

The Montague Reporter

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Deep Mahar Cuts Proposed As Towns Face Tax Override

By JOSH HEINEMANN

A good part of the Wendell selectboard’s May 21 meeting was dedicated to Article 4 on the annual town meeting warrant, the town’s FY’26 operating budget. The article presents voters with two options: a “no override” budget of \$3.94 million, 3% less than the current year, or an “override” budget of \$4.08 million, level with the current year.

Approving the level budget would require a Proposition 2½ override vote at the town meeting – scheduled for next Wednesday, June 4, at 7 p.m. – and, following that, a ballot vote.

The categories with the most significant increases in the “override” budget are general government and public works. The general government increase would be \$31,529, based on salary increases for six town employees and increased legal, planning board, and registrar expenses. The highway department’s increase would be \$75,710, based on rising “non snow and ice general expenses” and salaries and expenses at the recycling and transfer station.

Smaller increases are proposed for other categories and departments. Four people representing the see **WENDELL** page A4

State Police Seeking Tips After Gunfire In Turners



On Wednesday, a SWAT-style team raided a Third Street apartment.

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – Shortly before 2 a.m. on Monday morning, according to Montague police dispatch records, an employee at the Nouria gas station on the corner of Third and L streets called 911 to re-

port “what sounded to be gunshots in the area... which may be a possible drive-by shooting.” Neighborhood residents would later describe hearing either three or four shots.

While the employee was on the phone, according to the records, see **POLICE** page A4

Tech Opens a Food Pantry, With Help from Community

By CHRISTINA TRINCHERO

TURNERS FALLS – On Friday, May 9 at approximately 7 a.m., the Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) community received an email from school counselor Taryn Canfield. The long-awaited student food pantry would open that morning.

Forty-five minutes later, an FCTS student handed Canfield a bag of non-perishable food. “I was running out the door when I stopped

and read your email,” the student said. “I wanted to donate to the new student food pantry.”

Throughout the day, Canfield recalled, curious students dropped by to check out the new pantry, which had been transformed from a supply closet to newly-painted space with floor-to-ceiling shelves. By day’s end, several students boarded school buses carrying non-perishable items to take home.

After more than three months of see **FOOD** page A6



Counselor Taryn Canfield, who spearheaded the new student food pantry at Franklin County Tech, logs on to the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts’s ordering portal.

G-M SCHOOL COMMITTEE

District Plans To Hire Interim Superintendent For One Year

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – June is typically a time for the regional school committee to coast, but this year it is not so lucky, given superintendent Brian Beck’s recent announcement that he is leaving his position.

On Tuesday, Beck updated the committee on his timeline. “I would be looking, to make it clean, to wrap up my work at the end of the fiscal year, so June 30,” he said. “I will still make myself available to provide consulting support as needed.”

Committee chair Jane Oakes pitched a plan. “I hope the committee will think it makes sense that we look for an interim superintendent,” she said, given that the typical annual window for superintendent hiring has largely passed.

Oakes said she had contacted the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), which head-hunts and screens interim superintendents on a *pro bono* basis, see **GMRSD** page A4

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Might Front Money For Farley Road Bridge Repairs

By KEITH WATERS

The Erving selectboard met on Thursday the 22nd, and as part of the agenda held a joint meeting with the finance and capital planning committees.

The first subject they discussed was an application, due June 4, through the state’s One Stop for Growth grant portal for the senior housing project on Care Drive. Town administrator Bryan Smith noted that the draft figures on the application were from bids from last year, so he was working on getting more current estimates. The committees agreed to return to the topic at their June 2 meeting.

Next came the draft warrant for the special town meeting (STM) scheduled for Wednesday, June 25.

One article would raise funds for the Church Street bridge project. Selectboard chair Jacob Smith said the town has about \$107,000 left over that it borrowed for the Arch Street sewer project which, because of wording in the borrowing contract, it can not pay back early. Town counsel has advised this money may be used for a non-wastewater-related capital project, and he proposed using that to pay for part of the Church Street bridge project.

see **ERVING** page A4

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Thunder Hold Western Crown, Head On to State With Eagles



The Turners Falls Thunder were ready to celebrate early on Wednesday, gathering at the plate as Madi Liimatainen came home on a massive first-inning home run during the PVIAC Class D Western Mass final at Westfield State.

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – This week the PVIAC softball playoffs wrapped up as both Turners Falls High School and Franklin County Tech made it to the championship game in their respective classes.

In Sunday’s semifinal round, the underrated Tech Eagles crushed the higher-ranked Lenox Millionaires while Turners came from behind to edge Monson, sending both teams on to the finals. On Wednesday the Eagles challenged Greenfield, the defending Class C champions, while Turners played Hoosac Valley in a bid to keep the Western Mass Class D title.

Though the Eagles lost and the Thunder won, both teams will now head into the separate statewide tournament organized by the MIAA, this time competing in the same division.

In baseball, meanwhile, both schools have made the MIAA playoffs and will host opponents in the Division 5 preliminary round this Friday. Tech, ranked 23rd, faces Salem Academy Charter School, while 30th-ranked Turners will host Pathfinder.

Softball
FCTS 13 – Lenox 0
TFHS 6 – Monson 3
TFHS 12 – Hoosac 1
Greenfield 1 – FCTS 0

Early on Sunday, the Franklin Tech Eagles traveled to Lenox and upended the Millionaires in the Western Mass Class C semifinal round. I didn’t go to this game, but the victory was a talking point at the Turners-Monson game later that day. The talk centered around Tech crushing the previously undefeated Millionaires, and their chances in their upcoming championship round.

Ten different Eagles hit safely in the Lenox rout: Ava Worden, Hannah Gilbert, Lindsey Taylor, Cordelia Guerin, Abigail Dobias, Shelby O’Leary, Kylee Gamache, Brayleigh Burgh, Sofia Melnik, and Taylor Underwood. Gamache and Melnik hit doubles, and Gilbert clocked two home runs.

In the circle, Gilbert threw a no-hitter, walking three batters and whiffing nine.

On Sunday afternoon, the Turners Falls Thunder came from behind to defeat the Monson Mustangs 6-3 in the Class D semifinal.

see **SPORTS** page A5

ELECTIONS

Write-Ins Fill Empty Seats, But Delay Official Results

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – The town’s local election is on the verge of sorting itself out as of this week, although there are still enough uncertainties that interim town clerk Tina Sulda continues to call the posted results “interim.” A good deal of the delay has been caused by the need to contact a large number of write-ins for town meeting seats to confirm that they want to serve.

On the other hand, several candidates who waged successful write-in campaigns – including Marina Goldman for selectboard, Ken Danford for the parks and recreation commission, and Steve Ellis for

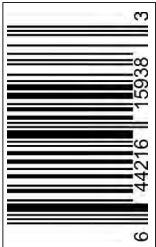
the Gill-Montague regional school committee – have already participated and voted at meetings.

Much of the delay in posting final results has been the product of an effective campaign to fill empty seats at the town’s representative town meeting with write-ins. Since 1962, when the town moved from a traditional town meeting open to all registered voters, Montague has been divided into six precincts with 21 representatives each.

In theory, seven of these 21 seats are voted in each year for three-year terms, but recent years have seen a rising volume of midterm resignations and write-ins who never see **ELECTIONS** page A5

Every Day Is A Blessing, Okay?

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August 2002

DISPATCH

A Rapid Response

By WESLEY BLIXT

NORTHFIELD – More than 100 people lined Route 63 outside Northfield’s Thomas Aquinas College last Saturday, May 24, at noon to protest Heritage Foundation president Kevin Roberts, who delivered the commencement address at the conservative Catholic school.

The Heritage Foundation is, among other things, an architect of Project 2025, an ultra-conservative agenda that guides the Trump administration in many policy areas, including privatization, detention and deportation of immigrants, expansion of the powers of the President, and the further limitation of LGBT rights and reproductive rights.

Among the signs carried by the protesters, who received what appeared to be an enthusiastic response of passers-by, were many that read “2025 = Fascism,” and others that pointed to Project

2025 as being at odds with Christian tenets.

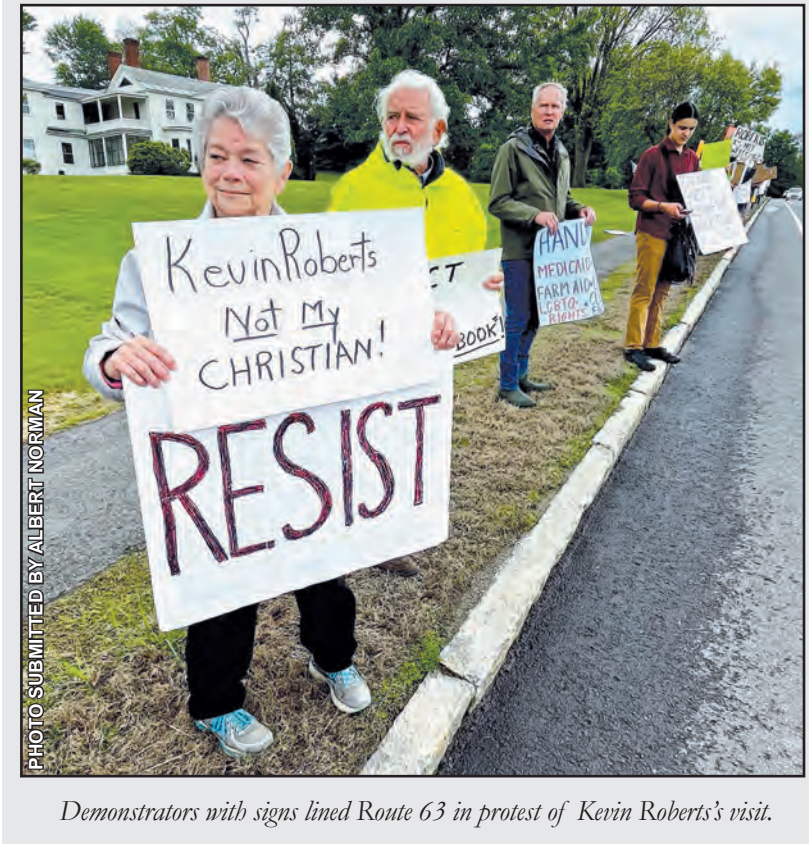
Ferd Wulkan of Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution (FCCPR), which issued the call for the demonstration through its “rapid response network,” said that the organization had not been aware of Roberts’s visit until early Saturday morning.

“It was a surprise,” he said.

Students, who engaged the protesters on friendly terms, said that while Roberts and other officials appeared aware of the protest, the actual commencement address had been delivered earlier in the day.

Second-year students Zack Stark and Matt Clais described the curriculum as being outside the control of students, but not highly political. The Thomas Aquinas Northfield campus, launched in 2019, was formerly part of the Northfield Mount Hermon School.

Wesley Blixt lives in Greenfield.



Demonstrators with signs lined Route 63 in protest of Kevin Roberts’s visit.

If Not Yet, What Will It Take?

Are you afraid yet? If not, what will it take?

Defunding NPR. No freedom of the press. Is *Sesame Street* dangerous?

ICE raids, in defiance of court orders. Will your neighbor be next?

Firing of federal employees, breaking government agencies we depend on, such as NOAA, FEMA, EPA, Social Security, IRS, USPS... No federal help for natural disasters?

Selling off our public lands for private development and profit?

Tax cuts for billionaires, at the expense of Medicare and Social Security? Stopping food for kids and

seniors to give \$\$\$ to the ultra-rich?

Destroying our economy with unstable policies such as tariffs? There goes your retirement savings!

We are facing unimaginable challenges to our American way of life. It is time to stand up and get involved to Save our Country! The next National Day of Mobilization is Saturday, June 14. Web search “Indivisible Mass Coalition” to see where you can join us, with a sign or a flag!

Stand up for America, to keep it the land of “liberty and justice for all.”

Janice Stone
Montague

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Olivia Ellis worked in banking for ten years until she left to become general manager at Leaf Joy in Gill when it opened four years ago. She says she’s “living the dream” by working in the cannabis industry.

Letters to the Editors

‘Appalled’ By Election Implication

We hope we were not the only ones appalled by Ed Voudren’s comments upon losing the Select-board seat to write-in candidate Marina Goldman.

Voudren’s complaint that “something doesn’t smell right” echoed Republican efforts to discredit the 2020 presidential election. In the wake of that election, Trump’s lawyers filed 60 lawsuits. They lost every one, with judges, many of them Republican appointees, ruling that there was “no substantial fraud.” Yet the lies and half truths continue to this day.

To those of us who have been meeting since January to talk about town government, Goldman’s win smelled like democracy at its best – ordinary citizens putting their hopes behind new leaders with fresh ideas.

America must remain, as John

Adams wrote, “a nation of laws, not of men.” Trust in elections is the bedrock of our democracy and that bedrock, weakened by conspiracy theories that ignore the rule of law, has never been more shaky.

If Voudren wants to challenge the election results, he should do so in court, not in the court of public opinion. Until recently, the American way of losing an election was

a graceful concession enabling the peaceful transition of power that Ronald Reagan called “nothing less than a miracle.”

Let’s hope that Montague, at least, can find the rocky road back to such civility.

Bruce Watson
Julie Kumble
Montague Center

Some Corrections...

We would like to express our gratitude to the *Montague Reporter* for featuring an interview with Cliff and me regarding Our Family Legacy Farm.

I would like to clarify a few points from the article: while I was indeed raised on two farms, my parents never owned Tuvek Farm, which is now known as Red Fire Farm; they rented and operated it under the name “Gardner Farm.” Additionally, my fondest memories come from my grandparents’ farm, Garbiel Farm, owned by Walter and Lena Garbiel, which is now owned and managed by my uncle Karl “Chip” Garbiel. My mother, Mary Gardner, is his sister, not his daughter.

During our pick-your-own tulip events, we welcomed several groups, including a local high school class and individuals from Riverside Industries in Easthamp-

ton, who made the journey for delightful outings—an experience that holds a special place in my heart, as I worked there a few years ago. In the article it mentioned Viability visited, but it was folks from Riverside Industries.

In previous years, we supplied various grocery stores mentioned in the article, but this year, our asparagus is available at Food City, Greenfield Farmers Exchange, and PVGA, and we are continually seeking additional outlets.

Once again, we appreciate the spotlight on our farm and thank all our customers for their support and for spreading the word. We wish everyone a fruitful spring planting season, and thank you once more for your continued support.

Natalie Spatcher
Our Family Legacy Farm
Montague

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PHONE: (413) 863-8666
EMAIL:
editor@montaguereporter.org
ads@montaguereporter.org
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TURNERS FALLS AND VICINITY.

(Starting to like this title. Any better ideas?)

Compiled by MIKE JACKSON

Two of the poppies outside my office window **bloomed suddenly** Tuesday morning, and by Wednesday afternoon they'd been joined by two more. As we go to press Thursday I can see a fifth opening up, but this photo has already been processed and set in.

They're really nice flowers. It was unfair of us to make them symbolize anything besides themselves.



Here's one from the mailbag: "I enjoy reading the 'Pet of the Week' section," reader Danielle Seltzer writes, "but have to ask – when we have two wonderful and dedicated local animal shelters (Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter in Montague, and Better Together Dog Rescue in Leverett) why are so many Dakin pets featured?"

Fair question, and it has been on our minds too, since Dakin shut down its Leverett location. We asked Better Together if we could feature their adoptables and they declined for good reasons of their own. We actually recently did set things up with the folks on Sandy Lane – "Kendrick" on May 1 was theirs –

and we'll work them in irregularly, maybe monthly or so. And when we pull from the Dakin site, we're keeping an eye out for "available community animals" currently living here in Franklin County.

But – also – the 'Pet of the Week' doesn't have to be someone looking for a new home! If your own pet needs a little encouragement or recognition, send us a pic and a little blurb and we just might feature them. It's also a good spot for obits.

Ever since our May 15 cover article on the **rash of SNAP/EBT theft** we keep hearing about more people being victimized. One of our own writers was hit back-to-back on her EBT and debit cards, and while the former may have been attributed to the skimmer found at the local grocery store, the latter probably wasn't. "It just seems like something's going on," she says darkly.

We won't point fingers irresponsibly, but she wanted people to know she is feeling suspicious of an air machine outside a local gas station. If you must use one of these one-armed bandits, take a very close look at the card reader first.

Faithful **Montague Cryptojam** solvers Jeanne Weintraub and ML Magrath both caught an error in last week's puzzle – we (okay, I) failed to encrypt one of the letters. 'OWVOCA' should have read 'OWBOCA.' Embarrassing mistake, though after consulting my spiritual advisor I have decided to keep making the puzzle. And the newspaper.

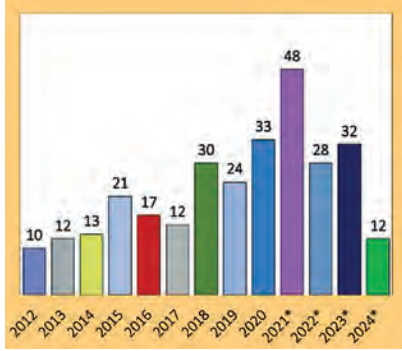
Still thinking about that porterhouse steak, purchased two weeks ago from **Hastings Farm** at the farmers market here in Turners.

Cinemastorm is another reliable downtown treat – free movie double-headers at the Shea Theater –

but this Saturday's Cinemastorm is different: a single feature, the late-Sixties Japanese monster battle movie *Gamera Vs. Guiron*, but with **live orchestra, voice dubbing, and sound effects**.

We were curious who was doing said soundtracking, since the advertised "collection of madcap artists" could mean anything from a truly great to a truly awful night, so we asked Shea director Linda Tardif. I don't wish to dox people who didn't opt to be listed in the promo material, but the people she mentioned include associates of Antenna Cloud Farm and Blue Dot Sessions, and my prediction for you, dear readers, is therefore that it will be *awesome*.

The event starts at 7:30 p.m. Also, I've gotten in trouble in the past for incorrectly listing this series as offering free popcorn. Sorry! It's actually the beer that's free.



The heads of the Opioid Task Force – interim sheriff Lori Streetter, district attorney David Sullivan, and power broker John Merrigan – shared the above chart counting opioid fatalities each year in Franklin County and Athol. They peaked in 2021, and that summer was when the local CONNECT program started distributing thousands of free kits of the **overdose reversal medication naloxone**.

"This is why we are extremely concerned," they write, "about the White House's draft budget proposal to eliminate the First Respond-

ers-Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, or FR-CARA, grant program, a \$56 million effort managed by SAMHSA, to train first responders and other community partners on using and distributing naloxone. We know firsthand how crucial this funding is, as the Opioid Task Force was an FR-CARA grant recipient from 2020 through 2024, which helped launch CONNECT....

"We hope you will join us in urging our federally elected officials to continue to provide federal grant funding for naloxone and naloxone training, so that communities like ours can offer hope and help to those who have experienced or witnessed an overdose."

We stock naloxone at the newspaper office and hope we never have to use it – and it sucks to think that the recent era might end, and things like Narcan and COVID tests and flu shots might be harder to come by. I know it must be fun and cathartic to arbitrarily slash public investments, but let's not lose sight of the fact that for at least some of the people engaging in this behavior, that that it will cause people to die is an absolutely key part of the fun and catharsis.

We've got four more editions before we start **taking every other week off publication**, as we do every July and August. Town meeting (and town budget, and town election, and editor allergies) season is nearly through. This week's edition is a flimsy, dissatisfying 14-pager, and we might try to palm another one off in the home stretch.

Blind item: **A certain local river** is really good to put your feet in. Time is always passing, just as big and fast, and just as cold.

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Another Letter to the Editors No Huge Conspiracy

I'd like to extend a hearty thank you to all of the residents of Montague who stepped up to run for the various offices that were open in this last election, from Selectboard to Town Meeting Member. A special thank you goes to Chris Boutwell for his many years of dedicated service, and his gracious concession message to Marina Goldman in last week's *Montague Reporter*.

Thank you to Ed Voudren for acknowledging that Marina's campaign was "well-planned." I was one of the countless community members who jumped in to help when Marina threw her hat in the ring at the 11th hour. The campaign happened at light speed and compressed the efforts that should have taken months into weeks.

I think there are many reasons her campaign was a success, and here are a few: Marina has been active and contributing in Montague for years and has built a large network across various communities. Also, when voters are ready for a change and fresh ideas, they can get very energized. The amount of outreach to citizens in all of the villages that Marina did in a short period of time was truly remarkable.

Lastly, although probably not the most important aspect, let's not forget that our Selectboard has been all-male for over a decade – I know I'm not alone in being happy that the Selectboard will once again better reflect its constituents.

Anne Jemas
Great Falls

Teddy Talk: Historical Researcher Recounts Prez's Visit to Millers

By JERI MORAN

MILLERS FALLS – Local historian, and Montague libraries trustee, Will Quale gave an informative and very entertaining presentation last Thursday evening at the Millers Falls Library, titled *Bully*, about Teddy Roosevelt in Montague.

In 1901, after then-president William McKinley was assassinated six months into his second term, vice president Roosevelt became president, and in 1902 Roosevelt did a tour of major parts of the USA to let the public meet their "new president." His trip included a whistle-stop tour of New England, stopping at Northfield and Millers Falls.

Quale had some wonderful slides to share, particularly of Millers Falls at the turn of the century, that enhanced the talk itself. He also included several newspaper clippings that captured the excitement of the time.

Quale, a Montague Center resident and researcher, has said he wants to be a "historical storyteller" rather than a historian in the strict-



Quale regaled the packed branch with anecdotes of the popular president's tour stop.

est sense, as he thinks they can be boring. In one slide he had Roosevelt's train move across the railroad bridge arriving in Millers Falls – to a big laugh, and appreciative applause, from the audience.

Sponsored by the Montague Library, Quale promised more such interesting talks in the months to

come about topics of local history. The standing-room-only crowd sounded encouraged to hear that there will be more such events.

For those who missed the Roosevelt talk last week, Quale will reprise the performance on Monday, June 30 at 6 p.m. at the Montague Center branch.

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ERVING from page A1

Capital and fin com members agreed that using that money for this purpose is a good idea.

Erving is waiting to hear from the state about funding for planning the extension of water on Care Drive. There is an earmark in the state’s 2026 budget for this project, but that does not mean that the town will get the funding. Work needs to be done before the town expects an answer from the state, so how to fund that work is a matter slated for the STM.

The committees agreed that there was a way to do this, and asked Bryan Smith to draft an article for review at the June 2 meeting.

Another article would designate a parking space at town hall for use only by a driver with active veteran plates. Bryan Smith said he wasn’t sure why the article only mentioned town hall, and suggested it would be nice to have such restricted-use spots at the library and all other town facilities.

The board assented, but did not change the wording at this meeting.

Farley Plan Emerging

Bryan Smith reported that the town of Wendell has been in touch with the state regarding the bids for the Farley Road bridge, which connects the two towns, coming in way over what was rewarded in a state grant. As he told it, the state told Wendell the only way to get more funding would be to reapply with the information about actual bid prices.

This project would also fit with the One Stop for Growth grant portal, but Bryan Smith pointed out that given the June 4 application date and the prospective late fall decision, the building season for the bridge would at that point be over – meaning that the work

GMRSD from page A1

and that MASC could post the position the very next day with a June 7 application deadline.

“That’s really fast,” said Montague member Heather Katsoulis.

“It’s getting trickier because of the timing,” Oakes replied grimly. Schools are not supposed to go without superintendents, she explained, and filling the post on a temporary basis will give Gill-Montague a year to make a thoughtful permanent hire.

The committee voted 7-0 to authorize Oakes to proceed. “I think it’s the right strategy,” said Steve Ellis, until last year Montague’s town administrator and on Tuesday the only new face on the committee, after his successful last-minute write-in campaign for a vacant one-year seat.

The meeting included the committee’s annual reorganization. By unanimous votes Oakes was reappointed as chair; Bill Tomb, who was not at the meeting, as vice

WENDELL from page A1

Mahar school district came to the meeting: school committee chair Peter Cross; school committee member Kate Woodward; superintendent Elizabeth Zielinski, and finance administrator Michelle Tontodonato. They and the selectboard discussed a letter sent by Orange town administrator Matthew Fortier, and an email from former state representative Denise Andrews, requesting a lower overall budget for Mahar Regional High School.

Mahar’s current request to Wendell for FY’26 is \$640,849, an increase of \$50,432 or about 1% over the current year. The growth is driven in part by a 14% insurance increase. Wendell’s fin com used this assessment figure in both the “non-override” and “override” town budgets.

The lower school budget would result in a 15% decrease in Wendell’s assessment. According to a handout prepared by the Mahar administrators, the lower budget would remove \$1.8 million from the school’s operating budget, translated to cutting athletics down to one sport per gender, reducing special education, and eliminating 17 teaching positions and one administrator position.

Tontodonato said these cuts would likely reduce school choice in, which brings in revenue, and would lead to a downturn in the school’s ability to educate extending well into the future.

Wendell finance committee member Allan MacIntyre said he felt the operating budget of \$14,400 per student, as endorsed by the school

would then have to happen in 2026, at which point it would almost certainly cost even more.

The selectboard members felt they should be in touch with Wendell, as that town is the first name on the existing grant, and were curious as to whether Wendell planned to reapply. Bryan Smith said the bridge may have to be closed for safety reasons before it can be repaired.

Debra Smith, who serves on both the capital planning and finance committees, asked whether Erving could pay for all the work, lend Wendell money for its share, and receive the payments over time.

Bryan Smith said he believed this could be done.

Selectboard member Jim Loynd mentioned that he had heard from a number of Erving residents who stated that they want the bridge to stay open.

Other Business

The selectboard approved two applications the town had received for the new Local Hazard Mitigation Planning committee. One applicants, Mark Blatchley, has served on the conservation committee for a few years and wrote that his deep knowledge of the Millers River and Erving’s surrounding hills should be a help in potential hazard mitigation. The other, Gerald E. Sykes III, has extensive pertinent experience including three years training with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.

The board also spoke with police chief Robert Holst about the Patrol Officer Position Screening committee. After a brief discussion, and given a difference of views between Loynd and Jacob Smith – and the absence of the third member Scott Bastarache – they decided to put off further discussion and voting until all three members are present. Their next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 2.



committee, was within reason and a good deal.

Cross said that if three of the four towns in the Mahar region agree to a given appropriation level, the fourth town must accept that same level. Orange, the largest town by far, is in severe financial straits, especially after \$400,000 in fraud was discovered last September by Fortier. Orange also has a history of not approving overrides.

Citizen Anne Reed spoke in favor of the lower school budget, saying the proposed cuts were made with a scalpel, not an ax. Tontodonato said she felt they were made with an ax.

Andrews was scheduled to come to the May 21 selectboard meeting, but did not because of an emergency. Instead, she and Deja Brew Pub owner Patricia Scutari sent emails to the Wendell list-serv in subsequent days inviting residents to the pub this Friday, May 30 at 6 p.m. to discuss Andrews’s reasons for promoting budgetary restraint and a lower Mahar school budget figure.

With MacIntyre, moderator Kathleen Nolan, treasurer Carolyn Manley, and fin com chair Meagan Sylvia, the selectboard discussed options for presenting two possible operating budgets at town meeting. Contingent on the approval of town counsel, they decided to include one article for the operating budget, and ask the moderator to make it clear that within the article there are two motions, one for a budget within Wendell’s levy limit and one that would require an override.

The town meeting warrant, and the two pos-

POLICE from page A1

three people came into the store “claiming their house was just shot at and they knew who did it,” and an initial investigation by a sergeant found no damage or shell casings but noted that a “[d]ark color sedan” was seen heading up the Unity Street hill.

Just after 5:30 a.m., another caller from Third Street called to report a “loud boom.” An officer and sergeant again came down to investigate but found “nobody around,” according to the log.

By late morning police had strung warning tape around the section of Third Street in front of the gas station and were detouring traffic around the block. Montague and state police were present, and personnel could be seen scouring the ground.

Montague police chief Chris Williams declined to comment on the investigation beyond confirming that state police were assisting, and referred the *Reporter* to the Northwest District Attorney’s office (NWDA) for information.

The NWDA oversees the Anti-Crime Task Force, which according to its website “helps local law enforcement agencies identify, investigate and prosecute illegal narcotics offenses, unlawful firearms offenses, gang-related crimes, major crimes, human trafficking and other organized criminal activities.” State police, “federal law enforcement agencies,” and 47 local departments – every municipality in Franklin and Hampshire counties, plus Athol – participate in the program, which was initiated by a state grant in 2013.

Before any information about Monday’s incident was provided to the public, a second police action was carried out at the same location Wednesday morning shortly

after 9 a.m., with multiple agencies focusing on a second-floor apartment across the street from the gas station.

Police in uniform, in plain-clothes, and in olive green fatigues and helmets closed the street, surrounded the building, flew a drone overhead, and announced over a loudspeaker that they were serving a search warrant, asking one resident by name to exit the building “with nothing in your hands.” They then deployed what several witnesses believe was a flash-bang grenade before entering the apartment with guns drawn. Not long after, the entire operation packed up and left.

On Wednesday afternoon, NWDA spokesperson Laurie Lois-el issued a press release.

“Montague Police are asking anyone with information about incidents involving the shooting of firearms on Third Street early in the morning on Monday, May 26, to reach out to them,” it read. “Police are investigating reports of shots fired around 2 a.m. and 5:30 a.m. Monday. Nobody was hit or otherwise injured. The incidents are believed to have been related. No arrests have been made.”

The press release provided the phone number at the Montague police station and directed the public to contact detective sergeant Joshua Hoffman.

Loisel told the *Reporter* she could not confirm whether the raid was coordinated by the Anti-Crime Task Force, and that she could not comment on an ongoing investigation. The olive green uniforms, she said, belonged to the Franklin County Special Reaction Team (SRT), which is comprised mostly of Greenfield police and Franklin County sheriff’s deputies.



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THE SPIRIT SHOPPE

ELECTIONS from page A1

agreed to serve, as well as too few new candidates filing nomination papers, leaving slots with no name on the ballot for varying term lengths. For example, in the run-up to the May 20 election Precinct 4 had two completely open three-year seats, four open two-year seats, and one open one-year seat.

An aggressive effort last week to find – and coordinate – write-in candidates appears to have filled as many as 17 of the 23 vacant seats on the ballot. But election officials need to tally these votes by hand, and the town clerk must contact the apparent winners to make sure they are willing to serve their terms.

The jury is still out but the bottom line, as of press time Sulda confirmed that the write-ins had added one new representative each in Precincts 1 and 2, two each in Precincts 3 and 5, four in Precinct 6, and seven in Precinct 4. A handful of the remaining seats are pending confirmation.

Beverly Ketch, who is expected to attend her first special town meeting as a representative of Precinct 4 in the fall, told the *Montague Reporter* that she is “looking forward to learning about how the town is governed.” The learning curve, Ketch said, could be “frustrating” to those who don’t look forward to it.

Lilith Wolinsky, who lives in Precinct 6, said she was approached by a fellow resident who convinced her to serve if she was written in. “While I sometimes find working with town government frustrating,” she said, “I think the advantages of being part of the process will outweigh the disadvantages.”

On the school committee front, Sue Richardson of Lake Pleasant, a town meeting member representing Precinct 2, had initially expressed interest in running for

a vacant one-year Montague seat as a write-in, but decided to support Ellis, until recently the town administrator, when his last-minute candidacy was announced.

Richardson told the *Reporter* she still plans to attend school committee meetings this year. “I’ll be just as effective not as a member,” she explained, “and I think Steve Ellis will be more effective as a member.”

School committee elections are unique in that both Gill and Montague voters elect the candidates that represent each town.

Other write-in candidates who won seats vacant on the May 20 ballot include Susan Dorais as a library trustee, Ken Danford as a parks and recreation commissioner, and Todd Brunelle as a soldiers’ memorial trustee.

Montague’s turnout of just under 12% of registered voters was somewhat higher than in recent springs – 10.3% in 2024, and under 7% the previous year. On the other hand, voter participation was nearly 18% in 2020, and nearly 25% in 2018, when a Proposition 2½ debt exclusion vote to fund a new public works garage was on the ballot. In 2017, when an advisory measure that Turners Falls High School should “retain its Indian logo” appeared on the spring ballot, turnout had spiked to nearly 32%.

Presidential elections, despite Montague being a predictably blue town in a predictably blue state, drive much higher turnout. In the 2016 fall election it stood at 71.17%, and in 2020 the level was just under 77%. For the most recent presidential election, according to the state website, 4,842 of Montague’s 7,141 registered voters, or 67.8%, turned out.

Note: Jeff Singleton serves as a town meeting member for Precint 5.



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SPORTS from page A1

The Mustangs came out kicking in the first inning, as two doubles, a bunt, a walk, and an error put them on top 3-0 with no outs and two runners on base. But a pickoff, a strike-out, and a 1-3 grounder ended the threat, and that was all for Monson.

An RBI single by Madison Liimatainen in the bottom of the first put the Thunder on the scoreboard, and an RBI sac in the second by Mia Marigliano narrowed the margin to 3-2, and in the fourth, Ameliya Galbraith scored on a wild pitch to knot it at three.

Down to their last out in the sixth inning, Turners finally put it away. They had two outs and nobody on, but Marigliano barely beat a throw to first to keep the inning alive. The Mustangs intentionally walked Liimatainen – for the third time in the game – and then Marilyn Abarua and Janelle Massey hit RBIs, sending three runs across the plate and advancing Turners into the Western Massachusetts championship game.

On Wednesday, both Franklin Tech and Turners High played

those championship games on Sullivan Field at Westfield State University. The opener featured the Thunder against the Hoosac Valley Hurricanes.

The ‘Canes got a runner on base in the first inning courtesy of a hit batsman, but the Blue D kept them off the scoreboard, and in the bottom of the inning Liimatainen hit a solo home run and Blue was off to the races. Abarua was walked and Massey doubled to plate her, giving Turners a 2-0 lead after one complete.

Blue piled four more on in the second, which led to some confusion in the stands, as the scoreboard read “5-0” instead of “6-0.” As the scorekeepers attempted to fix the error, they made it worse and suddenly Turners was on top 11-0, having picked up six runs in the third inning even though it hadn’t started.

After some good-natured ribbing, the score was corrected, and play resumed. Interestingly, though, Powertown did score exactly five runs in the third, making it 11-0 just as the scorekeepers had predicted. Fans began to debate whether the



Franklin Tech’s Hannah Gilbert clocked the Eagles’ only hit on Wednesday against the Green Wave in the Class C Western Mass final at Westfield State. Greenfield blanked Tech 1-0 in what became a battle of two outstanding pitchers.

game could be called via the mercy rule, but it became a moot point as Hoosac scored a run in the sixth off a wild pitch to keep the score within 10 runs, 11-1. Blue scored an insurance run in the bottom of the inning for a final score of 12-1.

Galbraith had one hit while Marigliano, Massey, Autumn Thornton, and Addison Talbot hit dou-

bles, Abarua had two doubles, and Liimatainen hit a double and a homer. In the circle, Liimatainen scattered three hits, struck out 14, and allowed no walks or earned runs.

The win gives Powertown yet another championship title, but their work for the season is not done, as they will compete in the state tournament for an even bigger title. Seeded

#1 in Division 5, they will host either Bromfield High School of Harvard or Rising Tide Charter School of Plymouth in the Round of 32.

In Wednesday’s second game, the Class C championship, the Franklin Tech Eagles lost in a squeaker to the Greenfield Green Wave.

Tech made some great defense plays to hold Greenfield to one run, but after the first inning they just couldn’t buy a hit. Their lone single came in the first inning when Gilbert popped a Texas Leaguer over the infielders’ heads. She advanced to third, but a pair of strikeouts ended the threat.

Greenfield’s lone run came in the bottom of the first when a two-out double, a base hit, and a throwing error gave Green the lead. From there on out, it was all defense as the Wave held on to win it 1-0. Gilbert walked two batters, scattered four hits, struck out 12, and didn’t allow an earned run.

Tech heads into the Division 5 state playoffs ranked #7, and will host either the Whitinsville Christian School of Northbridge or TechBoston Academy.

As of press time, both local game dates are yet to be determined.



Liimatainen slides in safely for the Thunder’s fifth run during the PVLAC Class D semifinal game on Sunday at Gary Mullins Field.



Turners Falls Athletic Club players waved at the triumphant high school softball team as the bus passed Newt Guilbault Field on Wednesday after the team clinched the Western Mass D title. Next up is the state tourney, which Turners Falls will join next week in a Round of 32 home game. A Turners win would be the 800th of coach Gary Mullins’ career.

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Eric Hoffer, ‘The Temper of Our Time’

FOOD from page A1

planning, Canfield’s vision to support at-risk high school students become a reality with the opening of the Franklin County Technical School Student Food Pantry, the county’s first food pantry located within a high school.

“We are committed to creating a school environment,” Canfield said, “where every student feels supported, valued, and able to focus on their learning without having to worry about hunger.”

A High Demand

According to Canfield, roughly 43%, or two out of every five students and families at FCTS, receive state or federal funding, up from 42% in 2024. This is significant, she said, and with inflation it’s becoming harder to put food on the table.

The school provides free breakfast and lunch to all students through the National School Lunch program, a joint effort of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Education. “It is sad we have a need for it,” said Canfield, who has worked at the school since 2021. “But I am glad to meet the need and help address it.”

Addressing that need became Canfield’s extracurricular pursuit. “I started to think about how we could help the kids. I ended up reaching out to the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, which led to us submitting an application,” Canfield recalled.

Once she received approval from the school’s administration, Canfield said she “ran with the idea. I wasn’t sure what the food

pantry was going to look like, but I kept everyone in the loop throughout the process. It ended up working out, and I am so glad!”

The Food Bank partners with several other elementary and high schools across western Massachusetts, including backpack programs and school pantries like the newly established pantry at FCTS.



Kaitlyn Lively, an 11th grade student in FCTS’s programming and web development program, designed this new logo for the school’s new student food pantry, which opened earlier this month.

“We are excited to partner with Franklin County Technical School as the newest school pantry in our network,” said Michelle Geoffroy, agency relations manager for the Food Bank. “They approached us earlier this year with interest in sourcing food for their school pantry and supported them in this effort by helping them find a local non-profit, the Brick House Community Resource Center, to sponsor their membership with the Food Bank.

“Each of these programs is

unique in their approach to serving students, including when and how students access the food,” Geoffroy continued. “All share the same desire to provide nutritious food to support student learning and well-being, and we are pleased to be able to support them in those efforts.”

As part of the FCTS-Food Bank partnership, students accessing the pantry are asked to answer a few questions, such as whether they have already visited the site within the current month and the total number of children, adults, and seniors who live in their household.

This information, Canfield explained, helps the Food Bank to source more food for our region. She emphasized that “no identifying information (name, date of birth, or address) is collected. This process helps us to maintain our partnership with the Food Bank and continue serving our students effectively.”

Stocking the Shelves

Now that the application has been approved and the Food Bank completed its onsite inspection earlier this spring, Canfield expects she will place the first order through the Food Bank’s online ordering system within the next few weeks.

In addition to placing orders, Canfield will pick the food up at the Food Bank’s Chicopee headquarters and food distribution center and manage the inventory. For now, the pantry will feature only non-perishable items. “It’s possible that we will offer refrigerated items in the future,” Canfield said, but this would require a larger space as well as an inspection from the Montague health department.

“We are grateful to individual donors and Our Lady of Peace parish in Turners Falls for their recent donations that helped us open the food pantry in early May,” said Canfield.

As part of the program, Geoffroy explained, FCTS joins the Food Bank’s network of food pantries and meal programs across western Mass. “This will allow them to access food from our warehouse free of cost, and provide nutritious snacks and staple food items to students throughout the school day and for use at home,” she said. “They are welcome to access the food from the Food Bank as often as they need to.”

An Engaged Community

Geoffroy cited studies showing that when students have access to food at school, nurses’ office visits

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The food pantry, still in its early stages, is believed to be the first in Franklin County to be located in a high school, though the student food pantry model is becoming increasingly common elsewhere in the state and country.

and behavioral issues decrease and attendance and test scores improve.

“We know how important access to nutritious food is for student learning and achievement,” she added.

When asked about the response to the new food pantry, Canfield shared that the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. “News of the pantry has been well-received among students, teachers, and staff,” she said. “I presented at school committee recently. People have had great questions, which tells me they are engaged in these additional resources that we are offering students.”

The Student Food Pantry is currently open weekdays from 7:45 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Thanks to the recent community and church donations, the shelves are stocked with what Canfield calls “pantry staples”: oatmeal, granola, and cereal; pasta sauce; canned tuna and chicken; rice; Ramen noodles; and mac and cheese. Students interested in accessing the pantry can contact their school counselor in person or by email to arrange a convenient time to visit it.

In addition, supplemental “grab-and-go” food items, such as trail mix and granola bars, are available in both the nurse’s office and the guidance office. These are accessible to any student; no appointment is required.

“We want all of our students to have a safe and supportive school



The school also makes “grab-and-go” snacks available to all students in the nurse’s office and guidance office.

day,” stressed Canfield. “We want to support the whole student; we are concerned about their overall well-being.”

Canfield said she will collaborate with the FCTS administration team to determine how students can access the Student Food Pantry during the summer months.

“The need is likely greater then, because kids will not receive breakfast and lunch here,” she said. “This is definitely a priority for our students to have access during the summer months.”

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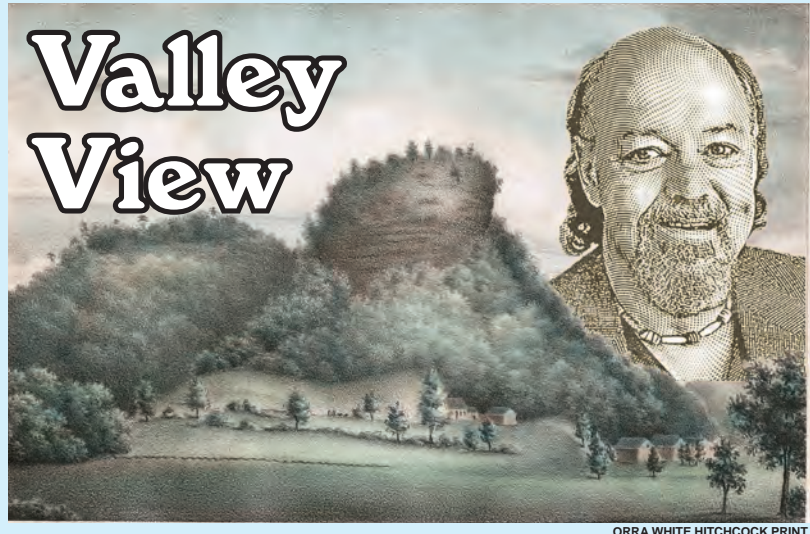
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Peace on the Deerfield

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – Sunday morning, Memorial Day Weekend, approaching 5:30. Day has broken – half-sun peeking over the eastern horizon, squeezing warm yellow rays through the tulip magnolia shielding the upstairs bedroom windows on each side of my headboard.

From the tree comes the joyous song of an amorous cardinal, likely celebrating the high blue sky, small white clouds, and inspiring sun after days of wet, gray, unseasonably cold May weather. I could relate to the bird’s cheerful disposition. Thank you, my blissful, scarlet friend, for sharing your sunrise joy.

As I walked toward the fan staircase descending to the new day – looking south over the lush green yard below – my thoughts traipsed back to Deerfield River fishing days past. “This,” I thought, “would have been too late for me back then,” when my rule of thumb was to execute my first cast before the birds sang.

To get a rare opportunity at large, gluttonous, Deerfield River brown trout lingering a bit too long in their nocturnal feeding stations, that’s when you must arrive: before the birds sing. And even if you know the game, your chances of landing such a fish are slim indeed. Deerfield River browns do not grow large on stupidity.

Over the years, while catching many big, acrobatic, stocked rainbows, I was fortunate enough to land a few spectacular browns in the three- to five-pound range. All of them were caught on night-crawlers dead-drifted just right. Never did I land one fly-fishing, although I suspect a few took a sparkling cream caddis emerger or Montana nymph and got away.

Being a South Deerfield lad, I know the section of the Deerfield I most often fished as “Hoosac.” It’s located on a small slice of paradise along the west bank between Johnson’s Hole in Deerfield, about a mile upstream from Stillwater

Bridge, and the South River.

Occasionally I’d wander a tad north to fish the stretch between the mouth of the South River and Bardwells Ferry, concentrating primarily on three productive sites that offered the types of pools and runs I preferred.

Less often I ventured farther upstream to the mouths of Dragon Brook and Bear River, on opposite sides of the river above Bardwells. Those were the days when you could drive the railroad service road following the tracks from West Deerfield to Buckland without fear of a fine.

Sometimes, I’d fish from my 14-foot fiberglass Old Town canoe, paddling upstream – black Lab gundog Sara seated astern – to Johnson’s Hole from the now-gated riverside launching spot and parking place below Stillwater Bridge. Other times I’d drive to my destination on the old trolley trestle following the west bank from Hoosac to Conway Station, parking on the power line and hiking steep game trails to my two favorite spots.

That access, too, is now closed to vehicles and open only to hiking and biking, with a relatively new footbridge crossing the South River gorge to Conway Station. It’s irrelevant to me in my senior years. Those steep, slippery game trails to the river below are for young legs, not battered old warhorses.

To be honest, I’ve seen the footbridge from afar, but never closely examined or crossed it. It doesn’t interest me. Frankly, I preferred it when, one, the old trolley bed was open to the few locals who used it; two, the gorge had to be crossed the hard way, on foot; and three, the Deerfield River was virtually unknown to whitewater enthusiasts, who’ve ruined it for anglers seeking solitude, tranquility and the soothing rattle of free-flowing waters.

Sadly, that peaceful place disappeared years ago on the lower Deerfield, beginning the day noisy

see VALLEY VIEW page B5

A LABOR OF LOVE AT DAN'S VEGGIES

By BEN GAGNON

ERVING – There’s a modest family farm at the intersection of Northfield Road and Poplar Mountain Road in Erving that wouldn’t exist today if not for a caring father worried about his teenage son getting into trouble.

Dan Boyden was 14 when his father Warren suggested they work together to build a sugar house, expand the backyard garden, and build a farm stand by the roadside. As an added incentive, Dan could keep a share of the income from the new business.

It worked. By age 21, Dan had recalled the value of hard work and saved \$25,000 for a down payment on his first house.

“I was a really busy kid with ADHD and I needed a goal, so my father asked me if I wanted to make a little extra money,” Dan recalled in an interview last week. “He thought it was a good way to keep me out of trouble, and he was right. My father and I cut wood at my uncle Howard’s sawmill in Conway and we built the sugar house in 2009, and we dragged the frame of a Model A out of the barn and built the farm stand.”

They started with a small, rocky field that was cleared with one til-



Jacquie Boyden waters plants in the greenhouse at Dan’s Veggies in Erving.

ler, a small plow, and an old-school harrow, and weeded by hand. “We learned to use what we had, and every year it got a little bigger, and we got better at what we did,” said Dan. “We spent a lot of time outside, and it gave me an appreciation for working long days. It’s a nice feeling to know you accomplished something.”

Meanwhile, Warren had a career as a successful mechanic and his wife Jacquie was the part-time principal assessor for the town of Erving, but when Dan left home

they continued expanding the farm. Today, Dan’s Veggies and Poplar Mountain Maple is a going concern.

“When Dan got a job as a fabricator, we were left with a field full of vegetables but we decided to continue it,” said Jacquie. “Warren and I found we had a great love for vegetable farming, and when he retired in 2020, he was ready to be a full-time farmer. Dan helped out when he could, but he got married and had kids of his own.”

One of the many remnants of see VEGGIES page B8

MONTV / MUSIK / MOUNTAIN

Interview by J. BURKETT and TROY CURRY

TURNERS FALLS – David Pierce is the owner of the Straightaway Records store in Gardner, Mass. Dave is an old-school music lover, and has worked in record stores for over 50 years now – and is still going strong.

Along with working at and owning stores, he has had a colorful history with music, including running a label that put out punk LPs, seeing both Led Zeppelin



No. 80: David Pierce

and the Ramones circa their first LPs, visiting the UK quite a few times for music stuff, and going to tons of other shows since forever.

Dave was nice enough to share some time with us this week. Check out his store in Gardner next time you are there – it’s always stocked with piles of LPs and cool related items – and make sure you say hi for us!

MMM: Hi Dave! What are some of your first music memories? What were the first records you bought?

DP: The first record I bought was *Introducing... The Beatles* on the Vee-Jay label circa 1963. I bought several ’60s 45s, including the Count Five, the Music Machine, and some local bands. I had albums by the Kinks, the Animals, Them, and other British bands.

I played drums in my basement with local guys, but I never got anywhere.

MMM: What was it like to hear the Beatles when they came out? What were your favorites?

DP: The best Beatles albums were *Revolver* and *Rubber Soul*. I saw the Beatles play on the Ed Sullivan Show and was a fan. I kept a scrapbook of Beatles clippings, but I don’t have it anymore.

MMM: What are some of the highlights of working see MUSIK page B4

Pet of the Week



‘BELLA’

Bella is a beautiful seven-year-old long-haired female cat, black with bright yellow eyes. She is friendly, and enthusiastic about the outdoors and mealtime. She first was an indoor cat, but made it clear she would prefer to go outside, and has been much happier as an indoor-outdoor cat. As a free spirit, she also enjoys free roam of her house, and is displeased by closed doors that may keep her from a favored person.

Bella enjoys cuddling and being petted on her own terms. She would be most happy with someone willing to take the time to get to know

her, and comfortable letting her outside. She has no prior experience living with other animals. She has not shown signs of aggression with people and gets along with children.

Bella is healthy, spayed, house-trained, microchipped, and current with shots. She is located in Florence. There is no adoption fee.

To apply to adopt Bella, 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.

Senior Center Activities JUNE 2 THROUGH 6

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

Monday 6/2

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

Tuesday 6/3

9 a.m. Chair Yoga
12:30 p.m. Tech Tuesdays
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 6/4

9 a.m. Veterans’ Agent
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
10:45 a.m. Outdoor Yoga
(weather permitting)

11 a.m. Chair Exercise
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 6/5

10:30 a.m. Brown Bag
1 p.m. Pitch
3:30 p.m. Meditation for Seniors

Friday 6/6

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

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 6/2

9 a.m. Good for U
10 a.m. Seated Fitness
12 p.m. Pitch Cards
1 p.m. Yoga

Tuesday 6/3

8:15 a.m. Nail Clip
9 a.m. Nurse
9 a.m. Stretch & Balance
10 a.m. Line Dancing
11 a.m. Social Stringer

Wednesday 6/4

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

Thursday 6/5

9 a.m. Barre Fusion
10 a.m. Pilates Flow
12 p.m. Brown Bag Lunch

Friday 6/6

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.

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. The next clinic is June 17. 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.

JUNE LIBRARY LISTINGS

Montague Public Libraries

Turners Falls: Carnegie (413) 863-3214
Montague Center (413) 367-2852
Millers Falls (413) 659-3801

MONTAGUE

All month: *Grab & Go Craft:* DIY basket, at all branches while supplies last.

Every Tuesday and Thursday: *Drop-in Craft.* Ages 6 to 12. Millers Falls, 1 to 7 p.m.

Every Wednesday: *LEGO.* Carnegie, 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 4: *Knitting Club.* Montague Center, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 5: *Community Resource Assistance.* Millers Falls, 1 p.m.

Thursdays, June 5 and 12: *Exploring Watercolor.* All ages. Millers Falls, 1:30 p.m.

Every Friday: *Dungeons & Dragons.* Ages 11 to 19, reg req’d. Carnegie, 5 p.m.

Every Saturday: *Drop-in Community Puzzle.* Carnegie, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, June 7: *Used Book Sale.* Fiction, paperbacks, kids’ books, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks. Carnegie, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Monday, June 9: *Friends of MPL Meeting.* Email kristopherlangston@gmail.com. Millers Falls, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 12: *Book Club.* Clare Pooley, *Iona Iverson’s Rules for Commuting.* Millers Falls, 5:30 p.m.

Monday, June 23: *Reusable Bag Workshop.* Ages 8 to adult. Montague Center, 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 26: *Local History with Will Quale.* Millers Falls, 6 p.m.

Friday, June 27: *Flying High Dogs.* Frisbee dogs, fun for all ages. Carnegie, 2 p.m.

Saturday, June 28: *Birding in Montague Center.* Reg req’d. 9 a.m.

Monday, June 30: *Bully! Roosevelt’s 1902 Visit to Millers Falls,* presented by Will Quale. Montague Center, 6 p.m.

ERVING

Every Wednesday: *After School Activities.* 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Thursday, June 5: *Friends of the Library Public Meeting.* 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 8: *Friends’ Puzzle Swap.* 1 to 3 p.m.

Sunday, June 8: *Genealogy Drop-in.* 1 to 3 p.m.

Erving Public Library (413) 423-3348
Gill: Slate Library (413) 863-2591
Leverett Public Library (413) 548-9220
Northfield: Dickinson Library (413) 498-2455
Wendell Free Library (978) 544-3559

Wednesday, June 11: *Photography Exhibit Reception.* 5 to 6 p.m.

Sunday, June 15: *Friends’ Craft Day.* Reg req’d. 1 p.m.

Sunday, June 22: *Book Club.* Michael Cunningham, *Day.* 2 p.m.

Wednesday, June 25: *Painting with the Principal.* 1:30 to 3 p.m.

LEVERETT

All month: *250th Community Quilt Exhibit.*

Every Thursday: *Mah-jongg.* Beginners welcome. 1:15 p.m.

Every Saturday: *Tai Chi.* Intermediate to advanced 10 a.m.; beginners 11 a.m.

Every Monday and Wednesday: *Online Qigong.* See leverettlibrary.org for info. 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, June 3: *Craft Circle.* For adults. 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 14: *Pride Storytime.* For ages 4 to 8. 1 p.m.

Saturday, June 21: *Summer Reading Kickoff* featuring the Pumpernickel Puppets. Ages 3 and up. 1 p.m.

Tuesday, June 24: *Music on the Patio:* Bruce Colegrove. 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 26: *LEGO.* Ages 5 to 12. 4 p.m.

NORTHFIELD

All month: *In-Library Kids’ Scavenger Hunt.*

Every Tuesday: *Drop-in Knitting/Crafting.* 6 to 8 p.m.

Wednesdays, June 4 and 11: *Storytime: Music and Movement with Robin.* For toddlers and preschoolers. 10 a.m.

Wednesday, June 4: *Book Group.* Kirstin Downey, *The Woman Behind the New Deal.* 10 a.m.

Wednesday, June 4: *Tech Help.* Bring your device and ask your questions. 1 to 3 p.m.

Wednesdays, June 4 and 18: *Dungeons & Dragons.* Single-night campaigns for ages 16 and up, all XP welcome. Register at northfieldrec.com. 5 p.m.

Thursday, June 5: *Spice Club* pickup starts. Sample and recipes while supplies last. *This month:* hibiscus.

Thursday, June 5: *Environmental Book Group.* Robin

Wall Kimmerer, *The Serviceberry.* 3 p.m.

Thursday, June 5: *What Is Freedom?* Talk by Pete Masteller. 5:30 p.m.

Friday, June 6: *Art Reception and Coffee/Tea Social.* Jinx Hastings, color weaving on fabric. 10 to 11 a.m.

Friday, June 6: *Campfire and S’mores.* 5 p.m.

Saturday, June 7: *Puzzle Pick-up.* Email friendsofdml01360@gmail.com for information. 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesday, June 11: *Readings Group.* George Orwell, *1984.* 3 p.m.

Thursday, June 12: *Take-and-Make Craft.* Craft stick creatures. While supplies last.

Thursday, June 12: *Trivia Night.* Four Star Farms Brewery, 6 p.m.

Friday, June 13: *Magic Show for Kids.* 5 p.m.

Tuesday, June 17: *Friends Meeting.* 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 21: *Ice Cream Social.* 3 to 5 p.m.

Wednesday, June 25: *Poetry Discussion* with Nick Fleck. 3 p.m.

WENDELL

All month: Exhibit, *paintings by Nina Keller.*

Mondays, June 2 and 16: *Fiber Group / Mending Circle.* 6:30 p.m.

Every Tuesday: *Adult Art Group.* 5 p.m.

Every Wednesday: *Movie.* 4 p.m.; Yoga. 6:20 p.m.

Every Friday: *LEGO.* 4 p.m.

Every Sunday: *Yoga.* 10 a.m.

Friday, June 13: *Office Hour* with Rep. Aaron Saunders. 1 p.m.

Saturday, June 14: *Summer Reading Kickoff.* 1 to 4 p.m.

Tuesday, June 17: *Community Conversation.* Accessibility in the library. 7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 18: *Storytime.* 10 a.m.

Tuesday, June 24: *Adult Book Group.* James McBride, *Heaven and Earth Grocery Store.* 10 a.m.

Wednesday, June 25: *Narwhal and Jelly Party.* Reg req’d. 3 p.m.

Friday, June 27: *Friday Night at the Library.* 5 to 7 p.m.

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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on May 28, 2015: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Trash for a Prize

Highway commission chair Harry Williston came to the Wendell selectboard meeting on May 13 to renew the program started last year in which citizens who picked up roadside trash and brought it to the WRATS are entered in a drawing to win a package of ten Wendell trash bags. The board drew one

of the five entrants, and Christine Heard won.

Shorn for a Cause

Eight staff members and six students at Great Falls Middle School took the plunge of chopping their hair on Friday. All who donated had been growing their hair all year for two causes, Pantene Beautiful Lengths and Wigs for Kids, which provide wigs to adults and children who have lost their hair due to different illnesses.

20 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on May 26, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

A Tale of Two Barns

Dan Flagg of Bernardston is building a barn on the foundation of a barn on Main Road, Gill, that the Cole family once used for dairy cows. Flagg now owns the property. After the roof collapsed under heavy snow load a couple winters ago, the barn was not deemed worth saving.

Flagg and his father Allen raised the new barn in more ways than one. They cut hemlock logs raised on the Flagg farm, sawed them out on their sawmill, and nailed the

hemlock lumber into the framing for the walls.

"Some of the butt logs were awful dense," Allen Flagg said. "They dulled the band saw blade, fast."

Final Inning

According to Erving librarian Marion Overgaard, library staff are trying to get the news out that the Boston Red Sox World Series trophy tour is almost over. Friday afternoon is the last opportunity for Sox fans to see the trophy in Franklin County. Visiting Red Sox representatives will be on hand to answer questions about the team, Fenway Park, and the trophy.

150 YEARS AGO

Here's the way it was on May 26, 1875: News from the Turners Falls Reporter's archive.

Turners Falls and Vicinity

Blow, ye winds, heigh-ho!
The river has gone down several feet.

Strawberries cometh. They blossometh.

The voice of the frog increases in volume. Ca-chunk.

The Commissioners will be here shortly to see about the bridge.

The weather was too fine last Sunday for people to go to church.

Tom Harris' sail boat has taken her place on the river, with Tom as commander.

The work of grading the avenue between Second and Third streets will be completed in about a week. The earth is being taken from the hill back of the Farren House, which will be demolished by the time the work on the streets

is finished. Second street, between the avenue and Canal street, will next receive Road Commissioner Adams' attention, and Canal street will be attended to before fall.

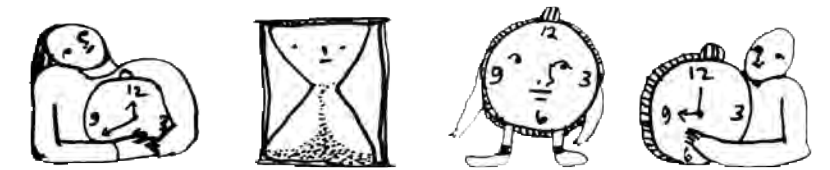
They have just got to work making their first kiln of brick at the Montague City yards this season.

Mr Braddock is celebrating his honeymoon all by himself. He didn't get married last week as anticipated by us. But it is only a question of time. He's doomed. He cannot fool a patient people much longer.

If you want to steal some chickens don't go to C.Q. Gillman's hen-house, because he hasn't got any. Some thief called at his barn Saturday night and now he's entirely out of hens.

The trees have spread their leaves, the past week, with the rapidity with which little scandal is spread in a country village.

John Emery had a finger smashed by the falling of a rock, at the canal, Saturday afternoon.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Fake 'Census' Crook Afoot; Two Gun Incidents; Big Burglary; Cruiser Vs. Deer; Dirt Bike Vs. Vehicle; Yet More EBT Theft

Monday, 5/19

2:36 p.m. Caller from Avenue A states that a tall, thin male stated he was doing census work in the area and needed to get into their office. Another employee told him no, and he flashed a badge and stated he had the authority to be there. The male party tried to push his way in, but the employee stopped him and said she was going to call the police. The male party left, but this was the second time he had been there and tried to get in. Checked area; no-body matching description located. Officer spoke with employees on site at the time and advised them of options; the employees who were present during the incident had left for the day. 5:30 p.m. 911 caller states he had a gun pulled on him while he was driving; the other party was following closely, yelling and screaming. One party detained and Mirandized. Officers clear; male party going home.

Tuesday, 5/20

6:51 a.m. Caller from Dry Hill Road reports that sometime overnight he had roughly \$5,000 worth of items stolen from his house. Caller states a four-wheeler, an electric bike, and other similar items were stolen. Officer spoke to caller and advised him of options. 10:29 a.m. 911 caller reporting erratic operation at Avenue A and Fifth Street. Operator almost hit pedestrians and pulled into the driveway by the senior center. Officer contacted owner and advises party is fine; no signs of impairment. Admitted he dropped something on the floor in the car and got distracted. 11:53 a.m. Caller reports he was at the bus stop in Millers Falls and a male came up to him and asked about the bus schedule. Caller states he did not answer, as he reports prior issues with involved male, and that the party then became upset, punched a street sign, and said "Imagine this is your head." Caller does not feel safe around the male. No active orders in place. Officer left message for caller, who called back and was advised of his options. 2:16 p.m. Caller reporting money taken from EBT card at Food City. Upset because Food City does not have insurance to pay out to victims and EBT said they will not reimburse her.

Advised caller of options. 3:11 p.m. Caller from Hatchery Road reports being threatened and frauded by census. Officer advised her of options.

3:17 p.m. Greenfield PD called to see if MPD could send officers to assist a male party who fell off a bike at the bridge, as Greenfield is tied up. Party's head is bleeding. Bike brought to MPD by TF fire department, and is being picked up by party's uncle.

3:51 p.m. Caller concerned about a dog at the Great Falls Discovery Center who looks injured and has a dirty wound. They spoke with the owners, who stated that the dog was sick and has cancer. Caller wanted to know if the police could do anything. Report taken. 8:59 p.m. Caller states her husband hit a deer on Swamp Road. She is heading to pick him up. The deer is dead. He has a tow truck coming but would like an officer to come take a report. Message left for DPW to pick up deer.

Wednesday, 5/21

3:22 a.m. Officer advises that while responding to assist Sunderland PD with a vehicle stop, he struck a deer in the roadway. Airbag deployment; no smoke, fire, or fluids. Shelburne Control advised. Cruiser towed back to station. 3:54 p.m. Manager advises a male party came into Aubuchon Hardware and stole about \$400 worth of stuff. Has on video. Report taken. 4:55 p.m. Caller from Jamrog HVAC reports she was leaving work when a maroon Toyota Camry pulled up next to her, and a male party with no shoes on got out and attempted to throw trash in the dumpster. She told him it was a private dumpster, and he responded that he "does it all the time" and drove away. Caller states party may have been intoxicated; he didn't seem all there, and she heard bottles clanking in the car. Advised to call back with further issues.

5:36 p.m. Minor two-car accident outside Kostanski Funeral Home. No fluids or injuries. Driver of van cited for failure to use care while starting. 8:49 p.m. Two 911 crash notifications from Greenfield Cross Road; other 911 heard screaming, then hung up. Control contacted for medical. Dirt bike vs.

vehicle; occupant through windshield; entrapment. LifeFlight requested, but not flying due to weather. Officer *en route* to station for more equipment, then heading back to accident. State police contacted, but declining at this point. Tow requested for both vehicles. Operator of motorcycle taken to BFMC.

Thursday, 5/22

12:20 a.m. Caller reports elderly female walking around his house, possibly confused. In-house records indicate female resides on Federal Street; emergency contact in house for female party. Officer advises party returned home. 12:29 p.m. Aubuchon employee believes he can see the truck involved with a major shoplifting incident yesterday over at Food City. Caller called back to say that the same male party from yesterday is back in the store right now. A 46-year-old Greenfield man was arrested and charged with shoplifting by concealing merchandise; shoplifting by asportation; and larceny under \$1,200. 4:29 p.m. Trespass order received for Franklin County Technical School. Juvenile now lives out of state, but his girlfriend is graduating from FCTS, and he is not allowed on the property.

Friday, 5/23

12:12 p.m. Caller reporting debit card fraud from Food City. She has been in contact with her bank. 6:10 p.m. Caller reports that somehow, someone took money out of her bank account through an ATM; she is going to go to the bank in the morning to figure out what she can do. Report taken.

Saturday, 5/24

9:31 a.m. 911 caller reports she and her husband were walking on Third Street and came across a disoriented elderly female. They moved her out of the roadway, but female is unsure where she is. Contacted relatives, who are out of town for the weekend; unable to reach friend who is taking care of their mother. Daughter-in-law *en route* from Greenfield. Reunited and on the way home. 11:37 a.m. Caller states her food stamps were stolen from Food City in the amount of \$291. She also states \$411 was stolen from her debit card, which could have been from Food City

or Nouria. Report taken. 4:14 p.m. Caller reporting downed cable in Fifth Street neighborhood. Comcast will send someone when they are available.

10:05 p.m. Noise complaint about brewery on Third Street playing music too loud. Referred to an officer.

Sunday, 5/25

9:26 a.m. 911 caller reporting accident on the White Bridge; initially appeared to be a hit-and-run, but caller followed the vehicle to a stop near Fifth and K streets. Officer advises both parties exchanged information. Minor damage. 9:29 a.m. Landlord-tenant dispute on Mormon Hollow Road.

3:48 p.m. Unwanted person on East Taylor Hill Road. Officer located party and advised them to stay away.

Monday, 5/26

1:56 a.m. 911 call from Nouria employee reporting what sounded to be gunshots in the area; possible drive-by shooting. While providing info, caller advised that a female and two other individuals walked into the store claiming that their house was just shot at and they knew who did it. Store clerk advises parties have since left. Officer spoke to employee, along with party who claimed her house was shot at. Party states an involved male has messages on his phone from other involved parties claiming they were going to kill him; however, male is not home at this time. Officer advises area checked; no shell casings located; no damage to residence seen at this time. Dark-colored sedan seen leaving the area around 1:45 a.m. heading up the hill on Unity Street. 5:34 a.m. Caller from Third Street heard a loud boom from outside which woke her up. Unsure what made the noise, but it sounded like a loud firework. Officer checked Third Street and alley behind Cutlery Block; nobody around. Officer advises she was approached by someone near the Moltenbrey who has information about the gun noise. Officer advises individual heard involved party talking about what happened earlier and provided the information he heard. 4:52 p.m. Caller wanted on record that he was a victim of the Food City EBT fraud around May 11. Report taken.

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MUSIK from page B1
in record stores for 50 years? What were some of the other stores?

DP: I worked at the M.I.T. COOP department store – part of the Harvard COOP – then Soundscope on Boylston Street, then New England Music City (also on Boylston Street and Kenmore Square), then Music World in Dedham, then Rounder Records, a distributor, then Cheapo Records, then Stereo Jack’s.

Then my own store, “Wanted,” for 22 years in Lynn, and then “Straightaway” for 22 years in Haverhill, and now in Gardner for four years.

The best part of working in record stores is making music friends with staff and customers, and I have met some musicians in some of the stores. I have always enjoyed ordering new record stock in all the stores, and still do.

MMM: How did you get into UK bands? You were into the Yardbirds before Led Zeppelin?

DP: After I bought early US and UK bands on 45s, I got into the Yardbirds and then John Mayall, then Peter Green, and then Mick Taylor. I liked the blues-based British bands, and I still do.

Later I heard Howlin’ Wolf and Muddy Waters, the real American blues. I saw the MC5, Johnny Winter, and Led Zeppelin in October of 1969 at the Boston Garden, because I was a Yardbirds fan and had gotten the first Led Zeppelin LP when it came out.

MMM: And then you started a punk-based label in the ’70s, right? What were some memories of those times?

DP: I put out a few records on my Star-Rhythm label – the first few were ’60s reissues, including the Bay State Rock and Battle of the Bands LPs. Later I worked with bands that had a ’60s/’70s sound: the Real Kids, the Dawgs, and the Last Ones.

I enjoyed the music, but found I did not have the temperament to work with bands.

MMM: And you saw the Ramones early on?

DP: I saw the Ramones very early, around the time

of their first album or before, at a gig in Providence in a school gym. They were loud and fast. I became a fan of their music many years later.

MMM: There is that question about who really played on the song “Hurdy Gurdy Man.” Do you have any insights into that? And you were more into early Fleetwood Mac, right?

DP: I don’t know about “Hurdy Gurdy,” except that Jeff Beck recorded with Donovan. I have been a fan of Fleetwood Mac since the first album, when they were a blues band. I also liked Savoy Blues Band and other UK blues bands.

MMM: What do you think of stuff like Hawkwind and Sun Ra?

DP: I have Hawkwind records and CDs, and am a fan. I saw the Sun Ra band a few years ago, the Arkes-ta. Great, great stuff.

MMM: What are some newer artists you like?

DP: Bands I like of present years are, or were: early Coldplay, the Pretenders, Los Lobos, Little Feat, and the Flaming Groovies. I like rock & roll, jazz, blues, reggae, ’50s country – I listen to it all.

MMM: Did you ever see NRBQ back in the day? What were your favorite clubs over the years?

DP: I did see NRBQ, only once.

I liked Nightstage. It was located on Main Street, off of Mass Ave in Cambridge. It featured mostly blues acts – I went there often. I also went to Johnny D’s in Davis Square, Somerville; same kind of music.

Best local club for me now is the Bull Run, off Route 2 in Shirley, Mass. I have seen many shows there.

MMM: Any other favorite concerts?

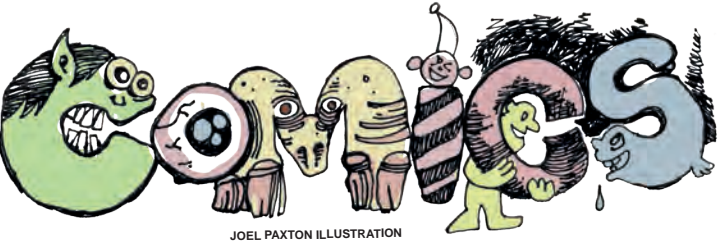
DP: Some of the best shows I have ever seen include: the New York Dolls and Captain Beefheart in 1973 in Boston, Bo Diddley and the Cub Koda Band at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, and a Weather Report show in Harvard Square.



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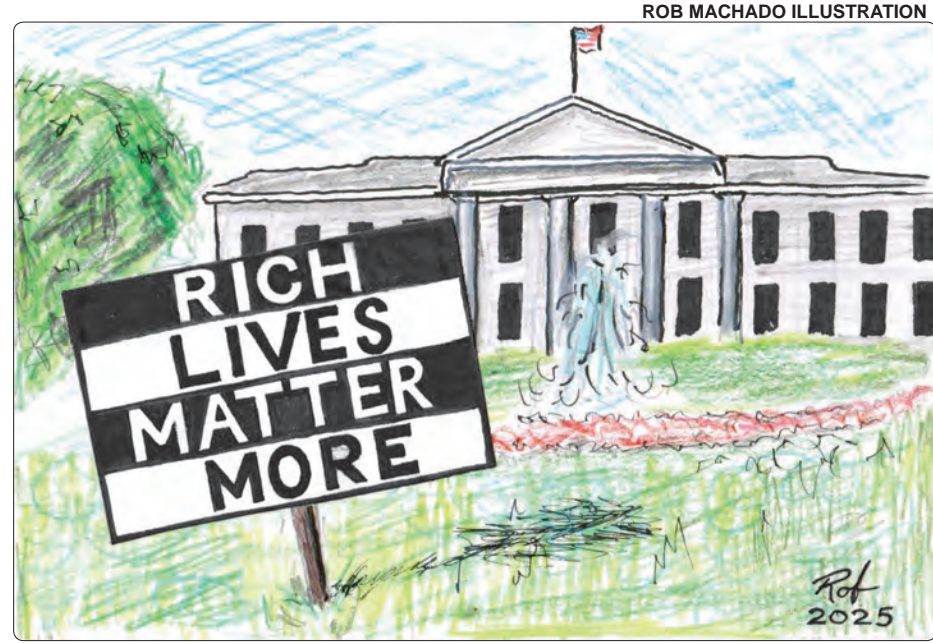
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IMAGES AND INFORMATION BY JOE R. PARZYCH

Photo correspondent Joe R. Parzych is back on the job, and took photos last Saturday of the 49th Annual Gas Engine Show and Flea Market in Bernardston.

The engine show is one of the United Church of Bernardston's four major annual fundraisers.



"This year there were engines and tractors as far as I could see, and everything was awesome, including the food," Joe writes.

"Just My Imagination Glassworks of Millers Falls was there as well, displaying their amazing artistic work."



On Memorial Day Joe checked out the scene at Turners Falls.

"Nancy McCullough of Greenfield and her dogs Tesla and Arrow enjoyed a day on the water on a paddle board," he reports, "near the dam and the Turners Falls-Gill bridge."



"Willow Scappace and Wade Williams were on hand at the Turners Fishway Viewing Area."

"Behind them is new artwork on display, designed and made courtesy of Franklin County Technical School students."



JOE R. PARZYCH PHOTOS

VALLEY VIEW from page B1 whitewater yahoos arrived from all points of the compass with their canoes, kayaks, inner tubes, rafts, and, yes, coolers and litter – scraping, banging and yee-hawing their merry way downriver.

Yeah, yeah, I know adventurers of all stripes should have the freedom to enjoy the public resource. Which doesn't mean I want to join them, or profess interactive compatibility between whitewater enthusiasts and trout fishermen. While it's true that solitary trout anglers create no inconvenience for whitewater enthusiasts, the same cannot be said for the reverse.

Just one humble old man's opinion – one that hasn't changed a hoot dating back to the heated dam-relicensing battle between Trout Unlimited (TU) and the Charlemont whitewater companies some 35 years ago.

For a quick refresher, Zoar Outdoor, Crab Apple Whitewater, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and others fought for increased water discharges from Fife Brook Dam above the Hoosac Tunnel to accommodate whitewater adventurers on the upper Deerfield. TU favored lesser flows more favorable to trout, anglers and the freshwater ecosystem.

Go figure. The whitewater companies won.

Not much has changed since my last Connecticut River shad-run report two weeks ago. With river temps held down by heavy rains depositing over six inches of May rain, about 160,000 shad had passed Holyoke, and a tad more than 10% of them had passed Turners Falls.

Who knows? By the time – soon – the river settles down enough to warm into the upper 60s Fahrenheit, signaling the end of migration and the beginning of spawning, we may yet reach last year's total of 437,553 through Holyoke and 28,063 through Turners. Though I wouldn't bet on it.

The latest US Fish and Wildlife Service anadromous-fish-passage report released on May 23 did not provide water temps, but did note that the Holyoke tailrace channel to the fish lift was passing 5,000 shad a day despite turbulence. So, expect a pulse when things settle down. How much of a pulse is anyone's guess at this point.

Otherwise, nothing worth mentioning on the blueback herring or alewife front, both minimal, and likewise for lamprey and American eels thus far.

Stay tuned.



MOVIE REVIEW

Thunderbolts (2025)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – Marvel films always have an element in which they introduce pieces of things or scenes that set up a future Marvel film. They kind of did that by introducing the characters in *Thunderbolts*. These include a character by the name of Walker, who was an attempt at another Captain America; a thief called the Ghost from *Ant-Man and the Wasp*; two characters with connections to the Black Widow's history, a sister of sorts to her called Yelena and the Red Guardian, Yelena's father; and the Winter Soldier named Bucky; who has been around the longest as part of this plot.

To the surprise of Valentina, a spy played by Julia Louis-Dreyfus, some of these people end up forming a team after she tries to kill them to avoid losing her job. They are evidence of her crimes, including an attempt to create a super-soldier, which leads to a character named the Sentry, or Bob, also becoming part of this.

Four of the Thunderbolts are at the location where Valentina tries to get rid of the evidence. At first the team comes together as a fluke, just for survival. Bucky, played by Sebastian Stan, joins them because he is looking into this villainous spy, and the Red Guardian joins because he is still friendly with Yelena. But the team slowly turns into some-



thing more than just for survival.

The Sentry project, meanwhile, turns out not to be the success that Valentina thought it was. Bob has a split personality called the Void. (To quote something said in the movie: "I think Bob's dark side got superpowers.") When trouble comes in the form of the Void, the Thunderbolts begin to genuinely help people out.

Another quote from the film comes to mind: "There are just bad guys and worse guys." This is a perfect tagline for the movie, and not a bad motto. Ironically, after doing all of this, Valentina has created a team like the one she wanted to have. More importantly, these characters have each other's backs as a team, and not just in the way they got started. The Thunderbolts are born.

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EVENTS

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THURSDAY, MAY 29

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

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.

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. \$.

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

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, Nickolas Hedtke, more. 8 p.m. No cover.

Stone Church, Brattleboro:
The Big Takeover, Princess Kikou. 8 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:
Vimana. 9:30 p.m. No cover.

SATURDAY, MAY 31

First Congregational Church, Montague Center:
Pancake Breakfast. Homemade pancakes, real maple syrup, sausage or ham, beverages. Walk-in service. 8:15 to 10:15 a.m. \$.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls:
The Six Navigational Canals of the Connecticut River, with historian Robert Comeau. 2 p.m. Free.

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.

618 East Pleasant, Amherst:
Stoner Will and the Narks, Gods Wisdom, Two Wrong Turns, The Classicsals, .michael. 2 p.m. Free.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell:
Waffles T. Clown Memorial Dance Party and Waffle Fest. Celebration of life, live music, dancing, refreshments. 6 p.m. Free.

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

69A Elliot, Brattleboro:
Former Vermont AFL-CIO president and libertarian socialist David Van Deusen discusses his book *Insurgent Labor.* 6:30 p.m. By donation.

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.

Iron Horse, Northampton:
Jillith Fair, Jill Sobule tribute feat. Erin McKeown, Marshall Crenshaw, 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. \$.



Cuban trombonist Juan Carlos Marín brings his band to Peskeompskut Park for a free show Sunday afternoon.

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 Marín, John Hughes/Stephen Katz, Myrtle Street Klezmer.* 4 p.m. Free.

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: *Dam Culture,* a photographic and video still exhibit of people skateboarding and engaging in other “wheeled play” in Montague’s public spaces from 1995 to 2025. Through June 29, with a reception Saturday, June 21, from 2 to 4 p.m.

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; *Four Rivers School Exhibit,* works by students, and work by painter Steve Howe, both through May. Opening June 7, *Marlboro Reminders,* works by Marlboro College alumni.

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 this 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. Opening June 5: *Domestic Radius,* photographs and artist books by Laura Holland.

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.

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.

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. 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 an opportunity to speak through art. Work may be overt commentary, thought-provoking, healing, contemplative, timeless, or contemporary.” Submit by June 21 to tinyurl.com/juriedartshowartcall.

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

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VEGGIES from page B1

Warren and Dan’s work together is a Farmall Lo-Boy tractor dating to the early 1960s that they tricked out with a roll of plastic in front of the back wheels and spades connected to either side of a metal pipe behind the big tires. After the back tires press the plastic down into the fresh dirt, the spades build up a pile of soil on either edge of the plastic. Using the plastic covering extends the planting season into the chillier month of May.

“My father thought you should use what you have, and it was a lot cheaper than buying the equipment they sell for that,” said Dan. “The Lo-Boy is pretty hokey-pokey but it does the job. My father was happier than a pig in shit when it worked. There weren’t many problems my father couldn’t solve.”

Sadly, Warren passed away unexpectedly in January, but Jacquie persevered through the winter and spring with some help from Dan to keep the farm on track, with about six acres producing fresh vegetables of every kind.

In early March she laid out warming mats and hung grow lights in the glassed-in front porch to germinate seeds. Last week she was busy in the greenhouse, tending to an astounding array of vegetables. The farm produces cherry and plum tomatoes, bell peppers, jalapeños,

eggplant, swiss chard, kale, lettuce, corn, cucumbers, asparagus, summer squash, broccoli, beets, seedless watermelon, cantaloupe, and potatoes. They also have blueberry bushes and a handful of apple trees, peach trees and pear trees.

They tried sweet potatoes one year, but discovered they needed labor-intensive curing to harden the skins, so that experiment ended.

“We’ve got a lot of different vegetables, that’s our niche,” said Jacquie. “People can get just about everything they need at the stand.”

Although they sell some vegetables to Flis Market in Erving, most everything is sold from the farm stand. From seeds to sales, there’s no middleman at Dan’s Veggies, and Jacquie estimates that 75% of her business is from return customers.

“We grow it here and sell it here,” said Jacquie. “You can do very well on a small scale if you’re getting 100% income from the produce.”

Although Jacquie decided against going through the paperwork to become certified as an organic farm, she doesn’t use pesticides or herbicides, preferring to weed and remove beetles by hand while employing other natural methods for pest management.

“We’re responsible and ethical farmers, and we care about the environment,” said Jacquie. “When you’re a big farm I understand you have to use pesticides, but we’re not

so large-scale, so we can spend the time using alternative methods and we don’t mind the extra labor.”

The farm recently took part in a two-year study by UMass on the effectiveness of plants that attract pollinators, and Jacquie continues to plant sunflowers and zinnias in the fields to keep bees and other pollinating insects doing their job. The strong scent of marigolds masks the tasty odor of vegetables from pests.

The maple syrup side of the business is a relatively modest operation, relying on about 400 taps in Erving, Leverett, and Wendell that produce from 75 to 100 gallons a year. In February they gather sap every day and process it in their wood-burning evaporator at night.

“Farming pretty much consumes you from the middle of March to the end of October, and you can catch your breath from November to January, but basically it’s a year-round commitment,” said Jacquie. “It’s a labor of love. You don’t farm just to make a profit. I find great satisfaction to take something that’s inert and plant it and have it grow into something someone can eat.”

Jacquie said farming also instills a sense of realism and acceptance of life’s ups and downs.

“It’s totally weather-dependent,” she said. “You have to be OK with the fact that you can invest a lot of time and fail through no fault of your own. Sometimes there’s nothing you can do about it. Farmers are pretty realistic that life happens and you have to temper your expectations.”

Without Warren, both Jacquie and Dan are weighing how to proceed over the long term. For now, Dan’s two young children – Ainsely at three and-a-half and Jacks at 18 months – are beginning to enjoy the farm, and will soon be learning the value of hard work.

“They farm with us,” said Dan. “Ainsely rides with me on the tractor and runs down the rows and plays in the dirt. When they asked the kids in preschool what they wanted to be, Ainsely identified herself as a farmer.”

It appears Warren’s idea of keeping Dan busy as a teenager will continue to the next generation.

“I want to instill the same pride in work in my kids that my father did with me,” said Dan. “I want to pass on to my kids the idea that if you put the time in to produce a good product, you get a lot of pride when someone says it’s the best sweet corn they ever tasted.”



GAGNON PHOTO



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PHOTO COURTESY OF JACQUIE BOYDEN

Warren Boyden with his granddaughter Ainsely in August 2023.

Above: Plastic coverings extend the growing season into chilly months like May.

Below: Dan Boyden on the Farmall Lo-Boy that he and his father Warren tricked out to lay plastic rows.

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