them if they don't give him one. Male party then hung up the phone. Officers advised. 10:08 p.m. Caller reports there has been a car in her driveway for ten minutes shining its lights in her windows. She is not expecting anyone tonight. Officer advises caller lives in an apartment building; there are ten cars in the parking lot, and none of them have their lights on at this time.

Tuesday, 5/21

12:33 p.m. Walk-in requesting to speak with an officer about neighbor harassment on Sherman Drive. Advised of options. 6:23 p.m. Vehicle repossession on Seventh Street.

Wednesday, 5/22

5:32 a.m. Officer advises there is some debris/trash in the roadway on Broadway; requesting DPW to clean up location. Message left for DPW. 8:07 a.m. School resource officer advising that a vehicle was egged in the parking lot of Franklin County Technical School. Report taken. 9:04 a.m. 911 caller reporting that neighbors are hacking into her phone, listening to her conversations and reading her text messages. States she cannot receive phone calls, can only call out. Called back; no answer. Left message advising civil court option. Officer dropped off statement form for caller to complete. 9:09 a.m. Chief calling in minibike attempting to outrun at high speed at Turners Falls High School. Juvenile, parents coming to take minibike. Verbal warning for multiple traffic complaints. Given information on how to properly register minibike. Mother took minibike home. Juvenile is now in school.

3:15 p.m. Caller from Sherman Drive reporting male party drove by her house and laid on his horn the entire time. Wants on record. 4:53 p.m. 911 report of minor two-car accident at Fourth and L streets. No injuries, smoke, or fluids. 4:57 p.m. Trooper requesting K9 assistance for drug search on I-91 northbound in Bernardston. Attempted to call K9 unit; no answer. Trooper advised. 7:14 p.m. Caller states there are some kids and some adults swinging sticks at each other and yelling at one another on Avenue A. No issues; just kids playing with long squirt guns. 8:10 p.m. Caller from Edgewater Way advising that there has been a coydog or coyote hanging around in the vacant lot next to her property. The animal appears unafraid of people and was in her yard recently. Referred to an officer. 11:40 p.m. Two calls reporting a large tree down at Montague City Road and Turnpike Road. Referred to an officer. Small tree fell in a yard; only some leaves hanging over the fence.

Thursday, 5/23 5:03 a.m. Caller states that a dog got out of the shelter on Sandy Lane. Dog returned back to shelter. Two employees at Judd Wire saw the dog wiggle his way out of an outside cage. Dog was put inside; officer requesting day shift to follow up with the shelter. 7:30 a.m. 911 caller from Montague Street reporting there is a bear cub running around in his yard. Officer advised. 8:59 a.m. Caller from Fifth Street wanting on record that a note was left at her house again. Caller has cameras being delivered this week. 10:58 a.m. Caller from Our Lady of Czestochowa reporting attempted break-in sometime over the past couple of days. Bars on the windows have been damaged. Report taken. 1 p.m. Checking Avenue A apartment building for female with an active warrant. Unable to locate. 7:21 p.m. 911 caller reporting a dark gray SUV at the Federal Street crossover; passenger side door open; no one appears to be with the vehicle. Officer spoke with occupant of vehicle, who was parked waiting to see some wildlife. Officer advised her to park in a

safer location. 10:35 p.m. 911 caller reporting male in his 20s running down the street at Avenue A and Third Street yelling that he is hurt. Party did not appear to be injured to the caller, who advises there was some commotion surrounding a small white sedan, but unsure whether/how vehicle was involved. Officer advises area search negative. 10:42 p.m. Report from Avenue A of a male and female arguing outside; caller advises these parties are frequently involved in drug-related altercations. Area search negative. 11:07 p.m. Caller states that the small white sedan from the 10:35 call came back around and the female driver yelled "I'm going to kill you," then drove around the block and came back acting like she was going to hit the male on the sidewalk. Vehicle went up Third Street toward Canal. Officer has eyes on vehicle; no tail lights; will be stopping. Citation issued.

Friday, 5/24

6:04 a.m. Caller states there is a fox on Bulkley Street near the school that doesn't appear to be acting right; requesting someone check it out. Caller called back stating fox ran off when neighbor let dog out; no need for officer response. 8:30 a.m. Caller from Davis Street states that there is a fox who looks sick and is walking around in circles outside of his home. Animal control officer responding and on scene with PD. ACO has dispatched the sick animal. 10:30 a.m. Caller states that there is a black bear roaming around the fields at Turners Falls High School. Bear not located. School and school resource officer notified. 10:50 a.m. Officer reporting a large amount of debris from a recent storm in the road at the intersection of the bike path and Canal Street. DPW foreman notified. 3:26 p.m. Caller states that they know a male on Montague Avenue was arrested and is going to jail; they are concerned about the two pitbulls he has in his house that no one is taking care of. Call left for ACO. 7:50 p.m. Caller states someone just left a scratch all along the side of his wife's car while leaving the high school. Investigated.

Saturday, 5/25

12:49 a.m. Caller states a male punched another customer in the face a couple of times at Millers Pub. Caller states female was bleeding from the nose but declined medical attention. Female advised of rights; doesn't want anything done at this time.

12:56 p.m. Multiple 911 callers reporting a motorcyclist has crashed and is injured near Maple and Unity Streets. EMS and FD responding as well. Officer reports they have a tourniquet on the right arm; requesting ALS availability. Removed to hospital. 5:19 p.m. Caller from G Street states the neighbor's dog got loose and ran off down the alley. Small brown puppy with white paws. Officer advised. 8:27 p.m. Caller from L Street states he could hear a child screaming from the building; ended about five minutes ago, but had lasted for about 20 minutes. Officer advised.

9:26 p.m. Caller from Avenue B states she had a bat land on her head; she has the door open, but she is blind and unable to tell if the bat has left her house or not. Caller requesting officer come check house. Bat removed.

Sunday, 5/26

12:02 a.m. 911 caller from Eleventh Street reporting a male party attacking a female party multiple times. Responding officer spoke with someone on scene who advises nothing was occurring at his location. Officers checked area; no noises or signs of distress. 12:39 a.m. Caller from I Street reports that about an hour ago, she heard yelling and loud noise passing by her house. She hesitated to call but decided to after falling asleep. Caller believes the noise was from a child and an adult. Referred to an officer. 8:44 a.m. Caller from Center Street would like to report that a female that is staying on her property has stolen some items. Advised of options.

1:39 p.m. 911 caller from East Main Street says that another male party just knocked him to the ground and jumped on him. Caller already has some injuries and is wearing a cast on his arm. Caller would like incident on record only at this time. Advised of options.

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EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Did We Get This Way By Following Birds?

GREENFIELD – On Friday, June 21 at 5:30 p.m., the LAVA Center is excited to present a public talk by award-winning journalist Ben H. Gagnon of Turners Falls.

Gagnon will take the audience on a tour of archaeological discoveries, recent scientific studies, and ancient myth to tell a long-forgotten story about the key role migratory birds played in human history, a story much older than previously imagined.

A team of scientists working in the Canary Islands recently confirmed that migratory birds are seed-bearing indicators of floral diversity, confirming the long-held suspicions of Charles Darwin. Over millions of years birds introduced exotic seeds to their seasonal grounds, which often developed into hotspots of biodiversity.

New evidence suggests all human ancestors had the ecological



We did, argues Ben Gagnon.

awareness and natural intelligence to associate migratory birds with bountiful ecosystems. In modern terms, they perceived migratory birds as positive indicators of biodiversity.

The fossil record suggests two primates, *Australopithecus* and *Paranthropus*, developed the ability to walk upright while following migratory birds out of equatorial Afri-

ca and all the way to the Cradle of Humankind in South Africa.

Over 6 to 7 million years, it appears at least eight more bipedal primates followed the busiest bird migration routes to the largest seasonal grounds on the continent, from Tanzania to Ethiopia and Chad.

This turning point in human evolution occurred at the same time that human DNA started diverging from chimpanzees and brain size began to increase to accommodate a greater capacity for learning.

Gagnon is the author of *Church of Birds: an eco-history of myth and religion* (Collective Ink, 2023) and a columnist at *Patheos.com*, and was Author of the Month in April at *GrahamHancock.com*.

The LAVA Center is located at 424 Main Street in Greenfield. This event is free and open to the public; donations are welcome.



Sex Matters

a sex-positive health column

by STEPHANIE BAIRD

SOUTH HADLEY – In keeping with the spirit of May academic graduations, I am focusing this month's column on knowledge and insights shared back and forth while teaching college-level "Sexual Health and Wellness 201" at Simon's Rock, Bard College.

To give an overview of the information shared in this course, we dove into learning sexual health aspects from reproductive, erectile, and generative anatomy – including detailed anatomy of the interior structure of the clitoris – to basic sexual rights and sexual pleasure rights, plus consent and communication skills, including learning to assess for unhealthy and/or coercive relationships.

Students learned about the benefits of considering masturbation and/or outercourse activities, as well as their own possible sexual personality style (Trancer, Partner Engage, or Role Enactor). Of course, knowing me, information about our erotophobic culture, sexual brakes and accelerators, as well as arousal concordance and non-concordance, permeated many of the lessons.

We spent some time exploring sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression – including intersex, asexuality, demisexuality, and abrosexuality – as well as LGBTQIA+ and feminist history.

Students learned about the many types of committed relationships they may choose, from singlehood to serial monogamy to consensual non-monogamy. Tapestry came to present in detail on STI and pregnancy prevention, and Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts gave an in-depth presentation on the gender-affirming care they offer to individuals age 16 and older. We covered a lot in these weeks, and I'm lucky and grateful my students were curious, articulate, and engaged throughout.

The students had a few different assignments to complete, including a final project of their choice focused on some sex-positive element of sexual health, as well as developing their own positive vision of personal sexual health.

I loved being the learner. One student gave a very detailed presentation on "The Evolution of Sexuality in Video Games from 2002 to Present." Since my own video game usage left off at *Galaga* and *Tetris*, I had no clue about the rich narrative stories that now regularly comprise video game content. Turns out, video game writers have been including intersex, asexual, transgender, and non-binary character customizations since 2002. I learned that I would probably get obsessed with *Elder Scrolls* or *Hades*, should I ever figure out how to log on to one of these games.

One student created this fabulous collage, pictured at right, for her "Sexual Health Vision Board." T.A. very articulately discussed the elements, with special focus on the ones that were the most personal and meaningful, such as working on positive body image

and trying to move past her comfort zone.

Another student, Alice Billings, created this wonderful bulleted list of their Positive Sexual Health Vision:

- "Practice clear and effective communication," including active consent and boundaries;
- "Listen to my emotions and my body," including "prioritize my own well being";
- "Be with people who make me feel safe";
- "Love my friends and partner(s)," including "express my love now and every chance I get" and reminders to "let myself be vulnerable with people who care about me";
- "Explore without shame."

I found the fourth bullet point particularly poignant, and likely relevant to all of us!

A third student – you can tell this may have been my favorite assignment – included points about having a healthier relationship to food and body image, stabilizing one's mood, continuing to learn about sexual health, and knowing oneself more fully.

I invite you, dear reader, to make a Positive Sexual Health Vision for yourself. I will have been writing this column for five years, come September. Hopefully you have digested a few things here and there that resonate. Make a bulleted list, collage, or vision board of your own positive sexual health, and email me a picture or your list. I'd love to see it, and will maybe include snippets in a future column.

To get you started, here are a couple points I would include in my own Vision: continue to prioritize generative and renewing sexual activity, and apply what I learn in my research to enhancing depth of these sexual connections.



Stephanie Baird is a certified OWL facilitator and an EMDR psychotherapist and consultant who encourages her clients towards thriving sexual health.

She is the author of the book *EMDR Therapy: A Clinician's Guide* (2023). She welcomes feedback and suggestions at sexmatters@montaguereporter.org.

WEST ALONG from page B1 (Wendat) in the Paroisse de la Conception, on Georgian Bay, Ontario. Her father was Nicolas Arendanki and her mother was Jeanne Obrih8andet, both Christianized by the Jesuits and listed by them as "Huron Sauvage and Sauvagesse."

Nicolas Arendanki was a War Chief of the Bear Clan.

The Bear Clan. That to me meant that there could be an ancient connection between me and Awasoos who could indeed be my spiritual kin. What if he and Nicolas had become one and the same over time?

I learned that Kateri's fate, and that of her father and mother, was tragic. When the Iroquois attacked the parish, 200 Huron warriors chose to face 2,000 Iroquois to delay the attacking horde and allow the Huron women, children, and elderly to escape. The Huron village was annihilated, but the refugees got away and began a harrowing canoe trip eastward seeking the protection of the French at Québec.

Kateri survived and later married French trader Jean Durand dit La Fortune. Their line has led down to me here, pondering this bear enigma.

So learning of the leader of the Huron Bear Clan began taking on a new meaning for me over the past few years, and it seemed that the spirit animal Awasoos was visiting me with increased frequency. My imagination began working overtime. Just last week, a discovery sent me spinning into the place between the real world and the spiritual world.

After the bear's visit a week ago, I set out looking for any sign of him

along the bear's path to the river. Scrutinizing the trail, nose to the ground, I saw it.

Half buried in the leaf debris but erect, next to the trail, was the effigy of a bear.

It is a rock split in two, the flat side facing the path, an exact outline of a bear moving through the woods on all fours.

I had walked by this spot hundreds of times and never seen this Manitou stone. How did it appear there? I couldn't imagine anyone placing it there, the shape is so perfect, anyone finding it would have taken it home. This is a part of the woods where no one goes. It didn't just fall there, it was placed with intent.

I looked all around the spot for a dozen yards and found no sign of the other half of the split rock, which should of course be the shape of a bear in reverse.

So at this point I have no explanation for why, in the real world, I came to find this stone effigy. But explanations abound in the spiritual world. Sometimes I give permission to myself to think that Nicolas Arendanki or Kateri were responsible for placing the stone there where I would find it. Or maybe it was the bear spirit himself, or the real bear? What human would bother putting it there? Why had I never seen it before, and what is the connection between the real bear and the spirit bear?

I shall have to put the question to Awasoos himself, the next time he takes a walk through the yard, as he has for thousands of years, on his ancient way to the river.



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. Closing reception Saturday, June 29, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: *Caroline Wampole*, guest artist showing abstract paintings. Through June.

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Valley Arts Mentorship Showcase*, mentors and mentees show their work. Through July 1. Opening reception on Thursday, June 6 from 5 to 8 p.m.

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, closing reception this Friday, May 31 from 5 to 8 p.m. *On Our Way*, paintings by Chelsea Granger, June 28 through July 31, with an opening reception Friday, June 28 from 5 to 8 p.m.

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

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Travel the World*, photographs and paintings by Dave and Jackie Pueschel. Through June. Reception Sunday, June 9, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Paintings*, John Krifta chronicles his move towards abstraction. June 6 through 29. Opening reception on Thursday, June 6, from 5 to 7 p.m.

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: *Country Life*, group exhibit of pastoral images by member artists. Through June.

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

Club George, Northampton: *Soft Openings: Pictorial Textiles and Vernal Ephemera*, by Ruby Henry. Through June 8.

D'Amour Museum, Springfield: *Frida Kahlo, Her Photos*. Images from Kahlo's personal collection, which were locked up in a bathroom at the artist's residence for more than 50 years. Through September. *Look Again: Portraits of Daring Women*, woodcut and collage prints by Leverett artist Julie Lapping Rivera celebrating the achievements of women who defied the status quo. Through February 2025.

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RHUBARB AND GINGER JAM

1 lb. (4 or 5 cups) rhubarb
1 lb. (roughly 2 cups) sugar
1 Tbsp. powdered ginger, or more to taste
2 Tbsp. chopped candied ginger (optional)

Cut the rhubarb into 1-inch pieces and put it in a big pan with 2 tablespoons water. Cover and let soften completely over low heat.

Stir in the sugar and the gin-

ger, including the candied ginger if using it. Stir to dissolve the sugar, then increase the heat and boil rapidly until set. It won't set as firmly as some other jams, but when it is thick and slowly plopping rather than quickly bubbling, it is ready.

Pour into jars that have been sterilized by boiling for 10 minutes. Cover loosely until cold, then put on the lids. The acid in rhubarb stops molds from growing on it.

RHUBARB AND PECAN MUFFINS

½ cup coarsely chopped pecans (or walnuts)
½ cup, plus 2 tsp., light brown sugar
1 cup rhubarb, cut in ¼-inch slices
1 Tbsp. confectioners' sugar
1 stick butter
2¼ cups all-purpose flour
4 tsp. baking powder
1 Tbsp. powdered ginger
about ½ cup milk
1 egg, lightly beaten
½ tsp. cinnamon

Line a muffin pan with paper cups. Preheat the oven to 300 degrees. Put the pecans on a shallow dish in a single layer and toast in the oven for 3 to 4 minutes. They are ready when they smell fragrant and look a shade darker.

Chop them coarsely. Set aside about a quarter of them, along with 2 teaspoons of the brown sugar, for the topping. Turn the oven up to 375 degrees.

While the pecans are toasting, put the rhubarb in a bowl and toss it with the confectioners' sugar. Set aside for 7 to 8 minutes.

In a large bowl, stir together the flour, baking powder, and ginger. Cut the butter in bits and rub them into the dry ingredients. Now stir in the sugar. (You can use a food processor for these steps if you like.) Mix 2 teaspoons of this



mixture into the reserved pecans.

Make a well in the center of the flour mixture. Mix the egg with ½ cup milk, and pour into the well. Stir very briefly to wet – adding a little more milk if needed – then quickly stir in the rhubarb and the pecans (other than those set aside for the topping). Do not overmix.

Divide the mixture among the prepared muffin cups. Sprinkle on the reserved pecan mixture. Pop the muffins in the oven and bake for 18 to 20 minutes. To test, poke in a skewer or cocktail stick. If it comes out clean, the muffins are ready.

Serve warm.

RECIPES from page B1

rhubarb compotes are served with creamy custards, and rhubarb is often mixed with whipped cream or yogurt to make pudding-like desserts. Almond paste, which is rich with almond oil as well as sugar, is a foil for rhubarb in a Danish breakfast bun, and it can easily be used in tarts and cakes as well.

Oil-rich walnuts and pecans can partner rhubarb in quickbreads and muffins. In Iran rhubarb is combined with lamb in a stew. Here it offsets the rich meat, while the meat softens the rhubarb's tang.


Other rhubarb dishes can be mined from older cookbooks. Amy Bess Miller and Persis Fuller, compilers of *The Best of Shaker Cooking* (Hancock Shaker Village, 1985), delved into manuscripts from Shaker communities, where for religious

reasons Shakers led communal lives, relying on the products of their farms and gardens for food. They lived at Hancock near Pittsfield from 1780 to 1958, and the rhubarb dishes they made there include Yorkshire Pudding with Rhubarb, a Rhubarb Jelly that “looks and tastes like guava jelly,” and a dessert they called Rhubarb Scallop.

For this they tucked sliced pound cake tightly into a baking dish. On top they put cooked rhubarb, then another layer of pound cake slices and more cooked rhubarb. The lid was more cake slices, drizzled with warm maple syrup and then blanketed under soft clouds of meringue. After baking at 325 degrees for about 20 minutes, this becomes a show-stopping treat, nowadays easily made with store-bought pound cake.

Recipes for rhubarb chutney and rhubarb jam are also common in old cookbooks. Both usually include ginger, and this is worth remembering because rhubarb and ginger – like apples and cinnamon – are a winning flavor team in pies, cobblers, and crisps. Ginger even seems to soften the sourness of rhubarb.

Strawberries have something of the same effect. Rhubarb will still be around when June's strawberry crop arrives. You can use the two together, roughly half and half, in desserts, jam, and pie fillings.

This long list of rhubarb dishes shows rhubarb has outgrown its early name of pie plant. As well as being great in baked goods, in sauces its acidity can balance rich foods. It's so versatile that it's even a key ingredient in Apéro!, the popular Italian aperitif. 

RHUBARB AND MARZIPAN TART

about 5 long stalks rhubarb
about ½ cup sugar, or as needed
2 Tbsp. butter
1 Tbsp. cornstarch
1 sheet store-bought puff pastry
7-oz. package marzipan, or almond paste
about 1 Tbsp. cream
2 Tbsp. sliced almonds (optional)
2 tsp. confectioners' sugar

Clean and trim the rhubarb. Over low heat, cook it in a pan with a tablespoon of water and the sugar. When simmering increase the heat and add the butter. Stir and cook until tender.

In a small bowl, mix the cornstarch with a tablespoon of water; stir in a little hot juice from the pan, then stir this mixture into the bubbling rhubarb and cook until it thickens. Pour into a bowl and put in the fridge while you roll the pastry.

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees, and line a baking sheet with parchment paper or grease and dust it with flour. Roll out the pastry slightly, keeping its rectangular shape. Transfer it to the baking sheet.

Lightly dust your surface with confectioners' sugar, put the marzipan or almond paste on it, and roll into a strip roughly 3 by 11 inches. Place this in the center of the pastry, leaving narrow top and bottom borders, and wide borders on the sides.

Make some long cuts about 2 inches apart and reaching the edge along the wide borders. Cover the marzipan with a quarter-inch thick layer of the rhubarb.

Fold the edge, first from the left side and then



HOPLEY PHOTOS

from the right. (The cuts make this easier.) Expect some small gaps, which will vent the tart. Fold the bottom and top ends over.

Brush with the cream, and scatter the sliced almonds on top. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until golden brown.

Serve slightly warm or at room temperature dusted with confectioners' sugar.

Artist Profile: Melissa Stratton Pandina

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I found a very interesting person to write an artist profile on when I stumbled upon a painting on the sidewalk. It's a mural of Jonathan Leavitt, who was an abolitionist in Greenfield, and it is one of 13 murals for the Abolitionist Walk that is going up in Greenfield.

I came back later and met the artist while she was working on it, and got her card. Her name is Melissa Stratton Pandina.

“I have been painting for 20 years,” Stratton Pandina told me. “I have been doing murals for five years.” Her card also mentions she does art classes, commissions, illustrations, and puppets.

Stratton Pandina said her friends and family are very supportive of her art. Her illustrations and murals are the most popular. “I do five small mural projects a year,” she told me.

“I do three to four illustration projects a year.” It turns out that she is in fact doing three of the murals for the Greenfield walk. Another one features Fredrick Douglass.

Stratton Pandina's education consists of a degree in illustration from Mass Art in 2003. Other murals she has painted have been at Elk Ridge Zoo in Southwick, and one at a Mural Slam she is going to in Salem, Massachusetts.

Her website says she has worked with publishers to help create album covers and make calendars. She works as an editorial illustrator, and she does book covers and a little bit of children's illustrations. “I worked more for self-published authors,” she explained. “I have done *PreacherWoman for the Goddess* by Bethroot Gwynn.”

Some of the puppets she has made are “based on old European folklore and practices,” her website explains;

“[T]his allows the fantastic to cross all the way out of its two-dimensional space and into our world.”

“The ones I have up are Mari Lwyd, based on a Welsh myth,” she told me. “It's a Christmas horse that visits from Solstice to Twelfth Night.”

Other pieces Stratton Pandina has made include public works projects for the Easthampton Bear Fest and the Springfield Museum's Chalk It Up! Chalk Art Festival.

“I've also done many private commissions,” she added to that. “I have another large project scheduled for this year in Danville, New York.”

Stratton Pandina told me her commissions go from \$300 to \$4,000, depending on size and materials. I have looked at her work on her website, and I would say it has a surreal nature and fantasy look to it. You can see for yourself at www.deshria.com.



WLOSTOSKI PHOTO

This portrait of Jonathan Leavitt is one of 13 commissioned for Greenfield's new Abolitionist Walk.

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El Camino de Santiago

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

GREENFIELD – Cuando digo que soy española muchas personas me dicen que les gustaría hacer el Camino o que lo han hecho alguna vez en el pasado como es mi caso. En estas líneas voy a resumir el origen, en qué consiste y algunas ideas para el que esté pensando en hacerlo.

La leyenda dice que en el siglo IX un ermitaño llamado Pelayo vio una estrella que brillaba más de lo habitual y en compañía del obispo de Iria Flavia (Galicia) fue al lugar que había marcado la estela del astro. Allí mismo, escondido entre unos arbustos encontraron la tumba de Santiago Apóstol y dieron a ese lugar el nombre de Compostela, del latín *campus stellae*.

El rey Alfonso II el Casto enterado de este hecho decidió que debía ir a verlo con sus propios ojos y caminó desde Oviedo para visitar la tumba. Así fue como se convirtió en el primer peregrino del Camino de Santiago. Se impresionó tanto con el lugar que decidió construir una catedral en ese sitio para honrar al apóstol.

¿Por qué surge la idea de las peregrinaciones?

En ese momento hay una serie de circunstancias sociopolíticas en la península ibérica y en el resto de Europa. La Reconquista de los territorios en poder de los musulmanes se estaba llevando a cabo y era importante tener un santo patrón al que encomendar las batallas. Y al mismo tiempo se utilizaba una de las



Concha con la cruz de Santiago.

antiguas principales vías de comunicación construida por los romanos y que llegaba hasta Finisterre, convirtiéndose en ruta de peregrinación para los cristianos de toda Europa.

¿Cómo se puede recorrer El Camino de Santiago?

El Camino de Santiago se puede empezar en diversos puntos de la geografía española e incluso desde Francia en el conocido como Camino francés.

La ruta se puede recorrer a pie, a caballo o en bicicleta. La primera opción es la más elegida ya que resulta ser la más fácil por gozar de mayor libertad para encontrar alojamiento en los diferentes albergues a lo largo del Camino. Andando es más fácil conocer gente y hacer amistad con personas que van a tu ritmo y tienen pensado pernoctar en los mismos lugares.

Hacer el Camino en bicicleta es un poco más complicado ya que algunos lugares no disponen de un lugar para dejarlas durante la noche o por problemas técnicos con la mis-

ma bicicleta que sean difíciles de solucionar sin las herramientas adecuadas. Aún así, la bicicleta permite recorrer tramos más largos, unos 50 kilómetros al día y te permite por ello aventurarte fuera de la ruta marcada para conocer otros lugares.

Si quieres conseguir tu pase firmado de peregrino debes recorrer al menos 200 km para conseguirlo.

Recorrer el Camino a caballo es la opción más complicada puesto que requiere planearlo por adelantado y estar seguro de que se encontrarán lugares donde el caballo pueda descansar y estar bien atendido. Puede resultar también caro debido a las circunstancias especiales que tiene viajar a lomos del animal.

¿Cuándo recorrerlo? ¿Cuál es la mejor época del año?

La elección de la mejor época es un poco subjetiva ya que depende de las circunstancias de cada persona.

En general si quieres encontrarte a menos gente y hacer un camino con menos afluencia de peregrinos en los albergues y hostales es mejor en primavera. Los precios son más asequibles y no habrá problema para encontrar habitaciones disponibles para dormir. La desventaja es que en esta época llueve más y las temperaturas a veces pueden ser bajas.

Puede ser que tengas que viajar durante las vacaciones de verano. En julio y agosto es cuando más gente decide hacerlo así que debes reservar los lugares para alojarte con tiempo y tener siempre un plan B en caso de que el albergue esté lleno a tu llegada. Las temperaturas

serán más altas, pero el calor en el Norte de España nunca es excesivo y es esta época cuando podrás conocer a más gente si este es uno de tus motivos para realizar el Camino.

¿Cuántos kilómetros se deben recorrer?

La extensión de la caminata depende del lugar donde decidas comenzar. Eso sí, todas las rutas terminan en Santiago de Compostela. La ruta más común es el Camino francés saliendo desde Sarria (Lugo) con una longitud de aproximadamente unos 100 km.

La ruta portuguesa se puede iniciar en Lisboa o en Oporto, cruza Extremadura y Castilla y León en España hasta llegar a Santiago lo que implica unos 400 km y lo recomendado es hacerla en 30 días.

El Camino del norte empieza en San Sebastián (País Vasco) y es la elegida por los peregrinos de Francia y norte de Europa. Tiene el atractivo de una gran oferta gastronómica y recorrer la costa del Cantábrico.

El Camino inglés se llama así por ser la ruta elegida por los peregrinos que venían de Irlanda o Gran Bretaña. Es la ruta más corta y empieza en La Coruña. Son unos 70 kilómetros de recorrido.

Y por último la más espectacular es la ruta a Fisterra. Es la ruta que comienza después de llegar a Santiago y tiene unas vistas impresionantes. Los peregrinos tienen la tradición de llegar allí y quemar la ropa y enseres que han utilizado en el Camino como símbolo de purificación para emprender el camino

ILLUSTRATION BY WIKIMEDIA USER TMG

Crisis diplomática entre España y Argentina

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

GREENFIELD – En estos momentos dos países que se han considerado aliados, amigos y casi hermanos, España y Argentina viven una crisis diplomática única en mucho tiempo debido a la visita privada a España del presidente argentino Milei y sus consecuencias.

Hace unas semanas la embajada argentina en España enviaba una carta en la que comunicaba al Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores español que entre los días 17 y 19 de mayo, el presidente Milei estaría de visita privada en España. El motivo del viaje era reunirse con miembros destacados del partido español de extrema derecha Vox y un encuentro con empresarios españoles y argentinos.

En el evento del 19 de mayo organizado por el partido político Vox, Milei calificó de *corrupta* a la mujer del gobierno español, Begoña Gómez. El gobierno español exigió disculpas por estas declaraciones al gobierno argentino, pero estas nunca llegaron.

No contento con esto, a la vuelta de su viaje a España, Milei concedió una entrevista a su canal conservador de confianza *La Nación* + donde insultó al presidente español Pedro Sánchez llamándolo “mentiroso, incompetente y cobarde” y añadió que Sánchez era “el hazmerreír de Europa en materia de diplomacia.”

Por otra parte, la oposición parlamentaria argentina empezó a preguntarse acerca del uso de fondos públicos para realizar una visita privada. El gobierno argentino no ha informado clara-

mente acerca de los gastos ocasionados por este viaje, pero se calcula que el uso del avión privado oficial supone un gasto de unos 200.000 dólares.

Ante esto el portavoz del gobierno alegó que se trataba de un fallo de la embajada y que el término visita privada no significaba lo mismo para la embajada que para el gobierno. Milei intentó justificar la visita diciendo que se podía hacer una visita oficial sin tener que reunirse con ningún representante del gobierno y que se reunió con empresarios por cuestiones económicas favorables para Argentina. Aún así la oposición no dio por válidas estas explicaciones, y ha decidido llevar a Milei ante los tribunales por defraudar al estado.

En estos momentos la crisis diplomática sigue sin resolverse.

de regreso a casa.

La ruta más común es hacer unos 200 kilómetros a pie en una semana.

¿Viajar sola?

España es un país con un nivel de seguridad alto para las mujeres que viajan solas. Simplemente mantén las precauciones que indica el sentido común: lleva tu teléfono móvil cargado, haz caso a tu instinto, y procura tener tus posesiones de valor a buen recaudo.

¿Dónde alojarse?

Existen diferentes tipos de alojamientos. Están los albergues de peregrinos que cobran una pequeña cuota para gastos de limpieza y mantenimiento. Son los más económicos. Es la mejor solución si viajas solo o sola. No se puede reservar plaza, se basan en el sistema de orden de llegada y se da prioridad a los peregrinos que van a pie antes de los que van en bicicleta o a caballo ya que estos tienen la posibilidad de seguir el Camino para encontrar otro lugar.

Se aceptan peregrinos a partir de las 12 del mediodía y se prohíbe cualquier tipo de ruido después de las 9 de la noche. Es obligatorio salir antes de las 9 de la mañana. Algunos incluyen desayuno o tienen una cocina comunitaria para poder prepararlo. Si viajas en grupo es mejor alojarse en hoteles rurales, hostales u hoteles que existen a lo largo de toda la ruta. Es mejor reservar con antelación.

¿Qué ver y qué comer?

A lo largo del Camino vas a ver monumentos construidos en diferentes épocas, vas a poder admirar paisajes muy diferentes, e incluso practicar diferentes lenguas solamente dentro del territorio español.

No podemos olvidarnos de la gastronomía variada y diferente en cada región con especial atención a los mariscos y pescados de Galicia y sus famosos vinos Albariño y de Ribeiro.

¿Por qué hacer el Camino?

Los motivos pueden ser muy variados. Las encuestas dicen que un 30% de personas decide hacerlo por llevar a cabo un reto personal, un 28% por motivos religiosos o de espiritualidad, y un 20% por conectar con la naturaleza y el paisaje, el resto se divide entre motivos de salud o bienestar o conocer gente.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



THURSDAY, MAY 30

Energy Park, Greenfield: 133 Skeele, R&D, Small Change. Free. 6 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Eggtooth Productions presents Orlando. \$: 7:30 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Paolo Angeli. \$: 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 31

LAVA Center, Greenfield: The Frost Heaves and HaLeS, duo set. \$: 5:30 p.m.

Leverett Village Co-op, Leverett: Greek Music Night with Rafe Wolman, Ariel Shapiro, Rachel Leader, Clarissa Lyons, Jesse Olsen Bay, and Heather Kuhn. Free. 6 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: Nation of Language, Ian Sweet. \$: 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Eggtooth Productions presents Orlando. \$: 7:30 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: Buffalo Tom. \$: 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Bride of Chucky, Hardcar, Michael Slyne. \$: 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: Eli Elkus, musical storytelling. Free. 11 a.m.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell:

Green Lion Crew, Bud E. Green, I Ganic Sound System, Satta-Sound. No cover. 4 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Eggtooth Productions presents Orlando. \$: 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Bunnies, Sonum Unum, Chris Goudreau. \$: 8 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Negativland, SUE-C, Valley Solar. \$: 8 p.m.

Rat Trap, Holyoke: Gay Mayor, Wanted, Valley Gals, Ian St. George Band. \$: 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

Pekeompskut Park, Turners Falls: ICICI, Neonach, Marasca, Small Choice, Sagan & Sigourney, Dave Thomas & the Frosty Five. Free. 3 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 4

Stone Church, Brattleboro: Killah Priest, SoloGem. \$: 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: George Matthew Jr. \$: 12 p.m.

Black Birch Vineyard, Hatfield: Livingston Taylor. \$: 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

Energy Park, Greenfield: Joe Graveline, Katie Clark & Larry LeBlanc, The Frost Heaves and HaLes. Free. 6 p.m.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket:

Gracious Calamity. \$: 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 7

Bookends, Florence: Twin Foxes, Nanny, Grazer. \$: 6:30 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: Mere of Light, Annie Grizzle, Eileen Stillwell, Kristine Leschper & Page Page. \$: 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: The Leafies You Gave Me, Padded Waltz, Randi Woodelle. \$: 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: Tony Trischka. \$: 8 p.m.

Hutghi's, Westfield: Bunnies, Rope Trick, Cheap City, Fugue State. \$: 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Greenfield Records' Big 15 feat. Noise Nomads, Old Pam, Stella Kola, The Eye, Willie Lane, Big Destiny, Creative Writing, Moth's Frog, DJs. \$: 1 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: Rani Arbo & daisy mayhem. \$: 7:30 p.m.

Tori Town, Holyoke: Silvie's Okay; rage, honey; Sleep Destroyer. \$: 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Echoes of Floyd. \$: 8 p.m.

Colonial Theater, Keene: Roseanne Cash. \$: 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: Quabbin Valley Pro Musi-

ca. \$: 4 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: Gorrilla Biscuits, Restraining Order, The Path, Slob Drop. \$: 4 p.m.

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Tula Vera, Bruiser and Bicycle, M.I.B.L.E. \$: 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Gemma Lawrence, Nell Sather, Waterbug. \$: 7 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

Energy Park, Greenfield: Jennie McAvoy, Orlen Gabriel & Avery, Pat & Tex LaMountain. Free. 6 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: Marasca, Amber Wolfe Rounds, Ben Richter. \$: 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Film, Popul Vuh: The Creation Myth of the Maya. \$: 6 p.m.

Iron Horse, Northampton: Bettye LaVette. \$: 7 p.m.

Club Castaway, Whately: Western Mass' Sexxiest Pride Party feat. DJ Kashmere Champagne. \$: 8 p.m.

looking forward...

SATURDAY, JUNE 15
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: The B-52.0s, DJ Just Joan, more. \$: 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 21
Rat Trap, Holyoke: California X, Corrode, The Watcher. \$: 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Power Trousers, Van Walton, DJ Mentaldrift. \$: 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 23
Lunder Center, Williamstown: Garcia Peoples, Mountain Movers. Free. 5 p.m.

FRI-SUN, JUNE 28-30
MASS MoCA, North Adams: Wilco, Jason Isbell, Nick Lowe, Iris Dement, Mary Halvorson, Wednesday, Soul Glo, Horse Lords, more. See solidsoundfestival.com.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13
Pines Theater, Northampton: Violent Femmes. \$: 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14
Pines Theater, Northampton: Violent Femmes. \$: 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21
Iron Horse, Northampton: Dave Alvin & Jimmie Dale Gilmore with The Guilty Ones. \$: 7 p.m.



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Montague Community Television News Seeking Good References...

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – Do you have time to write us a letter of support? If so, we'd greatly appreciate a note about what MCTV means to you. It will help us receive the funding that we rely on from Comcast that keeps access to your public access station free! And if you do have time to come by the relicensing meeting, it is taking place on June 17 at 6 p.m. at the Montague town hall.

We at MCTV try our best to cover all of the important political events, such as this week's uploads of the Montague selectboard, Gill selectboard, and Montague planning board, whose prior meetings are now available on our Vimeo as well. We will hopefully be adding new committees to our roster as well – you should soon be seeing meetings from the Montague board of health, zoning board of appeals, airport commission, and more.

We also try to catch as many cultural events as we can, and Montague has many. This week we have videos from *Immigrant Voices: A Celebration of the Arts*, which took place at the Shea Theater on May 19, as

well as one of Pamela Means performing "The Power of the Protest Song" earlier that same day at Peskemooskut Park.

It's wonderful to get to document all of the incredible goings-on in Montague, and what's really amazing is that you can, too! The best thing about MCTV is that all community members are welcome and encouraged to submit their videos to be aired on Channel 9 and featured on our Vimeo page.

If you have any ideas for films, 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 at no cost to you. It's an incredible resource.

And 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. Find videos and more on our website, montaguetv.org.

ORLANDO from page B1

love, or is learning how to self-love, there is something for you," said Linda Tardif, who plays the title role. "Orlando is a piece that really asks the community to open its mind and see what can come next."

Based on the 1928 Virginia Woolf novel *Orlando: A Biogra-*

phy, the play tells the story of a young nobleman drawn into a love affair with Queen Elizabeth I. For a time, life at court is interesting enough, but Orlando yearns for something more. As he strives to make his way as a poet and lover, his travels through time and space keep him at the heart of a dazzling

tale where gender and gender freedom shift regularly, often with hilarious results.

The play spans 400 years of history, including scenes set in the present day, and shows the life of a young person growing from the age of 16 to 26.

Besides Tardif – who also serves



Left to right: Rich Vaden, Linda Tardif, Kyle Boatwright, and Lindel Hart rehearse the play this week at the Shea.

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The One Room Schoolhouse program is made possible with support from the New Salem Academy and the Orange Cultural Council. The Wendell Historical Society is a registered (501)(c)3 non-profit organization.

as the Shea Theater Arts Center's managing director – in the title role, the ensemble cast includes Kyle Boatwright, Lindel Hart, Rich Vaden, and Joe Dulude II, who transforms into 15 different characters throughout the production. The fantastical production features lighting design by John Bechtold and costumes by Christina Beam.

McInerney explained that the play's theme – "magic happens before your very eyes" – is echoed in the production's costume design, which features characters transforming on stage in new and magical ways.

"It wrestles in an intelligent and celebratory way with the idea of gender, which is a really important topic of conversation right now," McInerney added.

The production is offered in support of the Collective at Lupinwood, which provides housing and community for transgender people in Greenfield. Members of the collective will be selling their art at the theater before and after the performance.

This show also marks McInerney's return to directing with Egg-tooth Productions since before the COVID-19 pandemic. McInerney

said that this return holds personal significance for her, as it marks a powerful resurgence following her own struggle with Long COVID and the broader devastation wrought by the pandemic upon the theater industry.

Tickets are \$20, available at sheatheater.org or at the door. Audience members who purchase VIP tickets for \$45 will be invited to join in on the action with immersive elements of the production. Signature drinks, which Tardif described as "spirits of the age," will be on sale during the performance.

Tardif explained that the event contributes to the town-owned theater's goals of creating a space for all through a diverse range of offered programming. This past month the theater has hosted live music concerts featuring cover and original performances, a movie night, and youth dance recitals as well as the production of *Orlando*.

"The fact that Virginia Woolf wrote a wild journey of a young boy turning into a woman, climbing social and political ranks, is amazing," she said. "You won't feel like you are watching something from 100 years ago."



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