

The Montague Reporter

Goldman Sweeps Town In Write-In Landslide

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE and GILL – Town elections were held in Gill and Montague Monday and Tuesday. Ninety-three voters cast ballots in Gill, a 7% turnout, and all but ten



Breaking with recent trends, voter turnout in downtown Turners Falls this week exceeded that of three other precincts.

agreed to restore John Ward to the town selectboard. Ward, who previously served from 2009 to 2021, was running unopposed.

Montague saw a slightly higher turnout – 858, just under 12% of registered voters – and an upset, with Montague Center resident and political newcomer Marina Goldman defeating two multiple-term veterans of the board by margins that can only be described as a landslide, even though she was not on the ballot and had campaigned for under three weeks.

“I never expected to win by that many votes,” said Goldman, whose name was written in on 599 of those ballots. She swept the town’s six precincts, and the 264 votes she earned in her home precinct alone, Precinct 1, exceeded every ballot cast without her name townwide.

“All I have to say is that I wish her all the best in the world,” Chris Boutwell, who has served on the

see **LANDSLIDE** page A8

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Truck Parking Discussion Shifts Gears at Hearing

By JEFF SINGLETON

“Low-frequency noise can cause headaches, heart attacks, and other symptoms,” Lillian Moss, who lives in Turners Falls, told the Montague selectboard at its Monday night meeting. “I am particularly susceptible to low-frequency sound. This truck runs its cooling system right under my windows during the day, sometimes for five or six hours at a time.”

Moss’s statement, made at a public hearing on a proposed amendment to Montague’s traffic regula-

tions that would dramatically restrict the parking of large commercial vehicles on roads and public parking lots, threw something of a curveball into the process.

Monday night’s brief board meeting, on the day before the annual spring election, also dealt with a reorganization of library staff, a heavy metal festival, an ambitious proposal to apply for multiple state grants, and a plan to seek feedback on the recent attempt to hold the annual town meeting on a weeknight.

Moss’s complaint about sound

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

High School Sports Week: And Finally, the Playoffs

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – The first round of the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference playoffs commenced on Wednesday, May 21. In softball, Franklin Tech and Turners Falls both mercy-ed

their opponents, while the Turners baseballers lost down in Ware.

Meanwhile, the Franklin Tech boys are heading to Connecticut for a chance at a piece of the conference title, and several athletes will represent Franklin Tech and Turners

see **SPORTS** page A4



Turners Falls High School ace pitcher Madi Liimatainen was in control Wednesday night as the Thunder rolled 16-0 over the visiting Ware Indians in the PVLAC Western Mass. Class D quarterfinal game at Gary Mullins Field.

It’s Asparagus Season at Our Family Legacy Farm



GAGNON PHOTO

Our Family Legacy Farm co-owner Cliff Spatcher drags a cultivator behind his Ford Golden Jubilee tractor to remove milkweed roots from the asparagus fields.

By BEN GAGNON

MONTAGUE CENTER – It’s easy to tell what season it is at Our Family Legacy Farm on Turners Falls Road in Montague. In early May, row upon row of red tulips were framed by a row of white daffodils in the front yard, attracting passersby to stop and gather a few flowers. In mid- to late summer, the sunflower maze in the back field will be attracting families from around New England to wander among the giant stalks, and in the fall it’ll be time to “pick your own” pumpkins.

The farm stand features chicken and turkey eggs, herbs from sage to cilantro and sweet basil, flower baskets such as mixed marigolds, impatiens, and native

petunias, and three different kinds of tomato plants.

But the bumper crop for owners Cliff and Natalie Spatcher is asparagus, which grows rapidly during a short season from mid-May to mid-June. On the 40-acre spread, more than 14 acres are devoted to asparagus, which is sold at the farm stand, to Food City in Turners Falls, Green Fields Market and Agway in Greenfield, the Pioneer Valley Growers Association in South Deerfield, the Leverett Village Co-op, and to some caterers in the area.

Both Cliff and Natalie have deep roots in agriculture, with Cliff growing up on Spatcher Farm in Leyden, still owned and operated by his parents Ken and Holly,

see **ASPARAGUS** page A6

Name Picked For Proposed New District: ‘Great River’

By ALI RAE CROWLEY

FRANKLIN COUNTY – On Tuesday night the board proposing a new regional school district combining the towns of Bernardston, Gill, Leyden, Montague, Northfield, and Warwick unanimously approved a name for the potential district: “Great River Regional.”

“Most people seemed pretty happy with ‘Great River,’” Northfield representative Deb Potee, who had served on the subcommittee to find a name, commented at the remote meeting. “I think it is a perfectly good name for this possible regionalization... Great River makes a lot of sense.”

“I liked it because it had a ring to it,” Alan Genovese of Warwick, the planning board’s chair, remarked. “When you add the word ‘Regional’ in it, it kinda went together well.”

Deb Loomer and Bill Tomb of Gill moved that the board endorse “Great River Regional School District” as the name, and the vote to approve it was unanimous. The name will be added to the proposed regional agreement currently under review by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

see **SIX-TOWN** page A6

GILL SELECTBOARD

Ward Rejoins Board; School Seeks Outdoor Class Space

By KATE SAVAGE

Following Monday’s town election, John Ward once again became a member of the Gill selectboard, after a four-year hiatus. “Congratulations and condolences all at the same time,” said selectboard member Greg Snedeker at the board’s meeting Tuesday.

“I think this counts as community service credit,” member Charles Garbiel added.

Ward, who ran uncontested for the seat previously held by Randy Crochier, previously sat on the board from 2009 to 2021. On Tuesday the board elected Garbiel as chair and Ward as clerk for the term ahead.

An outdoor classroom space may be coming to Gill Elementary School, to support farm-to-school programming. The school currently has a garden for teaching students about growing and preparing vegetables; a pavilion would be used as a classroom and work space during hot or rainy days.

Gill and Sheffield Elementaries

see **GILL** page A4

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

COA: Seniors Should Have Dibs on Town Hall Space

By GEORGE BRACE

After a quick reorganization – in which Tom Hankinson stepped down as chair and was replaced by Patricia Duffy, who was “next in line” for the experience according to Hankinson – the Leverett selectboard held a lengthy meeting Tuesday evening, beginning with a request from the Council on Aging to create a special committee to look into ways to reach out to seniors who may be in need of help.

Council On Aging (COA) chair Judi Fonsh said some seniors in

Leverett who may be in need of services are isolated, and an effort needs to be made to identify and reach out to them, as reaching people in need of services may be more difficult than connecting them with such services. She suggested that an *ad hoc* committee to come up with ideas would be beneficial, and asked the selectboard for guidance in its formation.

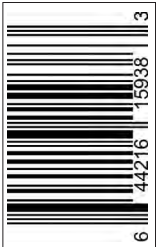
Fonsh suggested that the committee could be made up of fire and police personnel, possibly a representative from the library, and

see **LEVERETT** page A5

Precinct 1 ‘Worse Than Leverett,’ Registrar Declares

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The Montague Reporter

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OP ED

AGs Toe Careful Line

By JIM ASBEL

GILL – Five New England Attorneys General held a joint town hall meeting last Friday, May 16 in Dorchester. I drove from Gill to press our AG on direct response to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrests in Massachusetts.

During their brief statements all five laid out the progress and general success of many lawsuits they have filed against ICE and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), also acknowledging the effectiveness of many cases brought by civil rights and labor groups. Their statements were spirited and optimistic about turning back Trump’s assertion of dictatorial power in federal courts up through the Supreme Court.

Indeed, the past few weeks have begun to answer the question of whether the judicial branch of government will continue to back Trump’s power grab or uphold the Constitution. It is upholding the Constitution. However, the federal judiciary’s lack of real enforcement power remains troubling, and the question remains as to what our state AGs, with their own real enforcement power, are willing to do to protect residents of the states as the federal judiciary is without boots on the ground.

Several attendees put that question to the AGs and were met with fierce, but nuanced, statements of resistance against the unconstitutional use of federal forces. The AGs pointed to the effectiveness of legal proceedings in federal courts as reason to soft-pedal an antagonistic position, and project a more cooperative approach to the judiciary than the Trump gang is doing to their own disservice.

Massachusetts AG Andrea Joy Campbell insisted that notwithstanding a cooperative posture, nothing is off the table in the protection of Massachusetts residents, and she referred to several cases in which her office has intervened to redirect ICE arrest procedures into channels of due process. She also reminded attendees that each of us has a role to play and pointed out that legal response begins with neighbors paying attention and reporting ICE arrests immediately to their District Attorney’s offices.

Campbell indicated that when this happens, investigators are immediately dispatched to ensure due process by ICE agents and to

follow cases through each successive step. In an aside she intimated that, in light of targeting of opposition lawyers and other officials by the Trump administration, it was important that she keep her cards close to her chest regarding anticipated tactics. But she also insisted that neither she, nor any of her colleagues, will be intimidated by threats.

Connecticut AG William Tong was particularly fierce in his assessment of ICE actions, acknowledging that while the slow wheels of court proceedings turn, immigrants’ lives are in daily peril. One senses that these leaders mean business, but that we must continue our vigilance both locally and following federal cases, and must continue to hold our state leaders accountable to their duties.

There may indeed come a time when Massachusetts and other states find it more realistic to admit that our own constitutions supersede a demolished federal union, but for the time being, our chief lawyers and federal judges are maintaining a strained marriage.

James Asbel, a retired teacher, lives in Gill.

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Sophomore Travis Graves TIG-welds an aluminum “infinity cube” in the Franklin County Technical School welding shop.

Letters to the Editors

Overpass Invitation

If you are not angry now, you haven’t been paying attention.

We have a President who says he is “not sure” that people have due process rights guaranteed by the Constitution, and an advisor who suggests that *habeus corpus* (the right not to be jailed without a trial) could be constitutionally suspended for immigrants.

A President who wants to accept a \$400 million jet from Qatar in direct violation of the emoluments clause of the Constitution designed to prevent corruption by the President. Who has bypassed Congress to illegally decimate agencies like US AID and the Department of Education and deny grants and benefits like Meals on Wheels, SNAP benefits for the poor, and Head Start early education that had already been awarded by our representatives.

An administration that is at the point of depriving 14 million people of their healthcare in order to justify huge tax breaks that benefit primarily the 1% richest people.

These are blatant moves to fund the greedy, not the needy. If we don’t

A Matter Of Time

What will you do when they try to disappear a person from the GCC campus? It’s only a matter of time before it happens.

What, besides “speak out,” will you do to keep your neighbors safe?

Chris Joseph Greenfield

OP ED

Official Joint Statement, May 19:

We strongly oppose the expansion of Israel’s military operations in Gaza. The level of human suffering in Gaza is intolerable. Yesterday’s announcement that Israel will allow a basic quantity of food into Gaza is wholly inadequate. We call on the Israeli Government to stop its military operations in Gaza and immediately allow humanitarian aid to enter Gaza. This must include engaging with the UN to ensure a return to delivery of aid in line with humanitarian principles. We call on Hamas to release immediately the remaining hostages they have so cruelly held since 7 October 2023.

The Israeli Government’s denial of essential humanitarian assistance to the civilian population is unacceptable and risks breaching International Humanitarian Law. We condemn the abhorrent language used recently by members of the Israeli Government, threatening that, in their despair at the destruction of Gaza, civilians will start to relocate. Permanent forced displacement is a breach of international humanitarian law.

Israel suffered a heinous attack on October 7. We have always supported Israel’s right to defend Israelis against terrorism. But this escalation is wholly disproportionate.

We will not stand by while the Netanyahu Government pursues these egregious actions. If Israel does not cease the renewed military offensive and lift its restrictions on humanitarian aid, we will take further concrete actions in response.

We oppose any attempt to expand settlements in the West Bank. Israel must halt settlements which are illegal and undermine the viability of a Palestinian

state and the security of both Israelis and Palestinians. We will not hesitate to take further action, including targeted sanctions.

We strongly support the efforts led by the United States, Qatar and Egypt to secure an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. It is a ceasefire, the release of all remaining hostages and a long-term political solution that offer the best hope of ending the agony of the hostages and their families, alleviating the suffering of civilians in Gaza, ending Hamas’ control of Gaza and achieving a pathway to a two-state solution, consistent with the goals of the 18 June conference in New York co-chaired by Saudi Arabia and France. These negotiations need to succeed, and we must all work towards the implementation of a two-state solution, which is the only way to bring long-lasting peace and security that both Israelis and Palestinians deserve, and ensure long-term stability in the region.

We will continue to work with the Palestinian Authority, regional partners, Israel and the United States to finalise consensus on arrangements for Gaza’s future, building on the Arab plan. We affirm the important role of the High-level Two-State Solution Conference at the UN in June in building international consensus around this aim. And we are committed to recognising a Palestinian state as a contribution to achieving a two-state solution and are prepared to work with others to this end.

Keir Starmer, *Prime Minister, Great Britain*
Emmanuel Macron, *President, France*
Mark Carney, *Prime Minister, Canada*

build and maintain a strong resistance to support our constitutional democracy now to challenge the Trump kleptocracy, we will lose it.

We have built a tri-state coalition of groups that have already been mounting regular protest standouts on the overpasses on Route 91. The tri-state standout is linked to the Indivisible movement (www.indivisible.org), which encourages local communities to engage with their democracy through peaceful protest. This event is aimed at condemning such actions by the Trump administration as proposals to cut Social Security and the detention of student activists who protest US support for Israeli military actions in Gaza.

Join Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution (FCCPR) and our partners holding signs at seven overpasses in Franklin County this Friday, May 23 from 4 to 6 p.m. This is a coordinated action on Route 91 overpasses from Connecticut far into Vermont.

Join us finding the “Overpasses for Democracy” item at www.fccpr.us, clicking on the linked map, and selecting an overpass you would like to cover. In the popup to the left of the map, click the link to sign up on Mobilize online – or just come! Zoom in on the map to see details about suggested parking.

And, looking forward, join the No Kings event in Greenfield on June 14 to oppose Trump’s military display on his birthday in DC. Look for details at www.fccpr.us.

Ann Ferguson Leverett

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TURNERS FALLS AND VICINITY.

(Title still temporary.
Haven't found
something better yet.)

Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

Reader Ken Washburn was the first to share the news – and back it up with evidence – that the **South Street bridge** in Montague Center has been reopened! Guess it's really Montague Center's week. Here is Ken's bridge photo:



Bad news came from the **United States Post Office** last week, in the form of a stack of returned newspapers we had attempted to mail from Greenfield. This newspaper has remained the same size since 2012, but we are told the postal service is facing new pressures, and therefore we do not fit through the "letter" slot.

We already pay first class and are treated, by numerous accounts, as media mail, left in the back of trucks for extra days at a time in some cities, but we've always dealt with it, and most of our further-flung subscribers understand they aren't getting the news hot off the press. (Reminder: all print subscribers are eligible for a complimentary digital subscription as well.)

If we now have to add an extra 75 cents per item for that service, passing it on to subscribers would mean increasing the price of an annual mailed subscription from \$75 to \$108.75. We're really hoping it won't come to that, so if you get your *Reporter* in the mail, you may see some packaging experiments in the coming weeks.

Friend of the *Reporter* Rafter Ferguson, whose population-weighted charts tracking the **concentration of COVID-19** in western Massachusetts's wastewater were the subject of an interview this winter (January 23, 2025, *After First Five Years, Data on Virus Scant*, Page A1), reached out last week with some *good* news: the levels, he reported, were "the lowest they've been in at least three years."

That is truly excellent, and worth sharing – though one of our beloved distribution volunteers can't seem to shake the virus this month, so it's still very much on our minds.

Have you been **watching Andor**? The first season was excellent; the second starts a little slow but surpasses it in quality. It's wild that one of the best shows about the current political state of our galaxy is a Star Wars-Disney product. Don't let either of those things dissuade you.

Here's another recommendation we're passing along from a friend: Vermont Public's **new six-episode podcast**, *The Afghan Women of Brattleboro*.

"After the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan in the fall of 2021, the US evacuated tens of thousands of Afghans whose lives were in danger. About 100 of them ended up as refugees in Brattleboro. Among them was a group of women who share their stories in a new podcast series."

I'm only one episode in, but can confidently recommend it. It's always great to see good longform journalism on our own vicinity.

Having hung around at town hall for hours specifically in **an attempt to be the first to post Montague's election results online** – on our Facebook page, which we really don't use much anymore – I was bummed to see the post achieve very little reach. I wanted the scoop!

Succumbing to my basest instincts, I decided to "boost" the post with \$6 out of pocket just to see what would happen.

What happened first was that, honest editor as I am, I checked a box acknowledging that the post related to elections and politics. This sent it into some kind of ad-review limbo for a few hours. I feared the worst – how would I prove to the platform that the results were true? – but then it was approved!

It was a waste of \$6, or at least it only resulted in a fraction of the views the ad-purchasing widget had promised, and now spammers are sending phishing email after phishing email to the editor's inbox (entirely unrelated to our Facebook page) pretending to be Facebook's lawyers and claiming our ad violated all sorts of policies and would jeopardize our entire account unless I click on a suspicious link.

There's something reassuring, though, in watching the big social media platforms rot out and cave in like so many pumpkins on a stoop. We will outlast them.



Our **Greenfield correspondent Joe R. Parzych** reports that he has been feeling better, and sent us this photo of a rubber duck with our newspaper. We hope it makes your day. Joe has sent other photos but they didn't fit in this edition. May is the busiest time for us, what with all the elections and meetings, and we're hoping June is more spacious.

"The spread of AIDS, the outbreak of rabies in the last five years and the closing of the town landfill are some of the issues that prompted Boutwell, 42, to run for the position, he said."

"Besides her professional concern with health issues, a personal rabies scare after Goldman was bitten last summer by a feral cat heightened her awareness of public health issues, she said."

These tidbits come from the May 17, 1997 *Greenfield Recorder*, when Chris Boutwell was on his way to handily defeating Marina Goldman for a seat on the Montague board of health. Stranger, the two appear on May 16 on the same page as Ed Voudren, who was on his way to winning a selectboard seat. Weird!

The **budget bill the House just passed** makes everything we saw with DOGE earlier this year look like the New Deal. Is your belt ready to tighten?

On Wednesday a 30-year-old leftist from Chicago allegedly **shot and killed** two Israeli embassy staffers in Washington. "The Israelis themselves boast about their own shock at the free hand the Americans have given them to exterminate the Palestinians," he allegedly wrote. "Public opinion has shifted against the genocidal apartheid state, and the American government has simply shrugged...."

This doesn't justify his alleged act – besides the human loss, we are facing a real risk that the country could descend into something like the Years of Lead in Italy, with spiraling political violence and intrigue and no gains in freedom. If the video feeds from Gaza continue in the current direction with no other intervention, we shouldn't be surprised to see more young Americans lashing out like this. It's all heartbreaking, and intolerable.

Send your little bits of news to editor@montaguereporter.org.



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FACES & PLACES



Dave Hoitt, regularly our sports photographer and a retired high school teacher, reports:

"An enthusiastic crowd attended Arts Night, a celebration of art and music hosted by Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School students last Friday. The event featured a stunning art display, and performances by choirs and bands with music selections based on the theme 'Once Upon a Time.'"

Left: "The Great Falls Middle School band has grown under the leadership of music teacher Alyssa Comeau. The percussion section alone now features eight students."



Above: "Student-artist-athlete Kharidix Huertas Hernandez discusses her pottery projects. Huertas Hernandez competed in doubles tennis – Turners Falls hosted Hampden Charter School of Science – just before Arts Night."

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GILL from page A1

received a \$27,000 grant from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to support their farm-to-school efforts. However, Gill principal Walter Huston said the money was made available in March and must be spent by the end of June, leaving the schools scrambling to develop and implement plans.

“We’re not making any guarantees at this point,” said Huston, but he explained plans for local architect Tom Chalmers to draw up a simple building design, after which the school could use the grant money to buy building materials. Volunteers could erect the structure at a later time.

“We’ve got a lot of people in the community who seem willing to help,” said parent and volunteer Sorrel Hatch, who runs an after-school garden club. “The real tricky part is how to use the grant money within this short time period.”

“This might be something that we may not get done by the first day of school in September,” said Huston, “but I could definitely see us working toward getting it done soon.”

The board voted unanimously to give the school permission to put “some type of structure in that general location.”

Greasy Sewers

The sewer commission met – the selectboard members, in other words, were joined by the two other commissioners – to consider implementing grease regulations for commercial kitchens that use the town’s sewer.

“It’s something that’s needed,” said commissioner Jeff Suprenant, pointing to an \$8,000 charge for a special company to clear layers of hardened fat out of the sewer’s wet well.

The group is considering regulations mirroring those used in Northampton. Members decided to take a month to get familiar with the proposed regulations, talk with local commercial establishments about them, and decide next

steps at the next meeting.

Garbiel, who owns the Shady Glen in Turners Falls, suggested the problem was “a two-fold thing”: educating restaurant owners, and performing more regular sewer maintenance. “As a restaurant owner,” he said, “we do everything we can to not have the grease go down the drain, because usually it’s our plumbing that freezes up first.”

The fat build-up in sewers, Garbiel said, can “get thick in just a year, so if you let that lapse five, six, seven, eight years, you’re going to end up with feet and feet of grease in there – and that’s where the \$8,000 comes in.”

Suprenant expressed concern that sewer users pay for the highway department to check on the sewer meter every day, rather than including that cost in the highway department budget. The annual cost to the sewer district for this regular maintenance is around \$14,000.

“The town has 36 miles of roads to plow and maintain. Riverside has two miles, and we’re paying just as much as anybody else in Gill,” he said. “It’s just way out of balance, the way I look at it.”

“Does the rest of the town, when they have a problem with their septic system, call the DPW to come work on it?” Snedeker asked rhetorically. He said it made sense for town funds to go toward some capital improvements to the sewer system, but probably not for its regular maintenance.

The commission agreed to explore the question further when it meets again on June 16.

Other Business

The selectboard began the process of appointing a tax collector for the year ahead. Former tax collector Tom Hodak passed away at the end of March, leaving a year of his elected term. Town administrator Ray Purington said he will begin reviewing and interviewing candidates to replace him.

“We’ve had a couple of people express interest in this position,” Purington said. “I’m

pleased with the turnout.” He said towns in the region are increasingly hard-pressed to fill administrative roles.

Following the one-year term, the position will transition to appointed rather than elected, allowing the town to look for candidates outside of Gill.

The board approved a payment to Advanced Energy Group to replace fluorescent tube lights at town hall with LEDs. The town will pay \$5,165 from the building maintenance budget and use \$3,440 from an Eversource incentive. The change is expected to save the town \$700 a year in energy costs.

Purington said the incentive amounts “aren’t great, but it seems like there’s less and less LED conversion incentive money available.”

The board approved a purchase of 20 rechargeable LED flashlights for the fire department for \$1,800. Fire captain Aaron Budine explained that all the flashlights the department currently has “are halogen and don’t work anymore, and the batteries cost almost the same amount as a new flashlight.”

“In the years that I’ve been gone,” asked Ward, “what have we done about getting help for Ray?”

Purington pointed to the relatively new role of administrative clerk, praising Nona LaGrenade for supporting the work of the planning and zoning boards and lightening his workload.

Gill’s Memorial Day services will take place this Sunday, May 25 at 9:30 a.m., beginning at the Gill church and then moving across the street to the veterans’ monuments.

A free regional repair event is happening Saturday, May 31, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Franklin County Tech School. Residents can bring in broken items or tools in need of sharpening and get help from experts and local handypeople.

Also that Saturday, a seedling swap will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Slate Library. Residents with extra plants are encouraged to bring them along to swap with their neighbors.

SPORTS from page A1

Falls at the Western Mass track and field championship meet at Mount Greylock this Saturday.

Baseball
FCTS 10 – Pathfinder 2
Ware 8 – TFHS 1

Last Thursday the Franklin Tech Baseball Eagles celebrated Senior Night by trouncing Pathfinder 10-2. All six seniors – Tyler Yetter, Zaydrien Alamed, Gavin Crossman, Mason Lehtomaki, Loki Rhodes, and Tucker Hicks – started the game for Tech.

The Eagles scored five runs before the Finders hit back in the third, plating two runs to make it a 5-2 contest. But the Birds fired back, scoring five unanswered runs for the 10-2 final.

Alamed finished with three hits, Yetter had two including a double, Lehtomaki hit a single, and Crossman scored a run. For the under-

classmen, George Gutierrez had three hits, Hunter Donahue a single and a double, and Brody Hicks two hits and scored two runs.

Brody Hicks also pitched five innings, allowing two runs, eight hits, and two walks, hitting two batters while striking out nine. Levi Clark came in as relief, scattering two hits and allowing no runs.

This Friday the Eagles will head down to Dunkin’ Park in Hartford, Connecticut to take on the Athol Red Bears for a shot at a share of the Bi-County North conference title.

On Wednesday, the Turners Falls Thunder were defeated 8-1 by the Ware Indians in the PVIAC Class D opening round. Stats for this game were not yet available as of press time.

Girls’ Tennis
HCSS 3 – TFHS 2

Last Friday the visiting Hampden Charter School of Science defeated

the Turners girls’ tennis squad 3-2.

Olivia Wolbach won in first singles, 6-4, 6-1, while Keira Feeley and Jo Licata won by forfeit in second doubles play.

Avery Heathwaite dropped a three-set match 6-7, 7-5, 3-6 in second singles, Gianna Marigliano lost third singles 4-6, 1-6, and Khiariel-iex Huertas Hernandez and Shayly Martin were defeated on the first doubles court 4-6, 1-6.

Softball
FCTS 15 – Mount Greylock 3
TFHS 16 – Ware 0

At 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, the PVIAC Western Mass softball play-offs kicked off at Nancy Gifford Field at Franklin Tech. The Eagles, who came into the game ranked third in Class C, had a little trouble warming up. After all, it was a cold 52 degrees at first pitch.

Tech broke the ice in the second inning when Shelby O’Leary batted in courtesy runner Emma Petersen, but the Greys tied it in the third inning.

Then Tech cut loose. To quote someone at the game, “It was a close game – until it wasn’t.” The Eagles scored eight runs in the bottom of the third and had two runners on base when Greylock finally got the third out. In the fourth, Franklin loaded the bases with no outs and the visitors switched pitchers.

In hindsight, this may not have been the wisest move. Lindsey Taylor, Hannah Gilbert, and Kylee Gamache hit back-to-back-to-back home runs, putting the Lady Birds up 15-zip. Greylock scored two runs in the fifth off a home run of their own, but it wasn’t enough, and the game was mercifully called.

All told, Taylor had three hits and five RBIs, Gamache had a home run and a double, Gilbert had



Franklin Tech senior Kylee Gamache smashes a home run during the Eagles’ 15-3 PVLAC quarterfinal victory over the Mount Greylock Mounties on Wednesday.



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS

Mia Marigliano belts a triple for Turners Falls High School in the first inning of the PVLAC quarterfinal game at Gary Mullins Field on Wednesday evening. The Thunder blanked the visiting Ware Indians, 16-0.

a home run, and Brayleigh Burgh and Gianna DiSciullo hit doubles. O’Leary and Breanna Kempf also hit safely for Tech.

In the circle, Gilbert allowed two earned runs, walking one batter and striking out seven. The ladies will travel to Lenox on Friday to take on the second-ranked Millionairesses.

At 7 p.m., the top-ranked Turners Fall Thunder faced their first foe in the Class D playoffs, the Ware Green Indians.

Mia Marigliano led off the bottom of the first with a standup triple, Madison Liimatainen and Marilyn Abarua got base hits, and Janelle Massey cracked a double to give Blue a 3-0 cushion. In the second inning Marigliano hit another

three-bagger which started another rally, plating seven more runs to give Powertown a 10-0 lead after two complete.

The hit parade continued in the third as five more runs crossed the plate for the Thunder, and Blue scored one more insurance run in the fourth to hand them the mercy-shortened victory 16 to 0.

Eight players had hits for Turners: Marigliano, Liimatainen, Abarua, Massey, Autumn Thorton, Addison Talbot, Madisyn Dietz, and Ameliya Galbraith. Liimatainen pitched a two-hit shutout, striking out 11 and walking nobody.

The Thunder Ladies will host fourth-seeded Monson on either Friday or Saturday.

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THE
SPIRIT SHOPPE

LEVERETT from page A1

“anyone else that makes sense.”

Hankinson responded that it would be useful for the COA to draft a mission statement outlining the “charge” for such a committee so the selectboard would have something to work with in making appointments.

Duffy said “public information” concerns were a “hurdle” in identifying people possibly in need of assistance, and would need to be taken into consideration.

Board member Jed Proujansky agreed with her, saying that training would be necessary for dealing with personal health information in order to make seniors comfortable in providing it, to protect their privacy, and to adhere to applicable laws.

COA members also sought clarification as to whether or not the first floor of the town hall had been deemed a “senior center,” saying they are expanding their programming and would like to make more use of the space. COA member Judy Raphael said that in addition to sponsoring Friday lunches, chair yoga classes, and foot care clinics, the group has been thinking of showing movies and other types of programming.

COA member Tom Wolff said he understood the value of making the space available to groups besides seniors, but would like the COA to have primary control and grant permission for its use rather than the selectboard. He argued that 40% of the town are seniors, and while the Leverett Elementary School was given an \$8 million budget at town meeting, the COA’s request of \$15,000 for an employee was reduced to \$10,000, reflecting an undervaluation of the senior population.

Hankinson responded that there had been a misunderstanding about the space being officially designated as a senior center, but he thought of it that way as a component of its use as a community center.

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis noted that the COA could set up a desk and staff person in the space, but it didn’t need to be designated as a senior center for that.

Proujansky said there wasn’t enough space available to the town to designate the first floor of the town hall exclusively for seniors, but suggested that the COA continue increasing the number of activities it schedules there and come back to the board if availability becomes an issue.

“I hope you force our hand real quick,” he added.

Both Fonsh and resident Carol Heim said they would also like to look into use of the library for after-hours community use. Proujansky said he would talk with library director Hannah Paessel.

‘Friendly’ Warnings

The board held an initial discussion on whether or not Leverett should create an official procedure for developers interested in building affordable housing in the town through a “friendly” Chapter 40B process, and if so, what it should look like.

Chapter 40B is a state law that holds that in towns such as Leverett which do not meet a threshold of affordable housing units, local zoning is superseded when a developer proposes to build some. Under a so-called “friendly” 40B process, the town and developer may agree to negotiate a project together with state supervision, but if

cooperation breaks down, the town loses its standing.

Resident Carol Heim said she has not taken a position on the matter, but that the town should “think very carefully” about whether to adopt a procedure, and she was “not sure it’s the best thing to do.” She cited the importance of “getting it right” to cover all possible scenarios, concerns expressed to her by fellow residents about putting the decision in the hands of the selectboard rather than town meeting, and the town’s limited ability to “really hold a developer to any provisions” they agree to as factors to think about.

Heim said a formal procedure was not something to be adopted casually, and that she would have more to say at future meetings.

Proujansky responded that he thought there may be some “middle ground” between the town having no document and one that covers all possible scenarios. He suggested that a basic procedure would at least let developers know what to expect of the process in order to start a conversation.

Heim said she thought it would be wise to look at other towns’ experiences with Chapter 40B processes, and noted that Amherst has recently undertaken a so-called friendly 40B without a procedure in place.

Spaces of Culture

Leverett Crafts and Arts president David Henion suggested that the selectboard look into creating a “cultural district” in Leverett, as defined by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Henion said cultural districts did not need to be contiguous and can include sites that have historic, cultural or conservation value, of which Leverett has many. He said such districts can stimulate new arts, tourism, cultural activity and can be used to bolster grant applications.

He noted that Leverett already has three “historic districts” on the National Register of Historic Places, but said “there’s more we can do to tie the town together into a picture that tells a better story, perhaps.” He added that Amherst, Belchertown, and Greenfield already have such districts.

“Sounds like a great idea,” said Hankinson.

Duffy said she would look into the matter and invite Henion back to a future meeting.

The selectboard signed a thank-you letter to Roy Kimmel for his work in helping to secure PVTA bus service to the center of Leverett.

Zones of Speed

Longtime resident Brian Emond appealed to the selectboard to designate a 25 m.p.h. speed limit on a thickly-settled area of North Leverett Road and “establish a culture of enforcing the laws” in Leverett. Emond said he is fearful for the safety of the many children, pedestrians, and bicyclists in the area.

Proujansky argued against lowering the speed limit from 30 m.p.h., saying he didn’t believe it would have much effect. He said he had spoken with police chief Minckler, who told him there had only been one accident there in the last five years.

Responding to the call for more enforcement, Proujansky added that the area had the third-highest number of tickets written, but was probably the road with the third-highest traffic.

All taking part in the discussion agreed that sidewalks and crosswalks were a more effective response to the danger, and Duffy and Proujansky noted that they had prioritized these in the town’s recent “Complete Streets” grant requests, but it would take time to get them constructed.

Better signage and a traffic study were also discussed.

Emond said that when he returned from serving in Vietnam in 1968, he was struck by a drunk driver and thrown 45 feet. “I still have a limp,” he said.

Other Business

Tim Shores reported on his first week’s work as Leverett’s representative to the Amherst-Pelham regional school committee, saying it was eight hours and included three executive sessions.

Shores said the Amherst town council voted in favor of a \$37 million school budget Monday night, joining Leverett and Pelham in approval, meaning it will pass regardless of Shutesbury’s vote. He said he expects a four-town meeting to be held in June.

The selectboard and planning board unanimously voted to appoint 47-year resident Gary Gruber to fill a vacancy on the planning board. Gruber has previously served as town counsel, selectboard member, assistant moderator, and moderator, previously sat on the planning board, and worked on the town’s master plan.

“I like to be involved in the town,” he said.

The board appointed Danielle Barshak as an at-large member of the Community Preservation Commission.

Jacob Nevin, secretary of university policy at the UMass Amherst student government association, asked for the board’s endorsement of a project the group is working on to alleviate the housing crisis students are facing by increasing public transit north of the university.

Nevin said the group has already received endorsements from the towns of Amherst and Greenfield, and several other groups. Board members and meeting attendees were enthusiastic about the idea.

The selectboard signed a thank-you letter to Roy Kimmel for his work in helping to secure PVTA bus service to the center of Leverett.

Fonsh commented that many in Leverett need service within Franklin County, which is not available through the PVTA, and asked if service through FRTA might also be available. Hankinson replied that he would look into it.

Playground committee member Brieta Goodwin reported that she had met with highway superintendent Matt Boucher and received quotes on work the department is willing to do as an in-kind contribution to the proposed new playground at Leverett Elementary School (LES). The quote will help with pursuing grant funding.

Goodwin said she had also received letters of support from state senator Jo Comerford, representative Natalie Blais – and the third grade at LES, “which was really emotional. It was great!”



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“Every great cause begins as a movement, becomes a business, and eventually degenerates into a racket.”

Eric Hoffer, ‘The Temper of Our Time’



Cliff Spatcher explains asparagus in the Montague farm’s asparagus field.



Mary and Patrick Gardner cut and bunch harvested asparagus.

ASPARAGUS from page A1

who’ve specialized in blueberries for more than 30 years.

“I’ve been driving tractors since I could reach the pedals,” said Cliff.

Natalie grew up on her father Gary Gardner’s farm on Meadow Road, which is now Red Fire Farm. Her mother Mary was Karl “Chipper” Garbiel’s daughter, so Natalie also spent part of her childhood at Garbiel Farm, also on Meadow Road.

“I remember being six or seven years old and rolling acorn squash down a conveyor belt like it was a game,” said Natalie. “They made the whole thing fun, I remember they’d slide us kids on old mattresses between the rows of cucumbers and we’d see who could pick the most.”

Those fond memories of picking vegetables may be part of what motivated Natalie and Cliff to place an emphasis on the “pick your own” approach, a concept they’re planning to expand by transplanting blueberry bushes from Spatcher Farm in Leyden. They’re also looking to plant a large bed of fragrant lavender to go with the tulips and daffodils in the front yard.

“We try to do fun activities like the sunflower maze and the tulips,”

said Natalie, who has invited classes from local schools as well as adults with developmental disabilities through Greenfield-based Viability Inc. “We make it as affordable as possible and are welcoming to all groups of people. Next year we’re hoping the lavender beds will be a meditative or even a therapeutic experience.”

But right now, asparagus season is all-consuming for Cliff, Natalie, and their extended family. Asparagus is a perennial that spreads a network of roots about eight or nine inches underground, and when it starts growing in early May, it grows about three to four inches a day.

“Asparagus loves the sandy soil here because there’s no resistance for the roots to spread out,” said Cliff. The pickers are constantly out in the fields, including Cliff, Natalie, her sister Mary Gardner, and Mary’s son Patrick. They also cut and bunch the asparagus.

“It’s a family business, and everybody knows their job,” said Mary as she cut asparagus last week in the big shed behind the farm stand. “That’s how you make money.”

One of Cliff’s many tasks is dragging a cultivator behind his old Ford Golden Jubilee tractor to remove the milkweed roots, growing three or four inches down, without disturbing the deeper asparagus roots.

“The ag professors tell you to pick one thing and do it well,” said Cliff. “If you choose a lot of things, you’ll do none of them well. With asparagus there’s not a huge amount of surprises.”

Toward the end of the season in mid-June, some of the asparagus inevitably doesn’t get picked and becomes a “fern,” ultimately growing up to seven feet tall, appearing something like a Christmas tree.

“They collect energy into the roots, and we mow them after the first frost – it acts just like a fertilizer,” said Cliff.

Another advantage of asparagus is the season ends relatively early, avoiding the negative impacts that long, hot, and dry summers can have on other farms.

In the fall, depending on the weather and available time, Cliff attaches a casting wheel on the back of his tractor to spread buckwheat seed. The buckwheat serves two purposes: It controls weeds in the asparagus fields and is either

cut down in late fall or burned the following spring to serve as a natural fertilizer.

Cliff and Natalie avoid using chemicals whenever possible both to save money and avoid their potentially harmful effects, but sometimes have to use pesticides on the asparagus to kill beetles.

“We haven’t had to use it the last several years because the beetle population has been down,” said Cliff. “If you get the right rain at the right time, it knocks them off the plants. And because we harvest quickly every day it keeps their ability to make a home in the plant to a minimum.” When they must use pesticide, they time the application before a rain to help clean off the asparagus, and always inform their customers.

Next year Cliff and Natalie will plant additional rows of tulips and daffodils, hoping that an even bigger display of the red-and-white flowers will act as a visual cue to draw the attention of motorists and bicyclists.

“It’s part of our philosophy to minimize labor,” said Cliff. “Perennial flowers will keep coming back with minimal input. You could call it self-sustaining agri-tourism – people want to enjoy the experience.”

Cliff sees farming as an ongoing experiment – he and Natalie are considering expanding their popular sunflower maze and adding another “pick your own” pumpkin patch on the back field. He’s also planning to install an electric fence to discourage deer from taking bites of the pumpkins, but doesn’t expect complete success.

“It’s a war of attrition,” said Cliff. “You plant enough so animals get their share so you win the war of attrition.” He uses solar-powered ultrasonic mole and deer repellent stakes to protect the flower beds.

Meanwhile, Cliff is getting ready to plant a giant field of sunflowers for the annual maze, a job that requires towing a four-row corn planter behind the tractor. The corn planter digs the rows, sets the sunflower seeds, and covers them with dirt.

Cliff believes farming fits his personality.

“I’ve just always done it,” he said. “I always have to be doing something, and with farming there’s always something to do.”



SIX-TOWN from page A1

A good portion of the meeting was spent hearing lessons learned and advice from Jake Eberwein, an educational consultant who recently led an effort to form a larger district out of two existing regional school districts in Berkshire County. After nearly eight years of work, that regionalization effort ultimately failed, and Eberwein offered insights as to why.

“You are always going to have a challenge when you are talking about reorganizing kids and closing schools,” Eberwein said. “The challenge we had, however, [was that] there was a relatively small group that was much more aggressive than we were, and they mounted a very, very active social media campaign. They tugged at the emotional strings of teachers, parents, and students. That was really difficult for us to weather.”

Eberwein said a “very comprehensive and mixed methodology” for outreach was essential to giving residents the information they needed to make an “informed decision.”

The Berkshire consultant advised the

committee to find “strong advocates in each of your towns who can speak for the project.” “I refer to them as ‘champions,’” he said. “You have got to have credible people who are willing to stand up to their neighbors, talk at the transfer station, the date of the vote be on the town floor and make some remarks..... The more you can get folks who are in on the ground level and in the community who can speak to the value proposition you put in front of people, the better off.”

After Eberwein, the meeting turned to ongoing business. Genovese relayed an update from Jay Barry, a consultant from the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools who has been working with the planning board, that DESE is reviewing the proposed regional agreement, but has given no timeline as to when the board can expect that review to be completed.

There was discussion of Gill-Montague superintendent Brian Beck’s recently announced resignation, and some questions about what the search process will be for a replacement or an interim superintendent.

“There is no information from the school committee... this is just the beginning,” Tomb stated, adding that the committee had first heard of Beck’s intention at its public meeting last week. “At our next meeting... this will be a top priority.”

Genovese noted that town meetings and elections were still ongoing, and that he had heard feedback that it was “helpful to remind the town[s]... that this was going on, remind them it was the towns that voted for us to do this work on their behalf, and therefore we wanted to give them an update.”

Montague representative Dorinda Bell-Upp shared that after her update at town meeting, someone was “annoyed” that time was not allotted for members to comment on or discuss the proposal. She emphasized the importance of “outreach efforts, as soon as possible, to start getting people information.”

One of the last items on the agenda was public relations, and the committee’s intention of forming a working group to share big-picture ideas, get the public more involved, and plan how the board is going to disseminate

information about the proposal before it goes to special town meetings for a vote this fall.

Genovese said he, Bell-Upp, secretary Greg Snedeker of Gill, and Leyden member Michele Giarusso had previously offered to help with this work. No new volunteers stepped forward.

“We do need some brainstorming,” said Genovese, “folks getting together and talking about what that strategic plan would look like... I would encourage you to do two things. If you are interested, let Greg know. The other is that it doesn’t have to be someone on this committee, so if you know people who are interested, encourage them to contact Greg.”

“Jake’s point about involving ‘champions’ in the communities, it’s a really, really good one. In the next two weeks, try to get two names at least,” Genovese stressed. “We’ve got to get that moving.”

Before closing, the board decided to keep meetings going through the summer, with as many as five or six before the fall. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 17 or June 24.



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MONTAGUE from page A1

from refrigerator trucks kicked off a short hearing on the traffic regulation amendment, unchanged since it was presented to the board by town administrator Walter Ramsey two weeks earlier.

It would ban public parking for more than an hour between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. by vehicles that have commercial plates and also one of a list of other characteristics, including a trailer, more than two axles or four wheels, a carrying capacity of two and a half tons, width of over 7 feet or length of over 18 feet without a trailer, seating for 16 or more, more than four square feet of signage, or a placard indicating it transports hazardous materials.

These restrictions were the result of pressure from Turners Falls residents over a particular tractor-trailer truck frequently parked near the corner of L and Seventh streets, which they complained blocks drivers' sight lines and forces them to turn into oncoming traffic.

Ramsey responded that he had recently become aware of a state law restricting idling of vehicles to five minutes, and said it may apply to noise generated by refrigeration.

The board's decision to restrict parking to one hour at night was based on the theory that an owner would not "repeatedly decide to park in a residential area after having to move that truck on a regular basis outside that area overnight," selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz had said at the earlier meeting. He also suggested the board could "rework" the ban's timeframe after holding the public hearing.

Moss, however, focused on negative mental health consequences of noise from refrigerator units parked during the day. Ramsey responded that he had recently become aware of a state law restricting idling of vehicles to five minutes, and said it may apply to noise generated by refrigeration.

Moss said she had complained to the police last year, and the truck's owner had told them he was not idling the engine, but that the sound was coming from a "refrigeration unit."

Kuklewicz said he believed the refrigeration is run by a "diesel engine, so that really is an idling unit."

Ramsey said he would discuss the matter with the health department and police chief Chris Williams to "get our heads around this issue."

Returning to the proposed amendment, Kuklewicz suggested the town could place "no parking" signs near the corner of Seventh and Park streets, where the vehicle Moss was complaining about has been parked, as the town plans to do near the corner of Seventh and L.

"I think this is a start of a regulation," he said. "As I said during the last discussion, I myself do not think it's restrictive enough yet, but we need to start somewhere."

The board unanimously voted to approve the new regulations without alteration, and to begin enforcing them next Monday, May 26. Williams said the police department would put notices on parked commercial vehicles before that date.

March of Progress

Assistant town administrator (ATA) Chris Nolan-Zeller told the board that a hearing had been held for the removal of two ash trees in a planter in front of Gary's Coins and Antiques on Avenue A. Two members of the public attended the hearing, and both were in support of removing the trees.

He said the tree warden will remove the trees "in-house," reducing the cost of a change order requested by Mountain View Landscapes and Lawn Care, the contractor for the related streetscape project, which is constructing new planters on the block.

Nolan-Zeller also sought approval to apply for a number of grants through the state's "One Stop For Growth" platform. The site streamlines applications for 12 programs primarily focusing on economic development and housing.

According to Nolan-Zeller, the town has received \$1.2 million in grants from the portal over the past four years, and participated in another \$235,000 worth of projects through the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

The application proposes to apply for four more: up to \$500,000 for traffic signal replacements on Avenue A, through the Rural Development Fund; up to \$150,000 to update the town's housing production plan through the Community Planning Grant Program; up to \$250,000 for cleanup of the town lot on First Street slated for Habitat for Humanity housing, through the Brownfields Development Fund; and up to \$30,000 from the MA Downtown Initiative to fund wayfinding or marketing strategy in downtown Turners Falls.

The longest discussion was about the traffic lights. Nolan-Zeller said he and public works superintendent Sam Urkiel had estimated that two signals in need of replacement at the intersections of Third and Seventh streets would cost \$300,000 each, and that the program could only fund up to \$500,000. He proposed that the town apply for one replacement and bring the other to town meeting for an appropriation.

Board members did not appear to have their minds boggled at the cost of the signal replacements. Nolan-Zeller told them both were "very old" pieces of equipment in "dire need" of replacement, and that the Third Street signal was on the town's capital plan.

He also stressed that the grant for cleanup of the Habitat for Humanity site would help remove hazardous fill at the site, currently a municipal parking lot.

The board voted unanimously to authorize the ATA to apply for the grants.

Heavy Metal

The board heard a presentation by Brian Westbrook, one of the organizers of RPM Fest, a rock music event from August 29 to 31 at the Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club on Turners Falls Road. Westbrook said there would be no major changes from the previous year, except that the music would start 15 minutes earlier on Friday. The festival will showcase 40 bands over the weekend and be attended by 1,000 to 1,200 people, some of whom will camp on site.

Westbrook said he had met with the officer in charge of last year's event, and that there were no complaints that he was aware of. That

opinion was seconded by Williams. The event is covered by the club's entertainment permit.

Kuklewicz said the performances feature "rock, punk, and metal," and according to the event's website there will also be other entertainments, including "burlesque, drag, sideshow, comedy, pro wrestling and more..."

Job Shuffle

The board endorsed a revision of staffing at the public libraries, as proposed by director Caitlin Kelley. Kelley proposed eliminating the children's program assistant position and replacing it with a "community relations coordinator" position who would administer the libraries' website, promote events and services, reach out to schools and other organizations, and occasionally work on large public events in collaboration with other groups.

The proposal will also reorganize the librarian-in-charge position, which helps the director supervise and coordinate library staff, handles routine duties when the director is away, supports "external communications," and "when necessary" prepares and submits payroll.

Asked whether these changes would affect activities at the branch libraries, including children's programming, Kelley responded that those programs would remain in place at their current levels. The changes are expected to have no impact on the upcoming year's library budget, which was approved by town meeting.

Other Business

Ramsey announced that his office will solicit feedback from town meeting members on this year's experimental weekday evening annual town meeting, which required two sessions on May 7 and 14. The feedback, he said, would help the board decide whether to send an article to the next special town meeting to permanently change the bylaw requiring that the annual be held on the first Saturday in May.

Nolan-Zeller said he and public works superintendent Sam Urkiel had estimated that two signals in need of replacement at the intersections of Third and Seventh streets would cost \$300,000 each.

Ramsey also announced that he had been working with the company Constellation Energy to plan a new contract for purchasing electricity for the town. The current cost of electricity is significantly below the level of the last contract, he said, so the new agreement would lead to savings, but Constellation recommends a two-year rather than a three-year contract due to potential structural changes in energy markets.

The board recessed into two executive sessions, one to negotiate a contract with the police chief and another to discuss a police officer's complaint before the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.

The next selectboard meeting will be held Monday, June 2, as next Monday is a holiday.



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on May 21, 2015: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Long A Touchy Subject

Taxation has been an historically touchy subject in Leverett. Major Richard Montague, a veteran of the French and Indian War as an English subject and of the Revolutionary War as a patriot, fought a tax imposed on the new Baptist church. This tax was imposed on the Baptists by the Congregational church: Major Montague and several others felt it unfair, and refused to pay. They were escorted to the county jail by the constable and released the next day. To add insult to incarceration, the constable took one of Major Montague's hogs as payment.

Property owners in Leverett now take up issues over taxation with the board of assessors and, if the situation is not resolved to their satisfaction, with the Massa-

chusetts Appellate Tax Board.

Today the town's budget hinges on the outcome of a tax abatement request for 26 Amherst Road and 0 Juggler Meadow Road, part of the Pocomo Road Nominee Trust, one of several land trusts established by Michael Kittredge, founder of the Yankee Candle Company.

Joy for a Special Child

On Saturday at the Unity Playground, 11-year-old Jacob Norwood, who has a rare gene disorder, took his first ride on the accessible Sway Fun Glider along with his parents, sister and friend, while his grandmother looked on. The moment he was wheeled up the ramp his face lit up, and when the glider started moving, his infectious joy was heartbreakingly beautiful.

It was an experience almost three years in the making with over 130 hours of volunteer work: a moment made possible by ordinary people, doing something extraordinary.

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on May 19, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Chief Blair to Retire

Erving chief of police Christopher Blair, who has been the town's chief for little more than a year since former chief John Paciorek headed south to Quantico, Virginia

to join the FBI, informed the selectboard on Monday that he would be seeking disability retirement.

"It makes me sad that Chris might not be part of our future," said town administrative coordinator Tom Sharp. While a search is underway, full-time patrolman John Pereault has been appointed as officer in charge at the Erving police department.

150 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on May 19, 1875: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

Turners Falls and Vicinity

Buds.
Leaves.
Blossoms.
And frost.
The cutlery is running with 450 hands.
The high water keeps boating matters pretty quiet, no shells having yet been launched.
Geo. E. Hartley has just planted some very large shade trees in front of his new place on L street.
John Jameson's shop is completed, and the blacksmithing business will be carried on by his father.
The Spiritualist camp meeting at the Lake, in August, is what people are commencing to talk about.
Wise & Ripley are receiving from New York daily, pine apples, lettuce, radishes, spinach, and such things.
Trailing arbutus seems to be as plenty now as at any time. They hang on like a lobster to a fellow's finger.
The band were out for practice on Prospect street, Friday evening. The music sounds charming

from the hill.
Who's the next victim of that little fellow without clothes who goes around like a vagrant Indian with a bow-and-arrow? Speak right out.
It has been proved that S.M. Redding is not a success as a "sneakiest," by his failure to sneak out of town with his goods without paying his bills.
They are fitting up a directors' room in the bank, which shall be a more fitting place for private consultation than the old room, whose walls were not to the ceiling.
A child of Mr Ford has been very ill for a week with scarlet fever, and although at one time not much hope was entertained of its recovery, it is now beyond danger.
The river rose to a height nearly as great as at any time this spring, last week, and the trips of the larger ferry boat had to be suspended several days, and the rope taken out of the water.
C.C. Quimby, while crossing the river, Sunday, with a boat load of people, broke an oar to the great terror of the passengers. He easily paddled back to the shore, without danger.
James Collett, of Riverside, who cut his foot a couple of weeks ago, died Thursday night of lockjaw.



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PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

LANDSLIDE from page A1
board since 2010 and was running for a sixth term, told the *Reporter*. “It’s not an easy job, and I’m looking forward to a little time off.”

“It’s win, lose, or draw when you run,” said Ed Voudren, the second candidate on the ballot. “However, something doesn’t smell right.”

Voudren, who served from 1997 to 2004, campaigned this spring on a series of bold proposals, including regionalizing Gill and Montague public schools with Greenfield rather than Pioneer Valley towns and inviting Greenfield to assume control of Montague’s wastewater treatment plant.

“What she did didn’t happen overnight – that was well-planned,” he said. “Something like that occurs when you have a five-month operation going.... It’ll rear its ugly head somewhere along the way. I don’t even know what she stands for, or what her plans are to fix anything.”

“I’m not going away,” he added. “I believe in justice.”

Though Voudren came in third townwide, with 114 votes to Boutwell’s 129, he placed second in Precincts 3 and 4, both sections of the Hill in Turners Falls, as well as Precinct 6, which encompasses Montague City and the Patch. Both men reside in Precinct 4.

Another familiar figure from Precinct 4 rode Tuesday’s write-in wave to office. Steve Ellis, Montague’s town administrator from 2017 until last year, was inked in by 242 voters in Montague and one in Gill to fill a vacant one-year seat on the Gill-Montague school committee. The three members up for reelection – Jane Oakes of Gill and Heather Katsoulis and Wendy Thompson of Montague – all retained their seats without incident.

“I have always felt that public schools are at the center of individ-

ual and community success, and I was very thankful for the experience my kids, Chloe and Liam, enjoyed at GMRSD,” Ellis wrote when asked on Thursday about his decision to throw in his hat. “Seeing a vacant seat, it felt like the right moment to honor my commitment to public service and contribute what I may to the district’s success.”

All of these figures are “unofficial,” “preliminary,” election results, and to anyone lurking in the hallway at Montague town hall Tuesday night it was clear why this distinction might be important.

Montague recently adopted electronic vote-tabulating machines, and Tuesday’s turnout was not remarkable in absolute terms for a town election – it amounted to less than one-fifth of the 4,782 ballots cast last November.

Still, the sheer number of write-in votes, which must be read and tallied by humans and come with a slightly higher risk of ambiguity, meant that it was nearly midnight when election officials released their final unofficial tallies.

Polling closed at 7 p.m., and by 8:30 p.m. only Precinct 3’s ballots and counts had been delivered to the town clerk’s office. Over the next half hour Precincts 4, 2, and 5 arrived, and then 6.

“We had approximately a thousand million write-ins,” Precinct 5 election warden Annie Levine reported. Besides Goldman and Ellis’s organized efforts, there were seats on the parks and recreation commission and soldiers’ memorial trustees for which no candidate appeared on the ballot – as of press time, those victors have not been announced – and various vacant town meeting seats.

Levine’s downtown precinct, which nearly always shows the town’s lowest turnout, surpassed

Precincts 2, 3, and 6 on Tuesday; of the 114 ballots cast there, Goldman’s name appeared on 85 and Ellis’s on 15.

“I’m going to go home and watch Korean dramas and dissociate,” Levine announced after the town clerks told her her work was done.

There were, incidentally, three town clerks on hand: interim town clerk Tina Sulda; Wendy Bogusz, the longtime selectboard executive assistant recently hired for the clerk job; and former longtime town clerk Deb Bourbeau, who has been consulting in the office during the current transition.

The town’s entire board of registrars – Bogusz, Elizabeth Irving, and Stanley Dobosz – was also on hand. Irving and Dobosz checked, double-checked, data-entered, and occasionally corrected the ballot count sheets submitted by the precinct wardens.

“Precinct 1 is having a hard time counting,” Bourbeau told the press as time began to wear on.

Part of the problem proved to be that on Tuesday Montague Center, perennially at the head of the pack in terms of turnout, suffered nearly triple the participation rate as the rest of town. Their 313 ballots included 264 write-ins for Goldman – that’s 84% – as well as 140 for Ellis, 153 for town meeting members, and 189 for parks and rec.

Compounding the issue, it was the precinct warden’s first time in the role. Bourbeau suggested she drive the unfinished materials to town hall for assistance, and at 10:21 p.m. the Precinct 1 votes arrived for a fresh start. Members of the press were offered Montague Center’s leftover sandwiches.

Across the hall in the town clerk’s office, officials soon raised a new concern: the building’s burglar alarm was set to sound at 11. Irving, explaining that her beagle was nervous and could not process klaxons, left the building with him, and when the alarm sounded Bogusz took on the responsibility of disarming it. “I appreciate the meticulous work of our town election workers,” Irving stated upon her return.

At about 11:15 p.m. Bogusz and Sulda began filling the unofficial results in with marker on the precinct ballots pinned to the hall bulletin board, but up to the very end there were still single-vote discrepancies to iron out. In Precinct 4, Bourbeau surmised, a ballot with Goldman’s name written but the adjacent bubble unfilled had likely been counted once as a blank and once as a vote. It was quarter to 12 when the job was done.

Asked for comment, Bourbeau said that while she found the write-in wave impressive, “it would be really nice if these people all went through the nomination process.”

Marina Goldman was sworn in as a selectboard member early Wednesday afternoon, toured the



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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Montague Center Districts Announce Annual Meetings, Seek Residents’ Contacts

- The Montague Center Water District needs your email address so you can stay current on important water district announcements. If you are not receiving emails from commissioner Gary Dion about important Water District announcements, please write to Gary at Dion25r3@msn.com and provide him with your email address.
- The annual meeting of the Montague Center Water District is next Wednesday, May 28. It will directly follow the annual meeting of the Montague Light District Meeting at 6 p.m. at the firehouse

on Old Sunderland Road. Please consider attending both short meetings. We are electing a third Water District commissioner.

- The annual meeting of the Montague Center Fire District will be held Thursday, June 12 at 7 p.m. at the firehouse on Old Sunderland Road.
- A Memorial Day observance will be held this Sunday, May 25 at 11:15 a.m. on the Montague Center common. The event is sponsored by the Montague Center Fire Association. Please join us in honor of our veterans.



Left to right: Montague’s “up-and-coming” town clerk Wendy Bogusz, interim town clerk Tina Sulda, and town clerk emerita Deb Bourbeau.

town hall with town administrator Walter Ramsey, and at 1:30 p.m. began her first selectboard meeting, a quietly posted executive session to “discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual...”

“I didn’t even have my town email yet – I was told ‘get down to the town hall as soon as you can,’” Goldman said after the executive session, which she said lasted two hours. “It’s a steep learning curve, but I have a lot of support.”

Goldman said her whirlwind campaign had involved “so many people that I don’t even have all their email addresses to thank them yet,” and included on one day five separate meet-and-greet sessions at homes in Montague City, Millers Falls, Lake Pleasant, the Patch, and the Hill.

“I feel like our team had already won, because we had already gotten civic engagement and a lot of ex-

citement, working together across villages,” she said. “I’ve heard so many stories in the last 18 days.” The retired nurse practitioner said that when asked what her platform was, she would often ask instead of answering: “I want to know what you think.” Some common themes, she said, included traffic issues, school systems, village histories, and, in Lake Pleasant, idling trains.

“I feel like winning by so much is a real mandate for us to work together as a town,” Goldman said, “to really listen to people, and take on these challenges that are coming.”

Goldman joins selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz – besides her, the only candidate to upset an incumbent since 1989 – and her neighbor Matt Lord, restoring a Montague Center majority to the board for the first time since 2013.

On Wednesday the *Montague Reporter* asked Gill town clerk Doreen Stevens how Monday’s voting had gone.

“We had a great day, thank you for asking,” Stevens replied. “The residents of Gill are great.”



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WEST ALONG THE RIVER

ONE OR MORE MORNINGS IN MAY

By DAVID BRULE

*I want to get up one or more mornings
Before sunrise. Before the birds, even.
I want to throw cold water on my face
and be at my writing table
when the sky lightens...*

THE FLAT, ERVINGSIDE – I’ll be wakened by the catbird at 4:30 a.m. He welcomes the promise of dawn, like old Napoleon our long-gone rooster. Catbird announces a new day with a stream of calls, squeaks, warbles, cries, mindless vocal antics.

Cardinal will follow suit, calling for his breakfast.

I’ll go out to see if it’s still raining, or if the sun is rising full of promise.

More than likely, it’ll still be raining. Just a while back it rained for seven days and seven nights. Or at least it felt like it. On the eighth day, the sun came out. Birds sang and flowers brightened.

It was too late for our cherry tree. The hard rain pulled down all the cherry blossoms, and for a while they coated the wooden porch floor like snowflakes. I’ll need to check to see if cherries are forming anyway. We harvest them on the Fourth of July for preserving in vodka, as every year.

But the sun did come out that day, and the warblers did sing. Those who could not sing for days in the rain now ruffled damp feathers in the sun and sang. Next winter’s woodpile began drying itself again, steaming in the new warmth.

Those few days ago, the rushing river that winds around our neighborhood on the Flat left its bed and

swept through our lowland woods, creating new tiny islands.

Today the river recedes, and it appears the rain will hold off for a day or two. I’ll spend hours out of doors keeping the weather company. If I pay attention, something worth noting will happen.

The sun today is up there somewhere, last time we checked, but reluctant to show its face. Ragged clouds move by from west to east. If they will only accelerate, we’ll see that stranger.

I expect that at any moment I will hear a warbler or two, the clan moving up our Valley on the way north. On cue, a parula calls, and then a Wilson’s warbler. These are likely the remnants of the fabled warbler wave that moves through these woods every May. Brilliant-colored jewels of the New England woods, we’d have them tarry a little longer, but they’ll linger here only a few days and be gone.

Our own redstarts will call, and they will stay, not going anywhere else this summer. They’ll build nests here in our woods and raise families, keeping us company all through June, July, August.

I’ll have to patrol the perimeter of the yard to see if Awasoos, the bear, broke into the yard again, knocking down the fence he refuses to let block his traditional passage through the yard on his way back to the river.

Our Abenaki friends gave us bear’s name: *awa-* means over and beyond, *-soos* means to go or walk. So for the Abenaki, bear is the one who travels far or beyond. We wouldn’t mind if brother bear would go for a long walk beyond, and leave the fence alone for a while!

see **WEST ALONG** page B4



Nicky enjoys the buttercups left growing in the yard.

Above: Nourse Farms’ fields in Deerfield, across the bike bridge from Montague, are ready.

RECIPES

Vegetable Main Dishes for Spring

By CLAIRE HOPLEY

LEVERETT – Spring is always gorgeous, but this year it’s been especially beautiful as vivid tulips followed fluttering daffodils and the first delicate wash of green colored the trees. Now they’re leafed out, fully green, and that prompts thoughts of the green plants that have survived chill winds and pelting rain to be the first edible arrivals of the year.

Asparagus, of course, is the queen bee. Most people love it, and roadside stalls sell out day after day. But there are other things too. Gardeners can have wintered-over scallions and parsnip and the first baby spinach and arugula, plus pea-tops and wee greens for salads.

Many herbs winter over, too. Chives are the first up. Low-growing thyme quickly returns, and mint soon follows. Sorrel, which straddles the herb and vegetable categories, revisits reliably. Like rhubarb, its leaves contain oxalic acid, so they give a tart zap to any dish you put them in. They respond to heat by simply slumping into a mass that’s amazingly small but wonderful in omelets or soup.

Other sorrel benefits, according to 17th-century gardener John Evelyn, are that it “sharpens appetite, assuages heat, cools the liver, strengthens the heart... and supplies the want of orange [and] lemon.”

Sorrel can be foraged because it escapes easily from gardens. The more famous foraged vegetable – and special to our region – is fiddleheads, growing along the banks of the Connecticut and in other wetlands. Fiddleheads, the unfurled heads of the ostrich fern (*Matteucia struthiopteris*), get their name from their resemblance to the scroll of a violin. You can also

distinguish them from inedible ferns by a groove that runs down the stem.

Indigenous peoples ate fiddleheads, and the colonists followed suit. Since they coincide with the arrival of shad in the Connecticut, they became its companion on many of our ancestors’ springtime plates. They taste see **RECIPES** page B8



Clockwise from top left: Scallions, sorrel, chives, purple asparagus, green asparagus, garlic chives, and violets are among the season’s offerings. Use them!



Find Your Friends... Without Your Phone?

By RYNE HAGER

TURNERS FALLS – Today’s topic is an internal question from someone at the paper: Are there any good ways for friends to keep track of each other in a public space, like an event – short of something like swapping Apple AirTags, and without the use of a cellular network?

Sounds like a pertinent question as music festival season kicks off. Turns out, there are a lot of different options available.

One of the options you’re more likely to come up with if you do a search for these sorts of terms is something called a Totem Compass from a company called Totem Labs, which makes a \$69 device. The company’s marketing makes the product seem pretty attractive and easy to use, with a compass-like interface that shows the direction to your friends along the edge of one face of the device, pointing to them much like a compass would.

Features sound good, too: Pair in groups of up to four other friends; send alerts in case there’s an issue, no cell service or Wi-Fi needed – though it does use

the relatively short-range 2.4G Hz Wi-Fi frequencies to connect between devices – and it charges with the same charger your phone uses.

I haven’t used one, so I can’t speak to the experience of it directly, but there are some concerning details I’ve spotted in reviews, like a surprisingly obtuse setup process and some questions regarding the device’s lack of FCC certification. I should also point out that the company’s own promises regarding device performance have been adjusted up and down over time – including a reduction at one point to 200 meters of range and as little as 12 hours of battery life – and the CEO has made some questionable statements online about how hungry markets can “tolerate a mediocre product.”

Take of that what you will, but it wouldn’t inspire confidence in my own purchase.

Another company called Crowd Compass makes a similar device with a few differences, with up to three miles of range thanks to its use of lower-frequency LoRa bands rather than just Wi-Fi. It also has the ability to pair with an unlimited number of other devices,

see **DEVICE** page B3

Pet of the Week



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Zara would thrive in a home with a secure outdoor space where she can run and play freely, as well as an owner committed to providing her with regular walks and exercise.

Zara will weigh between 61 and 100 pounds when fully grown. As a

large-breed dog, she does experience some shedding and will benefit from consistent grooming.

There is no adoption fee for Zara. Her human parents just want her “to be welcomed into the perfect home.” She will need to be spayed within 30 days of her adoption.

To apply to adopt Zara, find “Available Community Animals” at www.dakinhumane.org under the “Adopt” menu. A potential adopter must submit an application, interview and meet the pets, and sign an adoption contract.



By CASEY WAIT

TURNERS FALLS – Dear Readers, Together we recently passed the 100th day mark of Trump’s presidency. In these months since inauguration, I have been quite honestly taken aback by just how quickly this administration has been able to rain down terror on the most marginal communities among us. While the first Trump presidency was marked by debates over whether or not one could accurately describe the administration as “fascist,” such questions now appear almost ridiculous, naive. Even some conservatives I know are comfortable labeling Trump and his team with the F-word.

The ICE kidnappings and deportations of pro-Palestine activists, the vilification of queer and trans existence, the purges of scientists and scholars from government agencies, and, perhaps most relevant to this column, the characterization of sick and disabled people as unpatriotic drains on the body politic have genuinely shocked, angered, and frightened me.

And yet, at the same time, it has to be noted that all of us among the targeted had been warning of these eventualities for years before Trump 2.0 took office. Biden and Harris, with their stalwart support of and collaboration in Israel’s genocide of Palestinians, their silence on anti-trans violence, and their far-premature “unwinding” of pandemic protections while thousands of Americans continued to contract COVID and Long COVID every week, laid the groundwork for every single violent, genocidal, eugenic policy that Trump and his team have enacted these past 100 days.

It is with all of this in mind that I want to respond, if only briefly, to a letter to the editors that appeared in the May 8 issue of the *Montague Reporter*. Florence resident Lundy Bancroft wrote in to defend RFK, Jr. who they see as an anti-imperialist crusader against Big Pharma who has “made some errors, not least of which is his alliance with Trump.”

While I could go in, point for point, and argue against every single defense of RFK, Jr. they voiced, I feel that Bobby’s alliance with Trump speaks for itself and begs the question: if he was really such a dedicated anti-imperialist, pro-environmentalist, why would he join an administration that has openly discussed annexing Canada, Palestine, and Greenland, and seems hell-bent on reversing any and all environmental protections? Doesn’t look like a bleeding heart progressive to me.

If Bancroft is so committed to arguing that RFK, Jr. is not a “wacko,” I’d also like to ask them what they think of his proposed registry of Autistic individuals, or his plan to send people who use mental health medication to “wellness camps.” Personally, I don’t really

feel like giving RFK, Jr. credit for believing in germ theory if he also thinks that nonconsensually surveilling neuro-atypical people and rounding us up into concentration camps is a good idea.

I don’t mean to pick on Bancroft here. But I do think that RFK, Jr., with his family’s historical support for progressive causes and his occasional use of lefty terms like “imperialism” and “medical colonialism,” is a good example of the Wellness-to-Fascist pipeline. And, given how popular certain aspects of Wellness Culture are here in western Mass, I think it is essential that we learn to see the links between some of its core tenets and those of fascists.

At the heart of so much wellness ideology is eugenics. “Health” is seen as a personal responsibility, to be achieved through the right combination of food, supplements, exercise, and environment. If one is unwell, one simply needs to figure out where one has gone “wrong” and fix it. If, after adjusting everything possible, one is still sick, it might simply be that the individual is themselves defective. Illness and disability are seen as proof of personal failure and are treated as a societal drain.

In April, RFK, Jr. joined his colleague Dr. Mehmet Oz on a “Make America Healthy Again” speaking tour. More than once Dr. Oz stated, of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, that “70% of the money we spend is on chronic illness, and we are not getting our money’s worth. For folks listening right now, it’s your patriotic duty to be as healthy as you can.”

To translate: The chronically ill are wasting government and taxpayer money, which is unpatriotic. If you are chronically ill, you’re not trying hard enough to be healthy. Get healthy now or you will be branded a traitor to your country.

Readers – I have multiple genetic conditions. There is literally no lifestyle change I could possibly make that would change the fact that my body makes connective tissue differently than most people. No wellness hack will change my health status. People get sick and become disabled for all sorts of reasons that are not in their control. That is not a personal or moral failing.

Medicaid, vaccines, mental health medication, access to HRT and more are on the line, and with them millions of lives hang in the balance – mine very much included. Do not be swayed by the likes of RFK, Jr.. He is not our ally. He is just as corrupt as Oz, Musk, Vance, Trump, and the rest of the MAGA/MAHA leaders.

To the sick and disabled: You are not a drain. You are a gift! I love you and will fight for you.

With love and rage,

Your Sick (Unpatriotic) Friend

Senior Center Activities MAY 26 THROUGH 30

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

A six-week class, “Mindfulness Meditation for Stress Reduction,” will be offered Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. starting May 22. Seniors 55+ from all towns are welcome. Contact instructor Jean Erlbaum at (413) 230-1518 or jean.erlbaum@verizon.net for information or registration.

Monday 5/26

Closed for holiday.

Tuesday 5/27

9 a.m. Chair Yoga
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 5/28

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

Thursday 5/29

1 p.m. Pitch
3:30 p.m. Meditation for Seniors

Friday 5/30

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
2 p.m. Chair Dance

LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held Wednesdays at 10 a.m., hybrid, at the town hall and on Zoom. Foot care clinics are the third Tuesday of each month. Luncheons are the

fourth Friday at town hall. For more information, contact (413) 548-1022 or coa@leverett.ma.us. Check the town newsletter or the LeverettConnects listserv for info.

ERVING

Open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1 Care Drive. Daily snacks and coffee. Fitness room and pool table open.

Monday 5/26

Closed for holiday.

Tuesday 5/27

9 a.m. Stretch & Balance
10 a.m. Line Dancing
11 a.m. Social Stringer
1 p.m. Planning for Medicare

Wednesday 5/28

9 a.m. Interval Training
10 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursday 5/29

9 a.m. Barre Fusion
10 a.m. Pilates Flow
1:30 David Garrity
Erving Elementary School

Friday 5/30

8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting,
Open Sew

WENDELL

Foot care clinic is the first Wednesday of each month. The next clinic is June 4. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments. For Senior Health Rides, contact Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

PREVIEW

Mission Impossible’s Scavenger Hunt

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – Isaac Mass, the owner of the Garden Cinemas, likes doing promotional events to go with the movies they show there. Sometimes he puts on events that are a pretty good fit with the movies he has to go with them.

One of the latest is a scavenger hunt this Saturday, May 24 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to go with the opening weekend of *Mission Impossible: The Final Reckoning*. Winners will get “confidential prizes” from the Greenfield Business Association, along with free admission.

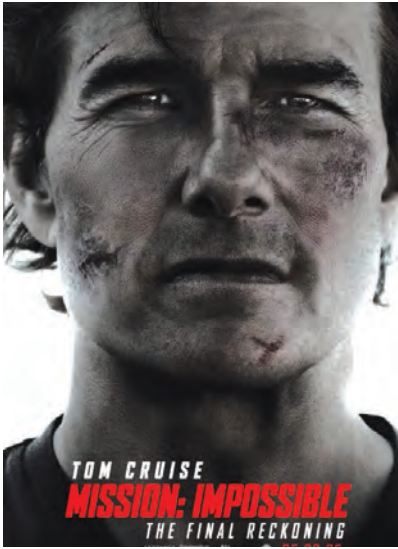
The teams involved in this must feature 4 to 8 players, and \$10 per player is the cost of being involved, with all proceeds going to support the Garden Bike Rack Fund. The cinema wishes to put up a bike rack that will look either like a regular

one, or a movie reel – those are the two designs they are still trying to pick between. They would like to have the bike rack up next summer.

I talked to Isaac Mass in person about this event. He told me that they are having a scavenger hunt to go with the movie because “Ethan Hunt is the main character.” I was also told that they have had a lot of participation in the past when they have done events due to certain movies being here. “I hope so,” Isaac said when I asked if he thought this one would be popular with people.

Besides the scavenger hunt, they will also have special buckets featuring Tom Cruise as Ethan Hunt. These are buckets you can put popcorn in. They will also have a specialty drink that people can have for the movie.

I agree with Isaac’s hope that they



will get a lot of people showing up for this event. Not just because it’s a good fit with a movie like this, but who wouldn’t want to be involved in a scavenger hunt? People usually enjoy those very much, and I think that the trend could continue nicely.

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DEVICE from page B1

and additional functionality such as mapping is also available with a paired phone – though one is not explicitly required for use.

It costs a *lot* more, though, at \$200 each. Trustworthy third-party reviews are lacking, and anecdotal experience indicates issues with limited range and battery life in more demanding situations. Unfortunately, the more complex the topography and the more stuff in the way, the more likely you probably are to *need* the device in the first place, which could make issues like these more frustrating to deal with.

Both the Totem Compass and the Crowd Compass are ostensibly able to extend range almost infinitely if enough people in the area have one, thanks to a decentralized mesh networking system that allows for an exchange of data through intermediary devices. But without enough devices to blanket an area, you won't see that level of performance. I'd hazard a guess that it's something you can rely on at, say, the Green River Festival.

A handful of apps claim to offer similar functionality, and though these options dodge the premise of our question, they're still probably worth mentioning if the easy commercial options have you discouraged. iPhones have built-in location-sharing functionality that can be granted and tied to a map using Find My, and Google Maps has similar functionality available across both Android and iOS. Lots of other third-party apps also claim to offer similar functionality, though I suspect Apple and Google's system will be the most ro-

bust in application.

If you are the DIY type, though, there's actually another option available that's particularly interesting. Called Meshtastic, it uses publicly available frequencies in the same low-frequency/long-range LoRa bands as the Crowd Compass – around 915 MHz in the US, and as low as about 169 MHz in parts of Asia – in an open, decentralized, mesh-based radio protocol.

Those are a lot of very technical terms! And setting up your own solution that takes advantage of Meshtastic will require that you *be* a pretty technical person, as it requires that you find hardware for the purpose you need, flash it with the required firmware, and configure it to your liking before you can start using it.

This is the opposite of the buy-it-and-use-it style of the other devices I mentioned here, but it's also about a thousand times more rad and significantly cheaper, with a lot more flexibility in terms of use cases, hardware limitations, and interfaces.

Meshtastic can also be used for more than just location tracking, which could be appealing. In short, if you're the Burning Man type rather than the Coachella type, building your own friend-tracking gadget for your specific use case courtesy of Meshtastic could be the option for you.

For more questions about consumer technology, how gadgets work, or just to give me a topic to write about other than data privacy, shoot me an email at deviceadvice@montaguereporter.org.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

More EBT Fraud; Vulgarian In Ram; 'Best Man' Threat; Trapped Woodchuck; Tree-Puncher; Turkey-Vulture Squat

Monday, 5/12

9:23 a.m. Caller was visiting her daughter in Turners Falls yesterday and had a concern about an off-leash pitbull; wanted to speak with animal control. Number provided.

12:23 p.m. Walk-in party would like on record that he used his EBT card at Food City and \$550 was stolen off the card. He has talked to support, and it will be replaced, but he wanted this on file.

1:26 p.m. DPW looking for an officer to follow a tractor while he will be in the road cleaning up from a blown tire.

2:05 p.m. Caller from Twelfth Street states it looks like someone shot a BB gun at a window in his car; would like an officer to respond. Officer observed a broken spidered driver's side rear window on an unregistered uninsured vehicle on blocks in a private yard. Damage was consistent with a round from a pellet gun, as there was a small center hole in the window. Caller requested to have on record only.

4:10 p.m. Two-vehicle accident in Franklin County Technical School parking lot. No injuries.

6:21 p.m. Caller reports someone fraudulently used

her EBT card. She reported it to the welfare office in Greenfield. She will call back if she would like to speak with an officer.

Tuesday, 5/13

4:11 a.m. Caller states she just hit a bear on Randall Road. Not sure if bear is injured; she doesn't want to get out of the car. Officer advises front-end damage. Bear gone upon officer's arrival. Report taken.

5:44 p.m. Caller states there is a male party in the bushes near Griswold Street and Avenue C who appears to be smoking something and making people in the area uncomfortable. Officer out with male party, who was taking a smoke break from work.

11:01 p.m. 911 caller states that he and his ex-girlfriend were talking about a half hour ago, and she stated three people were headed over his way to beat him up. Officer spoke to male and advised him of options.

Wednesday, 5/14

11:45 a.m. 911 caller reporting that the car he was a passenger in was just rear-ended in the intersection at Avenue A and Third Street. Officer requesting Rau's be started to the scene. Both vehicles towed. Report taken.

6:02 p.m. Caller states he just got a ride to work in Deerfield from a friend who was very upset and driving at a high rate of speed; almost hit multiple vehicles. Caller emotional and stated that he was afraid that she was going to hurt him or possibly someone else. Believed to be heading back to our town. Officer advised.

Thursday, 5/15

12:36 p.m. Caller from Avenue A states that in the afternoons, a few people from the building bring a small black-and-white dog to the parking lot next to the building and yell at it and yank on the lease really hard and "force it" to drink water. Call information faxed to the animal control officer at the sheriff's office.

1:59 p.m. Walk-in would like on record that his EBT benefits were taken from his account on May 10, 2025 due to fraudulent activity.

5:11 p.m. 911 report of two-car accident with possible injury at Routes 47 and 63. Airbag deployment; fluids leaking. MPD officer and Shelburne Control advised. Montague X9 on scene. Requesting tow for both vehicles. Officer providing courtesy transport to Fourth Street.

Friday, 5/16

10:40 a.m. Officer shut down a job being done by Payne Gang on Dell Street due to its causing a traffic hazard and no detail officer having been booked.

1:18 p.m. Caller states that an older male in a silver Ram pickup truck has been yelling very aggressively at her and other Hillcrest Homes residents about their cars being parked on Turners Falls Road near the Griswold Street intersection. He swears at them and calls them various vulgar names. Plate number matching the description of truck given. Male party advised of complaint.

2:34 p.m. Walk-in states that two vehicles routinely come into the Johnson Controls parking lot around 6:40 p.m. and it seems like they are doing some kind of a "deal" in the parking lot. Appears to be two cars, one black and one silver. Caller requesting extra patrols in area if possible to identify the vehicles.

3:30 p.m. Caller reporting that a male is harassing him, trying to run him over with his car and flipping him off. States it's a family issue and wants a restraining order. Advised caller to go to court to obtain a restraining order. Caller states it's too much of a hassle, and if they end up fighting each other or dead, it's not his fault

because he called the PD, and "let the best man win." Referred to an officer.

10:08 p.m. Caller reporting tree down in road at Millers Falls Road and Industrial Boulevard. Officer advises they were able to move the small tree; looks like it was cut down on purpose.

11:33 p.m. 911 caller reporting multiple cars stopped on Federal Street for a prolonged period of time, causing a traffic hazard. Unsure what is going on. Officer advises car parked off side of roadway due to a get-together. Not a hazard at this time.

11:49 p.m. Walk-in advises his vehicle was struck on Federal Street in Montague Center. Caller advises he was told that someone had struck his vehicle while he was at a friend's house. Officer spoke to walk-in about the issue and advised him of his options.

Saturday, 5/17

5:18 a.m. 911 caller from Prospect Street reports loud music playing since 4 a.m.; believes source of noise to be in the area of Unity Street. Officer advises he checked Prospect and Unity Streets; no loud noises or music heard.

12:59 p.m. Caller from Alice Street looking for animal control as she has a big woodchuck in a trap.

3:36 p.m. Food City manager reporting that a full cart of groceries was stolen by two individuals caught on camera. Officer checked a couple of locations; unable to identify individuals at this time.

6:08 p.m. 911 caller from Millers Falls Road states that a male party is punching a tree and seems to be out of sorts. Officers advised. Male party moving along.

7:18 p.m. 911 caller from Federal Street reporting he saw a lightning strike and now smells smoke. Transferred to Control.

10:58 p.m. 911 caller from Seventh Street reporting a truck speeding up and down the road, very loud and very fast. Second caller reporting same. Referred to an officer.

Sunday, 5/18

7:16 a.m. Caller reporting six turkey vultures are living in a vacant third-floor apartment on Third Street. She can see them flying in and out of the open window. Reports her cat was killed by one, and she's worried about other animals in the area. Caller was advised ACO would be made aware; however, it might be a Wildlife matter.

9:02 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road reports that a white station wagon is doing 80 m.p.h. in a 30 m.p.h. zone by his house every night. No tags reported. Referred to an officer.

A Journey Down Memory Lane

Tomayto, Tomahito

By JOAN MOREL

SUNDERLAND – My Dad, James Flate Denton, planted a small vegetable garden full of tomatoes every year that we lived in my childhood home, post-World War II. He was probably continuing the habit of wartime victory gardens as a way to relax after a long day at work as a civil engineer. While not actually gardening as a small child, little eyes were always watching how things were done so as an adult I do a little gardening myself.

The first in the family to attend college, Dad was goalie on Northeastern University's first hockey team from 1930 to 1933, one year after the current rink was built. I was delighted to find his teams' pictures on the internet – there he sits, with his goalie leg pads and gloves and stick – but no protection for heads in those days.

After graduating, Dad was so determined to work for Warren Brothers Company that, as soon as he applied for a job, he sat daily on their doorstep until he was hired! The company, established in 1900 and closely associated with asphalt and paving industries, was purchased by the Ashland Oil Company in 1966.

We had just one car, so he walked a couple of miles to take the train to Boston's North Station, then walked back across the Charles River to his job – then backtracked all that way to come home. He

designed asphalt plants and pavers, rose to be vice-president, was associated with the National Asphalt and Paving Association, and retired from Warren Brothers.

They made a good hire when they took Dad on.

I was still a kid so don't remember much about it, but Dad designed some sort of enclosed pit at the town dump that burned trash, providing heat for town offices.

Back to Dad's garden. In a sunny spot near forsythia, lilacs, and gladioli, his tomatoes were most memorable to me for their hornworms – big, bright green caterpillars with a dark horn on their rear ends and white markings on their bodies. They freaked me out, as did the bugs I picked off the gladioli, their legs clinging to my fingers, reminding me of stink bugs.

Barbara Gillette of *The Spruce* and Gary Pilarchik's videos on YouTube have taught me a bit about tomatoes and pests.

Those hornworms, the larval stage of the sphinx or hummingbird moth, when mature really do look like small hummingbirds as they hover and dart and drink nectar from flowers. If left on the tomato plants, the hornworms become perfect places for small thin braconid wasps to inject their eggs.

Beneficial in the garden for pollinating and for preying on pests, they are harmless to humans and pets. White cocoons looking like grains of rice soon

cover the hornworms, which then deteriorate from within. What a way to go.

Tomatoes, an edible berry fruit originally from western South America, are annuals in the Nightshade, or *Solanaceae*, family and are commonly thought of as vegetables. Some other nightshades are potatoes, eggplants, and peppers.

Baking soda sprinkled around each plant as tomatoes begin to appear helps protect them from pests and weeds. Six to eight teaspoons of 3% hydrogen peroxide in one gallon of water, sprayed every week or two on the tops and undersides of the leaves, basically acts as a preventative by keeping the plants disinfected.

Increase the 3% hydrogen peroxide to 10 to 16 teaspoons per gallon of water if you already have an early blight outbreak. A late blight outbreak in the fall is game over.

Here's a final tale I heard about Dad and plants that happened long before he met Mom. A Boy Scout leader, he took his troop camping late one day. Everything was set up, supper cooked, treats eaten – in the dark. Come morning, Dad and all those scouts woke up in a patch of poison ivy. *Oops*.

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WEST ALONG from page B1

Last evening in the gloaming of the day, I caught the familiar scent of our lilacs drifting in from the 19th century. I call these the Doug Smith lilacs because, when granduncle Doug passed away in the '70s, we moved some of his prize French purple lilacs from his yard and brought them down here to the Flat, to the house where he was born. We planted Doug's lilacs near those planted by his father, my great-grandfather Judah, almost one hundred and fifty years back in the 1880s.

These men and their families are now all gone, but their ancient lilacs are still here, and so year after year their memory stays, and their names are spoken and remembered.

I'll go to check to see if the wren chicks are doing well, snug in their nest in the hole of the Christmas wreath by the front door. Their parents, true to troglodyte tradition, chose the wreath this year and built a clever home in a grass-lined tunnel encircled by scented hemlock pine needles. They could have chosen the neighbor's toolbox, the upended floor brush, or the fisherman's creel as in years past, but no, this year it was the Christmas wreath.

A few feet away, the phoebe incubates in her nest on the shelf I put up in the corner of the front

piazza. She's patient with us as we go in and out the front door all day.

In the back yard, orioles have built their hanging basket nest 40 feet up in the century-old maple.

We must be doing something right to have these winged neighbors choosing to live so close by. Good vibes.

Maybe I'll give in and mow the lawn during this dry stretch. Problem is, I don't have the heart to mow down the golden buttercups that blanket the grass in random swaths. So once again I'll mow a crazy-quilt pattern, weaving in and out of the bright-eyed buttercups. I'll zigzag all over the place, leaving the neighbors and wife to wonder if I'm in full possession of my wits.

Well, I am! It's just that, being lost knee-deep in a May morning, I give myself permission to do exactly what I want.

You should try it.

I want to spend the day watching this happen, and reach my own conclusions... I want to get up early one more May morning, at least, and go to my place with some coffee and wait. Just wait, to see what's going to happen.

— Adapted, with some liberties, from "At Least," by Raymond Carver



Our 100th Podcast Episode!

By MAGGIE SADOWAY

TURNERS FALLS – At the *Montague Reporter* we like to count: almost 153 years since July 3, 1872 when Volume 1, Issue 1 of our predecessor, the *Turners Falls Reporter*, debuted; nearly 23 years since the visionary trio of Arthur Evans, Harry Brandt, and David Detmold decided what the town needed was a new newspaper; our much-celebrated 1000th issue last August; just five more editions till we take our first week off since the new year – and now, for your listening pleasure, the 100th episode of our podcast!

Imagined, proposed, developed, and hosted by Sarah Brown-Anson, these roughly 30-to-40-minute gems are full of insight, humor, and back stories to articles in the paper. The first one, running just under 14 minutes, aired on January 20, 2020, followed by 24 more in that first pandemic year.

Rarely heard, except when Sarah was home with her newborn, is the indispensable producer Stella Silbert – she pitches ideas, edits out gaffes and sneezes, and splices in both theme music and the singing voice of managing editor Mike Jackson.

Most of the episodes have Sarah probing Mike's mind, inviting him to expand on stories and explain how he crafts captions, handles awkward news, and best places a photograph to turn readers' eyeballs from it to the larger story. She also feeds him "Ask The Editor" questions, bolsters the conversation with her own well-researched observations, and enjoys their non sequiturs which typically close out each episode.

In a couple dozen bonus episodes, Sarah introduces us to folks who are the backbone of the paper – writers, illustrators, carriers, satirists, volunteers, staff: Nina Rossi, Jeff Singleton, Joe R. Parzych, Trish Crapo, Sarah Robertson, Izzy Vachula-Curtis, Hannah Brookman, Beverly

Ketch, Emily Alling, David Brule, Trouble Mandeson, the Mudballs – and many more. You see their names week after week; now you can hear how all these oddballs, as our editor has affectionately called his loyal crew, came to the paper, why they value it, and what else they do in their lives.

Like everything at the paper, the podcast is done on a shoestring. When Sarah interviewed me in Number 93 about my own 70 years as a proofreader, we sat at my kitchen table, hoping her little bundle of equipment would behave. Thanks to generous tutorials from Greenfield Community Television and her own skills, it did.

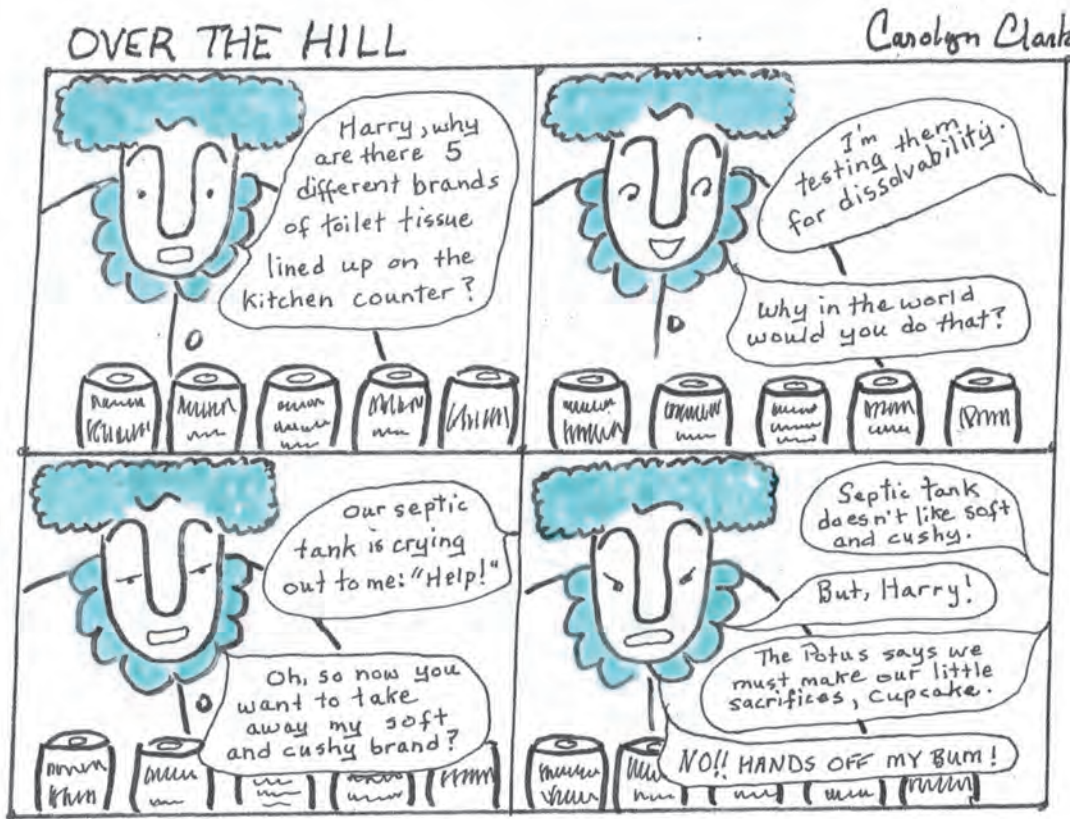
We launched into why I'm such a fan of the podcast. I didn't discover it until April 2023, then promptly binge-listened to Numbers 1 through 69 in a week – some 27 listening hours! I couldn't help myself. I listened as I washed dishes, sat on my porch, waited for the light to change at the end of the bridge. I soaked up new insights and information about my home of only seven years while being sure that long-time residents would also find new and interesting information. Each episode had something that made me laugh, a gift during COVID.

The podcast adds to the vision of why an independent newspaper is crucial to a democracy, its role in building community and keeping us informed about our local boards, neighbors, and governing bodies. It illustrates how many people, and how much work, it takes to keep this fragile venture flourishing.

Find all the episodes on Apple/iTunes, Spotify, Castbox, and elsewhere, including on our website, montaguereporter.org. Let us take you inside the making of our weekly newspaper and the stories we report. Give them a listen and let us know what you think. Donations, new volunteers, subscriptions to our print edition, pizza coupons, summer seltzers, and paid ads are always welcome to support local independent journalism!



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Esta es la página mensual en español del *Montague Reporter*. Aquí podrá encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana en el área, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias mundiales en español. Si quiere participar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a spanish@montaguereporter.org.

POLÍTICA

¿Abolir la nacionalidad por nacimiento?

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

GREENFIELD – En los últimos meses la adquisición de nacionalidad por nacimiento se ha convertido en uno de los temas más debatidos en el ámbito político ligado a la emigración. En efecto, el tema ha sido parte del debate presidencial de Estados Unidos, y durante su campaña el presidente Trump se propuso eliminar esta resolución que aparece en la XIV Enmienda de la Constitución de los Estados Unidos.

A principios de año, Donald Trump firmó una orden ejecutiva que intenta poner fin a la ciudadanía por derecho de nacimiento en los Estados Unidos. Durante la ceremonia de la firma, Trump declaró que los Estados Unidos es “el único país del mundo que hace esto con el derecho de nacimiento.”

Esta afirmación del presidente no es verdadera ya que hay otros países contemplan también el principio de *jus soli*. Lo único cierto es que la ciudadanía por nacimiento es cada vez más escasa, especialmente entre países ricos que tienen una gran inmigración, donde la idea de otorgar nacionalidad por nacer en el país se ha hecho cada vez menos popular.

En este momento en Europa no hay ningún país que tenga leyes que ofrezcan la ciudadanía por nacimiento, o han adoptado restricciones al *jus soli*, condicionando este derecho a la residencia legal de larga duración de los padres o, tras el nacimiento, como opción a la mayoría de edad. Otros países como Australia o Nueva Zelanda han abolido el *jus soli* recientemente.

¿En qué se basa la obtención de la ciudadanía por nacimiento?

La obtención de la ciudadanía en la mayoría de las constituciones está basada en algo tan lejano a nuestros tiempos como el Derecho Romano, determinada por estos dos principios:

- *Jus soli*, que significa “derecho de suelo” en latín, es el principio legal que determina la nacionalidad de una persona basándose en el lugar de su nacimiento. En otras palabras, si una persona nace en el territorio de un estado, automáticamente se le otorga la ciudadanía de ese estado, independientemente de la nacionalidad de sus padres.
- Por otro lado, estaba el *jus sanguinis* (derecho de sangre), que otorgaba la nacionalidad basándose en la nacionalidad de los padres.

En resumen, *jus soli* es el principio de nacionalidad por nacimiento, donde el territorio de nacimiento es el criterio principal para la determinación de la ciudadanía.

A partir del siglo XII hubo un resurgir del Derecho Romano, y por ello, los nuevos estados que emergen en Europa Occidental durante los siglos XV y XVI adoptarán

sistemáticamente esta regla: todo hombre nacido en un territorio será ciudadano del lugar en donde nazca.

Ya en el siglo XIII el Reino de Castilla estableció que el derecho de la tierra era obligatorio incluso para los extranjeros. Establecía expresamente que una persona era natural de la tierra donde había nacido, el que era considerado su origen natural.

Cuando España se convirtió en un Estado moderno, después del matrimonio entre Isabel de Castilla y Fernando de Aragón, las reglas de las Siete Partidas acerca de la ciudadanía se mantuvieron en vigencia, por lo que el *jus soli* se convirtió en el derecho propio de España, que se mantuvo en vigencia hasta comienzos del siglo XIX.

En el caso de Inglaterra, con el bien conocido caso de *Calvin v. Smith*, en 1608, donde adoptó la misma regla, estableciendo que hubiese nacido bajo los dominios del rey era inglés. En el siglo XVIII la regla común entre los estados europeos era que una persona pertenecía al reino en el cual había nacido. No obstante, había casos en que la nacionalidad de los padres podía ser tomada en cuenta a fin de otorgar la nacionalidad a sus descendientes cuando estos no habían nacido en el territorio de la corona.

Un ejemplo claro de *jus soli* es la ciudadanía estadounidense. En Estados Unidos, cualquier persona nacida dentro de sus fronteras, incluso si sus padres no son ciudadanos, se convierte automáticamente en ciudadano estadounidense. Estados Unidos sigue el principio de *jus soli*, que otorga automáticamente la ciudadanía americana a todas las personas nacidas dentro de Estados Unidos.

Esta norma no se aplica a los hijos de determinados diplomáticos extranjeros en Estados Unidos, pero sí, en general, a todos los demás.

En Estados Unidos, el *jus soli* aparece en la XIV Enmienda de la Constitución de los Estados Unidos donde dice que las personas nacidas en los Estados Unidos son ciudadanos de este país, independientemente de la raza, la etnicidad, o el origen nacional de los padres. La Enmienda fue escrita para intentar solventar una resolución de la Corte Suprema. Esta era la resolución judicial llamada *Dred Scott vs. Sandford* de 1857, en la que la Corte sostuvo que ningún individuo de descendencia africana, incluyendo a los esclavos y personas libres, jamás podía llegar a ser ciudadano de los Estados Unidos.

La respuesta del Congreso fue escribir y refrendar la XIV Enmienda en que la primera frase declara: “Todas las personas nacidas o naturalizadas en los Estados Unidos, y sujetas a su jurisdicción, son ciudadanas de los Estados Unidos y del Estado donde ellas residen.”

El propósito de estas poderosas palabras fue anteponer la ciudadanía por encima de las

políticas y los prejuicios, un objetivo tan importante hoy en día como lo fue en su tiempo.

Así pues, los niños nacidos en este país adquieren la ciudadanía estadounidense por nacimiento, porque en los Estados Unidos, cada niño nace con los mismos derechos que cualquier otro ciudadano de los Estados Unidos.

La redacción de la XIV Enmienda legisla el principio objetivo de ciudadanía por nacimiento y aseguró que la raza, la etnicidad, o la ascendencia no pudieran ser utilizadas nunca por políticos o jueces para decidir quiénes entre aquellos nacidos en nuestro país serían beneficiarios de la ciudadanía.



¿Y cuáles son las razones de la abolición o de las restricciones de jus soli?

A medida que aumenta la inmigración, las poblaciones nativas suelen responder con peticiones de más restricciones a la naturalización. Esto viene dado porque la ciudadanía y la naturalización ofrecen acceso a la participación política y también a beneficios sociales, así pues las poblaciones nativas llegan a la conclusión de que el aumento del número de nuevos ciudadanos de grupos diferentes podría ser un factor de desestabilización política.

Otros temen que un gran número de nuevos inmigrantes suponga una presión fiscal sobre las prestaciones públicas.

Estas razones explican muy bien la relación entre las políticas de inmigración y las de naturalización. En la teoría, la inmigración y la naturalización son fenómenos separados, pero en la práctica, los altos niveles de inmigración tienden a provocar protestas para restringir el acceso de los nuevos inmigrantes a la ciudadanía.

Una inmigración alta impulsa a los mandatarios a introducir nuevas restricciones al *jus soli*, e intentan dirigir las leyes hacia el *jus sanguinis*.

La regla del *jus soli* se ha politizado y, como en el caso de la naturalización de adultos, se ha hecho cada vez más condicional, introduciendo requisitos de residencia más estrictos para los padres y de requisitos adicionales para la naturalización, como la residencia continuada, condiciones de orden público y pruebas de lengua y conocimientos cívicos.

Esto explica que haya muy pocos países

con una migración positiva alta que legalicen con el *jus soli*. Por ejemplo, los países europeos han añadido nuevos requisitos basados en el origen de los progenitores del niño. En la actualidad, casi todos los Estados miembros de la Unión Europea exigen que al menos uno de los progenitores haya nacido en el país para obtener la ciudadanía automática.

En el mundo los únicos países que tienen una legislación del *jus soli* incondicional están en América Latina o en el Caribe. A estos podemos añadir Tanzania, Chad y Lesoto. Canadá y Estados Unidos forman parte de la excepción, son países que tienen una migración positiva alta, y también derecho de ciudadanía por nacimiento.

La oposición a la nacionalidad por nacimiento no es nueva. Antes de la aprobación de la XIV Enmienda, algunos objetaron dar la ciudadanía a los hijos nacidos en los Estados Unidos de varios grupos de inmigrantes considerados indeseables debido a prejuicios existentes.

Ahora mismo, el grupo repudiado es el los Latinoamericanos, o procedentes de países caribeños, pero antes fueron los chino-americanos o japoneses.

¿Hay posibilidades de que la ciudadanía por nacimiento desaparezca en los Estados Unidos?

Este derecho constitucional no puede ser abolido sin una enmienda a la constitución. El decreto de Trump recibió esta misma respuesta en las cortes de Washington, Massachusetts, Maryland y en tribunales donde los republicanos apelaron.

Así mismo, más de 20 estados, en su mayoría liderados por demócratas, han presentado demandas en dos tribunales federales diferentes argumentando que el presidente no tiene autoridad para cambiar o anular una enmienda constitucional. Grupos de derechos civiles y futuros padres también han presentado demandas similares.

El argumento del Gobierno de Trump para poner fin a la ciudadanía por nacimiento se basa en la cláusula “sujeto a la jurisdicción” incluida en la declaración de la constitución.

El Gobierno sostiene que los niños nacidos de inmigrantes indocumentados o de extranjeros que están en Estados Unidos, pero con visas temporales, no están “sujetos a la jurisdicción” del país y, por lo tanto, no son ciudadanos.

Si sus planes superan los obstáculos legales, el decreto no revocaría la ciudadanía de los niños que nacieron en el país antes de su entrada en vigor. Sin embargo, su implementación afectaría a miles de familias inmigrantes si tuvieran hijos.

(Fuente: A. Castresana, *Derecho romano*, Universidad de Salamanca.)

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EVENTS

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THURSDAY, MAY 22

Millers Falls Library,
Millers Falls: *Bully!*
*Roosevelt's 1902 Visit to
Millers Falls*, presented by
Will Quale. 6 p.m. Free.

New Salem Public Library,
New Salem: *A Perky Pairing:
Chocolate & Coffee*. Learn
about the health benefits of
dark chocolate and coffee
with Kim Larkin. Register
at (978) 544-6334.
6:30 p.m. Free.

LAVA Center, Greenfield:
The Comedy Project Revue
with performances by local
comedians, storytellers,
improvisation artists,
musicians, and playwrights.
7 p.m. By donation.

Our Lady of Peace, Turners
Falls: *The Singing Priests* of
the Diocese of Springfield.
Sacred music and classics
from the Beatles, Bob Dylan,
the Carpenters, and
more. 7 p.m. By donation.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Burst
& Bloom Variety Show*,
featuring *Tiger Saw*,
comedy, magic. 7 p.m. \$.

Greenfield Community
College, Greenfield:
*Recital Chorus Annual
Spring Concert*. Purcell,
Handel, Gershwin, Lennon/
McCartney, more.
7:30 p.m. Free.

Cold Spring Hollow,
Belchertown: *Dialog Talk*,
Invisible Cities, *Clock Serum*,
Glum Reaper. 8 p.m. \$.

Academy of Music,
Northampton: *Samia*,
Raffella. 8 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, MAY 23

Pratt Field, Bernardston:
Gas Engine Show. With flea
market, craft fair, vendors,
and more. Starts at 11:30 a.m.;
auction at 6 p.m. Free.

Camp Keewanee, Greenfield:
Galactic, *Leon Trout*,
Rebel Alliance, *Jatoba*,
Pink Talking Fish,
many more. 12 p.m. \$\$.

Palladium, Worcester:
Nekrogoblikon, *Rivers of
Nihil*, *Revocation*, *Holy Fawn*,
Ov Sulfur, *Inter Arma*, *Brat*,
Glacial Tomb. 5 p.m. \$.

Leverett Village Co-op,
Leverett: *Rebecca and
Cynthia*. 6 p.m. Free.

Sena Farm Brewery,
Worthington: *Two Wrong
Turns*, *MIBBLE*, *Ruby
Lou*. 6 p.m. No cover.

Abandoned Building
Brewery, Easthampton:
All Feels. 6 p.m. No cover.

Four Phantoms, Greenfield:
Book reading: *Vanessa
Brewster*, “No Such Thing
As Fiction,” with *AT*, *Shea
Mowat*. 6:30 p.m. No cover.

Shea Theater, Turners
Falls: *Second Annual Teen*



The Recital Chorus gives its annual
spring concert this Thursday evening at
Greenfield Community College. Free!

Performing Arts Showcase,
presented by the Brick
House Community Resource
Center. 7 p.m. Free.

Marigold, Brattleboro:
Prawn, *Saliba*, *Grazer*.
7 p.m. No cover.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *2 Car
Garage*. 8 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, MAY 24

Pratt Field, Bernardston:
Gas Engine Show. With flea
market, craft fair, vendors,
tractor pull, tractor parade,
more. Breakfast at 6 a.m.; ham
& bean supper at 5 p.m. Free.

Montague Congregational
Church, Montague Center:
Tag and Plant Sale. 9 a.m.
to 12:30 p.m. Free.

Northfield Recreation and
Environmental Center,

Northfield: *Birds of Spring
Walk* with naturalist
David Brown. Bring
binoculars and dress for
the weather. 8 a.m. Free.

Leverett, Wendell,
New Salem, and Shutesbury:
*Village Neighbors Tag Sale
Tour*. Many locations; see
www.villageneighbors.org
for a map. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free.

Camp Keewanee,
Greenfield: *Max Creek*,
Consider the Source,
Outer Stylee, *Southern
Avenue*, *Bella's Bartok*,
many more. 10 a.m. \$\$.

Sawmill River Arts,
Montague Center:
Trunk Show for local
painter Kaylee Pernice.
Botanical work inspired by
nature and wonders of the
earth. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls:
Hope Against Hunger.
Live and silent auction to
benefit the Franklin County
Community Meals Program.
Appetizers, live music,
cash bar. 7 p.m. \$

Nova Motorcycles, Turners
Falls: *Stella Kola*, *Hands &
Knees*, *Cycles Inside*, *Planet
Dogg*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Workshop13, Ware: *Padded
Waltz*, *Amulette*. 7 p.m. \$.

Palladium, Worcester:
Obituary, *Nails*, *Terror*,
SpiritWorld, *Pest
Control*. 7 p.m. \$.

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EXHIBITS

Waterway Arts, Turners Falls:
Art=Work, group show exploring
how we value handmade work, through
Friday, June 6, with a closing reception
that evening from 5 to 8 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center,
Turners Falls: *Where We Are, Together*,
paintings by Cameron Schmitz,
through this Monday, May 26.

Montague Center Library:
Art/Poetry, Poetry/Art, group
exhibition running through July 2.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center:
Vanessa Kerby, guest artist showing
ceramics, through May.

**Rhodes Art Center, Northfield Mount
Hermon, Gill:** *Japanese Pop Art &
Landscape*, paintings by Greenfield
artist Kimiko Donohoe, through May 30.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett:
The Perennials, group show by
10 local painters, through May.

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield:
Lydia M. Kinney, solo exhibition;
The Overlap, GCC student group
exhibition. Both through June 13.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Portraits in
RED: Missing and Murdered Indigenous
People*, paintings by Nayanna LaFond,
through July; *New Roots in Riverbanks*,
exhibit about Eastern European
immigrants to the valley, and work by
painter Steve Howe, both through May.

Looky Here, Greenfield:

A World Below, new paintings by
Scout Cuomo, through May 30.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield:

*A Touch of Whimsy: artwork that
makes you smile*. Group show
through July 13, with a reception
Sunday, June 1, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Mill District Local Art Gallery,

Amherst: *Seen / Scene / Cene*, group
juried exhibition of artwork by local
trans women, cis women, intersex,
genderqueer, genderfluid, and non-
binary individuals, through June 26.

Memorial Hall Museum,

Deerfield: *Courage and Peace*,
21 paintings by Robert Strong
Woodward, through June 22.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Confluence*,
paintings by Paula Hite, through May.

Science & Engineering Library,

UMass Amherst: *The Soil Beneath Us*,
mixed media works by Malaika Ross
about the rhizosphere; *Harvesting Color:
A Seasonal Journal*, art about ecology
and herbalism using a variety of
green alchemic processes by Tonya
Lemos. Both through May 30.

A.P.E. Gallery, Northampton:

*River
Valley Radical Futures*, group show of
local artists envisioning a future after
capitalism, through this Sunday, May 25.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls:

Moments in Time, illustrations
by Fabio Deponte, through June 9.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne:

Copper Etchings in Bloom, by
Bobbi Angell, and *Dreams From
My World*, oil paintings by Trina Sears
Sternstein, both through June 29.

PULP Gallery, Holyoke:

Tim de Christopher, limestone
carvings and drawings by the Turners
Falls artist, with artwork by Stacy
Cadwell, *Paul Bowen*, *Stephen Evans*.
Through June 22, with a reception this
Saturday, May 24, from 5 to 7 p.m.

CALLS FOR ART

The **City of Greenfield** is looking for
photos and videos to be used in the city's
marketing materials. Details at [artlink.
click/478b00](http://artlink.click/478b00). Deadline is June 8.

Gallery A3 in Amherst looks for

submissions for a juried exhibit, *United
We Stand*: “In these divisive times, art can
ask questions, suggest answers, and help
us stand together. Whether your take
is satirical or sincere, here is a chance
to speak through art. Work may be
overt commentary, thought-provoking,
healing, contemplative, timeless, or
contemporary.” Submit by June 21 to
tinyurl.com/juriedshowartcall.

APE Gallery in Northampton looks for

submissions to *RECORDS: Memory as
a Form of Protest*. All works relating to
theme in any discipline are welcome by
May 31 at apearts.org/submissions.html
for the September show.

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CALENDAR

Institute for the Musical Arts, Goshen: *Lisa Sokolov/ Jake Sokolov-Gonzalez Duo*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Midnight’s, Brattleboro: *Landowner, beetsblog, Pond 1000*. 8 p.m. \$.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Saul Williams*. 8:30 p.m. \$.

Ralph’s Rock Diner, Worcester: *Nurse Joy, Feminine Aggression, Nanny, Dollflower, Sleep Destroyer*. 8:30 p.m. \$.

Bishop’s Lounge, Northampton: *Frank Hurricane, Taxidermists, EAGZ580, Prewn*. 9 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Torie Jock & Damage Control Band*. 9:30 p.m. \$.

SUNDAY, MAY 25

Pratt Field, Bernardston: *Gas Engine Show*. With flea market, craft fair, vendors, tractor parade, church service, more. Breakfast at 6 a.m.; raffle drawing at 1 p.m. Free.

Camp Keewanee, Greenfield: *The Machine, Escaper, Llama Lasagne, Start Making Sense, Dead Man’s Waltz*, many more. 10 a.m. \$\$.

Finders Collective, Turners Falls: *Community Skill Share*. Workshops include tool sharpening, herbal first aid kits, bike mechanics, mutual aid funds, digital security, opioid overdose response, guerilla gardening & grafting, and more. Masks req’d. Wheelchair accessible. 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. By donation.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Tiger Moth, Bird Week, Sleep Destroyer, Train Gang*. 8 p.m. \$.

MONDAY, MAY 26

Soldiers’ Memorial, Turners Falls: *Memorial Day ceremony*. 10 a.m. Free.

TUESDAY, MAY 27

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Klezmer Brunch*, with Myrtle Street Klezmer. 10 a.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ralph White, Colby Nathan, Recreation Vehicle, Frozen Corn*. 8 p.m. By donation.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Combo Chimbita, Sonido Mal Maiz*. 8 p.m. \$.

THURSDAY, MAY 29

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Katie Clarke & Larry LeBlanc, Pat & Tex LaMountain, Small Change*. 6 p.m. Free.

Nova Arts Keene: *Stephen Brodsky & Adam McGrath, Audrey Ryan, Taylor Paradis*. 7 p.m. \$.

Colonial Theater, Keene: *10,000 Maniacs*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

The Drake, Amherst: *Holder, Gun to God’s Head, Dream Fatigue, Retract, Meetinghouse*. 8 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, MAY 30

Leverett Village Co-op, Leverett: *Rattlesnake Gutter Guttersnipes*. 6 p.m. Free.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Four Sticks*, Led Zeppelin tribute. 8 p.m. \$.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Melanie Blackbird Group*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Grey Matter Books, Hadley: *Marcholy, Yew Wand*, readings by Hunter Larson, Noah Hale, Nickolas Hedtke. 8 p.m. No cover.

Iron Horse, Northampton: *Jillith Fair*, Jill Sobule tribute feat. *Marshall Crenshaw, Erin McKeown, Madeleine Peyroux, June Millington, Syd Straw, Winterpills, The Nields*, more. 7 p.m. \$.

Edwards Church, Northampton: *Valley Jazz Voices Spring Concert*. 7 p.m. \$.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Cinemastorm*, screening of *Gamera vs. Giron* (1969) with live soundtrack. 7:30 p.m. Free.

Tori Town, Holyoke: *Labrador, Perennial, Radical Joy, Blue Penny*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Midnight’s, Brattleboro: *Internet Drugs, Sleepy Spectre, cmputergrl*. 8 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Slambovian Circus of Dreams*. 8 p.m. \$.

Ulculvert, Conway: *Red Nave, Owen Manure, Attack Dog, Rhubarb Duo*. 8 p.m. \$.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Purple Dawn, Liz Durette*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Wanocksett Players*. 9:30 p.m. By donation.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

Brick House, Turners Falls: *West African Drumming Workshop* with John Hughes. See www.weathervane-arts.org to register. 1 p.m. \$.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *First Sunday Word*, open mic and featured readers. 1 p.m. By donation.

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Juan Carlos Marin Band, John Hughes/Stephen Katz duo, Myrtle Street Klezmer*. 4 p.m. Free.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ron Schneiderman, Matt Krefting & Chris St. George, Sister Xmas*. 8 p.m. By donation.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Ganavya*. 8 p.m. \$.

MONDAY, JUNE 2

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Pigeons Playing Ping Pong, Melt*. 5 p.m. \$\$.

TUESDAY, JUNE 3

Midnight’s, Brattleboro: *Holy Wire, Dutch Experts, Just Lee*. 8 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Taj Mahal, Keb’Mo*. 7 p.m. \$\$.

De La Luz, Holyoke: *Mourning [a] BLKstar*. \$ 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*. 8 p.m. No cover.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Rubblebucket, Lollise*. 8 p.m. \$.

looking forward...

THURSDAY, JUNE 5

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Linda Smith, Cindy, Jeanines, Kryssi B*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

Last Ditch, Greenfield: *Slob Drop, Burlly Girlies, Film & Gender*. 7 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

Greenfield Garden Cinemas, Greenfield: *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, presented by the Come Again Players. 8 p.m. \$.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Wildcat O’Halloran Band*. 7 p.m. Free.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

Mount Toby Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Tony Vacca*. \$ 2 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 1

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Ocean Vuong*. 7 p.m. \$.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Fievel Is Glaque, Flanafi*. 8 p.m. \$.

THURSDAY, JULY 10

Tree House Brewing, Deerfield: *Disco Biscuits*. 6:30 p.m. \$.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 16

Whately Town Hall, Whately: *Hot Club of Cowtown*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, JULY 19

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

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6

Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, Great Barrington: *LeeAnn Rimes*. 8 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Fairy House Day*. 2 p.m. Free.

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Home Body*. 8 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30

Antenna Cloud Farm, Gill: *Kinan Azmeh & CityBand*. 6 p.m. \$.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Big E Arena, West Springfield: *Busta Rhymes, Rick Ross*. 7:30 p.m. \$\$.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Bob Mould, J. Robbins*. 8 p.m. \$.

Peripatetic storyteller and folk-blues jammer Frank Hurricane comes back up North, with back-to-back appearances next weekend in Northampton and Turners Falls – the latter amid another stacked bill at Harvest Restaurant.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Montague Center Common, Montague Center: *Memorial Day service*. 11:15 a.m. Free.

Black Birch Vineyard, North Hatfield: *Helen Hummel*. 1:30 p.m. Free.

Great Falls Harvest, Turners Falls: *C.A.D. and the Peacetime Consumers, Frank Hurricane, A.P.I.E., Willie & Wednesday*. 7 p.m. No cover.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *beetsblog, Or Best Offer, bobbie, AT & the Fantasy Suites*. 7 p.m. \$.

Marigold, Brattleboro: *The Infinite Wet Secret, Cousin Greg, This Could Be It*. 6:30 p.m. No cover.

Pink Edwards, Greenfield: *bobbie, Snowglove, Almanac, ZBS.FM*. 7 p.m. \$.

Next Stage Arts Project, Putney: *Geneviève Racette, Hilary & G.* 7:30 p.m. \$.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Cinnamon, Birth (Defects), Ice Rasta*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Greenfield Skate Park, Greenfield: *Skateboard Clip Day*, a “community-wide celebration of skating and creativity.” All skill levels welcome, as are spectators. 2 p.m. Free.

Backyard BBQ, Amherst: *Stoner Will and the Narks, .michael*. 4 p.m. Free.

Feeding Tube Records, Florence: *Police Kittens, Hoonah*. 4 p.m. Free.

Leverett Village Co-op, Leverett: *Rattlesnake Gutter Guttersnipes*. 6 p.m. Free.

Four Phantoms, Greenfield: *Heavy Metal Bardlesque*. 21+. “Dungeons & Dragons meets burlesque.” 6 p.m. \$.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *TSB Rock Band, Jimmy Just Quit*. Last show at the brewery. 7 p.m. No cover.

Marigold, Brattleboro: *Oh Dad, Sisyphean Feat, Mimi Fang* 7 p.m. No cover.

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RECIPES from page B1

like a cross between asparagus and spinach, delicious as both a side dish and as highlights in quiches or pasta dishes.

You don't necessarily have to go gathering them yourself. Foragers often sell their harvests to stores. Atlas Farms in Deerfield is one. Atkins in Amherst and Whole Foods in Hadley also often have them, most recently at \$13.99 a pound. The good news is that a pound serves six to eight.

Then there are violets. Almost everybody has violets, or knows a spot where they can be gathered. In Elizabethan England and colonial Massachusetts the leaves went into salads because people had wintered the cold months without vegetables, so they valued all spring's edible leaves.

Violet flowers are edible, too. You can throw them on top of salads, or buy crystallized ones – usually from France – for decorating

cakes. You can even crystallize them yourself. Pick them on a dry day; with a small paintbrush – perhaps from a kid's paintbox – brush them with lightly whipped egg white; coat them in granulated sugar, and let them dry in a cool place.

Stored in a dry closed container, they're not as long-lasting as those from fancy food stores, but they make sweetly pretty garnishes for cakes.

Such things are fun, but they don't put dinner on the table. For that you need spring crops such as asparagus, spinach, and fiddleheads to star in a dish flavored with scallions, chives, thyme, and other herbs.

In many recipes one vegetable can substitute for another. For example, fiddleheads can replace asparagus in the stir-fry below, and vice-versa in the crustless quiche. As for the Pasta Primavera – “Springtime Pasta,” in Italian – you can use whatever spring herbs and veggies you like.



STIR-FRIED ASPARAGUS WITH GINGER AND SHRIMP

- 1 bunch thick asparagus (about 2 dozen stems)
- 1½ Tbsp. cornstarch
- ½ cup soy sauce
- 1 to 2 Tbsp. garlic chives or regular chives
- 2 Tbsp. fresh ginger, cut into thin strips
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 lb. raw shelled shrimp
- 2 Tbsp. vegetable oil
- ½ cup chopped onion
- ¾ cup defrosted frozen peas

Rinse the asparagus. Discard the woody stem ends, and cut off the tips with about an inch of stem. Put the asparagus tips into a small pan, add a cup of boiling water, and simmer for 2 minutes, then remove them to a bowl of chilled water for a few minutes to cool. Reserve the cooking liquid.

Put the cornstarch in a large bowl, make a well in the center, and slowly stir in the soy sauce, making sure there are no lumps. When the cooking water has cooled, stir it in along with half the garlic chives, the ginger, and the minced garlic. Add the shrimp. Let rest for at least half an hour.

When ready to proceed, cut the asparagus stems into 1-inch pieces and stir them into the shrimp mixture.

Heat the oil in a wok or frying pan and cook the onion in it for 2 minutes without browning. Increase the heat to high and pour in all the shrimp mixture, stirring vigorously as the liquid thickens.

Cook for 3 minutes or until the shrimp looks opaque, then add the asparagus tips, the remaining garlic chives, and the peas. Add more water if the sauce is too thick. Taste and season with more soy sauce if necessary, and serve with rice.

Makes 4 servings.



PASTA PRIMAVERA

- 1 cup (about 2 oz.) fiddleheads salt to taste
- 6 baby bok choy
- 2 cups (loosely packed) baby spinach
- 8 scallions
- 12 thick asparagus stalks
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 tsp. oregano
- 1½ Tbsp. flour
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup (about ¼ lb.) freshly grated Pecorino-Romano cheese
- pepper to taste
- ½ lb. gemelli, or other small pasta with a twisted shape

First, prepare the vegetables. Wash the fiddleheads and trim off the brown stalk-ends. Drop in a pan of salted boiling water, cook for 3 minutes, then drain and set aside. Rinse the bok choy and twist off the green leafy ends. Set aside. Rinse the spinach and discard the stalks.

Cut the tips off the asparagus, including an inch or two of stalk. Set these aside. Cut the remaining stalks in 1-inch pieces, discarding the woody end. Coarsely chop

the boy choy greens, the white and tender green parts of the scallions, half the spinach, and half of the pieces of asparagus stem (not the tips). Set aside.

Reserve a tablespoon of butter for the sauce. Heat the olive oil and the other tablespoon of butter in a frying pan, add the chopped vegetables, and cook over moderate heat for 3 to 4 minutes. Set aside.

Next, make the sauce. Melt the remaining tablespoon of butter in a saucepan over low heat. Stir in the flour off the heat to make a stiff paste. Stir in 2 tablespoons of the milk, then return to a low heat and slowly add the rest of the milk, stirring all the time until the mixture is smooth and thick.

Stir in the grated Pecorino-Romano, all the cooked chopped vegetables, and the oregano.

Using the pan the vegetables came out of and adding a little oil if necessary, roughly chop the remaining white parts of the bok choy and add them to pan, along with all the remaining spinach and asparagus. Set aside.

In a pan with plentiful boiling



salted water, cook the gemelli. Follow the package directions for timing – typically 11 or 12 minutes. When it is almost done, reheat the sauce and sauté the vegetables over moderate heat.

To serve, drain the pasta and mix it with the sauce. Turn into a warmed serving bowl, and top with the sautéed vegetables.

Serves 4.

CRUSTLESS QUICHE WITH FIDDLEHEADS AND SCALLIONS

- 2 cups (about 4 oz.) fiddleheads salt to taste
- 1 Tbsp. butter
- 1 Tbsp. cornmeal
- ½ cup grated Parmesan
- 2 cups grated extra-sharp cheddar
- ½ cup scallions, cut into 1-inch pieces
- ½ cup flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup whole milk
- leaves from 4 sprigs thyme, or 1 tsp. dried thyme
- grated nutmeg
- black pepper

Trim the browned stem-ends off the fiddleheads, and drop the fiddleheads into lightly salted boiling water. Simmer for 2 to 3 minutes, then drain and dump them into a bowl of chilled water. When cooled, drain and pat them dry with a cloth.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Thoroughly grease a



deep 9-inch pie-dish with the butter. Sprinkle in the cornmeal and tip the dish to distribute it evenly

over the base and sides. Scatter the Parmesan evenly on top.

Mix the scallions with the cheddar, and add to the dish in an even layer. Arrange the fiddleheads on top.

In a bowl, mix the flour with the baking powder and a little salt. Now mix the eggs with the milk and the thyme. Generously grate in the nutmeg – about ¼ tsp., if you are using powdered – and grind in black pepper generously.

Make a well in the center, and slowly whisk in the egg-and-milk mixture to make a batter as thick as pancake batter. Ladle it over the fiddleheads, then transfer the dish into the heated oven. Bake for 28 to 35 minutes, or until the top is golden and a thin knife blade slid into the middle comes out clean.

Cool for 10 to 15 minutes on a rack. Serve warm with asparagus, or a salad of arugula or other spring greens.

Serves 6.

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