

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 20 – NO. 18

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 17, 2022

Montague Resident Heads To Polish-Ukrainian Border



PHOTO COURTESY NADYA TKACHENKO

Nadya Tkachenko said her daughter Maya encouraged her to join the contingent bringing relief and cash to refugees – and to grassroots initiatives in the war zone.

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE CENTER – Nadya Tkachenko, a local yoga instructor, health coach, and mom of four, is leaving today to the Polish city of Przemysl to help support refugees pouring over the border from Ukraine. The UN estimates that three million people have fled Ukraine in as many weeks, the majority into Poland, an exodus unprecedented in modern Europe.

Tkachenko was born in Kazakhstan but has deep family ties to Ukraine, and when she heard that Leverett residents Dean and Annette Cycon were organizing a two-week aid trip to Przemysl she decided to join them. The trio has raised over \$125,000 online in a matter of days, and intends to disburse it in direct aid while they volunteer with established organizations.

I knew Tkachenko a little because she used to teach a yoga class at the Brick House, and I was able to catch her on Wednesday as she packed and prepared to part with her family. Her words, both here and in her writing on the fundraising page, should speak for themselves. (This transcript has been abridged and edited for clarity.)

MR: I had seen a bit about Dean's fundraiser and hadn't had a chance to track him down yet, but then I saw yours. Are you all going

in the same contingent?

NT: Yeah, Dean and Annette were the original two people who said, "let's go." I know Annette from working with her a few years back at a nonprofit. In my heart I really wanted to go, but I would never have gone by myself, so when I saw them going, Annette kind of nudged me to join them.

It wasn't necessarily an easy decision to make, because I have four young kids, and leaving them here is not easy. But my daughter Maya, who's 15, was actually the one who kind of pushed me out the door with this decision, which I really admire in her.

So Dean, Annette, myself, and another friend of theirs who's not from the local area are all going together, four of us. Annette speaks Polish and I speak Russian and understand Ukrainian, and all of us in this little group have done different kinds of relief work before, so we feel confident we are going to be helpful and effective on the ground.

MR: I'm curious to know more about your your connection, and your family's connection, with Ukraine. You wrote about some of this on the fundraiser page, but your father's side is from Ukraine?

NT: I'm actually half Ukrainian and half Russian, which on a deep level makes this conflict even more

see **UKRAINE** page A4

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Two Proposals Weighed for Graded School Redevelopment

By KATIE NOLAN

At Monday night's selectboard meeting, chair Jacob Smith presented an overview of the two proposals submitted for the former Erving Graded School building on Pleasant Street.

Obear Construction of Millers Falls proposed renovating the building into four market-rate apartments, reducing the size of the parking lot, and improving the landscaping, at a cost of approximately \$500,000. Obear added an extra proposal to develop the former library building on Moore Street into a single-family residence.

Lee Properties of Haverhill proposed creating 11 affordable units, at a cost of approximately \$2 million.

Board members' first reactions seemed to indicate a preference for the Obear proposal, with members citing the fact that it is a local business with a known track record, discrepancies in the Lee proposal, and skepticism about creating 11 units in the building.

The board decided to study the proposals further, rate them according to five rubrics established before the request for proposals was published, and make a decision about accepting one or neither of the proposals at the March 28 meeting.

Rising Costs of Living

In 2020, after the town completed a job description and compensation study, the selectboard established a grade and step program for employee raises, and decided to

see **ERVING** page A8

INVESTIGATION

A New Safe Haven for Beasts in Our Midst

By DONNA PETERSEN

LEVERETT – Driving up Cave Hill Road towards the Peace Pagoda a month or so ago, I had to stop: there were a couple of people by the side of the road trying to wrangle what looked to be a miniature donkey, or burro, that was almost in the road. A couple of cars stopped and watched as the little wanderer was successfully restrained. As I started to move, I noticed a new sign by the driveway: "Jefferson's Safe Haven, Established 2022."

Hmmm, interesting!

On my weekly trips to the Leverett Library, I became more intrigued as I looked down the sloping driveway and saw numerous critters in pens and in a shelter. In addition to the miniature donkey, there looked to be a number of alpacas, and some goats. Since this paper is always looking for local stories it occurred to me that this new safe haven might be worth looking into.

Finally, last week as I saw a car beginning to back out of the long driveway, I drove in and pulled up

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Quarter Million in COVID Aid Could Sweeten 'Affordable' Pot



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Montague is seeking ways to encourage developers to build new housing at two downtown sites, including the former Griswold Mill, shown here on March 17, 2021.

By JEFF SINGLETON

Montague town planner Walter Ramsey has presented a proposal to allocate \$250,000 of the town's available coronavirus relief funds to help subsidize new affordable housing in Montague. The proposal was announced during a public input hearing at the board's March 14 meeting, where a range of ideas for spending the town's approximately \$2.4 in emergency pandemic aid were floated.

The discussion began with an

overview of the status of relief available from the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funding, popularly known as CSLFRF. While some of this aid comes directly to each town, the majority is made under a "county allocation," which Massachusetts also splits up among the towns as there are no longer county governments.

Ellis reviewed the complexities of criteria for spending the relief money. Although a range of activities are

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

School Budget Growth Passed Along to Annual Town Meeting

By GEORGE BRACE

Leverett's selectboard and finance committee held a joint budget hearing on Tuesday, and approved a town budget for FY'23 to be voted on at town meeting on April 30. Discussion focused on discretionary budget lines which exceeded the board and fin com's guidance that department budgets increase by no more than 3%, with the most time

and energy going to the proposed Leverett Elementary School (LES) budget, which rose by 6.4% over FY'22 according to the board and fin com's calculations.

Many questions were raised about the school budget due to its size, the complexity of the calculations involved, and the importance of LES to the community, resulting in a lengthy and at times heated

see **LEVERETT** page A6

Health Department, Students Study Town's Nursing Needs

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – This April the Montague health department will complete a collaboration with students at the University of Massachusetts School of Nursing, who will be working with the town to fulfill a "practicum" required for graduation.

Montague town nurse Cheryl Volpe, who alerted the *Reporter* to this program, called it "an effort to construct public nursing capacity for the town of Montague." The town, she says, wants to provide nursing services at town hall. but "we don't know what services are needed and how much."

This is the second year of the collaboration, which runs from February 13 to April 21. A year ago, students assisted the public health nurse in the vaccination of residents at the Sunrise Apartments and Keith Apartments complexes in Turners Falls. Both locations are administered by the Montague Housing Authority.

This year's program primarily involves outreach to local citizens and organizations to determine what services they would like to see the health department offer.

The brief survey can be found on the Montague town website, but see **TOWN NURSE** page A5



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Patches the alpaca, one of the rescued animals living at Jefferson's Safe Haven.

next to it. A woman got out and I asked her about the place, and she told me that yes, it was a new shelter rescue, started by her and her sister. Turns out the sign was

a Christmas gift from one sister to the other.

So, that's where this story starts. I met with Kathy LeMay at the

see **HAVEN** page A6

Please Disable Your Popup Blocker

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The Montague Reporter

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About Face Computing

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August 2002

Against It

With every passing day, the world watches the Russian military commit war crimes. On Wednesday the news was of the bombing of a theater in Mariupol being used as an air-raid shelter 500 to 800 women and children.

There are many things that can be done, and are being done, short of actions (such as no-fly zone enforcement) which would trigger a hot war between nuclear states.

Our highest hope is that the Russian state will be unable to sustain its aggression as ordinary Russians face up to what it is doing in their names and throw their bodies into the gears of the machinery. Antiwar Russians are facing a high degree of repression, but appear to be maintaining courage – and every police boot drawn inward is one less troop invading.

Illegal marches continue, at least two military recruitment stations have been burned by brave souls with Molotov cocktails, and Russia has resorted to enlisting

Syrians to fight as mercenaries.

War is war is war is war, and the last three weeks have seen the deaths of between 726 civilians (by the United Nations estimate) and 3,000 (according to the Ukrainian state). By comparison, the Iraq Body Count project calculates that 6,700 Iraqi civilians died violently during the first three weeks of the US invasion, the celebrated "shock and awe" phase.

On Tuesday the US Senate unanimously condemned the Russian state, military, and president as criminal, explicitly calling for the International Criminal Court to open investigations on war crimes and crimes against humanity.

We agree – but also, the US exempts itself from the ICC, and has threatened to sanction anyone charging US war criminals there.

Hopefully this war ends soon, and hopefully it can be a wake-up call that we need robust, effective international institutions that can enforce these norms impartially.

Protect Sunshine

"At last week's meeting of the Masonic club," reads the March 10, 1920 *Turners Falls Reporter*, "there was a lively debate and discussion on daylight saving. Walter H. Ray, Jr. was the main speaker in favor of the measure and Dr. A. J. Nims argued against it. After the smoke had cleared away it was found that the club members were evenly divided in their sentiments in the matter."

The US Senate's passage Tuesday, by unanimous consent, of a bill that would abolish Daylight Saving time – or rather, make it permanent, sticking us in summer-mode after one more winter – took everyone by surprise. After all, the institution seems uncannily designed to elicit discomfort, griping and debate while remaining just out of reach of democratic control.

But it's not that old or entrenched. Many of us learned in school that the policy was designed to help farmers, but this was another Lie Our Teachers Told Us. It was introduced during the first World War, for just two years, as a fuel-conserving measure; it was voted out in August 1919 and Massachusetts was one of the only states to keep it on (hence the Masons' debate the next spring).

DST went federal again during

the next World War in the Forties, and this time it stuck in more states – but again, not federally. America's official Daylight Saving policy was passed in 1966 and was observed for the first time beginning the last Sunday of April, 1967, which means it is younger than *The Velvet Underground & Nico*.

An experiment in 1974 and '75 tried turning it on for longer; it was thrown out along with Nixon, but then DST was gradually extended from six to seven to nearly eight months.

In modern times the struggle over daylight saving has become, at its heart, a struggle between afternoon people (who dislike the early sunsets when DST is switched off) and morning people (who have the gall to complain of late sunrises when it's on).

The *Reporter* will be watching H.R. 69, the House's version of the Sunshine Protection Act, with keen eyes. We call on Illinois Rep. Jan Schakowsky to see that this important legislation moves forward from the Energy Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, which she chairs, and we warn any member of Congress who votes against it on behalf of the morning people that they will be facing a primary challenge.



Library director Jocelyn Castro-Santos, at her desk at the Slate Memorial Library in Gill. Starting March 24, the library offers a new "Learning Embroidery Together" program on Thursday evenings for textile enthusiasts. Pre-register for the series of six free workshops by emailing gill.slate.library@gmail.com.

Letters to the Editors

Libraries Are Not Luxuries

We attended the recent Selectboard meeting (March 14, 2022) and were concerned by selectboard member Richard Kuklewicz's comment as he was summarizing the discussion about the possibilities for the ARPA funds. There had been discussion of the strong need both for affordable housing and for maintaining our three branch libraries.

In the end, as Richard wrapped up, he seemed to suggest that three libraries were a luxury the town could not afford. He noted that he did not see where any funds for fixing up the libraries would come from anyway – since it would be way more than the ARPA funds available to the town.

No one was suggesting that all of the ARPA funds be put towards the libraries or that these funds would be sufficient. Yes, these town-owned buildings need repair and maintenance, but that's true regardless of what happens inside of them.

Positive Feedback

My compliments, again, for another excellent issue of the *Montague Reporter*.

I continue to be astounded at the quality of the content, from Joe Kopera's superb explanation of our regional geology and earthquake history to the summary of Montague's Town Meeting and need for more active participation from various precincts.

Thanks to all involved!

Please keep up the amazing work, and don't be afraid to charge more, or have a sliding scale!

Paul Lipke
Montague

The budgets to run the Montague Center and Millers Falls libraries are estimated to be around \$45,000 combined. They provide an excellent return for the town's buck. (In contrast, the town spent nearly \$900,000 on the Strathmore building.)

More importantly, as we go forward as a town with five villages needing more affordable housing, continuing the town's great efforts towards "Walkable" villages becomes all the more critical. If we want to provide reasonable housing, welcome new residents, and improve cohesion and resilience, getting to know one another and creating community within and between our villages becomes increasingly important.

Montague is not just Turners Falls. It is also Lake Pleasant, Montague City, Millers Falls, and Montague Center. Each village has a unique personality and communi-

ty. In Montague Center at least, our library is our only town supported village "Center." It is where neighbors meet, kids learn to read and dance and be creative, and where parents can have some reprieve from their busy lives. The library could also become so much more going forward.

In these days when everything seems to be coming apart, our libraries are a place of comfort. These values should be added to any spreadsheets and check boxes the town uses to decide its ARPA (and other funding) priorities. We look forward to future discussions about how we as a town can maintain and support all of our libraries.

Thank you,

Emily Monosson
Leigh Rae
Paul Lipke
Alice Armen
Deb Radway
Montague Center

A Local Holiday

February 22 was more than George Washington's birthday. He was a "Father, I can not tell a lie" kind of guy. It was also the date Sam Lovejoy of Montague, MA, chose to courageously topple the 300-foot Northeast Utilities (NU) weather tower, a requisite, prior to the licensing of the twin nuclear reactors NU planned for the Montague Plains.

The tower would collect meteorological data, rain fall, wind speed and direction, etc. Uninterrupted details were legal requirements of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC).

NU had declared they did not care that the town had voted against nuclear construction. "Don't you worry, young lady. We will take care of you."

Despite several of us running for town government, educating ourselves and the community, forming coalitions and organizing rallies and marches and a town vote, they assured us that they would build it where they wanted. After much legal and local action, Sam decided it was his responsibility to protest what was threatening the health of nature, and so, all people.

Sam's civil disobedience, CD, attracted broad recognition and sparked the national anti-nuclear movement. Instead, we preserve the Montague Plains and have no Chernobyl next door, unlike in Ukraine.

Nina Keller
Wendell

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by NINA ROSSI

The Shea Theater in Turners Falls is hosting a **one-day music festival, "Mud Season,"** advertising "some of the best roots Americana artists in the Valley – Eric Lee, The Dave Bulley Band, Love Crumbs, The barnRocket Racketeers, BigFut, Cloudbelly, Cody Bondra, Kate Barry and Alexx Swindell."

There will be kid's music from 11:20 a.m. to 1 p.m., and tickets for the kiddos are \$10. The festival goes until 10 p.m. Adult tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. Check out the bands at www.mud-season.com and buy tickets at sheatheater.org.

The Garden Cinema in Greenfield is helping raise funds for **Ukrainian Refugee Relief efforts** by partnering with Falling Forward Entertainment to show the 2014 Ukrainian film *The Guide* (original title, *Povodyr*). The two-hour film with English subtitles is screened on Sunday, March 20 through Thursday, March 24 at 7 p.m. each evening.

The description of the film reads, "Directed by Oles Sanin, *The Guide* stars Stanislav Boklam as Ivan Kocherga and tells the story of an American boy Peter and a blind minstrel Ivan thrown together by fate amidst the turbulent mid-1930s Soviet Ukraine. The American boy, who flees from NKVD and becomes the guide of Ivan Kocherga, is played by Anton Sviatoslav Greene from Ann Arbor, Michigan, whose great-grandfather Mykhailo Soroka was a political prisoner of a Soviet labor camp."

All proceeds from ticket sales will go to Ukrainian Refugee Relief. Tickets are \$10, with no discounts for seniors or students. Additional donations are being collected at the theater.

Montague artist **John Landino's life and art** are being celebrated with a gallery installation at the An-

chor House of Artists in Northampton during March. "Realizing Landino" is accompanied by "Realizing Westbrook," in honor of the passing of Ben Westbrook, another artist who was a friend of Landino's and like Landino was a friend of the art center's founder, Michael Tillyer. The three met in the 1980s in the New Haven, Connecticut art scene.

Anchor House is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 1 to 6 p.m. at 518 Pleasant Street.

The **spring equinox** occurs this Sunday, March 20 at 11:33 a.m. This is the time when people say that you are able to balance an egg on end. True or false? I have not attempted this successfully on any normal day, but I am going to try it on Sunday morning. Maybe the excitement will make up for totally spacing out about Pi Day (Monday 3/14) this year.

Massachusetts Peace Association will host a webinar this Sunday, March 20 at 6 p.m. on promoting **pro-peace candidates** in the 2022 midterm elections. Attendees will learn how to bring issues such as the Pentagon budget, new nuclear weapons, and diplomatic solutions to conflicts into the Congressional primary elections this spring and fall.

They are also partnering with the Resistance Center for Peace and Justice to invite activists to come together and **plan the future of peace organizing** in Western Massachusetts. Community members are invited to a brainstorming session to gauge interest and capacity next Tuesday, March 22, at 6 p.m. on Zoom.

And if you are concerned about elementary and middle school-aged students in the era of COVID, you may also want to attend a webinar on **student mental health** in these age groups next Tuesday, March 22 from 8 to 9 p.m. Noah Patel, a sixth-grade Boston public school teacher, and Jordan Wilson, director of the Children's Behavioral Health Initiative at the Italian Home, will

discuss student mental health with a focus on resources, staffing, and policy, and offer some action steps that can be taken.

Register for any of these events by following the links at masspeaceaction.org.

Great Falls Books Through Bars is holding a volunteer day next Saturday, March 26 at La Mariposa, 113 Avenue A in Turners Falls. The organization sends books and letters to incarcerated persons, and they need help with packaging, labeling, sorting, and shipping.

The group size will be limited for this 1 to 3 p.m. session, and COVID safety protocols will be in place. Register to attend at www.greatfallsbooksthroughbars.org. If the signup fills up, there will be other opportunities to help coming up, or you may make a donation on their website instead.

Create Pique Assiette mosaics in a workshop with Turners Falls artist Edite Cunhã at Looky Here next Saturday, March 26 from 3 to 6 p.m. If you have some treasured broken bits of family china saved in a box somewhere, bring them to this workshop.

"The art of making decorative and functional Pique Assiette mosaics out of bits of china, tile, glass and other materials is an ancient one that has been around for thousands of years," reads the press release. "In this introductory workshop, participants will learn the basics of this beautiful art form while creating a decorative tile that could well become a family heirloom."

Cunhã will introduce participants to the design, technique, materials, tools, process, and a bit of history of mosaics. If you have a dust mask, goggles, well-fitting, latex-like gloves, and nippers, or any bits of broken pottery, sea glass, shells, or tokens that would make your mosaic really personal, bring them, but tools and materials will be provided as well.

The workshop, supported in part by the Greenfield Cultural Council, is offered on a sliding-scale basis from \$10 to \$30. Space is limited, so register early with Cunhã at (413) 775-3905, editecunha161@gmail.com, or lookyheregreenfield@gmail.com.

gmail.com. Looky Here is a community art space at 28 Chapman Street, Greenfield.

Silverthorne Theater Company co-founder David Rowland passed away on January 25, and his loss is greatly felt by former students and colleagues at Northfield Mount Hermon School, where he taught theater for 35 years, and by the Silverthorne members with whom he worked.

A reading of Rowland's play, *After the Island*, will take place Sunday, April 10 at 3 p.m. in the Trinitarian Congregational Church in Northfield. The play is an imaginative follow-up to Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, and serves to celebrate Rowland's career as actor, director, teacher and playwright.

Reservations and memorial donations may be made at www.silverthornetheater.org. Send any messages of appreciation to lucindakidder@gmail.com.

The Salasin Project in Greenfield offers several **free weekly support groups** that meet in person and online this spring. Support for families in substance-abuse related treatment and recovery is held on Tuesdays; "A Healing Journey," which supports those who have experienced interpersonal violence and trauma, meets on Wednesdays.

Call Lynn for more information on those groups, which are meeting online and in person: (413) 774-4307, ext 3.

A Healing Arts Weekly Watercolor workshop meets at different times each week, on Zoom only. No arts experience is necessary. Call Bekki at (413) 774-4307, ext 4 for more information.

The TRIAD Program of the Franklin County Sheriff's Office has a **medical equipment loan program for seniors**. In an effort to keep people in their homes as long as they can safely live there, TRIAD provides and delivers donated medical equipment such as wheelchairs, hospital beds, commodes, canes, walkers, and rollators free of charge. Call (413) 774-4726 for more information.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

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GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE OPENINGS

Nomination papers for the Gill Annual Town Election on Monday, May 16, 2022 and Montague Annual Town Election to be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 for School Committee seats are available at the Gill-Montague Regional School Superintendent's Office, 35 Crocker Avenue, Turners Falls, MA. Completed nomination papers are due in the Superintendent's Office no later than 4:00 PM on Monday, March 28, 2022.

Please note that all papers must be picked up and returned to the Superintendent's Office and not the Town Clerk's Office.

There is one 3-year Gill School Committee seat open and two 3-year, one 2-year, and one 1-year Montague School Committee seats open.

For more information or questions, please contact Sabrina Blanchard at (413) 863.9324.

OP ED

Celebrating a Year of Public Composting

By KATE O'KANE

MONTAGUE – A year ago, on March 17, the town of Montague began a free, residential composting program at the Recycling and Transfer Station. We would like to celebrate this anniversary by thanking all the people who collaborated in the creation of this program, which has proven to be a great success.

Somewhere between two and four cubic yards of food waste a week have been diverted from landfills and turned into compost instead. That's approximately 100 to 200 cubic yards of food waste!

And residential composting does matter. 28% of residential trash in Massachusetts is compostable material such as food and paper waste, according to MassDEP's *2019 Waste Characterization Study*. In the US, food waste is the single largest component of landfills, and households – not restaurants, schools, or cafeterias – are the biggest wasters.

Composting keeps food waste from going to landfills, reducing landfill costs for the town. But more importantly, food waste in landfills emits methane, one of the most harmful of the

greenhouse gases. So by composting, you're reducing the amount of greenhouse gas produced by your food waste.

Bearing that in mind, we are grateful to all the people who collaborated to make residential composting a reality in Montague. Tom Bergeron, Superintendent of the DPW, and Steve Ellis, Town Administrator, took the leap of approving the program and its costs before it was known how successful it would be.

Dave Withers, Transfer Station Attendant, has been endlessly supportive and helpful. Amy Donovan of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District organized nitty-gritty aspects of the program, including writing flyers and press releases, coordinating with Triple T Trucking and Martin's Farm and helping all of us learn what we can and can't compost.

Drawdown Montague volunteers helped to promote the new program at the Transfer Station during its first weeks of operation.

And of course, we want to thank all of you, the residents of Montague, who have chosen to bring your food waste to the compost dumpster at the Transfer Station. This program would not have been a success without your participation!

We have been impressed with your enthusiasm in starting to compost. It's a lovely example of a community working together for a better tomorrow for all.

We encourage those of you who haven't started composting yet to join your neighbors by giving it a try. You can feel good that you're helping both the town (by reducing landfill costs) and the environment (by reducing harmful greenhouse gases), while saving money yourself on trash disposal costs. It's easy to get started composting: at the Transfer Station there's still a limited supply of counter-top compost buckets available for residents at no cost. Just ask Dave for one, then take a look at the sign board next to the compost dumpster to find out what you can and can't compost.

Kate O'Kane writes on behalf of Drawdown Montague, a group of residents who sought to expand recycling and compost options in town and were delighted to find others ready and willing to pitch in to make it happen. Their latest project is a "Styrofoam" collection and recycling program that will be happening the first four Saturdays in April at the Transfer Station. Stay tuned to this newspaper for more details, and save your foam!

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UKRAINE from page A1

painful. My mom comes from Russia and my dad comes from Ukraine.

My dad was born in Ukraine, and lived there for quite a while. When World War II started he was 14, and he was conscripted into the Soviet Army – he was basically what's now considered to be a child soldier. He's 94 now, and he lives in Kazakhstan, which is where I was born.

For him, he still is reliving that experience in his nightmares – and his stories. I grew up with him telling me how horrendous and terrifying that experience was, and how lucky my generation was to grow up in a peaceful place, and that there will never be a war again.

I think a lot of my peers grew up with that instilled in us, that deep belief that there will never be a war in our generation, because our parents' generation had experienced the horror of it and they will never allow it again. That was a deeply set kind of thing, and one of the things that compelled me to just immediately want to go and help out – like, how can this happen? How can this be happening in my lifetime? And what can I do to help, in any way I can?

MR: Are you still in touch with your father?

NT: I'm in touch with him. I mean, he's 94, so he's kind of not 100% aware of exactly what's going on...

When I was in high school, I chose to go to Ukraine myself to study for a little while – I wanted my Ukrainian to improve, and I was considering going to university there. That was during the time when the Soviet republics were trying to figure out, like, what are we going to be? Who are we going to be? And even then, I felt this kind of ancestral pull to go back to Ukraine.

MR: I saw you wrote that you went to high school in Mariupol, and I was trying to figure out the timing...

NT: It was '91 or '92, very early after the breakdown of the Soviet Union. A lot of people at the time were trying to think, like, "Okay, am I going to stay where I am? Am I going to go back to my ancestral republic?" Because things broke into 15 different countries all of a sudden.

That was my move, to go to Ukraine for a bit, but for various reasons I decided to go back to Kazakhstan to go to university. But my brother stayed in Ukraine and went to university there, and so he has many connections now to people who are still there – his friends, living right in Kiev. Some of them are leaving, some of them are staying.

And so my brother has connected me with grassroots movements. Or really, they're not even grassroots movements, they're literally like citizens' movements, where people are on the ground, figuring out how to help each other. To learn how to bandage each other in the street, how to do blood transfusions, how to use machine grenades or whatever they're called, I don't know the language.

One of the women that I'm already supporting had to stay in Kiev because her 20-year-old son was conscripted, so she couldn't leave. And she took it upon herself to create this kind of citizen group where people who are younger and more able would go to pharmacies and stand in line to buy medications for the elderly.

When the war started, people panicked and bought up a lot of medications, because there you can buy them without prescriptions, so there's no supply. And there's roadblocks through the cities – cities are getting bombed, their local transportation isn't running as smoothly if at all – and there's this really vulnerable group of the elderly who can neither flee the country, nor go and stand in a four-hour-long line to get their life-saving medication.

And that's just one example of the citizens' movements that big organizations like the Red Cross or the International Rescue Committee are not necessarily going to see, or make a priority. People are just organizing to help each other out.

MR: A mobilization of the entirety of society.

NT: Yeah. And so now, these people are buying medications using their own money, whatever they have in their savings accounts. Because they don't know what else to do, they see that these elderly people are going to die if they don't have their day-to-day medications,

and they're just going to be these casualties of war, kind of these... passive casualties? I don't even know how to say that.

MR: Do you have friends or family in Russia?

NT: Yes, I do. I have a half-sister and half-brother and their children, they're older than me. They live way out in Siberia. They're actually my father's kids, so they have Ukrainian roots. And my mom does have some distant family there, but I don't have any contact with them.



Tkachenko and her father some years ago, visiting Komarivka, his home village in Chernigiv Oblast.

MR: What have you seen in terms of who chose to evacuate, and who's been able to do that; who is choosing to stay and participate in fighting, or who's participating in aid? I'm so curious how these things break down.

NT: I can tell you some examples of what I'm seeing in my friends and family, but it probably really depends on what individuals there choose to do. It sounds like most people trying to flee are city people, because cities are the target more than villages. Villages are not as affected by the bombings or shelling at this point – they are if it's a mistake, or if they're really close to the city, but they're not the target.

So that's kind of one category, to me it sounds like they're urban people, but I don't know if that's necessarily 100% true – that's just sort of what I'm witnessing through friends and family.

And then, people who choose to escape or flee are mainly women and children, because all men of the ages 18 to 60 have to stay, they are not allowed to leave the country. Many of them will take the journey to the border with their partners or mothers or daughters, just to make sure that they arrive at the border safely, and then get right back on the train or in their car and go back. And it's heartbreaking to witness the separation between partners, families, women and children saying tearful goodbyes to their men, and they may never see them again.

And then, some women are choosing to stay because they don't want to leave their partners or sons or fathers, and they're the ones that seem to be organizing citizen movements, because what else is there to but to help?

MR: So you are traveling to the Polish border to do direct aid with refugees, but also to try to get resources directly to some of these citizens' initiatives inside the country.

NT: That's right. Because I'm going with Dean and Annette, they were the ones who got in touch with the World Central Kitchen, and another organization called Caritas, who said "Yeah, just come, there's so much work here. Show up at our office and we'll tell you what your job will be today, maybe carrying out trash or cooking soup, or checking people in, or whatever it is."

What I'm hearing, too, is that the volunteers in Poland who stepped in, local Polish people, are at capacity. They've been working so hard, day and night, and they're running out of steam. They need support as well.

And then I'm connecting with the grassroots organizations, with my brother's help, and asking others I know in Ukraine that if there's a group that needs support, to put me in touch.

I asked one of my cousins who did leave the

country – he was allowed to leave because he has two disabled children, he's making his way to Switzerland – what kind of support do people need the most? What kind of support do you guys wish there was there for you on the ground?

And he said that Poland, specifically, is really at capacity in terms of housing: a lot of people in Poland who could take in refugees already did that, so now people coming in literally have nowhere to go, they have to continue their journey to another country. And that's another two or three days of buses and trains and waiting, and who knows if the next country is going to have space for them or not. So one of the things we're going to look into is, how do we potentially help these people either find housing or afford housing? We need to be on the ground and see what the logistics of that would be.

MR: I was reading an American living in Berlin describing how anyone with a van, including bands, are filling them up with supplies every day, going east through Poland, and then driving people back to Berlin from the border.

NT: The outpouring of goodwill and humanity that I'm witnessing in Europe is just really amazing. You know, truckloads of supplies going to the border, people ferrying each other in cars and hosting each other, it's just really amazing.

And so we are also bringing a bunch of, literally, cash, to kind of assess on the ground if we want to just hand out envelopes with cash to single mothers, who have babies in their arms and left their home with nothing and need to afford a place to stay, or an elderly person who managed to escape and is unable to move any further because they can't afford it.

Or also people like drivers, especially right there in Poland, using their cars, volunteering their time, paying for gas out of goodwill – they potentially need support as well at this point, because it's been 24/7 for the last however many days. Weeks, now.

MR: What are the the actual logistics of that, is just moving dollars into Ukraine helpful?

NT: Well, we're bringing cash to people who are crossing into Poland; in terms of Ukraine itself it's a bit trickier. You have to be connected to a person who has a bank account there you can use to transfer, an individual you can trust. In my case I'm connected through my brother, with his friends who are doing this work – I know them, I know who they are, they're leading these movements. It's this opportunity to support them directly, and know that it's a trusted person, these groups are doing amazing work and they're not necessarily getting support from bigger organizations.

MR: Two weeks sounds like a very short, and a very long, amount of time.

NT: Exactly. And we'll see what happens. We're going with open arms, open hearts, open minds, just bringing our energy and goodwill – and money, funds are important – to help out as much as possible.

MR: Obviously we'll put the link in the paper.

NT: I envision that with Dean's fundraiser and whatever I can contribute from mine, we're just going to put the money together, because we're really going together on the same mission.

One of the reasons that I created my own fundraiser, as opposed to just telling my friends I'm going with Dean and here's his fundraiser, is because my daughter was so impassioned – she was so enthusiastic about helping me, encouraging me to go, and so this gave her agency to participate, she helped me create the fundraiser. She's gifting watercolor art to people who donate over a certain amount.

But essentially, all of this money is going together to grassroots efforts, and directly to people who need it.

I'm already so grateful for the people who have supported it. So many people in Montague have responded to my direct appeals in social media posts, I'm just really blown away and moved by how quickly people mobilized to support this effort. Just lots of gratitude. I know that a lot of people are looking for this kind of meaningful way to help and donate on the ground.

Nadya Tkachenko, **Let's Support Ukrainian Refugees Directly:** www.chuffed.org/project/support-people-of-ukraine
Annette and Dean Cycon, **We'll Deliver Cash Directly to Ukrainian Refugees:** www.gofundme.com/f/well-deliver-cash-directly-to-ukrainian-refugees

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Makeover for Police Station; Highway Aid Stagnates

By JERRI HIGGINS

The Gill selectboard met briefly Monday evening to discuss police department requests, and to hear information about the town's proposed Chapter 90 transportation funding allocation from the state for FY'23.

Police chief Christopher Redmond requested an increase in police detail pay rates from the \$50 an hour it has been for the last three years to \$55 an hour. "We are looking to keep the rate consistent with our area towns," he told the selectboard.

Redmond's request was approved by board members Charles Garbiel and Randy Crochier effective from the March 24 pay period. Selectboard chair Greg Snedeker was not present.

Redmond was also approved to add fire chief Gene Beaubien as "a civilian flagger for police-related control functions," for the next year, on a trial basis.

"Quite often, when storms roll through," said Redmond, "he is out there directing traffic now in his capacity as either Emergency Management Director, or fire chief," but he added that Beaubien would need to complete a state certified flagger training to work as an official flagger.

Redmond said he sees the position as "a backup plan" for occasional planned or emergency needs.

\$2,034 was approved for purchasing an office chair for Redmond and sergeant Jason Bassett, six refurbished conference room chairs, and table legs from Conklin Office Furniture in Holyoke, whom the department has contracted with in the past.

Redmond explained that after the station's new flooring project was completed and his department "spruced the station up," he said he noticed that the station's aging conference room furniture "looked like a police lineup of misfit chairs." Of the two chairs that match, Redmond said that "one does not have arms,"

while two others, "when they recline, are kind of like an ejection seat," making them somewhat unsafe.

His request included approval to purchase custom-made table legs for a countertop that Conklin would donate. Redmond told the board that a home computer desk has served as a "makeshift kitchenette that has been pieced together over the years with a mini-fridge, a Keurig coffee machine, a water bubbler, and microwave." Conklin will donate the six-foot long countertop for the department's kitchen area, but not the longer table legs needed to fit the mini-fridge underneath. Conklin will also donate two new chairs for the police station lobby.

Redmond said that Bassett offered to pick up the furniture from Conklin to save the department the store's \$140 delivery fee.

Chapter 90 Stagnation

Town administrator Ray Purington told the selectboard that the town's "anticipated Chapter 90 allocation for the forthcoming fiscal year will be \$146,309." He said that that figure is based on a \$200 million statewide allocation. Chapter 90 refers to a state disbursement to municipalities for improvements to roadways, bridges, and related equipment.

"I do not know what it takes to get a legislature aware that \$200 million, unadjusted, for twelve years running just is not acceptable," said Purington. "What we have lost over the years, not to mention in the least the inflation that we are going to see this construction season," he continued, "I would not be surprised if our \$146,000 money this year really will do half the work that it did 10 years ago, maybe less than that."

"I would reach out to [state senator] Joanne Comerford," Crochier told Purington, who also added contacting representatives Natalie Blais and Susannah Whipps to share the town's concerns with the state legislature.

Baystate Responds to Nurses' Forum

By SARAH ROBERTSON

GREENFIELD – Last week, nurses at Baystate Franklin Medical Center shared their concerns regarding fair pay and stressful working conditions at the Greenfield hospital in a public forum attended by nearly 100 people. The *Montague Reporter* asked parent company Baystate Health to respond to concerns shared during the presentation regarding the closing of Baystate Franklin's mental health unit, traveling nurses earning more than local nurses, stressful working conditions, and inadequate staffing levels.

"The leadership at Baystate Franklin is grateful for the commitment of our entire clinical care team, including our nursing colleagues, throughout the pandemic," Baystate Health spokesperson Anita Fritz said in an email. "Throughout the pandemic, our focus on retention and recruitment supported our efforts to maintain high-quality staffing at Baystate Franklin."

The company, which manages five hospitals and 12,000 employees in western Massachusetts and Connecticut, is engaged in ongoing negotiations with the union representing the Baystate Franklin nurses, the Massachusetts Nurses Association. Before agreeing on its most recent contract in 2018, the union held two strikes and engaged in 18 months of contentious negotiations. That contract expired this winter.

"Our most recent contract proposal to the MA Nurses Association (MNA) maintains our hospital-wide commitment to outstanding staffing, market competitive

wages and strong benefits," Fritz told the *Reporter*. "We continue to focus on holding productive, fact-based conversations at the bargaining table."

In 2019, Baystate Health announced it would close the mental health units at its Greenfield, Palmer, and Westfield hospitals and move the patients to a new psychiatric facility in Holyoke. Construction of the \$72 million hospital began earlier this month, MassLive reported, and patients are scheduled to move there when the facility is completed in August 2023.

During last Wednesday's presentation, MNA associate director Nykole Roche shared figures from Baystate Health's finances. She said that in 2020 the hospital lost \$1.5 million in revenue, but received \$27.4 million in federal grants and loans. That same year, while nurses say they were working with inadequate staffing levels and protective equipment, the hospital system received \$404 million in federal aid and earned \$44.2

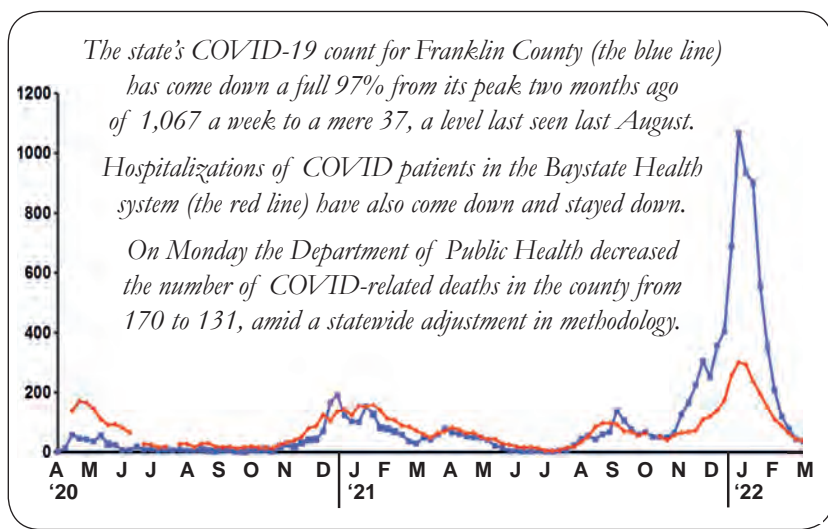
million in revenue.

When asked to confirm these numbers, Baystate Health responded with this statement:

"Throughout the pandemic, healthcare providers around the country invested millions of dollars in meeting community health needs, regardless of the impact on bottom line. Baystate Franklin was no exception, and we are proud of our commitment to support our community and employees."

CORRECTION: Last week's article (Page A1, "Baystate Nurses Call for More Support, Better Pay") stated that patients from the mental health units in Greenfield, Palmer, and Westfield would be moved to a new Baystate Health facility in Holyoke, which we referred to as a "\$208 million addition... called the MassMutual Wing." That is a separate project the company is building in Springfield, and not the psychiatric hospital currently under construction in Holyoke.

We apologize for the error.



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TOWN NURSE from page A1

according to board of health clerk Anne Stuart, it is also being sent to an extensive list of contacts, many of whom called the department during the COVID emergency. "We got as many as 300 calls a week," Stuart told the *Reporter*. "It was nuts. It was like we were a doctor's office."

But, Stuart noted, this has provided the department with contacts for the survey and other forms of outreach. "We can explore the needs of diverse populations in different villages," she said.

According to Volpe, the UMass students will also be helping the department distribute a fact sheet on bedbugs, which have become a significant public health concern. A 2010 joint statement from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Environmental Protection Agency warned that there has been an "alarming resurgence" in the bedbug population after a "dramatic decline" in the mid twentieth century. The statement called for research, training, and education by "local public health officials" and members of "housing authorities," among others.

The need for a public health nurse in Montague has been a contested issue over the years. Critics, including former selectboard member Dr. Al Ross, questioned the need for a nurse, when most local residents had access to doctors and hospitals through their insurance plans, including Medicaid and Medicare.

Stuart noted that when she began working as the health clerk a decade ago, the nurse's hours had been reduced to as low as five per week. As a result, she said, it was difficult to fill the position, which occasionally went vacant.

The coronavirus may have changed that dynamic, with its demands for more extensive testing, data collection and "contact tracing" a labor intensive process to

identify those who have come in contact with an infected resident. Montague is currently collaborating with Greenfield on shared positions, to provide contact tracing support as well as an epidemiologist.

In addition, the health department has taken additional responsibilities for mosquito control when Montague chose to "opt out" of a state requirement for aerial spraying of pesticides during a declared viral emergency.

The health nurse, who is not a town employee but works on a contract basis, is currently budgeted at 10 hours per work, although additional hours when needed have been funded by COVID relief funds. Recently the health department presented a proposal to the selectboard to increase the nurse's hours to 17 per week, at an increased wage.

According to the narrative supporting this request, "The Board of Health office has been over the past three years and will continue to be a central hub consisting of not just administrative duties but responsible for a large scope of community outreach, media and marketing information, special projects, instituting and carrying out protocols and emergency management throughout the town community..."

The selectboard considered this proposal in January and failed to recommend it, requesting to see a more specific job description for the nurse that encompasses the additional hours.

Whatever happens next with the position, there can be little doubt that the pandemic has increased interest in public health, in the town and region, and that the department is under more public scrutiny. As of press time, four local residents – Kathleen Burek, Catherine Dodds, Maureen McNamara, and Rachel Stoler – have taken out papers to run for the seat long occupied by Al Cummings on the board of health.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Walk-In Rapid Testing Available for COVID-19

GREENFIELD – The Greenfield health department is providing free COVID-19 rapid antigen testing at its offices at 20 Sanderson Street on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 7 to 10 a.m. No appointment is necessary and the service will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Test results will be available in person or by text message in about 15 minutes.

There is no residency requirement for this testing service.

"We're making this service available for people who are exhibiting coronavirus symptoms or who have come into contact with someone who has COVID-19," said Greenfield health director Jennifer Hoff-

man. "This is not testing to screen for the virus. If you're feeling fine and haven't been exposed, there's no need to take a rapid antigen test."

Testing will be conducted outside Room 205 on the second floor at the Sanderson Street health department offices. Because it is considered a healthcare facility, masks are required.

Check the health department's Facebook page for any changes to the testing schedule.

Greenfield residents with questions about COVID-19 or other non-emergency health issues can contact Greenfield's public health nurse, Megan Tudryn, at (413) 824-5855.

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LEVERETT from page A1

discussion. In the end, no objections or amendments were made to the \$2,066,586 budget presented by the school committee.

Higher pay for teachers was cited as a main driver for growth, with both the school committee and fin com commenting that much of the increase was out of the town's control due to recently concluded negotiations with the teachers union.

In justifying the higher pay for school employees, school committee members cited an effort to raise the pay of lower-paid staff, and a need to pay competitive wages to retain good teachers and maintain high educational standards. They also cited a desire to maintain the school's reputation.

Fin com member Steve Nagy said he was thinking of the entire community, but particularly those on fixed incomes, in questioning the increase and how specific lines of the budget were arrived at.

Fin com member Jed Proujansky said that increases are traditionally higher in years when new contracts are adopted, and that there was also a need to get salaries in line with other area towns.

Board chair Julie Shively said that a failure to fund negotiated salary increases would likely result in the need to cut hours and staff, and potentially in legal action.

Nagy also asked how the school's success is evaluated.

Proujansky responded that its success could be seen in the number of students "choicing in" from other communities through the

state's school choice program, in overall Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) scores, and in teacher longevity at the school.

At the end of the discussion, fin com member Nancy Grossman commented that the school budget was a source of "perennial tension," but that there was "no screaming this year." Grossman also said she didn't think the deliberations needed to be seen as a "duality." "We all have the best interest of the town at heart," she said. "I wish we'd keep that in mind a little more – we're all on the same team."

Capital Planning

The capital planning committee recommended the purchase of a hybrid police cruiser for \$60,000, and a new medium dump truck for the highway department for \$77,000 in the capital planning budget. Committee member Wesley Goscenski said they did not have enough information to make a recommendation on a requested \$150,000 sprinkler system for LES.

Selectboard chair Julie Shively said a new sprinkler system was not necessary, and it was stricken from the capital planning budget.

The vehicles were included, with a brief discussion on the need to be on guard against "vehicle creep."

Mosquito Control

Selectboard member Tom Hankinson reported that he had attended a virtual meeting of the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District Commission the previous day, but that

he did not get enough information to make a recommendation on Leverett joining. The \$5,000 fee for joining the group, Hankinson said, would only buy surveillance services.

Resident Richard Nathorst agreed that surveillance would be the only advantage to joining, and suggested that alternatives might be found, but that overall the town needed to "up its game" to get off the state's aerial spraying list.

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis suggested a warrant article could be worded to ask town meeting for \$5,000 to fund mosquito-related measures generally, allowing for flexibility in joining or pursuing other avenues.

Other Business

Highway superintendent Matt Boucher reported that he had received notice from the state that the Mill Yard bridge needs to be fenced off and closed due to safety concerns. He asked for guidance as to whether it should be repaired.

Discussion followed in which it was suggested that feedback should first be gathered from those living in the bridge's vicinity. Hankinson made an off-hand suggestion that it be turned into a "bridge of flowers."

Police chief Scott Minckler informed the board that "Happy Valley Rally" bike races, planned to take place on April 2 and 3, would require a brief shutdown of a town road for time trials on the morning of April 2 during a portion of the event using Leverett roads. Minckler said no other roads in Leverett would need to be shut down for the remainder

of the races.

The board approved the purchase of a license for remote meeting software, estimated to cost no more than \$20 per month. The license, which would allow for simultaneous meetings, was requested in response to a recent schedule conflict during which one committee needed to end its meeting early so another could use the software, which is currently only licensed for single-meeting use.

The board approved hiring Adam Kohl as the new conservation agent.



The Standing Candidates

LEVERETT – Town officers whose seats are up for (re-)election at town meeting are listed here. Those who are not seeking re-election are denoted by an "(N)" after their name:

Assessors: Cat Ford; Sam Black

Board of Health: Mike Fair (N)

Constable: Tom Masterton

Finance Committee: Phil Carter; Steve Nagy

Library Trustees: Georgie Schmidt (N); Elaine Barker (N)

Planning Board: Jean Bergstrom

School Committee: Gene Stamell (N); Aaron Bufford

Select Board: Julie Shively (N)

HAVEN from page A1

Leverett Village Co-Op to talk, and she filled me in on Jefferson's Safe Haven. Kathy and her sister, Tricia Hamilton, have lived at this Leverett location for four years with their small extended family.

Big Love

"We all have a big love of animals!" she enthused. She said Tricia had been a vet tech for 16 years and is very skilled with animals. "I saw her resuscitate a hamster while a young boy pleaded with her to save him!" Kathy said.

Kathy herself has had a career in nonprofit leadership for over 25 years, and is currently the director of philanthropy for Amazon Watch, an organization dedicated to protecting the Amazon region by working with indigenous groups.

I asked Kathy about the Jefferson name: Was that a rescued critter?

Yes, that was Tricia's first alpaca. She saw him as a baby in Oregon, and was hooked! That really got the ball rolling for the new sanctuary. She was also a donor for a farm

sanctuary in Woodstock, New York. Tricia's son, who loves animals, was also part of the motivation.

"COVID social distancing was another motivation," Kathy added, "allowing us time to care for and love the animals."

So, the four-legged residents at the sanctuary currently include six alpacas, Patches, Benjamin, Blaze, Livingstone, Jacob, and Monkey; three goats, Binky, Jumper, and MamaGoat; and the miniature donkeys, Wilbur and Nestor. ("They eat a lot," Kathy said.)

Kathy and Tricia have been pleased with the response from the community. "People are always leaving notes in our mailbox, offering to help out," she said.

And some folks simply come by and want to just be with the critters. Kathy told me of one woman who asked if she could "just sit with the animals – I need to be with the animals." Then, Kathy said, "this woman went and put her arms around the donkey, and just began to sob."

We talked about how this animal-nature-people connection can



Co-owner Kathy LeMay, with the sign on Cave Hill Road that first piqued writer Donna Petersen's curiosity.

be therapeutic.

"Animals heal me and my sister," Kathy said, and I think many of us can relate to that statement.

Ambition for Growth

I wondered what plans the sis-

ters have for the sanctuary's future. The incredible backlog at the US Internal Revenue Service – if readers are interested, I heard they are looking to hire 10,000 people to handle 2020 tax returns! – has held up the sisters' application for 501(3)(c) non-profit status. They hope when that comes through, they can put more plans into action.

They have four acres of land and could clear a bit more for a possible expansion, and there is the possibility of buying more land. An ideal future would include "more land, expand the number of animals, and offer workshops and education."

"Lots of folks are interested in the alpacas," she said, but the two of them are still learning about them. They would love to have volunteers come out and help who can then say "I helped build this out."

They very much desire to start an educational component for children, teaching about the level of responsibility required in keeping, caring for, and feeding animals.

Kathy is aware of the greenhouse and garden program at Leverett Elementary School – "Kids love that program!" she exclaimed. The sanctuary has already had school kids visit, and according to

Kathy, it was great to see at least one little girl "so lit up" by her visit.

The sisters welcome input as to what the community wants, and are very open to ideas and possibilities. "I'm interested in talking to the large animal folks at UMass about students coming to work at the sanctuary and getting credit for their work and care at the farm," Kathy, a UMass alum herself, told me. (Sounds good to me – back in 1992 I knew someone at UMass who milked rabbits for work and credit – yes, rabbits...)

Down the road for this farm sanctuary, once the IRS grants them official non-profit status, COVID recedes somewhat, and the warmer weather comes, there are plans for an official open house in June, volunteer work, farm visits, and donation and contribution opportunities. *Reporter* readers will be kept posted!

I remarked to Kathy that maybe this area around the Sawmill River is on a ley line, or something like it. Just up the road from Jefferson's Safe Haven is the Peace Pagoda; down Cave Hill Road and across the river and a left onto North Leverett Road, and then a quick jog up West Chestnut Hill and you find Gary Billings' Duck World rescue (along with his maple syrup – praise be); and next door, the remains of what had been the Liberation News Service and the Montague Farm commune.

"We love them like crazy!" gushed Kathy about Patches, Benjamin, Blaze, Livingstone, Jacob, Monkey, Binky, Jumper, MamaGoat, Wilbur, and Nestor. I, for one, certainly hope all the dreams and plans for Jefferson's Safe Haven come true, and that the community supports this effort in whatever way it can.

If you would like more information about the Haven, or feel you want to be on their volunteer list, contact info@jeffersonssafehaven.org.



Left: Wilbur, one of the two donkeys who live at Jefferson's Safe Haven. Right: Binky, one of several goats.

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MONTAGUE from page A1 including infrastructure and local businesses assistance, the “biggest change” in federal regulations occurred in January when the Treasury Department ruled that municipalities can claim up to \$10 million for “revenue loss” without having to document lost revenue.

In other words, Montague can claim all of its approximately \$2.45 million as a so-called standard allowance, and allocate it to a much broader range of projects.

Ellis said the town would need to make a decision about how large a standard allowance to claim in April, and later advised that the town maintain a “set-aside” below the standard allowance amount for projects that qualify under the more restrictive criteria, such as aid to businesses.

The town has already committed to spending \$119,450 in relief funds for two sewer studies and for the purchasing of COVID test kits, Ellis reported, leaving a projected “balance” of \$2,335,173. Potential articles on the upcoming annual town meeting warrant for a vector truck for the Department of Public Works (DPW) and screw pumps at the water pollution control facility could subtract just over \$1.1 million from unallocated relief funds.

It was in this context that Ramsey presented his proposal to allocated \$250,000 to an “affordable housing fund.” He noted that Montague “has not had a new affordable unit build in over ten years,” and is about 30 units shy of the percentage required by state law Chapter 40B. He noted that some towns in the region have established affordable housing funds through the Community Preservation Act, which is financed by a tax on existing real estate, but that Montague has not approved that option.

Ramsey said this fund could be used to “facilitate” the development of housing by “third-party developers,” and pointed to two downtown Turners Falls properties which the town has proposed to rezone to attract such developments – the site of the former Railroad Salvage building or Griswold Mill, and several parcels on First Street across from town hall.

In response to a question from selectboard member Matt Lord, Ramsey said that the funds could be used to finance “predevelopment work,” such as title searches, or to “underwrite the cost of a development” by directly “bridging the gap” between income and construction costs.

Several members of the public expressed support for Ramsey’s proposal, but raised questions about the state’s formal definition of affordability, which is based on rent for a family earning 80% of area median income. This would mean monthly rent up to \$1,179 for a single individual and up to \$1,683 for a family of four would be considered affordable.

“We are really tied into the state definition,” said Ramsey.

Precinct 6 town meeting member Lilith Wolinsky asked if the town finance committee had “weighed in” on the potential use of the aid money. Ellis said the committee had not taken an official position but that its chair, Jen Audley, had expressed her own views in an email. Later he read the email into the record, which supported using the funds for “costly things

that contribute to the broader public good, such as wastewater treatment and affordable housing.”

Deb Radway of Montague Center advocated spending some of the relief funds on the town’s libraries, along with a commitment to maintaining both the Carnegie Library and the branch libraries at Montague Center and Millers Falls. Radway said that for the past 40 years the town has spent money on the sewer system, a public safety complex, and “high school buildings... all the while the libraries have patiently awaited their turn.”

Montague can claim all of its approximately \$2.45 million as a so-called standard allowance, and allocate it to a much broader range of projects.

She called for the town to use ARPA funds to develop a plan for “all three libraries,” and to rehabilitate the old town hall in Montague Center to include both the library and for use as a “cultural and recreation center for generations to come.”

The board did not take a vote to endorse on any of the proposals.

Bridges, Portals, Outdoor Drink

The board authorized Ramsey to apply for funds under the state’s small bridge program for a design to fix a bridge over Goddard Brook on Swamp Road in Montague Center. Ramsey said the bridge is not in critical condition, but is “getting there.”

It was pointed out that Swamp Road is currently the only access for the Route 23 regional transit bus to Montague Center, due to weight limitations on two other access bridges. “That’s really helpful to know,” said Ramsey.

Ellis provided the board with updates on procurement, including an extension of the town’s contract with Republic Services for trash and recycling pickup, a contract for playground sealing and painting at Unity Park, and a contract to remediate moisture and install mini-splits at the Montague Center library.

He reviewed numerous kinds of “technical assistance” the Franklin Regional Council of Governments has recently provided the town. These include help with the federal relicensing of the FirstLight power company, marijuana impact fee tracking and evaluation, and a pavement management study which Ellis said he was “particularly excited about.”

Ellis also reviewed a list of potential projects to be submitted for grants under the state “one stop for growth” portal, a collaboration of a variety of state agencies. The list prioritized a “design study” for a sludge composting capacity at the wastewater treatment plant, a reuse study of the town hall basement and annex, the second phase of the Montague Comprehensive Plan, a feasibility study for an artistic projection onto the “coal silo” at the former Indeck power plant in the canal district, and technical assistance for real estate development at the Griswold Mill site.

The board did not take a formal vote, but Ellis indicated he will submit “expressions of interest” for funding the composting facility and the town hall annex projects.

The board did vote to approve a

request by the owners of the Rendezvous restaurant and bar to allow public outdoor seating in a portion of the municipal parking lot from April 1 until the onset of the winter parking ban in downtown Turners Falls, which is usually December 1.

The use of town property for outdoor seating, which has been allowed during the pandemic, coincides with emergency state legislation allowing more flexible liquor license provisions. That legislation expires on April 1, and an extension is currently working its way through the legislature. Restaurants and bars may have to apply for more permanent changes in license provisions to serve alcohol outdoors.

Pollination / Mitigation

Peter Wackernagel came before the board to propose a project to build a pollinator garden on the “paved pedestrian walking route” along the southwest edge of Unity Park between Second and Third Streets. He said the project will be implemented with the help of the Brick House teen center, and funded by a grant from the FirstLight power company.

Wackernagel added that the project has the support of Pioneer Brewery and Nova Motorcycles, which abut the project, and has been endorsed by the parks and recreation commission, which oversees Unity Park.

The selectboard did not take a vote, but expressed support for the proposal.

Lord outlined two proposals for the use of revenues for cannabis impact mitigation. He requested the board put articles on the upcoming town meeting (ATM) warrant for \$40,000 to fund an after-school enrichment program, and for \$25,000 for the design of sidewalk improvements at the intersection of Millers Falls Road and Industrial Boulevard, near the 253 Pharmacy cannabis dispensary.

The board did not vote on the issue but will probably place two articles on the ATM warrant.

Other Business

The board voted to change the title of the “Chief Operator” at the Water Pollution Control Facility to the title of “WPCF Foreman,” and approved a memo of understanding with the local union, the National Association of Government Employees, approving the change. The new title requires less formal experience and training, which is expected to make the job easier to fill.

“The position has been vacant for 18 months,” said Ellis. “We will be excited to have it filled.”

The board appointed Janel Nockleby to the town’s historical commission. In her letter to the board Nockleby noted that she had checked with the state Ethics Commission and the town clerk over potential conflict of interest, since she works at the Discovery Center, and was told that in the “unlikely event” a conflict arose she could recuse herself, or file a form to allow participation in deliberations as a “special municipal employee.”

At the beginning of the meeting Ellis, in the absence of the director of public health, reviewed the latest COVID metrics, which showed a continued downward trend for the town.

The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be held March 21.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on March 15, 2012: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

What Will Become of the Former Cumberland Farms Building?

Referred to simply as “the Cumby” since the corporate owner left in 1991 after eight years of litigation with the state of Massachusetts over the lot’s taking through eminent domain, the former Cumberland Farms building on Avenue A and Second Street has served variously as the meeting place of the Montague Economic Development Investment Corporation (EDIC), and briefly as the office for Turners Falls RiverCulture director Lisa Davol, an especially short-lived use ended abruptly by lack of heat and an incipient leak in the roof. In the recent past the Deerfield Valley Art Association revived the Cumby for a couple of month-long spring art shows and sales.

These days, however, the building sits empty and forlorn. Its roof has let in several seasons of precipitation, ruining the drywall in much of the 2,000-foot space. The moisture has done its part and grown mold in the generous dampness. Its exterior has the air of a building with an inferiority complex, and indeed, it does find itself forlorn amid finer examples of western New England architecture, with the town hall across Avenue A, the restored Crocker Building on the corner of Second Street, and its nearest neighbors, the magnificent Discovery Center complex.

Though not nearly in the state of decline seen in its distant neighbor, the Griswold Cotton Mill, you might say the Cumby exists on borrowed time. Its state of suspension has gone on for decades: one year shy of 30 years, to be exact.

One might say the Cumby has come to a crossroads in time, the moment when it will either take on new useful life, or be removed for the fatal flaw of uselessness.

At the moment, if the building were to be torn down, as some have suggested it should be, it appears the town would lose its interest in a commercial, public and cultural gateway at the entrance to the village. The lot could simply be absorbed into the Park and become part of the Discovery Center’s lawn.

In the past, possible reuses of the building have been put forward by various groups, such as a visitors center, an information center, a café, an office and display area for local artists and for RiverCulture, a display area for Native American exhibits. At one point UMass landscape architecture grad students presented an array of innovative ideas for using the lot for public art.

Going Up the Country

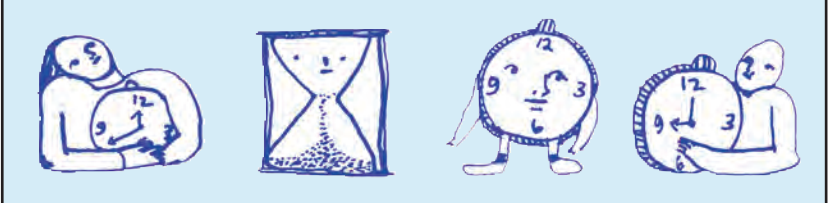
In a nation torn apart by an undeclared war in Vietnam, by war in the streets of Watts, Newark, and Chicago, Daniel and Nina Keller joined others of their generation and moved to the hills. Communes sprang up in many parts of America as idealistic college graduates and college drop-outs, hippies and radicals, followed the advice of Joni Mitchell and headed back to the land, back to the Garden.

Here in Montague, and in Wendell, and just over the border in Guilford, Vermont, three of those communal farms took root and prospered in a network of mutual support during a heady time of liberation news, organic composting, and anti-nuke organizing.

Dan Keller – now a selectman in Wendell, where he and Nina still farm the land he moved to after refusing his college diploma in protest of the Vietnam War – took to the podium of a Greenfield Community College senior symposium on Thursday, March 8, to talk about those utopian days, and to connect their communal model to others that preceded them, like Brook Farm in West Roxbury in the 1840s. And perhaps, in a world where protestors are once again encamped in front of the portals of power, to point the way to a future where the fruits of common labor and the bounty of the land can be shared communally again.

Speaking to a packed hall at GCC’s downtown campus, Keller asked, “Why would I do something so silly as to not show up to my graduation?” at Amherst College in 1968, where he had learned not just from his professors but also from student activists like Marshall Bloom.

Keller, who summered on a farm as a teenager, said, “The die was cast in terms of my relationship with the modern world by the time I was a freshman.”



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ERVING from page A1

lock in a 2% cost of living adjustment (COLA) for each of FY'21, FY'22 and FY'23.

On Monday night, the board and fin com discussed adding a special adjustment for FY'23, considering the current high rate of inflation.

"The cost of living is much greater than 2%," selectboard member Scott Bastarache explained as he proposed the adjustment.

Jacob Smith observed that the board had intended to discuss COLA adjustments in FY'24.

"We have inflation that's somewhere around a fifty-year high," said finance committee member Daniel Hammock. "I think there's good reason to look at it now."

"We put in the provision to do it every three years," said fin com member Benjamin Fellows. "If we break the provision to do it every three years, what's the change from looking at it every year?"

Fin com chair Debra Smith said it would be hard to make an "educated decision" in two weeks, before the FY'23 budget is final, and that any decision "would not be thoughtful." "We offer a package... not just a wage," she added, and "those other things come into play."

"I don't think we're prepared to have this conversation now," selectboard member William Bem-bury agreed.

The board asked town administrator Bryan Smith to collect more information about COLAs for the federal government, for Massachusetts state employees, and for other towns in the region and tabled the discussion until the March 28 meeting.

Software Upgrade

The board approved treasurer Jennifer Eichorn's request to purchase updated financial software. The initial transition cost is \$23,400, and the annual subscription cost is \$21,700. The cost of the current system is \$17,000 annually.

Asked what the new software would do, Eichorn replied, "lots of wonderful things." She said it includes an employee portal where employees can log hours, check accrued time, and sign up for benefits, can create data reports, and will simplify vendor warrants.

Eichorn said it would be best to purchase the software now, to allow installation and setup before the start of FY'23 on July 1. The selectboard and fin com approved

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using the reserve fund to pay for the initial cost, so the software can be installed by the end of March.

Town Meeting and Budget

The selectboard and fin com reviewed several items in the draft FY'23 budget that will be presented to the annual town meeting on May 11.

The board approved leasing a cruiser and body cameras for the police department for \$15,000 per year, rather than purchasing the same equipment for \$80,000.

For the purpose of the budget presented at town meeting, Bastarache proposed level-funding high school tuition, with re-evaluation October 1 when the actual number of Erving students attending Turners Falls High School will be certified. The board agreed to level-funding it with last year's amount of \$1.48 million.

In August 2021, Weston & Sampson engineers presented three options for replacing the Church Street bridge, all using pre-cast concrete: a three-sided frame, a three-sided arch, or a box culvert.

The frame and arch would use the existing bridge foundation, and the box culvert would increase the bridge's span.

The cost estimates at that time were \$1.4 million for the frame, \$1.44 million for the arch, or \$1.5 million for the box culvert. In their report, Weston & Sampson recommended the three-sided frame.

In order to include the cost of the bridge replacement on the town meeting warrant, the board must decide on a design; they agreed to discuss it further on March 28.

The board also decided to finalize the town meeting warrant at the March 28 meeting. Bryan Smith will update the draft budget for that meeting.

Almost Anything Goes

The board decided to use the same rules as last year for the "Almost Anything Goes" solid waste collection in May, but asked Bryan Smith to develop a better definition of demolition debris, and acceptable sizes of waste.

Casella Waste Systems will provide one truck and crew on May 2,

3 and 4, and four trucks and crews on May 7, to pick up solid waste from residences.

Bryan Smith said fences and entire kitchen cabinets had been left out for disposal in the past, but these items were too large for Casella's trucks. Another unacceptable item recalled by Bastarache was "an entire kitchen remodel." Highway superintendent Glenn McCrory mentioned seeing eight toilets disposed at one residence during a previous collection.

McCrory said he would be available to answer resident questions about what items are acceptable.

Other Business

The board rescinded the town's requirement for masking in town buildings, but recommended masking for unvaccinated people. Jacob Smith noted that no COVID cases had been reported for Erving during the last two weeks, and that Franklin County's reported case counts have been very low.

The board appointed Peter LaFrance and Jennifer Rosenburg as Council on Aging van drivers, effective

March 28. Both appointees will receive training for the position.

The board accepted the Community Development Block Grant for \$900,000 for housing rehabilitation in Erving, Warwick, and Northfield, a program administered by the Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Agency.

Erving, Gill, and Northfield are members of the Eastern Franklin Health District, which provides health services to the towns and is managed by a board. Bryan Smith asked the selectboard for authority to start talking with the other two towns about changing to management by one lead town instead, with the other towns paying for the services. He agreed to provide more information at the March 28 meeting.



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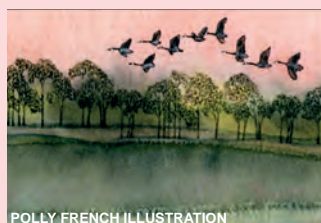


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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

MARCH 17, 2022



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

LETTER FROM DINGLE BAY

By DAVID BRULE

THE FLAT, ERVINGSIDE – From time to time this old homestead, now in its 150th year, gives up its secrets and stories in unexpected yet timely ways. Often those secrets reveal themselves through old letters, postcards, or newsprint clippings hidden away in drawers and cupboards, or secreted away in the pages of old books.

Just such a letter turned up a few years ago, and given the fact that this is the season of St. Patrick, it is time to share some of that letter from Dingle Bay which arrived at this house in the winter of 1930.

I had heard about the existence of this letter for years after I took over the responsibility for keeping family things going here at the house on The Flat. Originally purchased by great-grandfather Judah and his Scots wife Lizzie Moir, the house next belonged to Judah's son, my grandfather Abe, and his Irish wife Johannah Heffernan.

Johannah, or Hannah for short, had come to Millers Falls in the early 1900s, left here with her Aunt and Uncle Teahan, who ran a boarding house on Franklin Street. I say “left” because her mother, Brigid Teahan Heffernan, had died when Hannah was a small girl, and her father James, a recent immigrant from County Kerry, set off to faraway Washington state to begin the American part of his life over. We don't know if he ever came back to see his daughter.

Once Hannah married into Abe's family, and after they had set up housekeeping in the house I now live in, the place became a sort of magnet and stepping stone for many of Hannah's Irish relations. The stories we heard mentioned numerous Irish uncles coming through from Killorglin, County Kerry, on their way out West, where they surely would get rich picking up the gold that was just lying around in the streets. Of-

ten they spent the night here in the barn, given that this cottage-like farmhouse was so small and there were already five children filling up the place.

Those uncles came through on the way to the goldfields in Nevada and elsewhere, and many of them, having lost their illusions, came back through to sleep in the barn on the way back to Kerry.

I was to cross paths with the spirit of one Uncle Dan when I made a pilgrimage to the Heffernan homestead back in the 1980s. Dan was famous in this house for coming through with the gold he had found, tucked away in a secret pouch in his belt. That impressed the family here so much that I had heard all about it from the grandparents during my sleuthing about for my Irish roots.

Back to the letter – so unlike other letters I've found in this house, like those written to our ballplaying uncle Douglass Smith by his mother Lizzie. She faithfully wrote to her son as he was trying to make a living playing baseball in the 1910s. The son of a mixed race American Indian and African American, Doug was dropped from the Boston Red Sox in 1913 shortly after his Fenway Park debut, due to Red Sox management finding out about his “black blood.”

This Irish letter however, came in from a different branch of the family. The Irish connection added to the complex and rich texture of our genealogical research and self-identity.

The letter was written to our grandmother Hannah by her cousin in Kerry, Mary Tom Heffernan. A cultural note is in order here: Mary's middle name was indeed “Tom,” and hardly a middle name at all. The Irish custom of placing the father's or mother's name in a person's signature or naming pattern was a way of keeping track of which Mary she was. So Mary Tom see **WEST ALONG** page B4



The River Laune, Killorglin, County Kerry, Ireland.

Above: Christine Trinchero found these snowdrops, bound and determined, amid last Saturday's snow at Montague Center.

One More Story from the New Clairvaux Community – Part I

By JERI MORAN

MONTAGUE CENTER – In December 2015, *MR* editor Mike Jackson and I wrote a series of articles about New Clairvaux, the Arts and Crafts “commune” at Montague Center (circa 1901-1910) which was dedicated to a “simple life,” and to handmade products harkening back to a time before the industrial machine age. But one more story about a member of that group didn't get written then. It's

time now to fill in that gap with the history of someone who may be, in certain circles, the most famous person to emerge from Montague Center in the first half of the 20th century: Carl Purington Rollins.

Rollins was born in East Newbury, Massachusetts in 1880 and from a very early age, after visiting a newspaper office with his father, was taken with the process of printing. When he was 12 his father, who died shortly thereafter, bought him a small tabletop printing press,



YALE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Carl Rollins as a young man.

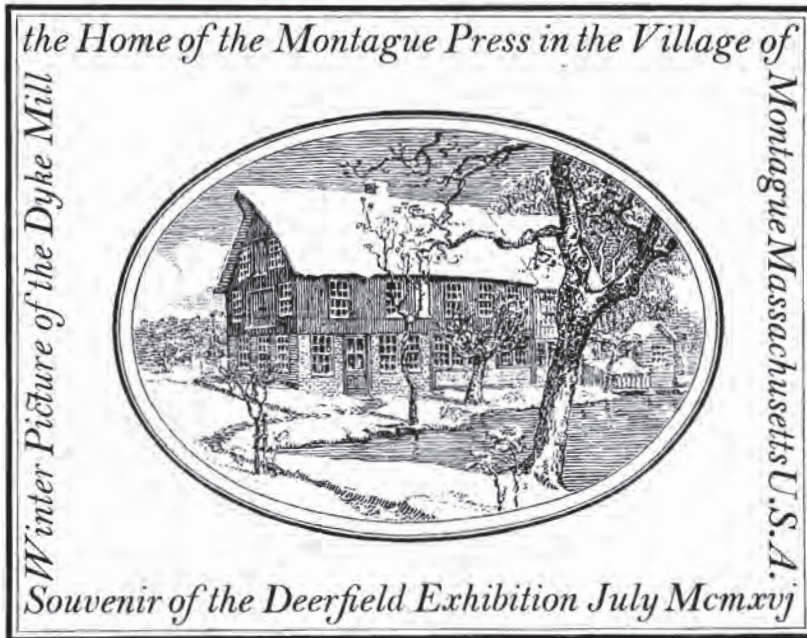
and he spent his teenage years printing projects for school, work about his stamp collection, and any jobs he could talk someone into letting him do.

He is said to have had a very independent spirit early on. Even though his mother had moved the family to Newburyport so that Rollins could attend the high school there and qualify for the Wheelwright Fund's support to help pay for his education at MIT, he chose to enroll at Harvard. He attended with a “special student” status with no financial support, which allowed him to take any courses he wanted to, although he could not graduate with a degree; it was said he didn't care about that anyway.

Rollins took wide-ranging courses in Gothic architecture, road-building, and English literature, and became enamored with Medievalism, social theories, and experiments. His wife, Margaret Dickey Rollins, later

see **CLAIRVAUX** page B8

IMAGE COURTESY OF PETER MASI



Rollins used this image in his personal correspondence once he moved into the Mill.

TV REVIEW

The Great, and the Not-So-Great

By W. KAIZEN

AMHERST – My wife thinks that the Hulu television series *The Great* is only pretty good. I think it's great. *The Great* very loosely recounts the early years of Catherine the Great. My wife is annoyed by how much of a bro Catherine's husband Peter III is, and how cutesy Catherine acts, neither of which are historically accurate depictions.

But that's not the point of the show. The point is to make a costume drama for people who prefer the black humor of *White Lotus* or the cringe comedy of *Parks and Rec*.

The Great recently concluded its second season, and was renewed for a third. The first season focuses on Catherine's arrival in St. Petersburg as a book-smart naïf, betrothed at her mother's scheming behest to the loutish Peter. It ends with the coup that crowned her Empress. The second season, oddly but successfully,



HBO IMAGE

Elle Fanning as Catherine the Great in the new HBO series, *The Great*.

switches gears, becoming a screwball romance.

The Great is great largely because of the performances of Elle Fanning as Catherine and Nicholas Hoult as Peter. The supporting cast is just as excellent. Phoebe Fox plays Catherine's bestie, an aristocrat demoted to being one of her hand maids because of the sins of her father. Adam Godley plays a

horny, Rasputin-like Archbishop with a proclivity for taking psychedelic mushrooms to commune with God. Belinda Bromilow, whose husband Tony McNamara writes the show, steals every scene she's in as Paul's butterfly-taming Aunt Elizabeth.

The Great takes so many liberties with the real Catherine's story see **REVIEW** page B3

Pet of the Week



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Hero needed! Artax is a special boy looking for hero adopter. In the safety of his original home where he was born, Artax was a friendly and happy dog who loved to play and cuddle.

He lived with kids before and did well, but he will need plenty of time to adjust to living with kids he is not used to. He has not lived with cats before but likely could with a slow introduction.

Now that Artax has left his bub-

ble, he is terrified and will need a patient and dog savvy adopter to help him adjust to a new life. Once he is comfortable, he is likely to be a dog that won't leave your side.

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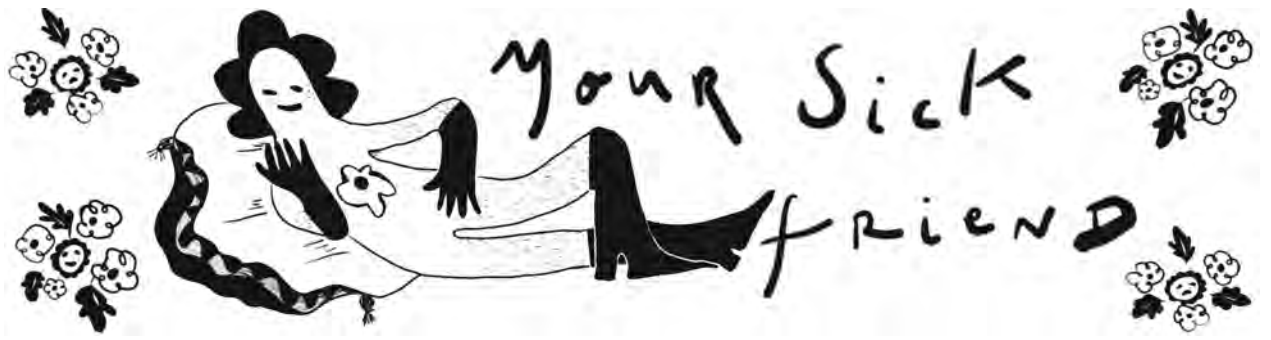
Strengthening Families at the Brick House

TURNERS FALLS – The Brick House will be offering the Strengthening Families program, for parents and caregivers of children ages 10 to 14, beginning next Tuesday, March 22 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The program is free of charge and consists of seven sessions,

which includes dinner each week. This highly respected program offers effective ways to balance the challenges of parenting pre-teens and young teens in a supportive space with other families, and has been proven to help prevent the use of alcohol and other drugs by

teenagers. Strengthening Families is being run in collaboration with The Recover Project and is funded by the town of Montague.

For more information, families should contact Sandra Ramos at sramos@brickhousesecrc.org or (413) 800-2208.



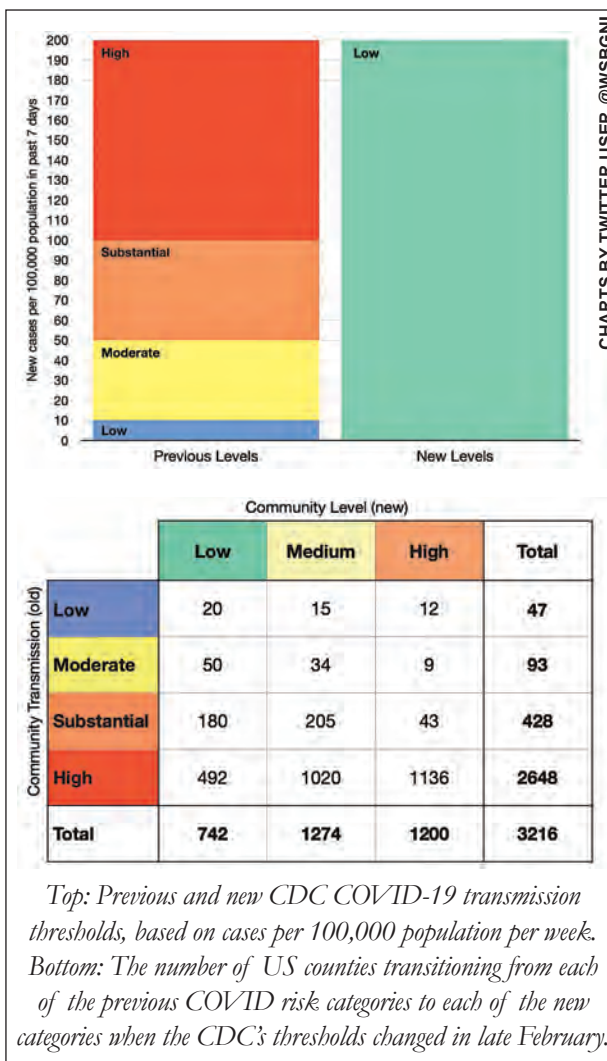
By CASEY WAIT

TURNERS FALLS – Hello dear reader! Welcome back to my monthly column, *Your Sick Friend*. I'm a chronically ill and disabled artist and writer living in Great Falls. I was born with Hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome and have a host of related conditions that severely impact my mobility and quality of life. This column is dedicated to sharing my experiences during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, emphasizing my perspective as an immunocompromised 30-something.

Perhaps unsurprisingly then, I've been dreading March 1, when the Montague mask mandate was set to lift, for months. While many celebrate their freedom to go maskless at Food City, I am more terrified to simply exist in public than I have been since the pandemic began. The new CDC COVID-19 guidelines and risk classifications, released at the end of February, have turned my terror up way past 11.

Under the new metrics, what the CDC had previously considered “high community spread” of the virus, 492 cases per 100,000, is now classified as “low.” The CDC's new “high” is *substantially* higher – communities will not be classified as having a high rate of transmission until there are 1,136 cases per 100,000. And it's *only* at that threshold of spread that the CDC recommends masking indoors!

Essentially, absent any developments in epidemiology or medicine, the government changed their numbers around to make the map of the US, previously awash in red “high risk” states (Massachusetts included), transform overnight into a sea of serene “low risk” turquoise – assuring us that the country can now celebrate a return to normalcy. But oh, by the way, this “new normal” is predicated on the US public accepting incredibly high instances of illness, death, and debility not previously part of what anyone considered “normal”:



CHARTS BY TWITTER USER @WSBGN1

Senior Center Activities

MARCH 21 THROUGH 25

WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is open for a foot care clinic the first Wednesday of each month. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments. Senior Health Rides are now available. Contact Jonathan von Ranson at (978) 544-3758 to set up a ride.

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. Lunch is available Tuesdays through Thursdays. Coffee and tea is available during open hours.

Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For more information call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Monday 3/21

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting & Needlecrafts Circle

Tuesday 3/22

12 p.m. Tuesday Morning Knitters
1 p.m. Chair Yoga
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 3/23

1 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 3/24

1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 3/25

11 a.m. Chair Exercise

ERVING

Erving Senior Center is open 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Open for cards, coffee, and snacks daily. Exercise classes will be limited to 15 people per class.

No lunch will be served. We will continue with Brown Bag the first Thursday of each month. Foot Clinic is on the second Monday of each month and the first Wednesday of each month we will hold Veterans Services. For any questions or concerns, please call Paula at (413) 423-3649.

Monday 3/21

9 a.m. Re-Store & Re-Emerge
10 a.m. New class coming soon

Tuesday 3/22

9 a.m. Good for YOU
10 a.m. Line Dancing

Wednesday 3/23

9 a.m. Strength & Conditioning
10 a.m. New Chair Yoga
12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 3/24

9 a.m. Re-Store & Re-Emerge
10 a.m. Stretch & Balance

Friday 3/25

9 a.m. Open Sew Quilting

LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held on Zoom on Wednesdays. For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

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THE GREAT from page B1

as to be almost entirely a work of fiction. It is as if McNamara found a listicle of her biography and wrote the show around it. Those looking for slightly more historical accuracy should seek out the HBO miniseries *Catherine the Great*, starring Helen Mirren as a much older and more politically savvy empress.

But each age constructs the heroes it needs, and Fanning's Catherine is an Empress fit for our own times, impatiently waiting for her turn to shine. She's a nerd in princess clothing who won't take no for an answer, desperate to make the big ideas that she's studied come true.

Fanning's Catherine is filled with such infectious enthusiasm it's impossible not to be charmed. Although aptly graced with a translucent 17th-century beauty, her looks are secondary to her preference for Enlightenment thought and the many political reforms she longs to enact in the face of an oppressive husband and intransigent aristocrats.

Like Mary Tyler Moore deposited in a tsarist court, Catherine is a determined outsider pluckily working to set things right. She plots the political reforms she'll enact once she's in power. Along with supporting women's rights, her pet project is ending serfdom, which by the 18th century was indistinguishable from slavery in Russia. When Catherine presents such modernizing ideas to a group of nobles, she's laughed out of the room.

Hoult plays Peter with an appalling lustiness that is the polar opposite of both Fanning's brainy Catherine and the real Peter, a timid man-boy who preferred playing with toy soldiers in bed and may not have consummated their marriage. Hoult's Peter the Mega-bro is both a gourmet, delighted by sight of the first spring truffle, and a ruler who finds it amusing to serve the severed heads of Swedish enemies at a court dinner. He vigorously copulates with his best friend's wife while his miserable friend looks on — frequently.

Season One's frisson-filled humor comes from Catherine's deft maneuvering around Peter's boorishness as she ultimately out-alphas him and steals his throne.

In Season Two, even Empress Catherine faces continued opposition to her attempts at reform. She raises an old nursemaid to a position of authority, with disastrous results, in a misguided bid to prove the equality of nobles and servants. Beside inventing the roller coaster, which apparently she actually did, other schemes are hardly more successful. Like the real Catherine, she finds it impossible to convince the aristocrats, whose support she needs to stay in power, to relinquish their privilege.

Strangely, this is not true of Peter,

who quickly abdicates the throne at the end of Season One. Although the real Peter did the same, Catherine never saw him again and he died shortly thereafter in mysterious circumstances. In Season Two of *The Great*, Peter is transformed by Catherine's pregnancy into a more sympathetic character.

What was previously a *bildungsroman* about a young woman finding her place in the world has become what philosopher and film critic Stanley Cavell calls "a comedy of remarriage." Cavell identified a number of Hollywood films from the 1930s and 1940s — *Bringing up Baby*, *The Philadelphia Story* — in which a couple learns how to move beyond the infatuation and turmoil of their early relationship into maturity. In these movies, remarriage is less literal than metaphorical; after a split, a couple grows together as they overcome some inciting incident that has come between them.

Season Two begins with Peter's quest to win back Catherine's affection, and her justified resistance. Just as Catherine's heart begins to soften, enter the inciting incident: her mother, played with newfound ferocity by Gillian Anderson. I won't spoil what happens, but let's just say that Peter was doing a pretty good job of being on his best behavior until Anderson shows up.

The Great has become even more topical given Russia's previous annexation of Crimea and current invasion of Ukraine. Wags have begun referring to Vladimir Putin as "Putin the Great," given his love of Peter the Great — and how closely his actions resemble those of Catherine in her later years. While the show's portrayal of the young Catherine is accurate in showing her opposition to serfdom, she was unable to end it. She even aided in its expansion later in life as she annexed Crimea and pushed into territory claimed by Turkey, sparking a flareup of the Russo-Turkish Wars.

Catherine, later in life, was also so threatened by the French Revolution that she banned books by the *philosophes*, including her good friend Voltaire (who, by the way, was pro-monarchy). She even shut down the free press she had helped establish years earlier. While once she had said "Russia is a European state," now she feared that this might come true.

HBO's *Catherine the Great* addresses these late-life changes of heart. It hasn't been announced what themes Season Three of *The Great* will address, but given how timely the show has suddenly become, there's lots of fodder for the writers to play with. If only Putin would take a lesson from Catherine earlier in her life and realign Russia with the west. He could use some fresh ideas about what greatness looks like.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Husband Not Eaten By Animals; Downtown Fights; Car Stolen on Fourth Street, Turns Up in Northampton

Monday, 3/7

10:44 a.m. Caller from Avenue A would like an officer to ask the upstairs neighbor to stop talking and bothering her. Officer spoke with involved male and advised him of the complaint.

11:26 a.m. Report of two-car accident on Third Street; no injuries. Investigated.

4:43 p.m. Caller from Unity Park states his car was sideswiped at some point during the day while he was at work. Caller states there is damage, and he would like a report taken.

6:09 p.m. Caller from Third Street states the downstairs neighbor slammed his door and almost knocked the pictures off the wall. Referred to an officer.

9:24 p.m. Caller states they are banging the music again at Hillside Plastics. Unfounded.

11:08 p.m. Caller states her husband went outside a bit ago after hearing animal noises. Caller states male has not come back inside and she is worried. Female later advised husband is OK and there is no issue; he was filling up a tire, is partially deaf and did not hear his wife calling to him.

Tuesday, 3/8

2:25 a.m. Caller from Randall Road reports she can hear someone going up to her window. Officer checked area; negative findings. Female advised of windy weather. Female also believed people were tampering with her lights, which were flickering; advised to call landlord.

3:51 a.m. Caller from Randall Road reports hearing movement outside of her window and states someone jiggled the door handle. Officer advises area checked; nothing found.

4:23 a.m. Reports of trees down in roadway on Federal Street, Turnpike Road, and Hillside Road. MassDOT and DPW advised.

5:03 a.m. Caller from Randall Road reports hearing people at her front door. Officer advised of issue.

2:03 p.m. Property manager concerned about a dog that has been left alone for several days. Dog owner has not been seen. Manager went into apartment and fed the dog, which was in a crate. Manager asked for number for animal control officer so it could be reported.

6:36 p.m. Caller from FL Roberts reporting active fight happening in the store between two male parties. Line disconnected. Dispatch called back; caller states that all parties have left the store. Officer spoke with caller and was given a rundown of

events. All of downtown area streets checked; negative contact with anyone matching descriptions.

9:19 p.m. Caller reporting a vehicle driving on the high school grounds, described as a pickup truck with lights in the back window. Officer advises he located vehicle, operated by the registered owner's little brother. Officer spoke to operator and registered owner.

11:57 p.m. A 33-year-old Greenfield man was arrested on a straight warrant.

Wednesday, 3/9

12:19 a.m. Caller from Randall Road states she can hear someone outside her residence; requesting officer to drive by and check the area. Officer advises area checked, all OK. Neighbor was outside with dog, which could have been the noise the caller heard. Attempted to call female back to advise; no answer; unable to leave voice mail.

6:03 a.m. 911 caller from Fourth Street advises that she started up her vehicle this morning and when she returned to the vehicle it was gone. Vehicle described as Toyota Camry with a damaged driver side mirror. Area departments advised to be on lookout. Paperwork completed; vehicle entered into NCIC as stolen.

10:35 a.m. ACO advising he is responding to Avenue A to check on the well-being of a small dog. Animal removed and taken to shelter.

1:42 p.m. 911 caller advising his car slid off the road at Central and Unity Streets; car has front tire damage and appears undriveable. Officers on scene requesting tow. Report taken.

7:41 p.m. Officer requesting DPW be contacted for road conditions. DPW stated they will be back out at 10 p.m. when the snow stops. Roads have already been treated.

8:14 p.m. Caller reporting that his daughter has received a threat from her ex-boyfriend that he is going to get some girls to assault her at Turners Falls High School. Officer advises he spoke with caller who stated that the threat was going to happen tomorrow and that the caller thinks the ex-boyfriend said that knives would be involved. Caller will meet with school resource officer first thing tomorrow.

9:49 p.m. Caller reporting vehicle off Turners Falls Road near Hatchery Road. Occupants out of vehicle; appears to be minor damage; no fluids leaking. Rau's contacted for tow. DPW advised of road conditions.

Thursday, 3/10

9:18 a.m. Caller from Third Street reports that the male in the downstairs apartment is slamming his door. No noise upon officer's arrival. Officer spoke to a woman who had been there for 15 minutes, and she did not hear any doors slamming.

Friday, 3/11

8:05 a.m. 911 caller reporting two-vehicle accident on Turners Falls Road. No injuries reported. Rau's contacted for a tow.

8:50 a.m. Argument between roommates over rent money. Both parties advised of options.

3:21 p.m. Caller reporting that a couple of youths are fighting at Unity Park; it is now broken up and they are walking toward the skate park. One of them is described as wearing a white tee and plaid pants. Officer advises he spoke to a couple of youths at the skate park and some of them identified an involved party. Officer will be on lookout in area for party.

3:38 p.m. 911 caller from L Street reporting a person in a black mask at her back door; her daughter screamed, and the person

may have taken off. Officer advises contact made with male party, who was involved in the fight at Unity Park. Male party's mother came and picked him up.

6:05 p.m. Caller states that he was walking to the bus station and there was a guy outside Powertown Apartments harassing him. Unable to locate.

Saturday, 3/12

1:28 a.m. Northampton PD called stating they are out on Gothic Street with a stolen vehicle from Montague; looking to see what we would like to do with it. Rau's en route; will pick up officer from station and go to pick up vehicle. Vehicle retrieved and secured.

12:17 p.m. Report of car into guardrail with front end damage on Federal Street. Rau's responding for tow. Report taken.

12:28 p.m. Caller from Sunderland Road states that a vehicle crashed into a wall on his property and then fled. License plate left at scene. Report taken.

5:47 p.m. Caller from Ripley Road states that a tree came down on wires and the wires are holding the tree up. Control contacted to dispatch MCFD; they will contact Eversource.

7:24 p.m. Officer out at Unity Park with vehicle parked for past couple of days; all windows covered up. All is well; people are just homeless.

8:48 p.m. Caller from FL Roberts states there is a male in the store who stated he was being jumped by three youths and was looking for some police assistance. Report taken.

Sunday, 3/13

7:27 p.m. Caller from Federal Street states that a vehicle was parked on his property; when he approached to speak with them, the truck did a donut and took off heading north toward Millers Falls. Caller just wanted it documented in case anything happens.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Original Play Reading at LAVA

GREENFIELD — The LAVA Center at 324 Main Street is proud to present theatrical readings of an original play by Lindy Whiton, *Every Moment of Every Day*, as part of its Social Justice in the Arts and Media series.

Stories of women who relinquished their babies to adoption weave together to illuminate this landscape of loss, endurance and courage from the point of view of the birth mothers. Six stories are drawn from two dozen interviews conducted by playwright Lindy Whiton. *Every Moment of Every Day* is performed by Amanda Bowman, Cynthia Fritz, Emily Gopen, Penney Hulthen, Kaia Jackson, Patricia Williams, and EJ Worth.

The play is both written and directed by Lindy Whiton, an original

mother who relinquished her daughter in 1972. For most of her professional life she has worked to help others find voice through reading, writing and building community. In 2015 she joined a community of original mothers and interviewed them about their experiences, encouraging voice in this disempowered group.

The play performances will be available in person on Saturday, March 26, and Saturday, April 2, at 1 and 7 p.m., as well as online on demand. Reserve tickets for a donation of your choice (\$5 to \$10 suggested; \$1 minimum) by going to thelavacenter.eventbrite.com. Seating will be limited, and everyone who comes into the LAVA Center to see a play or presentation must show proof of COVID vaccination.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

FedEx Lockout; Amazon Accident; Hot Pink Sweatshirt; Car Vs. Tree, Car Vs. Bicycle, Car Vs. Snowbank; Dogs on the Loose, Deer on the Ice, Folks on the Bridge

Tuesday, 2/1

6:07 p.m. Caller from the French King Highway advises a gray truck is slowing down and speeding up, turning on directional signals, and not turning. The vehicle pulled over before the French King Bridge. Gone on arrival.

Wednesday, 2/2

2:56 p.m. General fire alarm and beam detector went off in the first floor lobby on Elm Street.

3:10 p.m. Abandoned 911 call from Turners Falls-Gill Bridge.

4:57 p.m. Abandoned 911 cell phone call from Main Road.

Thursday, 2/3

12:10 p.m. Montague PD advises they took a report of a camper that appears to be stuck on the French King Highway, blocking traffic.

1:17 p.m. Montague PD fielded a call about a female party standing on the sidewalk in the middle of the French King Bridge. Same taken to hospital for evaluation.

1:55 p.m. Caller from Mountain Road Estates Street reporting a FedEx driver locked out of their van.

3:26 p.m. Medical emergency, Boyle Road.

4:06 p.m. Disabled pickup on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge heading toward Gill. Montague PD also have an officer en route.

Friday, 2/4

10:19 a.m. Medical emergency, Memorial Grove Road.

Saturday, 2/5

12:52 p.m. Disabled vehicle, French King Highway. 9:19 p.m. Suspicious person reported on the French King Bridge. Subject taken to hospital for evaluation.

Sunday, 2/6

4:47 p.m. Welfare check on Main Road.

8:23 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with disturbance on the French King Highway.

Monday, 2/7

5:57 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with motor vehicle crash on Turners Falls Road.

Wednesday, 2/9

3:57 p.m. Checked on female party dressed in hot pink sweatshirt standing around the gazebo by the French King Bridge, looking at a map. No signs of distress.

6:31 p.m. Suspicious activity on Main Road. All okay. 6:40 p.m. Medical emergency, Memorial Grove Road.

Thursday, 2/10

7:58 a.m. Fraud/scam reported from North Cross Road.

10:05 a.m. Caller from Peterson Way states there is a deer on the river ice, and doesn't think it's safe.

Deer came off ice on own accord. Clear.

12:18 p.m. Caller from Main Road reported a couple of loose dogs in the area of the Gill Tavern.

2:30 p.m. Found a dog on Main Road with no tags. Same transported to the shelter. At 3:36 p.m. owners were located.

3:25 p.m. Call from Wood Avenue. Dog is at the FCSD dog shelter. Owners are aware.

Friday, 2/11

8:41 a.m. Motorist on Main Road reports icy corners. Highway supervisor notified.

12:26 p.m. Disabled vehicle parked on the side of Main and Mountain Roads. Not a hazard.

9:23 p.m. Vehicle parked roadside on North Cross and Main Roads with parking lights on and shoes outside the vehicle.

Saturday, 2/12

11:23 a.m. Assisted Erving PD with disturbance on North Street.

11:58 a.m. Assisted other agency on the French King Highway in Erving.

9:56 p.m. Conducted a welfare check on the French King Bridge in Erving. Transporting one subject to FMC for evaluation.

11:34 p.m. Caller pulled over in the parking lot of the French King Bridge states she accidentally dialed 911.

Sunday, 2/13

12:33 a.m. 911 hang up on Dickerson Road. On callback spoke to a female party who said she clicked the button on the side of her phone three times. She apologized for the call.

10:54 a.m. Caller from the French King Highway reported a white Honda that is not able to maintain its lane.

11:54 a.m. A motor vehicle broke down on Main Road and pulled into the FD parking lot. Vehicle has a coolant issue. FD allowed driver to use the building phone for calling for a ride. AAA contacted by family.

12:24 p.m. Medical emergency, Boyle Road.

2:03 p.m. Caller states he was towing a vehicle from the unplowed section of Pisgah Mountain Road when an Amazon delivery driver drove into the back of his truck. No injuries.

Monday, 2/14

8:38 a.m. Threat on Lamp-lighter Way.

9:30 a.m. Box truck on fire at the French King Highway and Main Road.

12:26 p.m. Report of a missing firearm called in from River Road.

Tuesday, 2/15

1:30 p.m. Unemployment benefits fraud reported from North Cross Road.

9:47 p.m. Medical emergency on Boyle Road.

Wednesday, 2/16

7:56 a.m. Alarm went off on Conference Road.

11:09 a.m. Medical emergency, Boyle Road.

Thursday, 2/17

4:20 p.m. Alarm went off on Conference Road.

8:10 p.m. Disabled vehicle on Pisgah Mountain Road.

Friday, 2/18

1:16 a.m. Disabled vehicle on the French King Highway.

7:34 a.m. Disabled vehicle on the French King Highway.

7:48 p.m. Passerby on the French King Highway and Pisgah Mountain Road reports a large fox running in the road. Gone on arrival.

Saturday, 2/19

4:05 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with a disturbance on North Street.

8:14 p.m. Fire alarm went off on Cottage Row.

Sunday, 2/20

3:30 p.m. Caller reported a car vs. tree accident on the closed section of Pisgah Mountain Road. The road is glare ice. Highway department requested for sand. Caller reports that he and his brother are okay, but fluids are leaking from vehicle. Koch's winched and towed car; clear.

7:34 p.m. Conducted a welfare check on party walking in the roadway on the French King Highway.

Monday, 2/21

9:07 a.m. Assisted Erving PD with accident on State Road. Trailer truck with a box trailer rolled over injuring driver. Nothing hazardous.

10:43 a.m. Male party struck by a motor vehicle at the Gill lights. Determined to be bicycle vs. car. Subject transported to FMC.

12:23 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle reported in the breakdown lane on the Gill side of the French King Bridge.

7:01 p.m. Caller from West Gill Road reports that he is looking across the street and pasture at a large fire.

7:37 p.m. Attended brush fire in a four-foot pit on Main Road. No concerns.

Tuesday, 2/22

11:26 a.m. Montague dispatch received a 911 call from party who thought the ice off Riverview Drive was too thin for the people currently out on it. 8:37 p.m. Alarm went off on Conference Road.

Wednesday, 2/23

11:41 a.m. Medical emergency, Boyle Road.

12:13 p.m. Material from a wallet found on the French King Highway.

12:33 p.m. Erving PD and MSP responded with FDs

to possible suicide on the French King Bridge.

1:58 p.m. Caller states his father lost the plate to his boat trailer on the French King Highway.

3:25 p.m. Medical emergency, Boyle Road.

5:56 p.m. Medical emergency, West Gill Road.

6:40 p.m. Suspicious vehicle reported on Center Road.

7:11 p.m. Caller from Main Road advising her car is disabled.

Thursday, 2/24

11:13 a.m. Welfare check on French King Highway.

4:23 p.m. Caller from Riverview Drive and Walnut Street reports a suspicious person who has been in the area for the last 30 minutes.

Friday, 2/25

7:32 a.m. Assisted Erving PD with FRTA bus stuck at the French King Highway and River Road.

9:41 a.m. Caller from Main Road complained that a vehicle is parked in the restaurant lot, obstructing snow removal.

11:10 a.m. Caller from French King Highway reported past vandalism.

Saturday, 2/26

1:15 a.m. Conducted a welfare check on the French King Bridge. Caller states there is a white Mini Cooper in the parking lot on the Gill side of the bridge, but caller did not see anyone in the area.

8:02 a.m. Alarm went off on Conference Road.

12:02 p.m. Gill FD called about a tree branch hazard in the area of 193 Main Road. Area checked and nothing found.

2:04 p.m. Medical emergency, Purple Road.

2:24 p.m. 911 call from Orchard Road. No voice contact. On callback, a female answered and stated it was an accident and hung up.

4:28 p.m. Caller from the French King Highway reported erratic driving. Vehicle last seen in the pulloff just before the Gill lights. Caller states the operator struck the snow bank.

7:29 p.m. Assisted with medical emergency in Turners Falls.

8:02 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with disturbance on Route 2.

Sunday, 2/27

2:51 p.m. Alarm went off on Conference Road.

4:08 p.m. Assisted MSP on Route 91 northbound. Greenfield PD had a report of a male party with a rifle in the woods behind Oak Courts. Located party from Route 91 and isolated individual from air rifle. Party identified and information passed to Greenfield PD.

WEST ALONG from page B1

was the daughter of Tom, not the daughter of Patrick, Dan or Michael. Otherwise she would have been known as Mary Pat, or Mary Dan, and so on.

Growing up, I had heard of this letter that was likely tucked away somewhere in the maze of rooms and desk drawers in the house. My informants knew its contents and I had heard sentences recited from time to time during family get-togethers. So when it was my turn to take over the household, I kept an eye out for that message from 1930.

And to be sure, it finally did turn up, neatly preserved in an old tin tea box, airtight and perfectly dry.

Mary Tom Heffernan, a girl of 15 at the time, was living at the time in the Douglas district of Killorglin, County Kerry.

Dear Cousin Hannah,

I hope ye are all fine over their [sic], as we are all fine here thank God. Mama and dada hope ye are all fine, they often wished to be over their again of course they knew you well and cousin Leanora. Well I am Toms eldest daughter. I am fifteen years now. I have one sister she is eleven years and one brother he's thirteen years.

Well cousin Hannah, food and clothes are very scarce here and also very dear. If the girls have any clothes left over I would be very thankful to get them. The weather is staying very cold here, we did not have any snow yet. I suppose Jean is away in collage [sic] all the time. I hope Joan is fine too... we don't forget to pray for them every day...

The letter refers to Miss Jean Couture, who went on to become a beloved teacher at the Hillcrest Elementary School, and whose father was the founder of the Couture Brothers store which exists in Turners Falls to this day.

At this point, I can recall what my aunt Pete (Elizabeth) – a girl living here at the time the letter arrived, years before I would find it in the tea tin – had to say about the letter's contents: "Can you imagine them asking us for help? We were having just as hard a time in those days as they were! We didn't have a pot to piss in or a window to throw it out of."

Aunt Pete was celebrated in the family for her salty language, which delighted us kids. We didn't dare say "hell" or "damn" for fear of having our mouth washed out with soap. But Pete could get away with it and worse. She could smoke, drink, and cuss with the best of them, I guess that's where she got the nickname of Pete.

Montague Community Television News**Board Spots Still Open!**

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – The MCTV board is still on the hunt for new members, so spread the word! We have a few new videos up online this week – the latest Montague Selectboard and Finance Committee meetings, as well as the Gill-Montague Regional School District school committee meeting.

All videos are available on our Vimeo page, which can be found linked to the website, montaguetv.org, under the tab "Videos." All community members are welcome

Mary Tom went on:

Well cousin Hannah I must bid you Good-bye for now and I hope the girls won't forget to send the clothes as soon as they can because my clothes are almost fit for the rag bag.

Cousin Leanora [Couture] send a parcel Aunt Hannah got it the last day, the clothes were all too small for me, I thought I would get some skirt, but they were too small and short for me so my sister and cousins got some each... the uncles could use some mittens too, for the fishing out on Dingle Bay is very cold out there...

Good-bye now Cousin Hannah Love to all my cousins

XXXXXX

I don't know if our grandmother Hannah was able to send any clothes at all. Based on what Aunt Pete said, there wasn't much to spare at that time in this household, on the eve of the Great Depression.

Luckily for me, although the letter from Killorglin was lost for two generations, our grandmother knew the address of the Heffernan family by heart, and wrote it down for me well before she passed away in 1967.

I went there in 1983, looking for the homestead in the Douglas. The old house, the house from which all those uncles, aunts, and cousins left for America, was still standing. Others went in the other direction, as far away as New Zealand in the great Irish diaspora. The old place had been turned into a barn for the sheep and pig, and a new stucco house had been built not far away.

When I knocked on the door a Mary Heffernan answered. She was not Mary Pat, for this Mary standing before me had married into the Heffernan family. She of course didn't know me from Adam, and was very leery of me turning up on her doorstep.

After a bit, I shared what I knew about Mary Tom, Uncle Dan, the various trips to Millers Falls by the Killorglin aunts and uncles, and the name of Miss Jean Couture, whom we had just visited before setting out on our voyage to Ireland. That helped her feel more at ease. She had actually taken care of Uncle Dan in his old age, and told me how to find his gravesite up in the Killorglin cemetery.

She welcomed me in, and that began a lovely cycle of correspondence and visits that helped me, the first pilgrim to come back to the old place, to renew the broken circle of Irish family. All of that thanks to the letter from Mary Tom, written in the farmhouse on the shores of Dingle Bay so long ago.



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TV REVIEW

NBC's *The Endgame*

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – It seems that with TV at the moment, people are interested in trying out thrillers with the audiences. One example is the *Cleaning Lady* on Fox, which I reviewed two weeks ago. Another involves a show called *The Endgame* on NBC on Mondays at 10 p.m.

The Endgame premiered on February 22. One of its main characters is a criminal mastermind played by Morena Baccarin. I have seen this woman in three TV series, and enjoyed her acting in them all very much. She plays a criminal mastermind, as I said, but this character could be compared to a grandmaster chess player – she can plan things very well, down to the last detail.

This woman, Elena Federova, who has avoided capture for many years, gets caught in the first episode, but that was probably part of her plan. That is one way to explain how good she is at this. An FBI woman who has studied Federova is brought in by the people that have arrested her to help them. But this mastermind shows she has also been studying the agent – she even knows about a little matter about her husband. Federova is actually very up-to-



date on what is going on with it, and she mentions what she knows exactly right to the agent's face.

The situation with the agent's husband had led people to believe she is a corrupt agent, and her colleagues haven't wanted anything to do with her since then. So ironically, Federova being caught has led to her career status improving.

But I should point out that this criminal is a great chess player, so people maybe should wonder if the agent might be one of the pieces on the board. I won't give any more spoilers, but you should watch the first episode for a scene that shows you a twist that hints this may be the case.

CONCERT REVIEW

AnCo Show No Loss of Edge in MoCA Show

By BRIAN ZAYATZ

NORTH ADAMS – It can be a challenge to keep loving a band that has been around as long and produced as much music as Animal Collective. With any new release, the weight of the band's past weighs heavily on fans' expectations. A perfectly good album that would make a strong debut, as my friend Max Goldstein recently mused to me, can seem mediocre stacked against a catalog of classics.

Yet Animal Collective still has enough goodwill from me, and has released enough good music in recent years (including their new album, February's *Time Skiffs* – more on this later) that I decided to make their March 11 appearance at MASS MoCA my first big concert since before the pandemic.

Much has happened since attending my first show of any kind during the pandemic in June 2021. My initial shock back then upon walking into that largely maskless Bushwick bar (“We used to crowd together like this all the time, breathing each other's aerosols?”) has given way to resignation: if the government refuses to take any meaningful action anymore, and I still have to go work at my public-facing job, I might as well go suck down some stranger breath and try to enjoy a set from one of my favorite bands. Mercifully, MASS MoCA still has a mask mandate, and I was pleased to see, by my estimation, at least 75% compliance among the crowd.

In my next article, I'll delve into my theories as to why there was so much overlap between improper mask wearers and people trying to record crappy cell phone videos of the bands.

I also realized I'd forgotten some things about the concert-going experience. For example, that a bigger show like this might actually, and indeed did, start at the advertised time. I was looking forward to seeing opener L'Rain, who my friend said he'd played with at Vassar and later clarified he meant “we've met twice and she is 10,000,000 times cooler than me,” but by the time I made it through the gauntlet of vaccine, ID, security, and ticket checkers and made my way into the cavernous Hunter Center, she was on her last song – a noisy climax that was jarring to walk in on, and probably would have been more enjoyable if contextualized by the rest of her set. My two companions, who were high, did thoroughly enjoy it.

I'd also forgotten that it's hard to know how to *dress* for these things, and by the middle of Animal Collective's set, the Dickies and Timbs that have served me well through this especially cold winter had turned on me, and I was decidedly humid.

But, to Animal Collective's set:

It immediately warmed my former indie-kid heart to see this foursome of pretty normal-looking white dudes who made some records that absolutely blew my fifteen-year-old mind take the stage. Per their new album, their instrumentation was different than I'd seen before: Panda Bear behind a drum kit, Avey Tare with a bass guitar, and Deakin and Geologist to the far left and right, respectively, with their more traditional array of synths and other instruments. I didn't recognize

the down-tempo opening number, but the guy next to me assured his girlfriend it was a “classic;” this was followed by “Chores,” an energetic b-side from 2007's *Strawberry Jam*.

The setlist was, as I had come to expect from prior experience, career-spanning but eschewed the hits, with quite a few of their newest songs interspersed, and several I did not recognize. Hints at what was coming next would spill out of one song and grow slowly into another, until there was finally enough for the audience to recognize it and cheer. Colorful stop-motion paper cutouts danced on a screen behind them, interspersed with projections of acrobats in monochrome bodysuits and, at one point, of the band members themselves, with painted faces and robes like printed shower curtains.

Animal Collective albums tend to have highly polished, distinct sounds, and I listen to *Time Skiffs*, with its near-standard rock band instrumentation, knowing that between the four band members, they could probably manifest any sound they could possibly imagine and then some, if they wanted to.

Seeing much of the album performed live only strengthened my conviction that this is not just a boring, late-career record from a band that's lost its edge. Their lush two- and three-part harmonies, a signature of their most popular albums but less present recently, returned in full force over yet another unique musical backdrop in which the foursome's 20-year tenure as collaborators is abundantly clear. I was pleased to hear “Royal and Desire,” a spacious Deakin song from the new album, make the cut in the setlist, as his rich tenor is usually tucked behind Avey Tare's controlled chaos or Panda Bear's childlike alto.

For a long set, I wouldn't have minded a few more upbeat songs to contrast the relaxed energy of *Time Skiffs*, but instead the band went with tracks like “No More Running,” “Unsolved Mysteries,” a half-time version of “Applesauce,” and the endearing “Magicians from Baltimore,” a shoutout to their hometown which I hadn't heard before. The explosive chorus of “In the Flowers” provided a brief mid-set high, but the tempos otherwise stayed low until the end.

The main set closed with “Strung with Everything,” a new single building up to a coda showcasing the group's vocal harmonies and Panda Bear's jaunty drumming, and an encore consisted of “Screens,” an eerie slow-burn from the visual album *ODDSAC*, and “For Reverend Green,” the closest they came to playing a hit.

I couldn't help but read these last three choices as intending to speak to our present moment. “Strung with Everything” is about taking time to enjoy life in a world that appears to be falling apart at the seams, and “Screens” speaks to the uneasy feeling of interacting with the world through digital technology. During “For Reverend Green,” I found myself in a mosh pit, chanting along: “Now I think it's alright to feel inhuman... / Now I think it's alright to sing together.”

Is it irresponsible to mosh in a pandemic? Maybe, but in a culture under so much pressure to atomize individuals, an act of collectivity can only be held back for so long.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday: Mark the Spring Equinox At the UMass Amherst Sunwheel

AMHERST – The public is invited to celebrate the beginning of spring at the University of Massachusetts Amherst's Sunwheel this Sunday, March 20.

To mark the day of the vernal equinox, UMass astronomers will give talks explaining the astronomy of the seasonal changes at 6:45 a.m. and 6 p.m., while viewing sunrise and sunset among the standing stones of the Sunwheel.

On the day of the March equinox, the sun crosses the celestial equator, passing from south to north. This year, the sun crosses the equator at 11:33 a.m. EDT on March 20, marking the moment when astronomical spring begins in the Northern Hemisphere and autumn in the Southern Hemisphere.

The term “equinox” derives from *equi+nox* (equal night), and on the equinox the length of nighttime is nearly equal to the length of daytime. Over the previous six months, the sun has been rising in the southeast and setting in the southwest, but on the equinox it rises due east and sets due west, before continuing its northward motion. The equinox also marks the start of six months of daylight at the North Pole, and six months of nighttime at the South Pole.



The shifting position of the rising and setting sun has been the basis for calendar circles like the Sunwheel built all over Earth for thousands of years. The presentations will explain how the Sunwheel was designed to mark these changes along with those of the moon, and relate them to the astronomical motions of the sun, moon, and Earth. Other questions about astronomy are also welcome!

The UMass Amherst Sunwheel is located south of McGuirk Alumni Stadium, just off Rocky Hill Road (Amity Street) about one-quarter mile south of University Drive. Visitors should be prepared for cold temperatures and wet footing. Rain or blizzard conditions cancel the events.

Donations are welcome to help with the cost of additional site work and future events.

For more information, please visit www.umass.edu/sunwheel/pages/gatherings.html.

EXHIBITS

April 3 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Redemption*, daguerreotypes of enslaved people re-imagined in enamel and compassion by Jennifer Davis Carey. Through May 2.

Shelburne Arts Coop Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Thaw*, group show of artisan members' work focusing on a theme of warming up to spring. Through March.

Local Art Gallery, Mill District, North Amherst: *Kamil Peters*. Peters' paintings are featured in the window gallery at this exhibit space and art supply store.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Interwoven: Words and Images*, a collaboration of six women artists. Through April 2. Online artists' discussion and reading this Thursday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m.

Anchor House of Artists, Northampton: *Realizing Landino and Realizing Westbrook*: two shows celebrating

the work of artists and friends John Landino and Ben Westbrook, who recently passed. *Healing, Awakening, Resolution: Reawakening of Peter Knapp*. Knapp fills three galleries with wall and floor artwork and woodblock prints, created after a cardiac event in 2012. Through March. *Deep Space and The Sun Spots*, by Charles Miller. Part three of a year-long revolving exhibition to celebrate the artist's 90th year. The paintings are primed with pop and rhythm. The exhibit will fill the museum space at this wandering venue. All exhibits through March.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro: Seven new exhibits now open with work by M. Carmen Lane, Roberto Visani, Yvette Molina, Mildred Beltré Martínez, Sachiko Akiyama, Louisa Chase, and Anne Spalter. Information at www.brattleboromuseum.org.

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Aquí se habla español

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



¡Ven a la hora de español en Stone Soup Café!

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

GREENFIELD – Hace unos meses me reuní con Ester González, una salmantina que vive en Greenfield y colabora con Stone Soup Café para organizar una hora de español al mes para miembros de la comunidad que quieran hablar español. La próxima hora de español será el sábado 19 de marzo a mediodía y si la predicción del tiempo es correcta, tendrá lugar al aire libre en una mesa dispuesta para ello en Hope St. y con múltiples sillas para acoger a todos los que lleguen.

Ester se siente motivada por las actividades comunitarias que existen en esta zona, muy diferentes de las de nuestro lugar de origen, Salamanca, y le encanta que en Franklin County exista un sentido de comunidad, actividades para promover el consumo local, para ayudar a los más desfavorecidos, etc.

Stone Soup Café es una organización sin ánimo de lucro que organiza cada sábado comidas comunitarias en la que los mismos miembros de la comunidad ayudan a preparar el almuerzo. Todos los miembros de la comunidad son bienvenidos, no importa si pueden pagar la comida o no. El almuerzo consiste en tres platos, siempre con una sopa, ensalada y un plato principal con guarnición.

La política de Stone Soup es que todos merecemos tener un plato de comida caliente y nadie debe ser excluido o sentirse diferente por no poder pagarlo. Y no solamente creen que las personas necesitan alimentar el cuerpo, sino que también se trata de alimentar el espíritu con compañía, charla, trabajo en equipo y voluntariado. Su sistema de pago está basado en “paga lo que puedas” que es una forma de igualar a la comunidad para que nadie se sienta diferente.

El fundador de Stone Soup Café fue Bernie Glassman, que falleció



Hora de español en Stone Soup Cafe.

en 2018, y era un maestro de la filosofía Zen junto con Jeff Bridges, el famoso actor de Hollywood. Al principio empezaron a operar en Montague con ayuda de donaciones y voluntarios.

Durante la pandemia Stone Soup ha seguido ofreciendo el almuerzo e incluso trabajando como despensa comunitaria temporal cuando otras organizaciones estaban faltas de recursos debido a la situación sanitaria. Igualmente, durante la pandemia han llevado comidas a domicilio o las han preparado para recoger por el usuario sin que hubiera contacto físico siguiendo todas las medidas higiénicas.

Ahora mismo sirven entre 420 y 500 comidas al día. Al menos 100 de estos almuerzos son subsidiados y se sirven a personas que no

pueden pagarlos. Las comidas se preparan por un chef y se usan los ingredientes que se tienen en ese momento en la despensa para crear el mejor y el más sano y equilibrado menú posible con ingredientes de temporada.

Ester lleva más de un año colaborando con Stone Soup Café y junto con la coordinadora de voluntarios tuvieron la idea de crear un espacio para que todos los miembros de la comunidad se sientan bienvenidos ya que se dieron cuenta de que era necesario un lugar para las personas cuya lengua materna es el español y que no existía en Greenfield. Ester, a la que le interesa especialmente el mundo educativo, vio una oportunidad para empezar esta hora de español una vez al mes y coordinar esta actividad usando su propia

lengua materna. Ester me dice que es muy importante proporcionar un espacio para esas personas que solamente hablan español, pero que también son bienvenidos otros miembros de la comunidad que quieran participar y practicar o aprender español.

Ester piensa que aún siendo el segundo idioma más hablado en Franklin County no hay una presencia muy visible, ni muchas actividades dirigidas a personas que hablan español. Uno de los objetivos principales de Ester es reunir a colectivos que tengan en común el español o la cultura hispana, ya sean personas nativas o no, y crear lazos que puedan perdurar más allá de esa reunión mensual.

Ester quiere hacer un llamamiento a hablantes nativos de español para sepan que este es un espacio seguro y que quiere ser un lugar de encuentro y de expresión para todos, no importa de dónde vienes, lo importante es querer compartir tus experiencias en español o escuchar las de otros.

Se encuentran al mediodía con una mesa al aire libre con algunas sillas alrededor, y un cartel que indica que allí es la hora de español y puedes sentarte con ellos si quieres. Ester lleva tarjetas, o juegos en español, para empezar la conversación en español y romper el hielo. A partir de ahí empieza la conversación en español, las preguntas,

las dudas, los chistes, las charlas de cultura, etc.

El objetivo final de Ester es que lleguen a la hora de español muchas personas de diferentes culturas y países y que la hora de español sea un lugar de encuentro para estas personas que de otra forma quizás nunca se hubieran encontrado. Ester quiere también empezar una pequeña biblioteca de libros en español, ya sean libros para aprender español, o de lectura en español, y las donaciones para idea son muy bienvenidas. Otros recursos que se irán añadiendo a la biblioteca son música y películas.

Lo ideal sería encontrar un espacio físico para la comunidad hablante de español tuviera un lugar para reunirse, hablar español, celebrar la cultura, compartir las diversas comidas, la música y el baile. La cultura hispana y latina es muy amplia y Greenfield debería crear un espacio para dar visibilidad a esta comunidad.

Si quieren saber más sobre esta organización, quieren trabajar con ellos como voluntario, hacer una donación o simplemente acudir a su almuerzo comunitario, pueden consultar su página web: www.thestonesoupcafe.org.

Y si quiere tener más información sobre la hora de español, pueden contactar con Ester en español o en inglés en su correo electrónico: estergonzman@gmail.com.

IN MEMORIAM



Marianela de Aguilera Lodeiro
(Lugo, junio 1940 – Salamanca, febrero 2022)

- **Center for New Americans.** CNA ofrece clases gratuitas de inglés, formación y apoyo legal. Las clases se dan en diversos horarios, en dos modalidades: en línea presencial en Turners Falls y Greenfield. Si ustedes quieren recibir más información, por favor, póngase en contacto con Laurie en su correo electrónico: laurie@cnam.org.

- **The Great Falls Apple Corps Table:** Vuelve la mesa con comida y ropa gratuita que ha estado invernando a causa del clima. La próxima fecha es el sábado 19 de marzo de 12 a 3 de la tarde en el 109 de Avenue A en Turners Falls.



- **Voces inmigrantes: una celebración de las artes.** Este popular evento tendrá lugar el 22 de mayo organizado por CNA. Center for New Americans quiere invitar a inmigrantes que deseen compartir un pedacito de su cultura ya sea con una canción, un baile, un poema o con cualquier

otra manifestación artística a que se pongan en contacto con Biani Salas a través de su correo electrónico: biani@cnam.org.

- **Food Bank of Western Massachusetts** sigue ofreciendo alimentos gratis cada tercer miércoles de mes en el parking del Senior Center en Turners Falls cuya dirección es 62 5th Street. Por favor, asegúrense de traer sus propias bolsas, así como mascarillas. Este programa se realiza en alianza con FCCMP y Montague COA. Si tienen preguntas, contacten con *The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts* en el teléfono: (413) 247-9738.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



FRIDAY, MARCH 18

Shutesbury Athletic Club: *Aida O'Brien*. \$, benefit for Transhealth Northampton and the Okra Project. 6 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *The Relatives, Hollow Deck, Webb Crawford, Ted Reichman*. Jazz and experimental. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Kaleta & Super Yamba Band*. \$ 8 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *The Psychedelic Furs, Royston Langford*. \$ 8 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Vapors of Morphine, Jordan Holtz*. \$ 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Mud Season*, festival feat. *Young and Old, Dave Bulley Band, Love Crumbs, Cloudbelly, Eric Lee*, more. \$ 11:30 a.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Thus Love, Jeopardy, Moxie, Laven-dula*, more. Benefit for the Women's Freedom Center. \$ 6 p.m.

Mount Toby Friends Meeting-house, Leverett: *Maggie*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Libby's Place: Honky Tonk Takeover*. Benefit for Trans Asylum Seekers Network. \$ 8 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Henry Rollins*. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 20

Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Rosie Porter Trio*. 3 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Adam Ezra Group*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *David Bromberg Quintet*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

10 Forward, Greenfield: *The Greys, Hedge Witch, Anjali Rose, Oli D Remembers*. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Fennario*, Grateful Dead tribute. \$ 8 p.m.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Car Seat Headrest, Barteas Strange*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

Brewery at Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Erin Harpe Country Blues Duo*. 6:30 p.m.

Integrative Learning Center, Amherst: *Perennial, Les Derailleurs*,

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Wailers, Roots of Creation*. \$ 8 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Lorkin O'Reilly, Melanie MacLaren*. \$ 8 p.m.

Treehouse Brewing, Deerfield: *M. Ward*. \$ 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Dead Man's Waltz*. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Thao, Why Bonnie*. \$ 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

Palladium, Worcester: *Obituary, Gruesome, 200 Stab Wounds*. \$ 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Magruga, Nighttime, Alexia Avina, Hoonah*. \$ 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Moon Hollow*. 6 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Amy Helm*. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Bella's Bartok, Melatonin*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *A Band of Killers, The Silks*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Hubby Jenkins*. \$ 8 p.m.

Northampton Center for the Arts: *mssv (feat. Mike Watt), Gloyd*. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Moon Hollow, JJ Slater, High Tea, Olivia Nied*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Jill Sobule*. \$ 7 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Bela Fleck's My Bluegrass*

Heart. \$ 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Zurich Cloud Motors, Death Spiral, Puh'Darree Dzerryo*. \$ 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 7

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Guerilla Toss, Zebu!*. 8:30 p.m.

Calvin Theater, Northampton: *The Magnetic Fields*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRI-SUN, APRIL 8-10

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Lido Pimienta, Combo Chimbata, Les Filles de Illighadad, Alash Ensemble, and Garth Stevenson*. \$ See www.bombyx.live/collid-erfest for more information.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

Palladium, Worcester: *Rise Against, Pennywise*. \$ 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *The Suitcase Junket, Philip B. Prince*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Start Making Sense, Talking Heads* tribute. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Bitch*. \$ 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Kali Malone, Stephen O'Malley*. \$ 7 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Cowboy Junkies*. \$ 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Glenn Jones, Vic Rawlings*. \$ 8 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Club d'Elf* with *John Medeski*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Giraffes? Giraffes!*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Thus Love, Guy Ferrari, Roost*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Mad Professor*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Cloudbelly*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Godspeed You Black Emperor*. \$ 8 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Giraffes? Giraffes!, Ava Mendoza*. \$ 7 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 18

Nova Arts, Keene: *Come, J. Mascis*. \$ 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

Colonial Theater, Keene: *Melissa Etheridge*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22

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

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Juana Molina*. \$ 8 p.m.

COMICS and PUZZLE

JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION

OVER THE HILL
Carolyn Clark

Panel 1: "Is your migraine any better, Thelma?"
Panel 2: "No, it's a guilt migraine."
Panel 3: "It's what I don't do. Our lives are too comfortable."
Panel 4: "We have food and shelter and are safe, while so many suffer. But we help, Cupcake."
Panel 5: "We gave money to Unicef and to Doctors Without Borders and Americare."
Panel 6: "It's not enough. It's just not enough."

Three Degrees of Warming
By Janice Rowan

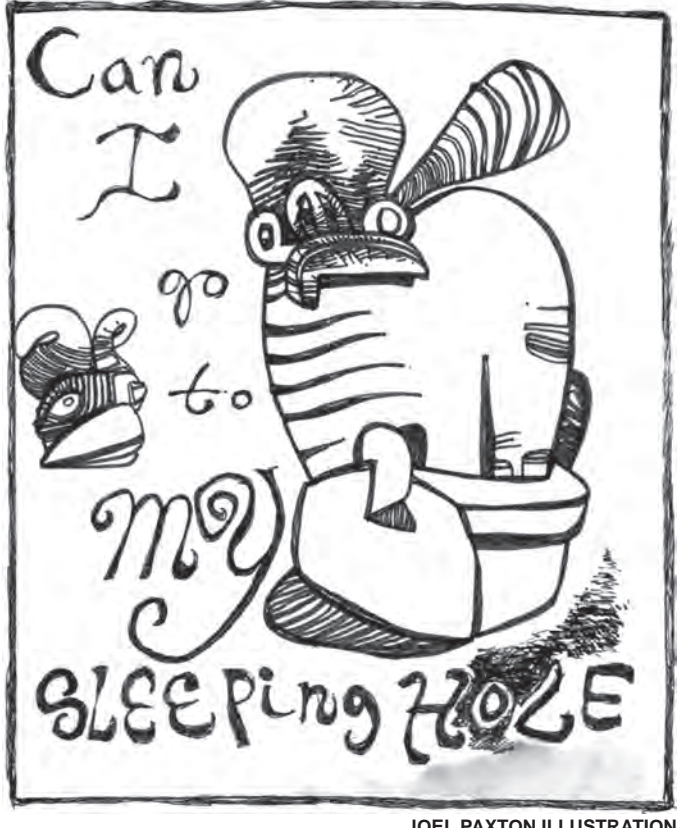
FAST FASHION

Panel 1: "Killing The Earth" (woman in a green dress)
Panel 2: "One" (woman in a black suit)
Panel 3: "outfit" (woman in a brown jacket and blue skirt)
Panel 4: "At a Time" (woman in a red jacket and purple top)
Panel 5: "66" (woman in a blue dress)

Submit your comics and puzzles to editor@montaguereporter.org. Original & local creations only, please!

Answers: "Letter To the World"

- Last week's answer for Photo 7 mistakenly repeated the Photo 5 answer (the Shea planter). Apologies for the mistake! Bestie will be back in the Spring with a little agricultural tour.
- 7: On skis in the Wildlife Management area in Montague.
- 8: Looking towards Barton Cove from the shore at Turners Falls.
- 9: On the Smith College campus in Northampton.



JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION

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CLAIRVAUX from page B1

said that his mother accepted this with humor and good grace, and that Rollins reading "Kropotkin, Ruskin, and William Morris, helped him form a distrust of the 'machine' and the social system that fostered it... and [he] read himself out of his inherited Republicanism into Socialism."

Restless after three years at Harvard, he left and worked for a few of the better printing companies in Boston, honing his skills and making connections in the printing world.

In 1903, Edward Pressey, the founder of New Clairvaux, went to Boston on one of his speaking tours to drum up interest for people to come to Montague Center and join his group dedicated to a simpler life before machine-built products took over.

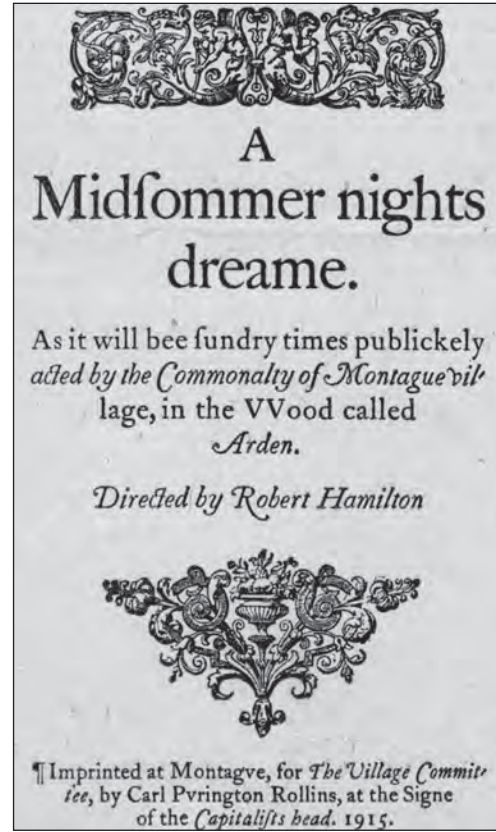
Pressey was also looking for someone to give him some general printing advice for his writings, and to help set up a printing course for young men as part of his vision of having a school as well. He asked Rollins' boss if he knew anyone who might come out to Montague Center at least for a few weeks, and Rollins - who had said he disliked living in the city, and was quoted as saying "the best way to improve a city is to raze it" - was intrigued.

So in 1903, at the age of 23, Rollins came out to Montague Center to have a look at what this New Clairvaux group was all about; he knew they were publishing manifestos about their work, but he wanted to see for himself. Arriving in Montague Center to work, he was installed in the Village Shop in a "pleasant workroom where he threw out Pressey's ill-chosen typefaces and installed Caslon typeface for his work" printing for New Clairvaux.

Again, his wife Margaret writes about Rollins' impressions of Montague Center and Pressey: "He fell in love with the countryside... and he respected Pressey's democratic organization of the community. It was truly a free society."

However, Rollins never seemed to have any fondness for Pressey himself: "[Pressey] could be an exceptionally exasperating person because he couldn't tell the difference between fact and fancy - he wrote of the Vision of New Clairvaux as if it were a dream that had materialized and people came to see the wondrous sight, took a look, and went home disillusioned."

Rollins' mother also was unimpressed with Pressey and his accomplishments, but as a loy-



Left: The December 1904 edition of Country Time and Tide, published by Rollins at Montague. Middle: The program of a Shakespeare pageant at Montague Center in 1915. Right: Chairs attributed to the Dyke Mill in Antiques Magazine, February 1922.

al mother, she sponsored New Clairvaux handicraft exhibits at her own house in Newburyport, which she decorated with William Morris wallpaper and other Arts and Crafts artifacts.

Rollins fell in with a congenial group of New Clairvaux practitioners also from Harvard such as Waldo Truesdell, who was trying his hand at woodworking, and George Holcomb, who was raising chickens and teaching at Amherst Agricultural College (now UMass). Rollins also formed associations with some academics from Old Deerfield, and seemed to be settling in and enjoying himself.

The printing stock and tools were transferred to him, and his letterhead read:

The New Clairvaux Press
Carl Purington Rollins
Montague, Massachusetts

He started a monthly "magazine," which was more of a broadsheet, called the Country Time and Tide, which ran until 1908. Old Deerfield has a few of them for perusal.

The paper noted local events: when the next meeting of the Socialist Club (which

Rollins started) was; dates for the outdoor staging of Shakespearean plays in tow; a birdwatching column; notes about who had arrived lately for a visit; and advertising of people's projects and goods for sale. Rollins also created advertising logos for local products, as well as their packaging, in the case of the community candlemaker. All this was in addition to printing Pressey's lectures and other writings about New Clairvaux.

While he told friends that these printing jobs were not the kind of work he really wanted, he was willing to bide his time and enjoy the pleasant surroundings.

Suddenly, however, a health crisis struck Rollins; he lost the vision in one eye, and doctors told him it would prevent him from being able to continue to do the close work required of a printer. His family was alarmed and convinced him to leave Montague Center to seek further medical care and rest his vision.

Rollins' wife wrote years later that it was probably a detached retina, but unfortunately for him, the effective treatment for this wasn't developed until after World War I, too late for him. He tried his hand at a few other kinds of employment that friends arranged

for him, headed the Graphic Arts Department of the Jamestown Exposition in 1907, and even took a walking tour of Europe (how this would help his eyesight is unclear). Still, he was convinced that the open air of Western Massachusetts would somehow help him, and he returned to Montague Center in 1907.

Rollins tried raising small fruits on Taylor Hill, but as Margaret would note, "he was no farmer," and he decided that he really wanted to try printing again - maybe combining it with going in with Charles Kimball as a woodworker.

"Just as Antaeus, the giant of Greek mythology, gained strength when he touched the earth, so Carl functioned best when he had a stick of type in his hand," his wife later wrote. "He even liked to distribute type - said it was soothing to the nerves, like plain knitting to a woman."

So, despite his vision problems, Rollins became a printer again and remained so for the rest of his life, far beyond Montague Center and New Clairvaux.

We will continue with this printer's tale next week.



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