



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 14 – NO. 35

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 16, 2016

## Hillcrest Cleared In Abuse Investigation

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – A long-awaited report regarding practices at Hillcrest Elementary School has concluded with a positive result for the school district.

Earlier this year, two families with children enrolled at Hillcrest made allegations of abuse and neglect regarding the use of what is called a “calm down room,” a place where, according to school

policies, a child determined to be at risk of causing harm to others can be alone to quiet down under staff observation.

The complaints were not made to the district but over social media and the press, and the nonprofit Disabilities Law Center (DLC) announced that it was investigating the claims. They did so with a visit to the school this past February.

Now the DLC has come to a see **HILLCREST** page A8

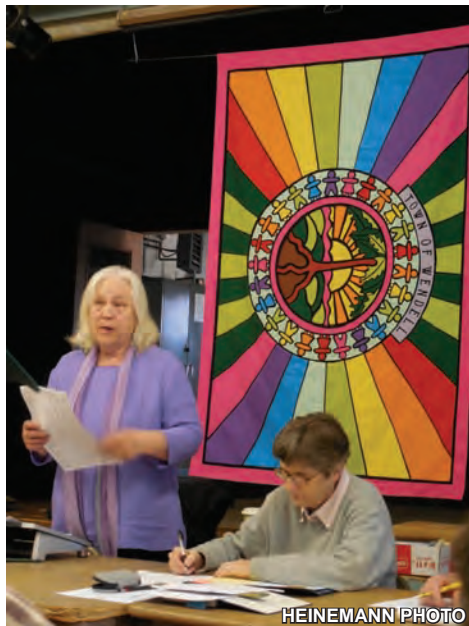
## Wendell Reaches Into Stabilization Funds To Soften Tax Hikes

By JOSH HEINEMANN

In five-and-a-half hours spread over two evenings last week, June 8 and June 9, Wendell citizens conducted their annual town meeting, and as might be expected, on June 8 the town hall was full, but on June 9, only half of the chairs were occupied.

Voters passed all but two articles. One of those articles would have authorized \$2,000 for town hall kitchen equipment, and the other would have authorized \$34,500 for design work for a sidewalk from the town common to the Wendell Country Store.

By cutting operating expenses by 2% across all departments and taking \$254,375 from stabilization to pay expenses that, in more normal years with less demand for town money, might have been paid for through taxation, the finance committee was able to recommend a budget with a much lower tax increase than was originally expected. Voters followed the fin com’s recommendations, and the town was able to reduce the poten-



Moderator Katie Nolan, town clerk Gretchen Smith, and Wendell’s town flag.

tial tax increase significantly.

Voters approved taking money from the stabilization fund to pay the yearly debt service on the town buildings and the Mahar renovation; to put money in the reserve account, insurance reserve account, unemployment compensation fund, and pension reserve fund; to pay for an independent audit as required

see **WENDELL** page A7

### NEWS ANALYSIS

## Will Sale of FirstLight Impact Relicensing, Tax Appeals?

By JEFF SINGLETON

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – The Canadian pension investment company PSP Investments closed on the purchase of FirstLight Power Resources on June 1, but Gus Bakas, who handles media inquiries for FirstLight, says that the “philosophy and management [of the company] will remain the same... the decision makers remain the same.”

Bakas is the director of Massachusetts operations for FirstLight, which owns the Northfield Mountain pumped-storage project, the Turners Falls dam and power canal, and two power plants along the canal, including Cabot Station.

The philosophy and management approach of PSP investments,

which purchased FirstLight from the French energy giant ENGIE (formerly GDF Suez), is of some interest to local officials. The Northfield Mountain Project and the dam, canal and power stations, collectively known as the Turners Falls Project, are both in the process of renewing their federal licenses. This happens every thirty years or so.

Towns and regional organizations, such as the Connecticut River Watershed Council, are using the process to improve First Light’s “stewardship” of its resources in the region, and advocate for changes in how much of the river’s water it diverts into the mountain reservoir and canal.

Last February, the Montague see **FIRSTLIGHT** page A7

## Victorious in State Semifinals, Turners Girls Face One Last Game

By MATT ROBINSON

This week, the Turners Falls Softball Indians beat Mount Everett in the Western Mass Division 3

semifinals, reclaimed the Western Mass crown by shutting out Hoo-sac Valley, and blanked the Central Mass champs, the Tahanto Stags, to earn another trip to the state finals.

All three of these opponents have had remarkable seasons, and are ranked as some of the best D3 teams in the state. But Turners powered through these squads to the tune of 16 runs to 1.

This Saturday, the team heads to the championship game for its third consecutive year, facing Reading’s Austin Preparatory School, a young team that has never made it this far into the postseason. That game starts at 1 p.m. at Rockwood Park in Worcester.

TFHS 3 – Mount Everett 1

For those of you who remember the 2013 softball playoffs, it was Mount Everett who knocked Blue out of the Western Mass finals. This is noteworthy because it means Everett is the only team ever to beat Powertown in the regional finals – every other year for the past 13 seasons, Turners has taken the Western Mass title.

Like the Pioneer game played see **SOFTBALL** page A6



A joyful Jordyn Fiske, Jenna Putala, and Gabby Arzuaga come off the field after a sixth-inning double play sealed the team’s victory over the Tahanto Stags in the state Division 3 semifinal at Rockwood Park, Worcester State University.

### MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Board Backs “Rock Paper Scissors” Sculpture for Downtown Bumpout

By JEFF SINGLETON

At its June 13 meeting the Montague selectboard approved a sculpture designed by local artist Tim de Christopher to adorn the recently completed “bumpout” on the northeast corner of Avenue A and Third Street in Turners Falls. The work is entitled “Rock Paper Scissors,” and consists of three stand-alone objects – a large stone, a replica of a paper mill, and a retail store named Scissors.

Suzanne LoManto, director of the town’s Turners Falls RiverCulture program, presented the selection made by a committee of eight. LoManto said that RiverCulture had received 14 responses to the request for proposals, which was advertised



Among the materials reviewed by town officials was this mockup of de Christopher’s proposed public sculpture in miniature.

on national websites. One response came from as far away as Seattle.

LoManto told the board that her group used a number of criteria to judge submissions, including con-

sistency with the identity of the park and the broader context of downtown Turners, the artist’s ability to complete the project, safety, see **MONTAGUE** page A7

## Saturday: Celebrate Unity Skatepark!

By REPORTER STAFF

**TURNERS FALLS** – Saturday will be a big, big day at Unity Park.

After nearly two decades of effort, the town has built a beautiful concrete skatepark that is already attracting athletes from around New England, and it’s time to celebrate.

Montague Parks and Recreation, Turners Falls RiverCulture, and the Unity Skatepark Committee have joined forces to host a day-long party that should have something for everyone.

In the morning, the new park is reserved for kids see **SKATE** page A4



Robby Brook looks on as Brandon Taylor drops into the park’s big bowl Wednesday.



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"The Voice of the Villages"

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## Time to Listen

The country is reeling this week from the worst mass shooting in its history, after a man born in New York to Afghani immigrants pledged fealty to the Islamic State and murdered 49 people at a Latin night at a gay club in Orlando, Florida.

Nothing is simple about this event, and this week, as details of the perpetrator's background and motivations emerge in confused fragments, we face a whirlwind of political argument – over identity and ideology, guns and religion, immigration and modernity, mental health, masculinity, and war.

We're using this page space to share a few responses from queer Latino/a and Muslim writers, whose communities are the most immediately affected by Sunday's tragedy.

While a lot of people turn to churches, LGBT communities are often forced to use nightclubs as our safe haven, and Pulse was mine.

Although I had built armor to defend myself from the hatred that was spewed to me when I came out (including some from my own mother), the reality was that I still hated myself because of my identity as a gay man. It didn't help that I had grown up in a church that had conditioned me to hate myself for loving other men.

Pulse was where I learned to love myself as a gay man. Pulse was where I learned to love my community.

**Daniel Leon-Davis**  
writing on *fusion.net*

These spaces, like at Pulse nightclub, these Latino nights, are very much sacred spaces for our community. They're spaces of respite, of safety, of camaraderie, of community.

And the fact that now that these spaces are now threatened, now we have to think twice before we enter these spaces, when they're already far and few between, when we're already under vigilance, when we're already overpoliced, when we're already feeling that our lives are, at any given moment, threatened due to state violence, due to interpersonal violence, domestic violence, gun violence now....

The U.S. government and the right-wing conservative leadership and groups really need to take a hard look and reflection in the mirror, because in the same ways that they're wanting to demonize and portray other cultures and other re-

ligions as violent and as cruel, they are not really understanding how the United States government, in many ways – inside detention centers, through overpolicing, through criminalization – is enacting the same violence, enacting the same rhetoric....

They're trying to dehumanize us, so that then violence can be enacted, so that then people can take action on that rhetoric and cause violence – bodily harm to my community.

I was in North Carolina when HB2 was announced, and I was in the middle of a hate rally from conservative religious communities that were gathered. Thousands of people were gathered, and I was in the sea of it. And the hate was palpable. The rhetoric on stage was that my community is not human, that my community is disposable.

**Isa Noyola**, program director, Transgender Law Center interviewed on *Democracy Now!*

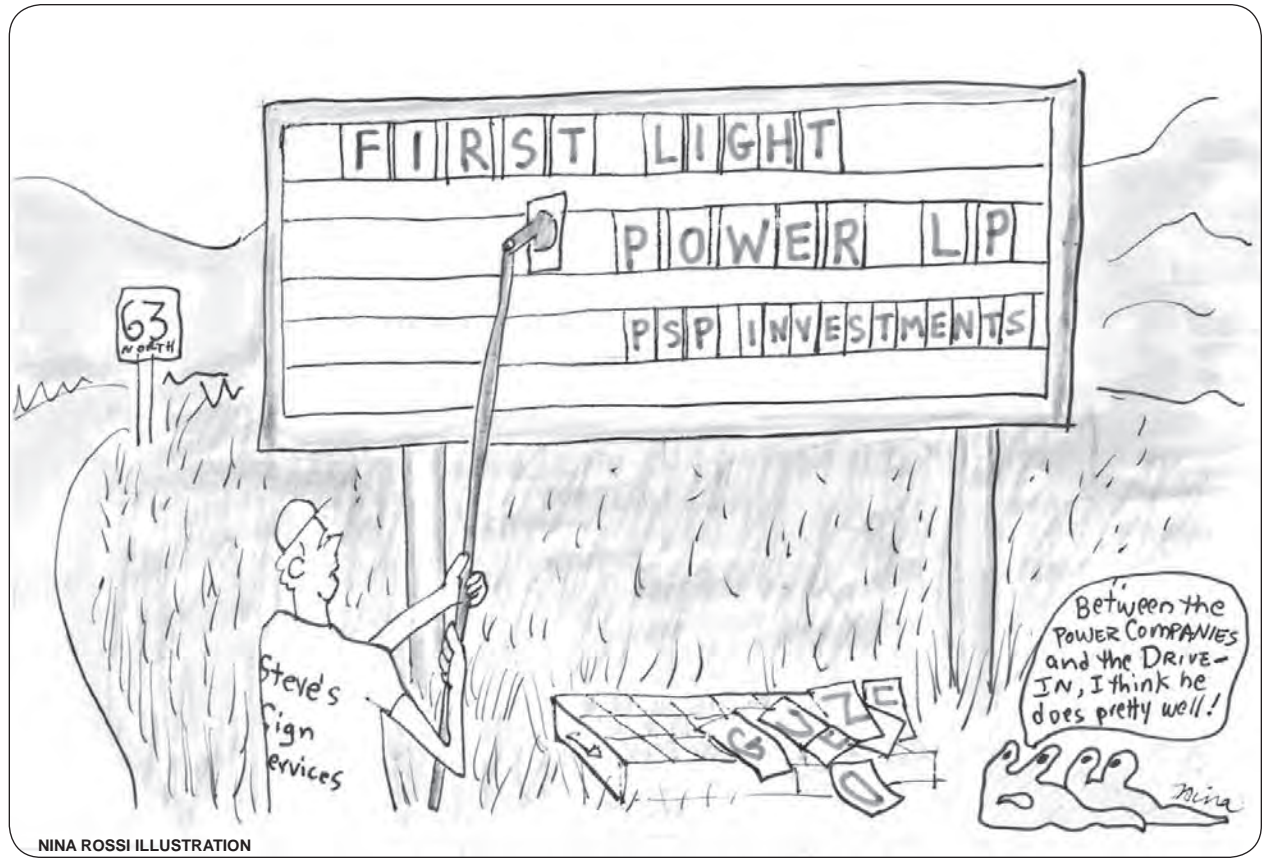
It seems no coincidence that this massacre takes place as the nation engages in an increasingly vitriolic argument about gender-neutral bathrooms which portrays trans people as predators; or during an electoral season in which one of the presidential candidates has shamelessly characterized Latinxs as rapists and criminals.

In fact, expressions of hate toward these two (overlapping) groups have become so normalized they're commonplace in tweets, Facebook posts and elementary school bully refrains.

**Sabrina Vourvoulias**, writing for *Philadelphia Magazine*

We need to think carefully about what goes through the mind of that closeted Muslim man listening to the statements today, who may well end up married to someone of the opposite sex because he fears losing his position in his Muslim community. We need to think carefully about what these statements do to empower heterosexual Muslim individuals, who then stand to represent not just Islam but the "ideal" gender and sexuality....

Much of our effort in the West to combat extremist ideology relies on building bridges between people, and many Muslim leaders are the first to take to the podium in interfaith dialogue. In light of the Orlando shooting, it is now untenable to have this dialogue of action



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

## Letter to the Editors

### Cabot Station Tour was Great

If we're lucky, we'll get opportunities to visit the Cabot Station again before its next 100th anniversary!

The Cabot100 tour was excellent. Guided by an engineer, our group saw the spotless interior and working parts of the generating station and environs.

Everyone in the group had chances to ask questions, and we all got good, understandable answers.

Regards,  
**Peter d'Errico**  
Leverett

without including and accepting every face of marginalization within faith communities – especially the LGBT people who are essential partners in our desire for a bright and colorful world.

**Amanullah de Soudy**, former University of Miami Islamic Studies professor

When details started coming out about the killer, I was terrified for the Muslim community. I was afraid that many would take this tragedy and use it to add onto the ever-growing Islamophobia in this country.

I was afraid that non-Muslims would not be able to see that this was a person raised and taught in the United States, validated by the institutional violence that is in place across the United States.

I was afraid many people would not see that marginalized communities are too often victims of these oppressive systems and institutions, and that violence against marginalized people does not simply emerge from individual "terrorists." I was afraid that people would try and pit queer communities and Muslim communities against each other.

But what I have seen from the LGBTQ community is the opposite. I'm seeing people who recognize that queer and trans liberation is also connected to the liberation of other marginalized people, including Muslims.

**Delma Catalina Limones**, writing for *truth-out.org*

The photo exhibits located at various points in the tour added a museum-quality feel to the event.

Congratulations to the team at Cabot for putting this together. Please do it again so I can bring my grandchildren and ask more questions!

Growing up, it was a prominent narrative that Islam had no room for gay or queer people. That it wasn't a religion for people like me.... But by 18, I had reconciled it: I was really okay with identifying as both queer and Muslim. Some people never reconcile it....

I've never felt safe. I don't believe I can ever get safety in a white supremacist world. But I think we can cultivate spaces for healing, where there's pleasure and joy; but people have to work toward actively creating and keeping those spaces. Dance spaces and clubs are really powerful for that. Queer and trans people of color have been really proactive in trying to map out a future that is more livable and more just, a future where we don't have to leave parts of ourselves out....

I think calls for Muslims to denounce this are rooted in a particular type of racism. When white men go into schools, malls, and movie theaters and gun down people, Christians and Christianity aren't called to account for it. It's a myth that allows our countries and people to rationalize violent foreign policies, racist immigration policies, and the ways in which we treat brown folks.

**Lali Mohamed**, Toronto, writing for *The Fader*

[R]elying on the poor treatment of LGBT people in the Middle East as an explanation for this tragedy is lazy journalism; particularly without looking toward prevalent ho-

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mophobic attitudes in the United States, where Mateen was raised.

Yet few mainstream media sources turned their attention toward an escalating climate of violence in the United States against LGBTQ people – and transgender women of color in particular – that has nothing to do with Islamic extremism. Last year, 23 transgender women were murdered – most of whom were women of color – in what is widely considered a national epidemic that appears to have no end in sight....

For LGBTQ Latinxs, the club is where many of us go to feel at home and free – a place to escape from state-sanctioned violence.

When so many of us are rejected from our families of origin for part or all of our lives, the club is where many of us experienced our whole selves for the first time: where we see queer and trans people upending gendered notions of how we dance salsa, merengue, and cumbia, where we can be free in our sexuality while still connected to our roots, *perreando* to some dembow....

Despite the pain that we are feeling, LGBT Latinxs must not let this tragedy become yet another spectacle in which leaders craft narratives later used to attack entire peoples, entire nations, entire regions. We cannot allow our suffering to be used as a tool for scaremongering. Not in our names.

**Veronica Bayetti Flores**, writing on *Remezcla.com*

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## LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Explore the benefits of **making your own nutritious, healthy cheese** right in your own kitchen.

Jeri Case will bring her knowledge and expertise to you up front and personal at the Turners Falls branch of Greenfield Savings Bank on Saturday, June 18, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Case writes the blog and "Moos-Letter" for New England Cheesemaking Supply Company, so she definitely knows the topic right down to the "curds and whey."

The last day the **Turners Falls Fish Ladder** is open is this Sunday, June 19, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

There will be a **Father's Day Model Fun Fly** on Sunday, June 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Turners Falls Airport.

Events include model airplane/helicopter airshow, demonstration, simulated combat, and food from

the Montague Fire Department. Attendees are directed to use Gate 4.

Join Wendell's Chris Marano, local herbalist and founder of Clear-Path Herbs ([www.clearpathherbs.com](http://www.clearpathherbs.com)), for a medicinal plant walk around Fiske Pond this Sunday, June 19.

Meet at 11 a.m. in the parking lot. Sponsored by the Wendell Open Space Committee. Space is limited and first come, first served registration. Please RSVP to [tckearns@gmail.com](mailto:tckearns@gmail.com).

The **Water Whale at Unity Park** in Turners Falls will begin spouting off for the summer on Monday, June 20. The spouting will be daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., weekends included.

The public is invited to witness the **summer solstice sunrise and sunset** among the standing stones of the UMass-Amherst Sunwheel on

Monday, June 20 at 5 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. This Sunwheel event marks the astronomical change of season when days are longest and nights are shortest in the Northern hemisphere. Heavy rain cancels the event.

The Sunwheel is located south of McGuirk Alumni Stadium, just off Rocky Hill Road about one-quarter mile south of University Drive.

The **Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center** will hold their annual meeting on Thursday, June 23. The public is invited.

Doors to the Great Hall will open at 6:30 p.m., with a short meeting scheduled for 6:45 p.m., and a presentation of the Barton Cove and Quabbin eagles starting at 7 p.m.

William Dean, the presenter, has been canoeing and taking videos and still photos in these areas for many years and is a wealth of information. For a preview, visit [www.cutloosewildlife.com](http://www.cutloosewildlife.com).

The meeting and program is open to all. This has been a busy, and sometimes trying, year at the GFDC. Come find out what a truly successful year it turned out to be.

**Summer Reading Programs** will be starting throughout the area during the last week in June! Contact your local libraries for event and programming schedules.

The Community Network for Children (CNC) Program and the Pioneer Valley Regional School CFCE Program have planned a summer full of fun and engaging activities for Fridays, from July 8 through August 19 at the Northfield Mountain Recreation & Environmental Center.

Meet up with friends and family to explore nature, and enjoy hands-on activities and StoryWalks. Most appropriate for children 8 years and younger.

This **free weekly playgroup**, which will meet rain or shine, is funded in part by a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care, with support from Northfield Mountain Recreation & Environmental Center. It will meet every Friday morning from 10 a.m. to noon.

For more information, contact the CNC office at (978) 544-5157 or [budine@erving.com](mailto:budine@erving.com).

**Piglets for sale** in Wendell. They will be available the beginning of July, and were born between May 7 and 9. The piglets are Saddleback/large black/Tarnworth cross, and are all solid black. For more information, contact Paul at (413) 422-1000 (texting preferred).

Send your local briefs to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).



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### NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

## Town Down an Assessor

By KENT ALEXANDER

The Gill selectboard met on Monday evening and, with due diligence, promptly addressed the various items and issues before them.

The first order of business was an update from town clerk Lynda Hodsdon Mayo concerning Gill's early voting procedure. Hodsdon Mayo reported that only 1% will most likely use absentee ballots, which will take place 11 days before the state primary on September 8. She noted that Gill has only a single precinct, and that the approved area makes use of the old voting structure which is adjacent to her office at town hall.

Hodsdon Mayo also reported that she had received a letter from the board of assessors informing the selectboard that, due to the fact no one ran for the open position listed on the ballot at the last town meeting, there had been a "failure to elect" an assessor.

Selectboard chair John Ward asked if there was a "time limit" on when the selectboard had to fill this position, and how to move forward. Hodsdon Mayo stated that there was no actual time limit and there was, at present, not a single name her office could offer.

Ward suggested both the selectboard and the board of assessors take time to look for the right person.

Administrative assistant Ray Purington suggested that during this time, they also prepare a list of duties and responsibilities so that a future assessor might have a better idea what the job entails. Ward then asked Hodsdon Mayo to inform the board of assessors to contact Purington's office to get a notice out in the newspaper to find a suitable candidate.

The next order of business was treasurer Ronnie LaChance's presentation to the selectboard concerning the safety complex roof loan. Three agencies (Greenfield Cooperative Bank, Easthampton Savings Bank

and Unibank) were approached to offer bids. While Unibank did not bid, both Greenfield Cooperative Bank and the Easthampton Savings Bank provided competitive bids.

A brief discussion ensued about the number of years needed to repay the \$47,200 loan, the need of the selectboard to make a decision by June 30, and the nature of banks.

LaChance stated that she recommended the lower loan bid of 3 years at 1.9% from the Easthampton Government Bank. Based on LaChance's recommendation, selectboard member Greg Snedeker moved that they accept the bid. It was seconded by selectboard member Randy Crochier and unanimously approved.

### Bits and Pieces

Project updates included a report from Purington that work on the final project of the town's Green Communities grant, replacing and restoring windows at the Riverside Municipal Building, has begun, comprised of assorted measurements and the necessary paperwork.

Purington related that from March through May, Riverside's water district customers used an unusually high amount of water, and sent less than usual into the sewers, resulting in a lower amount of apparent "inflow and infiltration" than in the recent past.

A brief discussion ensued and, in the end, the selectboard members recommended that folks that accessed the sewer be made aware to be vigilant about possible water spillage.

Purington also gave an update concerning the grant to build a filtration system on the drinking water well at Gill Elementary School. Although he had received the results from a second round of testing, the document was mostly unreadable. He stated that he would be receiving a hard copy of the results and thought it likely that there would be

### Hey You: Become a Gill Assessor!

There is a vacancy on the Town of Gill's Board of Assessors because no one was elected to the open position at the Town Election in May.

If you are a Gill resident and think you might be interested in being an Assessor, please contact the Assessors' Clerk, Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, at 863-0138, or the Administrative Assistant, Ray Purington, at 863-9347.

The Board of Assessors typically meet every other week for 1-½ to 2 hours, and conduct property inspections as needed. Training is provided for the position, and is required by the Department of Revenue to happen within two years of an appointment or election.

Duties and responsibilities of the Assessors include establishing the fair market value of all property in the town, assisting in setting the tax rate for the town, doing property visits, and deciding on applications for tax abatements and exemptions.

There is an annual stipend of \$2,848.64.

a recommendation for closer monitoring of iron and arsenic, which might entail an updated plan to accomplish this task.

Purington shared that he was still researching a satisfactory answer to the selectboard's earlier question about the process of reimbursement for mutual aid received if Gill became a member of the Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC). He surmised that he might have an answer by their next meeting.

The next order of business was the approval of a purchase order to buy a new computer, monitor and a copy of Microsoft Office for the collector/treasurer. After leading a somewhat humorous conversation about computer costs and upkeep, Crochier moved to increase the sum from the requested \$1,150 to \$1,300. Snedeker seconded the motion, and it was unanimously supported.

The selectboard unanimously supported sending out sewer bills, and approved an authorization for FRCOG to contract on Gill's behalf for FY'17 highway bids.

Before tackling the big issue of the evening, Purington announced that there would be a series of Common People's Concerts. The concerts will transpire on the Gill Town Common at 7 p.m. on July 12, 19, and 26, and August 2 and 9. The complete

schedule of performers would be posted on the town's website.

### PILOT Flies

The final order of business was a review of the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement with Borrego Solar for a proposed photo-voltaic project on land leased from Northfield Mount Hermon School (NMH).

Purington reported that he had made "tweaks" to the proposed payment schedule in order to move away from previously suggested quarterly payments to a schedule mandated by the government. He also said he asked that, should it be necessary, any future court action be switched from Plymouth to Franklin County.

Snedeker clarified that the agreement was for a PILOT from the developer, but that the town itself would still need to assess taxes for the land itself.

The selectboard then fell into a lengthy discussion about rates, fees and accountability. When asked, Purington noted that the developer does not expect their rate numbers to change that much.

In the end, the selectboard voted to recommend the updated plan for approval at the next town meeting on June 28. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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## SKATE from page A1

under 10 to skate, and from noon to 1 p.m. girls and women of all ages will have the run of the ramps. **Rob Skelton's Pitchfork** will play a set.

At 1 p.m. skating will be on pause for an official ceremony. Town officials and state representative Steve Kulik will preside, and memorials will be dedicated to three community members who raised their voices for the park but passed away under tragic circumstances before it could be built: Chris Gallagher, Winter Clark, and Greg Ellis.

The public will then be invited to shred the ribbon together, in the spirit of just how many people pitched in over the years to see it built.

Then the music will continue, with sets by **Chris Worth, Vi-mana, the Warblers, the Head-band, OFC, Rebel Base, and the Equalites.**

OFC's thrash-ska set will be a special nostalgic treat for many locals, who may have seen them play countless benefits over the years to build, fix up and reopen Turners' old temporary skate parks.

Attendees will also be treated



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Christian navigates the park on a scooter.

to free food throughout the day, and the list of local eateries donating is impressive – they include the Turners Falls Pizza House, Country Creeme, Roberto's, Rendezvous, Harvest at Great Falls, Five Eyed Fox, and Riff's North; Greenfield's Brass Buckle, Mesa Verde, and People's Pint; the Lady Killigrew of Montague Center; Gill's Wagon Wheel, Erving's French King Res-

taurant, and the Farren Care Center. Oh, and skatepark committee members will be grilling hot dogs and veggie dogs.

Many area businesses have also donated prizes for a skateboard trick contest, which will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. At 4 p.m., the crowd will be treated to a BMX demo.

While this is happening, there'll be kids' activities including face

painting, t-shirt decorating, and other crafts, as well as information booths on the skatepark campaign's history, helmet safety, and more.

There are also two not-directly-affiliated developments of note. On Saturday morning, the Brick House, which nurtured the skatepark campaign for years, will hold a benefit 5K run. Registration starts at 9 a.m. at the gravel parking lot at the top of the bike path, and the race starts at 10 a.m. The suggested entry fee is \$20, but no runners will be turned away. A number of local businesses have pitched in prizes for that, too.

Also, the Playground Skateshop, located next to Unity Park on Third Street, reopened last weekend, and will be open for anyone interested in buying protective equipment, skateboards and hardware. The mini-ramp at the shop will be free to skate all weekend.

The grand opening celebration continues until dark, with an open community skate beginning at 5 p.m. The rain date for the entire event is Sunday the 19th, though as of press time, the weather forecast for Saturday is looking pretty solid.



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## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was June 15, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

### Wendell Library Groundbreaking

The groundbreaking ceremony for the new Wendell Library on Depot Road was attended by over 80 people of all ages on Sunday, June 11. The original town hall, built in 1846, will be completely renovated and expanded to house the library. The old building has also served the town as a schoolhouse, and most recently has housed town offices and the senior center.

The town offices will be housed in the new community center, which will be built nearby on Morse Village Road. The senior center may be relocated to the current library building.

### Gill-Montague Budget Powwow [sic]

Members of the Gill-Montague regional school committee, Montague selectboard, Montague finance committee, Gill selectboard, and Gill finance committee came together Monday evening, June 12, at the Sheffield Elementary school for a fiscal collaboration meeting to discuss the next step for the school district, following Montague's recent rejection of a \$600,000 school budget override.

"This is a very difficult time for all of us," said Valeria Smith, vice-chair of the school committee, as she opened the meeting for discussion. "I was always raised to see the

glass as half-full and keep a positive attitude." The \$16.8 million FY'07 GMRSD school budget, billed as a "level service" budget, was still short \$600,000.

"We still haven't received any updates from the state," said G-M superintendent Sue Gee. Senator Stan Rosenberg and Representative Steve Kulik have both told Gee the state budget will most likely not be completed until the end of June.

Although the district is holding out hope for some increase in state funding in the final budget, under the present circumstances, the school committee will have to operate month to month on the previous year's budget, and perform over half a million dollars of cuts.

### French King Bowling Center Replaces Snack Bar

Erik Semb, owner of the French King Entertainment Center, had been noticing that drivers on Route 2 frequently stop in to use the bathrooms at his bowling alley. Although they would say they were in too much of a hurry to eat at the snack bar, they let him know they would appreciate the chance to pick up some convenience store items to take with them on their commute.

In response to this need, Semb has removed the snack bar at the bowling alley, and is replacing it with a mini-convenience store. He will be offering hot dogs, soda, chips, nuts, and also Green Mountain Coffee, a gourmet coffee which is also a 'fairly traded' coffee, meaning the growers get a fair price for the coffee beans.



Reader Lynn Pelland sent us this picture of a grey fox she saw earlier this month on I Street in the Patch in Turners. "It has just come up from the brush area along the river," she writes. "It is the second time I've spotted one in the Power Street / I Street area."

## Congratulations Turners Falls High School Class of 2016 Graduates!

Matthew D. Brunette  
Brennan G. Camara  
Johnathan Joseph Cardona  
Raleigh M. Carlisle  
Jacob A. Clark  
Gabriel I. Coira  
Allison Paige Cooke  
Noah Thomas Cordonnier-Padilla  
Johnna D. Crockett  
Tarah C. Dempsey  
Colby Dobias  
Akeeva Forcier  
James Clifton Fritz  
Gunnar Garcia  
Courtney Jean Gochinski  
Nadia Rose Hasan  
Zachary W. Hillman  
Tanner Jones  
Seth Leamy  
Ryan L. Lenois  
Alexander Lindgren  
Jessica Marie Loynd  
Trevor James Mankowsky  
Jordan Nadine Meattay

Yazziel Mercado-Cruz  
David Mulherin  
Alison Melli Ovalle-Perez  
Riley Bowen Palmer  
Sabrina Mae Petrowicz  
Mackenzie Jean Phillips  
Jenna C. Putala  
Devan I. Rivera  
Jalen Sanders  
Jason A. Scott  
Nevan Q. Shattuck  
Ira A. Simmons  
Tristan M. Soucie  
Margaret R. Sroka  
Jake E. Thornton  
Destiny Elisa Torres  
Sydney Upham  
Tatiana Vellon-Santiago  
Hailey C. Whippie  
Richard C. Whiteman  
Ashley M. Williams  
Cullen M. Wozniak  
Alexxis Jayde Young

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# Parking Woes Show “Healthy, Growing Downtown,” Says Planner

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – Montague’s town planner told local business leaders Tuesday morning that a changing population in downtown Turners Falls, in addition to busier nightlife at restaurants, the Shea Theater and elsewhere, is creating an increased demand for parking.

“In my opinion, Turners does not have a parking problem,” Walter Ramsey told members of the Montague Business Association at its monthly meeting, held in the community meeting room at Greenfield Saving Bank. “It’s an issue of concern, certainly. But parking challenges are a symptom of a healthy, growing downtown.”

Ramsey said that a rising number of commuter households, many of which own two cars, is a factor, as are new restaurants and retail busi-

nesses, and a new group managing the Shea that he said is “showing a knack for filling up” the town-owned, 350-seat theater.

“Downtown is growing very slowly and steadily, which is a very good thing,” he argued. “You’ll learn that fast growth downtown is not necessarily a healthy thing in the long run – it has its own challenges.”

Ramsey described the village’s free parking serves as an “economic development tool” that attracts tenants and customers, and said that there has been no conversation about introducing metered parking anytime soon.

The context for this progress report was the approaching groundbreaking for a new municipal parking lot at Third and Canal streets, a former toxic dump that has in recent years been the site of a youth sculpture park. The town received a

\$324,000 state grant for the project, which was awarded to Davenport Construction of Greenfield.

Ramsey described Third Street as one of the village’s “most congested parking areas,” and said the new 24-space lot should help ease that congestion, provide overflow parking for Shea patrons, and help the town in its long-term plan to find developers for the publicly owned Strathmore mill complex on the other side of the power canal.

The planner then fielded concerns and complaints from several downtown business owners.

Dave Carr, owner of Basically Bicycles, pointed out that the section of Third Street where his business is located is designated as one-hour parking, but that it seemed to be “unenforceable” due to confusing signage.

Ramsey mentioned that the town was planning to acquire a signage

machine, which should allow the highway department to more easily update signs.

David Argy of Turners Falls Pizza House described a number of traffic and issues around his business, including drivers emerging the wrong way from the adjacent alley onto Avenue A, and vehicles parking all day in spots in front of businesses.

“People are creatures of habit,” he said. “I know I wouldn’t want to walk all the way from a parking lot that’s way down at the end of Third Street to... the Shea Theater, if I could just park right down the street.”

Ramsey said that the town might consider placing a time limit on Avenue A parking spaces, and the group brainstormed ways to direct visitors and residents to existing municipal parking, including lots on Second and First streets.

Greenfield Savings Bank branch manager Linda Ackerman suggested that the town issue sandwich-board signs to businesses during special events to help redirect parkers, and Turners Falls RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto wondered if the Shea Theater Arts Center would put a downtown parking map on their website.

LoManto added that the majority of the web traffic RiverCulture receives on its own site has been coming from phones and other mobile devices.

At the Montague Business Association meeting, Ramsey said that the Canal Street parking lot would be completed by December. After a pre-construction meeting with Davenport on Wednesday, he told the *Reporter* that the lot is now intended to be open to the public in the fall.

## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

### Erving Joins Emergency Coordination Effort

By KATIE NOLAN

On Monday night, the Erving selectboard voted for the town to join the Franklin County Multi-Agency Coordination Center (MACC).

Daniel Nietzsche, emergency preparedness coordinator from Franklin Regional Council of Governments, called MACC a “support asset” for local police, fire and emergency management departments, and “an extension of your EMD [emergency management director].”

MACC is intended to coordinate out-of-town resources, provide support with paperwork, and have trained professionals, including public information officers, available for consultation with local officials during a major emergency. According to Nietzsche, MACC won’t take over operational control from a local department or pay for resources or assets. Currently, it is entirely funded by grants, and Nietzsche said, “We hope to cover ongoing costs with grants.”

Nietzsche said that ten Franklin County towns have already joined the MACC. Asked about the town’s commitment to program, Nietzsche said that any town can leave MACC with 60 days’ notice.

#### Former Usher Plant

The selectboard set September 12 as the date for the Usher Plant re-use committee to report to the selectboard with information about potential use of the water supply well located at the property.

At the May 23 meeting, the

committee had asked the selectboard to approve the costs of testing water from the well. The board had not approved the expenditure, but asked the re-use committee to contact the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and investigate options for its use.

During earlier discussions about use of the well, the town’s water operator Peter Sanders, had predicted to the board that the DEP would not allow the former Usher Plant well to be redeveloped for use as a public water supply.

#### Appointments and Resignations

The selectboard received letters from William Bembury, Debra Smith and Charles Zilinski expressing interest in joining the library building committee.

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache commented, “We need a charge for this committee – what are we asking the committee to do?”

The board will formally create the committee at its June 20 meeting, after adopting the charge to the committee, and setting out its mission. The board will also appoint committee members on June 20.

Librarian Barbara Friedman said that two other people have expressed interest in serving on it, and that there are more seats to be filled before it reaches its full complement of seven members.

The selectboard also accepted several resignations. Debra Smith resigned from the library trustees, and Robert Turner resigned from the Council on Aging.

## NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

### Energy Aggregation Debated: It’s Not That Easy, Being Green

By ROB SKELTON

Leverett selectboard chair Peter D’Errico eviscerated the town’s energy committee for pie-in-the-sky idealism when it appeared to have made its recommendation of energy aggregator based on a non-profit company’s stated zeal for green energy, at Tuesday’s meeting.

Colonial Power and Mass Energy presented to the board two weeks ago, and since then, six of seven committee members have opted for Mass Energy, whose representative did a “poor job” explaining his program, acknowledged members.

“I’m just puzzled as to how you make your decisions,” D’Errico said, as he produced Mass Energy’s 2013 tax returns. These showed a revenue stream of \$2.8 million, with \$1.07 million listed for salaries.

Selectwoman Julie Shively said she leaned toward Colonial, which was “more local, keeps the money in Mass., seems flexible, and already deals with many small towns” in the region.

D’Errico pointed out that the town’s previously voted mandate for “green” energy, housed within a Hampshire County of Governments aggregation plan, was shot down by the state DPU because it contained a 1.7% fee to finance HCOG, deemed illegal by the state attorney general.

D’Errico said the selectboard has a mandate to reduce rates and improve service, and not necessarily source green. The townwide votes in 2008 and 2011 allow for municipal aggregation with automatic enrollment (with opt out), but do not

specify that it be “green.”

What he’d like to see put to bid, D’Errico said, was a three-tiered menu of options devised by the energy committee, from which residents can choose their proportion of energy sourced “green.” The first would have parity with current electric rates, the second more pricey using green sources, and the third more so for those wanting to make a statement.

“We’re all in favor of green energy,” he said. “I want to get this right, with everything defensible.”

#### Fire and Police

Fire Chief John Ingram swore in his son firefighter William Ingram in the presence of family members and the department. The oath, which promises not to advocate any violent overthrow of the government, was administered by town administrator Marjorie MacGinnis.

“Did we all swear that?” D’Errico asked.

Police Chief Gary Billings announced that a secure dropbox has been installed in the lobby of the police station to collect expired prescription drugs to be incinerated, “keeping them out of septic systems and groundwater.” Exceptions are liquid medications, intravenous or chemotherapy drugs, and “sharps.”

“No one’s gonna ask any questions,” Billings said; “We’re not set up to take illicit drugs.”

#### Crafts and Arts

Mitch Mullholland of the Leverett Crafts and Arts facility, which is a non-profit and pays no taxes to the

town, shared the results of a CPA-funded \$25,000 grant – a package comprising a “historic structure conditions assessment.”

Mulholland said the package, assembled by the Margo Jones architecture company of Greenfield, will be helpful for getting grants to continue repairs to the 1902 box shop structure.

D’Errico appreciated the data-rich summary and quizzed Mulholland on the order of repairs recommended in the short term, which were: windows; siding; roof.

Mulholland asked the board to set aside a day in September for the public presentation component of the grant.

Upon his exit, Mulholland cryptically stated that the “herbicide is planned for mid-June.”

#### Other Business

The board agreed to spend \$2,500 to repair the Town Hall steps.

A property line fence dispute between warring Moores Corner neighbors has drawn the attention of county building inspector Jim Hawkins. Clayton Prince, whose land is surrounded on three sides by Leesa Crocker’s EIEIO Farm, doesn’t want her cattle in his face.

Hawkins hopes to solve the matter within existing codes and frameworks, including required setbacks for animal fencing along boundaries.

D’Errico requested immediacy, as another issue involving Crocker’s ownership of an unapproved dwelling on the Sawmill River is entering its third year.

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**SOFTBALL** from page A1

three days earlier, last Thursday's game was a low-scoring affair. And like the Panthers, the Gold Eagles had seen the Blue Ladies before, and came prepared to play.

After two and a half scoreless innings, Hailey Whipple hit a grounder and just beat the throw to first. Alyson Murphy then shot another single past the infield, a stolen base moved the runners along, and Gabby Arzuaga knocked them both in with a hit to left.

The Blue Nation gave a loud, belated sigh of relief when Murphy slid under the tag at the plate putting Blue up, 2-0.

In the fourth, Turners added to their lead when Melissa Hersey sent Abby Loynd home on a double which rolled all the way to the wall. The Eagles won a run back in the sixth, but Powertown kept them off the boards for the rest of the game, and with the victory, Turners earned another trip to the regional finals.

Offensively, Turners evenly spread their seven hits among seven different batters: Murphy, Jenna Putala, Arzuaga, Mackenzie Phillips, Abby Loynd, Hersey, and Whipple.

Murphy, Abby Loynd and Whipple scored the three runs. Hersey had an RBI, and Arzuaga had the other two.

In the circle, Phillips allowed one run on 5 hits, no walks, and whiffed eight.

Winter sports note: Girls' basketball coach Ted Wilcox was in attendance at the game, and told me that Kiley Fleming plans to be back from Mount Hermon next season.

**TFHS 7 - Hoosac Valley 0**

"You know," Mr. Bush said to me as the last Hoosac player stepped into the box against ace Mackenzie Phillips, "she's only faced 21 batters."

Mr. Bush was right. Amazingly enough, only three Hurricane batters came to the plate in each in-

ning last Saturday. The only hit that Mac did allow was a bunt single, and that runner was promptly sent back to the bench on an Arzuaga-to-Murphy pickoff.

Turners took a 1-run lead in the second when Cassidhe Wozniak popped a single to right field, stole second, and scored on a sac from Melissa Hersey.

And then the rains came. For an hour and 47 minutes, the game was delayed. But that gave the fans a chance to mingle. That's when I met Gary Mullins' two brothers, Jim and Tommy Mullins. Like Coach, they both lettered in three sports back when they lived in Hatfield.

And while the fans were catching up under the grandstand, singing echoed from the dugout. "I want to take the energy that those girls have and put it into a pill," photographer David Hoitt said with a big smile as he exited the dugout. While the rest of us were trying to stay dry, the Blue Ladies were singing, dancing and keeping loose.

So when the tarp was removed and play resumed, Turners was ready. In the bottom of the third, Turners scored five more runs.

Alyson Murphy drew a 1-out walk, a passed ball got her to second base, and another missed pitch got her to third. Jenna Putala was then walked, putting men at the corners. Hoosac's pitching woes continued as Gabby Arzuaga was hit by a pitch. Then, Mackenzie Phillips cracked a double, sending two runs in.

Phillips was replaced at second by courtesy runner Olivia Whittier. A passed ball scored another run, and after Cassidhe Wozniak was walked, Jordyn Fiske sent another pair of runs in with a well-placed single.

Turners added to their lead in the fifth when Phillips, who had hit a stand-up triple, scored on a Wozniak sac.

At the plate, Phillips helped herself by slapping two hits and scor-

ing 2 RBIs. Jordyn Fiske likewise had two RBIs and two hits. Wozniak and Abby Loynd accounted for the other two hits.

Murphy, Putala, and Arzuaga all scored runs, while Wozniak and courtesy runner Whittier both scored twice. Melissa Hersey contributed with a RBI.

In the circle, Phillips faced 21 batters, allowing no runs, one hit, no walks, and scorching 14 strikeouts.

**TFHS 6 - Tahanto 0**

Turners shot out to a 4-run lead in the bottom of the first inning Tuesday afternoon when Jenna Putala scorched a one-out triple and was batted in by Gabby Arzuaga. Gabby was replaced on base by Alexis Lacey. Phillips continued the rally by hitting a single, advancing Alexis. Mac was replaced on base by Olivia Whittier. Jordyn Fiske then singled in Lacey, and Melissa Hersey batted in Whittier and Fiske for the 4-run cushion.

Turners added to their lead in the second when Hailey Whipple, the only Blue lady who didn't bat in the first inning, led off with triple. Alyson Murphy then sent her home on a sacrifice.

Turners scored one more insurance run in the fourth when Alyson Murphy batted in Abby Loynd on a left field single.

Defensively, the Lady Indians played another exceptional game. In the sixth inning, Gabby picked off another base runner, and after a throwing error put a runner on first base in the seventh, Mac fielded a grounder and flicked it to Wozniak, covering second, who then whipped it to first for the game-ending double play.

In the circle, Mac scattered three hits, had no walks, allowed no runs, and fired 6 Ks. The Turners offense was again evenly spread, with 6 hits by 6 different batters. Murphy, Arzuaga, Fiske and Hersey all clocked singles, while Putala and Whipple smacked triples. Phillips and Abby Loynd helped out by scoring runs.

**A Strong Reputation**

Playing so well in the postseason is nothing new for the Tribe from Turners Falls, and their opponents know it all too well. If you're like me, you read a lot in your spare time, and when the postseason arrives, I gravitate toward newspapers.

It seems that most news organizations in Massachusetts have had stories about Turners Falls softball - that is, if a local team advances far enough to face them.

From the Brockton *Enterprise* to the New Bedford *Standard Times* to the Boston *Globe* and *Herald*, Turners Falls Softball is big news. And back before any of the current players were in high school, ESPN ran an article entitled, "Secret to Turners Falls' softball success."

So it's not surprising that the Lady Indians' reputation preceded them. After Blue blanked Tahanto,



Jenna Putala got to third on this hit in the 1st inning of Tuesday's state semifinal game against the Tahanto Stags.

the Worcester *Telegram* led their story with "The Turners Falls softball team lived up to its gaudy press clippings..."

And according to the Berkshire *Eagle*, after losing to Turners, the Hoosac coach said, "The aura of being here didn't affect Turners because they are here every year and consider it part of their season". After Mount Everett lost to Turners, the *Eagle* reported that the Eagles' coach was proud that they almost scored a tying run.

So the Turners Falls Softball Indians will play in another state championship game. This time, they take on an underdog Austin Prep team that defeated Greater New Bedford in their semifinal game.

And rest assured that in the upcoming days, the Lowell *Sun* will have something to say about that little school on the banks of the Connecticut River, who have found themselves in the finals so many times before.



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS



Turners' ace pitcher Mackenzie Phillips does it again as the Indians shut out the Tahanto Stags 6-0 in Tuesday's state semifinal.



Turners Falls' Abby Loynd makes solid contact at Sortino Field, UMass-Amherst, as the Turners Falls Indians defeat the Mt. Everett Eagles 3-1 in the Western Mass D3 semifinal last Thursday, June 9.

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**MONTAGUE** from page A1 and durability. She also noted a “subjective” factor: “what do we want live with [in the coming years]?”

In his proposal for the installation, de Christopher states:

“Turners has never been an easy town. From its inception, we have had a complicated mix of cultures with overlapping and competing needs. Rock-Paper-Scissors, in this setting, serves as a parable for our evolving history and as a metaphor for a light-handed approach to conflict resolution.”

The large stone will represent “the bedrock that Turners Falls is built upon.” De Christopher will carve on the rock depictions of the excavation that created Turners’ power canal, “as well as reference the earliest Native American inhabitants of the region, and of course the tragic historic massacre at the hands of Captain Turner...”

The second block of stone will be carved in the likeness of a nineteenth-century paper mill, symbolic of the industrial economy that dominated the village at that time.

The third carving, called Scissors, will be the likeness of a retail store “like any that might once have been known to stand on Avenue A.” This is “meant to signify the daily life of the community, with a clear nod to the former John Russell Cutlery...”

These objects will be placed on a space that has recently been re-branded a “pedestrian park.” Originally called a “bumpout,” this portion of the Avenue A streetscape encountered a distinct lack of enthusiasm from the selectboard when it was first proposed.

None of that was in evidence on Monday, as the board enthusiastically endorsed the sculpture installation.

LoManto, who urged the *Reporter* to avoid the term “bumpout,” says that the park has been a great success. “I see people sitting there all the time,” she told the paper.

**Ice Cream Race**

In other news, parks and recreation director John Dobosz introduced a man named Gary Briere of Rivers Edge Cycling, who proposed that a cycling event scheduled for July 30 start at Unity Park in Turners Falls.

The event will be called the “River Valley Ice Cream Ride,” and con-

sists of three routes or “scoops.”

A five-mile “Kiddie Scoop” will head down the canalside bike path and back to Unity Park. A second “Single Scoop” will travel to River Road in Hatfield, then back north through Sunderland and Meadow Road in Montague. The final “Double Scoop” (50 miles) will head north through Gill and Northfield.

Briere said the event is designed to raise money for Community Involved in Sustainable Agriculture (CISA), known for their “Local Hero” campaign. Briere made the connection by noting that local farmers have created an “attractive landscape” for cycling.

The board supported the request.

**Pooling Resources**

Bob Escott, chief of the Turners Falls Fire Department, requested that the board execute a memorandum of understanding for Emergency Management Coordination Services for towns in the region. The coordination will be implemented by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG).

Dan Nietzsche of FRCOG was at the front table to explain the nature of these services. Nietzsche said that the program would take direction from member towns, and not supersede their own emergency organizations. He portrayed the FRCOG program as an “extension” of local efforts which might provide additional services, such as a “front loader” or “sandbags.” Joining the program would involve no initial cost to the town.

The selectboard approved the request, in addition to another proposal, that Montague be the “lead town” in applying for a grant to study regional fire services. Nietzsche stated that he did not necessarily think the study was necessary but that there was widespread concern about the condition of many small-town departments in the region. He noted that a large percentage of volunteers were 65 years old or older, and that many could not respond to fires as they held full-time jobs.

Police chief Chip Dodge came before the board to request approval of a renewal of an existing inter-municipal agreement for a shared animal control officer between Deerfield, Montague and Greenfield. The board approved the request.

The board also approved the appointment of Justin Nyle Joseph

Moody as a reserve police officer, as well as step increases for two other reserve officers.

**Treehuggers Form Ruling Junta**

David Detmold came before the board to seek approval of eight appointees for a new tree advisory committee. The committee will be working with the tree warden to encourage more tree planting in town. Detmold said he is also investigating the potential for Montague to participate in a tree nursery being organized by the Franklin County Technical School. The board approved the appointment requests.

**Other Business**

Bruce Hunter of the Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority requested that the board execute an agreement between the town and GZA Environmental to create a master plan for work on Rutter’s and Norma’s Park in Lake Pleasant. The request was approved.

Sam Lovejoy requested that the board execute a “confirmatory deed” to Joseph D. Burek of Old Northfield Road. Lovejoy said the deed had not been properly signed back in 1998 by the town. The board approved the request.

Tom Sena of the Montague Center Fire Association requested and received an entertainment license for an event at the Montague Center ball field in conjunction with the annual July 4 bonfire. The event will take place on July 3.

Josh Goldman requested and received a one day beer and wine permit for an event at the Shea Theater on June 25.

Finally, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio requested that the board award a contract for \$793,950 to the National Water Main Company for the Turners Falls Main Drain Rehabilitation and Siphon Cleaning Project, to maintain the village’s clogged drainage system.

The project, which was approved by the annual town meeting, will be contingent on a Proposition 2.5 debt exclusion vote. The vote will take place on June 27.

Abbondanzio also requested that the board approve a change order of \$19,346.45 for the sewer lining projects being implemented by Insituform Technologies LLC.

Both requests were approved.



# Montague: Absentee Ballots Available

Absentee ballots are now available at the Town Clerk’s Office for the June 27 Debt Exclusion Vote.

The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is Thursday, June 23. All absentee ballots must be returned to the Town Clerk’s Office by the close of the polls on June 27. The polls will be open from noon to 7 p.m.

There will be two questions on the ballot: One asking for \$1,000,000 for the Combined Sewer Overflow and Storm Drain Project, and the other asking for

\$385,000 to abate all hazardous and asbestos containing materials from the Strathmore Mill Complex.

Please see [www.montague.net](http://www.montague.net) for details.

Town Hall hours are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 am to 5:30 pm and Wednesday, 8:30 am to 6:30 pm. Town Hall is closed on Fridays. The Town Clerk’s Office is located at the Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls.

For more information call 863-3200, ext 203 or email [townclerk@montague-ma.gov](mailto:townclerk@montague-ma.gov).

**FIRSTLIGHT** from page A1

selectboard approved a statement to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the agency which approves the FirstLight licenses. The statement highlighted the need to fix the bridges over the Turners Falls power canal as a prelude to development of the Strathmore complex.

One bridge from Canal Street to the former mill has been “closed by FirstLight since approximately 2004 due to lack of maintenance.” Another bridge owned by the company, the so-called IP Bridge located near the head of the canal, offers limited access to emergency vehicles.

Montague requests that FirstLight be required to “... identify a management plan for the Strathmore Bridge, IP Bridges, and Canal Access Road with a commitment to repair and maintain... public access over the power canal to the Historic-Industrial Mill District. If FirstLight is not willing to improve access to the historic-canal district, the town suggests that that Power Company be required to acquire and remediate the vacant properties which have been rendered unusable and un-developable because of the hydro project.”

The Montague statement also complains that the company’s relicensing application “fails to meet the need for a historical and archeological interpretive framework for a 1676 King Phillips War Battle that occurred in the project area.” The statement recommends that the power company “work with the town to establish and provide funding for a Native American Cultural Center in Turners Falls.”

**Tax Appeals**

Montague also has a case before the state appellate tax board involving FirstLight’s challenge to the town’s property tax assessment of the companies’ properties in Montague. Northfield and Erving have a similar case before the state board involving the assessment of

the Northfield Mountain pumped storage facility.

Bakas would not comment on the Montague appellate case, or the FERC relicensing process. He did note that FirstLight had settled its appellate case with Northfield, and is hopeful that an agreement with Erving would soon follow.

However, it may not be so soon. Karen Tonelli, director of assessing for Montague, says the town has to wait for the state appellate court to resolve the Erving case before it hears Montague’s. She stated that she believed the Erving case had been delayed until the fall.

Tonelli wondered if the sale to PSP Investment would impact the tax case. She believes that if the case is decided in favor of FirstLight, the monetary settlement would go to the owner as of 2014, the year of the assessment being challenged.

That would be GDF Suez/ENGIE, rather than the new parent company.

Montague town planner Walter Ramsey stated that he could not predict the impact of the sale on the federal process. He did note, however, that John Howard, who was the FirstLight manager in charge of the relicensing, has moved to Belgium. Howard’s duties have been taken over by Gus Bakas.

Andrew Fisk, director of the nonprofit Connecticut River Watershed Council, which has been a player in the relicensing process, said his organization is not trying to predict the policies of the new owners, but is “hopeful.”

“We always want better,” Fisk said, adding that in his opinion, FirstLight could be “better stewards of the educational, cultural and ecological resources” of the region.

Fisk stated that the Watershed Council has “reached out to Quebec [PSP Investments].” He believed that “ultimately Quebec is making the decisions,” and hopes the company will be ready to “meet and learn.”



**WENDELL** from page A1

by the USDA for the town building loans; group health insurance; culvert design; repairs on the roadside dam on Lockes Village Road; fire department turnout gear; a down payment on a new highway dump, plow, and sander truck (the remainder to be paid for with a loan); Wendell’s share of Swift River School capital repair fund; reimbursing Montague for a share of the legal expense taken on in opposition to the proposed NED pipeline; town building repairs, and the consultant that the conservation commission hired to delineate wetlands around the proposed solar farm off Wendell Depot Road.

The town put all its free cash, \$284,422, into the stabilization fund, but did not add its normal annual contribution from taxation.

It was on June 9, the second evening, that citizens approved, with one dissenting vote, taking \$20,000 from the stabilization fund for a pole survey – a first and necessary step towards getting a town-wide fi-

ber optic broadband network.

They also approved, with one dissenting vote, \$50,000 from the stabilization fund for a design of a town-wide fiber optic broadband network. That brought the total removed from stabilization to \$324,375.

Following the motion of selectboard chair Christine Heard, voters passed over an article that would have instructed the town to call on the Baker-Polito administration to “commit all necessary resources to ensure the provision of wired broadband service to Wendell in its entirety,” as recent developments with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute seem to show that the process is beginning to move forward, making the article less relevant.

Tension flared during discussion of the school budgets when the Mahar Regional High School director of finance and personnel, Daniel Haynes, discovered a duplication of the transportation budget and came to the front table to talk directly with finance committee

chair Doug Tanner.

Town moderator Kate Nolan called him out of order. Tanner objected, because the matter was a simple duplication, but Nolan insisted that Haynes’s action was out of order, contending that he may have been recognized even as a non-voter or taken the discussion out of the room. Voices were raised, and Nolan used her gavel and called both Tanner and Haynes out of order.

The duplication was removed, and the Mahar transportation and debt line was reduced by \$11,898, with transportation cost elsewhere in the budget.

The largest budget increase came because Wendell’s school-age population has increased while surrounding towns’ school-age population has decreased. Wendell’s contributions to the Swift River School and Mahar Regional High School budgets are based on the relative percentage of students going to each school from member towns, resulting in an increase of \$102,418 in

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# MONTAGUE REPORTER

Leverett's Peter d'Errico peruses the news while waiting for breakfast in an Amtrak Crescent dining car, en route from New York to New Orleans....



... while for Oona Sanchez, a newspaper may as well be a hat.

Going somewhere? (Alternately, are you a baby?) Prove it! Send your pictures to editor@montaguereporter.org.

## ON THE ROAD

**HILLCREST** from page A1  
conclusion in a report sent to the Gill Montague Regional School District. Superintendent Michael Sullivan told the Gill-Montague school committee at its Tuesday night meeting that he had received the report from the DLC, and he was happy, though not surprised, to say they found no evidence of any neglect or abuse at the school.

Sullivan shared the first paragraph of the report he received:

*Our review of the school's calm down room did not result in major or systemic findings that would warrant issuing a public report. There are some areas in which we believe the school's practices could be better aligned with the Department of Elementary and Secondary*

*Education state regulations and our understanding of best practices in the field. We write to you in a constructive spirit, with the hope that you will consider action on the following topics.*

Sullivan then went on to say the report offered recommendations in seven areas, but he did not elaborate. Asked by school committee members to give examples of the kinds of suggestions the organization had made, he said they felt the size of the window in the door was too small, therefore not allowing full view of the room from the outside, and recommended that the school maintain a log of the use of the room.

Karl Dziura, a teacher at Turners Falls High School and president of the Gill-Montague Education Association,

commented on the conclusions of the DLC report. "What's important is that the caring and dedicated staff at Hillcrest had to go through a difficult time in dealing with these allegations," Dziura said, "and the report has validated their professionalism. I hope this report gets the attention the original concerns did."

Sullivan said that his administration would be engaged in a detailed review of the report's recommendations, adding that the school had already begun to make many of the suggested changes. He said he expected there will be additional adjustments made in the fall, and that he would come back to the school committee with a full report once the administration's review had been completed.



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# MoRe

YEAR 14 – NO. 35

B1

FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

JUNE 16, 2016

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

## It's Bloomin' June



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

By LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** – We are having what we Yankees call an “on” year – everything that blooms is doing so bodaciously!

The blowsy peonies are bent down with rain. The beach roses are more pink and white than green. The small bush rose, Crocus, is laden with blossom. The mountain laurel is prolific.

The vegetables look thrifty with sun and rain. Peas, beans, tomatoes, peppers and asparagus are Technicolor green.

I gave up picking off the orange and red spotted asparagus beetles, went to the farm store and bought a bale of straw. Now everything is mulched with this sweet grass, and the asparagus spears point up through with nary a beetle to be seen.

The asparagus season is winding down; the spears dwindling to thin stalks which we will let go to fern and then watch for the beetles again. We are hoping the mulch will make their habit of laying eggs in the soil difficult to accomplish.

The true honeysuckle has bloomed, bringing the welcome arrival of the hummingbird for its favorite food.

The yard is a dizzying mix of floral scents: honeysuckle, peony and rose.

June is a month of celebration: family reunions, birthdays, graduations, and often, weddings. The summer solstice will officially open the season soon and will be enhanced by the full strawberry moon.

Sun and moonlight are bright, the colors sharp and the birdsong deafening earlier and earlier. The cat spends the night in the sunroom watching and guarding, demands an early breakfast and an outing in the damp grass, followed by an extended nap.

Celebrate this bounteous season with a simple yet delicious strawberry pie:

- One pie crust brushed with melted tart jelly.
- One quart hulled perfect ripe whole strawberries.
- One measuring cup with ¾ cup sugar stirred with ¼ cup instant tapioca.
- One bowl of strawberries sprinkled and stirred with sugar mixture.
- Let the fruit set for 15 minutes and heat the oven to 400 degrees.
- Fill the pie crust with the berries, setting them in a pretty pattern.
- Pour any remaining sugar and tapioca mix over the top of the berries and bake for 40 to 50 minutes until the mix boils.
- Cool to room temperature and serve with a dollop of sour cream if desired.

What a wonderful season of cool mornings, hot middays perfect for a session in the hammock, and then cool evenings for a grilled meal eaten al fresco, followed by a gathering around the fire pit to end the day.

We hustle through the indoor chores, a bit of dusting, vacuuming, see **GARDENERS** page B2

## Mutton and Mead: Where Fantasy and Fun Meet

By LAHRI BOND

**MONTAGUE** – Knights on horseback clash with lance and sword, fair ladies stroll around sipping from goblets of sweet mead, wizards and acrobats beguile both children and their parents, festive merchants offer enticing hand-crafted work, while the woods are aglow with faeries, elves and elementals. Is this a scene from the latest season of the TV series “Game of Thrones,” or a new cinematic adaptation of a classic sword and sorcery book?

Actually, it means that you have arrived at the sixth annual Mutton and Mead Medieval Festival in Montague.

The Mutton & Mead Tavern & Inne (a fictitious establishment that comes to life once a year) is holding their annual festival on Saturday, June 18 and Sunday, June 19. While it is much smaller and more self-contained than other renaissance and medieval festivals such



BOND PHOTO

A magical realm, where you get to see people knock each other off horses.

as Boston’s famous King Richard’s Faire, it is also more intimate, and easily manageable for an exhilarating day out, at a price which is quite affordable for the single squire, lady or for the whole clan.

Held on the beautiful grounds of the Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club, the pasture and woods are

transformed into a medieval shire. Leaving your car behind in a well-organized parking lot, a short walk through the woods becomes a transformative experience, as you enter fully into another time and place.

Central among the stately grounds is a large tournament area, where armored knights on horse-

back strut and compete with each other in lively tests of skill. The shire marketplace is alive with vendors’ tents, offering hand-tooled leather crafts, romantic and sumptuous period clothing, gorgeous visual arts, ceramics and jewelry, herbal concoctions, and a cornucopia of fine foods.

Jolly jesters and merry minstrels abound; acrobats, fire breathers, and crafty wizards wander among the crowd, and draw you in with their magical performances. Elsewhere, you may find a troupe performing a collection of Shakespeare’s most unconventional love scenes, storytellers and harpists recalling the golden days of Celtic lore, or Middle Eastern dancers in shimmering scarves and veils, backed by a skilled ensemble who play with amazing dexterity.

Yet Mutton and Mead is not just a place to be entertained or to go shopping, it is a magical realm,

see **MEAD** page B4

## PUZZLE CREATORS: A RARE BREED

By JOE KWIECINSKI

**GREENFIELD** – Denny Baker has had 17 of his crossword puzzles appear in the *New York Times*. He’s a member of the judging staff at the annual American Crossword Puzzle Tournament. Plus, the Greenfield resident is working with a group of 35 associates, compiling all the clues and answers from each puzzle ever published in the *Times* since the initial crossword on February 15, 1942.

Despite these accomplishments and others in his life, Baker refuses to be impressed by himself. Blessed with a terrific sense of humor and high intelligence, Denny remains a down-to-earth fellow who’s been fascinated with the world of crossword for close to two decades.

How did Baker ever become involved in this universe of fun and frustration? “I was surfing the Internet in late 1997,” he said. “I ran into a website called *Cruciverb-L* – folks who design crossword puzzles. They’re creators first, and solvers later.

“They’re a funny, clever bunch of people. The website was so much fun. If a person had a word and was struggling to come up with a good clue, you would ask them, and they

would come up with a suggestion. The suggestion might even be not to use the word. It might be too hard a word, people might not like it, or might not know it.”

Denny notes that there are many additional people who will help beginners on the crossword construction trail. There are also texts that are especially useful. One that Baker found particularly beneficial was Mel Rosen’s book on how to create crossword puzzles, *The Random House Puzzlemaker’s Handbook*.

Baker submitted “a bunch of puzzles” to Dell, Random House, Games Magazine, and the *Chicago Tribune* for syndication. On his first try, each of the large publications chose one of his efforts. In fact, Denny’s puzzles appeared for some time, ironically, in the *Greenfield Recorder* through the *Chicago Tribune’s* national syndicate, while appearing in other newspapers nationally.

One of the interesting aspects of puzzles, according to the Westport, Connecticut native, is the Breakfast Rule. This dictate states that it’s not a good idea to express “words or answers” that are unpleasant to the average reader.

“We constructors argue among ourselves about just what is ‘un-



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Denny Baker sits at the computer in his Greenfield home, with one of his crossword creations on the screen. Baker has had 17 of his crossword puzzles published in the *New York Times*.

pleasant,” said Baker. “Libertarians always stand up and say we shouldn’t be told explicitly what we can and can’t say. Of course, if you want to be published, you want to please your editor’s sensibilities.”

Most crossword puzzles have a theme that will be revealed by its longest answers. Usually there are three or four answers that unveil the theme; for instance, here’s an arbi-

trary theme of bird-like answers: LEGAL EAGLES, SITTING GOOSE, SPRING CHICKEN.

Denny Baker’s first puzzle in the *New York Times* featured these theme answers: UNBEARABLE, OVERBEARING, FORBEARANCE, AND GOLDBLOCKS (AND THE THREE BEARS).

Just who created the first see **PUZZLER** page B8

## A New Season at Memorial Hall Museum

By ANNE HARDING

**DEERFIELD** – Another summer season is upon us, and the Memorial Hall Museum in Deerfield is a gem not to be missed. An opening gala was held on June 3 celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1916 wing of the museum, three new exhibits, and the announcement of exciting upcoming events.



IMAGE COURTESY MEMORIAL HALL

This wreath was made in 1859 by Maria Rice Hobart of Rowe, with hair from 75 heads.

The museum has gathered and preserved an extraordinary collection of mementoes and curios, beginning 200 years ago when the building first housed Deerfield Academy. It was difficult for curator Suzanne Flynt to choose the curios and keepsakes featured in the exhibition “Relics and Curiosities,” but she kept it to 100 artifacts.

These have interesting histories, and excellent workmanship. Among them are conch shells used for dinner horns, weapons made from sharks’ teeth, life-sized head silhouettes of historic figures, and wreaths crafted out of human hair.

I was particularly interested in the examples of hair work, a popular craft of the 19th century in which human hair was fashioned into jewelry or wreaths. There are three fine examples in the exhibit: a necklace, a bracelet, and a wreath.

The wreath was made by Maria Rice Hobart of Rowe in 1859, using hair from 75 members of the Rice and Hobart families of Rowe and Leverett. It is hard to imagine how the work was done, but when you look closely, you can see tiny wire frames beneath the delicately worked flowers and leaves. Apparently it was not uncommon for women to keep a ceramic container on their dressing table to collect strands of hair for this

type of work, or to share with loved ones.

The second exhibit is a series of photographs by Frances and Mary Allen, called “Children of Deerfield”. Regarded as the best women photographers of the period, the Allen sisters began their photography career in the mid-1880s.

The sisters were teachers who began to lose their hearing which forced them to find a new livelihood. It is not hard to understand their popularity when viewing this series of photographs, as the Allen sisters had a knack for putting their subjects at ease and capturing the nature of children in the images. The photographs date from 1885 to 1915 and provide a unique glimpse of childhood in rural New England – on the farm, at play, or in costume.

Down on the ground floor, the Music Room has been renovated in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the museum’s 1916 wing with a new coat of paint, protective shades, new window treatment, and refurbished furniture. The exhibit features three centuries of musical instruments, furniture, and artwork, including Franklin County’s first piano, a collection of the museum’s famed Hadley chests, and several portraits of historic figures.

see **MUSEUM** page B5



# Pet of the Week

Hi, I'm Goofy! I came to Dakin as a stray so there isn't a lot of information on my past. But as you can see from my photo, I'm a handsome boy who would love to goof around with you. I'm super sweet and social and love to be petted just about anywhere.

I would do okay in a home with other cats. Come down and ask an adoption counselor to meet me!

Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at [info@dpvhs.org](mailto:info@dpvhs.org).



“GOOFY”

## Senior Center Activities JUNE 20 to 24

### GILL and MONTAGUE

**Gill / Montague Senior Center**, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m.

All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the Center is closed.

**Tues, Wed & Thurs Noon Lunch M, W, F** 10:10 a.m. Aerobics; 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

### Monday 6/20

8 a.m. Foot Clinic Appointments  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

### Tuesday 6/21

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1 p.m. Mosaics Workshop, Part 1

### Wednesday 6/22

9 a.m. Mosaics, Part 2,  
Veterans' Outreach

12:45 p.m. Bingo

### Thursday 6/23

9 a.m. Tai Chi  
1 p.m. Cards & Games

### Friday 6/24

1 p.m. Writing Group

### ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregational meals.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call the Mealsite Manager at 423-3308 for meal

information and reservations.

For information, call Paula Betters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.

### Monday 6/20

9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Muscles

### Tuesday 6/21

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Friends Business Mtg.

### Wednesday 6/22

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs

### Thursday 6/23

8:45 a.m. Aerobics (fast moving)  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
12:30 p.m. Creative Coloring

### Friday 6/24

9 a.m. Quilting  
9:30 Bowling Fun at French King;  
Creative Aging Walking Club

11:30 a.m. Pizza & Salad

12:30 p.m. Painting Workshop

### LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or [coa@leverett.ma.us](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us).

Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

### WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

## GARDENERS from page B1

outdoor pruning, mowing, planting, harvesting. From now until the early fall it's **primo gardener** time, always with time left to sit

and gaze, to smell the roses or indulge in a good read.

It seems as if the whole world moves outside for walks and runs, concerts, picnics, swimming,

camping and travel.

Enjoy this glorious season with family and friends and above all, happy gardening!



## MR at the Great Falls Farmers Market: A Sweet Avocation

By HANNAH SANCHEZ

**TURNERS FALLS** – It was another hot day at the Great Falls Farmers Market when Jeff Kingsbury and I sat down to talk. When the weather is this hot, maple syrup and Christmas trees are far from the forefront of our minds, but that isn't the case for Jeff, who started Kingsbury Christmas Trees in 1985.

In fact, maple syrup has been on his mind since he was a child. “I always wanted to do Christmas trees and maple syrup, even when I was young. I always worked around farms.”

Kingsbury Farms produces about 40 gallons of syrup a year, and his trees are very popular around Christmas.

For Kingsbury, the joy of being a farmer came when he met Bill Webb, a man in his 70s, who lived up the road from him as a kid. Bill Webb took the neighborhood kids in and taught them how to do sugar.

It wasn't until about 5 years ago that Kingsbury and his son expanded the Christmas tree business to include maple syrup. The two of them built a sugar shack together and have needed to expand it once already.

In the future, he hopes to produce



100 gallons of syrup a year. His future goal is to retire from his regular day job at a steel shop and work the maple syrup and Christmas tree business full time.

What I enjoyed about Jeff was his passion for his work. “Everything works in cycles, that's the way I look at it.” From Bill Webb, to building his own sugar shack with his son, and now, to his young grandchildren, poking around the farm joyfully, licking the syrup off their fingers as they learn.

You can buy Kingsbury Farm

syrup at the Great Falls Farmers Market on Wednesdays from 2 to 6 p.m. or at the Kingsbury Farm on 143 North Sandgully Road in South Deerfield.

This Christmas season head to the farm to pick out your family's Christmas tree.

*The Montague Reporter staff and volunteers will be at the Great Falls Farmers Market every Wednesday afternoon in Turners Falls. Stop by and say hi!*

## THE HEALTHY GEEZER

# Fingernails and Toenails: When You Should Worry



By FRED CICETTI

*Q. I was at a party recently when a nurse told a friend of mine to see a doctor because his nails were kind of white. He went to the doctor and found out he has a liver problem. Were the two events just coincidental?*

The condition of your nails can tell medical professionals a lot about your health. Most doctors include a nail examination during a physical checkup. Common problems that produce symptoms in the nails are the following:

- White nails – liver diseases
- Thick, pitted nails – psoriasis
- Nails that are half pink/half white – kidney diseases
- Red nail beds – heart conditions
- Thick, yellow nails – lung diseases
- Pale or concave nail beds – anemia
- Light yellow nails, with a slight blush at the base – diabetes

Nail growth is affected by disease, hormone imbalance, and the

aging process itself. Many seniors suffer from nail problems because nails thicken as we age, there are greater circulation difficulties, and we use more medications that impact nails.

Before we go on, some nail anatomy:

The nail plate is the part of the nail you can see on a digit. A nail bed is the skin under a plate. The cuticle is the tissue that overlaps the plate. The matrix is the part of the nail that's tucked under the cuticle. The lunula is the crescent moon at the base of the nail.

Nails are made primarily of keratin, an extremely strong protein that is also a major part of skin, hair and teeth. The nails grow from the matrix.

Some interesting facts:

Nails grow faster in the summer than in winter. Fingernails grow faster than toenails. The nails on your dominant hand grow faster than the other hand. Men's nails usually grow more quickly than women's, except when women are pregnant or seniors.

Nails grow about one-tenth of a millimeter daily.

Most minor injuries to nails heal without help. Some nail problems can be treated with medicines. Other conditions may require nail removal. If a nail is infected, discolored, swollen, painful, get to a doctor.

Taking good care of you nails can avoid many disorders. Here are some tips:

- To prevent infections, wash your nails often and keep them dry.
- Thick toenails, which come with age, are difficult to trim. Soaking your feet in warm salt water will soften them and make them easier to cut. Trimming after a bath or shower makes sense.
- Toenails should be cut straight across so that the nail does not extend beyond the tip of the toe. Do not round off corners.
- Don't bite your fingernails...if you can help it.
- Don't remove cuticles.
- To remove any snags, use a fine file.
- Disinfect your nail-trimmers and files.
- Don't try amateur surgery on yourself to fix an ingrown toenail. Get professional treatment.
- If you use public showers, wear flip-flops to prevent getting infections.
- Make sure your shoes and socks fit properly and they are made of materials that don't suffocate the feet.
- Shoes and socks should be changed often. Healthcare professionals recommend changing more than once daily.

*If you would like to ask a question, write to [fred@healthygeez.com](mailto:fred@healthygeez.com).*

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## June 25-26: Amateur Radio Field Day

By ALBERT S. WOODHULL

**GREENFIELD** – Franklin County “hams” will join with thousands of Amateur Radio operators across the country to practice emergency capabilities over the last weekend of June by operating under field conditions at Poets Seat Tower in Greenfield.

Despite the Internet, cell phones, and email, every year whole regions find themselves in the dark. Tornadoes, fires, storms, ice and even the occasional cutting of fiber-optic cables leave people without the means to communicate.

In these cases, the one consistent service that has never failed has been Amateur Radio. Amateur Radio operators provide backup communications for everything from the American Red Cross to FEMA and even for the International Space Station.

On Saturday and Sunday, June 25 and 26, the public can meet and talk with members of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club as they join with thousands of other ham radio operators testing their capabilities.

Franklin County club members will set up on Saturday morning, June 25, and operate from 2 p.m. until approximately 2 p.m. on Sunday, June 26. A voice and a Morse code station will be in regular operation.

Demonstrations of other operating modes such as low-power transmitting and alternative sources of power including solar power, are also

planned. There will also be a “Get On The Air” station where the public can experience ham radio under the supervision of a licensed ham operator.

This event is part of the American Radio Relay League’s national Field Day event. More than 35,000 amateur radio operators across the USA and Canada will participate.

Ham radio is not dependent on the Internet or cell towers. It works when nothing else is available. “We need nothing between us but air.”

The Poet’s Seat site is a preferred operating location because it gives operators a clear transmission path in all directions. Communications can be maintained with other amateur operators in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont as well as with amateurs outside the New England area.

Amateur Radio is growing in the US. There are now over 700,000 Amateur Radio licensees in the US, and more than 2.5 million around the world. Ham volunteers provide both emergency communications for thousands of state and local emergency response agencies and non-emergency community services too, all for free.

The public is most cordially invited to come, meet and talk with the hams.

*Albert S. Woodhull, of Leyden, is the president of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club.*

## Father’s Day Reflections

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – Father’s Day is Sunday, June 19 this year.

When I think of fathers, what comes to mind is the music video for the Nickelback song “I’d Come for You.” It involves a father coming to his daughter’s aid.

On June 19, 1910, the first Father’s Day celebration was held in the Spokane YMCA. The person who began trying to get Father’s Day to be an official holiday like Mother’s Day, was Sonora Smart Dodd.

She did this because of two things, according to Wikipedia. One was that “her father, the Civil War veteran William Jackson Smart, was a single parent who raised his six children there.” The other being that she was inspired by “hearing a sermon about [Anna] Jarvis’ Mother’s Day in 1909 at Central Methodist Episcopal Church.”

She spoke to her pastor, saying “that fathers should have a similar holiday honoring them.” Several local clergymen got on board with the idea, and had the first celebration on the day I mentioned. These men gave sermons in honor of fathers throughout the city on that day.

In 1913 a bill went to Congress to give national recognition to the holiday. Three years later, President Woodrow Wilson wanted to make it official, but Congress had concerns about it becoming commercialized.

Dodd gave up on promoting Father’s Day when she went to an art school in Chicago. In the 1930s, she started again, this time on a national level.

In 1957, a senator from Maine named Margaret Chase Smith got on Congress about not making it a day. “We should not just honor mothers,”

she pointed out, “when people have two parents.”

Lyndon B. Johnson issued a first presidential proclamation for the day and made the third Sunday in June the day for the holiday. Nixon, six years after, made it a permanent law.

What the Senator mentioned when it comes to fathers made me think of an opinion about fathers I was given by someone when I asked. “Fathers are pretty much as essential as mothers,” said a young man who wishes to remain anonymous.

Another person who I discovered has an equal stance when it comes to both mothers and fathers, was a woman named Sue. She gave this for an answer when I asked, “would your father risk his life for you?”: “Yes, oh yes. A parent’s love is like nothing else.”

“I think a good father can help a kid reach their full potential,” a man named Brian said to me was his opinion on fathers.

For me, fathers are harder to understand than mothers. That is at least the case with my father.

I understand my mother better than my father, half of the time. But I have been told by my mother that he would risk his life for me, more or less. So I guess that means that the thought that men are easier to understand than women is not exactly true, although I believe any woman who stands by a husband who himself is a difficult person should be considered for sainthood.

My mother herself has mentioned several times that she had a wonderful father.

So, an equal stance for mothers and fathers, when it comes to official days honoring them, seems to be justified in the eyes of the people.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Garages, Shed, Alleys See Action; Young Crossing Guard Hard At Work

**Monday, 6/6**

5:21 p.m. Caller from I Street reports that someone has drawn or spray-painted a large penis and a fox head on her garage door. Report taken.

8:32 p.m. Caller from Newton Street reports that a violin was stolen from his garage today while he was having a tag sale. Report taken.

**Tuesday, 6/7**

8:18 a.m. Shelburne Control requesting an officer to Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club, where a resident is reporting she spotted a possible body in the water. TFFD and Gill boats launched. Gill PD reports that a party in a kayak spotted and was following the possible body. TF boat advising they have recovered body. State police on scene.

5:51 p.m. Caller requesting to have on record that her road, where she is living in a camp, is posted private property/no trespassing. Today while out for a walk, caller witnessed a truck driving out with three young men inside. Caller spoke to parties and states that the male operator was polite; however, his two friends were snickering. Parties advised that they did not know where the road went and were just out driving around. Caller concerned they may have been “casing the joint.”

6:50 p.m. Party into station stating that he had just been “stopped in traffic” by a child, approximately 5 years old. Party stated he has seen this more than once: a group of kids are playing and want to cross the street, so this one little girl walks into the middle of the street and puts her hand up to stop traffic. Caller is concerned for the safety of the children; last saw children going into a residence. Officer advised; will make extra patrols.

**Wednesday, 6/8**  
7:38 a.m. Report of hit and run overnight on L Street; vehicle was parked on street and someone appears to have struck side mirror. Officer advises it appears not to be a hit and run, but that someone walking by may have punched or kicked the mirror. Report taken.

3:22 p.m. Caller from Hillside Road requesting contact info for animal control officer as there has been an ongoing problem with a neighbor’s dog. Caller states that the dog, a pit-bull/boxer type, comes into her yard and chases her. Caller has spoken directly to owner about this multiple times. Copy of call left for animal control officer.

4:28 p.m. Report of possible attempted breaking

and entering overnight on Montague City Road. Advised to contact police immediately should this happen again.

5:33 p.m. Multiple calls regarding a horse running down Avenue A. First caller, from Town Hall, advised same came over the bridge from Gill. Another caller advised that a FedEx truck driver was attempting to catch the animal. Horse caught in the area of K Street. Officer advises that horse is saddled. Call on emergency 2 way line advising they had seen the rider; last seen on foot traveling towards Unity Park. Officer en route downtown to attempt to locate same. Owner located and reunited with horse. Horse and owner will be walking back to Gill. Officer advised of several more calls regarding the FedEx truck on the Avenue; driver will be returning as well.

11:16 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street describing female yelling; something heard about a gun shown. Caller sounded to be intoxicated. Second caller reporting similar disturbance, gun mentioned. Male getting into car and leaving area; male on ground possibly injured from fight. One party transported to hospital.

**Thursday, 6/9**

12:40 a.m. Female caller from L Street requesting officer to her residence, where a male party is outside her apartment knocking repeatedly. Officers clear; male advised to leave.

10:25 a.m. Caller from Laurel Lane reports that overnight a bear tore open her shed door and got into all of her bird feeders and birdseed. Report taken.

**Friday, 6/10**

1:12 a.m. Employee at Southworth Paper Mill reports he observed a white male carrying a skateboard looking into car windows. Caller reports no entry was made. Party last seen heading uphill toward Avenue A. Officer located male par-

ty near Family Dollar. No visible damage to vehicles. Courtesy transport to Greenfield provided; party claimed he was en route to a friend’s house but could not say where that friend lives.

6:50 a.m. Complaint regarding ongoing tag sales at an I Street address; matter had previously been addressed by Town Hall. Copy of call left for Chief Dodge, who responded to residence and observed a makeshift tag sale set up in the alley. Chief left notice on door as well as a handwritten note regarding the violation and advised that subsequent tag sales would result in a fine. Chief took photos of same.

8:30 a.m. Officer called advising that he was informed by MassDOT that a portion of Montague City Road collapsed where the construction is taking place; request DPW foreman or superintendent respond. Traffic down to one lane, but it is safe for all vehicles to pass through. TFFD confirmed fractured pipe under roadway but no further action needed today; road is safe and passable for now.

5:29 p.m. Report of breaking and entering on Bridge Street. Investigated.

9:47 p.m. Caller reports hearing sounds of possible gunshots near wildlife area on Gunn Road; is concerned someone may be “poaching” out there. Referred to an officer.

11:08 p.m. Caller from Walnut Street reports that her downstairs neighbor is “banging around” and may be intoxicated; caller reports that this is a regular occurrence. Officer spoke to male party; they advise there was some level of intoxication and beer was present, but nothing appeared excessive. Party advised of noise complaint and will keep it down for the night.

11:31 p.m. Report of a group of people fighting on Fifth Street. Officers spoke to involved parties; stories inconsistent

from both sides. Parties refused to provide statements. All parties warned of complaint and sent on their way.

**Saturday, 6/11**

10:07 a.m. Caller from Crocker Avenue reports that her dog was attacked yesterday by a dog who was off leash. Caller’s dog sustained severe injuries and was immediately taken to the emergency vet. Per ACO, the dog involved has been placed in 10 day quarantine; ACO will be in touch with Chief Dodge regarding a hearing about this incident.

2:50 p.m. Caller from O Street reports that an intoxicated female against whom she has a trespass order came onto her property yesterday and was trying to ask her if they can “let bygones be bygones.” Referred to an officer.

6:18 p.m. Report of harassment by two males on foot as reporting party was walking from Park Street/Seventh Street to Food City. Advised of options.

10:13 p.m. Caller from Cumberland Farms requesting assistance for a highly intoxicated female who was just in the store, reportedly now headed over the Eleventh Street bridge. 911 call received from woman on Eleventh Street requesting assistance with her disabled vehicle that is in the Montague Plains; concerned that vehicle would be burned if it stayed in the Plains overnight. Responding officer advises that female is highly intoxicated; female’s boyfriend advises that vehicle is not in Plains, but is parked in the lot at the Mohawk Ramblers. Vehicle located in poor condition in parking lot; had obviously been used to go mudding. Officer will make contact with female to advise.

**Sunday, 6/12**

12:02 p.m. Report of fight in alley between Fourth and Fifth streets; unable to locate. Caller frustrated with increased altercations in alley and requesting extra patrols.

**MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!**  
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**- TEENY PARROTS**

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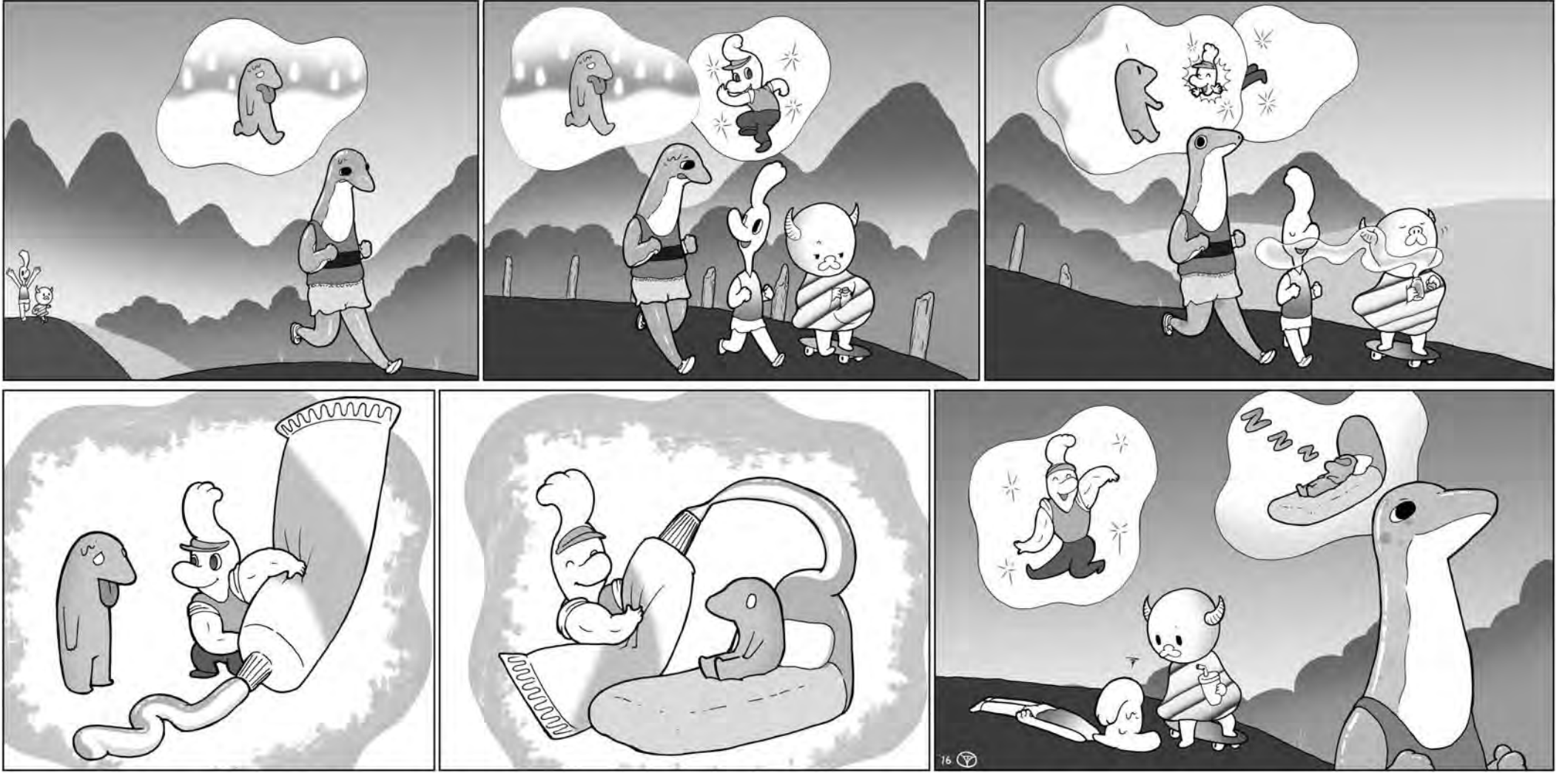
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Overture is based in Shelburne Falls. Check out [opertura.org](http://opertura.org).

MEAD from page B1

in which you are fully (and gently) encouraged to interact and be a part of the fun.

Festival-goers are encouraged to come in costume, though it is certainly not required. Either way, as you stroll around the grounds you may very well meet such lively characters as rascally rogues, gossiping shire folk, itinerant minstrels and hucksters, or even Robin Hood and his merry band of outlaws hiding in the green wood, while Maid Marion flees from the wicked Sheriff of Nottingham. It is easy to be swept up into their stories, so that before long you may find yourself retiring to the tavern with your newfound comrades for a pint and a lively sing-a-long.

You can also let your children lead you by the hand into the truly enchanted forest, where faeries and sprites captivate, magical creatures are real, and seem to spring from the earth itself, and elves have their own woodland bowling tournaments.

Though extremely well organized, the various activities never feel scripted. There is a natural sense of spontaneity, which is the result of a tremendous amount of coordination and cooperation between artistic director David Agro, costumer/creative designer Karen Webb, and some 250 people including shire cast, crew, vendors, performers, and the ever-important volunteers. The result is a real sense of a community of creative people brought together by their love of the event.

This is most evident in the attention to detail and the truly uplifting sense of fun experienced by presenters and punters alike. It is also what helps make Mutton and Mead unique.

In such trying and unsettling times the Mutton and Mead Medieval



Allison Kara, owner of Mischief and Mirth Studios, which makes masks and fantasy attire, at Mutton & Mead.

Festival is the perfect break from the everyday world. The festival is suitable for everyone: kids, teens, and adults alike, and runs Saturday June 18 through Sunday June 19, 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. rain or shine.

Festival grounds can be found at 210 Turners Falls Road. Tickets may be purchased from their website: [muttonandmead.org](http://muttonandmead.org), or at the festival.

Visitors will receive a \$1 off Festival Token for every two non-perishable food donations you bring to the entrance gate. All food will benefit festival partners the Northampton Survival Center and Community Action.

Farce Opens Silverthorne Season

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

**GREENFIELD** – A modern update of the French farce, Molière’s *The Miser*, will open the Summer 2016 season of the Silverthorne Theater Company. This is the first of three productions to be presented by this professional theater company, and will run from June 23 through July 2 at the Sloan Theater on the Greenfield Community College campus.

Directed by Justin Findlay, the play has an impressive cast of experienced actors. Findlay is an actor and director from Warwick who appeared in two of last year’s *Silverthorne* productions: *Aidan’s Gift*, as Brother John Mark; and as Musa, in *Pilgrims Musa and Sheri in the New World*. He recently directed a production of Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* in Brattleboro, and is founding director of Shakespeare Stage. Findlay holds a degree in theater from Harvard University and has worked extensively with Shakespeare and Company in Lenox.

This version of *The Miser* was adapted by Miles Malleon, who rendered it into contemporary form with respect but supreme hilarity. Set by Malleon in the 1920s, the themes of greed, corruption and duplicity in the main character’s miserly behavior will be completely recognizable to audiences today.

Veteran Valley actor and former Deerfield Academy theater department head John Reese plays Harpagon, the miser. Reese was long associated with Old Deerfield Productions.

Playing Harpagon’s wily and untrustworthy valet, La Flèche, is Steve Henderson of Westfield. Henderson also appeared in last year’s production of *Aidan’s Gift*, in a memorable performance as the Benedictine monk Father Aidan. Valley theatergoers know Henderson as an actor from appearances at the Majestic and New Century theaters, and as a founding member of Disturbed Theater. Henderson’s original play, *Jerry and Ed*, brought down the house in the Silverthorne Theater production in 2015.

Ann Steinhauser of Amherst joins Silverthorne as the conniving, seductive Frosine, matchmaker and wheeler-dealer extraordinaire. She has worked with Valley Light Opera, Old Deerfield Productions and Wild Irish Women.

Two sets of young lovers pair up in complex yet



John Reese (left) who plays Harpagon, in a scene with Jonathan Caws-Elwitt (right) who plays Master Jacques in *The Miser*, during a rehearsal this week at the Stoneleigh-Burnham campus in Greenfield.

familiar themes. Valère (Theo Gabriel of Ashfield) and Élise (Cecelia Darby of Easthampton) become experts at deceiving Élise’s father Harpagon. Darby is a recent graduate of Mount Holyoke. Cléante, son of Harpagon (Ben Sarat of Amherst) and Mariane (Carolyn Paine) must go to extremes to circumvent the schemes of their elders.

Also featured is Northampton’s Jonathan Caws-Elwitt as the ubiquitous Jacques, the servant who alternates as chauffeur and chef in Harpagon’s household. Nick Simms of Amherst plays Seigneur Anselm, the wealthy but aged suitor Harpagon has recruited for his daughter’s hand, and Stephen Fruchtmann of Easthampton takes two roles, as Simon the moneylender and The Justice. Intern Brandi Weyers of Northfield plays the Servant.

Performances for *The Miser* are as follows: Thursday through Saturday, June 23 through 25 and June 30 through July 2, with evening performances every night at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday matinees at 2 p.m. There will be a talkback session immediately after the performance on Thursday, June 30, with director and cast members.

Tickets are \$19 general admission, and \$17 for students and anyone over 65. Group rates are available. Tickets available at World Eye Books in Greenfield, Broadside Books in Northampton or online at [silverthornetheater.org](http://silverthornetheater.org), where you can also learn about the Dinner+Theater program. For more information, call (413) 768-7514.

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**MUSEUM** from page B1

Memorial Hall is one of New England's oldest museums. When Deerfield Academy's original 1798 school building became available, antiquarian George Sheldon organized the collection of artifacts he assembled, and in 1880 Memorial Hall opened.

The museum's extraordinary collection of furnishings, paintings, textiles, and Native American artifacts is "the finest collection of local antiquities in New England" and is one of America's oldest museums.

In addition to the special exhibits there are about 15 more rooms bursting with art, culture and history.

The museum, located at 8 Memorial Street in Deerfield, is open Tuesdays through Sundays, 11 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., through October

30. Admission is \$6 for adults and \$3 for youth and students 6 to 21.

For more information, call (413) 774-7476 x 10, or check their website at [deerfield-ma.org](http://deerfield-ma.org).

**Juneteenth Concert**

Upcoming June events include a "Juneteenth" concert. June 19, 1865, known as Juneteenth, was the first African American celebration of the end of slavery, and it is still celebrated every year.

This program addresses the little known, but extensive, presence of African Americans in New England's history, and their significant influence on the unfolding American culture.

Performers, a storyteller, and musicians take their audience on a "journey back in time" in the Connecticut River Valley of western Massachusetts, from 1700 through the 1920s.

The stories reveal specific historical African American individuals, their day-to-day lives, the events they were involved in, and the music they thrived on as the time period unfolds. The journey begins with memories of the ancestral West African homelands, where daily life included tribal music of Senegal and Gambia tied to the passing of seasons, as well as traditional Griot storytelling music.

The performance is the culmination of a week-long workshop for local seasoned and amateur musicians of mixed ages, facilitated by professional musicians, who are collaborating with the project's creator, conductor of research and program director Jacqueline Cooper, and PVMA.

It will take place this Sunday, June 19, at 4 p.m. at the Brick Church. Admission is \$10.



# Turners Falls Goes to War: Part VI



Photograph of the company, from then-Major Pierce's 1900 memoir "Reminiscences of the Experiences of Company L."

**By REPORTER STAFF**

This year, the Montague Reporter is periodically revisiting the Spanish-American War of 1898, particularly the story of Company L of the Second Regiment of the Massachusetts infantry, Franklin County's unit in what was then the Volunteer Army of the United States.

We are updating readers on the news of the men and boys of Co. L in real time. We have so far published three letters written by a young Turners Falls man named J.J. Sullivan, printed by our predecessor, the Turners Falls Reporter.

The June 8, 1898 Reporter noted the following: "In spite of their patriotism, not all who wished could join the army, but the people who remain at home have taken it upon themselves to see that the boys who went to the front, and the families which some of them left behind, shall not lack for anything."

"To this end the minstrel entertainment which was given so successfully last week, for the benefit of the Village Improvement Society, will be repeated at the opera house, on Thursday evening, June 16, for the local fund of the Grand Army, and especially for our own soldiers and their families."

Well, the same edition carried a full review of that minstrel show, and we feel it makes sense to reprint that, too, to give our readers a feel for how the war was shaping up back home in Turners Falls:

**Village Improvement Association Minstrels.**

The colored (for the occasion) population had things all their own way at the opera house, last Friday evening, when the second minstrel entertainment for the benefit of the Village Improvement Association, was given to a large and appreciative audience.

The stage presented a very pretty appearance when the curtain went up. Flags and the national colors were the sole decorations and were effectively arranged, while in the background was a most interesting trio, representing Uncle Sam, the army and the navy. Below were ranged the minstrels, all wearing flag neckties and their faces beaming with blacking and enthusiasm.

Thomas B. Ross made an admirable interlocutor, and the endmen, Wm. Jacobus, C.F. Jacobus, C.H. Bowman, M.J. O'Leary, C.W. Berry and J.H. Briggs, acted like professionals, and their funny antics kept the onlookers on a broad grin all the time.

The musical numbers were interspersed with jokes and local bits. Most of these were of a character where an expert was required to see the point, and seemed to have been the result of much laborious work.

The war has evidently interfered with the joke manufactories, for

the only jokes that were at all good referred to the Spaniards or to the present unpleasantness, and these were loudly applauded.

The others were very strained and flat; there were, however, enough good ones to prove the exception to the rule, and the local bits were distributed with refreshing impartiality.

The singing, for which the Harmonic orchestras furnished music, was good, especially the solos. "The Pilot Brave," a duet by Albert R. Smith and A.E. Wyman, was delightfully rendered and was one of the best things given. M.J. O'Leary sang "De Best Coon in Town" with vigor and with a spirit of appreciation for the situation, while the Jacobus brothers rendered their solos in their usual excellent manner.

"Dashing Grenadiers" which was so well liked last year, was the best song given by the company, and called forth storms of applause. Wm. Jacobus added not a little to the merriment by the energy with which he pounded the bass drum. He must have thought he had hold of a Spaniard.

Louis LaShier and John Rice gave a unique exhibition. Mr. LaShier's opening monologue showed that he certainly possesses lungs without a puncture. The way he is able to manage his "wind" must have made many wheezy and asthmatic mortals envious. He appears to be of a very inventive mind with an especial beat for music. Out of everyday material he constructed a miniature cornet and a violin with one string, on both of which he played very well, considering the limitations of his instruments. He also played on boards, and with Mr. Rice on glass bottles partly filled with water.

Messrs. Hebert and Campbell did some clog dancing extremely well. They kept time admirably and danced with an ease and abandon which showed that they enjoyed it.

"The Leader of Co. B," by eight darkies in uniform, with little Louis Provost as major, was one of the most successful numbers on the programme. Jacobus Brothers in their Dutch specialty, imitated two characteristic Dutchmen to the life.

The cake walk, on which most of the interest centered, was the crowning feature of the evening and was very successfully carried out. The six couples who competed for the cake were gotten up with true African prodigality of colors; the gentlemen appearing in high hats and "swallow tail" coats, while the ladies were resplendent in all the colors of the rainbow.

All did extremely well, the gentlemen going through the most astonishing gymnastics. Some of them must have exercised every individual muscle in their bodies, and the next day were probably able to locate them very accurately. One young man strutted about very much like a turkey gobbler, and threw his head so far back that one

expected momentarily to hear his spinal column crack. It is a pity a cake could not have been given to each as they all deserved one.

Miss Grace A. Jacobus and Raymond E. Farwell carried off the prize, they being the most vigorously applauded. Mr. Farwell was a gay, gallant in a pink cambric coat, a high grey hat and an enormous yellow sunflower, while Miss Jacobus was in yellow and red. They acted very loverlike. Toward the end of their walk they electrified the audience by archly demonstrating that they understood the art of osculation and they were wildly applauded.

Miss Nettie F. Rock and Samuel W. Batson made a very fine couple. Miss Rock wore green, yellow and pink and carried a sunshade, which she used most coquettishly. She looked very "cute," as women say, and was a great contrast to her tall and stately cavalier, who seemed to have just stepped from a band-box.

Miss Josephine A. Coyne and Louis J. Pfeifferle also pleased the audience very much and almost secured the cake. Master Louis Provost, who led out the couples, was a natty little major, and greatly resembled some of Palmer Cox's dude Brownies.

"Joe Simpson's Double," in which Wm. and C.F. Jacobus, as two Dutchmen, and M.J. O'Leary and C.H. Bowman as street darkies, with O.M. Farwell as an Irish policeman, had some exciting experiences, created much laughter and was well given.

"America Forever" was sung by the company in closing. J. F. Hood made a typical Uncle Sam, his costume being correct in every detail.

The whole entertainment was highly successful, and those who worked so hard to obtain the final results deserve much commendation, especially H.O. Smith, musical director, and Miss Lena Shepard, pianist, who never lost their patience and who were untiring in their efforts.

*Stay tuned - next week we'll run J.J. Sullivan's next letter. Here's two more tidbits from the June 15, 1898 edition:*

The patriotic girl now wears military buttons to fasten her shirt waist, and for cuff buttons, and if they come from a soldier lover, all the better. She displays her colors in every conceivable way, and sometimes becomingness is sacrificed to patriotism.

Remember the minstrel entertainment, to be held in the Opera house, to-morrow evening, for the benefit of our soldier boys. Those who did not see the first performance of the minstrels should not fail to go to-morrow night, while those who did will not be sorry if they go again. Our boys at the front, and those dependent on them will be the gainers.



Thought to be the oldest rag doll in North America, "Bangwell Putt" belonged to Clarissa Field, born blind in Northfield in 1765. Clarissa would have relied heavily on her sense of touch, so although the doll has no facial features, the fingers are well-defined.

**MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS**

## This Week on MCTV

**By ABIGAIL TATARIAN**

School's out for the summer in the Gill-Montague school district! Information on summer programming from the Montague Parks & Recreation department is available at [www.montague.net/pages/montaguema\\_parks/2016summerfuntimes.pdf](http://www.montague.net/pages/montaguema_parks/2016summerfuntimes.pdf).

This Saturday at 10 a.m., there will be a 5K Race Fundraiser for the Brick House! Onsite registration begins at 9 a.m., costing \$20 but with a sliding scale fee with no runner turned away. Start and finish at the gravel parking lot at the top of the bike path (DCR Canal-side Rail Trail) at Unity Park in

**Turners Falls.**

New items to check out on our website and on TV include the June 8 Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC) meeting, the May 23 Mass Broadband meeting in Amherst, and the June 4 Western Mass Brass Band performance in Hadley.

Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch to learn how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment. Contact us at (413) 863-9200, [infomontaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetv@gmail.com), or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We'd love to work with you!

## June 27: Blood Drive!

**GREENFIELD** - The Baystate Health Blood Donor Mobile will host a blood drive on Monday, June 27, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., in Baystate Franklin Medical Center's Emergency Department parking lot, off Sanderson Street. All blood types are needed. Eligible blood donors will receive their choice of a Dunkin Donuts or Big Y gift card.

Blood donations take approximately 40-45 minutes to complete, including the interview, donation, and refreshments. To donate, you must be at least 17 years old; weigh

at least 110 pounds; have a photo ID; be in good health (no colds, sore throat) and not have donated blood within the past eight weeks. Please be sure to have a good meal prior to donating, drink plenty of fluids, and bring along any lists of medications that you are currently taking.

Appointments and pre-registration are recommended; however, walk-ins are also welcome. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call Baystate at (413) 794-4600.

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# The Children's Page

YONDERNOD ILLUSTRATION

## “CADAVRE EXQUIS”

The Cadavre Exquis, which means “Exquisite Corpse” in English, is a game French artists and poets used to play. The players collaborate to make a surprising poem or picture – surprising even to the people making it! There are a few different ways to play.

Here are instructions for creating a Surrealist poem with your friends.

1. Two or more people sit in a circle, each with a piece of paper and a pen.
2. Each player writes two lines of poetry, overheard conversation, thoughts going through her head, or just words.
3. Fold the paper so that only the second line can be seen, and then pass their paper to the right.
4. Read the visible line, and add two more lines of your own.
5. Fold the paper again so that only the most recent line can be seen. Pass to your right.
6. Repeat until the paper is filled or until you've had enough! Open up each poem and read aloud.

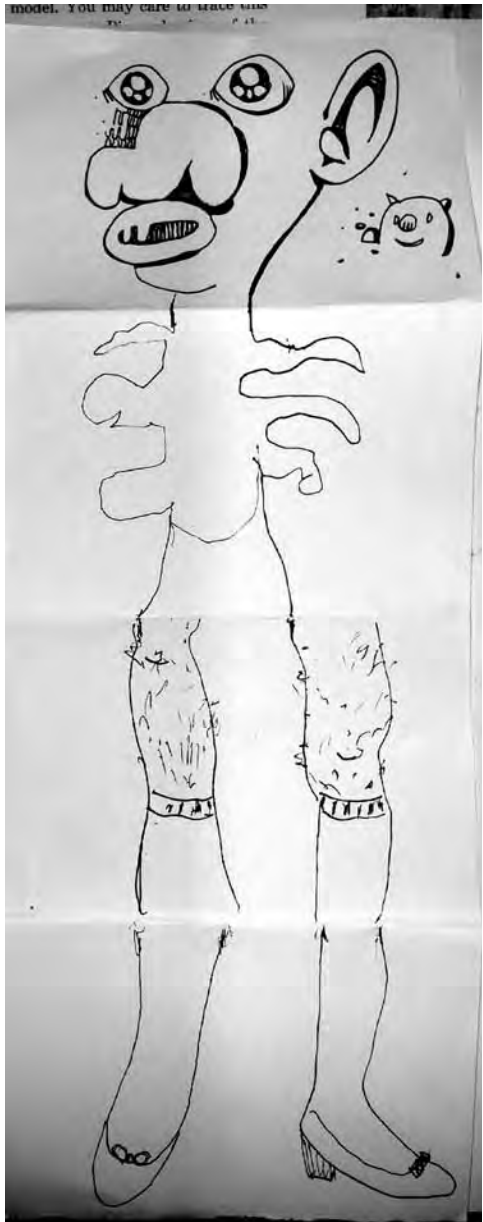
Surprised?

The game can be played by drawing, as well.

Below and to the left are some examples of Exquisite Corpse drawings. It's similar to the word game described above. Two or more people draw a body – each agrees to take a segment, such as head, body, and legs. It's important to hide each section from others until you reveal the finished product.

1. Fold a piece of paper into two, three or more sections, and draw a head, but don't let anyone else see it yet.
2. Extend the lines from the neck extend just onto the next segment so the next person knows where to start drawing a body.
3. Pass it to the next person so that they have the middle section and can see the lines from the neck but not what you drew.
4. After they draw a body, they can draw some lines for the waist or legs onto the next segment until you get all the way down to feet.

5. When the drawing is finished, unfold the paper and see what kind of creature you've created. What is their personality like? What would a good name for them be?



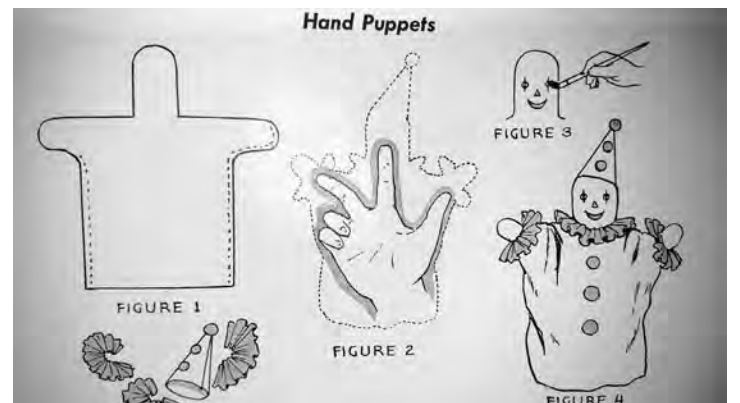
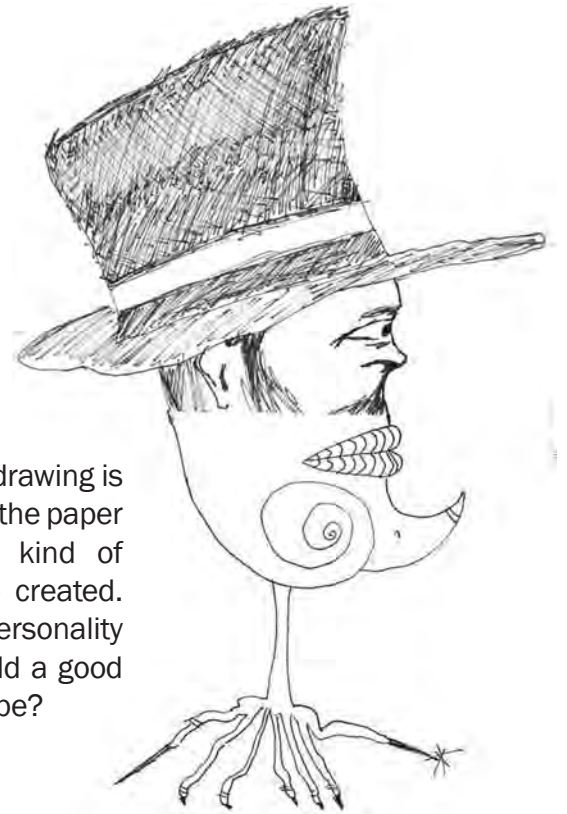
Here are two Exquisite Corpse-style drawings, created by Beverly Ketch, Shannon Ketch, Effie Paxton and Joel Paxton.



The artists who came up with “Cadavre Exquis” were known as surrealists. They didn't only make art together in groups. Here's a drawing by local surrealist Joel Paxton. Are there ways it reminds you of the other drawings? Can you tell this one was made by one artist? If you like art, you can go to amazing museums for FREE! To find out how, check out [highlandstreet.org/programs/free-fun-fridays](http://highlandstreet.org/programs/free-fun-fridays).




The characters above and to the right were drawn by a group of musicians and artists in the area who called themselves Jurt Bansch.



Next month's Children's Page theme will be... Puppets!

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



JACK COUGHLIN ILLUSTRATION

## ONGOING EVENTS:

### EVERY SUNDAY

McCusker's Co-op Market, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*. Musicians of all levels welcome to play traditional Irish music. 10:30 a.m.

### ONE MONDAY EACH MONTH

Wagon Wheel, Gill: *Wagon Wheel Word*. First week of each month. Monthly poetry reading, often with special guest poets. 6 p.m.

Carnegie Library: *Outside the Lines!* Last Monday of each month. Adult Coloring Group. Supplies provided. 6:30 p.m.

### EVERY TUESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: Crafts and activities for children of all ages. 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

### 1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAY

Arts Block (4th floor), Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band & Late Night Open Mic JAM*. 20 piece ensemble play son, salsa, chacha and much more. 8 p.m. Open Mic starts at 9 p.m. Free.

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*: Thematic stories, projects, and snacks for young children. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Tales and Tunes Story Hour*. For ages 0 to 5 and their caregivers. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

### 1ST AND 3RD THURSDAY

Hubie's Tavern: *Open Mic*. 6 p.m.

### EVERY THURSDAY

Carnegie Library: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 a.m.

The People's Pint, Greenfield: *Derek Bridges*. Live acoustic guitar. 7 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Watchdog Open Mic*. All musicians, comedians, and magicians are welcome! 8 p.m.

### EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

Element Brewing Company, Millers Falls: *Brule's Irish Band*. Food carts supplement the local beer. 6 p.m.

### EVERY FRIDAY

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: *Story Hour*. Stories and hands-on arts & crafts. 10 a.m. to noon.

The Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8 p.m.

### EXHIBITS:

Leverett Arts & Crafts, Leverett: Barnes Gallery presents: *The Horse Show by Bella Halsted*. Show runs through 6/25.

Memorial Hall, Deerfield: *Relics and Curiosities in Memorial Hall*. "Interesting" objects such as wreaths made of human hair and weapons made from shark's teeth are in this exhibit which runs until 10/30. \$

Sawmill River Arts Gallery at The Montague Mill, Montague: *Summer Celebration*. Featured artists: Louise Minks, Roy Mansur, Christine Mero, Christine Pellerin, Patricia Czepiel Hayes. Artists' reception, Saturday, June 25, 1-4 p.m. Exhibit runs through 8/29.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Thrones*. "A ubiquitous household item becomes objet d'art at the Nook" as artists transform the common toilet seat into new art forms. Through 6/25.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Along the River: pastels by Rebecca Clark*. Through 6/27. Also *Cheryl Rezendes' Interludes*, A collection of new works, wall hung mixed media on fiber. Through 6/26.

Shelburne Arts Co-operative, Shelburne Falls: *"The Nature of Things" Mixed Media* by Nancy

*Baker*. Artist reception, Saturday, June 18, 2-6 p.m. Through 6/27.

### CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Silverthorne Theater, Greenfield: Sponsoring a competition to select a new play by a local playwright of color for possible production during the 2017 season. Deadline for submissions is 10/1. Complete information at [www.silverthornetheater.org/new-play-competition2.html](http://www.silverthornetheater.org/new-play-competition2.html)

### EVENTS:

#### THURSDAY, JUNE 16

Energy Park, Greenfield: Coop Concerts presents *Charlie Conant, The frost heaves and haies, Small Change*. 6 p.m.



*Bella Gaia is an audiovisual experience that combines NASA satellite imagery of Earth, time lapse nature photography, and cultural heritage footage with live performances of music and dance from around the world. It will be shown at Memorial Hall in Shelburne Falls on Saturday, June 18 at 8 p.m., sponsored by Mocha Maya's and the GSEABA (business association). \$*

Millers Falls Library, Millers Falls: Element Brewing Company talks about the process of brewing beer; learn about appreciating beer types and access resources (library books!), then step across the street to the brewery and sample some tastings. 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*. 7:30 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Grace & Catastrophe*. Folk duo. 7:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio*. Original guitar music with Doug Plavin and Klondike Koehler. 8 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, JUNE 17

Element Brewing Co., Millers Falls: *Frank's Video Game Club*, Play, chat, and enjoy the company of fellow video gamers. 6 p.m.

Avery Pavillion, Leyden: Leyden Cultural Council on Aging presents *Zydeco Connection*. 5:30 p.m. Potluck 7 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Office Space*. Droll skewering of modern office life. 7:30 p.m. Music at 7 p.m. \$

Mt. Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Dave Lippman and Jay Mankita*. Comical singers about serious topics. 7:30 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton's 1940s Hit Parade*. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & the Pistoleros*. Out-law country. 9 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 18

Millers Falls R&G Club, Montague: *Mutton and Mead Medieval Festival*. Family-friendly Renaissance Faire. 10-6 p.m. \$

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope*. This week is river otters. For ages 3-6 accompanied by adults. 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Wendell Wildcat Bluesfest*. Wildcat O'Halloran hosts an all evening Bluesfest in the backyard of Deja Brew. Proceeds to benefit Friends of Wendell. 5 p.m. \$

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Office Space*. Droll skewering of modern office life. 7:30 p.m. Music at 7 p.m. \$

Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *Bella Gaia*. See photo and blurb this page for details.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Jimmy Just Quit*. Cover band. 9

p.m. \$

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 19

Millers Falls R&G Club, Montague: *Mutton and Mead Medieval Festival*. See Saturday listing for details.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Open Pic Night*. Acoustic jam session. 5 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22

West Whately Chapel, Whately: *Watermelon Wednesday presents: Jeremy Kittel*. American fiddler, violinist, and composer. Accompanied by hammered dulcimer player Simon Chrisman and cellist Nat Smith. 7:30 p.m. \$

#### THURSDAY, JUNE 23

Energy Park, Greenfield: Coop Concerts presents: *Katie Clarke, Austin & Elliott, Sue Kranz & Ben Tousley*. 6 p.m.

Sloan Theater at GCC, Greenfield: Silverthorne Theater Company presents: *Molière's The Miser*. Classic French farce in a contemporary (but respectful) translation. Through July 2. 7:30 p.m. \$

#### FRIDAY, JUNE 24

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Definite Maybes*. Uptown blues. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls:

*Baxter Brewing Co. presents: Community Smokes*. Montague band plays reggae-rock, blues, soul, and more. 9:30 p.m.

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Saturday, 6/18 - 5 p.m.  
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# The Brick House 5k

## June 18th 10am start!

contact: [thebrickhouse5k@gmail.com](mailto:thebrickhouse5k@gmail.com)

Registration opens at 9:00 am. Start and finish at the gravel parking lot at the top of the bike path at Unity Park in Turners Falls.

All proceeds benefit The Brick House Community Resource Center.

Pre-register here: <https://www.runreg.com/the-brick-house-5k>

# \$20\*

\*child scale fee available at on-site registration

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**PUZZLER** from page B1

crossword puzzle? A journalist named Arthur Wynne of Liverpool, England is generally recognized as the person who “invented” the then-called “word crosses.” His initial effort appeared in the American newspaper, *The New York World*, in 1913.

However, there is some debate as to others “scooping” Wynne in 19th century England, and also talk about an Italian version entitled *per passaro il tempo* – “to pass the time.”

The most prestigious crossword puzzles appear in the *New York Times*. The *Times*’ first crossword editor was Margaret Farrar, who insisted that the puzzle must be symmetrical. She served from 1942 to 1969 and was followed first by Will Weng, and then Eugene T. Maleska.

In 1993, Will Shortz became editor. Shortz is regarded as the top man in the business, according to Denny Baker. He is known as “The Puzzle Master” and is featured on National Public Radio.

Baker still loves constructing puzzles and having them published. And he remains a solver, too.

“It gives you a feeling of accomplishment,” he said. “It’s human nature to fill in blank squares with words. I do it because it’s fascinating. Sometimes I get stuck, but the next day I figure out the answer. It’s amazing how the answer can come to a person.

“As far as making puzzles and getting them published, it doesn’t pay a lot of money. It’s a tremendous amount of fun. I would guess that less than 20 people make a living at constructing crossword puzzles.”

# FACES & PLACES



Linnea Winter and Corwin Ericson were voted the Queen and King of Wendell’s 2016 Misfit Prom last Saturday night by attendees at the Deja Brew Pub. This year’s Prom theme was “Gods, Myth, and Legends.”

TAMARA MATOSIC PHOTO

Shortz founded the yearly American Crossword Puzzle Tournament in 1978, and remains the tournament director to this day. About 500 to 600 entrants participate over two days in Stamford, Connecticut in late March or early April. A documentary released in 2006 entitled “Wordplay” centers on Will Shortz and culminates in the prior year’s big tournament. Bill Clinton, Bob

Dole, Ken Burns, and Jon Stewart, all appear.

Shortz feels that champion solvers are excellent at recognizing patterns, hence many are musically and mathematically inclined.

“The people who attend the tournament,” said Denny, “are bright, witty, and clever. It’s an honor and a joy to be associated with these wonderful people.”



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