

The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

PHYSICS

Derby Day in Turners Falls



ED GREGORY PHOTO

Leslie Jackson of Turners Falls (left) and Alistair MacMartin of Wendell (right) start rolling down the ramps atop Unity Street during Sunday's adult heats.

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – Last Sunday, a crowd of over 250 people lined the bottom of the steep hill which leads down to Unity Park to watch the latest incarnation of Montague's Soapbox Derby. The crowd was a bit smaller than in the past, and there were only two food vendors, but no one seemed to mind. It was a warm, late-summer day and the event, as always, was marked by creatively constructed vehicles, a very diverse mixture of young and old participants and fans, well-known business sponsors, and of course perpetual funny commentary from the soundstage by local luminaries.

Racers were divided into three categories by age, and judged by the combined times of two runs down the hill, or "heats." "Style"

awards were also given for the Most Funniest Cart, the Most Traditional, and the Best Paint Job.

WRSI radio announcer Monte Belmonte, advised by state representative Natalie Blais, was in charge of the style points, and they were joined on stage by race announcer Russ Brown and Jen Peterson, the race's official "recorder."

The Kids' division was won by a vehicle called the "Speeding Scouts," driven by Hugo Taggart and sponsored by the Troop 5 Boy Scouts of Greenfield. Placing second was Quill Bullock, steering the *Ghostbusters*-themed "ECTO-1," and third was Elijah Eckert in a cart with a bee motif.

Jenna Petrowicz dominated the Teen division in her "Fastest Little Indian" cart, followed by Gage Stanislawski and Anthony Arabia, see **DERBY** page A5



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

New Salem's Elijah Eckert speeds down the track in *The Queen*. Eckert placed third in the Kids division, and took home the prize for Best Paint Job.

MISSION DRIFT

The Book Distribution Hub That Bails People Out of Jail

By CHARLOTTE MURTISHAW

GREENFIELD – Now a couple years into the pandemic-born anti-capitalist experiment that is western Massachusetts's only self-proclaimed online local bookstore, Massive Bookshop founder Andrew Ritchey sees big changes emerging, with more on the horizon.

For one, the URL is claiming more IRL space than ever, with the addition of an office space and appearances at local tabling events; for another, the formerly scatter-shot approach to monetary redistribution is honing in on partnerships with organizations working against mass incarceration, leading to the new MB tagline: "The bookstore that bails people out of jail."

Ritchey hopped on the phone with the *Montague Reporter* to explain how things have evolved since he last talked to the paper in January 2021, and to discuss Massive Bookshop's position in the broader landscapes of book distribution and prison abolition.

MR: You mentioned there's a whole bunch of new updates regarding Massive Bookshop. Would you want to share any of those?

AR: In the two years that we've been operating, [the business has] been changing pretty much constantly, from month to month – learning new things about the book business, developing new relationships, meeting new people and see **BOOKSTORE** page A4

Commission May Have the Right to Stall Farren Demo

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE CITY – Seventeen months have passed since Trinity Health New England moved the last long-term care residents of the Farren Care Center to a Holyoke nursing home it was selling off, and ten months since the Catholic non-profit announced plans to demolish the building.

Though most Montague officials have indicated support for Trinity's offer to remediate the property and donate the land to the town, the plan has drawn opponents who hope the turn-of-the-century hospital can be redeveloped. Now a new town by-law could prolong the process.

In May, by a 27-15 town meeting vote, Montague joined over 150 other Massachusetts municipalities in approving a "demolition delay" bylaw, granting the historical commission the authority to defer a demolition permit for up to one year if it finds that destroying a building "would be detrimental to the historical or architectural heritage of the Town".

The bylaw was reportedly cleared by the state attorney general's office early this month, and must be posted in several public see **DEMOLITION** page A8

Elementary School's Namesake Remembered

By CHIP AINSWORTH

TURNERS FALLS – There was a time when harness horses raced in front of the grandstand at the Franklin County Fair and motorcyclists tested their derring-do inside a bowl-shaped oval where spectators gazed down at them. There was a \$100 prize for any biker who could stay above the yellow line for an impossibly long period of time, mere seconds that felt like hours.

Harry Childs, a Deerfield farmer who owned an Indian motorcycle, said the snot, nausea, and dizziness combined to make the feat impossible.

Powertown's George Bush is one of the last men standing from those days, and he reminisced about when the Fair would host a high school track meet and cheerleading contest.

In 1943, the Turners Falls High School track team was coached by the likeable Joe Sheff. A TFHS grad, Sheff attended William & Mary and transferred to UMass. After he graduated he taught chemistry and biology at TFHS, and coached three sports. Besides track he was an assistant baseball coach under the legendary Earl Lorden, and mentored the basketball team captained by Bush.

see **AINSWORTH** page A8

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Health Director Steps Down After Three 'Unusual' Years

By JEFF SINGLETON

Daniel Wasiuk, who has served as director of the Montague health department since 2019, will be leaving his post on October 6, the town selectboard learned from town administrator Steve Ellis at its meeting Monday night. Ellis said Wasiuk will be taking a position of health director in Southbridge.

"He was here for some of the most difficult and unusual years that a health department could experience," said Ellis, referring to the COVID pandemic.

"I was surprised," board of health chair Melanie Zamojski told this newspaper. "It will be a difficult loss, and difficult shoes to fill, but I wish him well."

During the early months of the pandemic, Wasiuk reported the latest COVID metrics to the selectboard, which served as the ba-



Daniel Wasiuk, in a 2019 file photo.

sis for town policies such as mask mandates. Those reports became less frequent in the past year, and that role has recently been assumed by Zamojski in collaboration with an epidemiologist hired under a grant-funded regional collaboration.

The board of health board had a see **MONTAGUE** page A7

G-M REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Some Normalcy Attained

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – After months of vacancies and vacations, Tuesday's regional school committee meeting featured a nearly full committee. Only Gill member Bill Tomb was absent. Chair Jane Oakes said Tomb was attending a meeting

of the six-town planning board, and she expected him to report back at the next meeting on the status of that project, which is assessing the feasibility of combining Gill and Montague with Leyden, Bernardston, Warwick, and Northfield schools, the current Pioneer Valley district.

see **GMRSD** page A2

High School Sports Week

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – The two boys' sports this week's article focuses on, football and soccer, have been a source of debate for many years in Turners Falls. Turners has always been a football town. I found out at the fair last week that this reputation exceeds the borders of Franklin County.

When I was in high school, football was the big sport, and soccer was merely an afterthought. We did have an intermural soccer team, which was started by one of the commune kids, but football, cross-coun-

try, and golf were the main fall sports at Turners Falls High School.

And then the tech school was built. Kids from all over the county, who had played soccer for years, formed a very good Franklin Tech soccer team.

But at Turners, football remained king. Rumor had it that our athletic director, E.B., never wanted a soccer team because it would take away from the football team.

Tech soon built a football program of their own, and cleared some land for a field. Shortly thereafter, the two cross-road schools faced see **SPORTS** page A5

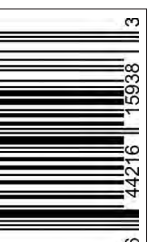


DAVID HOJTT PHOTO

The Franklin Tech Eagles' David Klemptner-Siano moves in for a shot as Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School goalkeeper Pom-Richard Ang comes out of the net for the save. Klemptner-Siano scored three goals for the Eagles during the first half of last Wednesday's game against the PVCICS Dragons.

Floods and Wildfires, A Slowly Shifting Vibe

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The Montague Reporter

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To the Vineyard

IT IS sometimes asked, with an air of seeming triumph, what inducements could the States have, if disunited, to make war upon each other? It would be a full answer to this question to say – precisely the same inducements which have, at different times, deluged in blood all the nations in the world.

– Alexander Hamilton,
Federalist No. 7 (1787)

Texas governor Greg Abbott has spent the last five months playing politics with the lives of refugees and asylum-seekers, chartering buses and security contractors to ship thousands of people from his Southern border state to Washington, DC, New York City, and Chicago. It's sharp political theater – at least in the eyes of his voting base – and it's performed in the context of a stiff challenge for his seat from young celebrity politician O'Rourke.

The bus rides are voluntary, and the program has cost taxpayers over \$14 million so far.

"Abbott is one of the only state actors that is giving immigrants a free benefit," Central American Resource Center executive director Abel Nuñez pointed out to Houston Public Media earlier this month. "You're actually creating a free program that if a Democrat would have said it, he would have gone against it."

Nuñez pointed out that the on-going program may even be incentivizing Central American migrants to try to reach Texas.

In recent months, Venezuela has become the second-most-prevalent country of origin for migrants – after Mexico, a populous immediate abutter historically intertwined with the US South in every conceivable way. Nearly 7 million people have fled Venezuela in recent years, a same scale comparable to if not greater than cross-border refugee flows out of Ukraine during the Russian invasion of that country.

During the first months of the COVID pandemic, the Trump administration implemented a policy known as Title 42, which held that the public health emergency overrode migrants' right to request asylum. The Mexican government agreed to take in people from Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and its own territory expelled from the US – migrants who typically enter by land.

People leaving Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela had typically

arrived at airports and made it into the asylum request system. But within the last year there has been a dramatic shift as tens of thousands of Venezuelans have made a dangerous land journey north.

And last week, *Reuters* reported that the Biden administration has been "quietly pressing" the Mexican state to accept expelled Cubans, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans.

These mass migrations are a feature of our species as we inhabit the planet, and they will only increase in our lives – climate, food, and water catastrophes drive violence in the equatorial zone, and people flee toward safety. Here, though, they are met with increasingly sadistic political posturing that at the end of the day is no less violent.

Jealous, apparently, of Abbott's beligerence-vs.-migration show and looking to raise his profile on the national right-wing stage, Florida governor Ron DeSantis apparently went so far as to lure four dozen Venezuelan asylum seekers onto planes under false pretenses and dump them on Martha's Vineyard.

While advocates, organizers, and attorneys were still scrambling to marshal support for the victims, Amherst and Northampton both received hoax calls that buses were coming. Buses may yet arrive – and in general, western Massachusetts should be as prepared as anywhere to welcome in many more humans in crisis, whether they hail from El Salvador or Puerto Rico or Iran or North Carolina.

And we should also take seriously Abbott and DeSantis's maneuvers, because they reflect the end game of a US two-party system adapting completely to federalism. With Democrats controlling the federal executive and Republicans the judiciary, the latter can use state governments not only to launch legal attacks on federally guaranteed rights and social programs, but potentially to enact material policies of their own intended to burden and undermine enemy states.

Because that's where this is going: enemy states, with rival visions of how America as a whole should fit into the global political, social, and economic order. The ways we either welcome and incorporate or attack and expel people born outside our borders will be a winner-take-all struggle as the hot 21st century progresses – just as the states used to compete bitterly over which economic pattern would expand westward. And we all know how *that* one went.



Mary Lauren Fraser weaves a willow coffin at her Third Street studio in Turners Falls. When Fraser first started this craft, she was the only casket weaver in the country. Now there are five, and she taught two of them. She also weaves urns and other baskets. See www.fraserbaskets.com for more information.

GMRSD from page A1

Early release days will be held next Wednesday, and then again on October 20 and 21 for parent-teacher conferences. Mid-October brings Booster Week at the high school, the annual Gill Elementary bonfire on the 14th, and then the Homecoming Dance on the 15th, held in an outdoor courtyard.

Superintendent Brian Beck reported that Franklin County is currently considered a "low risk" zone for COVID-19. He added that the district is in "pretty constant contact" with public health professionals at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments who hope to combine school reporting, wastewater testing, and other sources to gain a more accurate sense of the virus's prevalence.

Cristina Marcalow, a newly appointed member from Gill, asked whether the district had a "line in the sand, a certain number that triggers a change in school policy."

Beck explained that the case count reports were a holdover from an earlier "process of bargaining to get out of remote, and get back on campus," kept on meeting agendas as a "means of being able to monitor the presence of the virus," but that there is no "hard and fast threshold, even for informing families or encouraging masking," and no guidance from the state on the issue.

Director of teaching and learning Jeanne Powers gave an update on efforts to address pandemic learning loss. About 100 elementary, 20 to 25 middle school, and 30 high school students came to summer school programs, she said.

Computer assessments using the program iReady are being taken at all grade levels, allowing for targeted interventions. Reading support groups at the elementary schools are apparently having an impact – "we've already seen some jumps," Powers reported.

The committee unanimously authorized 48 bank accounts for student clubs and classes, which

it must do each year. Money from fundraisers stays at grade levels in the elementary and middle schools, but it moves along with classes at the high school level.

Business manager Joanne Blier reported that the district will receive more in rural aid from the state than had previously been estimated. The roughly \$45,000 in the budget goes toward repaying the town of Montague for the school police officer; about \$25,000 more is expected "to figure out what to do with," she said.

More rural districts receive more rural aid, she noted – about \$175,000 for the Pioneer Valley district, and about \$260,000 for Mohawk.

The committee voted unanimously to transfer \$4,237.10 left over from a recent window project at Sheffield Elementary to help pay for new floors at Hillcrest Elementary, which went over budget this summer. The district will seek a larger sum next month from Montague town meeting.

Two saws were declared as surplus property. "There is some value to these, so I'd like to put them out to bid," Blier explained.

The proposal to name the Turners Falls High School softball field after coach Gary Mullins is expected to be voted on October 25. The state requires that the district first advertise the proposal and hold public hearings.

Beck shared the news that Sabrina Duprey, who assists the superintendent and school committee, will retire after September 30. "I'm in the process of searching for a new assistant," Beck said, "and Sabrina is assisting me in that process." He praised Duprey's "knowledge, professionalism, and kindness" and "incredibly valuable work."

The committee unanimously approved an updated job description for the position. One new line specifies that the assistant "[a]ssists Superintendent in responding to requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act."

"All schools have gotten tons of those," said Beck, "and it wasn't included in the [previous] job description."

The professional association Massachusetts Computer-Using Educators (MassCUE) has awarded Gill-Montague director of technology Tina Mahaney its Administrator Award for "visionary leadership in the field of educational technology." Mahaney is the only educator in the state to win the award this year, and the first since 2019; an award statement described her as "a leader that the entire Administration Team looks to for feedback, insight and support."

"I'm glad you're finally getting the recognition at the state level that you so richly deserve," Beck told her. School committee members clapped silently on their muted Zoom screens. An award ceremony is scheduled for the MassCUE conference next month at Gillette Stadium.

School committee members will hold their own statewide convention on Cape Cod, the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC), in early November. Montague member Jennifer Waryas will convey the Gill-Montague group's votes on a number of resolutions, and on Tuesday the committee read through these but did not discuss them or vote.

This year's six resolutions pertain to ensuring civil rights for transgender students; raising the cap on districts' special education reserve funds; allowing towns to keep another reserve fund to help cover increases in their regional assessments; promoting financial literacy curricula; urging the state to relinquish its receivership of several urban districts, and to limit "any future state takeovers" to three years; and allowing teachers onto the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

"To be honest, often they don't really go anywhere," Oakes said of the MASC resolutions.

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Congratulations to our seven Wrapping Paper designers! We received 34 proposals in answer to our call for designers for the second special Wrapping Paper Edition of this newspaper, slated for printing during the third week of November.

The selected artists are Danielle Adams, Sunny Allis, Elizabeth Bradley, Madge Evers, Julia Mongeon, Andie Peach, and Rochelle Shicoff. Each winner receives \$200 and ten copies of the edition, which will be for sale at local stores for \$5 apiece.

If you own a local business and would like to help sell the wrapping paper, let us know! This fundraiser raised about \$5,000 for our little community newspaper in 2020.

The **Canal Drawdown History Stroll** starts at 7 p.m. tonight, Thursday, September 22, from the Great Falls Discovery Center. Meet at the entrance of the Center for a two-mile walk with a talk down the Canalside Rail Trail.

The Source to Sea cleanup along the canal and river takes place this Saturday, September 24. Contact Department of Conservation and recreation staff at the Center for information about this event, and to register to help, at (413) 863-3221.

The **Museum of Industrial Heritage** will hold an open house from

10 a.m. until 7 p.m. this Saturday, September 24. There will be demonstrations of locally-made thread cutting and hand tools, and a blacksmithing demonstration from noon to 4 p.m. The Greenfield Historical Commission will also have copies of their most recent publication, a monograph on the town common, Court Square, and Bank Row. Find out more at industrialhistory.org.

The Northfield Bird Club is holding **two Saturday bird walks in our vicinity**, both at 8:30 a.m.: Saturday, September 24 at the Migratory Way parking lot in the Patch at Turners Falls, and Saturday, October 1 at the bulletin board at Blake Forest, Gill. Questions? Contact Nick Fleck at flecknick@gmail.com.

The **Brick House Community Resource Center** invites you to a **breakfast** so they can share information about their programs and services. Their Fall Community Breakfast will be held on next Wednesday, September 28 from 8 to 10 a.m. at the Brick House, 24 Third Street in Turners Falls. There will be bagels and other fall goodies.

Deus Ex Machina comes back to the **Shea Theater** in Turners Falls again on September 29, 30, and October 1 at 7 and 9 p.m. The immersive theater experience maintains a one-to-one audience-to-performer ratio, and uses the entire

theater space for a guided interaction with the building's history as a jumping-off point.

Monte Belmonte, Joe Dulude II, Matthew Glassman, and Tara Bolland are included in the event, directed by John Bechtold with choreography by Lori Holmes-Clark, all under the umbrella of Eggtooth Productions. Get your tickets at sheatheater.org.

Great Falls Books Through Bars is up and running in their new space at 104 Fourth Street, and they are hosting a volunteer day on Saturday, September 24 from 2 to 5 p.m. Help pack and sort books to send to incarcerated people, or just pop in to say hi and check out the space. For more information, contact gfbbooksthroughbars@riseup.net.

Friday, September 30 is the next **Greenfield Arts Walk** from 5 to 8 p.m. in downtown Greenfield. Cruise along through eight locations with art and live performance, including Madhouse Multi-Arts, the LAVA Center, Hawks & Reed, Looky Here, Cara Finch Gallery, and more.

Next Friday, September 30 at 7 p.m., the New Salem Public Library will host a presentation by photographer Dale Monette called "**Quabbin, Then and Now**" in the Library Community Room. Monette uses Quabbin Reservoir archive photographs taken in the mid-1930s with photos from the same locations in the present day. Many never-seen photos from the archives are included. For more information, contact the New Salem Public library at (978) 544-6334 or n_salem@cwmmars.org.

On Saturday, October 1 there will be **live music at the Stone Soup Café** in Greenfield from

12:30 to 1:30 p.m. The Hey Hey Club Big Band will swing tunes from the '30s and '40s and the American Songbook.

Stone Soup slings a pay-what-you-can, deliciously healthy meal at noon.

A new **Canal Investigation Station** is coming to the Canalside Rail Trail entrance by the Discovery Center in October. This resource, put together in partnership with the Montague Libraries, will have staff who can help you learn some history about where you are.

The dates are Saturday and Sunday, October 1 and 2 and Sunday, October 9, from 2 to 5 p.m. Find the station inside the Center if it rains.

If you are a performer, teacher, artist, etc. you may be interested to know that the local cultural councils are opening up the process for the **annual grant cycle**. Residents of Franklin County can find their local council application at the LCC grants page on massculturalcouncil.org. The deadline is October 1, so now is the time to get cracking!

It's also time to apply for one-time cultural sector recovery grants for individuals and organizations, and if you are a festival organizer there are grants available for expanding your programming as well.

Did you ever work at a place filled with the furious thud of people pounding away at typewriters? Get nostalgic with the **Boston Typewriter Orchestra** at TurnPark Artspace in West Stockbridge on October 1 from 2 to 4 p.m.

This former quarry-turned-performance venue hosts the unusual percussion group who perform with typewriters and voice. They formed in 2004, and hail from the Boston area. These folks manage to incorporate a wide variety of musical references into their unique sound while also challenging the notion of music itself. Get archaic tickets at tinyurl.com/typing-tunes.

The Friends of Montague Public Libraries' **monthly book sale** will be held Saturday, October 1 in the Carnegie Library basement from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hundreds of recent adult fiction, non-fiction, young adult, and children's books will be available as well as DVDs, audiobooks, and jigsaw puzzles. Proceeds benefit library programs.

A **workshop on repairing and resetting gravestones** will take place on October 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Wendell Center Cemetery. The workshop will be conducted by Ta Mara Conde and is sponsored by the Wendell Cemetery Commission and the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Pre-registration may be made by contacting Sylvia Wetherby at rosebriarfarm68@gmail.com or Florrie Blackbird at fblackbird@gmail.com. The \$15 fee may be paid on the day of the workshop.

The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission plans to distribute **free pedal-assisted e-bikes** to 50 qualifying individuals next spring. If you are interested in being considered for a free bike, fill out the form at tinyurl.com/bike-app. All FRTA buses are now fitted with bike racks, making it easier to get around on one.

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Peskeomskut Audio Tour Goes Live

TURNERS FALLS – RiverCulture is pleased to announce the launch of the Peskeomskut Audio Tour, this Saturday, September 24 at Unity Park in Turners Falls. The self-guided, cell phone-enabled tour starts at the kiosk at the end of the bike path on First Street.

Funded with an Expand Massachusetts Stories Grant from Mass Humanities, the Peskeomskut Audio Tour explores the nuanced local history of Peskeomskut, an important Native American settlement sieged in 1676 during King

Philip's War. The goal of this project is to ignite interest in Indigenous, Colonial, and Industrial Era history and to honor the continuance the Nipmuc, Wampanoag, and Abenaki people. Story topics range from ancient Indigenous history to the 19th-century industrial era.

To connect to a story, simply scan one of the tour's QR codes located on posts along the bike path. You will be directed to the audio file that coordinates with that point. RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto would like to thank co-

chair David Brule of the Nolumbeka Project, Rebecca Chase and Dan Bovair of AudriLife, Mass Humanities, DCR, and FirstLight Power for their partnership.

Special thanks to storytellers Rich Holschuh, Doug Harris, Liz "Coldwind" Santana-Kiser, Kit Carpenter, Robert Perry, Ed Gregory, Chris Clawson, Dr. Kevin McBride, and Dr. Ashley Bissonette.

Music for the Peskeomskut Audio Tour was kindly donated by Hawk Henriess, Kenny Butler, and Jesse Bowman Bruchac.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Turners/Montague: Water Rate Increase

MONTAGUE – The Turners Falls Water Department Board of Commissioners has voted to revise the water rates for an increase of twenty-five cents per thousand gallons. The new minimum usage charge for those who live within the Turners Falls Fire District will be \$35 and those outside of the TFFD will be \$80.00.

Water usage is based on a six-month period, approximately April 1 through Sept. 30 for summer reads and approximately October 1 through March 31 for winter reads. The new billing period will start after the readings in October and will be reflected on the May 1, 2023 bill.

The new rates are as follows:

Within the Turners Falls Fire District		Outside the Turners Falls Fire District	
Gallons used:	Rate:	Gallons used:	Rate:
0 to 12,000	\$35.00 minimum charge	0 to 15,000	\$80.00 minimum charge
13,000 to 200,000	\$2.85 per 1,000 gallons	13,000 to 200,000	\$5.15 per 1,000 gallons
201,000 to 400,000	\$3.05 per 1,000 gallons	201,000 to 400,000	\$5.35 per 1,000 gallons
401,000 to 600,000	\$3.25 per 1,000 gallons	401,000 to 600,000	\$5.55 per 1,000 gallons
601,000 to 800,000	\$3.45 per 1,000 gallons	601,000 to 800,000	\$5.75 per 1,000 gallons
801,000 to 1,000,000	\$3.65 per 1,000 gallons	801,000 to 1,000,000	\$5.95 per 1,000 gallons
1,001,000 and above	\$3.85 per 1,000 gallons	1,001,000 and above	\$6.15 per 1,000 gallons

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BOOKSTORE from page A1

different organizations.

In those two years, the business model has been to use the website as a way to generate revenue for all these different projects, mostly pretty small mutual aid and community-building projects. That has been great and really exciting. We've supported different organizations in Western Mass, and we've helped to partly subsidize the rent for different organizations to try out new things.

But one of the things that has become apparent in this past year... is that the volatility in the book sale market doesn't really lend itself to the way we were trying to use both the small margins and the monthly donations. It's better if people can just support those organizations themselves - the money goes further.

MR: So what's the next step now, having that awareness of how unpredictable these revenue streams are, and how that fits with your original vision?

AR: There are other things that have become apparent. For example, people prefer to buy used books, and people prefer an in-person browsing experience. One thing we have done is popup sales, selling both new and used books, and those have been pretty successful. I think that moving forward we're going to want to do more of those. That's just a matter of capacity, getting the people who are interested in doing that to volunteer to work a table to sell a bunch of books.

We're also going to be renting space in the Franklin County Community Development Corporation venture center. It's office space, which we're going to use as storage space for a lot of the new book inventory. They're great - they help local businesses expand or get started. We're getting a really nice, good rate on space there, which will enable us to streamline the new book inventory and allow us to add a lot more used books.

MR: Are all the books still stored in your basement, or has that had to diversify?

AR: Yeah, that's the other thing - it's actually gotten out of control, there's too many books in the basement and in the attic. Getting these books out of my house will be really, really exciting.

In terms of supporting community organizations, another big development in the past six months is that we've started working with Decarcerate Western Mass on their community bail fund. That's been amazing - not only to help grow the bail fund, but also to have the opportunity to actually go to the jail and post bails and learn about how that system works, the inequities of the whole cash bail system, and why it needs to end.

That has become something I think can provide a focus to the Massive Bookshop, where we're focusing on bail funds and bail reform, and it's something we can donate money to when we have it. If we have a big month and make \$1,500, we can send \$1,500 to the bail fund. [I]t's not the kind of thing where they need money every month, necessarily, it's just about trying to grow the bail fund.

MR: I saw that you have a relationship with the Noname Book Club, and I was wondering if that enhanced your interest in this direction.

AR: Yeah, definitely. When the Massive Bookshop started, the idea was that it's an alternative to Amazon. I was thinking mostly of my friends and family, people I knew, who were like, "Well, there's just no other way to get the book except on Amazon!" and I was really frustrated by that.

I saw an opportunity to get people books at a lower price, and to set up the website - we built [it] on the same infrastructure that *bookshop.org* uses, it's a website that allows people to buy books from Ingram, which is the largest book distributor in North America. So we're able to offer the same service that *bookshop.org* offers, but at lower prices,

because we can price things however we want.

And supporting indie bookstores is great - and if people want to do that, that's fine! But bailing people out of jail is even cooler. The idea was to do something kind of like what *bookshop.org* was doing but in this DIY, locally-controlled way.

And then it was through partnering with Great Falls Books Through Bars, and the Noname Book Club prison chapters. And another group, Prisons Kills - they send books to people all over the country on their list - and *In The Belly* zine, which is also kind of connected with that.

It was through partnering with those organizations and working with them that this focus on incarceration developed: on getting reading material to people who are incarcerated, and attacking the social ill of mass incarceration on multiple fronts. The Decarcerate Western Mass bail fund is the latest in extension of that.

MR: One time you mentioned that the top seller on Massive Bookshop was a book by George Jackson. I was wondering if you have thoughts on the deeper link between reading and availability of books, and incarceration and state violence.

AR: A big reason that *Blood In My Eye* has been selling as well as it has is because of groups like the Noname Book Club, and Noname herself tweeting about it, and lots of other people on social media. It's interesting - that book was initially published 50 years ago or more, and it has made this huge comeback.

What's been funny to me is that most booksellers I know were totally surprised by that. They either weren't aware of the book, or they don't even stock books by the publisher, Black Classic Press, which is one of the largest Black-owned independent publishers in the country. I don't know a single bookstore in Western Mass that stocks their books. There's a lack of awareness of like, "oh, actually, there's this really important book, and there's this real hunger to read that book."

Not just people who are incarcerated, who often can't even get that book - because it's banned and won't be allowed in, you know, for some BS reason - but also outside people who want to understand, not just the prison industrial complex, but the way that relates to colonialism and the anti-Black and fascist core of the society that we've built. So there are a lot of connections around that book, though I don't know if that really answers your question.

To me, people who are imprisoned have had everything taken from them. Everything.

And the idea that we're then also going to regulate what they're able to read in their cell, and say, "You can't read this, you can't read that," and control it, is just absolutely disgusting. It's not enough to control a person's body, you need to control their mind, you know?

MR: Are there other books you would recommend for people trying to learn more about abolition and bail reform in incarceration in America?

AR: We have an "Abolition" section on the website, which is always growing, and you can see the bestselling books in that section by just going to the website. A recent one that comes to mind is *We Do This 'Til We Free Us*, the Mariame Kaba book, which is one of our bestsellers. Mariame Kaba has published a lot of things online through different groups, very accessible stuff, really great stuff. She had a brief moment of becoming famous when she published an op-ed in the *New York Times* about abolishing the police. Her work is a really great place to start.

I think it's important to have an accessible way of approaching the topic, because what I've seen happen in the last year or so is that a lot of people are now turned off. There was a moment where "defund the police" and abolition were hot topics for a minute, and then there was this incredible reactionary wave from police unions, and journal-

ists - like the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* and mainstream journalism. There was this big reactionary wave, like, "Oh, it was a mistake, we never should have said 'defund the police,' we never should have said 'abolition.'"

And now I think actually people have kind of gotten scared, which is all the more reason to re-commit to getting these books out there.

Because it isn't a scary topic. It isn't a mistake to talk about it, to really think critically about mass incarceration, and how we approach community safety and public safety.

MR: How many people does it take to make this all happen - how many people is Massive Bookshop?

AR: It's mostly been me in terms of the operations, and we're working to cooperate and partner with different organizations.

On the operational side, there have been a couple of people locally who've been interested and have helped out with tabling and selling books, like at a book fair, and with processing some of the inventory. Especially the used books: if we want to create a listing on the website, we have to process them, get all the bibliographic information and create a listing from that.

People have helped with that, but it's been a real challenge because people don't have the capacity. I've offered people the equivalent of a living-wage stipend to work on a specific project for a limited amount of time. But even then, that person has to work their 40-hour job, or whatever it is, their multiple jobs, to make ends meet, as rents are rising and everything else that's going on.

If anyone is interested and wants to be involved with this experiment, I hope they will reach out, because there's a lot. Some of it is related to computer programming, managing data and databases, website design; some of it is just sorting books. When we're out tabling, there are lots of opportunities to just go out and sell books.

MR: Do you have any other lingering thoughts you want to share?

AR: Over the past couple of years I've learned a lot about the book business, and developed a lot of ideas about it and knowledge of it, but also critical ideas about book publishing and the book world, and I would love to have an outlet for that other than just ranting to my friends.

It would be nice to have a way to get these ideas out there, so people can talk frankly about the book business: the amount of waste in the book business; the sustainability of the book business; all the different companies that provide services to the book business that donate their profits to radical right-wing causes.

There are so many publishers - most of them are smaller - who have committed to the principle of producing and distributing something themselves, and yet there still is this perception in the industry that you've got to sell out to Amazon, sell out to Barnes and Noble, if you want to succeed. But there are presses like Half Letter Press. For 30 years they've just been making their own books, operating out of their basements... They print and distribute their own stuff, they don't sell to Amazon. And they have the other jobs that pay their bills, but because of those choices they've been able to create a sustainable publishing operation for decades. Even though we're a bookstore and not a publisher, to me that is really inspiring, because you realize that it actually is possible.

It's maybe even more sustainable to operate that way than it is to tie up all your business with these huge corporations that don't care about you.

We need to totally disinvest from Barnes and Noble and Amazon. We need to figure out another model that will consistently support authors, and small publishers, that doesn't rely on the whims of these publicly-traded corporations.

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DERBY from page A1

sharing heats on a TFHS1 cart, and another rendition of "Speeding Scouts" piloted by Alex Scotera.

Brian Bodenstein from Northfield just nosed past Sean Hilliard of Orange to win the Adult division, which also included carts sponsored by the Montague Clean Water Facility, the Turners Falls Fire Department, and the Greenfield music venue Hawks & Reed.

Hilliard won the award for the funniest cart with a creation called Turtilladilla – a turtle resembling a monster. Taggart's "Speeding Scouts" was deemed the "Most Traditional," while the award for best paint job went to Eckert's bee cart, "The Queen."

Other highlights of the race included three accidents – one of which initially appeared serious, but in the end produced only a skinned knee – and some timely internet research by Belmonte on the origins of the term "heats," as in two downhill runs equals two heats. The radio announcer came to the conclusion that the term arose, perhaps back in the late Middle Ages, from the practice of running racehorses prior to competition to warm them up.

This was the second year of the revived derby, which began in 2010 but then experienced a seven-year hiatus starting in 2014. The event was revived last year with the strong support of the Greenfield Savings

Bank, Nova Motorcycles, the Montague parks and recreation department, the Turners Falls Airport, and Seth Rutherford of 253 Farmacy.

The deeper history of soapbox derbies goes back to 1933 when, according to *Smithsonian Magazine*, a photographer noticed some boys in a wheeled crate rolling down a hill in Dayton, Ohio. This led to an annual event, a move to the city of Akron, a stadium built by the Works Progress Administration, and a national organization to promote and regulate the sport. The Montague derby is not affiliated with the All American Soap Box Derby, Inc.

Local organizer Mik Muller said his original interest in soapbox racing came from *The Little Rascals*, a TV series which was in fact made up of replays of the *Our Gang Comedies*, movie "shorts" produced from 1922 to 1944. One of the episodes, he recalled, included a soapbox race.

Muller said he built his first racing vehicle at a day camp out of plywood attached to bicycle wheels. "We blew everyone away," he said. About 15 years ago he started reminiscing with a friend about that childhood experience, and eventually decided to organize an event in Montague. It took about three years to get going.

"I don't recall who it was that made me remember the *Little Rascals*," he told this reporter. "Maybe it was you."



JERRI HIGGINS PHOTO

Above: Matthew Risch of Greenfield applies wooden brakes in the home stretch. Bottom left: Greenfield's Quill Bullock raced in the "ECTO-1," placing second in his division. Bottom right: Observers wait intently for the next heat.



MATT ROBINSON PHOTO



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

SPORTS from page A1

each other. It wasn't pretty. Again, this is from the small town chatter mill, but rumor has it that Turners may have run up the score, and that Franklin Tech may have vowed never to play Turners again.

But that was long ago. Coach Joe Gamache has run a very successful gridiron program at Franklin Tech, and currently boasts the largest team in Franklin County.

And that other fall sport? Turners Falls High School has finally caught up to the rest of the world and embraced soccer, but neither Tech nor Turners can field a full squad these days, so they have to form a cooperative team. And like the other co-op teams from the two schools, the boys' soccer team is competitive, organized, and ready to play.

This week two Franklin Tech teams came down to earth, as both the boys' soccer team and the football team dropped from the ranks of the unbeaten. The co-op soccer squad was on an incredible winning streak until this week, when they lost two straight. Tech football, meanwhile, who crushed McCann Tech last week, also saw their fortunes reverse as the Chicopee Pacers mounted a four-touchdown lead on just four plays.

Soccer

FCTS 7 – PVCICS 0
Pathfinder 4 – FCTS 0
Mahar 5 – FCTS 1

After outscoring their opponents 26 to 4 in the season's first four games, the Franklin Tech Kicking Eagles saw their streak come to an end, as the co-op soccer team lost two in a row.

Last Wednesday, September 14, they

dismantled the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School team, visiting from Hadley. Sam Lashur, David Klempler-Siano, John Ramirez, Brayden McCord, Yolin Ovalle-Meija, and Brayden McCord all scored for Tech, with Robert Belval, Colin Adams, Nikolas Martin and Ovalle-Meija all giving assists.

Then came the Eagles' skid. Last Friday, they were shut out 4-0 by Pathfinder. And on Wednesday night, they lost to the Mahar Senators 5-1. Ovalle-Meija scored Tech's lone goal in this one, with Ramirez getting the assist.

Tech travels to Chicopee next Monday, September 26, to take on the Wolves of Hampden Charter School of Science East.

Football

Chicopee 34 – FCTS 14

Last Friday, September 16, the Franklin Tech Football Eagles dropped a home game

against the Chicopee Pacers. The Pacers used a few big plays to take an early lead, and never looked back. The contest was hard and physical, and even after surrendering those 28 early points, Tech didn't give up.

The first Franklin drive was fumbled away, and Chic took over in good field position. On their first play from scrimmage, the Pacers scored; two minutes and 44 seconds into the game, Chicopee was on top 6-0. The Tech D stuffed the 2-PAT, and took over on their own 38.

Tech mounted a drive, but it stalled after a penalty and an injury, and the Pacers took back possession. The Chics then scored their second touchdown as time ran out in the first quarter. This time the PAT was good, and the quarter ended with Franklin down 14-0.

Chicopee kicked off to open the second quarter, and the Eagles set up shop at their own 40. The very first play was a pick-6, and less than half a minute into the quarter, Tech

found themselves down 22-0.

The teams played evenly throughout the period, but Tech was unable to score when Chicopee intercepted the ball in the end zone. The Pacers took full advantage. On third and 6, they broke loose and scored again, putting them up 28-0 with three minutes and 50 seconds to go in the half.

During the run, another player was injured. As everyone waited for the ambulance to arrive, the officials decided to call half-time. The remaining 3:50 would be tacked on to the end of the game.

Tech settled down in the second half. Although they outscored the Pacers 14-6, they simply couldn't make up the deficit, and dropped the contest 34-14.

The loss evens Franklin Tech's record to 1 – 1.

With a key player out for most of the game, Gabriel Tomasi was forced to throw the ball. He completed ten passes for 171 yards. His targets included Nathaniel Fuess (four catches for 92), William Ainsworth (three for 48), Ethan Smarr (two for 24), and Ryan Demers (one for 7 yards).

On the ground, Josiah Little had another stellar night with 121 rushing yards. Tomasi (14), Jet Bastarache (10), and Ryan Demers (4) supplemented the running game for the Eagles, with Tomasi scoring a touchdown and running in a 2-PAT, and Bastarache a 6-pointer.

Defensively, Landen Hardy led with ten tackles, and caused a fumble.

Next Friday, the Eagles travel to Groton to face the Groton-Dunstable Crusaders.



ROBINSON PHOTO

Chicopee's defense stops Tech in its tracks during the first quarter.

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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.



Gente de Franklin County: Vanessa Query

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO
DE AGUILERA

GREENFIELD – Hace ya unos siete años que conozco que Vanessa Query. La primera vez que nos vimos, estábamos las dos recién llegadas a Turners Falls y participábamos en un evento para reciclar la ropa que la gente abandonaba u olvidaba en la lavandería de la calle tercera. Había diseñado un vestido para el evento y Vanessa fue mi modelo en la pasarela que se había montado en el Shea.

Hace unas semanas le ofrecí participar en esta serie de Gente de Franklin County ya que es una de las personas más activas en creación literaria, cine y teatro en nuestra aérea, además de apoyar los derechos de grupos minoritarios y discriminados en nuestra comunidad.

Vanessa es escritora, directora, interprete y organizadora de eventos relacionados con el séptimo arte. Ha dirigido y escritos cortos y obras de teatro en diferentes formatos, especialmente obras cortas y cómicas, espectáculos circenses y de multimedia. Y poca gente sabe que ha intervenido en un episodio de *Uprights Citizens Brigade* en *Comedy Central* en el que interpretaba a una niña en coma.

Biografía

Vanessa nació y creció en Providence, Rhode Island. A los 17 años dejó el instituto debido a problemas de salud y pensó que nunca iba a ir a la universidad porque pensaba que la vida de la universidad sería una extensión de la vida horrible, capaz de matar la pasión e incluso el alma del instituto.

Cuando abandonó a la escuela, empezó a trabajar en un teatro y allí se dio cuenta de que había otras personas a las que les gustaba lo mismo, que compartían aficiones y que ella no era un bicho raro. Hizo viajes con sus compañeros del grupo de teatro a Nueva York para experimentar con esta nueva pasión y con sus nuevos compañeros. El contrato de trabajo terminó y Vanessa se dio cuenta de que encontrar buen trabajo que no fuera solamente a tiempo parcial, en el llamado sector servicios, le requería tener un título de la universidad.

Vanessa me dice que a veces malviviendo con aquellos sueldos tenía que elegir entre pagar la renta o comer. Estuvo en esta situación unos años, hasta que conoció Americorps, un programa que le permitió obtener su graduado escolar y le descubrió Antioch College. Esta universidad es muy diferente

de lo ella pensaba: tenía clases muy pequeñas, donde no daban notas, la enseñanza estaba más enfocada en la creatividad y en el arte y ofrecía buenas becas porque su objetivo era que mucha gente pudiera tener esta experiencia de estudios, aunque no dispusieran de medios económicos.

Vanessa se fue a Yellow Springs, Ohio el lugar donde se encuentra Antioch College, para empezar allí sus estudios de teatro, mostrando ya mucho interés por el cine y la escritura creativa. Y Vanessa se enamoró del lugar y acabó viviendo allí después de terminar sus estudios durante dos años.

Después de esos años en los que disfrutó de hacer teatro y cine con sus amigos, decidió volver a Providence, su ciudad natal, navegando entre varios trabajos a tiempo parcial. Y, de repente, el trabajo a tiempo parcial se convirtió en tiempo completo y así fue como empezó a trabajar ocho horas en una oficina, hasta que se dio cuenta de que no quería tener esa vida y decidió vender todo y volverse a Yellow Springs a vivir en la buhardilla de un amigo y trabajar como artista otra vez.

Compaginaba múltiples trabajos, siempre ligados a sus: el cine y el teatro. Escribía y representaba sketches de teatro y comedia en la calle, hacía películas, trabajaba en una sala de cines para poder proyectar sus propios cortos allí.

Años más tarde, Vanesa se queda embarazada y decide tener a su bebé sola y mudarse a vivir con su madre que acababa de comprar una casa para remodelarla por completo. Los cinco primeros años después de tener a su bebé vivieron en Rhode Island, un lugar demasiado convencional para Vanessa, así que estaba buscando un lugar diferente para vivir.

Buscando un lugar diferente, en el que tenía amigos es como Vanessa llegó a Franklin County, con su hijo de cinco años. Poco tiempo después se dio cuenta que debido a su trabajo en *Hawks and Reed*, sus aficiones y sus amigos, pasaba más tiempo en Greenfield, así que decidió mudarse a este nuevo lugar, que es donde vive ahora. Me cuenta que echa mucho de menos los parques, la naturaleza y el río de Turners Falls.

Sus Viajes

Otros de los beneficios de *Antioch College* es que, durante sus años de estudio, tenía que hacer pasantías en diferentes partes del mundo por un período de cuatro meses para completar su formación. Y así de esta forma pudo cumplir su sueño de viajar. Trabajó en San Francisco, Denver, Nueva York y Escocia.

No todas sus pasantías estaban relacionadas con el teatro, pero aun así le permitían conseguir créditos para la universidad. Por ejemplo, en Escocia trabajó como camarera en un bar local, ya que uno de los

30 Poems en Noviembre

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO
DE AGUILERA

GREENFIELD – Como cada año *Center for New Americans*, la organización que contribuye a la educación de inmigrantes y refugiados en el oeste de Massachussets convoca una vez más uno de sus eventos para recaudar fondos que más éxito han tenido en los últimos años. Se trata de conseguir dinero con un proyecto literario para poder subvencionar las clases de inglés que *Center for New Americans* ofrece de forma gratuita y que ha permitido que en los últimos años muchos inmigrantes cuya lengua materna no es inglés tuvieran opción a un trabajo y con ello a una vida mejor en nuestro país.

La falta de conocimiento de inglés es un freno a la hora de desarrollar nuestra vida cotidiana, pero también y aún más grande lo es a la

hora de poder buscar y encontrar un trabajo o asistir a clases en la universidad o con fines profesionales.

Este año *Center for New Americans* quiere animar a personas que no hablan inglés como primera lengua a participar en este evento con poemas en otras lenguas y si quieren pueden añadir una traducción al inglés, pero no es necesario.

Esta es la forma de participar: Vayan a la página web de Center for New American (www.cnam.org) y busquen allí **30 Poems!** que es el lugar donde podrán creen su página para recaudar dinero. Pidan a sus familias, amigos, compañeros de trabajo que respalden económicamente sus poemas. Escriba un poema cada día de noviembre en la lengua que usted quiera.

Todos son bienvenidos no importa si usted no tiene experiencia. Si tienen preguntas, pueden escribir a laurie@cnam.org.

requisitos de su especialidad era la interculturalidad y esa era una buena forma de empaparse de la cultura de ese país.

Otro de los viajes que han marcado a Vanessa ocurrió durante la etapa en que decidió volver a Ohio después de terminar la universidad. Vanessa desde adolescente siente pasión por las películas y la literatura irlandesa y así es como hizo conexiones con artistas irlandeses y a través de uno de ellos conoció a Patrick McCabe, el famoso novelista irlandés.

Le surgió entonces la oportunidad de ir a Irlanda para trabajar como voluntaria en la organización de un festival de artes que se celebra cada año en Clones, Irlanda. Es un típico pueblo irlandés, con una iglesia sobre la colina, desde la que se divisa todo el pueblo, y algo que embelesó a Vanessa, una torre de defensa construida para defenderse de los vikingos.

El pueblo, su historia, y su gente abrieron la mente de Vanesa a otras perspectivas y el festival resulto ser una inspiración. Se celebra cada año en un prado donde durante cuatro días hay artistas de diversos géneros desde burlesque a circo, y en el que los asistentes pueden disfrutar de famosos que participan en actividades que normalmente no son por las que son conocidos, como Colin Murphy triunfando como DJ.

LAVA Center

LAVA Center es un centro de arte comunitario que, en su declaración de intenciones, nos dice que es un espacio destinado a todos los artistas, y con el objetivo de incluir especialmente aquellos que han sido marginalizados para que sus voces puedan ser oídas.

Cuando Vanessa ya se había mudado a Greenfield, encontró a gente que quería abrir un centro de artes

y decidieron montar un plan juntos y abrieron LAVA Center. Tenían el memento, la música, artistas, todo, y de repente, llegó la pandemia les dio de lleno seis meses después de inaugurar y tuvieron que cerrar.

Cuando las cosas mejoraron, pudieron abrir de nuevo, aunque todavía no podían hacer representaciones, ni conciertos, pero si instalaciones de arte y funcionar como museo.

En este momento, LAVA Center está abierto casi a capacidad completa. Tienen diversas exposiciones artes o de video que cambian cada mes, y eventos relacionados con la justicia social y las artes.

Vanessa me cuenta que la dirección de LAVA Center quiere prestar especial atención a los artistas que hablan de justicia social en sus obras de arte. Están deseando trabajar con gente que provenga de diferentes países, y lugares, gente que sienta que no ha encontrado antes un espacio donde se sienta seguro y pueda dejar oír su voz artística.

LAVA Center es un espacio muy interesante, que invita a todos a participar, es gratis y los visitantes pueden ver arte, sentirse parte de la comunidad, hablar con otros y sentirse bienvenido en un espacio que es por todos y para todos.

Vanessa me dice que quiere hacer más exhibiciones bilingües como María Sparrow, de Argentina, que realizó una exposición sobre sus ancestros en español e inglés. Alfonso Neal, es centroamericano, fotógrafo, artista y que es otro de los artistas invitados. Vanessa espera que los visitantes que vayan a su espacio puedan sentirse inspirados y bienvenidos en este centro para la comunidad.

Si quieren conocer más información sobre LAVA Center, pueden ir a su web: localaccess.org.



Vanessa delante del LAVA Center en Greenfield.

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MONTAGUE from page A1

meeting planned Wednesday to, according to an “amended agenda” posted on Monday, form a committee to recommend a new public health director. Ellis indicated that the hiring process would probably involve reviewing the job description, in light of changes in state and local health policy, and that view was seconded by Zamojski. The director answers to an independent, elected board.

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz said he would encourage the board of health to follow a process similar to that used by other town departments, which would include appointing both town staff and “interested parties from the public” to the hiring committee.

“Every time you change a position,” Kuklewicz added, “it is an opportunity to look at the job description to see if it meets current needs.... I think this is an opportunity to raise the level of that office.”

Zamojski said there would probably be a gap between Wasiuk’s retirement and the hiring of a new director, but that could potentially be filled though a second, currently pending state grant to shore up regional public health capacity.

The board of health met Wednesday, and members Zamojski, Mike Nelson, and Rachel Stoler voted to establish the hiring committee.

Two department staff – clerk Anne Stuart and public health nurse Cheryl Volpe – will sit on the committee, as will public works superintendent Tom Bergeron, emergency management director John Zellmann, building inspector Bill Ketchen, one representative each from the selectboard and board of health, and a member of the general public.

The board of health will meet again at 6 p.m. next Monday at the town hall to further discuss the transition, and will announce the hiring committee at the selectboard meeting which starts at 6:30 p.m. – with the exception of the at-large community member, who Stoler will recommend at a later date.

Ellis recommended a hiring process similar to that of other major administrative positions, such as the town planner, a seat that will also be vacant as of early October.

The committee’s meetings will be public, in accordance with the state open meeting law, with the exception of an initial “culling” of applications. Interviews with finalists will be held publicly. Ellis said he planned to attend the meetings in an advisory capacity.

Discussion turned to the gap between Wasiuk’s October 6 exit date and a new hire taking the position. Zamojski again raised the possibility of support from the state grant to the regional collaborative.

Wasiuk indicated a willingness to help with “food inspections” on Saturdays. He noted, however, that he will be working five days a week in Southbridge.

New Sewer Rates

Montague Clean Water Facility (CWF) superintendent Chelsey Little came before the board to present the final word on the current fiscal year’s sewer rates. Revenue and expenditure assumptions had been discussed the previous week, and Little proposed an 11.54% aggregate rate increase for FY’23.

This reflects a large increase in sludge disposal costs, tempered by the elimination of “overage” in payments to Erving for treatment of sewage from Millers Falls, and an increase in revenue the plant earns by processing sludge from other towns.

“Every time you change a position, it is an opportunity to look at the job description to see if it meets current needs.”

**– Rich Kuklewicz
Chair, Montague
selectboard**

Rates for residents of the villages of Turners Falls, Montague Center, Montague City, Millers Falls, and Lake Pleasant will increase to \$16.94 for 1,000 gallons. These bills are calculated based on winter water usage, as recorded by the town’s two water departments. Montague residents who have a sewer hookup but get their water from wells will be charged a 12-month flat rate of \$937.44. The rate for industrial users and the town of Gill will be \$15.68 per 1,000 gallons.

Treated waste from in-town septic systems is calculated at \$80 per 1,000 gallons, and from non-residents at \$110. Revenue from sludge processed from other town’s facilities will be based on a rate set in collaboration with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District.

The board unanimously voted to endorse the rates proposed by Little.

Responding to a question about the potential increase in the cost of Millers Falls sewage, which is treated in Erving, Ellis said that Montague had originally assumed a “particular source of inflow” into the village’s sewer system was causing the problem, but the engineering firm Wright Pierce believes that may not be the case. The town may need to re-institute the practice, eliminated this year, of using a “set-aside” in the budget to cover the overage.

Special Town Meeting

The board reviewed the warrant for the upcoming October 13 special town meeting, but did not discuss or vote to endorse specific articles.

A number of articles reflect increased pay rates for employees as negotiated with the police union and the United Electrical Workers, which represents most staff at the public works department and CWF. Ellis updated the board on new con-

tracts, which he said contain 3% cost of living increases this year.

There were also “placeholders” on the warrant for those represented by the National Association of Government Employees, whose contract is expected to be finalized in the coming week.

Other articles range from increasing the budgets of several town departments to account for higher electrical costs under a recent contract, to an appropriation for the local access television station – a “pass through” from the Comcast cable company – an appropriation for remediating floors at the Hillcrest Elementary School, funds for a roof replacement for the Colle Building in Turners Falls, and the creation of a stabilization fund to house revenues the town receives from a national class-action opioid settlement.

The resulting warrant contains 17 articles. The meeting is planned to be held in person in the Falls High School auditorium.

Nice Old Building

Ellis gave the board an update on the Farren Care Center, a historic hospital in Montague City scheduled to be demolished by its current owner, Trinity Health of New England, a large private non-profit whose parent company is located in Michigan.

The town administrator said he had recently been in contact with several Trinity officials, who “intend to file a demolition plan in the coming months.” Ellis and town planner Walter Ramsey have given Trinity officials a copy of Montague’s new demolition delay bylaw “so they can be informed of any process that may create.”

Ellis went on to say that Trinity still will not “share its assessment of the [Farren] buildings,” a controversial decision which some in Montague have criticized, but is still pledging to pay up to \$100,000 for a site assessment by the town, on a “cost-reimbursement basis,” once the buildings are demolished.

Ellis also said the company is “on track” to gift the cleared site to the town, potentially along with a smaller building at 356 Millers Falls Road and a parking lot across that street.

Other Business

The selectboard executed a \$137,250 contract with K & G Remodeling for the replacement of the town hall roof and approved a “notice to proceed” on the project. A \$1,800 contract was also approved with Tailblock Coping Company for repairs to the Unity Park skate park.

The board authorized Ellis to submit two grant requests to the state, one to help fund a new dump truck for the public works department and one for employee “safety training.”

RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto requested the authority to submit a grant application to the state Cultural Council for

a “cultural sector recovery grant” of up to \$75,000 for organizations “negatively impacted by COVID.” The board approved the request, and heard an update from LoManto about ongoing improvements at Peskeompskut Park.

The board authorized filing for a three-month extension of the 2020 Community Development Block Grant for completion of housing rehabilitation work, at the request of Brian McHugh of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, which administers the block grant program for the town.

A request from the First Congregational Church for the use of town

property – the Montague Center common and part of North Street – for a “fall festival” on October 8 was approved, along with a change in the date of the annual Mug Race, sponsored by the parks and recreation department, from October 8 to December 31.

The board executed a contract, which it has been discussing over the past month, making Walter Ramsey the town’s new assistant town administrator effective Monday, October 3. Anna Morin was appointed to a full-time position in the police dispatch department.

The selectboard’s next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 26.



**LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK**

Here’s the way it was on September 20, 2012: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Montague Board Votes 2-1 to Support Native American Battlefield Protection Grant

Paul Robinson, former chief state archaeologist for Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission, joined Doug Harris, preservationist for ceremonial landscapes for the Narragansett Indian Tribe in presenting a request to the town of Montague on Monday, September 17, for assistance in applying for a Battlefield Preservation Grant from the National Parks Service to map and interpret the local sites associated with King Philip’s War.

Chief among these sites is the Falls Fight, which took place on May 19, 1676 at the Great Falls, and is often referred to as the second in the long series of massacres of Native Americans at the hands of colonists and their descendants, which began with the burning of the Pequot village in modern day Mystic, Connecticut on May 26, 1637, and continued through Wounded Knee, in South Dakota, on December 29, 1890.

Patterson’s Pik-Rite Picker Picked a Pile of Pungent Pickling Peppers

On Monday, Donald Patterson, of Patterson Farm in Sunderland, is in the midst of harvesting two million pounds of hot peppers grown on 100 acres of land on the Split River Farm in Gill.

The farm derives its name from the land being split by the Connecticut River on whose banks the

farm lies in both Northfield and Gill. Patterson owns the land in partnership with John Savage of Deerfield. However, Savage is not involved in growing or harvesting this pepper crop. The partners purchased the land from New England Power Company together, and share its use. Patterson planted the pepper plants with a mechanical planter in June and watered them with a center pivot Zimmatic irrigation system that wends its way in a circle to water the plants.

“The drought didn’t affect us since we were able to irrigate,” Patterson said. The worst months of the drought, locally, were in June and July.

Last Picture Show at Hallmark Gallery

The Gallery at Hallmark, 85 Avenue A, was like a quiet pond last Friday afternoon. The flowing white curtains at the 12-foot-tall windows caught the sunlight and rippled it. The polished linoleum floor shimmered like mother-of-pearl, reflecting shafts of light from the windows. The dove gray walls hummed with light, bathed by crossing beams from hundreds of tiny track lights.

The work of 11 students graduating from the Hallmark Institute of Photography comprise the current exhibit, “Eleven,” which, alas, is the last Hallmark will hold at the gallery. The new president of the Hallmark Institute of Photography, Deb Carson, who did not return phone calls for comment, will not be renewing the lease this fall.

The gallery will be open for a few more weekends, Fridays through Sundays, from 1 to 5 p.m., through October 28.



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DEMOLITION from page A1

locations for two weeks before it takes effect. At that point, it will be considered law retroactive to the May meeting, according to historical commission member Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno.

Trinity, meanwhile, still has not requested a demolition permit. Town administrator Steve Ellis told the selectboard on Monday that company officials told him that "although costs have increased substantially for demolition," they still "intend to file a demolition plan in the coming months." (See article, Page A1.)

"We're in kind of a weird place," Sawyer-Lauçanno told the Reporter.

In 2021, after making a private assessment of the building, Trinity backed out of an offer to partner with the town on a reuse study, announcing it would cost \$24 million to get the building up to code and guarding the study as proprietary information.

The selectboard, Ellis, and town planner Walter Ramsey have argued in favor of the demolition, citing a number of abandoned industrial properties that have landed under public ownership in recent decades with little interest from credible developers.

Trinity has also offered Montague \$100,000 toward a reuse study of the land after the building is taken down, and arranged for the historical com-

mission to walk through the property; few artifacts were identified as being of historical interest.

Though the Farren was not included in the town's historic districts when it was shuttered, Sawyer-Lauçanno and others worked last winter to submit it to the state Register of Historic Places.

The commission meets next Monday morning. Posted agenda topics include "Updates on the demo by-law," "Commissioners' decision on Farren artifacts," and "Other items not anticipated at the time of posting."

"I assume we'll be taking a vote on it," said Sawyer-Lauçanno. "This would probably be what they call a 'sense of the committee' vote.... We don't want to invoke the bylaw [until] notification is received from Trinity that demolition is planned at a certain date."

Attempts to reach historical commission chair David Brule were unsuccessful as of press time.

Member Ed Gregory declined to comment publicly on the matter. "If you want to know my opinions on it, I suggest you attend the meeting," he told the Reporter.

Janel Nockleby, Chris Clawson, and assistant town planner Suzanne LoManto comprise the rest of the six-member commission.

AINSWORTH from page A1

"The day they had the track meet was the same day he went into the Army," said Bush. "He couldn't be at the meet, but made a comment that they'd bring home the bacon without him. Turners did win on a rainy, muddy day."

After he completed basic training, Sheff wound up on the Anzio beachhead south of Rome, together with 150,000 other US and Allied troops who'd been stalled by the German counterattack. Winston Churchill reportedly said of the stalemate: "I had hoped we were hurling a wildcat into the shore, but all we got was a stranded whale."

While they waited, Sheff heard

from George's brother Lou, who'd been an All-American running back at UMass in 1932.

"Sheff was a good friend of brother Lou," said Bush. "He was a captain in Patton's armored division, and when he found out Sheff was there, he invited him for dinner."

Alas, there was a war going on, and on May 23, 1944, two US infantry divisions and one armored division assaulted the Germans to try and advance past the beachhead.

"And lo and behold, Lou found out Sheff was killed in action on May 28," said Bush.

Sheff was one of 143 residents from Franklin County killed in the Second World War, according to

Peggy Thompson, an historian and researcher for *genealogytrails.com*. Thompson cited the National Archives and Records Administration as her source.

Sheff, like the others, was not forgotten. First the school committee named the football field behind the old high school after him. "It got to be called Sheff's Field," said Bush.

When the field was relocated, the elementary school was named in his honor - the Sheffield School on Crocker Avenue. "There's a monument and plaque in his honor," said Bush.

And now, as Paul Harvey would say, you know the rest of the story.




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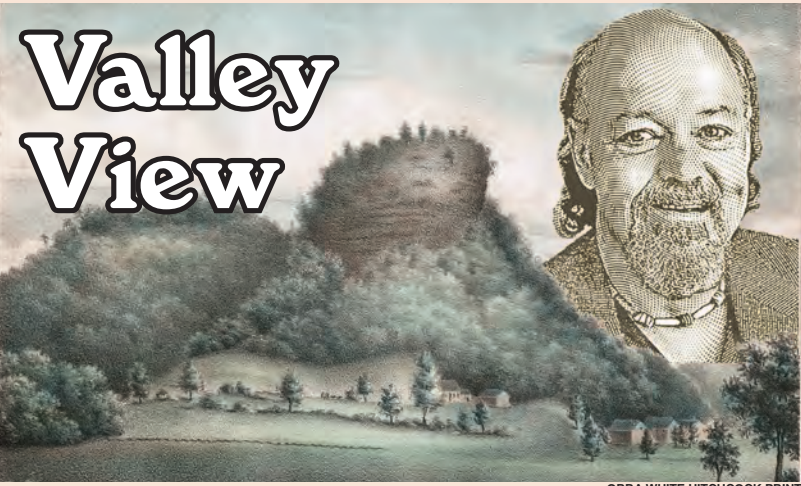


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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

SEPTEMBER 22, 2022



ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK PRINT

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – It was a peculiar summer to say the least.

A harbinger? Who knows? Time will tell.

On a recent daybreak walk over the bridge spanning Hinsdale Brook behind my home, finally an audible flow. Ah! Sweet music. Hadn't heard it for some time.

About a quarter mile up Green River Road, I stopped to listen for Punch Brook where it flows under Green River Road. Not so much as a muted trickle or muffled gurgle, not a slim glint of flow through dense green cover. Heavy overnight rain had produced no discernable effect.

Hmmm? Troubling. Many strong springs feed it.

The dawn silence and walking motion set my wheels astir. I started pondering what a summer drought like the one we just endured means to our threatened eastern brook trout populations. At least, to what's left of them. How many die under such stressful conditions? They need cold water. If their brooks are not connected to a large, deep impoundment for summer refuge, what are their options?

My shaded backyard brook is fed by prolific upland springs from the western hills of East Shelburne and East Colrain. It's hard to imagine many trout surviving in that stream this summer. Where could they go? To the warm, shallow Green River? The larger, deeper Deerfield? The Connecticut? Well, maybe some could find a gushing spring-hole or deep, dark pool cold enough to ensure survival. But any way you cut it, their choices were few, mortality high.

Honestly, it's been decades since I last explored the old brook-trout streams I knew as a boy – the ones where I learned to bait a hook and present the offering in a natural dead-drift to feeding trout. Those shaded, buggy mountain streams held reproductive populations of sparkling, speckled, steel-blue, five-to-seven-inch native trout we called squartails.

We'd fish early and return home with creelsful of fingerling trout, packed with streamside moss and ferns, for tasty breakfasts. Battered in a scrambled-egg/flour/bread-crumbs mix, we'd fry the trout in sizzling bacon fat in a Griswold

skillet. Homefries and eggs or pancakes were prepared on an adjacent cast-iron griddle. Now that's an old New England breakfast for you – one I haven't prepared since my boys were young.

Now the question is, how many of those dear mountain streams still hold brookies? Then, even more important, how many brookies? Last I heard they were endangered by acid rain. That was at least 40 years ago. Now the planet is warming, the icecaps melting. Surely the peril hasn't abated.

It was hard not to notice the brown lawns we all passed this summer in our fertile valley. They were the rule, not the exception. All I can say is that I have mowed lawns here for nearly 60 years and have never experienced anything like it. My mowing routine for more than a month was limited to a few passes along the edges and under shade trees. The rest of my lawn, cut high at just under four inches, was brown and noticeably crunchy underfoot, the soil underneath parched hard and displaying cracks on sunbaked openings. It was surreal. Right out of Woody Guthrie's Dust Bowl.

One must wonder how long it'll be before we're living in terror of wildfires, without the security of fire insurance denied to homeowners in high-risk areas. Do you really think it can't happen here? Don't be so sure. Insurance companies don't flourish by rolling the dice. Ask Californians, now victims of circumstance and unwilling canaries in the coal mine. We're cooking the planet and practicing cash-crop forestry that robs the forests of large, old-growth carbon sequestrators. To make matters worse, loggers leave behind messy tops that in dry conditions create tinderboxes on the forest floor. It's a recipe for disaster – one that's on display in flame and fury out west.

Don't think it can't happen here. The stage is set.

Yes, it's true that eastern forest dynamics are different than those out west. But how long can we count on that temporary reality as our climate gets hotter and drier and our snowfall diminishes? It's not too early to start thinking about this stuff. In fact, many doomsayers with impressive academic credentials believe it's already too late.

see **VALLEY VIEW** page B2

Johanna: A Strong Woman, A Woman of Faith

By LOUISE BOUCHER CROLL

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Even before Johanna Howrihin's birth in 1858, Deerfield's large immigrant population was only second to Greenfield's. More than half were from Ireland. Patrick Howrihin was a laborer, and Cheapside, along the Deerfield River, was a great place to find work. The railroads had arrived and were displacing river traffic for shipping. Johanna's parents, Patrick and Mary, likely arrived on a train from Boston.

Cheapside had been a busy river port in the early part of the nineteenth century. Flat boats carried stalled oxen, broomcorn, and butter down the Deerfield River and just around the bend to the Connecticut River. How different from their home in Cork, Ireland!

In 1846, the same year the railroad took up residence in Deerfield, the potato crop in Ireland had failed for a second harvest. The city of Cork had been overrun with over 11,000 hungry non-residents, as potatoes were a staple of their diet. Mary Calnan was from West Cork, a rural area hard hit by the blight. At age 21 she found work doing washing in a London workhouse. Many Irish fled to English workhouses to survive, to send money back home, and to accumulate fare for steamship passage to New York or Boston.

Mary likely came ashore in antebellum Boston. The Massachusetts census of 1855 records Mary and Patrick as living in Deerfield with Catherine, 6, John, 5, Michael, 3, and Daniel, 2. Johanna was their fifth child, born 1858 in Montague City. Happiness and prosperity at last!

In those days, Cheapside was part of Deerfield. In 1867, when Johanna was nine, the Troy & Greenfield Railroad expanded the local economy. Mary and Pat-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Four generations of women, from left to right: Marion, baby Phyllis, Johanna, and Maggie, circa 1929.

rick had three more boys, Henry, James, and Patrick.

Prosperity masked a killer, however. A Boston agricultural publication of July 1875 indicated that meat from beef infected with tuberculosis was still being sold. It was not widely understood or accepted that tuberculosis could be transmitted through both milk and rare meat.

see **JOHANNA** page B6



Princeton, NJ: A Town Full of Beautiful Minds

DEERFIELD – Sometimes the best places to go are home. For me, home is far, far, and decades away, in the Garden State of my childhood, a village just outside of Princeton, New Jersey. We lived in Blawenburg, but we always said "Princeton" because it was easier and more familiar.

Every time I return to the Prince's town, I enjoy a few meals, or shopping, or just walking down Nassau Street, the wide main boulevard of commerce. A fine college town it is indeed.

There are buildings on the 1,000-acre Princeton University campus that are remarkable examples of Gothic and Romanesque style, dripping with towers and colonnades. Walking paths take you through the campus, and at each turn there's an opportunity to see buildings like the Lewis Science Library by Frank Gehry, or you can wander over to what was once the local



HARTSHORNE PHOTO

Nassau Street is the town of Princeton's main drag.

train station called the Dinky. It's now converted into a great bar and tapas place, also called the Dinky.

When you leave, check out Ai Weiwei's "Circle of Zodiac Heads"

nearby – gigantic zodiac heads representing each month of the Chinese calendar.

When I was in high school in the see **PRINCETON** page B4

Pet of the Week



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VALLEY VIEW from page B1

Equally frightening is a looming worldwide drinking water crisis. Experts have been warning us for decades that water is going to become a scarce, valuable commodity worth fighting for. Those who doubt it and believe that, like climate change, it’s nothing but sensational hooey propagated by tree-hugging alarmists and Antifa ecoterrorists, should change their outlook. The day of reckoning is approaching and, for those willing to believe what they see, accelerating toward climate Armageddon.

Here in the Happy Valley, we take good drinking water for granted. Don’t be deceived by that comfort zone. Have you seen the massive Western reservoirs now reduced to puddles, exposing stolen cars and the skeletal remains of murder victims? How long before we’re facing annual summer water restrictions as our own reservoirs shrink and our population grows?

What’ll we do when there’s not enough water to

go around? Drink “purified” water from the industrial and wastewater dump known as the Connecticut River? Yuck! Can you imagine that? Reduced to that, we’d all die of horrible cancers.

If you want to know where we’re headed, take heed of the mournful blues being sung by our Eastern brook trout. The message is clear: there’s trouble on the horizon.

Nobody asked me, but... if you love bluegrass/newgrass music and haven’t already heard or read, you must check out Billy Strings, the newest flatpicking guitarist extraordinaire on the block. He’s young and already performing with legends like Bela Fleck, Sam Bush, and Jerry Douglas, to name a few.

He’s easy to chase down on YouTube. A search for Billy Strings, Doc Watson, and YouTube will give you his *Shady Grove* Watson tribute, a great place to start. The kid can really pick it and sing it.



Sex Matters

a sex-positive health column

by STEPHANIE BAIRD

GRANBY – Since September is traditionally the start of the academic year, there’s no better time to introduce some information about “good, great, and magnificent sex” so that we all have goals to aspire to over the course of the fall sex semester (wink).

Way back in 1979, Dr. Bernie Zilbergeld suggested in *The New Male Sexuality* (revised several times) that knowing our “conditions for good and great sex” is essential to optimizing our sexual enjoyment. The converse is also true: when people are unaware of the importance of having conditions or prerequisites, they are at risk for disappointment, and even sexual problems or dysfunctions.

Unfortunately, most folks never get to take “Good Sex 101” as part of their primary or secondary education, and various partners claiming to know what good sex is probably never took that class either. Zilbergeld enlightens us by writing “in a sexual situation, a *condition* for good sex is anything that makes you more relaxed, more comfortable, more confident, more excited, more open to your experience. Put differently, a positive condition is something that clears your nervous system of unnecessary clutter, leaving it open to receive and transmit sexual messages in ways that will result in a good time for you.”

Zilbergeld’s general conditions for good sex include feeling intimate with one’s partner, regardless of gender or stereotypes such as men wanting only sex. If partners are feeling distant from each other, they may need to discuss emotions before becoming sexual. Emotional distance can deflate sexual interest.

A second condition is feeling sexually capable. Generally, this relates to an absence of anxieties about sexual performance. For people with penises, this can include anxiety about becoming erect or ejaculating too soon. For people with clitorises, this can include worry about painful intercourse or lack of orgasm. For everyone, it can include concern about whether one is a good enough lover.

A third condition is feeling trust. Both partners may need to know they are emotionally safe. They need to feel confident that they will not be judged, ridiculed, or talked about.

Condition four involves feeling aroused. A person does not need to

be sexual unless they are sexually aroused or excited. Simply because one’s partner wants to be sexual does not mean that one must.

Some folks only begin to experience arousal once some type of pleasurable sexual activity begins – this is called *responsive desire*. If this is you, find conditions that encourage willingness to engage in sex to see if the fire can get kindled. If nothing happens within a set period of time, it is completely OK to excuse yourself of that particular experience and take a rain check.

The fifth condition involves the basic idea of being physically and mentally alert. This condition requires a person not to feel particularly tired, ill, stressed, or preoccupied and to have consumed minimal alcohol or drugs. These substances also reduce the ability to consent.

Lastly, condition six involves feeling positive about the environment and situation. A person may need privacy and/or a serene environment. Each person needs to feel that the other is sexually interested and wants to be sexually involved.

Zilbergeld then suggests conditions for great sex – this would be the A grade. These six conditions include:

1. Accurate information about sexuality, especially your own and your partner’s;
2. An orientation toward sex based on pleasure, such as arousal, fun, love, and lust, rather than performance and orgasm;
3. Being involved in a kind of relationship that allows each person’s sexuality to flourish;
4. An ability to communicate verbally and nonverbally about sex, feelings, and relationships;
5. Being equally assertive and sensitive about your own sexual needs and those of your partner;
6. Accepting, understanding, and appreciating differences between partners sexually.

These “good and great sex conditions” all dovetail nicely with Emily Nagoski’s discussion of the Dual Control Model of sexual brakes and sexual accelerators (*Come as You Are*, 2015). I elaborated on this concept in my October 2019 column, so I won’t go into too much detail here. Suffice it to say, Zilbergeld’s positive conditions line up nicely with potential sexual accelerators for folks – conditions that increase an interest in sexual activity such

as relaxation, confidence, openness, emotional closeness and intimacy, trust, excitement, arousal, and positive environment and situation.

Sexual brakes, or conditions that decrease interest in sexual activity, might include illness, stress, interruptions, criticism, negative feedback about lovemaking skills, pain or anticipation of pain, anxiety about sex, erotophobia (fear of anything erotic or sensual), trauma, etc.

Additionally, knowing the sexual personality styles of yourself and your partners can also help tip the scales towards a good or even great sexual experience. Look up my November 2019 column for more information about sexual styles. For instance, a *trancer* (someone who needs a quiet environment to focus on body sensation) and a *role enactor* (someone who loves a lot of dirty talk, role playing, or other interactive activities) paired up may both report the sex together as “okay,” unless they were aware of their styles going into the session. With good communication, they could plan how their different styles could work together for both to experience good and even great sex.

Decades ago, sex therapist and researcher Peggy Kleinplatz asked, “What kind of sex is worth having?” Not content to stop at “good and great” sex, she went on to identify eight components of “magnificent sex” in her book *Magnificent Sex: Lessons from Extraordinary Lovers* (2020).

These components include: complete mindfulness; full “in sync” connection with one’s partner; deep feelings and mutual trust; extraordinary communication and deep empathy; feeling genuine, authentic, transparent, and uninhibited; experiencing vulnerability and surrender; including exploration, safe risk taking, and fun; and attaining transcendence and transformation.

Here’s hoping each and every pleasure reader gets to have an enjoyable fall sex semester getting an A+ for sex, and giving and receiving bonus gold stars for magnificent pleasure.

Stephanie Baird, LMHC is an OWL Facilitator, EMDR consultant and psychotherapist, certified in Advancing Clinical Excellence in Sexuality (ACES), and encourages her clients towards thriving sexual health. She welcomes questions, feedback, and suggestions at sexmatters@montaguereporter.org.

Senior Center Activities

SEPTEMBER 26 THROUGH 30

WENDELL

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.

LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held on Zoom on Wednesdays. Foot care clinic is held monthly. For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 2, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

Monday 9/26

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

Tuesday 9/27

10 a.m. A Matter of Balance
1 p.m. Chair Yoga
3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 9/28

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

Thursday 9/29

10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share
1 p.m. Cards & Games
5:30 p.m. Exercise

Friday 9/30

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Aerobics

ERVING

Erving Senior Center is open 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Open for cards, coffee, and snacks daily.

Brown Bag lunch is the first Thursday of each month. Veterans Services the first Wednesday of each month. Erving van services available: Must call 24 hours in advance for a ride to any scheduled appointment. For more information, please call (413) 423-3649.

Monday 9/26

9 a.m. Interval
10:15 a.m. Seated Workout

Tuesday 9/27

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

Wednesday 9/28

9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact
10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursday 9/29

9 a.m. Core & Balance
10 a.m. Barre Fusion

Friday 9/30

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

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Surviving Breast Cancer

By Julie Cunningham

Part 28: Connection

AMHERST – I have a memory, a vivid memory, that haunts me to this day. It came up again recently because I’ve been having some issues with my port.

For anyone who doesn’t know, certain kinds of chemo require a port, which is surgically placed into a vein close to the cancer. The port is a safe way to administer these treatments that can be extremely problematic if they come into contact with the skin. It’s not noticeable except for a bit of black-and-blue, and a small bump near my collar bone. My port has been in for over a year and hasn’t caused problems until recently. (Not all chemo requires a port. My immunotherapy, for example, does not require a port.)

The thing about cancer is, there are many unknowns. Each unknown has its own management problems and treatment options. The unknown with my port is, “what is wrong?” It appears to be OK, but there were some concerning issues when I had my last appointment – one being an intense amount of pain, which increased at an exponential rate.

After consulting the nurses and my doctor, I made the decision to have the port taken out. I’m not sure if that means another surgery or a trip to the doctor – it can be either, with a port removal. I’m not sure what my surgeon will suggest.

Whenever I face a new unknown in my cancer journey, I think about the people in my life that have passed on and what they mean to me, and how they are protecting me now.

I have a memory of being “rescued” when I was young, although I did not understand what was happening at that moment. When I was young – probably four years old – my mom and dad were away for the night, and my Grandma Barry was watching me. My brothers were not born yet, so it was just me and my

grandmother. I was still taking baths so she put me in the bathtub. I always felt so relaxed in the bath so I closed my eyes. I remember sitting back and closing my eyes, but then I fell into a strange, vivid dream.

I was walking down our street. At that point we lived on a street called Bayberry Lane. I was walking, and I saw army tanks driving up the street. The army tanks were scary, and I ran as fast as I could, with the tanks chasing me, all the way back home. I remember getting back into the bathtub to hide, and a strange man stood over me and I looked at him and immediately woke up. I didn’t remember falling asleep, and I was shaken by the dream.

Now I believe it wasn’t a dream. I believe I fell asleep, and I was at risk for drowning in the bathtub, and my grandfather’s friends who had served with him in the war and had passed literally chased me back to life and away from the afterlife. I believe they came in with their tanks and their guns out to scare me back to where I belonged, because it wasn’t my time.

Both my grandfathers served – my grandfather Cunningham was a fighter pilot – but my grandfather Barry was in the Army, so I believe it was his friends who saved me.

I knew at that moment I was at risk for drowning, but I didn’t understand this dream that I still remember so vividly. And I believe the lesson is that our connections matter, even in the afterlife. Those people look out for us when we need them, and they look out for our children even when we don’t realize they are in danger.

When I think about everything I’ve been through in my cancer treatment, and looking ahead to getting my port out some day, I remember that when I was four, an entire army chased me back to life, so now, as an adult, I’m not so scared.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Animal Noises; Car Left Running; Coyote Encounter; Loud Prayer; Loud Laughter; Loud Bangs; Cat Treed

Monday, 9/12

6:25 a.m. Security company requests dispatch to 253 Pharmacy. Company alleges someone is currently inside the building when staff is not on scene and they appear to be holding a cigar and beer; may possibly have broken into location. Officers advise employees are on scene; no issues.

8:12 a.m. 911 caller from Third Street states her husband just came home and struck another vehicle with his work vehicle. Caller states no injuries, just minor damage. Investigated.

11:58 a.m. Caller states that a male at Fourth Street and Avenue A with a shaved head in a plaid shirt is not acting right. Caller states he is making animal noises. Unfounded.

1:22 p.m. Caller from Avenue A states that a female is walking around in white shoes yelling. Unable to locate.

Tuesday, 9/13

2:26 a.m. Erving PD requesting MPD secure Cabot Camp area while they are in the river.

2:29 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street states he just found a needle in his house and needs an officer right away.

4:20 p.m. Report of burglary/breaking and entering on Highland Avenue. Referred to an officer.

7:01 p.m. First of several reports of manhole covers popped up on streets around town. Officers and DPW responding.

7:14 p.m. Officer advises that someone reported to him that the retaining wall on Canal Street might have been damaged from the rain. Officer states it is not a hazard; no damage; neighbor is clearing up dirt runoff.

7:15 p.m. 911 caller from

Hillcrest Elementary School reporting the parking lot is flooded and the water is pouring into the boiler room. Call transferred to Shelburne Control.

7:17 p.m. Officer advises flooding on the 200 block of Montague City Road. Barricades needed. DPW advised.

7:47 p.m. Report of larceny at Crestview Liquor. Referred to an officer.

8:46 p.m. First of two reports of a bear and cub in the Newton Street area. Referred to an officer.

9:55 p.m. Caller from Keith Apartments stated that two kids were running around on the second floor; they broke a couple of items and set off some firecrackers, and one may have lost their sandals on the stairs. One of them is wearing a red hoodie. Officer checked area; nothing showing.

Wednesday, 9/14

12:42 p.m. Motorist complaining of Xfinity van and worker running cable across entire street at Turners Falls Road and Dell Street; wire was so low that it hit his car. No damage done. Unable to locate.

7:30 p.m. Caller states that a running car with its lights on has been parked in front of a house on Central Street for more than three hours. Made contact with registered owner, who didn’t know it was running. He will go out and take care of it.

Thursday, 9/15

11:32 a.m. Employee at Silvio O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center reporting that the parking gate has been vandalized again. Report taken.

3:10 p.m. Caller states that a yellowish-colored Lab is tied up in the Fourth Street

alley. Looks like dog has been abused; very emaciated; you can see all of the dog’s ribs. Caller also states that today the left rear leg was completely wrapped in the rope. Animal control officer on vacation. Officer advised. Nothing seen by officer. Copy of call left for ACO upon his return.

4:11 p.m. Off-duty officer observed erratic operation, wrong way on one-way portion of Fifth Street. Requested vehicle be run and info left in box for possible citation to be mailed later. Citation issued.

4:43 p.m. Caller states she is on the bike path and there is a dog that looks to be well-taken care of in the open area under the power lines just south of town with nobody around. Referred to an officer.

8:10 p.m. Caller states she was walking down Millers Falls Road and heard coyotes, then one ran right past her. Caller states she could have touched it. Requesting someone drive by and make sure they are gone. Caller will continue walking; they are no longer in the area.

Friday, 9/16

3:44 a.m. Nursing supervisor from Baystate Franklin Medical Center requests officer check the welfare of a female who is on call and has been needed in the facility for the past two hours. Caller states they have called the female multiple times and have been unable to reach her. Officer advises contact made with female party, who will be reaching out to her employer.

10:55 a.m. Officer found an electric power panel that was open with live wires inside and no way to secure it in the public lot by Canal Street. DPW supervisor notified; responding

with padlock. DPW secured box. All units clear.

12:21 p.m. Money and medication reported missing from residence on Highland Avenue. Advised of options.

2:22 p.m. 911 caller reporting a male party screaming at people in the First Street parking lot; party was also intimidating people with a rope that he got from his car. Male party performing a prayer. Did not have a rope, but a bungee cord. Not as reported.

6:47 p.m. Caller complaining of loud music and laughter coming from wedding at Montague Retreat. Caller advised complaint would be logged.

Saturday, 9/17

4:57 p.m. Report of two loose dogs in N Street area. Officer out with dog owner, who is trying to wrangle up the dogs. Dogs returned home with owner.

5:19 p.m. Caller heard three loud bangs or popping sounds that sounded like gunshots coming from the downtown Millers Falls area. Unfounded.

5:47 p.m. Caller from G Street would like it on record that his cat was attacked by the upstairs neighbor’s dog. Cat was on front porch; dog was off leash and came around from the back of the house and attacked the cat. Cat climbed a tree but fell about 25 feet and had to go to the emergency vet. Caller will call ACO on the 21st when he returns from vacation.

6:50 p.m. 911 caller believes she saw a gray sedan headed north on Avenue A with heavy smoke coming from the trunk area like it was on fire. No flames seen. Unfounded.

Sunday, 9/18

3:01 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street stated a red Jeep hit a parked car. Female driver denied EMS. TFFD clear. Officer advises AAA has the vehicle.

3:21 p.m. 911 caller states that she and a friend were riding bicycles at Turners Falls and Old Greenfield Roads when a blue motorcycle sped past them and was screaming at them. Motorcycle turned around, came back, and tried pushing them off the road. Caller denied any medical attention or an officer response.

4:48 p.m. Caller stated that the music coming from the Montague Retreat Center is too loud. Officer advises decibel reading of 45.

11:01 p.m. Caller from Watershed Restaurant states that her employee witnessed a customer back up into her vehicle and then leave. Damage to tailgate, which is not working. Caller states incident happened around 8:30 p.m. Advised to come in tomorrow and fill out a statement form.

INVITATION

More Birthdays Than Residents in Lake Pleasant

By DAVID JAMES

LAKE PLEASANT – Members representing the entwined sacred and secular roots of Montague’s youngest and smallest of five villages will gather this Sunday, September 25, at 10:30 a.m. at Tabor Thompson Memorial Temple on Montague Avenue to wish each other happy incorporation date birthdays – number 47 for the Lake Pleasant Village Association, and number 109 for The National Spiritual Alliance.

The village was founded in 1874 and, according to the United States Census by Zip Code, had 124 residents in 2020.

Serendipitous coincidence spawned the joint celebration. Earlier this month, a longtime member of both non-profit organizations had a “Eureka” moment and realized the Commonwealth of Massachusetts approved LPVA’s incorporation September 11, 1975, and TNSA’s incorporation September 12, 1913.

The event will include a brief overview of how and why each organization came to exist; a short reprise of a recent Sunday service “inspirational talk” focusing on numerous humorous church bloopers as a result of imprecise use of language; slicing of pizza and cutting of a joint birthday cake, heavy-laden with candles; and concluding with presentation of the LPVA digitized slide show.

Noise makers and conical hats are optional.

Also, Totty Linscott of Massasoit Street, the lone surviving member of the LPVA’s original board of directors, will be honored. While there are no surviving members of TNSA’s original board in the flesh, from time to time reports are received of their surviving spirits keeping a lingering watch on the neighborhood.

In 1913’s early months, 23 petitioners, bookended by Rev. G. Tabor Thompson and Almira E. Wheeler Thompson – Spiritualists who believed reincarnation was necessary

for the progression of mortals to ultimately merge with the creative force of all and everything – split from the New England Spiritualist Campmeeting Association, which had been based in Lake Pleasant since the mid-1870s.

TNSA’s stated mission is to “provide a diverse, open, and affirming organization of individuals, ministers, churches, societies, spiritual healing and mediumship development centers and schools for the practice and promotion of the religion, philosophy, and science of Spiritualism.”

The constitution contains seven guiding principles, regarding: 1. Infinite Intelligence; 2. One Universe/Many Dimensions; 3. The Immortal Soul; 4. Communication Between Materiality and Non-Materiality; 5. Pursuit of Truth; 6. Personal Responsibility, and 7. Affiliation and Membership.

“Patience is the path to tolerance and tolerance is the path to love,” the final principle reads. “We associate

with this alliance to lovingly cooperate with all who seek spiritual understanding.”

In the spring of 1974 the LPVA took loose form as a civic, cultural, economic, philosophical, and political organization after 32 residents attended an exploratory meeting and committed themselves to “improving the village.” Notification of incorporation approval came a year later and stated: “petitioners... are hereby made an existing corporation...”

“We, the residents,” the preamble to the LPVA Constitution begins, “being aware of the erosion of morals inherent in the anonymity of urban life, and esteeming greatly the traditions and values of village life, join together in order to perpetuate those traditions and values and to keep the Village of Lake Pleasant an island of simple neighborly duties and pleasures. We are, at the same time, resolved that this village shall not become a mere anachronism, but shall be a living, vital community...”

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PRINCETON from page B1

1970s, we used to jump into the fountain in front of what was then one of the University's most striking modern buildings, the Woodrow Wilson School. Guess what? Because of Wilson's racist past, it's now been renamed Robertson Hall. It was designed by Minoru Yamasaki, the same architect who did the original Twin Towers which were destroyed on 9/11.

Princeton is a town of brainy energy. No doubt the influence of brilliant minds rubs off on the townspeople. But go any morning into the busy Small World Coffee on Witherspoon Street and see who is sitting at the table or waiting for a latte next to you. Often it could be John McPhee, a Princeton prof and *New Yorker* staff writer, or Sir Angus Deaton, economist and Nobel prize winner, or the late mathematician John Conway, who died recently of COVID and was a regular at Small World. He always wore his Math t-shirt, covered with math proofs that probably were part of knot theory, or his most famous recreational mathematics, the Game of Life.

One of the entrances to Princeton is the impressive, sycamore-lined Hodge Road. Each house is huge and impeccably impressive, with circular driveways and stone construction, displaying the wealth that the town is famous for.

There is a famous old park on the end of Nassau street, Marquand Park, where you can take a stroll, and



Robertson Hall, home of the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, was designed by Minoru Yamasaki.

there are walking paths along the canal that borders manmade Lake Carnegie, where you'll often see sculls rowed by Princeton's crew team.

Palmer Square is the epicenter of the town, and it is lined with restaurants. You can find just about any cuisine in this small burg. There are around 28,000 people here with ethnicities very well represented.

My sister Jenny moved to Princeton mostly for the walkability and proximity to the University. She and her husband Steve don't have any association with the University, except that they audit classes there, learning from top professors for \$200 a class. She's currently taking a class in sociology about the development of cities, and Steve is taking one on modern Chinese politics.

Jenny also writes a food column

for *Tap Into Princeton*, a local online paper, and she provided me with some of her favorites:

"When my friends come we always go to Jammin' Crêpes for Sunday breakfast. They fill crêpes with all kinds of things like black beans and sweet potatoes or turkey sausage and egg. My favorite restaurants are Blue Point Grill and Mistral.

"Elements Restaurant can be overpriced but good, for super fancy. Blue Point is consistently good, with simple stuff like baked or mashed potatoes and fish broiled or grilled. Kristine's, a new French place, is good especially if you're craving escargot or beef bourguignon."

The food at Mistral is spicy, and it's a tapas kind of place: cauliflower beignets, chicken-liver toast with onion jam, crispy brussel sprouts,

and a cool bar. She also recommends Cross Culture, an Indian restaurant in the old school Princeton Shopping Center – not much for atmosphere, but great food.

For ice cream, Princetonians love the Bent Spoon, which features quirky flavors of organic ice cream – a hometown place, not a chain.

Princeton is a town full of history, and thankfully, we were on the winning side. George Washington himself fought at the Battle of Princeton, and today there is a mostly preserved battlefield which makes a great picnic spot, a dramatic sweep of land on the way out of town toward Trenton.

Another famous Princetonian who has a street named after him is activist Paul Robeson. The street leads to the comfortable and huge Princeton Public Library, a great place to escape on a rainy day in town.

Many movies have been filmed in Princeton, and at the University, including *A Beautiful Mind*, about the great mathematician John Nash. And of course the movie *I.Q.*, a comedy about a fictional niece of Albert Einstein who taught and lived here from 1935 to 1955, and brought more fame to the burg, as did *Admission*, a 2013 Tina Fey movie.

The list is long, including the TV show *House*, and the movies *Hoop Dreams* and *Annapolis*. Movie makers clearly like Princeton, and they did it all without tax

WEBSITES

Trip Planning
www.visitprinceton.org

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breaks and huge subsidies.

If you want to stay in a classically styled inn, the Nassau Inn has you covered. This inn was originally built in 1756 on Nassau Street, and moved to Palmer Square in 1937. The building features a grand stone hearth fireplace and the hushed, woody elegance of days gone by. Check out the "Yankee Doodle" mural painted by Norman Rockwell that still graces the walls of the Yankee Doodle Taproom.

If you visit Princeton, no matter what time of year, you'll still get the flavor of the famous university and you, too, will feel just a little bit smarter. There must be something in the water.

Local travel editor Max Hartshorne writes about traveling around our region, and a little beyond. Max is the editor of the website *GoNOMAD Travel*, published since 2000 in South Deerfield. Find him online at www.gonomad.com.

TV REVIEW**Peacock's Last Light**

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – Matthew Fox of *Lost* hasn't done a TV series in a while. He has just been in movies, as far as I know. So I was mildly interested when I learned he had done this series called *Last Light* on Peacock TV, which is a streaming service connected to NBC.

Last Light premiered on September 9. The plot is based on a 2007 novel with the same name by Alex Scarrow.

Andy Yeats, a petrochemist, and his family are together one moment, and the next each member is separated. His older daughter is in London, his wife and son are in Paris preparing for treatment for his son's eye condition, and Yeats has been called away to the Middle East to do some testing on oil coming out of one of their plants. There is a problem with it that requires his special expertise.

The first episode really isn't very exciting for the most part. The only interesting tidbit at first is the fact the people who have a tendency to ask for his help have never before sent somebody to pick him up.

I should also mention that Yeats is enough of an expert on oil to

know that if something were to happen to the world's oil supply, society itself would collapse. I believe he is going to end up being grateful a supposed government official from Britain has come with him while he is doing this job in the Middle East. Also, the fact that his daughter is an environmental activist and he is this kind of chemist makes for some interesting dynamics to see on screen.

The start of society's collapse ends up happening via a power outage. People at the hospital in Paris start moving around like crazy. Andy and another person who are in a car together are attacked by armed men. In fact, that is basically the first scene of the episode.

People might watch this five-episode TV series just to see what happens with this family from start to finish. There are a nice amount of unanswered questions to help hold people's attention, like: How did this crisis get started? Will the family be able to reunite in the middle of all this chaos? Who is attacking this scientist? What is his family going to have to do to get back together again?

If that doesn't help make this series a hit, I don't know what will.

EXHIBITS

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Weaving With Wood*. Chris King, a scientist, engineer, and artist from Worcester, up-cycles and repurposes found materials into art. Through September 28.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Interotine*, mixed-media work by Turners Falls resident Desi Lowit. Through November.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *The ROY G. BIV of Fungi*, illustrations by Annaliese Bischoff. *Travels and Botanicals*, oil paintings by Lori Lyn Hoffer. Through September.

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Ocean House* by Stacey Pea. Through September 30.

GCTV Studios, Greenfield: *Alternative Abstracts*, paintings by Drew Hutchinson. Through September.

LAVA Center and Looky Here, Greenfield: *Art Beyond Four Walls*, from the Salasin Project in collaboration with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office programs. More than 70 pieces from men and women who are or who have been incarcerated,

and the community artists from the Weekly Watercolor group, who represent a welcoming bridge toward healing after release. Through September. Closing reception Friday, September 30 at 5 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Deerfield: *Robert Strong Woodward*, landscape paintings by Woodward (1885-1957). Through September.

Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield: *Sticks & Stones*. Artists interpret the whimsical theme of sticks and/or stones in sculpture, mixed media, mosaic, fiber art, and more. September 23 to November 6. Reception next Thursday, September 29, includes a farmers market on site.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *William Hays*, color-reduction woodcut and linocut prints of the New England landscape and architecture. *Carolyn Webb*, drawings and prints using patterns surrounding grief, colors, reflections. Reception this Sunday, September 25, at 2 p.m. with live music from Nina Gross. Through October.

Shelburne Arts Coop Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Color, Light, Reflection*. Coop members

Sandra Denis, Flo Rosenstock, and Sally Chaffee present colorful paintings, jewelry, textile art, and collage. Through September.

Gallery A3, Amherst: *Then and Now*. Ron Maggio's mixed-media series *Grid: Point of Departure*, and Rochelle Shicoff's painting series *A Day Such as This*. Through September.

Anchor House of Artists, Northampton: *Owlen Dowling*, monotypes, intaglio, and drypoint. *Eliza Jane Moser*, paintings. *Dean Nimmer and Unique Fredique*, fluxist art. Through October 1.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Mundane Monsters*. Kristofer Ørum combines augmented reality, 3D printing, video, wireless transmissions, and sculpture to summon forth everyday beasts from the cracks between the real and the imagined. Through October 7.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center: *Felt Experience*, group show of felt artists. Also exhibiting: Beth Galston, Frank Jackson, Mie Yim, Nebizun, Roberley Bell, and Oasa Duverney. Through October 10. www.brattleboromuseum.org.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
LAVA Center, Greenfield: Steve Koziol presents *Beetle 7*, Kevin Smith, Leo Hwang. \$ 5 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: Kimaya Diggs, Naomi Nye, King Manzi. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
FreshGrass Festival, North Adams: *Trampled by Turtles, Old Crow Medicine Show, Billy Keane*, more. \$ 6 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Heaven for Real, Joe Gutierrez, Norma Jean*. \$ 7 p.m. *Nuxx Vomica, Clock Serum, Orange Peel Mystic, DJ Heartballoon*. \$ 10 p.m.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Noise Nomads, Matriarch, Kjostad, Underwear*. \$ 7 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene NH: *Caroline Davis, Forbes Graham, Steve*

Cady. \$ 7 p.m.
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Emma Ayres, Jocelyn MacKenzie, Zoe Boekbinder*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *David Wax Museum*. \$ 8 p.m.

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Guided By Voices*. \$ 8 p.m.

Colonial Theater, Keene: *Richard Thompson*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
FreshGrass Festival, North Adams: *The Del McCoury Band, Gary Clark, Jr., Skip Marley, Jerry Douglas*, more. \$ 11 a.m.

Palladium, Worcester: *NOFX, Descendents, Face to Face, TSOL*, more. \$ 1 p.m.

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Ramon & Jessica, Myrtle Street Klezmer, Caroline Davis*. Free. 3 p.m.

Florence Night Out, Florence: *Sunset Mission, Tang Sauce, StompBox Trio, Gaslight Tinkers, The Basement Cats, High*

Tea. Free. 4 p.m.
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Hollow Teeth, Tides, Capo Kong, Riverbed, Rakefire, Shortest Life*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Green Heron*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Whiskey Treaty Roadshow with Dan Blakeslee*. \$ 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Cloud-belly, This Could Be it, Grammerhorn Wren, Jaguar Stereo*. \$ 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *2 Car Garage*. Free. 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Track Meat, The Baxbys, The Lights*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Olivia Nied*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
FreshGrass, North Adams: *Tanya Tucker, Taj Mahal, Yola, Thee Sacred Souls*, more. \$ 11 a.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Speedy Ortiz*. \$ 7 p.m.

Palladium, Worcester: *311, Tropicadelic*. \$ 7 p.m.
1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Peter Blanchette, The Art of the Archguitar*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
Nova Arts, Keene: *Yo La Tengo*. \$ 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Masala Jazz*. Free. 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Eggtooth presents *Deus Ex Machina*. \$ 7 and 9 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Haley Heyndrickx, Illegal Son*. \$ 7 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Bella's Bartok, EIEIEIO*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
Pioneer Brewery, Turners Falls: *Groove Prophet*. Free. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Eggtooth presents *Deus Ex*

Machina. \$ 7 and 9 p.m.
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Donna the Buffalo, Gary Douglas Band*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1
Garlic & Arts Festival, Orange: *Dave Bulley Band, Yasu Suzuki Method, ReBelle*. \$ 11:45 a.m.

Shea Theater: *Deus Ex Machina*. \$ 7 and 9 p.m.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Attia Taylor, PussyVision, Neonach*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Carnivora, Chained to the Bottom of the Ocean, Coma*. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2
Garlic & Arts Festival, Orange: *Carrie Ferguson, Taproots, The Green Sisters, Rice: An American Band*. \$ 11 a.m.

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Shawn Colvin*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Outro, The Maladaptive, Zane Provost*. \$ 7:30 p.m.



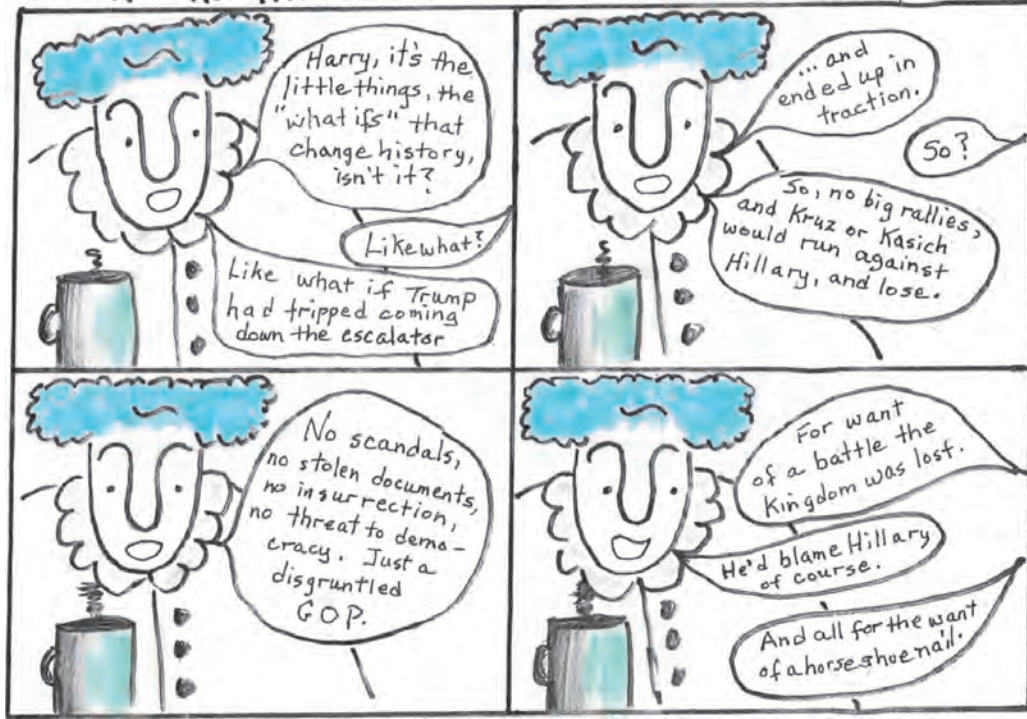
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JOHANNA from page B1

In 1872 Mary died of tuberculosis, or “consumption” as it was then called. James, 21, and Michael, 23, followed her to the grave the next year. John, 24, and Henry, 17, just a year younger than Johanna, died in 1875. Finally, in 1876, Daniel, age 24, also died of tuberculosis.

Of the eight children, only Catherine, Johanna, and the youngest, Patrick, lived beyond age 24. Their father Patrick died 20 years after his wife, having reached the age of 76. Only young Patrick carried on the surname, though his name is not on the “Howrihin” headstone in St. Mary’s cemetery in Montague. Young Patrick raised his family in Fitchburg, where the spelling changed in common usage to Hourihin and, later, Hourihan. Fitchburg would come to mark another turning point for Johanna.

Holyoke was the happy scene of the marriage of John J. Shea and Johanna Hourihan in 1883. The Shea family belonged to the first Roman Catholic parish in Holyoke, St. Jerome, founded over a quarter century earlier. (St. Mary of the Assumption Church on Seventh Street in Turners Falls was not opened until 1891.)

Johanna and John later took a train to Fitchburg, where Mary Agnes (Mamie), Henry, and Margaret (Maggie) were born to them, followed in 1891 by Johnny. When Johnny was three months old and Maggie just two, their father, John J. Shea, was hit by a train.



Maggie’s youngest child Peggy, at right, with Lloyd Garrand of Chestnut Street, about the time of their marriage in 1939.

Johanna was a widow, with four young children. She had lost five brothers ages 17 to 24, and now she had lost her 29-year-old husband. She had to become the breadwinner.

Johanna took the same westbound train home to Franklin County that had killed her husband. She made her home and worked in bustling Turners Falls. Family lore indicates that Maggie was pretty much raised by Mamie while their mother worked. Johnny was cared for “by the neighbors.” The US Census of 1900 records that Johanna lived with her children and that she was a rag sorter in a paper mill, a common job for women of the period. Maggie was eleven.

By 1914, Johanna was living at 63 Fifth Street in Turners Falls, and was employed by Keith Paper Co., always referred to as “The Keith.” Maggie, who had married George Grogan in 1909, had two darling little girls, Marion and Peggy.

George Grogan was five years older than Maggie. Like Johanna Shea, he was employed by the Keith Paper Company, but as a paper maker, a better-paying position. George was also a Turners Falls firefighter, at a time when horse-drawn fire trucks were still used. He was active with the Temperance Society of the Turners Falls Hibernian Hall (the Ancient Order of Hibernians, A.O.H.), now Power Town Apartments. Basketball players and musical bands played there; in fact, George had played basketball for St. Mary’s as a youth.

This young couple found themselves written up in newsprint when they happened to be visiting Maggie’s sister Mamie and her husband, John McLaughlin. They smelled smoke in an upstairs apartment and ran upstairs, managing to extinguish the bedclothes where the tenant had been smoking!

Maggie and Mamie made the *Greenfield Gazette and Courier* in July 1917 reporting that they were spending their vacation in Boston and at the beaches. On June 1, 1918 the *Greenfield Recorder* reported the opening of a “romper shop” in Turners Falls. “Romper shop” was a common term for a factory that made an article of clothing first worn by children. Rompers continued in popularity throughout the twentieth century, even among young adults.

At 29, Maggie was enjoying life with her little family. However, the year 1918 brought death to many families around the world. This was wartime, WWI, and an influenza pandemic had killed many young adults.

On a Friday in October, after having driven a woman to see her dying husband at Fort Devens, George contracted influenza. This was the so-called “Spanish Flu,” then rampant at Fort Devens. He died the following



Left: Mrs. Margaret Grogan, known as Maggie, with her children Marion (standing) and Peggy (on her lap).



Right: The author’s mother Phyllis, second from right, at her graduation from the Mercy Hospital School of Nursing. Phyllis is pictured here with her brother Francis, their father “Buster” Rosewarne, and their mother, Marion – Maggie’s eldest child.

Monday in his mother’s home of what Maggie called “galloping pneumonia.” Newspaper reports of the time indicate that George was the first in Turners Falls to die of the pneumonia that many developed as a complication of this influenza. Margaret Grogan had not been allowed to see George before he died, something she never got over.

George’s death was a devastating loss to the little family. Margaret was a widow at 29, the same age her father had been when the train took his life. She had to support herself and her girls, so she went to work at the romper shop. Her younger brother Johnny, who had no family ties, spent many hours with her, Marion, and Peggy. Johnny took the family out on excursions such as to Lake Wyola in Shutesbury.

Margaret Grogan was a proud woman, and she became a skilled seamstress. She made the clothing for her girls in the styles of the raging 1920s and the more sedate 1930s. She even made the gowns her daughter Peggy wore when she had singing engagements. Peggy, also officially named Margaret, had a singing voice that was much sought after, according to reporting by the *Holyoke Sentinel*. Family lore indicates that all the young Howrihin men had beautiful voices before tuberculosis silenced them.

Maggie was courted by Mike Michalopoulos, a wonderful man who was treated as family, but like her mother, Johanna Shea, she never remarried.

Johanna H. Shea died in 1939, aged 81.

Her obituary indicates that she was “one of the pioneer members of St. Mary’s,” now Our Lady of Peace. Johanna was fond of gardening, raised flowers, braided rugs, and did fine needlework. “She was active and went downtown frequently to shop, visit, or attend church,” and she was a longtime member of the Holy Rosary Society of St. Mary’s. Johanna was survived by six grandchildren, and one brother, Patrick Hourihan of Fitchburg.

Johanna and John Shea’s children all lived independently into their 90s. For many years Margaret Grogan lived in her mother’s brick three-story home on Central Street, occasionally sharing a “cold one” over the back fence with her sister-in-law, “Tillie” Grogan.

In time, Marion raised her family upstairs in what became Margaret Grogan’s home, while Johanna Shea lived above her son Henry in a white house not far from McCarthy’s funeral home. Mamie also lived on Central Street, nearly opposite the former school, and “Uncle Johnny Shea” lived in Greenfield.

Johanna’s great-great granddaughter, as a toddler in the 1950s, played in Johanna’s Garden on Central Street. The scent of phlox and hydrangea still bring memories of sunny summer days in Nana’s backyard with family, the descendants of Mary, Johanna, and Maggie.

Louise Boucher Croll was born and raised in Turners Falls. She lives in South Hadley now, with her husband and two dogs.



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